

Cinderford Town 1-2 Slimbridge

Thursday 26th December 2019

Festive win for Swans in local derby

On a very wet pitch and patchy fog to contend with, Referee Andrew Genders allowed the game to start with both sets of players wanting to take to the pitch in what turned out to be an entertaining hard fought game by both teams. However it was the visitors that came away from this Boxing Day derby with all three points.

Will Peck had an early shot but his effort sailed wide, a minute later Craig Norman headed Marley Thomas's cross wide at the far post.

Thomas's run down the left was blocked by Aaron Nesbeth the follow-up effort fell wide. A good move from Nesbeth found Dion Chambers in space his 25 yard shot was saved by home keeper Andrew Hannah. Another good team move from the Swans saw Dan King shoot wide as the visitors coped well with the conditions.

Benjamin Watkins tested Slimbridge keeper Lewis Adams from 30 yards out on 19 minutes, Adams getting his finger tips to the ball as it skimmed over the bar for a home side corner.

A good spell of pressure by the Swans on 28 minutes saw Pecks cross fly high and wide at the far post. Five minutes later the visitors saw their dominance pay off, Mike Ford played a neat cross field ball to Peck on the left his cross towards the far post found Sol Wanjau-Smith in space to chest the ball down and fire under the diving Hannah to give the visitors the lead.

Immediately Cinderford went on the counter and gained a free kick 35 yards out from goal, James Harding stepped up and fired the ball against the wall. Thomas picked up the loose ball but could only find the arms of Adams.

The visitors extended their lead on 30 minutes, Dan King initially striking the left hand post from a long range free kick the rebound fell nicely to Ryan Beckinsale to fire into the net.

As the end of the half approached, Wanjau-Smith's effort from King's corner fell wide then Callum Wood headed wide for the home side from a free kick.

The second half started at a fast pace with the home side chasing the game, Peck's long range effort sailed over the bar while a minute later Joshua Hunt forced a save from Adams at the other end.

On 50 minutes Myron Turner forced a save from Hannah at close range before Turner played provider passing to Wanjau-Smith whose shot was deflected wide for a corner. Peck heading the corner narrowly wide.

Harding almost had the ball in the net getting his head to a corner but was adjudged to have fouled Adams as Adams attempted the save. The home side continued to put pressure on Slimbridge defence which was holding firm at the back. Harding's chip from the left found the head of former Swan Sam Turl but his effort went wide.

The home side pulled themselves back into the game on 64 minutes, Thomas's shot taking a wicked deflection over Adams and into the net. Two minutes later Watkins shot fell wide from 20 yards out.

On 75 minutes Beckinsales shot was blocked then a minute later the visitors had a glorious chance to sew the game up. Adams long kick bounced over the home defence for Myron Turner to run onto his shot was expertly blocked by the out rushing Hannah. With ten minutes remaining substitute Jarrad Welch fired his effort wide.

A moment of controversy came on 87 minutes Welch and Chambers both slid in for a loose ball on the half way line, Chambers getting to his feet first as neither player managed to gain possession of the ball. However the referee stopped the game for what appeared to be a very soft foul, then calling the home player over and showing him a straight red card to the shock and surprise of everyone in the ground.

The game continued with six minutes of added time. Slimbridge substitute Jack Horrell forcing a save out of Hannah after a run down the left. Deep in injury time the Swans did well to protect their narrow lead, Rhys Sarson taking the ball towards the corner flag before crossing to Horrell who just failed to connect at the far post. On the final whistle Chambers effort was blocked then Horrell's follow up was saved.

Sixth placed Slimbridge now move on to New Year's Day where they look to continue their winning run in another derby game in the shape of Evesham United at Thornhill Park with a 3pm kick off. A large crowd is expected for this game with Slimbridge only four points behind United in 4th.

Slimbridge: Adams, Nesbeth, Peck, Ford, White, C Turner, King, Chambers, M Turner, Beckinsale (Sarson 83), Wanjau-Smith (Horrell 70)

Unused subs: D Turner, Martin, Tuodolo

Attendance: 170

Supporters man of the match: Dan King