

## ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

### FA VASE: 2<sup>ND</sup> PRELIMINARY RD MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY 22/09/01

#### STOWMARKET TOWN 2 ST. NEOTS TOWN 3

After a disastrous exit from the FA Cup, the previous week, Chris Howell made several changes to the team to face Stowmarket.

Recalled to the starting line up were: Steve Young, Nathan Buckland, Vince Petty, Jason Meeds and Bret Fairholme was picked in favour of Mick McCreanor. Petty was introduced into the forward line alongside Steve Kuhne and Wes Byrne and these three caused the Stowmarket defence all sorts of problems during the early part of the game. Byrne shot just wide of the post after seven minutes and Kuhne skimmed the outside of the post, just minutes later. Carl Ratcliff replied for the home team with a shot that hit the outside of the saints post.

It was Petty who put Saints ahead, on 33 minutes, with a powerful header after Kuhne had headed back into the goal area from a corner kick taken by Trevor Smith. Saints looked to have doubled their score when Byrne netted nine minutes later but the assistant referee had seen one of his teammates in an offside position.

Although Steve Young had pulled off some great saves during the first half he was caught out, just before the break, after a poor defensive header by Andy Chapman. Chapman only managed to sky his header and as Young came out to collect the ball from the air Stu Jopling headed the ball over the advancing keeper.

Jason Meeds put Saints back ahead, 15 minutes into the second period, with a looping header, from 15 yards, after some good work from McCreanor and Buckland. Saints looked to be getting on top of the game but against the run of play Stu Jopling was on hand again to beat Young with a low drive to level the scoreline.

With nine minutes of normal play remaining, Buckland's determination, down the left flank, allowed him to deliver a telling cross, which Kuhne headed wide of the keeper, raising a big cheer from the small band of travelling supporters.

**Team:** Young, Smith, Bloss, Chapman, Fairholme, Brown, Petty, Buckland, Kuhne, Byrne, Meeds.

**Subs:** McCreanor, Dear, Grieve, Grant.

**Subs Used:** McCreanor for Buckland, Dear for Brown, Grieve for Byrne.

**Goals:** Saints: Petty (33), Meeds (60), Kuhne (81).  
Stowmarket: Jopling (45, 79).