

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

UCL Premier Division
St Neots Town 1 Bourne Town 0

With Boston Town in FA Vase duty this victory took St Neots to the top of the Premier Division on goal difference although the Lincolnshire side do have two matches in hand. The score line was not a true reflection of the match because St Neots should have won far more convincingly but on the plus side they seldom looked like conceding a goal. Chris Garwell made his first start for St Neots and took his tally to three goals in one and a half matches and looks to be a very valuable addition to the squad. The return to the side of Russell Lawes freed Jon Hoggett to his more familiar midfield role and this was the reason why the Saints bossed the first half. He and Garwell controlled the match and but for some excellent goalkeeping St Neots could have sewn up the points before half time.

Ironically the visitors had the first real chance but Scott Spearink headed over the bar after six minutes. Four minutes later visiting keeper Ben Derbyshire showed just how difficult he would be to beat as he threw himself fearlessly to block a volley from Barrington Belgrave that looked to be a certain opening goal. He was however beaten after seventeen minutes when from a Mark Barry corner Chris Garwell flicked the ball in neatly at the near post. That suggested more goals to come but although chances were created the Bourne goal stayed intact. Ryan Francis sent a searing free kick just inches over the bar and from an inswinging Lawes corner Steve Kuhne saw a shot deflected wide of the goal. From a narrow angle Belgrave fired over the bar and two minutes before the break another Ryan Francis free kick beat the keeper all ends up but rebounded from a post.

Bourne began the second half well and began to press forward but they created few chances with Tony Russell and Kevin Ashby well in control at the back. From an Ashley Deverall corner Belgrave brought an important save from Derbyshire but it was clear that St Neots had lost their grip in midfield. The tiring Garwell was replaced by Ivan Finch and Mark Franklin came on for the disappointing Deverall. With Patching in the St Neots goal not having had a direct shot to save St Neots raised their game in the last ten minutes and could have had several more goals. From a Francis cross the unmarked Steve Kuhne headed the ball down past the keeper but it bounced over the bar and he then missed again from close range heading well wide. The same player could have had a penalty when he appeared to be pulled back by a defender but the excellent Referee waved away his appeal. Meantime the unlucky Francis saw a shot clawed away for a corner and Franklin also brought a good save from Derbyshire. St Neots were left with a well deserved victory and a problem of how to put away a handful of well created chances.

Saints: Patching, Lawes, Barry, Russell, Ashby, Garwell, Hoggett, Deverall, Francis, Belgrave, Kuhne.

Subs: Finch (for Garwell 68 mins), Franklin (for Deverall 72 mins), Watts (for Lawes 90 mins), Murray & Moran.

Scorer: Chris Garwell 2 (17 mins) Clarke

MOM: Jon Hoggett