

Sutton steadfast in stalemate to secure sensational survival

Evo-Stik League

WORKINGTON 0 SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN 0

Premier Division

SUTTON completed a miraculous escape from the drop by picking up a point at play-off bound Workington while relegation rivals Corby lost at Coalville.

The Royals have sat inside the relegation zone for the majority of the season but climbed out when it mattered, on the final day of the season.

Sutton did temporarily climb out of the bottom four a couple of weeks ago but a couple of Corby wins dumped the Royals back into the danger zone.

They went into the final game knowing they needed to better Corby's result, with the sides sitting level on points but with the Northamptonshire outfit having a much superior goal difference.

And the Royals did just that, grinding out a goalless draw at a Workington side chasing promotion, while ten-man

Corby collapsed 4-1 at a Coalville side with little to play for.

Sutton were buoyed by the news Corby had fallen 2-0 behind inside the opening 20 minutes and defended with a resoluteness that belied their awful away record this season – having won just two and lost 16 of their previous 22 games on their travels.

They limited Workington to precious few chances as Jack Ryan's shot was comfortably saved by Royals keeper James Wren, while James Earl fired

wide and Scott Allison drilled over.

Sutton were understandably reluctant to commit too many men forward and their best first-half chance came when Josh Venney charged down a clearance from Workington keeper Aaran Taylor but the ball rebounded to safety.

After the break, Sutton had a golden chance to ease their nerves when Ryan Robbins pounced on a slip from defender Josh Calvert but with only the keeper to beat, he fired wide.

With news coming through that Coalville were now 3-0 up and Corby were down to ten men, Sutton knew a point would be enough for survival and redoubled their rearguard effort.

And they only endured one real scare when Wren produced an excellent save to keep out a Matty Douglas strike that was heading for the bottom corner.

The final whistle yielded scenes of mass celebrations from the visiting contingent which continued on the team coach on the way back to the Midlands.



Reece Webb shows his delight as the rest of his Sutton teammates celebrate their survival in the background.

HOW THEY STAND

Evo-Stik Northern League				
Premier Division				
	P	W	L	Pts
Blyth Spartans	46	31	7	101
Spennymoor Town	46	25	9	87
Stourbridge	46	25	11	85
Workington	46	26	15	83
Nantwich Town	46	23	11	81
Whitby Town	46	23	13	79
Buxton	46	22	12	78
Grantham Town	46	22	14	76
Matlock Town	46	22	15	75
Warrington Town	46	22	16	74
Ashton United	46	19	16	68
Rushall Olympic	46	18	18	64
Stafford Rangers	46	16	15	63
Barwell	46	16	16	62
Hednesford Town	46	18	21	61
Mickleover Sports	46	19	24	60
Coalville Town	46	15	21	55
Marine	46	14	19	55
Halesowen Town	46	13	21	51
SUTTON C'FIELD TN	46	12	23	47
Corby Town	46	12	24	46
Frickley Athletic	46	12	31	39
Ilkeston FC	46	7	33	27
Skemlersdale Utd	46	5	32	24