

St. Neots Town Football Club
Season 2006-07 Match Reports

UCL PREMIER DIVISION
Wootton 1 St Neots 0

‘The result was disappointing but the performance was encouraging’ said Saints Secretary Peter Naylor after watching his side narrowly beaten by the in-form Wootton. The home side never managed to dominate but they sneaked a late winning goal after the St Neots defence needlessly conceded a free kick. Goalkeeper Ryan Hunt making only his fifth start in eighteen games lined up a five man wall but seemed undecided which side of it to stand and he was beaten by a well placed low shot by Leon Cashman. That was a tragedy for the young keeper who had kept St Neots in the match with a string of impressive saves. However at the other end the St Neots strike force had failed to capitalise on their chances in front of goal with a volley from Ashley Deverall that struck the crossbar being their best chance. The side looked better balanced but Wes Byrne’s predatory skills seemed wasted as he was played wide on the right hand side.

Saints survived an early scare when skipper Nicky Hurst limped off with an ankle injury but after treatment he returned. Former skipper Jon Hoggett now back with Wootton seemed ill-employed as a striker and he was booked for two early offences and never subsequently impressed. Another St Neots old boy Darek Joswiak was twice off target with long range efforts whilst Byrne cut in but shot over the bar. As the first half drew to an end Hunt left his line to save bravely at the feet of Craig Daniel and the goalless first half seemed a fair reflection on the efforts of the two sides.

Wootton had their best spell in the first ten minutes after the break with Hunt producing a reflex save to beat away a close range shot by Chris Hewitt and Russell Lawes was well placed on the line to block the follow-up effort. Joswiak then drove a free kick high over the bar but St Neots recovered to create their own chances. Sean Murray had a header from a Mark Franklin corner cleared off the line by Paul Lawrence and Craig Reynolds shot wide but with twelve minutes left Wootton claimed what proved to be the winning goal after a clumsy foul by Richard Churms. Within three minutes an acrobatic volley by Ashley Deverall beat Matt Jones but rebounded off the crossbar and had that gone in the spoils might well have been shared. Two more saves by Hunt to deny Cashman and Daniel rounded off a solid performance by the goalkeeper and in injury time Richard Churms almost made amends for that free kick but Jones was well placed to save his header from Lawes floated corner.

Team: Ryan Hunt, James Dillnut, Russell Lawes, Richard Churms, Nicky Hurst, Ben Singleton, Craig Reynolds, Wes Byrne, Ashley Deverall, Sean Murray, Mark Franklin.

Subs not used: Kevin Ashby, Joe Jordan, Scott Grant and Steve Young.

Man of the Match: Ryan Hunt