

**ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB  
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY MARCH 16th 2002**

**EAGLE BITTER UNITED COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE**

**COGENHOE UTD 1 - ST. NEOTS TOWN 0**

A 94<sup>th</sup> minute goal from Darren Harmon gave Cogenhoe the points in a game where a draw looked to be a fair result for both teams. Saints were by far the better team in the first half causing Cogenhoe all sorts of problems and playing arguably some of the best football seen this season, even though the surface was hard and bumpy. Cogenhoe edged the second half but never looked to do enough to win the game.

Unfortunately for Saints their finishing was not to equal their approach play and although both teams only had a few chances the visitors had the better opportunities. Wes Byrne came agonisingly close on 25 minutes after putting Steve Kuhne's low cross, to the back post, just the wrong side of the upright. Steve Kuhne was denied by a goal line clearance just five minutes later when his header, from a Paul Bloss corner, found the last line of defence to be Darren Harmon who scrambled his effort of the line.

Saints squandered another good chance just two minutes into the second half when Simon Claridge put his unchallenged header, from an Andy Grieve cross, a foot over the bar, from just a few yards out. A few minutes later Vince Petty, who replaced the injured Wes Byrne during the break, was put through into the home teams penalty area but instead of pulling the trigger he elected to cross the ball for his striking partner Kuhne at the back post. Although Kuhne managed to get his head to the cross the challenge of Cogenhoe defender Paul Wagstaff was enough to make Kuhne put his header just wide of the post.

Ben Webster made a brilliant save from Darren Harmon, on seventy minutes, when the striker found himself one on one, with the young keeper, but Webster stood up well and pushed Harmon's shot round the post for a corner.

When the game looked to be ending in stalemate, in time added on, Cogenhoe were awarded a corner kick. The Saints defence on clearing the corner pushed out but were caught out by a miss hit cross from Russell Dunkley, which found Darren Harmon. The unmarked striker managed to get his head onto the ball, after the ball had bounced, and steer it past the outstretched Webster. As expected the final whistle was blown when Saints took the resulting centre kick.

Saints league programme continues with home fixtures against Blackstones on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March and Ford Sports on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Team:** Webster, Grieve, Bloss, Hicks, Chapman, Buckland, Grant, Brown, Kuhne, Byrne, Claridge.

**Subs:** Petty, Johnson, Meeds, Smith.

**Subs Used:** Johnson for Grieve, Meeds for Brown.

**Goals: Saints:**

**Cogenhoe:** Harmon (94 mins)