

Bideford 3-1 Slimbridge

Saturday 28th October 2017

The Swans returned pointless from one of their longest trips of the season, after three goals in the last fifteen minutes from the home side took Bideford into the top five places, after a game that never really caught fire until that point. Slimbridge are now in tenth place in the League, with a three point gap between them and sixth place.



The Swans made a dream start and were one goal up with barely thirty seconds on the clock. Max Harper-Emerson went on a dangerous run and Henry Birkett fed Joe Wilton, who shot on the turn.

Wilton's effort took a massive deflection off James Mayne, and looped over Bideford Keeper Steve Oliver and into the net. Wilton was officially credited with the goal, to record his second strike at Southern League level.

After a foul on Marley Thomas a couple of minutes later, Adam Mace's Free Kick was off target, while Bideford's first effort came on seven minutes, when Louie Roberts was off target with his effort.

Wilton was looking dangerous, and very nearly chased down a misplaced back header from Scott Beattie, but Oliver just reached the ball ahead of him to clear. Slimbridge continued to work hard and press the opposition, and nearly had their second on 16 minutes, when a scramble in the Bideford box initiated by Thomas, saw Rich Thwaite just off target.

After the teams had exchanged off target efforts - Birkett for Slimbridge and Billy Tucker for Bideford, another two good opportunities went begging for the visitors, as Twyman's effort was just off target, and Thomas saw Oliver save at his feet after great work from Twyman, Birkett, and Harper-Emerson.

Bideford's best effort of the half by a mile was Sean Downing's free kick, five minutes before the break, which saw a superb stop from Ollie Hall to keep the Swans ahead at the Half.

A period of early pressure in the second period from the home side was only to be expected, and Ben Seymour's effort, followed by a series of corners, saw the Swans pushed back and having to defend, but they held firm as Bideford continued to stutter up front.

Slimbridge were still creating their own chances - Thwaite's header was just wide from Thomas' cross, and Thomas couldn't convert another goalmouth scramble, as the Swans had chances to increase their advantage. With 15 minutes remaining, Bideford equalised, when Ryan Turner headed home a flicked on cross, and the momentum of the game swung completely to the home side.

Five minutes later, Exeter City Loanee Ben Seymour worked his way into the Slimbridge box, and looked like he had lost the opportunity to shoot, but then regained possession and shot past Hall to put the hosts ahead.

A second for Seymour in the third minute of stoppage time after a quick break as Slimbridge pushed forward finished the afternoon off on a disappointing note for the visitors, who now look forward to visiting Kayte Lane next Saturday when they travel to take on Bishops Cleeve (3.00pm)

Team: Hall, Turl, Mace, Thwaite, Hoyle, Turner, Twyman, Birkett (Lawson 78), Wilton, Harper-Emerson, Thomas

Manager's Man of the Match: Dean Turner