

# UNIBOND FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## PREMIER DIVISION

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

**NANTWICH TOWN**      **4** (Glyn Blackhurst.2, Liam Shotton 20, Peter Heler 28, Dave Walker 85)  
**KENDAL TOWN**        **0**

**NANTWICH TOWN:** Jones. Taylor (Griggs 58). Smith. Tinson. O'Loughlin. Parkinson ©. Gibson (Hawthorne 71. Blackhurst. Shotton. Lennon (Walker 82). Heler. Substitutes: Carter. Hawthorne. Beasley. Griggs. Walker.

**KENDAL TOWN:** Newnes. Murphy. Byrne. Stanley (Ashcroft 45). Melling. Cole. Osman (Williams 88). Hobson (s/o 69). Taylor (Clarke 77). Kilford. Warburton. Substitutes: Ashcroft. Clarke. Leigh. Williams. Bush.

Referee:                Mr M.Howes.  
Attendance:            562.

### MATCH REPORT

Nantwich were seeking a third consecutive win in a bid to rise within touching distance of the play-off zone. Meanwhile, left back Dave Tickle, scorer of the 'Dabbers' opening goal in our Premier Division debut, failed a fitness test due to a calf injury which required heavy strapping.

'The Dabbers' swept into a 2<sup>nd</sup> minute lead courtesy of Glyn Blackhurst. The build up began with a move deep along the Kendal right before we secured a free kick from which Peter Heler delivered an inch perfect ball toward the 6 yard box –the ball edging off a defender into the path of 'Blacky' who burst through the wall to hook the ball past Newnes from close range.

Kendal responded with a series of attacks during which, Andy Taylor, Darren Tinson and Richard Smith put in some well timed interceptions, first when Kendal winger Warburton threatened, followed by efforts from strikers Kilford and Taylor. Meanwhile, in a 13<sup>th</sup> minute move Liam Shotton forced Newnes into a fine save on his line whilst 'Blacky' went close with a header that fell narrowly wide of goal as the boy's in green sought a second goal.

The second goal duly arrived in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute, albeit through a slightly opportunistic situation. During the build up Michael Lennon drifted in from the left to cut the ball in from the bye line before sliding the ball between defence and 'keeper to the far post from where the unmarked 'Shotts' had the relatively easy task of poking the ball home from close range.

Kendal threatened briefly through Taylor after he ran on to a long range cross field ball from Murphy deep along our right hand side but the close attention of Andy Taylor squeezed the striker into placing his shot close to Lee Jones whose presence on the edge of the 6 yard box allowed him to hold from a bouncing ball.

A magnificent shot on the turn in the 28<sup>th</sup> minute from Peter Heler provided him with his first league goal since his close season switch from Vauxhall Motors whilst at the same time powered us into a creditable 3 - 0 lead. In the build up to the goal Heler made a move from just inside the Kendal half before drifting into the area from the Kendal left. Despite a defensive foot attempting to halt Heler's progress he maintained his balance and embarrassed the visiting defence by working the ball toward the opposite edge of the area from where he struck a super shot on the turn across the body of the 'keeper into the top far corner of the net.

Kendal made a change at the start of the second period – player manager Lee Ashcroft replacing Stanley but the half was only moments old when Liam Shotton, who had terrorised the

Kendal defence for the majority of the first half, delivered a short range header from an unmarked position 8 yards out that agonizingly crept over the bar. For Kendal, in one of their rare attacking moments, midfielder Osman fired into the side netting from 10 yards out meanwhile at the other end, Robin Gibson went oh' so close for us when he broke through the Kendal defence from a position deep on the left - firing across the diving body of Newnes, only to see the ball strike the foot of the far post before skewing to safety.

To our visitor's credit, they continued to plug away despite being overwhelmed for long periods but in the 61<sup>st</sup> minute earned a chance to reduce the deficit through a penalty after Kilford was brought down just inside the area. However, despite being largely redundant throughout the afternoon 'Jonah' was alert enough to save Ashcroft's spot kick when he made a perfectly timed dive to his left to produce a stunning save at the foot of his left hand post followed by rapturous applause from 'Dabbers' fans. Minutes later Ashcroft was gifted a great opportunity to beat 'Jonah' from close range but the striker fluffed his shot allowing the 'Dabbers' to go forward again.

In the 69<sup>th</sup> minute Kendal were reduced to 10 men when Hobson was dismissed for a second bookable offence, meanwhile both sides range changes the most effective coming after the hard working 'Micky' Lennon had been replaced by Dave Walker who responded by putting the game beyond doubt with an 85<sup>th</sup> minute goal after a Danny Griggs shot had initially cannoned off Newnes – Walker following the spinning ball toward goal from where he calmly assisted the ball into the back of the net from right on the line despite Newnes scrambling back to deny him. Well done lads!

**Rodney Densem Wines Man of the Match. Liam Shotton.**

A delighted Steve Davis said:- Quality - if there is any criticism at all, at times we didn't track back when we should have but overall, a professional performance by the lads."