

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

UCL Premier Division
St Neots Town 3 Holbeach 0

After their disappointing performance seven days earlier St Neots rediscovered their form with a workmanlike and convincing performance to earn themselves three more valuable points to stay in touch back in second place in the UCL Premier Division. Selection changes seemed to freshen up the team with Jon Hall and Davis Fisk coming back in as the wide midfield players and Chris Johnson linking up with Kevin Byrne up front. Holbeach are averaging almost two goals per match but their front players were tightly controlled by Steve Dogbe and Tony Russell and goalkeeper Jon Chatfield was hardly ever tested whilst Jon Hoggett and Danny Marlow controlled the midfield. With champions Deeping crushed 3-0 at Long Buckby, St Neots performance there looked not as bad as first seemed.

Holbeach began brightly and Chatfield saved from a narrow angled shot by Ian Dunn but this proved to be an almost isolated direct shot from the visitors. They then got the ball in the St Neots net but Chatfield had been fouled in the build up and St Neots responded quickly with a 17th minute goal to claim the lead. It was a slick move with Chris Johnson shifting play across field to find the unmarked David Fisk wide on the right and his cross was not cleared and Dean McElroy pounced to claim his first goal in a St Neots shirt. Holbeach won a disputed free kick on the edge of the area but Dunn thundered his kick high over the bar whilst at the other end a Johnson shot was blocked and Jon Hoggett had an effort cleared off the line by Elston as St Neots began to control the build up to half time. The single goal half time difference gave a good impression of the first half and St Neots started the second period as they had finished the first.

Both Fisk and Johnson spurned early chances by putting their efforts wide of goal with Byrne involved in both the build ups and then two minutes past the hour St Neots stamped their authority with a second goal. County Youth starlet Jon Hall making his first full start for St Neots had shown fine pace on the left and he was rewarded when he chipped a neat pass over the defence for Kevin Byrne to claim his sixth goal in nine appearances and effect a stranglehold on the game for his side. Holbeach tried to respond but their front runners got very little joy with Tony Russell and Steve Dogbe solid and confident. St Neots then introduced Luigi Rocco and Andy Findlay as substitutes for Hall and Byrne and this seemed to improve St Neots grip. Danny Marlow and Jon Hoggett seemed to win everything in midfield and further chances were created with Fisk and Johnson both guilty of missing chances. Marlow's efforts were rewarded after 77 minutes when he set up Andy Findlay for a well taken third goal and before the final whistle Johnson had the ball in the net only for his effort to be ruled out. Overall it was the best Rowley Park performance since the victory over champions Deeping in December.

Saints: Chatfield, McElroy, Bloss, Dogbe, Russell, Marlow, Fisk, Hoggett, Johnson, Byrne, Jon Hall.

Subs: Rocco (for Jon Hall 68 mins), Findlay (for Byrne 68 mins), Franklin (for Fisk 80 mins), Belgrave & Finch.

Man of the Match: Danny Marlow