

St. Neots Town F.C - Match Report 2004/05

Eagle Bitter United Counties League Premier Division

Potton 2 St Neots 1

These derby matches very often fail to rise to the heights anticipated and this was a perfect example of that. Neither side were anywhere near the standard they have set for themselves this season but after a very poor first half St Neots regained some pride and confidence and were perhaps unlucky not to grab a late equaliser and a share of the spoils. Potton one of Ken Davidson's former Clubs flattered to deceive after a bright start with their productive front pairing of Brett Donnelly and former Saints skipper Steve Kuhne comfortably held by the visiting defence.

At the start it was all Potton and it was no surprise when they went ahead after eight minutes when St Neots made a mess of defending a Matt Endersby corner and Gary Watts rifled in a volley from the edge of the area. Endersby was the tormentor in chief as he set up Kuhne for an unmarked header that was placed tamely over the bar and then he forced a good save from Steve Corry. All St Neots had to show for the first half hour was two corners and a shot from Marcus Cumberbatch whilst James Hatch could have twice increased the Potton lead. It was a different St Neots side that began the second half as first Barry Dellar and then Ronnie Fortune had chances to level the scores.

Then after 51 minutes it was a case of deja-vu as another Endersby corner ended up with Gary Watts and his second volleyed goal of the game from the same range as the first left the St Neots keeper totally unsighted. However St Neots were fired up and five minutes later Cumberbatch knocked down a Russell Lawes free kick for skipper Damian Matthews to fire low into the net to put the visitors back in the game. Now Potton had to defend as Danny Griggs and Ronnie Fortune spurned chances of an equaliser.

At the other end Corry distinguished himself with a brilliant double save to deny Hatch and then midway through the half St Neots were reduced to ten men when Cumberbatch petulantly kicked out at an opponent on the ground two yards from an Assistant Referee after conceding a free kick leaving the Referee no option but to produce his red card. Then a knee injury to Matthews saw him stretchered off and St Neots having to reorganise but Potton never really threatened further and had Ronnie Fortune's late dipping volley not been a foot too high over the retreating goalkeeper then St Neots might have returned home with a point.

St Neots: Corry, Clark, Lawes, Taylor, Matthews (Chapman 79m), Griggs, Hobbs (Jenner 71m), Jelley (Claridge 71m), Dellar, Cumberbatch, Fortune.

Subs not used: Holmes & Mannion