

St. Neots Town Football Club
Season 2006-07 Match Reports

Saturday 19th August 06
F A Cup Extra Preliminary Round
Sawbridgeworth Town 1 St. Neots Town 2

Although Saints can look forward to home fixture against Brackley, of the BGB Midlands League, in the next round of this competition, they made hard work of beating Sawbridgeworth Town. For if it was not for some excellent goalkeeping, from Martyn Pashing, during the first 10 minutes of the game the score line could have been very different. The visitors arguably at full strength, for the first game of the season, were given a torrid time in the opening minutes from Trishan Bryan and Leon Osel who used their pace to advantage as Sawbridgeworth assaulted the Saints penalty area with an aerial bombardment from any position on the pitch.

Saints defence continually found themselves on the back foot and usually the wrong side of the home team's strikers. Saints keeper, Patching, pulled off a great save within the first few minutes, to deny Bryan who looked odds on to open the account for the Robins. Patching found himself the last line of defence on several other occasions during the opening exchanges but was firm and gave his team mates the time to settle and start to explore the opposing half of the pitch. Both Mark Franklin and Matt Endersby began to test the full backs and deliver into the opposing penalty area but the young Sawbridgeworth keeper, Jason Hardy, looked positive and claimed almost every cross. Saints should have gone ahead through Ashley Deverall who was put clear by Ricky Dear but faced with one on one with the keeper he elected to shoot early and his effort was easily saved by Hardy.

It was the home team that finally took the lead, on 38 minutes, when Trishan Bryan broke through the Saints defence and was adjudged to have been tripped, by Patching, just on the edge of the goal area. Patching received a caution before Dean MaCatter spotted the kick and beat the Saints keeper with a low hard shot just inside the right post. Saints only other effort of note during the first period was an effort from Russell Lawes which skimmed over the cross bar from just outside the area.

Saints started the second period with both the slope and the wind in their favour and it took only eleven minutes for them to level the game. An overhead kick attempt from Kuhne found its way to Mark Franklin, just inside the right hand side of the area; he wasted no time in cutting in towards goal and put a perfect shot just inside the far post. The goal lifted the visitors and seemed to totally deflate the opposition who now found themselves on the back foot for long periods of the game. The Saints winner came by virtue of a Russell Lawes free kick, on 83 minutes, which found its way through the hands of young keeper Hardy and in to the back of the net, much to the relief of the Saints supporters who had travelled for this game.

Team: Patching, Richardson, Lawes, Hurst, Sommers, Hoggett, Franklin, Dear, Kuhne, Deverall, Endersby.

Subs not used: Walker, Grant, Hilton, Hunt.

Goals: Saints: Franklin (56), Lawes (83). Sawbridgeworth: MaCatter (38 – PEN)

Saints Man of the Match: Martyn Patching