

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

UCL Premier Division
St Neots Town 3 Potton United 1

A brace of goals from Steve Kuhne against his former Club guided St Neots to a much needed victory in the last quarter of an hour of a match full of incident. It was the first two goal haul for the record striker since April 2006 and it helped to restore confidence after the sides' disappointing showing against Long Buckby. With the queue outside the treatment room lengthening St Neots had three key defenders missing and they introduced new signing Steven Dogbe from Barton Rovers at the heart of the defence alongside the solid Kevin Ashby. Steve Kuhne's recall to the side after three games on the bench proved to be a winning decision and Ivan Finch and Mark Franklin also returned to a much changed line up.

The two sides had picked up a point apiece from their earlier league meeting at The Hollow and from the start of this match both sides looked committed to a positive approach. Potton were denied an early stranglehold on the game when the woodwork denied then not one but two goals in the opening four minutes. First a Nathan Frater free kick surprised goalkeeper Jon Chatfield but rebounded from the bar and then Shibli Miah shot on the turn and saw his effort also rebound from the bar. St Neots quickly hit back with Ryan Francis arriving late to meet a Mark Franklin cross to screw his shot wide and then visiting keeper Joe Pursell produced an important save to push a Mark Franklin shot over the bar. He also denied Barrington Belgrave backtracking to retrieve a lengthy lob and with the game continuing end to end Mark Barry produced a great tackle to deny Miah as he slipped his marker and bore down on goal. Potton had a good spell just before half time and Chatfield saved from Neil Walton and then bravely smothered the ball on the line after a goalmouth melee.

St Neots began the second half well with three off target finishes in the first five minutes and then Potton broke out for the unmarked Walton to squander a gilt edged chance volleying over the bar when he should have scored. Goals had to come and the first arrived after 65 minutes when an opportunistic lob by Nathan Frater from fully 40 yards caught Chatfield off his line and nestled in the back of the net to put the visitors ahead. The equaliser came just seven minutes later as Belgrave was hacked down in the area by Dean Chapman. Steve Kuhne's penalty kick was parried illegally by Pursell but as an Assistant Referee indicated a retake Ivan Finch followed in to score and the goal was given to Potton fury. They were still complaining four minutes later when a long cross from Mark Franklin found the head of Steve Kuhne whose effort deflected in off a post to put St Neots in front. That seemed to break the Potton spirit and substitute Chris Garwell on for the limping Mark Barry set up Arin Fehmi and when his shot was parried Steve Kuhne was on hand to claim his second goal of the match and complete a very important victory.

Saints: Chatfield, Hoggett, Barry, Dogbe, Ashby, Marlow, Finch, Franklin, Francis, Belgrave, Kuhne.

Subs: Fehmi (for Francis 63 mins), Garwell (for Barry 78 mins), Fisk (for Franklin 88 mins), Deverall & Moran.

Scorers: Steve Kuhne 2 (76 & 85 mins). Danny Marlow (72 mins)

MOM: Kevin Ashby