

Thatcham Town 1-3 Slimbridge

Saturday 14th December 2019

Slimbridge end league leaders unbeaten record on the road

Prior to today's fixture leaders Thatcham had yet to be beaten in 15 league games where as the Swans in 11th were coming off the back of six games without a win. After a disappointing home defeat last weekend Lee Driver-Dickerson and assistant Alex Lumsden made three changes to the forward line bringing in Ryan Beckinsale, James Spruce and Dion Chambers. Rhys Sarson and Leighton Tuodolo dropped to the bench while Jack Horrell returned to the squad after missing last weekend's game.

An early mistake from the Swans backline saw Lewis Adams concede a corner after three minutes having been sent a poor back pass, the corner was taken quickly only for Felipe Barcelos to fire over from inside the box. A couple of minutes later Myron Turner knocked down a ball forward from the defence teeing up Beckinsale on the right his dangerous cross was headed out for a visitors corner.

A Slimbridge free kick on 12 minutes was dealt with well by the home defence only for Beckinsale to pick up the loose ball and run back into the box but his path was blocked and the ball cleared before he could get a shot away.

Thatcham gained another corner on 17 minutes; Matt Day's goal ward strike was diverted wide by his own player. A Swans corner at the other end was headed wide by Christien Turner.

Both sides were playing some entertaining attacking end to end football but not quite carving out a goal scoring opportunity.

James Spruce did well on the left delivering a cross to Dan King whose header fell into the hands of home stopper Archie Mathews. A long range Thatcham free kick was then headed wide.

With half an hour gone, Will Peck was awarded a free kick when he got tripped 30 yards outside the home side's box. Beckinsale forced a save from Mathews but Spruce failed to control the follow up 5 yards out.

Slimbridge took the lead on 35 minutes, a move from the back involving Joel White and Mike Ford found Beckinsale in space in the middle played in King who shrugged off two defenders before tucking the ball into the corner of the net.

A minute later the home side were denied an equaliser when Adams made a great save to keep out Mathew Partidge's shot from the right. 5 minutes later Adams came racing out of his area beating Barcelos to a long ball forward chesting it down and then kicking to safety.

Thatcham dominated the start of the second half with Slimbridge on the back foot a cross from the right found Kyle Tooze in space his header expertly tipped past the post by Adams. A minute later Partridge fired wide.

The hosts were back in the game on 53 minutes Christien Turner making an important block in the box from Tooze, the resulting corner was headed home by Zal Westlake in a crowded Swans area.

Slimbridge however turned the game around and took the lead once more; Myron Turner shot from a long range free kick was tipped over the bar by Mathews conceding a corner. The corner fell to Christien Turner who fired home from close range scoring his first goal for the club.

On 64 minutes the Swans deservedly extended their lead, Beckinsale's initial shot from 15 yards out was tipped past the post by Mathews. The resulting corner was cleared this fell to Beckinsale his delicate lob from 40 yards out sailed over Mathews head and into the top of the net.

Three minutes later as Thatcham looked for a way back into the game Matt Day's effort flew over Adams bar and into the car park. With just over 15 minutes to play, Beckinsale played in King but the home keeper was quick to react and make the save. Mike Ford gained control of the ball with a strong tackle just inside the home box, his cross found Myron Turner but his shot fell wide.

At the other end Adams did well to save Tooze's effort, Barcellos fired over from the rebound 2 yards out.

With ten to go Adams tipped Tooze's 20 yard strike over the bar, then King was unlucky just missing the target at the other end from a curling shot on the right. Some good interplay between Beckinsale and substitute Jack Horrell through the middle found Will Peck who crashed a shot off the bar from 25 yards out with Mathews beaten.

In time added on Tooze broke the offside trap but Aaron Nesbeth fast tracking back made a fantastic last ditch tackle to rob the striker and allow Adams to claim the ball on the final whistle sending the visiting fans into celebration.

Slimbridge return to the award winning Thornhill Park pitch next Saturday entertaining Hampshire side AFC Totton before traveling to local rivals Cinderford Town on Boxing Day, this game kicks off at the earlier time of 1pm. The Swans are then home to Evesham United on New Year's day, this has a 3pm kickoff.

Slimbridge: Adams, Nesbeth, Peck, Ford, White, C Turner, King, Chambers, M Turner, Beckinsale (Pring 88), Spruce (Horrell 79)

Unused subs: Sarson, Dunbar, Tuodolo

Attendance: 180

Supporter's man of the match: Ryan Beckinsale