

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 13 April 2013

Slimbridge 3-3 Holyport

Slimbridge showed their fighting spirit by retrieving a three goal deficit at Wisloe Road this afternoon, and ultimately were unfortunate not to snatch the points at the death. After six disastrous first half minutes had seen Holyport take a seemingly unassailable lead, Tom Cole, and then Captain Marvyn Roberts with a second period brace saw the teams share the spoils.

On a heavy pitch and with rain pouring down, it was an understandably cautious approach from both teams as they tried to adjust to the conditions. The first ten minutes saw only two opportunities of note - Jamie West's Free Kick for Holyport sliding well wide, while Jamie Martin's Free Kick lacked the power to trouble Holyport Keeper Rhys Marshall. A minute later, Liam Harding's misplaced clearance allowed an opportunity for Lee Ovens, but again, his shot as high and wide.

With a quarter of an hour gone, Slimbridge nearly broke the deadlock when Jack Twyman's dangerous cross was just missed by the incoming Dean Bernard and then Jamie Martin. The home started started to exert some good pressure, and Marv Roberts was close when he chipped Marshall, but his shot slid just the wrong side of the upright.

After 25 minutes, the visitors took the lead, when Lee Jerrum's cross was fumbled by Lee Martin in the Swans' goal, and Jamie West was on hand to stab the ball home.

Slimbridge had barely kicked off when they were two down - Dan Rapey was allowed to go on a mazy run , and from 18 yards out gave Martin no chance to double the Holyport lead.

The Visitors must have thought it was game over five minutes later when they notched their third of the afternoon - Dale Wright was left in acres of

space by the shell-shocked Swans defence, and took full advantage to drill in their third goal.

Slimbridge regrouped, and it took a superb tackle from Jack Harding to deny Jamie Martin a goalscoring opportunity as the game moved towards the half, but the home side did pull a goal back before the break, when a scramble in the box was cleared to Tom Cole, who picked his spot superbly to beat Marshall and put the home side on the scoresheet before the break.

Momentum swung towards the hosts, and Dean Bernard was unfortunate to have two good efforts blocked before the half time whistle was blown by referee Damon McEllin.

Slimbridge picked up where they had left off after the break, and Martin was unlucky with a header following good work from Liam Harding and Roberts. As the Swans pressed, Marshall made a good stop at Roberts' feet after the Big Man had been put through after good work by Jamie Martin.

62 minutes, the deficit was reduced further, when Tom Cole's neat pass found Roberts and he converted past Marshall to put the game back in the balance.

With 12 minutes remaining, the scores were level - Freddy Ward's pinpoint cross was met by the head of Roberts, who powered the ball home to complete the Swans' comeback.

Although Dan Robinson went close with a cross-cum-shot for the home side, and Martin made a good stop to deny Lee Jerrum for the visitors, a series of corners and pressure for Slimbridge failed to produce a decisive goal, on an afternoon when a draw was probably a fair result.

The Swans face a week of travel for League fixtures, going to Highworth on Tuesday night (7.45pm), Newbury on Thursday night (7.45pm) before making the trip to Ascot next Saturday (3.00pm)

Team: L. Martin, Robinson, Wellon, Sterling, Speers, Cole, Harding, Twyman, Roberts, Bernard (Ward 55), J. Martin (A. Parrott 75

Goals: Cole 41, Roberts 62, 78

Supporters Man of The Match: Marv Roberts