

Blackfield & Langley 1-0 Slimbridge

Saturday 18th August 2018

The Swans returned home from Hampshire pointless on the opening day of the season, going down 1-0 thanks to a 52nd minute penalty scored by Blackfield & Langley's Liam Robinson.



The hosts, who were making their debut in the Southern league after being crowned champions of the Wessex league last season were keen to make a good start and certainly looked more sharper on a pitch best described as poor, which was disappointing especially considering it was the first game of the season.

Blackfield & Langley's Owen Fee was a thorn in the Swans side all afternoon with his pacy runs up the left side came close to opening the scoring when his free kick was well pushed away by Eric Edge in the visitors goal.

A early caution for Christien Turner for a deliberate push was followed by a second for Joe Noakes for a soft challenge by a referee who seemed to be wanting to stamp his authority on the game.

Slimbridge had a penalty appeal turned down on 33 minutes when Liam Smith appeared to be felled in the box but the referee was close enough and was not interested.

The home side should have scored right on half time when a high cross into the box eluded Edge but was cleared off the line by Luke Payne, the rebound being struck inches wide by Robinson.

Slimbridge went into the break knowing that they had had a poor half and the half time cuppa seemed to do good as they showed much more purpose during the second 45.

However it was the hosts who went in front on 52 minutes when Korey Pring was penalised for a late challenge and up stepped Robinson to fire his spot kick low past Edge.

Slimbridge were rather fortunate not to concede a second penalty 10 minutes later when Noakes barged into a opponent but the referee awarded a free kick to the Swans much to the annoyance of the home side.

The Swans started to get their game going now and a great run up the right by Ewen Dunbar found Will Hawes free but his shot was blocked, the rebound being struck inches wide by Liam Smith.

Hawes and Ben Hands were replaced by substitutes Yeshaya Lomotey and Sam Mendes as the Swans looked to freshen things up, quickly followed by Max Harper- Emersons introduction, replacing the injured Noakes.

Lomotey looked quick and was soon felled on the edge of the box, Mendes hitting the free kick just wide. As the Swans pushed for the equaliser Christien Turner was just wide with a shot after a good run by Payne.

Mahhloufi was cautioned for the hosts late on for a late challenge on Smith as Slimbridge threatened on several occasions but it was the home side who held on to take the points which was probably just about deserved on the day.

Slimbridge: Edge, Payne, Noakes (Harper-Emerson 80), Dean Turner, Pring, Christien Turner, Dempsey, Smith, Hawes (Lomotey 75) Dunbar, Hands (Mendes 75)

Supporters man of the match- Luke Payne.