

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

UCL Premier Division  
**Boston Town 0 St Neots 0**

It was a disappointing outcome for both teams who dropped three places in the table as a result having started the match in third and fourth places in the table. However for a vastly under strength St Neots line up it should be regarded as a point gained rather than two points lost. With two regulars suspended, another unavailable and three squad players rumoured to be moving to other clubs St Neots resources were stretched to the limit that they had one youth player and three staff members on their substitutes' bench. It was as well that coach Steve Fox was a named substitute for after 23 minutes he had to replace Jon Chatfield in goal after the regular custodian had pulled his groin and despite his lack of match practice Fox kept a clean sheet that contributed hugely to the end result. In front of him the back four all looked solid with Mark Burrows back from injury after missing the last three matches. His personal contribution earned him the man of the match award ahead of the other three defenders leaving the free scoring home side frustrated. With three of the absentees all strikers St Neots named Barrington Belgrave and Luigi Rocco up front but it was clear that neither are fit and as a result St Neots gave home keeper Bart Griemink a very comfortable afternoon.

There was a slow start to the match in terms of goal scoring chances. Mbyiyee Medine recruited by the home side from neighbours Boston United shot over the bar and at the other end a header by Mark Burrows was sliced past his own goalpost by Matt Kennedy but when St Neots were forced to change their goalkeeper there had not been a direct shot at either goal. Fox had only been on the field for ninety seconds when he had to throw himself full length to push away a shot from Gary Nimmo and then he did well to save with his feet from Leigh Taylor. Neal Spafford headed over the bar from a corner whilst St Neots better openings seemed to come from set piece free kicks. Rocco was the livelier of the two front men but he was too often chasing shadows with little support from the midfield players.

St Neots had a better spell straight after the break with Burrows heading a Danny Marlow corner over the bar and Jon Hall twice beating the home keeper with teasing crosses but on each occasion the Boston defence were able to clear the ball. Fox was then in action again gathering a sharp shot from Nimmo and St Neots did open up the Boston defence but Jon Hall's low cross found no one at the far post having beaten the three defenders. After 66 minutes James Hall was thrown on for his senior UCL debut to replace the limping Rocco and he transformed St Neots wilting attack holding up the ball intelligently and running at a rather lumbering home defence. He twice brought saves from Griemink whilst at the St Neots end Fox was again alert to push away an angled shot by Paul Goodhand. Playing a line role up front James Hall again impressed using his pace to squeeze between defender and goalkeeper to get in a low shot that finished in the side netting. However Bosto could and perhaps should have stolen all three points as the match moved into added time when Nimmo knocked down a cross and Shaun Baker volleyed high over the bar when he should have scored. That would have been an injustice to a determined if not very impressive performance by the visitors.

**Saints:** Chatfield, McElroy, Bloss, Dogbe, Burrows, Jon Hall, Marlow, Hoggett, Fisk, Belgrave, Rocco.

**Subs:** Fox (for Chatfield 23 mins), James Hall (for Rocco 66 mins), Finch & Parr

**Man of the Match:** Mark Burrows