

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

Hunts Senior Cup: Quarter Final
Yaxley 2 St Neots Town 1

St Neots crashed out of the Senior Cup at Yaxley as they fell to their first defeat away from Rowley Park since 18th August last year. It was a disappointing contest with neither side able to come to terms with the slippery conditions and Yaxley's second goal that put them on top was the result of what appeared to be an error by the Referee. St Neots were not defending set positions well and from a 35th minute Elio Salerno corner the ball bounced awkwardly and appeared to strike a home player on the hand and to the amazement of all the Referee awarded a penalty that was neatly converted by Ricky Hailstone. St Neots' protests were strangely muted and although they hit back with a second half penalty of their own they never really looked like winning. Danny Marlow and Luigi Rocco returned after suspension but the latter was injured in the second half.

Kevin Byrne should have put St Neots in front after nine minutes when Yaxley keeper John Feetham made a rare error but his shot was cleared off the line by Anthony Thomas. Just sixty seconds later Thomas was in action at the other end of the field as he produced an unstoppable volley from a Salerno corner to put the home side in front. Feetham then produced two good saves to deny Ryan Francis and Jon Hoggett and the recalled Francis then shot wide with a chance he should have converted. St Neots seemed to lack any sort of rhythm with Yaxley looking dangerous on the break and from the third of a series of corners that controversial penalty extended their lead and at half time the visitors seemed to be searching for some inspiration.

Luke Maitland replaced Paul Bloss after the break but there was no perceptible improvement but on the hour Byrne was denied what looked to be a blatant penalty when he was brought down from behind. Yaxley continued to create chances and Mark Burrows did well to clear a header from Mario Palazzo off the line. At the other end Rocco headed wide but Yaxley could have extended their lead after 73 minutes when Teddy Rimmell was left completely unmarked at the far post but Jon Chatfield saved well. Four minutes later St Neots were awarded their penalty as Byrne was fouled and he slotted home the spot kick to reignite St Neots hopes of a late revival. However those hopes were smashed five minutes before the final whistle when Byrne was red carded after he appeared to kick out at an opponent as a result of some very rough treatment from the home defence. It was a disappointing end to a below par performance as Yaxley gained revenge for their 2006 home defeat by St Neots in this competition.

Saints: Fox, Russell, Barry, Burrows, Dogbe, Bloss, Rocco, Marlow, Hoggett, Byrne, Francis.

Subs: Maitland (for Bloss 46 mins), Chatfield (for Fox 55 mins), Franklin (for Rocco 70 mins), Ashby & Fisk.

Man of the Match: Steve Dogbe