

Mangotsfield United 2-3 Slimbridge

Saturday 22nd December 2018

Swans returning to winning ways after classy first half performance.

After enduring a number of close run defeats in recent weeks Slimbridge returned from Mangotsfield with three well earned points and more importantly taking them a place further up the league away from relegation.

Slimbridge started the game on the front foot, Mark Magee latching onto a ball over the top his shot just clearing the host's crossbar. With six minutes played Slimbridge were awarded a free kick just inside the Mangotsfield half, the ball was floated into the box taking a deflection giving the visitors their first corner. A pin point corner ball found the unmarked Joe Noakes whose bullet header hit the back of the net giving the Swans an early lead. Unfortunately for Noakes he suffered a cut to the head and had to leave the field, being replaced by new signing Ioan Richards.

Four minutes later Slimbridge extended their lead, a well worked passing movement from the defence found Ewen Dunbar in space down the right his first time cross caused confusion in the home box with keeper Kieran Hodges spilling the ball into the path of Magee who made no mistake from 3 yards out to score.

Slimbridge continued to boss the midfield through Myron and Dean Turner, keeping the hosts at bay for the first twenty minutes. Mangotsfield registered their first corner of the game on 23 minutes, Daniel Demkiv shot being diverted wide by Kory Pring.

With 28 minutes of the half gone, Mangotsfield pulled a goal back through former Swan Sonnie Low from just inside the visitor's box. However the Swans responded immediately Dan King's cross finding Will Hawes inside the box and his acrobatic overhead kick found the back of the net restoring Slimbridge's two goal cushion.

Slimbridge had a couple of further chances to increase their lead Dunbar's cross shot sailing over the bar and Steve Jackson strike from 25 yards just wide.

The second half was a different story, Mangotsfield making two substitutions at half time were the team on the offensive Clayton Fortune forcing a double save from Adams before Demkiv headed wide and Kyle Tooze firing a shot over from inside the box. The Swans had another let off on 55 minutes a cross in from the left found the head of Demkiv but to the relief of the visitors it flew wide past the far post.

On 65 minutes Fortune latched onto a through ball which initially Adams claimed but then spilled at Fortune's feet before reclaiming as Fortune attempted a strike towards an empty net.

With 15 minutes remaining Slimbridge were nearly gifted a goal, Low surprised his keeper with a back header towards goal as Hodges was moving to his right to claim the ball, fortunately for the home side Hodges was able to calmly race back to his goal and stop the ball on the line.

Slimbridge continuing to soak up the pressure being applied by the home side until five minutes before time Mathew Tanner running through the middle of the Slimbridge defence and firing a thunderbolt past Adams to reduce the arrears leaving the Swans supporters a nervous final few minutes before the relief of the referees whistle to celebrate a well-deserved victory.

Over the Christmas period Slimbridge face Bristol Manor Farm at Thornhill Park on Boxing day with a revised 1pm kick off, before hosting league leaders Blackfield and Langley on Saturday 29th December. On New Year's Day, the Swans make the short trip to local rivals Cinderford with a 3pm kick off.

Slimbridge: Adams, Dunbar, King, Pring, C Turner, Noakes (9 Richards), D Turner, M Turner, Magee, Hawes (77 Mendes), Jackson (90 Smith)

Attendance: 112

Supporter's man of the match: Mark Magee