

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

UCL Premier Division  
**Newport Pagnell 2 St Neots 0**

The end of the season cannot come too soon for St Neots whose defeat at Newport Pagnell was their fourth in the last five outings with just one point gained from the last fifteen. During that period they have scored just twice – a record they were never in danger of improving on in this match. Tragically the defeat came as a result of two goalkeeping errors by Ryan Hunt – one in each half and both cost them a goal. Newport Pagnell was not much better but their consistency over the season will probably give them a top seven finish and that will be their second best in the Premier Division. Manager Scott Houghton's frustration with his sides' performance was clearly shown when he hauled off fractious striker John Coley eight minutes from time and went on himself to try vainly to inspire his side.

St Neots had to reshuffle when Tom Moran failed a late fitness test and acting skipper Ivan Finch had to switch to central defence and won the man of the match award – ironically shackling Saints former striker Michael McKenzie. It was a scrappy first half hour with Hunt having just one save to make from a snap shot by Richard Armstrong. At the other end Bas Belgrave had a shot deflected but it was uninspiring football by both sides on a bone hard surface. Eleven minutes before the break St Neots conceded one of a consistent stream of silly free kicks and from this Scott Mulkern managed to send a low shot past Ryan Hunt who seemed correctly placed guarding the narrow side of his goal. The young keeper hung his head but this did nothing to galvanise the visitors' efforts.

St Neots thought they were hard done by not to be awarded a penalty five minutes after half time when Ryan Francis was tripped in the box and five minutes later in a bid to inject more ideas in attack Cameron Facey was sent on to replace Francis who had looked the most likely St Neots player to make a breakthrough. Belgrave did have one shot comfortably saved but the game was effectively surrendered after 61 minutes by another Ryan Hunt mistake. Martin Kelly sent in a speculative shot by the keeper misjudged the flight and only succeeded in pushing the ball into his own net. St Neots small band of travelling supporters waited for the St Neots response but none came and they did not manage a singly shot at goal in the last half hour despite sharing much of the possession. For next season there needs to be new players and a new approach.

**St Neots:** Ryan Hunt, Jason Darvall, Mark Barry, Tony Russell, Ivan Finch, Ashley Deverall, Mark Franklin, Barrington Belgrave, John Coley (Scott Houghton 82 mins), Ryan Francis (Cameron Facey 56 mins), Stuart Richardson.

**Subs not used:** Craig Reynolds & Martyn Patching

**Saints MOM:** Ivan Finch