

**ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY 03/11/01**

EAGLE BITTER UNITED COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE

Kempston Rovers 1 St Neots 2

St Neots Manager Chris Howell was away on a spying mission watching his sides' Vase opponents Romford so he missed this match. However whatever he learned could be in vain if his side perform next week as they did in the first 75 minutes of this match. It would be wrong to say that St Neots did not deserve to win for they were the better side but with the winning goal coming more than three minutes into added time there was an understandable air of relief at the final whistle.

In the first 15 minutes it was all St Neots and Ben Webster back in goal after a brief period with Blackstone only touched the ball once in this period comfortably collecting a cross. Then in Kempston's first attack the visiting defence were caught completely out of position as Chris Nicholson crossed from the right to find Steve Forbes totally unmarked at the far post and he calmly slotted the ball wide of the stranded Webster. Simon Claridge wasted St Neots next chance heading over the bar but on 25 minutes the scores were levelled. Vince Petty flicked on a Webster clearance and Jason Meeds produced a commendable burst of speed to beat the keeper to the ball and flick it past him into the net. The only other notable first half event was the return to the St Neots team of the charismatic Frank Atkins as substitute for the injured Trevor Smith after 33 minutes.

Apart from a Steve Kuhne header over the bar at one end and an acrobatic and very important save from Webster at the other to deny Colin Souter a second Kempston goal much of the second half was a stalemate as St Neots squandered better possession with inefficient finishing. Fifteen minutes from time they threw caution to the wind sending on substitute Wes Byrne for Andy Grieve and playing a three man attack. From that point Kempston could only defend. Vince Petty, Jason Meeds and Frank Atkins all went close to conjuring a winning goal and Simon Claridge saw a shot rebound from a post. Then deep into injury time Mick McCreanor powered forward to feed Paul Bloss. His low cross found Jason Meeds at the far post and he joyfully crashed the ball into the net for the winning goal.

Team: Webster, Grieve, Bloss, Chapman, Hicks, McCreanor, Petty, Smith, Kuhne, Meeds, and Claridge.

Subs: Byrne, Atkins, Paige, Grant, and Sylvester.

Subs used: Atkins for Smith (33 min), Byrne for Grieve (73 min).

Goals: St. Neots: Meeds - two (25 min and 93 min).