

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

UCL Premier Division  
**Desborough 1 St Neots Town 1**

Desborough proud unbeaten start in eleven league matches this season was on the line in this match as St Neots visited with an unbeaten league record so far this season. At the end of the contest just shaded by the home side both sides preserved their records but for St Neots it came at a cost as they lost both central defenders to injury and it is probably providential that they are the odd side out on Saturday now with all three first choice stoppers having to be regulars with the physiotherapist. In the week preceding the contest Danny Marlow had transferred from Desborough to St Neots and he expected a hostile reception both on and off the field and that expectation was correct. Desborough equalising goal came just four minutes from time and was the result of continuous pressure with the patched up St Neots defence very reliant on another inspired display by goalkeeper Jon Chatfield.

St Neots could not have wished for a better start for with the first tackle of the match after 57 seconds Danny Marlow was cynically fouled by one of his former team mates and the free kick found Ryan Francis who fed the unmarked Gary Watts up for the set piece. His perfectly weighted pass let in Steve Kuhne who timed his run to perfection to beat the offside flag and put the league leaders in front. Five minutes later Gary Watts appeared to be stamped on as Desborough hit back and after lengthy touchline treatment he was led off with a badly bruised calf to be replaced by Kevin Ashby. There was another scare for St Neots soon afterwards when Ryan Francis was injured but he was able to carry on after treatment. St Neots looked dangerous each time Barrington Belgrave was on the ball but some uncompromising tackling by the home defence snuffed out his best work although he did have one net bound effort deflected for a corner by a defender. The home side were beginning to enjoy the better of the possession but their finishing was wayward with efforts from Michael Sneddon, Michael Byrne and Scott Marshall all off target. St Neots might have increased their lead against the run of play two minutes before the break but a good full length save by home keeper Michael Evans frustrated a well placed shot from Chris Garwell.

St Neots had a good spell after the break with Marlow heading wide from a Belgrave cross and Evans bravely blocking a shot by Francis. However Desborough soon regained the initiative with Page volleying just wide after a defence splitting move and Chatfield producing a brilliant reflex save to deny the unmarked Sneddon who looked certain to level the scores. The pressure on the St Neots defence continued with Ivan Finch outstanding in their rearguard action and the speedy Byrne could have levelled when he beat Chatfield to a through ball from Page only to angle his shot across the face of an open goal. With Mark Burrows struggling with a groin injury St Neots had to reshuffle with Ashley Deverall on in midfield and Steve Kuhne switched back to central defence. With just Belgrave left up from St Neots were now in a containing position and they held out until four minutes from time when following a Scott Marshall corner the ball found its way across goal to the unmarked Paul Malone and he scored what was a deserved equaliser for Desborough. It was not one of St Neots better performances but their hard work merited their point.

**Saints:** Chatfield, Hoggett, Barry, Burrows, Watts, Garwell, Finch, Marlow, Francis, Belgrave, Kuhne.

**Subs:** Ashby, (for Watts 9 mins), Deverall (for Burrows 77 mins), Hole (for Garwell 83 mins), Fehmi & Hall.

**Scorer:** Steve Kuhne (1 min)

**MOM:** Jon Chatfield