

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 22 September 2012

Slimbridge 1-0 Kidlington

The Swans regained second position in the UHlsport Hellenic League after losing it after midweek games, with this victory over a Kidlington side who belied their position with an impressive display at Wisloe Road. Marvin Roberts notched the winning goal in the first half following an impressive run and set up from Saul Williams, who joined the club on a month's loan from Forest Green Rovers last week.

The Swans started the game at a good pace, and with little over a minute on the clock, Liam Harding and Dan Robinson had combined neatly to create an opportunity which Harding put over the bar. In their next move, Williams created problems for the visitors with a run down the right flank, which led to a corner, but was cleared.

Williams continued to make a strong start, and nearly got on to the end of a clever move involving Roberts and Harding, but again, the ball was cleared as the home side maintained their pressure.

It took the best part of 20 minutes for Kidlington to create their first opportunities, with two chances in quick succession falling to Sam Fincher and Jack Johnson, but neither were able to take advantage. At the other end, some lovely passing football from the home side involving Williams, Harding and Roberts saw Williams have his shot beaten out and cleared.

Harding brought a good save from Kidlington Keeper Matt Dickson on 24 minutes, when he turned his man in the box and got a good shot away, and Dickson continued his good form, turning away a good shot from Holloway with his feet to maintain parity between the sides.

Slimbridge continued to create chances, and Williams' lob beat Dickson on 26 minutes, but just drifted the wrong side of the post as the home side applied pressure.

Many of the home side's best moves were involving Williams at this point, and the youngster was denied twice around the half hour mark, when a combination of good defending and wayward shooting denied him his first goal for the club.

With four minutes to go to half time, the home side took the lead. Williams went on another mazy run down the Slimbridge right, beating four men, and he swept across to the feet of Roberts, who had his back to goal. Roberts turned his man superbly in the Kidlington box, before drilling the ball past Dickson to put Slimbridge ahead at the break.

Kidlington created their best chance of the game two minutes into the second period, when Dave Evans was forced to make a good save from Ryan Curtin, pushing the attacker's shot away for a corner which was eventually cleared.

Williams continued to torment the home side, and shot wide on 56 minutes with another good opportunity, before Curtin again tested Evans with a shot which the Slimbridge Keeper gathered easily.

The Swans nearly doubled their advantage on 65 minutes when both Roberts and Chris Fower, who had come on to replace Dan Holloway, had good shots blocked in a goalmouth scramble.

With only a single goal advantage, it wasn't all plain sailing for the home side, and with 20 minutes remaining, Speers did superbly to deflect a goalbound shot from Curtin for a corner, and the resulting corner saw the home defence holding firm.

Williams' last involvement of the afternoon was a header which drifted wide, before he was replaced by Gavin Lang, another new recruit, coming to Wisloe Road from Shortwood United on 77 minutes.

The last period of the game saw Kidlington throw everything at the home side on an attempt to grab an equaliser - with 9 minutes remaining, Jack Dunmall felt he may have been awarded a penalty kick when he fell under a challenge in the Slimbridge box, and was incensed to see the decision given the other way. Curtin had two further chances as the home side

clung onto their lead, but was unable to take advantage, and Slimbridge recorded another vital victory to maintain their unbeaten League record this season.

The Swans travel to Marlow next Saturday, in a game between the current top two clubs, which promises to be an enthralling encounter (3.00pm).

Team: Evans, Anson, Robinson, Wellon, Speers, Harding, Turner, Twyman, Roberts (Higgs 66), Holloway (Fower 60), Williams (Lang 77)

Goals: Roberts 41

Supporters Man Of The Match: Saul Williams