

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

UCL PREMIER DIVISION

**St Neots 1 Potton 2**

As expected this was a fierce local derby to herald the return of Steve Kuhne to Rowley Park. Neither side took prisoners in a no holds barred first half in which Referee Mark Wilson making his first Rowley Park visit was the busiest man on the field. In the first sixteen minutes he had brandished three yellow cards and awarded a string of free kicks for some challenges that set down a yardstick for the remainder of the match. However St Neots already short of key players finished up very much the losers in the physical exchanges with two players injured badly enough to have to be replaced before half time. They then were reduced to ten men after 36 minutes when John Coley was sent off for picking up a second yellow card and from that point on defending a single goal lead became the main preoccupation.

As early as the seventh minute Luke Donnelly became the first in the Referee's notebook after two fouls in quick succession and from the free kick Mark Franklin's cross found the head of Kevin Ashby whose header was pushed for a corner at full stretch by Steve Graham. St Neots should then have been awarded a penalty when Graham kicked out at Coley but the Referee only booked the keeper and awarded an indirect free kick twelve yards from goal that was blocked. Luke Donnelly should then have scored for Potton but Ashley Deverall's brilliant tackle saved the day for his side but not for him as he had to limp off to be replaced by Tom Moran. After 16 minutes a perfectly flighted through pass by Mark Franklin set up John Coley and he claimed his first St Neots goal against his former Club. However to spoil the moment he was also booked for a late tackle leading up to the goal after the Referee had allowed a Potton advantage. Adam Pitcairn cleared off the St Neots line as Potton pushed hard for an equaliser and none minutes before the break Coley committed another very late tackle and was sent off. Right on half time Ryan Hunt produced the first of several outstanding saves to deny Luke Lincoln.

To St Neots credit their deficit in numbers never really showed in the second half although their attacking potential was clearly limited with Wes Byrne having to plough a lone furrow up front. Hunts produced two great saves to keep his goal intact foiling Steve Kuhne and Paul Garrett but after 51 minutes a Brad Harrison corner was not cleared and Steve Kuhne pounced to score from close range after St Neots had lost the ball in midfield. Four minutes later Potton took the lead with an excellent finish by Luke Lincoln giving Hunt no chance. At that point St Neots could have collapsed but they dug in and defended far better than in that opening phase of the second half. Three more excellent saves by Hunt from Kuhne, Lincoln and Garrett kept the deficit to that single goal and before the final whistle Potton were happy to defend their slender lead with a variety of time wasting tactics. However in the final analysis St Neots were badly hampered by the sending off.

**Team:** Ryan Hunt, Adam Pitcairn, Russell Lawes, James Dillnut, Kevin Ashby, Joe Jordan, Ben Singleton, Ashley Deverall (Tom Moran 24 mins), Wes Byrne, John Coley, Mark Franklin (Rory McKay 37 mins).

**Subs not used:** Ian Parr and Steve Young.

**Man of the Match:** Ryan Hunt