

ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY 12th JANUARY 2002

EAGLE BITTER UNITED COUNTIES PREMIER DIVISION

St Neots Town 2 Yaxley 1

This was a game in which something had to give. Neither team had been beaten since the end of October. St Neots were undefeated in twelve league and cup games and the Yaxley run had extended to eleven with their midweek victory over Stotfold in the League KO Cup. In the event St Neots delighted their fans by coming back from behind to snatch all three points in an excellent and entertaining game.

St Neots began well creating two early chances but the visitors took the lead after 14 minutes in their first real attack when two defenders seemed to attempt to clear a low cross by Lawrence Clark. In the confusion Jason Sedlan was quick to react and fire in an angled shot that Young could not reach to claim his fifth goal in the last seven games. St Neots reaction was positive and within four minutes they were level. Simon Ward had looked unsure with crosses in the Yaxley goal and he could only push away an Andy Grieve cross and as the St Neots player followed up he was brought down by the keeper and a penalty awarded. Steve Kuhne comfortably tucked the kick away to claim his 26th goal of the season and equal his tally with Cogenhoe last season. Minutes later a clever Kuhne dummy set up Wes Byrne and only a fine save by the keeper prevented St Neots taking the lead and he also did well to tip a Grieve shot over the bar. In injury time at the end of the first half St Neots twice had the ball in the net but both efforts were ruled out because of fouls on defenders.

After the break Yaxley enjoyed a positive period with their goalkeeper now commanding his area with greater confidence and cutting out the supply of crosses designed to set up further openings. At the other end a full length save by Steve Young from Simon Acton was crucial and midway through the half Yaxley introduced former Saint Ricky Hailstone as a substitute for Jim Catona. What proved to be the winning goal came after 73 minutes when Jason Meeds robbed Matt Doyle and exchanged passes with Wes Byrne before scoring with an unstoppable swerving shot just inside a post. Yaxley tried to rally and there was a flare up that saw Hailstone, Ricky Dear and Trevor Smith all booked by a referee who had kept a firm grip on proceedings throughout. Seven minutes from time Ricky Dear brought the save of the match from Ward and by then St Neots looked to be comfortably able to hold on for all three points.

Team: Young, Grieve, Bloss, Chapman, Hicks, Smith, Byrne, Claridge, Kuhne, Meeds, Dear.

Subs: McDonnell, Brown, McCreanor, Cavilla

Subs Used: McDonnell (for Grieve 75 mins), Brown (for Byrne 89 mins)

Goals: St Neots: Kuhne (penalty) 18 mins, Meeds 73 mins.
Yaxley: Sedlan 14 mins.

