

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

UCL Premier Division
Wootton Blue Cross 1 St Neots Town 2

St Neots extended their lead at the top of the table to five points with this win but more remarkably it was their first victory in the league match at Wootton in nine visits. The match was played in continuous rain making conditions very difficult but both sides stuck to their task throughout and with chances at both ends the outcome of the match was in doubt right up to the final whistle. Perhaps St Neots could have been more comfortable winners had they not missed a first half penalty kick but their determination was obvious as they came from behind to win for the third time in five league outings to take their unbeaten run to six matches under Iain Parr and Ivan Finch.

Wootton looked the better side in the early stages and after an early let off for the visitors when Scott McGregor missed his kick in front of goal the home side took the lead in the fifth minute. Kristoff Karpuik sent the ball through a St Neots defence caught square and Craig Daniel produced an impressive burst of speed to go on and send his shot wide of the advancing Jon Chatfield. Within four minutes St Neots should have been on terms when Ryan Francis was pulled back by a defender and a penalty awarded but former Wootton player Ashley Deverall who had scored in the Rowley Park meeting of the two sides put his spot kick over the cross bar. The conditions were playing their park as Daniel too advantage of an Ashby slip to cross but Karpuik just failed to get a touch in front of goal whilst at the other end Francis had the ball in the net but was ruled offside. After 26 minutes Wootton were lucky not to be reduced in numbers when Barrington Belgrave went past home goalkeeper Piotr Karpuik to be brought down. The Referee issued only a yellow card but St Neots were justly rewarded when Steve Kuhne scored only his second goal of the season from the penalty spot. Tony Russell and Francis both brought saves from Karpuik whilst a long range Danny Marsh shot was well saved by Chatfield.

What proved to be the winning goal came after 58 minutes as Barrington Belgrave chased a Jon Hoggett past and shrugged off the challenge of last defender Damian Hazlewood to send a low shot past the keeper to claim his tenth goal of the season. He almost added to that tally with a cannon ball effort well saved by the home keeper but as the game progressed condition took their tally and both sides introduced substitutes. Both Marsh and Daniel kept Chatfield busy with shots from outside the area and in the fairly lengthy added time Wootton almost stole a point. Substitute Yaroslav Korman went past two tiring players and fed Kristoff Karpuik whose shot angled towards the top corner of the net was brilliantly pushed away at full stretch by Chatfield. After the match the news filtered through that second placed Boston had dropped two more points in their visit to Deeping.

Saints: Chatfield, Hoggett, Barry, Russell, Ashby, Garwell, Beevor, Francis, Deverall, Belgrave, Kuhne.

Subs: George (for Beevor 68 mins), Franklin, (for Francis 78 mins), Fehmi (for Barry 86 mins), Watts & Patching.

Scorers: Steve Kuhne pen (26 mins) Barrington Belgrave (58 mins)

MOM: Jon Chatfield