

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

Hinchingbrooke Cup
St Neots Town 3 Thrapston 1

Saints progressed to the next round of the Hinchingbrooke Cup with a hard earned win over First Division Thrapston.

Parading new signings Jon Chatfield and Ishmael George, Saints almost found themselves a goal down in the first few seconds when Jake Wesby shot over the bar but then went straight up the other end and scored themselves as Bas Belgrave fired a right footed shot across the keeper. Buoyed by this early success, St Neots continued to press as an Ashley Deverell cross was deflected for a corner as Steve Kuhne moved in and Russell Lawes fired a free kick over the top.

Gradually, Thrapston began to get back into the game as Saints lost their focus and made a number of errors. Chatfield had to make a useful save before Jon Hoggett went close following a good passing move and Bas Belgrave was denied a second goal by the outstretched leg of keeper John Kyte. However, Thrapston struck back after 18 minutes when Glenroy Bell scrambled the ball over the line following a corner. Play became very scrappy after this as Thrapston continued to frustrate the home side although George should have done better when he missed the target after a great cross by Belgrave and Kuhne headed over the goal from another Lawes free kick. Deverell also made a determined run through down the right but the chance was lost as he drifted too far wide.

Saints came out a bit more determined in the second half and Deverell was to the fore immediately with another run and shot followed by a free kick which was deflected for a corner. On 51 minutes the home side had a scare when a shot from Thrapston's Mark Redding just cleared the bar as a corner came out to him. Six minutes later, Kevin Ashby flashed a header wide from a corner before Manager Iain Parr introduced two substitutes to try and pep things up. Ironically, it was the away team that nearly scored next as Paul Norton sot over the bar under challenge from Ashby following an error by Lawes.

The game continued to be fairly even until Bas Belgrave was denied a penalty for the umpteenth time this season when he appeared to be brought down by Kyte after 75 minutes. This incident seemed to spur the Saints on and they regained the lead when substitute Ryan Francis controlled the ball well in the box, turned and put the ball into the net. He was involved again a minute later with a free kick from which Steve Kuhne headed just wide of goal. Thrapston then nearly snatched another equaliser before Saints made sure of the win a minute before the end of the game. With the best move of the night, Kuhne, Francis and Belgrave combined down the left flank before Ivan Finch slipped an astute pass to Mark Barry who knocked the ball passed the advancing keeper.

Saints: Chatfield, Lawes, Barry, Watts, Ashby, Garwell, Hoggett, George, Deverell, Kuhne
Belgrave

Subs: Finch (for Garwell 54), Francis (for George 54), Murray, Moran, Osborne (for Deverell 79)

MOM: Bas Belgrave