

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

UCL Premier Division  
**St Neots 1 Raunds 0**

There were smiles all round at Rowley Park when a dramatic late winning goal deservedly netted St Neots three priceless points to lift them two places in the league table. Their victory would have been achieved earlier in the match but for the heroics of visiting goalkeeper Chris Jones who made two breathtaking saves late in the second half and he returned home very unlucky to have finished on the losing side. The importance of the victory was that Raunds with a game in hand could have forged ahead of St Neots had they won and home keeper Martyn Patching also contributed two good first half saves that kept his side on level terms. One concern for St Neots was another injury to skipper Russell Lawes who limped off early in the second half.

In the cold nagging drizzle both sides struggled to come to terms with the conditions in the early stages. The sides swapped openings in the first half with Craig Reynolds heading over from a Jason Darvall cross and Patching leaving his line smartly to block at the feet of Ian Symington. St Neots thought they had gone in front when Ashley Deverall cleverly set up Barrington Belgrave but his angled shot eluded the keeper's dive but rebounded from the far post and then in the latter stages of the first half Raunds created two chances. First Patching appeared to misjudge a cross by Symington and was relieved to see the unmarked Jamie Russell blast the ball over the bar at the far post and then Symington's a volley was too high after Patching had made an important reaction save to push away a volley from Danny Frid.

St Neots looked the better side from the start of the second half with central defenders Tom Moran and Jimmy Dillnut looking solid and restricting the visitors to occasional chances. John Coley looked to have scored with a clever overhead kick but David Coales produced an acrobatic clearance off the line and then Ashley Deverall had a shot pushed onto a post after good work by Coley. Callum Ridgway headed over the bar from Raunds' best second half chance whilst St Neots substitutes freshened up their attack. Cameron Facey went clear with his first touch but Jones dived bravely at his feet to claim the ball and Mark Franklin shot wide. With nine minutes left Facey sent Coley clear and he picked his spot but he shot wide and then within seconds Jones produced an inspired full length save to push the ball away to foil Coley yet again. With the match sixty seconds into injury time and excellent Referee Steve Swan looking at his watch Craig Reynolds beat his marker and crossed to the far post where Mark Franklin produced a stunning volley to give the hapless Jones no chance. It was Franklin's first goal since 5th December and could prove to be priceless.

**St Neots:** Martyn Patching, Jason Darvall, Russell Lawes (Ivan Finch 49 mins), Tom Moran, Jimmy Dillnut, Ashley Deverall, Barrington Belgrave (Cameron Facey 75 mins), Martin Williams, John Coley, Ryan Francis (Mark Franklin 59 mins), Craig Reynolds.

**Goals:** Mark Franklin 91 mins.

**Subs not used:** Stuart Richardson & Ryan Hunt

**Saints MOM:** Tom Moran