

**ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY MARCH 23rd 2002**

EAGLE BITTER UNITED COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE

ST. NEOTS TOWN 1 - FORD SPORTS 1

In arguably one of the best games seen at Rowley Park this season both teams were guilty of missing a hat-full of chances, Saints were the guilty party during the first half closely followed by Ford sports during the second period.

Saints looked more like the possible champions during the first period and almost took a deserved lead on 23 minutes when Steve Kuhne almost scored from a poor clearance from Fords keeper, Graham Bott, but his half volley skimmed just over the bar. Just two minutes later Glenroy Bell weaved his way through the Ford defence only to strike his shot straight at the keeper. Just minutes later Steve Kuhne and Wes Byrne combined to put Bell into another good shooting position but the busy midfielder blasted his shot over the bar. Another great move between Byrne and Kuhne put Simon Claridge through, with only the keeper to beat, but his first touch let him down and the ball ran away from him to the relieved keeper.

Saints finally put the ball in the back of the net 5 minutes after the break, Simon Claridge did well to head back, into the goal area, and a deep cross from Andy Grieve and Steve Kuhne was on hand to powerfully head home from close range.

With saints well on top of the game Fords manager Shane Geary bought himself on to try and get something from a game that looked to be going all one way. At the same time Saints substituted Trevor Smith for Andy Grieve and Jason Meeds for Glenroy Bell. The substitutions seemed to change the flow of the game in Ford's favour and it was not long before Geary was running the game from midfield. His pass to Ian Giles led to Ford's equaliser on 67 minutes, with Giles taking advantage of a gap in the Saints defence he made no mistake with his low drive into the corner.

Simon Claridge had another good chance to put Saints back in front but his shot went wide of the post equally Ford squandered chances at the other end through James Sugrue and Tyrone Kent. Ben Webster pulled off a great save from Fords substitute Chris Evans tipping his shot just over the bar. In the last few minutes Sugrue should have won the game for the visitors but glanced his header just wide of the post.

Team: Webster, Grieve, Bloss, Chapman, McCreanor, Buckland, Grant, Bell, Kuhne, Byrne, Claridge.

Subs: Meeds, Smith, Finney, Hicks, Sylvester.

Subs Used: Smith for Grieve, Meeds for Bell.

Goals: Saints: Kuhne (50 mins)

Ford: Giles (67 mins).