

## **ST NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

MATCH REPORT SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2002

### **Eagle Bitter UCL Premier Division**

**S&L Corby 1 St Neots 0**

St Neots last won at Stewart and Lloyds in 1984 and so this really is their bogey ground with seven consecutive defeats since their return to the UCL. The defeat means they finish sixth in the league – one place lower than last year but had they won at Corby other results meant they would have finished fourth. Despite being short of the Little Paxton contingent which robbed them of half of their side there was no sign of weakness in the line up and ironically they only lost to a goal ninety seconds into injury time at the end of the game.

The only real attacking threat posed by the visitors was at set pieces when giant centre half John Coe came up to win the ball in the air. Three times in the second half he did that and three times his finish was off target. In injury time the home side won another corner and with several defenders grouped around Coe the corner taker cleverly sent the ball to the far post where Steve Farr headed back across goal for Paddy McCann to score from close range. It was an injustice that St Neots did not deserve for they had been the better side almost throughout.

They could have been two up early on but Kevin Fox saved Trevor Smith's free kick at full stretch and then Wes Byrne put Paul Bloss clear but his shot rebounded off the keepers legs for a corner.

In the second half Fox kept his side in the game with smart saves from Wes Byrne and Steve Kuhne and Byrne diverted a net bound header by Trevor Smith over the crossbar. Andy Grieve also missed a gilt edged chance shooting high over the bar as he cut in from the right and in the St Neots goal Steve Young had only one save to make prior to the late goal. It was a disappointing end to a potentially best league season since 1977 but at least St Neots have their two County Cup Finals to round off their season.

TEAM: Young, Grieve, Bloss, Hicks, Smith, Buckland, Dear, McDonnell, Kuhne, Byrne, Coleman.

SUBSTITUTES: Finney and Cavilla

SUB USED: Finney for Grieve (85 minutes)