

Slimbridge 2-1 Bideford

Saturday 5th October 2019

Swans extended winning run

Slimbridge continued their exceptional league form by winning their fifth league game on the bounce in beating a determined and battling Bideford side that were unlucky not to come away with at least a point.

With Will Peck not recovering from a recent injury senior Under 18's player Jacob Waddington stepped into the first team to take his place. After scoring midweek in the league cup defeat young Ethan Dunbar was given a place on the bench.

It was Bideford who had much of the early possession as the Swans struggled to get into their normal passing game. A couple of early corners for the visitors tested the home defence, loan Richards heading the first away. A second corner was given after a scramble in the box was deflected to safety and home keeper Joe Wright did well to punch the resultant corner clear.

It took Slimbridge until 26 minutes to craft out a half decent chance, Waddington playing a long ball over the Bideford defence for Rhys Sarson to collect his attempted lob over the out coming keeper Liam Kingston just sailed over the bar.

A couple of minutes later Max Smallcombe headed wide for the visitors from a free kick taken on the half way line. Moment later Richards did well to block a shot at the near post and from the corner the ball took a deflection at the far post and out for another corner.

Leighton Tuodolo's shot on 29 minutes was too high before the best chance of the game for the Swans saw Dean Turner find Sarson in space his shot was saved by Kingston and deflected out for a corner by the home defence.

Bideford deservedly took the lead on 37 minutes, Sean Downing heading home a cross from the right to leave the home side stunned. On the stroke of half time a visitor's free kick on the edge of the box saw Charlie Lawrence head over.

As the game entered first half injury time, the Swans gained a corner. The ball was sent over by Tuodolo to the far post, Richards initial effort came back off a team mate before his second attempt found its way into the net from less than 5 yards out to bring the scores level at half time.

Again Bideford continued to pressurise the home side Toby Down heading straight at Wright and Smallcombe heading wide a 40 yard free kick. On 66 minutes Kingston kept the visitors in the game, Tuodolo through on goal forced a save the ball coming back out to Ryan Beckinsale whose follow up shot was also well saved.

The Swans now hitting a spell of possession got their passing game back and it was Dean Turner that sprung the offside trap running in on goal and drawing out keeper Kingston to the right of the box. Turner unselfishly squared to Tuodolo on the left but he managed to sky the ball over the bar with an empty net in front of him.

On 74 minutes Jack Goodall's run down the right resulted in a cross to the far post that was cleared out for a Slimbridge corner. From the corner a header in the crowded box was saved on the line by Kingston.

With just less than 10 minutes remaining of the game Bideford gained a free kick about 40 yards out, the ball was swung into the box Ryan Turner rose to head towards the top corner from less than 10 yards out with Wright pulling off a fantastic save to tip the goal bound effort over the bar. Wright then did well to punch the corner kick clear. Turner then hit a long range shot over the bar.

Against the run of play, Slimbridge broke down the left wing on 83 minutes through Waddington and Myron Turner. Turner played the ball into the feet of substitute Jack Horrell who hit a screamer of a shot into the top of the net from 30 yards leaving Kingston no chance and Slimbridge with another victory.

With Bristol Manor Farm's FA Cup tie going to a replay this week, the Swans first team have a week off to recover before next Saturdays home Buildbase FA Trophy game against AFC Totton. However the unbeaten Under 18's side are in action at Tuffley Rovers on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday evening Slimbridge will host the Reg Davis Cup Final contested between Chalford and King's Stanley with both teams set to enjoy playing on the award winning 'carpet' at Thornhill Park.

Slimbridge: Wright, Goodall, Waddington, M Turner, White, Richards, Spurrier (Dunbar 78), D Turner, Sarson, Beckinsale (Horrell 68), Tuodolo (C Turner 86)
Subs not used: Chambers, Ford

Attendance: 76

Supporter's man of the match: Joe Wright