

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

UCL Premier Division  
**Wellingborough 1 St Neots 3**

It was a winning start for new St Neots Manager Marvin Johnson who must have been delighted with both the result and the performance at Wellingborough. There were some very solid individual performances throughout the side and after the match the Referee praised the attitude of the St Neots players. There was just one change from the side that went to Stotfold with Jon Hall coming in for only his third start at Premier Division level at the expense of Tony Russell who was on the bench. Wellingborough had won 2-1 at Rowley Park in the first meeting of the sides this season but they never looked like repeating the dose with St Neots well in control throughout the ninety minutes.

The match got off to a slow start but St Neots created all the early openings with Wellingborough unable to produce a direct shot on goal in the first 20 minutes. Jon Hall had an early free kick saved, Dean McElroy tested John Hughes from outside the area and Jon Hoggett's header from a McElroy cross was also collected by the home keeper. After 21 minutes a corner from David Glass afforded Wellingborough their first chance but Cornell Haughton's shot was two yards wide of its target. Then on the half hour Hall's corner from the right was headed back into the area by Luigi Rocco for Dean McElroy to cushion a header down to Kevin Byrne who scored acrobatically with a well placed volley on the half turn. However the lead lasted just ninety seconds for in their next attack Wellingborough were awarded a free kick 30 yards from goal in a central position and Tim Wooding's well struck free kick seem to find Jon Chatfield unsighted. The keeper got his hands to the ball but the force carried in into the net to level the scores. The rest of the first half produced few attempts on goal by either side and St Neots must have thought they had enjoyed the better of the half.

The second half was just two minutes old when St Neots stamped their authority. John Hall sent in a low free kick that was not cleared and Luigi Rocco on the edge of the area rifled in to claim his third goal for the Club. That proved significant for it seemed to knock the stuffing out of the home side and one minute past the hour Danny Marlow found Dean McElroy forward supplementing the attack and he collected the through ball to place his shot well beyond the reach of John Hughes to open up a two goal advantage. Wellingborough sent on all three substitutes and adopted a more attacking approach but the St Neots defence looked solid and confident and the home side's only clear chance was a free header that Adam Randall put over the bar. Just before time lively substitute Alfie Taylor forced Jon Chatfield into a full length push around the post but overall he had enjoyed a fairly trouble free afternoon. Although St Neots are unable to rekindle an assault on the top three places they are now showing that their squad can compete and they maintained their defensive record away from Rowley Park – the best in the Premier Division.

**Saints:** Chatfield, McElroy, Bloss, Dogbe, Burrows, Hoggett, Marlow, Rocco, Belgrave, Byrne & Jon Hall

**Subs:** Russell (for Jon Hall 76 mins), Fox (for Belgrave 76 mins), Finch (for Marlow 87 mins)

**Man of the Match:** Dean McElroy