

# UNIBOND FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Premier Division

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October.2008.

NANTWICH TOWN 2 v WITTON ALBION 0  
Dave Walker.8.  
Alan Nagington.86.

NANTWICH TOWN: Jones. Smith. Tickle. Tinson. O'Loughlin. Parkinson. Carter. Beeston.  
Walker. Lennon. Griggs. Substitutes: Nagington. Whittaker. Shotton. Jarrett. Mahmoud.

WITTON ALBION:Smith. Donnelly. Scott. Pritchard ©. Burke.(Dunne 60) Owen.(Warwick 60).  
B.Thornley. Drew Thompson. R.Thornley. Wiggins-Thomas (Thaker 80). Substitutes: Smith.  
Thaker. Warwick. Linford. Dunne.

Referee: Mr R.Jones.

Attendance: 612

### MATCH REPORT

The match began in dramatic fashion. Within seconds of the kick off Danny Griggs picked out Phil Parkinson with a slide rule pass from which 'Parky' beat Witton custodian Greg Smith. However, the celebrations were quickly extinguished by an assistant referee's flag who adjudged our captain to have been in an offside position when receiving the pass from 'Griggsy'. Meanwhile, Michael Lennon went close to opening the score when he collected Ashley Carter's pass inside the area before shooting inches over the right angle of post and bar. The match was barely five minutes old and 'The Dabbers' were looking menacing – holding possession to an extent that Witton hardly touched the ball and it looked only a matter of time before the first goal arrived. And it duly arrived in the 8<sup>th</sup> minute courtesy of Dave Walker. Michael Lennon teased his marker before laying the ball into the path of Walker stationed out on the Witton left - Walker striking from an angle with a powerful shot that flew across the body of Smith into the bottom far corner of the net.

Meanwhile, our visitors had a chance to level through striker Rod Thornley. Seizing on to a left wing centre Thornley applied a side foot shot from 10 yards but the rising ball ended up floating over the bar. At the other end, 'Wacker' narrowly missed getting on to the end of a neat pass from 'Griggsy' before goal keeper Smith smothered the ball whilst for Witton, midfielder Mark Drew found space before getting in with a shot from just outside the box but again, the rising shot failed to trouble Lee Jones. After that, it was virtually all Nantwich for the remainder of the half. A five man move in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute looked promising but there were groans of disappointment after 'Lenny' picked his spot to fire at goal from deep on the Witton left but, despite beating Smith, the shot cannoned back off the cross bar. Witton had an opportunity in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute via midfielder Val Owen who clipped his shot from 12 yards toward the target but a lack of power left 'Jonah' with an easy save. Two minutes later 'Griggsy' fluffed a gilt edged chance after he struck from close range, beating Smith in the process - but placed the shot a yard wide. 'Griggsy' was then provider of a great opportunity for both Lennon and Walker but the pass evaded the pair who were lurking inside the 6 yard box at the time - the ball going over the bye line for a goal kick. At this point, Witton were hardly in the game, such was our dominance it was amazing that just a single goal was recorded. In a further promising move Darren Tinson played a well judged lengthy pass in to the path of 'Griggsy' who responded by striking a first time volley that had Smith diving full length to bring the shot down on his line. By now, 'The Dabbers' were in command and within a couple of minutes of the break Nantwich turned the Witton defence inside out leaving 'Ash' Carter the easiest of tasks to fire into an open goal but instead, spooned his shot that finished embarrassingly wide of the target.

The second half more or less followed the pattern of the first with Nantwich holding so much possession that at times the visitors were mere onlookers. Walker's 54<sup>th</sup> minute bullet strike was amazingly turned away for a corner by the overworked Smith whilst his opposite number 'Jonah' was almost redundant. 'Dabbers' Man of the Match 'Tinno' played a great ball to

'Lenny' whose finish from deep on the Witton right dipped a yard wide of the far post. On the hour Danny Griggs struck a wonderful dead ball from a free kick – the shot beating Smith all ends up before striking the right angle of post and bar. However, two minutes later the almost redundant 'Jonah' was called into action when he excelled by saving a fiercely driven free kick from Drew 20 yards out. Meanwhile, at the other end, 'Griggsy' had yet another opportunity to get on the score sheet but frustratingly delayed on a shot with almost open goal yawning in front of him losing possession the process. In the latter stages of the match 'Wacker' and 'Lenny' were replaced by Naggington and Whittaker and the pressure on the visitors continuing apace. But, more frustration for 'The Dabbers', this time when several promising moves broke down courtesy of an offside flag. Five minutes before normal time 'Parky' set up 'Naggs' with a neat pass from just outside the area, however, just as 'Naggs' turned to thread the ball between the Witton centre halves he lost his footing and so another opportunity went begging. But 'Naggs' was not to be outdone. In the 86<sup>th</sup> minute he took advantage of some wayward Witton defending to stroke 'Parkys' initial pass calmly into an unguarded net. Four minutes of added time were signalled and in the final minute it was 'Griggsy' who went close yet again - forcing Smith in the process to concede what turned out to be, almost the last action in a game in which Nantwich almost completely dominated proceedings – but without scoring the goals to match.

Steve Davis commented: "No question, we were the masters on the night but oh how we cried out for finishing touches to the majority of our chances. It's no exaggeration to say we could have gone in at half time with a four goal lead. In the second half we could have had another three goals, in addition to the two we scored. That, I have to say, is the only criticism I can level because otherwise, it was a complete team effort by the lads."

