

Burnham 1-1 Slimbridge
AET 5-4 on penalties
Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Swans exit FA Cup in penalty showdown

Slimbridge made the long mid-week trip to Slough to face Burnham in an FA Cup preliminary round replay. Joe Wright continued in goal with Will Peck returning after missing last weekend's home victory and Christien Turner taking a spot on the bench after being ruled out of the game just before kick-off due to illness.

The first half was a very cagey affair but sides trying to hit each other on the break and keeping the ball on the deck. Dan Molloy hit the side netting early on with a cheeky back heel after collecting a cross from the left.

Immediately Slimbridge broke up the other end, Sol Wanjau-Smith carrying the ball down the left and cutting through the middle passing to Adam Bloomfield who forced a great save out of 17 year old Burnham Keeper Jimmy Barnett down low to his left.

On 15 minutes a Burnham spell of pressure in the Slimbridge box saw Will Peck slice a clearance behind for a corner. The visitors defence twice blocked shots from the corner before clearing the ball to safety.

Seven minutes later Dian Chambers hit a long range shot which took a deflection and went wide and out for a corner. At the other end Joe Blount robbed Chambers fortunately Joel White was on hand to block Blount's shot and clear up field.

End to end movements saw Mike Ford get his head to the ball after good movement from the back but his effort was over the bar. On 37 minutes a Slimbridge free kick saw Wanjau-Smith's effort saved by Barnett.

With 5 minutes of the first half remaining Burnham's Lee Debaco fired over from 25 yards after a spell of pressure around the visitor's box. Slimbridge were lucky to go in level at the break Blount's overhead kick only just clearing the bar with the visitors defence static.

Early in the second half Myron Turner hit a long range effort straight at the keeper, then Tyrone Tucker-Dixon made a break down the right on 54 minutes his cross turned away for a Slimbridge corner. The end to end play continued Tom Kemp firing over the visitors bar, Bloomfield was unlucky when he charged down a kick from the young Barnett but the ball ricocheted out wide.

White got on the end of a free kick from Wanjau-Smith but could only find the keeper before Burnham broke up the other end Molloy shooting wide when in space on the right. Immediately Slimbridge pushed forward where Wanjau-Smith fired in from the left Barnett spilling the initial save before gathering safely.

On 73 minutes Burnham substitute Ben Fraser broke down the left his cross in was blocked by the visiting defence. With 10 minutes of normal time remaining the ball ping-ponged around the home sides box from a Slimbridge corner only for Barnett to clear.

With seconds to go Wanjau-Smith hit the side netting meaning the game finished level sending the cup tie into 30 minutes of extra time.

With both sides still trying to find an opening it was Slimbridge that struck first 10 minutes into extra time, the ball falling to substitute Jack Horrell 35 yards out on the left as it bounced Horrell let fly a screamer into the top of the net leaving the home side stunned.

Burnham continued to pile pressure on the visitors as they had all game and within 2 minutes of the second period of extra time they were level again. Sam Coles breaking through the Slimbridge defence and then out foxing Wright (also only 17) to tuck the ball into the net. It was Burnham that looked more likely to score a second as the clock ran out and sent the tie into a penalty shoot-out.

Slimbridge stepped up to take the first penalty despatched by Wanjau-Smith, Coles then levelled with his effort. Myron Turner, Horrell, and Bekinsale all expertly found the back of the net along with home sides Fraser, Holland and Molloy.

At four each, Dion Chambers stepped up and Barnett guessed right to save down low to his right, leaving Tom Kemp to step up and fire past Wright to give the home side victory and a place in the first qualifying round against Tiverton Town.

The next action for Slimbridge is a tasty Gloucestershire County Cup tie against Cheltenham Town next Tuesday evening at Thornhill Park with a 7:45pm kick-off.

Slimbridge: Wright, Ford (Aitken 77), Peck, Chambers, Letori (Handley 46), White, Tucker-Dixon (Horrell 72), D Turner, Bloomfield (Bekinsale 114), M Turner, Wanjau-Smith

Subs not used: C Turner

Attendance: 120