

Western League Premier Division

Tuesday 26 August 2014

Bitton 2-1 Slimbridge AFC

The Swans unbeaten run came to an end courtesy of two second half goals at the Rapid Solicitors Ground this evening. After an entertaining but ultimately goalless first half, a super strike on the hour mark from Bitton's Eugene Keary saw Slimbridge Keeper Dave Evans concede his first League goal of the campaign. Five minutes later, an even better shot from long distance from Jason Thatcher doubled the home side's advantage. Jamie Martin was brought down for a penalty which he converted himself with 15 minutes left, but Slimbridge were unable to claw the second goal back.

In an open first period, Martin had a couple of good efforts blocked early on, while at the other end, the dangerous looking Aysa Corrick went close with 11 minutes on the clock. Paul Fahy had a great opportunity to open the scoring on 15 minutes when he ran through 5 men from his own half, but he blasted his effort high when through one on one with Bitton Keeper John Rendell.

Bitton came closest to scoring on 20 minutes, but a powerful strike was headed off the Swans' line by Adam Mace to prevent a goal. At the other end, Mace went close after good work from Martin and Sean Lawson on the half hour, but the sides went in even at the break.

Chances continued to come for both sides in the second half - Lawson just failed to reach Martin's dangerous cross, while Bitton wasted another good opportunity when Corrick fired high after he was played in by Thatcher.

The home side took the lead on 61 minutes when Keary found himself in space on the edge of the Swans box, and he drilled his shot past Evans. Five minutes later, Thatcher powered home a 35 yarder to double the lead with another impressive strike.

Martin's penalty reduced the deficit on 75 minutes, and in the third minute of stoppage time, Jack Twyman agonisingly failed to get on the end of another powerful Martin cross, and the final chance of the game was lost.

Team: Evans, Hoyle, Ryan Thwaite, Freeman, Tunnicliff, Turner, Fahy (Turl 70), Harding (Twyman 62), Lawson, Martin, Mace (Irvine 71)

Supporters Man of the match: Nathan Freeman