

## ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

MATCH REPORT – TUESDAY 14/8/01  
EAGLE BITTER UNITED COUNTIES PREMIER DIVISION

**WOOTTON 1 ST. NEOTS TOWN 0**

Although Saints have not beaten Wootton away for some seasons there was an air of optimism before the game considering the amount of new signings made during the close season.

Saints had an opportunity to make a dream start after just three minutes, Simon Claridge found himself in space, no more than eight yards out, with only the keeper to beat. Claridge shot straight at the Wootton keeper, who managed to get his body in front of the ball and deflect the shot round the post for a corner.

The game was played at a frenetic pace with neither team taking the time to control the ball and show any composure. Wootton used the flanks more consistently and with more deliberation than the Saints and produced far more telling crosses, which created better chances for the Wootton forwards. Wootton forced a number of corners during the first period, and their training ground set piece routines had the Saints defenders under pressure.

The Wootton keeper pulled off some good saves against Byrne and Kuhne and it was after one of the good chances that Wootton took the initiative. An quick break left the Saints defenders flat across the centre line, while a long low ball through the centre had no less than three Wootton players pursuing the pass and bearing down on the last line of defence Ben Webster.

Although Webster did well to close the ball down he had no chance against three and, Saints old boy, Derwayne Stupple, picked up the deflected ball of Webster and put the ball into the open net from just a couple of yards out.

Halfway through the second period Paul Carey was introduced into the game to play alongside Kuhne and Byrne. Saints best chances during the second period came from set pieces but these were few and far between. The quality of service to the front players was as poor as in the game the previous Saturday against Ruands with passes and crosses either being over or under hit or not even finding their target at all.

Wootton looked no better than Saints but seemed to have a better game plan and shape and on reflection probably wanted the win more than the visitors.

**Team:** Webster, Linnel, Bloss, Chapman, McCreanor, Smith, Brown, Buckland, Kuhne, Byrne, Claridge.

**Subs:** Hailstone, Dear, Carey, Foster, Young.

**Subs Used:** Carey for Brown, Hailstone for Buckland.

**Goals:** **Wootton:** Stupple (44mins)