

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

UCL Premier Division
St Neots Town 0 S & L Corby 2

St Neots disappointing home performance and defeat was overshadowed by a 61st minute flare up on the pitch in which the match threatened to get out of control. Up for a set piece Steve Dogbe fouled a defender and as players rushed in to offer their advice to the Referee Luigi Rocco was floored by what looked like a head butt by Pete Sneddon. After the Referee and his Assistants had calmed the warring factions Dogbe was booked for the foul, Rocco was booked for his retaliation but incredibly Sneddon also escaped with a yellow card to the amazement of everyone. From that point on the match deteriorated as the visitors persisted with frustrating time wasting tactics whilst a reshaped St Neots side never looked capable of breaking down a stubborn visiting defence. 'We were very poor today' said Chairman Bob Bridges as St Neots trooped off the pitch with their heads down and those five words summed up an afternoon best forgotten. With the Hall twins watching from the sidelines because of a County Youth commitment the following day St Neots had brought in player/manager Ivan Finch in midfield and Reserve striker Andy Sincock up front but neither impressed.

Winning the toss the visitors elected to play with wind advantage and they enjoyed the better of early possession as a result. Bobby Drain got the advantage of a wind assisted bounce over the defence to go clear but only shot straight at Michael Parkin and Derek Simmons shot wide when well placed. At the other end Barrington Belgrave was played clear by a great through ball from Dean McElroy but he collided with the advancing keeper and the chance was lost. However after 24 minutes the visitors were ahead when a defender missed his tackle allowing Simmons to advance and angle his shot across the keeper for the opening goal. Another close range Belgrave effort hit the visiting keeper but St Neots were creating very little in front of goal. Then ten minutes before half time again down their left flank the visitors tore St Neots apart as Mark Forbes through ball found Richard Forbes and he netted from almost the identical spot to the opening goal. St Neots badly needed a half time pick-me-up but there was no evidence upon the restart.

Andy Sincock registered his first Premier Division effort on goal with a looping header comfortably saved by the visiting keeper just before the flare up that typified a very poor second half. St Neots reacted by sending on all three substitutes Tony Russell, Danny Marlow and John Biting for Fisk, Finch and Sincock and in the reshuffle Steve Dogbe found himself up front more in hope than expectation. Marlow did bring the best save of the match from the visiting with a dipping volley but that was as good as it got. A rare mistake by Jon Hoggett allowed Sneddon a run at goal and a good save by Parkin but at the other end the visitors never looked likely to concede a goal. The Referee did book one Corby player for blatant time wasting but after all his threats to add time on he allowed less than two minutes extra time prior to the final whistle.

Saints: Parkin, McElroy, Bloss, Dogbe, Burrows, Hoggett, Finch, Rocco, Fisk, Belgrave, Sincock.

Subs: Marlow (for Finch 61 mins), Russell (for Sincock 61 mins), Biting (for Fisk 61 mins), & Rayner

Man of the Match: Jon Hoggett