

NANTWICH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Members of the UniBond Football League

PREMIER DIVISION

MATCH REPORT

Date: Saturday 12th December.2009

FA TROPHY. First Round Proper.

NANTWICH TOWN 0 v STALYBRIDGE CELTIC 3

Matty Barlow.31

Joe O'Neill. 70

Keith Briggs. 74

NANTWICH: Lee Jones. Richard Sutton. Dave Tickle. Darren Tinson ©. Dave Whittaker. Jake Sedgmore. Kevin Street (Dawson 50). Dave McPherson (Blackhurst 71). Andrew Kinsey. Michael Lennon (Madeley 73). Ashley Carter. Substitutes: Glyn Blackhurst. Sam Madeley. Marvin Robinson. Charlie Reeves. Liam Dawson.

STALYBRIDGE: David Carnell. Graeme Law. Andy Smart. Steve Woods. Warren Peyton. John Hardiker. David Hankin (Abadaki 82). Keith Briggs ©. Joe O'Neill (Hobson 78). Matty Barlow. Michael Carr (Jennings 87). Substitutes: Richard Battersby. Connor Jennings. Craig Hobson. Osebi Abadaki. Ryan Moss.

Referee: Mr Darren England.

Attendance: 581

Nantwich were the first to show with striker ANDY KINSEY forcing 'Celtic' 'keeper DAVID CARNELL to push the shot wide of an upright. Moments later, KINSEY'S strike partner MICHAEL LENNON had an opportunity but placed his effort wide. At the other end, 'Dabbers' goalkeeper LEE JONES was brought into action to produce a diving save from Stalybridge captain KEITH BRIGGS before having to use his feet to block the rebound from JOE O'NEILL.

The home side broke again – on this occasion it was winger ASHLEY CARTER who worked space before putting in a shot that unfortunately fell wide of the target but on balance, the first quarter hour was fairly even. Meanwhile, as the tie moved toward the half hour mark Nantwich midfielder JAKE SEDGMORE had a couple of free kicks from just outside the area saved by CARNELL whilst CARTER then produced a shot from close range that fizzed across CARNELL'S goal before being cleared.

For the visitors, defender ANDY SMART placed a long range effort wide of the target before a 25 yard free kick from the Stalybridge No.3 finished in similar territory.

GOAL: 31 Minutes. Stalybridge broke the deadlock with a goal from MATTY BARLOW. In the build up DAVE HANKIN broke from midfield to send a lofted ball into the box from where BARLOW stole between the central defenders to head past JONES from close range.

Half time: NANTWICH TOWN 0 v STALYBRIDGE CELTIC 1

As the tie reached the hour mark, the difference in quality began to show with Stalybridge looking the more creative of the two sides, particularly in midfield, where Hankin was instrumental in producing moves designed to get the 'Celtic' forwards away. Meanwhile, Nantwich were finding it difficult to create anything of note and went further behind in the 70th minute leaving the home side with a difficult task against the Blue Square North opposition.

GOAL: 70 Minutes. The influential HANKIN was again to the fore when he was instrumental in a move that set up O'NEILL who went on to score from close range.

GOAL: 74 Minutes. Stalybridge captain KEITH BRIGGS effectively sealed the tie when he cut inside to fire beyond JONES from close range.

Late on in the tie, Nantwich had SEDGEMORE to thank in preventing Stalybridge from adding a 4th goal when he raced back toward goal before hacking a BRIGG'S shot off the line.

But, credit to Nantwich, they continued to battle away, albeit against a side that arrived at the Weaver Stadium ahead of kick off in a rich vein of form. But, despite their endeavours, Nantwich found it difficult to overcome Stalybridge and will be disappointed not to have made it through to the second round draw.

Star man: DAVID HANKIN. Stalybridge Celtic.

Rating: ***