

# **NANTWICH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Members of the UniBond Football League**

**PREMIER DIVISION**

## **MATCH REPORT**

**Date: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August.2009**

### **PRE SEASON FRIENDLY**

**NANTWICH TOWN 3                      v                      PORT VALE 1**  
**Ashley Carter. 15. 55 (P)                      Adam Yates.86**  
**Geoff Horsfield. O/G**

**NANTWICH TOWN: Jones. Sedgemore. Shaw. Flynn. Sutton. McPherson. Jack. Blackhurst. Whittaker. Carter. Gibson. Substitutes: Hawthorne. Southern. Aidan Carter. Brownfield. Chapman (g/k) Haughton. Roberts.**

**Port Vale: Lloyd-Weston. Edwards. Horsfield. Melbourne. Dodds. Prosser. Thompson. Howland. Harrison. Glover. Yates. Substitutes: Lawrie**

**Referee: Mr T.Massey.  
Attendance: 568.**

**Nantwich were without key players for this final home pre season friendly against League Two Port Vale. Head Coach Peter Hall was left to plan without the strike partnership of Michael Lennon (honeymoon) and Matt Rhead (hamstring) whilst centre half Darren Tinson continues to receive treatment for a back injury sustained in training several weeks ago along with left back Dave Tickle who is currently sidelined with a knee injury. Meanwhile, Port Vale arrived with just twelve players - albeit five of them with first team experience for this final home pre-season friendly at the Weaver Stadium.**

**'The Dabbers' were first to show and in the 7<sup>th</sup> minute Robin Gibson and Ashley Carter combined just inside the area but as Carter broke to place a shot at goal he was muscled off the ball by Vale assistant manager Geoff Horsfield playing in an unfamiliar role as a centre half. Three minutes later Nantwich left back Chris Shaw sent in a dipping shot from deep on the visitors left aimed for Carter lurking at the far post but the 'Vale' custodian rose high to claim the ball and snuff out the danger. But, in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute, Carter really should have put Nantwich ahead after he took advantage of some wayward defending to move on goal. However, despite Port Vale 'keeper Lloyd-Weston committing himself 12 yards off his line Carter inexplicably played the ball against the legs of the 'keeper - a let off for the visitors, but a great chance for the home side to take the lead thrown away. But Carter wasn't to be denied for long and three minutes later he latched on to a throw-in from Dave Whittaker deep along the visitors left before beating Alec Melbourne and then shooting past Lloyd-Weston from the narrowest of angles from the edge of the 6 yard box into the opposite far bottom corner of the net to give Nantwich a well deserved lead.**

**Meanwhile, at the other end, 'Dabbers' goalkeeper Lee Jones cut out a shot from 'Vale' striker Danny Glover in a rare attacking moment from the visitors but it wasn't long before Nantwich were again in the ascendancy. Rodney Jack and Glyn**

Blackhurst were having an industrious time in the middle of the park along with Robin Gibson and Dave McPherson who unfortunately lost several good opportunities to send his side forward when failing to hold the ball up when under challenge. On 20 minutes 'Dabbers' right back Jake Sedgemore sent in a sizzling cross from deep along the 'Vale left that flashed across the face of goal before missing the unmarked Gibson by the narrowest of margins. But Nantwich continued to press and without a last ditch intervention by Horsfield, Carter would have been through on goal after receiving a great ball from Blackhurst after initial good work by Sedgemore.

On the half hour Port Vale were showing signs of coming into the game a little more but despite the award of a free kick just off the right hand edge of the Nantwich area Steve Thompson's dead ball kick came to nothing. Disappointingly, the game became a little fractious in the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute and after an initial altercation between 'Dabbers' centre half Richard Sutton and 'Vale' midfielder Thompson Nantwich stand-in centre half Chris Flynn elected to get involved resulting in Mr Massey issuing straight red cards to both Thompson and Flynn. Moments earlier Mc Pherson and Blackhurst received cautions for over zealous tackles but after these incidents the game settled down again – albeit still in competitive mode with Micky Adams side threatening on a couple of occasions close to the break, the first when striker Louis Dodds headed over the bar from just inside the area from a Paul Harrison centre whilst right on the stroke of half time Jones denied 'Vale' right back Danny Edwards powerful close range shot at the foot of his left hand post.

Half time: Nantwich Town 1 v Port Vale 0

The second half was but three minutes old and both Carter and Jack were unlucky to see their close range shots blocked whilst Horsfield then put in a great tackle to deny Carter who had swept in from the Port Vale left hand side leaving the rest of the 'Vale' defence in his wake. However, the visitors recovered and 'Vale' defender Luke Prosser then threatened from deep on the Nantwich left but the finish left a lot to be desired from the big man after the ball sailed high and wide over Jones goal. Meanwhile, Nantwich returned to attack and in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute Nantwich were awarded a penalty after Edwards brought Gibson down in the area just as he was about to turn and break for goal. Carter stepped up to the penalty spot before sending Lloyd-Weston the wrong way and dispatching a clinical finish into the right hand corner of the net to give the 'Dabbers' emergency striker his brace for the night.

Toward the latter stages, of what had been an entertaining and competitive game, Nantwich range several changes whilst Port Vale, with just a single substitute on the bench, brought on James Lawrie for Dave Howland. Meanwhile, there were two further goals for the 568 crowd to witness, both coming in the last four minutes of normal time- the first when Adam Yates caught the normally alert Nantwich rearguard napping to clip the ball into a gaping net from close range whilst in the 88<sup>th</sup> minute Carter's pace took him past three 'Vale' players before unleashing a fierce some shot from the left that despite a last ditch effort by Horsfield to divert the ball away from goal, he could only stand and watch as he turned the ball into his own net from 8 yards out.

Nantwich Town Head coach Peter Hall commented: "A massive effort, and a well deserved win against another pro-club. However, I was disappointed with the discipline in the first half and that is a matter which is being addressed as a matter of urgency. As regard the second half – well, we asked all the questions against a professional club and whilst they had much more possession they didn't look to seriously threaten us. Ashley Carter was immense (against his old club) and that was the first time he has played up front with Dave Whittaker. Their link up play was good but overall the team worked hard and I thank them for that. Glyn Blackhurst and Dave McPherson clearly need games but once they are back up to

speed the middle of the park should be balanced just in time for the 'real kick off' against Whitby Town on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August".

