

Match Reports

Slimbridge 2-2 Cinderford Town

(4-3 Pens)

Pitching In Southern League Challenge Cup

Wednesday 6th October 2021

Swans progress in cup on penalties

A much changed Slimbridge side made progress in the Southern League challenge cup defeating neighbours Cinderford Town on penalties after the game finished level after normal time.

Slimbridge gave first team debuts to three of the under 18s team alongside Korey Pring returning to the club and reserve team captain Liam Harper making the starting lineup.

It was the Swans that started the game brightly Jamie Martin having a shot saved by Steven Bowers at the near post with Liam Harper's follow up going wide of the other post.

Slimbridge took the lead on 12 minutes, Martin heading home from a corner. Johan Flo then tested Bowers from distance but the keeper smothered the shot well.

Cinderford were unlucky not to equalise on 22 minutes, Ben Brooks free kick thundering against the bar and away to safety. Moments later Bowers pushed Martins shot around the post for a home corner.

A tame foul on Lewis Bamford in the box just past the half hour resulted in a penalty for the visitors. Bamford duly slotted past 17 year old Billy Thomas making his debut for the Swans in goal and proudly following in his father's footsteps.

The home side lost Adam Price to injury and he was replaced by Tomas Leonard another debutant in the side. As Half time approached, Mike Ford forced another save from Bowers after a decent cross from Marley Thomas.

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The second half was equally entertaining as the first with both sides trying to pass the ball around from the back. Martin put the ball into the net on 54 minutes but it was ruled out for offside.

This sparked a flurry at the other end, substitute Harry Emmett drawing a save from Billy Thomas who then did well punching clear a corner after a couple of shots had been deflected wide of the goal.

On the hour Marley Thomas delivered a pin point cross into the box with the on rushing Martin diving header sailing past Bowers to give the home side the advantage again.

Minutes later Billy Thomas again pushed Emmett's effort round the post before saving well from the resulting corner.

With just over 10 minutes remaining a Cinderford free kick was chipped into the box and Emmet vollied past Billy Thomas to bring the game level again.

Slimbridge pressed forward looking for a winner, Marley Thomas shot fell inches wide and in injury time Bowers took the ball off Martin's toes just as it looked like the home striker was about to shoot.

With the game finishing level, the result was to be settled on penalty kicks. First up for Cinderford was Bamford, this time he sent his kick over the bar and into the car park. Mike Ford, Harry Emmett and Ben Hands all scored to give Slimbridge a 2-1 lead after two kicks each.

Billy Thomas saved Luke Paynes kick, Ben McLean saw his effort saved by Bowers, then Owen Taylor, Martin and Brooks all converted to leave the score at 3-3 with one penalty for Slimbridge to take. Up stepped Marley Thomas to give the Swans victory 4-3.

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The first team travel to Larhall this weekend in the FA Trophy, while the reserves entertain SC Inkberrow at Thornhill Park while the Under 18s host Shortwood United under lights next Tuesday evening.

Slimbridge: B Thomas, R Tomlin, K Pring, M Ford, B Hands, T Lawrence, J Flo, A Price, J Martin, L Harper, M Thomas

Subs Used: G Driver-Dickerson, B McLean, T Leonard

Attendance: 120

Supporters player of the match: Jamie Martin