

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 2 March 2013

Wokingham & Emmbrook 1-2 Slimbridge

A 90th minute winner from skipper Marvyn Roberts ensured a pleasant journey home from Bracknell for the Swans, in an entertaining encounter with their hosts, Wokingham & Emmbrook.

There were plenty of chances for both sides in the first period, in the 5th min Roberts laid a good ball back to Daniel Holloway whose volley was well blocked & 5 mins later Wokingham's Nick Bateman saw his vicious shot from 18 yards fly just inches over the crossbar.

On 17 minutes a good move involving Holloway, Alex Higgs and Roberts saw the latter's shot well saved by Aulsberry in the home goal.

Both goalkeepers were in fine form, Martin saved well from a good drive by Matt Jones and at the other end a Junior Maderner drive was well tipped over by Aulsberry.

A controversial moment arose for referee Neil Templey, who seemed to be struggling to keep pace with the game, when a superb through ball by Maderner left Holloway clear and with just the keeper to beat and from 10 yards out he was clearly tripped from behind by a defender but both referee and his assistant saw nothing.

This was a huge let off for Wokingham and salt was nearly rubbed in the Swans wounds when two minutes later Luke Lee found himself clear but his tame shot was easily held by Martin.

Junior Maderner, the Swans man of the match, was starting to stamp his authority in midfield, winning many tackles and setting up his forward line with some good passes.

On the half hour mark a darting run up the right wing by Will Wellon ended with him being brought down & Holloway's resulting free kick was headed inches wide by Tom Speers and a minute later Higgs had a similar header just go wide of the post.

Wokingham seemed to be having plenty of possession but were finding it hard to penetrate a well organised defence which was being well led by manager Leon Sterling.

Tom Cole saw his free kick from 18 yards out fly just wide on 38 mins and a rasping drive from Maderner was well pushed over by Aulsberry.

The deadlock was broken with just 4 mins to go to the break when Holloway's corner kick was powerfully headed home by the unmarked Tom Speers.

The hosts responded immediately and were level just 2 mins later when a cross from the right found Sam Duffelen in space and he shot well past Martin.

The second period continued to excite the crowd with Wokingham again playing some neat football but with little end product to show for it in the final third.

Maderner had another good effort pushed over by Aulsberry on 51 mins and at the other end Wellon did well to clear a dangerous looking cross from Lee.

Alex Walton put in another good cross for the hosts on 62 mins and Nick Bateman's resulting header was well saved by Martin.

Manager Leon Sterling made a couple of substitutions in an effort to snatch the win, bringing on Jamie Martin for Higgs and Dean Bernard for Holloway

Going into the last 5 mins it looked as if both sides would have to settle for a point each but for the second season running the Swans stole the points with a last minute winner.

The impressive Maderner headed the ball goalwards and Aulsberry could only parry the ball out, Marvyn Roberts was quickest to react and his shot from 6 yards was deemed to have crossed the goalline by the assistant referee much to the delight of the Swans team who naturally celebrated in style.

It appeared to be tough luck on the hosts and their manager Roger Herridge was clearly dejected at the final whistle, everyone connected with Slimbridge FC would like to wish Roger all the best for whatever he decides to do with his career once he steps down at the end of the season.

Next up for the Swans is a Home game with runaway leaders Marlow next Saturday, 3pm.

It appears that the Swans may well be handed a 'Walkover' in the Supplementary Cup after Maidenhead Reserves have informed the league that they would be unable to raise a side to travel to Gloucestershire, so Tuesday Evenings tie has been postponed, we await the official confirmation of this though.