

**St. Neots Town F.C.**  
Season 2005-06 Match Report

**UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION**

St Neots 1 Northampton Spencer 0

This victory propelled St Neots back into the top half of the league table for the first time since early November and extended their unbeaten run to six matches. That run began just over a month ago when they won their first meeting this season with second in the table Northampton Spencer so this victory also afforded them their second league double of the season. So the result was excellent but the performance of the team did not live up to the level of previous matches. For much of the match Spencer were the dominant force and they enjoyed much the larger share of possession as they adapted far better to the blustery conditions. Great credit is due to the St Neots defence who tackled and covered with great skill and even when Nicky Hurst limped off 15 minutes from time player/manager Steve Kuhne slotted into the defence to continue the sterling work. With several games still in hand St Neots have the foundation to go on to earn a creditable spot in the top six in the league table.

Ironically after an indifferent start St Neots scored the only goal of the match after ten minutes in their first real attack. It came from what was arguably the best move of the game with Jon Hoggett and Matt Endersby combining well on the left before slipping the ball inside to Russell Lawes and his probing cross was swept into the net by Steve Kuhne to continue his striking consistency as he collected his sixth goal in eight matches. Spencer replied with a neat flick from Matt Collins that tested Steve Young whilst at the other end visiting keeper Ollie Urquhart twice saved well from Gary Walker. However as the first half progressed the visitors began to dominate with Steve Young in constant action saving from Adam Wigley (twice) and Darren Frost.

With the wind in their favour after the change around more was expected of the St Neots attack but the visitors carried on where they had left off with Collins and Frost both shooting off target when well placed. In a rare attack after 64 minutes St Neots got the ball in the net again from a Russell Lawes corner but the eagle eyed referee spotted that Steve Kuhne had used his hand to put the ball in and he was booked for his trouble. Four minutes later the same thing occurred at the other end this time with Luke Dowling being booked for the same offence and then as Spencer stepped up their attacking the match became almost confined to the St Neots half with Gary Walker left to plough a solitary furrow up front for the home side. Steve Young made a couple of important saves to keep his goal intact but the visitors were unable to create a clear cut chance as the St Neots defence held out for their sides unlikely victory.

**St Neots:** Young, Clark, Lawes, Matthews, Hurst (Claridge 81 mins), Hoggett, Franklin (Maltay 59 mins), Grant, Walker, Endersby.

**Sub not used:** Dellar, Ashby, Smith

**Goal:** Kuhne (10 mins)