

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

UCL PREMIER DIVISION
Desborough 2 St Neots 1

Two minutes into injury time with Desborough willing the Referee to blow the final whistle man of the match John Coley rose above the defence to win the ball only to see his header cleared off the line by Stuart McClarty with the keeper beaten. That final injustice meant that St Neots suffered another defeat that their performance had not justified. To say the least it was a patched up side that represented the visitors for Manager Steve Young had to play up front for the full ninety minutes and ironically could have proved to be the hero on at least two occasions. He started the day with five first choice players injured and then when two others dropped out on the day his resources were stretched to the absolute limit.

Understandably it took the reshuffled St Neots side some time to settle and the only two early chances for the home side were both despatched well off target by Anthony Page and Tom Mills. Rory McKay headed wide from a Joe Jordan cross and then after eleven minutes St Neots took the lead. Again the wide players were involved as Jordan picked out McKay and his clever square pass set up Wes Byrne. His first close range shot was well blocked but he followed up to score his third goal in as many matches. Two minutes later Chris Logan should have levelled after a poor clearance but his volley was wide but St Neots lead only lasted nine minutes and then Richard Beckett carelessly gave the ball away and Tom Mills marked his Desborough debut with a good finish to level the scores. Nine minutes before the break a great strike from 25 yards by Steve Young completely beat home keeper Paul Beresford but struck the crossbar to leave the sides level at half time.

Just sixty seconds after the restart Young's credibility as a Premier Division striker was cruelly exposed as a cross by Byrne found him unmarked at the far post but he rushed his shot managing to scuff it wide from about five yards. However this signalled a good spell for the visitors who created several good chances to regain the lead. The hardworking John Coley playing in an unfamiliar midfield role then headed over the bar from a Byrne cross and a Russell Lawes free kick was too high. Wes Byrne thought he had been denied a penalty when pulled down in the area but the Referee waved play on. Desborough clearly needing fresh ideas pulled off their two front players and with his first touch one of them, Michael Byrne got on the end of a Stuart McClarty free kick to give his side the lead against the run of play. Sadly for St Neots skipper Russell Lawes radar was out of touch as he sent two more free kicks from his favourite distance over the crossbar and Rory McKay shot wide. St Neots really lifted their efforts as the final whistle approached but another Lawes free kick was headed away before Coley's last gasp effort failed to count. With a full strength side this match would surely have resulted in a St Neots victory.

Team: Ryan Hunt, James Dillnut, Russell Lawes, Kevin Ashby, Richard Beckett, Joe Jordan, Ben Singleton, John Coley, Wes Byrne, Steve Young, Rory McKay

Sub not used: Dave Newton.

Man of the Match: John Coley