

**ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY 10/11/01**

F A CARLSBERG VASE – 2ND ROUND

ROMFORD 0 ST. NEOTS TOWN 3

Saints started the game very brightly and forced two corners within the first five minutes, each corner resulted in headers from Jason Meeds and Steve Kuhne which both skimmed just over the cross bar. Danny Read replied for the home team on ten minutes finishing off a good move with a header that looked equally close to the earlier Saints efforts.

The Saints defenders found the heavy, bumpy pitch hard to deal with in the early stages and although some of their clearances were not pretty they remained effective and denied the Romford fords any clear cut chances.

Andy Grieve started to make an impression down the right flank finding space behind the Romford defence and providing some good crosses into the box. Saints were unlucky not to come in at half time at least two or three goals to the good, Romford managed to clear three shots off their goal line with a combination of good luck and sheer determination.

Simon Claridge had a golden opportunity to put Saints ahead, just a few minutes into the second period, but his header, only a few yards from goal, flashed wide of the post. It was Saints top striker, Steve Kuhne, who finally broke the deadlock, on 56 minutes, Vince Petty cleverly bought the ball down on his chest and laid on a perfect pass for his striking partner Kuhne to fire home into the corner. Kuhne was also instrumental in Saints second, on 69 minutes, his perfect pass released Paul Bloss down the left flank and his run to the bi-line culminated in a clinical pull back to Vince Petty who made no mistake and buried the ball into the top of the net.

Saints second goal seemed to spur Romford into life and for the next ten minutes the traffic was all one way way but McCreanor, Chapman and Hicks were outstanding and defended their goal quite brilliantly.

To put the game beyond doubt the two Saints strikers combined for what was arguably the best goal of the match just 5 minutes before the final whistle. Kuhne picked the ball up half way into the home teams half and laid the ball out to Petty wide on the right flank, Petty took control off the ball and quickly picked out Kuhne who had made a deep run into the box. Kuhne took the ball on the half volley and again buried the ball into the net with a low hard strike.

The whole of the Saints team deserved their victory for a great performance on a very difficult and tiring pitch and now look forward to another away game to Melksham Town of the Western Premier League in the 3rd Round.

Team: Young, Grieve, Bloss, McCreanor, Chapman, Hicks, Petty, Buckland, Kuhne, Meeds, Claridge.

Subs: Byrne, Dear, Grant, Goodhall, Sylvester.

Subs Used: Dear for Meeds.

Goals: Saints: Kuhne (56 & 85 min) Petty (69).