

WEDNESDAY, 26 DECEMBER 2007

CLEVEDON TOWN 4-0 TIVERTON TOWN

BGB Southern League Premier Division

Tiverton's ugly other face was revealed on Boxing Day in the return game against Clevedon at the Hand Stadium. Outplayed, outthought, out muscled, and outclassed in every area, a sorry Tiverton side gave plenty of festive cheer to the home support with a second half capitulation that ended up with a four goal victory for the hosts.

Clevedon edged ahead on the half-hour when Kris Leek hammered in a low free kick from wide on the left which beat the wall and beat Johnston at his near post. It was a soft goal to concede, and the increasingly inexperienced Tiverton side (Ed Weeks started the game, Hinshelwood and Mullings were back at Plainmoor, and George Rogers was amongst the substitutes) were always going to struggle to get back into the game. In fact, the Seasiders, buoyed on by the small but vociferous home support were well in control and able to pass the ball around almost at will.

It's difficult not to be overly critical, and in fairness, while Tiverton almost failed to show for the second half Clevedon was phenomenal. And what happens when you get two teams at either end of the form spectrum is a one-sided affair. The two Chris' - Vinnicombe and Young earned themselves yellow cards by the time Mike Symons had rattled the crossbar, but the same player was alert when Johnston could only parry a rasping long ranger from the influential Leek.

Two became three became four in the blink of an eye, with a pair of identical strikes from Steve Cook as the home side were rampant and wagging tails like a dog on heat. On both occasions Symons was the architect, breaking down the right wing, beating the defence at will and pulling the ball back to Cook who was unmarked and eight yards from goal. Mitchell Page might have added to Tivvy woes late on, and the Yellows could only muster one chance, but Young's low shot was cleared from underneath the crossbar in the dying moments.

Clevedon Town: Danny Greaves; Josh Bingham, Mike Trought (Kevin Davies 78), Kris Leek, Scott Hendy, Rob Scott, Kyle Bassett, Steve Cook, Matt Prosser, Mike Symons, Danny Haines (Mitchell Page 78)

Goals: Leek 30, Symons 65, Cook 74, 78

Booked: None

Sent Off: None

Tiverton Town: Ray Johnston; Ed Weeks (Glenn Gould 72), Chris Vinnicombe, Matt Villis, Nathan Rudge, Will Gardner, Radley Veale, Paul Wyatt, Simon Bochenski, Daniel Bulley (Chris Young 61), Tom Knighton

Booked: Vinnicombe 66, Young 67

Sent Off: None

Attendance: 223