

**ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB  
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY 19th JANUARY 2002**

**FA CARLSBERG VASE – 4<sup>TH</sup> ROUND**

**Rushall Olympic 1 St Neots Town 2**

Two goals in seven second-half minutes were enough to book the Saints place in the last 16 of the competition. But Saints had to endure some anxious moments as the home side missed a couple of good chances to force the game into extra time.

With 28 minutes gone, Andy Grieve curled an effort just wide of the post after cutting in from the rightwing. Five minutes later Rushall striker Damien Currier latched onto a through ball, from the pacey wing back Marcus Jackson, and with the Saints defence at sixes and sevens, managed to round keeper Steve Young and slot the ball home past two Saints defenders on the goal line. Four minutes later Young parried a shot from Ian Long, which Justin Hicks managed to clear just as the Pic's leading marksman Gary Piggott looked set to score.

At the other end, it needed a goal mouth clearance from Rushall skipper, Rob Vassell to deny Vince Petty an equaliser moments before the half time break.

The home side took control during the early stages of the second period, with Piggott going close twice, firing an effort over the bar and then being foiled by a brave save, off the feet the striker, by Steve Young.

Saints levelled the scoreline on 70 minutes after a good spell of pressure from the visitors. The ball was knocked into the box by Andy Grieve, Ryan Price, the Rushall keeper, failed to deal with the high cross and the ball fell kindly to Paul Bloss who tucked it away from close range.

Rushall again pilled forward, in search of the winner, with Chris Homer putting a header wide before Currier missed probably the best chance of the afternoon, to restore the lead, when he missed the target, with header, from just two yards out.

Moments later, Saints broke up field and Bloss picked out Petty, who managed to control the long pass, even though closely marked by two defenders, Petty managed to steer the ball over the advancing keeper with his left foot and into the unguarded net, much to the delight of the large travelling support.

Late Rushall pressure saw Currier twice go close but an equaliser eluded the home team and it was St. Neots who booked their place in the fifth round of the competition for the first time.

**Team:** Young, Grieve, Bloss, Chapman, Hicks, Smith, Dear, Brown, Kuhne, Petty, Claridge.

**Subs:** McDonnell, McCreanor, Goodhall, Buckland, Grant.

**Subs Used:** McDonnell for Grieve, McCreanor for Dear.

**Goals:** Saints: Bloss (70 mins), Petty (77 mins)  
Rushall: Currier (33 mins)