

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

UCL Reserve Divisions One  
**Stotfold res. 5 St Neots Town res. 3**

Only a couple of wins away from lifting the UCL Reserve Division One championship Stotfold are still unbeaten after 25 matches as a result of this victory over St Neots whose fine unbeaten run ground to a halt. However the young visiting side gave their hosts plenty to think about coming from behind to lead 2-1 at half time. Stotfold then moved up a gear to score three times in ten minutes just after the break and St Neots late rally was halted eight minutes from time when goalkeeper Ryan Rayner was sent off for committing an unfortunate handball offence outside his area. With seven teenagers in their line up St Neots battled bravely against their most experienced opponents but can hold their heads high in defeat.

The opening exchanges were evenly fought with Stotfold just shading play but not really creating clear openings. Then after eleven minutes Kane Dougherty sent a free kick from 22 yards through a badly constructed defensive wall to give the home side the lead. Stotfold then began to look the better side with their set piece play always putting the St Neots defence under pressure. Ryan Rayner produced two classy saves to deny Ryan Aldrin and Dougherty but with seven minutes of the first half remaining St Neots scored twice in a minute to turn the game in their favour. First an exquisite free kick from 30 yards by man of the match Andrew Wale comprehensively beat home keeper Clive Weatherall and then a fine diagonal run across the penalty area by Ben Cole set up Nathan Field for a well taken second goal.

Stotfold came out after the break looking very determined and after Rayner had made a fine save to deny Neil Smith they rattled in three quick goals to earn a stranglehold on the match. The first after 54 minutes came from a very poor defensive pass that set up Ryan Aldrin and he gave Rayner no chance with a well placed shot and then four minutes later Aldrin's perfectly weighted through ball set up Callum Donnelly whose burst of pace sent him beyond the covering defender. After 64 minutes Kane Dougherty claimed his second goal of the match with an acrobatic overhead kick and the static St Neots defence watched. That could have ended St Neots resistance but they responded after 73 minutes with a breakaway goal from Andy Sincock that reduced the deficit to a single goal. Rayner's unfortunate dismissal came when he raced from his goal and appeared to slip and handle the ball leaving Referee John Hedge no choice but to show him the red card. Mr versatile Andy Wale took over in goal but will be credited with Stotfold's final goal as he turned an Aldrin cross into his own net.

**Reserves:** Rayner, Farmer, Lane, Wale, Ashby, Field, James Hall, Jon Hall, Cole, Pink & Sincock.

**Subs:** Reed (for Jon Hall 77 mins), Shotter, Oakley & Fox

**Man of the match:** Andrew Wale