

ST. NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

MATCH REPORT 14/8/04

Eagle Bitter United Counties League

ST. NEOTS TOWN V WOODFORD UTD

Although there was some positives for manager Jon Taylor there is little doubt that the result, of this first of the season UCL Premier league game, was extremely disappointing.

Saints started brightly hitting both the post and bar within the first ten minutes, through Paul Bloss and Steve Kuhne respectively. Carl Standen also came close with a header, which ended up just over the bar, for the visitors. Ryan Breslin then broke the deadlock converting a low cross after some good work down the right by his team mate Lewis Travers, although Travers looked a good two yards off side when he first received the ball.

Barry Dellar had a good opportunity to reply for Saints only minute's later but completely missed a half volley only a few yards out. New boy Liam Harrold put the Saints on equal terms in style with a goal the fans will probably not see the equal to for the rest of the season. Harrold competed for a long high ball just outside the box and when the ball fell for him he dispatched it into the far top corner with great confidence. Barry Dellar came close on two occasions just before the interval. His first chance was put wide of the near post, when the better option looked to be the far post. Dellar's second attempt came when he cut in from the right and looked to have put the home side ahead but was thwarted by Carl Oliver who just managed to clear off the line.

Liam Harrold continued to cause the Woodford defence problems during the second half, and was unlucky not to double his tally, with a header, from a Lawes cross which again was scrambled off the line. A repeat cross from Lawes, five minutes later, again found Harrold and his perfect header produced one of several breathtaking saves from the Woodford keeper Dave Marlow.

Jon Hoggett should have wrapped things up for the home side, mid way through the second period. A slick move down the right involving Ashley Stevens and Steve Jelley found Hoggett but he could only fire over from close range.

Saints travel to Yaxley on Tuesday night (17th) for what I am sure will be a very competitive and close game.

Saints Line Up:

Hurst, Cox, Lawes, Hoggett, Kuhne (cpt), Trott, Dellar, Claridge, Harrold, Philips, Bloss. Subs: Petty, Jelley, Stevens, Bingham, Swain.

Subs Used: Stevens for Dellar, Jelley for Claridge, Petty for Philips.

Goals: Ryan Breslin (19) – Woodford. Liam Harrold (34) - Saints