

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

UCL Premier Division
Stotfold 2 St Neots 0

This was the match that neither side really wanted to play but the League Management Committee ordered the replay following the abandonment of the original match on 8th March. For Stotfold with the Championship already wrapped up for the first time ever the result was probably more important so that they could end their season on a winning note but St Neots fielded a patchwork quilt side containing only six of the players involved in the first meeting at Roker Park. The Champions were clearly the better side but St Neots made them work hard for their points with the regular defensive pairing of Steve Dogbe and Mark Burrows producing excellent performances whilst stand-in goalkeeper Michael Parkin made several first class saves. Stotfold are now finished six points short of Deeping's tally last season whilst St Neots still have two rearranged away matches to fulfil at St Ives and Northampton Spencer.

St Neots lost Davis Fisk injured after just seven minutes but by then Stotfold had established a hold on the match and two minutes later they were ahead. A flowing move down the right saw Callum Donnelly cross to the far post where the unmarked Joel Mason was allowed to rise to head a well placed effort beyond the reach of Michael Parkin. St Neots first effort saw an Andy Wale cross searching for the head of Jamie Osborne but veteran Stotfold keeper Brad Gilham left his line to punch clear. A fierce volley by Louis Lee then rebounded from the St Neots crossbar and at the other end substitute Dean Hamilton saw his shot deflected for a corner. A booking for each side late in the half proved that the competitive edge to the match was still there and right on half time a shot by Andy Wale was also deflected away from the home goal.

St Neots came out and made a positive second half start with a cross from Stuart Pink clipping the top of the Stotfold cross bar and Gilham making a save from a lengthy effort by Jon Hoggett. Tommy Hull had a shot cleared off the St Neots line as Stotfold began to dominate again and then Osborne limped off to be replaced by teenager Michael Stannard. Sixteen minutes from time Stotfold added a second goal to effectively clinch all three points as Danny Marlow fluffed a headed clearance and Tawhid Juneja rapped in a low shot. Stotfold almost had the last word when a net bound shot by Lee Allinson was clawed away by Michael Parkin.

Saints: Parkin, Russell, Bloss, Hoggett, Burrows, Dogbe, Wale, Marlow, Pink, Osborne & Fisk.

Subs: Hamilton (for Fisk 7 mins), Stannard (for Osborne 73 mins).

Man of the Match: Steve Dogbe