

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

FA VASE ROUND TWO
St Neots 1 Lowestoft Town 6

St Neots bowed out of the FA Vase in their delayed match with their Suffolk visitors. It was an encounter fairly well reflected by the score line but St Neots had to compete with one hand tied behind their backs because of the competition rules. Three of Steve Young's most influential signings were all cup tied and that was bound to hamper the performance of an inexperienced squad faced by the reigning Ridgeons League champions. However despite being up against long odds St Neots never gave up trying and the experience gained by the stand in players will be useful as Young continues his rebuilding exercise.

Good fortune always plays a part in football and the first two minutes of this match was testament to that fact. Just short of a minute into the match Ben Singleton was late with a tackle on Ross King just a foot inside the penalty area and Richard Woodrow drove in the penalty to put Lowestoft in front. Then in St Neots first attack sixty seconds later Mark Franklin was fouled – this time a foot outside the penalty area and when Russell Lawes free kick sailed over the bar the significance of a few inches in the game was displayed. Lowestoft then made the most of this stroke of fortune as they effectively booked their passage into round three with two more well-taken goals in a four minutes spell. First Ally McKenna left Gary Hoy for dead on the left and crossed for Jamie Godbold to side foot in at the far post and then the pick of the goals as McKenna's pace left two defenders in his wake and Ross King times his run to perfection to head in the third goal. Three down in nineteen minutes St Neots could have collapsed but they are made of sterner stuff and Russell Lawes and Ben Singleton both brought important saves from visiting keeper Andy Reynolds.

The second half produced another explosive start as Lowestoft won their second penalty of the match when Kevin Ashby was adjudged to have handled. This time the impressive Ally McKenna was entrusted with the spot kick and he sent Ryan Hunt the wrong way to make the score 4-0. St Neots response was positive as Ashley Deverall won a corner taken by Mark Franklin and converted by Craig Reynolds to temporarily silence the noisy visiting supporters. There was then a spell of more than half an hour when both sides created chances the best of which was an effort by Craig Reynolds cleared off the Lowestoft line by Matty Potter. However as St Neots visibly tired in the last ten minutes the visitors claimed two more goals to afford then a flattering final margin of victory. Carl Poppy tapped in their third goal after a good stop by Hunt and Ross King was left unmarked for a tap-in after more impressive work by man-of-the-match Ally McKenna. In his programme notes Steve Young labelled Lowestoft a 'well organised quality outfit'. He was right.

Team: Ryan Hunt, Gary Hoy (Rory McKay), Russell Lawes, Kevin Ashby, Scott Grant, Joe Jordan, Ben Singleton, James Dillnut, Ashley Deverall (Matt Franklin), Mark Franklin (Gary Christie), Craig Reynolds.

Subs not used: Tom Malins & Ollie Brown

Man of the Match: Russell Lawes