

ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Match Report – Saturday 22nd January

Boston Town 2 St. Neots Town 2

St. Neots missed out, on what would have been a good win, by a goal scored deep into seven minutes of time added on. The visitors, having used all their subs, found themselves down to nine players, for the last ten minutes, having Nicky Hurst sent off for two cautionable offences and Danny Griggs carried off from the result of an appalling challenge, in the Boston penalty area, that went unseen by the officials. Quite where the unreasonable amount of time added on came from can only be answered by the Referee.

The early part of the game saw both sides creating some good chances with Nicky Hurst coming close for St. Neots and Danny Matson blasting over from close range. Simon Claridge also made Scott Loach, the young Boston keeper; make two good saves from headers and his counterpart Steve Corry was also called into action to deny Micky Nuttall. The home team broke the deadlock on 35 minutes, arguably against the run of play, when Ben Harris was allowed to weave his way through the St. Neots defence and curl an unstoppable shot into the corner of the net. St. Neots reacted by putting the home team under sustained pressure for the last quarter but just could not find the equaliser before the break.

Two minutes after the restart St. Neots were again putting the hosts under pressure when Danny Griggs broke down the right flank and unleashed a shot that skimmed the cross bar. A few minutes later Simon Claridge worked his way into the Boston Penalty area and was unceremoniously hacked down from behind. The resulting penalty kick was taken by St. Neots captain Russell Lawes who buried the spot kick low and into the corner of the net. Lawes who had been struggling with a knock was replaced soon afterward with youngster Daniel Dubas making his debut. St. Neots were again having the better of the game and stand in striker Frank Atkins was on hand to put the visitors ahead. A good move down the left flank by Barry and Danny Griggs released Tom Hobbs whose shot was parried out by the keeper but only as far as Atkins who majestically struck the ball past the keeper into the far corner from close range. As Boston rallied during the last fifteen minutes Nicky Hurst received his second yellow of the afternoon and his marching orders after clashing with Ben Naylor. St. Neots manager Kenny Davidson reshaped his side and substituted striker Barry Dellar for experienced Paul Bryant to take up the defensive gap created with Hurst's dismissal and Clive Woodland made his debut replacing Frank Atkins. Woodland soon made his presence felt and started a move down the right flank involving Jason Mannion and Danny Griggs, and it was Griggs who weaved his way into the visitors penalty area only to be taken down by a crude challenge from Chris Jones leaving the St. Neots striker unable to continue. Boston's late equaliser came deep into time added on when a hopeful shot from Ben Harris deflected off a St. Neots defender giving Corry little chance.

Team: Corry, Clark, Lawes, Taylor, Hurst, Claridge, Mannion, Hobbs, Dellar, Atkins, Griggs,

Subs: Woodland, Dubas, Bryant, Jenner, Cumberbatch.

Subs Used: Dubas for Lawes, Woodland for Atkins, Bryant for Dellar.

Goals: Lawes (50 pen), Atkins (67).