

Hellenic League Premier Division

Friday 19 April 2013

Newbury 2 -4 Slimbridge

The Swans returned to winning ways, and climbed to fourth place in the UHlsport Hellenic Premier League with this deserved victory at Faraday Road. Goals from Jamie Martin, Brad Martin and Liam Harding had put the Swans well on top before Newbury managed to nick a couple of goals back to set the nerves jangling. Dean Bernard's fourth settled the game, and had the Swans not had two other shots come back off the woodwork, the margin of victory could have been greater for the visitors.

Man of the Match Jamie Martin started at a furious pace for Slimbridge and went very close on three minutes, when he snatched at a shot when well placed, and saw his effort go too high.

Martin was not be denied though, and two minutes later, a Dean Bernard flick on saw the Swans' striker in space on the right flank, and he composed himself before drilling the ball pas the helpless Newbury Keeper Kane Roberts to put the Swans ahead.

With eight minutes on the clock, Will Wellon was forced to clear the ball off the line after Lee Martin had come out to claim a through ball and misjudged his clearing header, but the move had already been stopped by Referee Steve Winters for an offside decision.

Wellon continued to make his presence felt in the Swans' back four, clearing away a decent opportunity from the feet of Iggy Ilott after good work from Bradley Shaw had made space for an effort on goal.

The momentum of the game was definitely with the visitors though and Speers was next to test Roberts, but his header from Harding's free kick was gathered safely by the Newbury Keeper.

In a rare foray forward for Newbury, George Holland was high and wide with an effort on 16 minutes, but the pressure from the visitors was rewarded 3 minutes later when they doubled their advantage.

A Tom Cole cross was met by Brad Martin, and his header eluded Roberts to put the Swans two up.

Slimbridge continued to press and Harding's cross seemed destined to be put home by Bernard on 22 minutes, but a desperate defensive tackle saw the ball put behind for a corner, which was cleared.

Slimbridge nearly added a third, when a Bernard header from Brad Martin's free kick hit the post and went behind for a goal kick as the game approached the half hour mark.

Martin then created the next opportunity for Bernard as the Swans dominated the game, but Bernard miscontrolled the final ball and the chance went begging.

Newbury had one decent opportunity to get on the scoresheet before the Half when Curtis Angel brought a good save from Lee Martin, following some neat approach play by Bradley Shaw on 37 minutes.

Just before the break, Slimbridge hit the woodwork for the second time, when Tom Cole made a superb run attacking the Newbury defence, only to see his shot nick the bar and go over, to leave the visitors two goals to the good at the half.

With four minutes gone in the second period, Slimbridge got a deserved third goal - Liam Harding made a surging run, and saw his shot cannon back into play off the woodwork with Roberts well beaten. Harding was following up and slid the ball into the empty net to make the score 3-0.

Instead of this goal killing the game off, Slimbridge then managed to concede two goals in the space of three minutes to throw the game back into the balance - Firstly, on 54 minutes, a rare effort from the home side saw Jack Self's shot deflected to give Martin no chance, and then Curtis

Angel saw his long range shot somehow squirm under Martin to give the home side a lifeline.

Newbury naturally took heart from the goals, but were unable to create further opportunities, with Angel and Shaw both being guilty of bad misses when they had chances in the box.

The game was finally killed off on 77 minutes, when Alex Parrot's corner was headed home by Dean Bernard, and Slimbridge returned back down the M4 via an unplanned diversion due to unsigned motorway roadworks, with three good points.

The Swans travel to Ascot on Saturday 3.00pm, before Tytherington Rocks visit Wisloe Road for a Supplemetary Cup Semi Final on Tuesday (7.45pm). The Swans then finish their League programme with a trip to Ardley United (Saturday 27th April, 3.00pm).

Team: L. Martin, Robinson (Lang 47), Cole, Wellon, Speers, Ward, Twyman, Harding (Parrott 54), J. Martin, Bernard, B. Martin

Goals: J. Martin 5, B. Martin 19, Harding 49, Bernard 77

Supporters Man Of The Match: Jamie Martin