

St. Neots Town Football Club
Match Report – 18th December
United Counties League

Woodford Utd 1 St. Neots Town 2

New St Neots's manager Kenny Davidson maintained his undefeated league record, of two wins and one draw, with a fine 2-1 win away at Woodford Utd. The visitors started brightly, on a very heavy pitch, with Barry Dellar forcing a good save from Woodford keeper, Kevin Wood, within the first few minutes of the game. Woods counterpart Steve Corry, in the St Neots goal, was also called into action early in the game and made two good saves to deny Woodford's Nicky Gordon and Ben Miller.

Woodford's tall target man Gordon always looked dangerous and was instrumental in most of the early attacks from the home side. With the pitch suffering the effects of a lot of rain over the previous days it was difficult to move the ball along the ground with any assurance. Woodford's long ball game suited the conditions and they used it to good effect. Although St. Neots always looked dangerous down the flanks and the pace of Danny Griggs and Barry Dellar began to force the home team back into their own half, and it was such a move, down the right flank, that led to Saints first goal.

It was Steve Jelly who put St Neots ahead, after 19 minutes, converting a Danny Griggs cross with a first time volley from just inside the area. St Neots created several more good chances through Ronnie Fortune, and Barry Dellar and Steve Jelly but it was the home team who struck next arguably against the run of play. A break down the visitors left side created an opening for Woodford's Damien Gariff who did well to beat Corry with a strike into the left corner.

The visitors restored their lead five minutes before the interval through Tom Hobbs, after three close range shots were blocked on the Woodford goal line before Hobbs finally connected with the strike that hit the back of the net.

The home team put the visitors under the cosh after the break but the St. Neots defence, of Matthews, Taylor and Lawes, held firm. Marcus Cumberbatch forced the Woodford keeper to tip his shot over the bar on 74 minutes, and from the resulting corner Damien Matthews had his header cleared off the line.

For the remainder of the game the St Neots players had to deal with some aggressive play from their hosts with little protection from the stand in referee and were pleased to hear the final whistle.

Team: Corry, Clark, Lawes, Taylor, Matthews, Griggs, Hobbs, Jelly, Dellar, Cumberbatch, Fortune.

Subs: Hurst, Mannion, Bryant, Gatti.

Used: Mannion for Dellar, Gatti for Cumberbatch.

Goals: Jelly (19), Hobbs (40).