

WEDNESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2007

TIVERTON TOWN 2-2 CORBY TOWN

BGB Southern League Premier Division

Manic is the word, moderately successful would be the result. Over the past two weeks the players have been as busy as Santa, and have managed a decent haul of points in the process. It all started on the coldest night of the year when we welcomed Corby Town to Ladysmead, and sent them on their way with a Get out of Jail Free card. Having cruised into a two goal lead the Yellows suddenly found themselves on edge - winning positions aren't too common in these parts - and the nervousness allowed the Steelmen a route back into the game.

Simon Bochenski, making his home debut had the ball in the net inside three minutes, but the effort was ruled out when the lineman stood, stoic as a statue with his flag in the air indicating an offside infringement. It was a harsh decision for Tivvy, for it was Dan Bulley and not Bochenski that was offside, and the ball never reached him. Nevertheless the goal didn't stand and we were back to square one against the biggest underachievers in the league. Live wire striker Steve Diggin headed weakly at Ray Johnston on the visitors first attack before Tiverton were back in the ascendancy and playing some neat football through the midfield. Danny O'Brien saw a brace of shots fail to find the target, the first blocked and the follow-up dragged wide and then the deadlock was finally broken midway through the first period.

O'Brien moved the ball down the right flank where Will Gardner was in space. A splendid 1-2-3 with Bochenski eventually released Radley Veale who curled a delightful shot with his wrong foot beyond the dive of the hapless Dan Crane in the Corby goal. It was Veale's first strike in Tiverton colours, and gave the hosts a deserved lead which was held comfortably through to the interval. In fact Tiverton were unlucky not to go in at the break further ahead, and only a combination of desperate defending and excellent goalkeeping denied first Bochenski and then Veale from adding to the lead.

The rather chilly and disappointingly small crowd of just 135 had barely taken their places on the terraces for the second half when Tivvy netted for the second time, a goal that should have made the points safe. Darren Mullings did well to create himself some room on the left and swing in a no-nonsense cross towards Bulley who was waiting patiently on the penalty spot. Bulley's glancing header has Crane scrambling towards his far post, but the ball was a few inches too high and too well placed for the glovesman and Tivvy led by two, Bulley joining Veale on the ever changing goalscoring charts for the Club.

From this point Town sat back in an attempt to snuff the game out, but Corby's experience would prove to be too much for the young Yellows, and the inspired introduction of Darren Lynch and Justin Jackson was enough to turn the match on its head. Corby grabbed the game by the throat, and for most of the second half there was only one team making forward moves. Tivvy did well to keep them beyond range, but were dealt a blow when Veale limped out of the game with twenty minutes to go, and Corby pulled a goal back just a minute later. Liam Nicell curled a ball towards the far post and Johnston's punch only found its way to the feet of Lynch who had the easiest of tasks to ram it home from twelve yards. Eight minutes later the visitors were level; Johnston was again at fault when Nicell's seemingly hopeful shot squirmed beneath the 'keeper and into the net. Paul Wyatt replaced Bulley as Tivvy sought a late winner, but forty minutes of complacency was the deciding factor, and two points were gifted to the Steelmen.

Tiverton Town: Ray Johnston; Danny O'Brien, Chris Vinnicombe, Matt Willis, Nathan Rudge, Will Gardner, Radley Veale (Glenn Gould 68), Paul Hinshelwood, Simon Bochenski, Darren Mullings, Daniel Bulley (Paul Wyatt 84)

Goals: Veale 26, Bulley 46

Booked: Veale 35, Gardner 53, Mullings 65

Sent Off: None

Corby Town: Dan Crane; Ollie Wilkinson, Tom Bonner, Jamie Patterson, Richard Scott, Derek Brown, Liam Nicell, Wayne Diuk, Chris Difante (Justin Jackson 64 (Adam Wykes 86)), Steve Diggin, James Gould (Darren Lynch 55)

Goals: Lynch 71, Nicell 79

Booked: Diuk 35, Bonner 65, Brown 65

Sent Off: None

Attendance: 135