

ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7th 2002

EAGLE BITTER UNITED COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE
ST NEOTS TOWN 2 FORD SPORTS 2

The Saints retained pole position at the top of the league with this draw against last seasons champions Fords. In a match that was a credit to the UCL the Saints must be kicking them selves having taken a two-goal lead, two points were lost when they allowed their visitors back into the game with two moments of sloppy defending in an otherwise solid performance.

Fielding new signing Matty Doyle, a midweek capture from Yaxley, the Saints opened brightly and began moving the ball around mounting attack after attack. This pressure eventually paid off after 12 minutes when Paul Bloss controlled the ball well on the edge of the box, and laid his pass into the path of **DOYLE** who made no mistake drilling his debut goal into the bottom right hand corner.

Straight from the restart Neil Worker robbed Ford's Benton and moved the ball wide to Bloss on the left he cut inside but Giles blocked his shot. Cudby in the Fords goal then made a hash of the intended back pass allowing Nick **FINNEY**, ever alert, to pounce on the free ball and hit his fourth goal in six starts.

Although on top the Saints Mick McDonnell conceded a corner against the run of play on 27 minutes and when Evans swung his cross into the box from the left Tyrone Kent rose unchallenged to powerfully head past a stranded Steve Young.

This goal gave Fords more belief in them selves and they began to gain the upper hand and enjoyed a ten minute spell of pressure, whereas at the other end the good approach work failed to realise any more goals.

Yet on the stroke of half time Fords gained their second corner of the game, this time on the right hand side and in an almost repeat of their first, Ian Pearce headed the equaliser, again unchallenged.

With Young having to dive at full stretch to keep out Williams shot on 53 minutes the Saints eventually found their way again and Finney was left holding his head when Bloss's cross was deflected into his path, but the ball bobbed away with goal open and inviting.

The same player was then denied once more on 73 minutes when his shot from a Steve Kuhne rebound was scrambled clear by Pearce. Then with just one minute remaining, Bloss stood in disbelief as Cudby, unsighted, threw himself to his left to keep out his goal bound shot.

SAINTS: S. Young, M. McDonnell, P. Bloss, T. Smith, G. Watts, N. Buckland, N. Worker, G. Grant, S. Kuhne, N. Finney (W.Byrne 81) M. Doyle (R. Beckett 90)

Subs Not used: A Dear, I Morris(GK)

Goals: Saints: N. Finney(13), M. Doyle (12)