

St. Neots Town Football Club  
Season 2007-08 Match Reports

UCL Premier Division  
**St Neots Town 1 Wootton Blue Cross 1**

After their first league match this season at Rowley Park St Neots remained unbeaten but this was not the sort of performance that will propel the side towards league honours. They deserve full credit for determination because despite not showing real team co-ordination they refused to give up and came back with a second half goal to cancel out Wootton's opener but both Manager and players still have work to do. St Neots created for too few scoring chances and as a defensive unit looked vulnerable at times and they had goalkeeper Roy Bloxham to thank for several important saves. There were two team changes from the first match with Kevin Ashby and Ivan Finch coming in for Nathan Buckland and Craig Reynolds.

Wootton made much the better start and Bloxham saved well from Kristof Karpick and did well to puch away a Darek Joswiak free kick under pressure. Steve Kuhne had St Neots first genuine scoring chance after 11 minutes when goalkeeper Miles Massiah cleared straight to him but he was unable to produce a telling shot. St Neots best first half effort came eight minutes later when the hard working Ryan Francis robbed a defender and tested Massiah with a well placed near post shot. Wootton were enjoying the bulk of possession and looking far more likely to score and so it proved after 29 minutes when Scott McGregor crossed from the right and the unmarked Darek Joswiak – a former leading scorer at Rowley Park ten years ago – rose unchallenged to head the ball beyond the dive of Bloxham. Some of Wootton's midfield play was robust leading to a first half booking for Anish Khinda's second dangerous challenge.

St Neots made two early second half changes with Russell Lawes replacing the limping Kevin Ashby and Tony Russell switching to the centre and the lively John Coley coming on for Ryan Francis. That was surprising with Francis looking the best St Neots attacker but Coley added a new speedy dimension up front. Bloxham produced an important point blank save from Craig Daniel and Joswiak squandered the chance to double the lead with a shot wide of target but St Neots were competing far better and were rewarded after 63 minutes when Massiah failed to gather the ball at the feet of Coley and Ashley Deverall followed up to put the ball into the unguarded net. After that the game deteriorated with both sides beginning to look ragged. Both relied on quick breaks from defence rather than a more measured approach and although both sides had half chances the defences stood firm with Referee Richard Sodlin the busiest man having to book a further half dozen players as frustration became apparent. Both sides will have been happy not to lose but both may have to show improvement if they are to progress in Saturday's FA Cup matches.

**Saints:** Bloxham, Moran, Russell, Hoggett, Ashby, Deverall, Franklin, Finch, Kuhne, Francis, Fehmi.

**Scorer:** Deverall 63

**Subs:** Lawes (for Ashby 52), Coley (for Francis 58), Jordan (for Fehmi 76), Coles & Fisk.

**MOM:** Ashley Deverall