

Cirencester Town 3-3 Slimbridge

Tuesday 13th November 2018

Swans concede late equaliser in thrilling draw against high flying local rivals Cirencester Town.

Slimbridge made two changes to the starting lineup with Jamie Martin and Liam Smith starting up front with Ewen Dunbar and Yeshaya Lomotey dropping to the bench keeping the same formation of five at the back that bought wins against Melksham and Paulton.

It was the Swans that started the game brightly, Dan King shot blocked by Alexandru Albert followed up a few minutes later with some neat interplay between Christien Turner and Jamie Martin resulting in a corner to the Swans with 11 minutes gone. Joe Noakes header from the corner was blocked but in the scramble Will Hawes poked the ball home to give the visitors the lead.

Two minutes later Tommy Andersons cross was tipped away by Eric Edge in the Swans goal before Edge was forced into another save this time from the head of Alan Griffin. Hawes pounced on a loose ball in the middle of the park laying it through to Martin on the right after beating a home defender but fired his shot inches wide of the post.

Slimbridge had the ball in the net again on 29 minutes, Smith getting his head to Edge's goal kick flicking the ball through for Hawes to run onto and tuck the ball into the net, however Hawes was flagged offside.

The Centurions pulled the game level on 34 minutes, Adam Connolly heading home from a corner at the near post. As the half time whistle neared, Martin was just beaten to the ball by home keeper Martin Horsell after a neat lob over the defence by Dean Turner.

Slimbridge introduced Ewen Dunbar for goal scorer Will Hawes at the start of the second half and it was Dunbar that made an instant impact 90 seconds after coming on. Jayden Maddock's long run down the right flank passing two home defenders gave him space to provide a pin point cross into the box to allow Dunbar to back heel the ball into the net restoring the Swans lead.

The lead lasted only a couple of minutes, when Henry Spalding's cross on the left found Ben Whitehead who made no mistake in firing past Edge to equalise. Edge was called into action again soon after saving Spalding's header and gathering Will Christopher's shot.

As this entertaining game flowed end to end, Smith and Dunbar linked up only for Dunbars shot to fall directly to Horsell. On the hour mark Edge tipped away Andersons cross before Dean Turner forced a save from Horsell down at the other end.

It was Slimbridge who broke the deadlock for the third time in the game, a move from the back resulting in a ball to Dunbar who beat two defenders before firing into the net past Horsell.

Cirencester continued to press Edge saving Connolly's header from a flurry of corners to the home side.

The Swans should have extended the lead when Martin just failed to get on the end of Dunbar's cross from the right when in clear space in front of goal. As the game continued into the last 10 minutes Slimbridge soaked up more and more pressure from the home side, Christien Turner clearing from a series of corners and Maddock making an important block inside the visitors box.

As the Swans desperately tried to hold on to their lead, four minutes into injury time Cirencester scored their third to bring the game level from a corner through substitute Ellis Dunton. There was still time for Cirencester to almost win the game Whitehead forcing Edge into a save and a header from the home side in a crowded box clipping the post.

A well-deserved point for the Swans lifts them another place up the league and some much needed confidence travelling to third place Moneyfields on Saturday.

Slimbridge: Edge, Maddock, King (Mbunga 90), Pring, C Turner, Noakes, D Turner, M Turner, Martin, Hawes (Dunbar 45), Smith

Supporters Man of the match: Liam Smith