

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

Hunts Senior Cup: Round Two
Brampton 0 St Neots Town 6
(played at Rowley Park)

The score was predictable but the Hunts Senior Cup minnows left Rowley Park with their dignity intact after a determined display despite being reduced to ten men for the last 21 minutes of the match. St Neots whilst taking their opponents seriously rested players and tried an experimental 3-5-2 formation and Manager Iain Parr must have been pleased with the outcome. Brampton were able to boast the man of the match in 41 years old goalkeeper Richard King who pulled off a series of fine saves when exposed and their players will have gained valuable experience from the match but they were never in with a realistic chance of recording a shock result.

With regular goalkeeper Jon Chatfield nursing a thigh strain and St Neots not wanting to cup tie their Reserve goalkeepers they called up 17 years old Jordan Houghton son of their former Manager to don the gloves for a very unexpected senior debut. He had little to do but will be delighted with a clean sheet. St Neots took little time to stamp their authority on the match and they were ahead after just four minutes when Mark Barry acting skipper for the first time took the responsibility to score from the penalty spot after Barrington Belgrave had been upended in the penalty area by James Houston. Four minutes further on Mark Barry doubled his goal tally collecting a delightful chip over the defence from Belgrave to beat the keeper. The pressure was maintained and the overworked Richard king made a fine near post save from a Ryan Francis cross and then he dived full length to push away a spectacular diving header from Kevin Ashby. Clive Day was booked for a frustrated tackle on Francis on the half hour but a minute later Francis put his name on the score sheet with an unstoppable volley after the visiting defence failed to clear a Danny Marlow cross. After 35 minutes it was 4-0 when a David Fisk cross beat everyone except Kevin Ashby on the far post and he was left with a simple tap in finish. However Brampton finished the half with a flourish producing their only two genuine scoring chances of the match. After Neil Wasahlo had produced their first shot on goal after 38 minutes he set up Stuart Harris for a volley that was acrobatically pushed over the bar by rookie keeper Houghton. Then a minute later Matt Linnell sent over an inch perfect cross presenting Harris with a simple headed finish but he put the ball disappointingly wide.

The second half saw the tempo slow as Brampton looked happy to defend deep in their own half. After 62 minutes King made a point blank save to turn a close range Steve Kuhne header onto the bar but from David Fisk's resultant corner Kuhne was left unmarked at the far post to head in the fifth goal. Six minutes later Day picked up his second yellow card for dissent and with Brampton reduced to ten men the game seemed to tail off. Chris Garwell who had looked very positive in midfield after injury scored his first St Neots goal since 6th October after a slick move involving substitute Ashley Deverall and Ryan Francis and it was then left to Richard king to take centre stage with three fine saves to deny further goals to Deverall, Garwell and substitute Arin Fehmi.

Saints: Houghton, Finch, Ashby, Dogbe, Marlow, Garwell, Fisk, Barry, Belgrave, Kuhne, Francis.

Subs: Fehmi (for Barry 53 mins), Franklin (for Belgrave 69 mins), Deverall (for Kuhne 69 mins), Watts & Russell.

Scorers: Mark Barry 2 (4 & 8 mins), Ryan Francis (31 mins), Kevin Ashby (35 mins), Steve Kuhne (63 mins), Chris Garwell (71 mins)

MOM: Danny Marlow