

**ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY APRIL 6th 2002**

EAGLE BITTER UNITED COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE

ST. NEOTS TOWN 0 BOSTON TOWN 3

The most daunting statistic to emerge from this game was that there was more players sent off than goals scored. In a competitive yet fair game Simon Claridge, Jason Meeds and Warren Brown for Saints and Boston's Dean Elston, were all dismissed in the same incident 15 minutes into the second half. Claridge received a second caution for a foul on Elston and Elston a straight red for retaliation, although a stern word would normally have been the outcome from a more experienced Referee. Brown and Meeds both received red cards for remonstrating with the officials over their decision.

Controversy started early with the referee, Mat McGraith, who had been seconded from the Beds League, due to a shortage of officials. A penalty should have been awarded to Saints when Steve Kuhne had been clearly pushed in the back well inside the box; the decision given was an indirect free kick outside the penalty area. Saints came close to taking the lead, after 12 minutes, after Ricky Dear released Wes Byrne down the right flank and Boston's Dean Elston deflected his low hard cross onto the post.

The home team defended well during the first period against a strong head wind with Steve Young pulling off a great fingertip saves from Boston's Jamie Graham after 23 minutes. With the home team edging the game during the first half it was disappointing to concede a goal four minutes into time added on. A good move down the right, from Boston, gave Liam Harrold the opportunity of firing in a good low shot, which Steve Young could only parry away, Jamie Graham was first to react and fired in from close range.

During the first period of the second half Saints began to dominate the game and looked capable of pulling of pulling back the deficit that was until reduced to eight men. The two-man advantage soon began to tell although it was an uncharacteristic error from Saints keeper Steve Young that allowed Boston in for their second. Young in preparing to clear the ball from his area, lost control and Liam Harrold was quick to dispossess the keeper and fire home. Liam Harrold was on target again, on 80 minutes, when Saints were caught out pushing forward, Harrold received the ball in space and beat Young with a low shot into the corner.

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

Subs: Bell, Grieve, Hicks, Goodhall, Scott.

Subs Used: Bell for Byrne, Grieve for Dear, Hicks for Smith.

Goals: Boston: Graham (45 mins), Harrold (60 and 80 mins)