

Match Reports

Slimbridge 0-5 Melksham Town **Pitching In Southern League Div. One South** Saturday 2nd October 2021

Swans collapse after harsh second half penalty

After an uneventful first half, the Swans conceded five second half goals after Melksham took control of the game early after the break after scoring a harshly given penalty.

Slimbridge management shuffled the team after losing Ben Deakin to injury last week, Mike Ford dropping into the full back role and Johan Flo returning to the team. After scoring 5 for the under 18's in the week Jack Liddicot was given a place on the bench along with fellow under 18 players Tomas Leonard and George Driver-Dickerson.

In the opening first half hour neither side made a clear cut chance with both sides cancelling each other out in the middle of the park. Will Hawes got a weak shot on target but Mathew Hall was able to claim it.

Oliver Webb of the visitors conceded a free kick 25 yards out 5 minutes before the end of the half, Adam Prices effort heading for the top right corner was tipped away by Hall for a Swans corner. Nathan Dennis headed over from the corner at the back post.

On the stroke of half time Price wipped a cross into the box from the right with Hawes firing narrowly wide at the near post with Hall unsighted.

Former Swan Jay Malshanskyj forced a good save from Lewis Adams seconds into the start of the second half evading the attentions of Tby Lawrence.

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It was a moment of controversy on 50 minutes that changed the course of the game. A free kick for Melksham was deflected wide for a corner, from which Adams tipped the ball wide of the goal. The home defence cleared the resulting corner however a block by Ben Pricor in the box from 5 yards away was judged to have struck his arm that was held against his chest and the referee deemed it deliberate hand ball awarding a penalty to the visitors.

Jake Mawford sent Adams the wrong way giving the visitors the lead. A Slimbridge free kick was headed on by Lawrence to Hawes but his header fell into the arms of Hall.

On 64 minutes the home side fell behind again, Adams tipping Mawfords shot onto the post, the ball was then floated back into the box where a little flick found Malshanskyj in space at the back post to tap in.

The third goal came ten minutes later, Mawford placing a shot through a crowded box into the net. The fourth then came five minutes later, after a couple of cleared corners, substitute Mike Ballinger headed home at the near post.

The final blow came just before the final whistle, Mawford evading the home defence and running through to tap the ball into the net past Adams for his third of the game.

Slimbridge play Cinderford Town on Wednesday evening in the league cup with a 7:45pm kick off, then on Saturday travel to Larkhall in the FA Trophy.

Slimbridge: L Adams, M Ford, B Pricor, B McLean, N Dennis, T Lawrence, E Mbunga, A Price, W Hawes, J Flo, M Thomas

Subs Used: J Martin, B Hands, J Liddicot

Attendance: 110

Supporters player of the match: Ben McLean