

Bristol Manor Farm 3-0 Slimbridge

Saturday 3rd February 2018

The Swans returned home from the Creek pointless despite having more than their fair share of the play, the difference between the two sides was the finishing with the home side scoring three first half goals to the Swans nil.

Slimbridge gave a debut to new signing Kirk Layton who acquitted himself well over the 90 minutes. On a heavy pitch it was the Visitors who had the better start as a long range effort from Layton just cleared the Bar.

Manor Farm's leading scorer Dean Stamp then went close with a similar effort. It was Stamp however who had a big hand in the opening goal on ten minutes when he was allowed to run through the Swans defence to set up Troy Simpson who shot low past Hall in the home goal.

There was early controversy when two minutes later a great cross from Jack Twyman found Mike Bryant who appeared to be pushed in the penalty area but referee Richard Lawrence waved away the appeals.

The man in Black was again at the centre of controversy five minutes later when Bryant found himself clear on goal only to be pulled back by the home side's John Lock but Lawrence deemed it to be not a goal scoring opportunity and showed Lock a yellow card.

As usually happens in these situations it was Lock who had a big hand in the second goal on 17 minutes when he headed on a corner kick to Aron Robbins who nodded it past Ollie Hall to give the home side a clear advantage. The Swans rallied and good efforts by Marley Thomas and Tom Hoskins nearly produced a goal.

On 35 minutes the visitors should have reduced the deficit after a good flowing piece of football involving Joe Stokes and Thomas found Sam Turl in space on the edge of the box but his rasping drive rebounded back in to play via the post with keeper Ashley Clark stranded.

Manor Farm punished the visitors with another good finish just five minutes later when Durrants shot came back off the crossbar and the unmarked Stamp finished well from 8 yards to give them a three goal lead going into the break.

The second half started well for Slimbridge and a 35 yard effort from Stokes was well tipped over by the home keeper. It was then the turn of Mace to test the home custodian as he done well to push away a stunning drive from the visiting full back.

This good spell of pressure continued as a cross from Thomas found the head of Bryant but his goal-bound effort was once again saved well by Clark. Ollie Hall in the Swans goal then turned hero as he pushed away a certain goal after a good header from Steve Kingdon looked to be going in.

Swans manager Freddy Ward introduced substitute Sean Lawson on 62 minutes who replaced Bryant, quickly followed by Kieran Squires who came on for Korey Pring.

As the Swans pushed forward tempers started to get frayed and three cautions for both sides kept the referee busy, however on 77 minutes the home side found themselves down to ten men when Kye Holly placed a head butt on Dean Turner and received a straight red card. Turner, with a egg shaped bruise to his head was quickly replaced by Max Harper-Emerson as the entertaining encounter drew to a close.

So on reflection a deserved three points for the home side which will help them in their quest for promotion, as for the Swans, they must now regroup and prepare for Tuesday evenings visit to near neighbours Shortwood Utd.

Team: Hall, Turl, Mace, Pring (Squires 64) Hoskins ,Layton, Twyman, Turner (Harper-Emerson 80) Bryant (Lawson 62) Stokes, Thomas.

Supporters man of the match, Joe Stokes.