

**ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MATCH REPORT – MONDAY APRIL 1st 2002**

EAGLE BITTER UNITED COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE

ST. NEOTS TOWN 2 STOTFOLD 0

Perhaps the commitment of St. Neots leading scorer, Steve Kuhne, summed up their quest for as high a finish as possible in the UCL Premier Division. Steve's was in hospital on Monday morning, awaiting the arrival of their baby, but he left her bedside and played in the match before rushing back hoping to be in time for the new arrival. He did not score, but had the satisfaction of creating the all important second goal for Warren Brown that clinched the victory.

It was Brow's first goal at Rowley Park this season and only his second since last August and it came at a critical time just before the hour. The two sides at Rowley Park six days earlier and from the start it was clear they knew too much about each other. The game produced little in terms of excitement in the first 25 minutes as the defences dominated. Then Stotfold could have scored twice in a minutes first Pete Saunders and then Justin Griffis had close range shots blocked by Trevor Smith and Andy Chapman respectively.

Saints responded with man of the match Wes Byrne flashing a header just wide from a Jason Meeds free kick. But after 39 minutes they took the lead as Simon Claridge produced a cross and Byrne headed the goal against his former side despite the attempts of Ian Trott to clear off the line. Three minutes later Claridge should have doubled the lead, but unmarked at the far post he shot badly wide from another incisive cross from Meeds.

The second goal came as Stotfold were beginning to get on top. Paul Bloss overlapped on the left and his deliberate cross was picked up by Steve Kuhne on a diagonal run. He turned and crossed again and Brown, making a late run into the area, poached the goal. From that point on Stotfold seemed unable to mount the challenge they had in the cup game when two goals behind. Several injuries, including one to Byrne, which saw him leave the field on a stretcher, broke up the rhythm of the game although Saints never looked like conceding.

Team: Young, Dear, Bloss, Chapman, Smith, Buckland, Brown, Meeds, Kuhne, Byrne, Claridge.

Subs: Bell, Goodall, Hicks.

Subs Used: Bell for Brown, Goodall for Byrne.

Goals: Saints: Byrne (39 mins), Brown (58mins)