

Slimbridge 2-4 Highworth Town

Wednesday 21st August 2019

Swans fall to second league defeat after another nightmare second half performance

Slimbridge lined up with a much changed backline after Saturdays game at Melksham, Logan Roach and Will Peck coming in to replace the injured Christien Turner and Aaron Nesbeth. Player coach Dion Chambers was preferred in midfield to Mike Ford who dropped to the bench. Also on the bench was new signing Tyrone Tucker-Dixon.

The home side very much dominated most of the first half, Leighton Tuodolo forcing Connor Johns into a save on the line after a pinpoint cross from Jamie Martin on the right. Then Tuodolo continuing to be a menace to the Highworth defence down the left flank gaining two consecutive corners from deflected shots as the Swans camped themselves in the opposition half.

With less than 20 minutes on the clock the home side were forced into a change with Rhys Sarson picking up an injury to be replaced by debutant Tucker-Dixon. Again it was Tuodolo that got in on the action in the Highworth penalty box forcing another corner but fired high from the corner kick.

Highworth's first attack of the game on 22 minutes resulted in former Swan Edjidja Mbunga firing a cross in from the right which was dealt with by Joel White putting the ball out corner. The corner ricocheted around the box before being cleared to safety up field.

Slimbridge made a breakthrough taking the lead on 25 minutes, a mix up at the back between keeper and centre half under pressure from Tyrone-Dixon saw the ball fall kindly to Chambers who rolled the ball into the net.

Highworth responded with Darren Jefferies forcing a save from Lewis Adams just past the half hour mark, a few minutes later Terence Bohane shot was deflected wide. With just less than five minutes of the half remaining the Swans extended their lead, Myron Turner on the left crossed the ball into the box over the head of Johns the ball hitting the inside of the post and bouncing into the net.

As the half ended the game continued at a pace, Highworth sending a free kick from the edge of the box into the wall with the home side clearing the danger. Slimbridge almost grabbed a third Martin raced through the middle rather than shoot passed right for Tucker-Dixon to run onto but his pass was too heavy allowing Johns to claim at the feet of Tucker-Dixon.

The second half was a completely different story to the first, Highworth getting back into the game with two quick goals. On 49 minutes a cross in from the right was not dealt with by the home defence allowing Bohane to chip the ball into the net. Two minutes later Stephen Robertson slammed the ball home in a crowded box again the Swans defence unable to clear to bring the score line level.

The home side missed a great chance soon after the restart, Jamie Martin in space down the right crossed to the far post with Tuodolo just inches from connecting with the ball. On the hour Adams made another great save this time from Jefferies. On 71 minutes it was Johns turn to make a save tipping Martins free kick over the bar.

However it was Highworth that got on the score sheet again taking the lead on 76 minutes a scramble in the box saw Jefferies poke the ball home. With two minutes of the game remaining the visitors extended their lead Mbunga breaking away leaving the home defence chasing back his cross fell into the path of substitute Toumani Sidibe who slammed home from close range to leave the Swans defeated.

With games coming thick and fast, the Swans need to regroup and recover for Saturdays FA Cup game at Thornhill Park where they entertain Burnham from the Hellenic League with a place in the first qualifying round and more prize money at stake.

Slimbridge: Adams, Handley, Roach (Wanjau-Smith 82, Chambers (Bloomfield 82), Peck, White, Martin, D Turner, Sarson (Tucker-Dixon 18), M Turner, Tuodolo

Unused Subs: Ford, Beckinsale

Highworth Town: Johns, Morris, Davidge, Morgan, Morrison, Taylor (Cheetham 88), Mbunga, Wood, Robertson (Sidibe 82), Bohane (Comer 82), Jefferies

Attendance: 126

Supporter's man of the match: Jamie Martin