

**ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY MARCH 9th 2002**

HUNTS SENIOR CUP – SEMI FINAL

ST. NEOTS TOWN 7 STILTON UNITED 0

Stilton progressed to the Semi Final of the competition, for the first time in their history, with wins over ICA Juventus and Ramsey Town and now had the opportunity of causing an upset at Rowley Park. With a gale force wind bearing down the length of the pitch both teams struggled to keep the ball under control, and during the first half, the Stilton keeper James Wilkinson saw his goal kicks almost returning to him. Jason Meeds took full advantage of the conditions when on 28 minutes he curled an unstoppable free kick into the top corner from just outside the area after a Paul Bloss had been fouled.

Saints second came from a very unusual source, Saints keeper Ben Webster, his drop kick bounced into the visitors area and the indecision of the Stilton keeper saw him push the ball into his own net.

Saints found kicking into the wind during the second period much more to their liking and began to take firm control of the game. Scott Grant headed home for Saints after 56 minutes from a Paul Bloss cross after a good passing move with Vince Petty.

Wes Byrne took advantage of a goalkeeper error on 64 minutes after Wilkinson dropped the ball at the strikers feet only a couple of yards out. Steve Kuhne added saints fifth from close range after the Stilton defence failed to deal with a cross from John Johnson. Kuhne was on hand again in the 74th minute and again was first to react to a loose ball and bury his shot past the helpless keeper from just outside the goal area.

Wes Byrne finished of the scoring for Saints after being set up by Nick Finney, who was making his first tem debut. Finney cut in from the right flank and cleverly pulled the ball back for Byrne to finish from close range.

Another plus for manager Chris Howell was the welcome return to the first team of Saints favourite Howard Philips who replaced John Johnson.

Team: Webster, Johnson, Bloss, Chapman, Hicks, Buckland, Petty, Meeds, Kuhne, Byrne, Grant.

Subs: McCreanor, Finney, Philips, Cavilla (GK)

Subs Used: Brown for Smith, Grant for McDonnell.

Goals: Saints: Meeds (28 mins), Webster (41 mins), Grant (56 mins), Byrne (64,& 85 mins)
Kuhne (67 & 74 mins)