

Kidlington 2-2 Slimbridge

Wednesday 27th September 2017

The Swans made it four points from the last two games on an eventful evening at Yarnton Road to move up to ninth in the table.

Although the result probably reflects the balance of the game on the night, it took a late goal four minutes from time to snatch a point for the home side, after Kieran Squires had seen red for Slimbridge. Adam Mace put the Swans into the lead in the first half, but Amclet Odhiambo levelled things up just after the break. Rich Thwaite looked to have won it for the Swans with a goal 12 minutes from time, before Lewis Coyle got the second equaliser.



Slimbridge definitely bossed the first half on an appalling night of heavy rain in Oxfordshire, although Kidlington had the first decent effort when Darius Brown brought a good save from Ollie Hall with seven minutes on the clock.

At the other end, Slimbridge Man of the Match Dean Turner was combining well with Marley Thomas, and Thomas' dangerous cross a minute later found no-one able to convert.

With 17 minutes gone, Korey Pring met a corner with a great header that was just off target, before Turner was too high with an effort from the edge of the box five minutes later.

On 24 minutes, Slimbridge excellent approach play was rewarded - Thomas made a good run down the right flank, and Kidlington Keeper Sam Warrell spilled his cross, allowing Adam Mace to bundle the ball home.

Ten minutes later, it could have been two, but Joe Stokes' glancing header from Mace's cross beat Warrell, but edged just the wrong side of the post. Hall was called upon to make a point blank stop from Ben Brown a couple of minutes later, and Slimbridge again could have extended their lead before the break, but Henry Birkett and Mace were both foiled in their efforts.

Kidlington brought on Lewis Coyle at the break, and came out of the traps with renewed vigour for the second half - Coyle forcing an early save from Hall after good work to make space for himself.

With 53 minutes gone, the equaliser came closer for the hosts, when Mark Janes' effort came off the Slimbridge post, but a minute later, the sides were level.

Coyle made another penetrating run at the Slimbridge defence, and slid the ball to Odhiambo in space, and he beat Hall to even things up.

For a while, the game turned into a battle between Coyle and the Slimbridge defence - he was just off target on 59 minutes, and then brought another good stop from Hall three minutes later.

Hall was harshly penalised for what the Referee Ben Williamson deemed picking up a back pass shortly afterward, but Coyle's effort this time was way too high.

With 15 minutes remaining, having ridden out the storm, Slimbridge took the lead again - Twyman and Thomas combined well, and Rich Thwaite was on hand to sweep home Thomas' cross and restore the visitor's advantage.

Four minutes from time, Squires and Coyle jumped together for a ball, and the Slimbridge defender was shown a straight red card by the Referee, much to the bemusement of both sets of players and club officials.

From the resulting free kick, and as the Swans were still reorganising, Coyle got the goal that his play deserved to even things up for the second time.

Kidlington had their tails up again, and battered the Slimbridge goal for the remaining time - Hall pushing a Coyle free kick onto the post in stoppage time.

When the teams last met in the Hellenic League, Kidlington were denied what would have been an equalising goal by the Referee blowing for time as a shot was on it's way into the net, and the final whistle was again mired in controversy.

After signalling a minimum of six minutes stoppage time, the Referee blew for time having played less than three, to the anger of the home side, bringing to an end a very entertaining evening's football.

Team: Hall, Turl, Squires, Pring, Thwaite, Turner, Twyman, Birkett (Luke Payne 62), Stokes (Harper-Emerson 75), Mace (Nathan Payne 75), Thomas

Supporters Man of the Match: Dean Turner