

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

UCL Premier Division  
**St Neots 2 Desborough 1**

The new Manager kicked off his reign with a league victory that stretched the sides run to three consecutive league victories – an achievement for the first time this season. His first team selection showed five changes from the side beaten in the midweek cup match – all of them new signings and there are likely to be more to follow. It was difficult to assess the individual performances as they settled into their new surroundings but in the centre of midfield Nick Linford looked a talented addition to the side and alongside him Assistant Manger Ivan Finch making his return to the club will add much needed experience. In addition the side had to come back from behind to beat mid-table Desborough and avenge two earlier defeats by the same opposition so all in all it was a satisfactory outcome.

The sides looked well matched in the early stages and the only early attempt on goal was a long range effort from Linford that flew wide. Then Desborough seemed to move up a gear as after 17 minutes Eddie Mills hit the crossbar from wide on the left with Tom Mills netting the rebound but an offside flag saved St Neots. The respite was brief and five minutes later St Neots debutant goalkeeper Sean Greygoose failed to collect a Mark Forbes free kick and Eddie Mills flicked the ball in at the bear post. That galvanised St Neots' efforts and Stuart McCarty did well to clear a Mark Franklin cross off the line with his keeper out of position and the same St Neots player then had a close range shot blocked on the line. By now St Neots were beginning to dominate and they deservedly levelled nine minutes before half time when Bas Belgrave, another newcomer chased a Tom Malins through ball and beat the keeper to nudge the ball just inside a post off the outstretched leg of a defender. That left the sides on even terms at the break and that seemed a fair reflection of the first half.

St Neots looked the stronger side upon the restart with a well placed Ivan Finch volley cleared acrobatically off the line by Chris Logan with the Desborough keeper beaten again. From the resultant corner Jason Thomas saw another effort cleared off the Desborough line and minutes later a careless back header by Danny Pownall almost presented St Neots with the lead but this time a full length dive by Aaron Cuff saw him fingertip the ball away. After 70 minutes St Neots pressure was rewarded when Chris Logan was judged to have handled the ball as he attempted to clear and from the penalty spot the ever reliable Russell Lawes put St Neots in front. Desborough utilised all three substitutes in a bid to breathe some fight into their side and for a spell they did compete well but in a breakaway Franklin wasted a good chance to wrap up the points and he then had an inswinging corner tipped away by the keeper. As Desborough tried their last throw of the dice substitute Scott Marshall was sent off for what appeared to be foul and abusive language directed at the referee and St Neots held on comfortably to lift their tally to a point a match after 24 outings despite losing man of the match Kevin Ashby with a cut head.

**Team:** Sean Greygoose, Tom Malins, Russell Lawes, Kevin Ashby (Stuart Richardson 90 mins), Jason Thomas (Tom Moran 66 mins), Ben Singleton, Ivan Finch, Nick Linford (Jason Darvall 72 mins), John Coley, Bas Belgrave, Mark Franklin.

**Sub not used:** Ryan Francis

**Goals:** Bas Belgrave 36 mins, Russell Lawes (*penalty*) 70 mins.

**Man of the Match:** Kevin Ashby