

Slimbridge 1-1 Wantage Town

Saturday 25th August 2018

Swans hold on against a very industrious Wantage Town side to remain in the FA Cup, despite leading for more than 40 minutes of the game.

The Swans were forced into a late change with striker Edji Mbunga unable to take his place in the side due to injury; he was replaced by Joe Wilton in the starting line-up. On the back of four league wins and sitting on the top of the Hellenic league table, it was no surprise that Wantage started the game on the front foot.

A third minute corner to the visitors found Jack Dunmall in space but his header was cleared only for Bradley Cox to fire back in but this was blocked and cleared up field by the Slimbridge defence. Wantage were lucky not to take the lead a few minutes later, a free kick on the edge of the box from Connor Mattimore stuck the top corner of the post and bar cannoning away for a goal kick with Swans keeper Eric Edge well beaten.

A hamstring injury forced late replacement Wilton to be substituted on 12 minutes being replaced by Liam Smith. Christien Turner was forced into conceding a corner at the near post after Mattimore had broken down the right flank and fired in a dangerous cross. Dan Comer headed the resulting corner over the bar to the relief of the home side.

Will Hawes forced a save from the Wantage keeper Curtis Meare from 20yards giving the Swans their first corner on 16 minutes. It was taken short unfortunately Ben Hands cross was too hard and sailed wide near the far corner flag. At the other end Cal Wright's shot flew inches wide of Edge's left post.

Joe Noakes cross from the left flank almost found Smith at the far post but he was just beaten to the ball by Meare in the visitor's goal. Midway through the half a mistake by Noakes allowed Kaylem Patterson to get a shot on goal but Edge was well positioned to make the save.

On the half hour Edge was called into action twice in a minute making two point blank saves the second pushing the ball off the line and out for a corner. The corner was cleared up field and a through ball to Tornado Bello was just intercepted by the visitor's keeper at the last minute to keep the score line level.

Five minutes later the Swans took the lead, Ewan Dunbar made a run down the left skipping past the visiting defence and pulling the ball back for Hawes whose mishit shot crept into the far corner much to the delight of the home support.

Another neat pass through the middle of the Wantage defence was latched onto by Tornado Bello, his shot was too close to Curtis who managed to stick out a leg and divert the ball wide when it looked certain the Swans would double their lead.

Wantage started the second half as they did the first on the attack, Cox hitting the bar from a free header from an early corner. Noakes then gave away another corner to the visitors heading over his own bar from a dangerous cross fired in from the left.

On the hour, Swans Christien Turner turned the ball away for a corner having worked hard to chase down Mattimore's run down the right. The corner again picked out Cox who this time got his header on target only to find the hands of Edge.

Edge then found Bello out wide on the left, after running down the flank his cross was too hard for the on rushing Dunbar to reach however with the pace of Dunbar sprinting across to the right he managed to keep the ball in passing to Smith who fired tamely straight at Curtis.

Bello was unlucky again not to get on the score sheet, his pace through the middle put him through one on one with the keeper again but he nicked the ball just wide of the post having beaten the visiting keeper.

The Swans were left to rue the missed chances a minute later with just ten minutes remaining Mattimore managed to skip down the right and pull the ball back for Jon Davoile to fire past the stranded Edge as the home defence stood watching to equalise.

Slimbridge almost won it on the stroke of full time, after a passage of good play the Swans forced a corner sending up the big guns from defence. Christien Turner got his head to the ball from the corner and somehow the Wantage defence managed to scramble the ball off the line and away to safety.

Both teams now go back to Wantage Town on Tuesday 4th September at 7:45pm for the replay to determine who earns a place in the first qualifying round, the draw for which takes place on Tuesday lunchtime at FA headquarters.

Slimbridge: Edge, Payne, Noakes (Tryner 63), D Turner ©, Pring, C Turner, Wilton (Smith 12), Hands, Bello, Hawes (Lomotey 79), Dunbar

Attendance: 65

Supporters Star Man: Christien Turner