

ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY AUGUST 25th 2002

EAGLE BITTER UNITED COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE

ST NEOTS TOWN 1 DAVENTRY TOWN 1

A lively encounter on a hot afternoon saw both teams virtually wilt in the heat, but the Saints must consider this two points dropped against a side that offered very little except on the break. Daventry though should have scored after just thirty seconds when Wrights cross eluded the Saints back line leaving Burke the opportunity of stroking the ball into an empty net, yet he managed to shoot wide from six yards.

This visibly shook the Saints and they began to put together some flowing football resulting in Garreth Grant on seven minutes curling in his shot, with the keeper beat he could only hold his head as the ball rebounded off the upright.

However against the run of play Daventry found themselves ahead on 16 minutes when Brown pushed the ball into the path of **Gareth Jones**, he was allowed to cover at least fifteen yards without a challenge before drilling his low drive into the bottom right hand corner of Steve Young's goal.

The Saints rallied immediately with Nick Finney and Steve Kuhne both going close and with Simon Claridge and Neil Worker both working hard in midfield the equaliser was only a matter of time coming. This proving so when Finney chased what appeared to be a lost cause, his persistence paid off when he wriggled free to lift the ball over the advancing keeper on the goal line only to be impeded by Riddell, as he went to score. The referee Mr Mitchell waved play on but his assistant Mr Fuller had already signalled a penalty, **Steve Kuhne** stepped up and planted his 38th minute spot kick to right of Finlay in the Daventry goal.

Grant had the first chance of the second half when on 49 minutes he turned well and volleyed his shot into the arms of Finlay, but Daventry began to push forward and Towers should really have done better when clear on the left but he ballooned his shot over the bar. Marshall and Bailey both had chances to nudge Daventry ahead but at the other end Finney continued to cause the Daventry defence all sorts of problems but with tired legs he was eventually substituted to allow Wes Byrne into the action.

With seconds on the clock it was Byrne who shook off the challenge of Ault only to be pulled back by Henry with both hands yet a penalty was denied when everyone in the ground could see the infringement bar those who mattered. This though proved to be last action of the game as the whistle sounded for the end of the match.

Team: S.Young, M.McDonnell, P.Bloss, T.Smith, G.Watts, N.Buckland, N.Worker, G.Grant, S.Kuhne, N.Finney, S.Claridge.

Subs: W.Byrne, G. Bell, J.Hicks, W. Brown, A. Dear

Subs Used: J.Hicks 67, W.Byrne 79

Goals: Saints: Kuhne (38 Pen)
Daventry: G. Jones (16)

The Saints next game is Saturday 31 August 2002 against Stansted in the FA Cup Preliminary Round at Rowley Park kick off 3.00PM.