

Slimbridge 1-2 Cheltenham Town

Tuesday 10th September 2019

Robins gain revenge knocking Swans out of County Cup

After the Swans beat the Robins on penalties in last season's County cup tie between the sides, it was the visitors who progress this season with two quick fire goals from Alex Addai early in the second half before the home side scored a deserved consolation late in the game.



Slimbridge started the game with 16 year old Alex Freeman making his first team debut in goal against a youthful Cheltenham side who included two 15 year olds. It was the home side that made most of the first half running, playing some neat passing football around the whole of the award winning Thornhill Park pitch.

A couple of early shots tested the Cheltenham defence, Adam Bloomfield had a shot deflected wide after some great build up play from Ben Aitken on the right wing then Sol Wanjau-Smith proving to be a handful with his pace forced a stop from Rhys Lovett.

A free kick from Jack Horrell outside the area was blocked; Ryan Bekinsale's follow up effort was saved by Lovett the busier keeper in the first half. A long ball from the Cheltenham defence found Archie Brennan on the right his cross was picked off the boots of Addai by young Freeman.

On 20 minutes Tom Handley's speculative shot from the right was fumbled by Lovett and then scrambled away for a Swans corner. A few minutes later Aitken sent in a long cross from the right into the box which found Horrell but his header was directed wide. At the other end Freeman comfortably claimed Addai's cross / shot into the box.

The second half saw Cheltenham look a different side, Brennan firing high and wide of the home goal. It took only three minutes of the half for the visitors to take the lead, with the home side losing concentration Addai used his pass to get through the defence and slot the ball past Freeman into the net. Immediately the Swans were on the attack, Aitken down the right pulled the ball back for Horrell but his shot sailed over the bar.

It was Addai who struck again two minutes later on 51 minutes, in a carbon copy of his first curling the ball past a stranded Freeman. The home side failed to give up and continued to play their passing game, Lovett had to be alert on 62 minutes tipping Wanjau-Smith shot into the side netting from a narrow angle on the left.

With time running out for the home side substitute Tyrone Tucker-Dixon found Wanjau-Smith in space inside the box Lovett did well to pull off a point blank save from his close range header. With two minutes of the game remaining Slimbridge gained a free kick on the edge of the box, up stepped Wanjau-Smith to fire around the wall and into the bottom right corner of the net for the consolation goal the home side deserved for their tireless effort.

Next up for the Swans first team is a long trip to Devon to face Barnstaple Town in the league on Saturday but before then the Under 18 side start their Cheltenham Youth League season at home to Chipping Sodbury Town on Thursday evening kick off 7:45pm.

Slimbridge: Freeman, Handley, Peck, Ford, Richards, White (C Turner 46), Aitken (Chambers 63), Bekinsale, Bloomfield (Tucker-Dixon 63), Horrell, Wanjau-Smith

Cheltenham: Lovett, Bowry, Brennan, Addai, Horton, Chamberlain, Smith, Skurek, Davis, Basford, Lawrence

Attendance: 102