

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

UCL Premier Division  
**Cogenhoe United 0 St Neots Town 5**

Saints bounced back from their FA Cup exit with an emphatic win at Cogenhoe which has not normally been a happy hunting ground for the visitors in the past. To their credit, Cogenhoe never gave up and striker Zac Nedimovic was always a threat in the air.

Bas Belgrave, after suspension, and Nathan Buckland made welcome returns to the side and were the stars of the Saints display although everybody played their part, including the newly shaven headed Ashley Deverell who had his best game of the season so far. Saints started quite brightly and Mark Franklin put in two dangerous crosses, the second of which saw Ryan Francis hit the post. The visitors weren't to be denied for long as they took control of the game.

On nine minutes, Bas Belgrave was allowed to run at the home defence and put the Saints ahead with a low right footed shot. Five minutes later, it was 2 - 0 as Franklin and Francis worked a move down the right. Francis slipped the ball through and Belgrave put away his second of the game. St Neots continued to press with Fehmi playing well down the left and his free kick saw Kuhne set up a chance for Francis which went just over. The twenty third minute saw Belgrave complete his hat trick following an astute pass by Ivan Finch. His first shot hit the keeper and looped up into the air. Following up, he headed into the net much to the delight of the team and travelling supporters.

Franklin and Deverell then had further attempts on goal as, in the heat, Saints eased off a little, allowing Cogenhoe back into the game. Bloxham had to hold a Nedimovic header at the far post and was then forced to tip the ball round for a corner after thirty four minutes as the same player went close again. Saints defence, however, continued to stand firm with Jon Hoggett making two timely interventions as the half came to a close.

Fehmi started the second half off with a good run for the visitors but Cogenhoe were soon pressing with Russell making a timely block and Bloxham another useful save. Saints seemed to be defending a bit sloppily but nearly scored a fourth after fifty eight minutes when Steve Kuhne was just unable to get enough contact on a free kick to divert it into the net. Francis then broke into the box on the left of the box and his fine effort just landed on the roof of the net. Bloxham was forced into action again but, inspired by the ever influential Buckland with great tackle followed by a header from under the bar, the defence stood firm. The Saints passing clicked into gear when, after Kuhne had gone close again, Deverell broke from midfield and fed substitute Jamie Osborne. He probably should have scored but his effort came back off the keeper to Deverell who tricked his way past several defenders before seeing his shot roll over the line for the fourth goal on eighty seven minutes.

On the stroke of ninety minutes, Saints went one better as Steve Kuhne notched his first goal of the season and the visitors fifth of the game. Osborne fed Franklin and his cross was neatly put away to end the match in the best possible way. It was the Saints best performance of the season and was a tribute to some of training sessions organised by Scott Houghton, Iain Parr and Ivan Finch.

**Team:** Bloxham, Finch, Russell, Hoggett, Buckland, Belgrave, Franklin, Deverell, Kuhne, Francis, Fehmi

**Subs:** Moran (for Russell 77), Barry, Osborne (for Belgrave 83), Murray & Coles

**Saints MOM:** Bas Belgrave