

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

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
St Ives 1 St Neots 2

Despite having to make three changes and putting out an inexperienced side St Neots recorded a victory over their neighbours more convincing than the final scoreline suggests. They effectively sewed up the three points that guarantees them a fourth placed finish in the Premier Division of the UCL, in the first half with two well-taken goals. St Ives strained every sinew in the second half in an attempt to get back into the game but too often their final pass let them down and despite conceding a late goal St Neots goalkeeper Steve Young had precious little to do all afternoon. The result completed another league double for the visitors and frustrated the home followers in the good Bank Holiday crowd. St Neots man of the match was the hard working Ricky Dear who celebrated his return to Westwood Road by scoring a goal before going on to dominate the important midfield area.

Early injuries to Craig Donaldson who recovered and Will Fordham who had to be substituted after just 13 minutes upset St Ives early rhythm. Aaron Bannie pounced on a close range effort by Gary Walker and then watched the same player shoot wide and making only his second start the energetic Sean Murray headed narrowly wide from a Mark Franklin cross. Then after a spell of pressure St Neots forged ahead on 22 minutes as Murray retrieved a cross and slid the ball square to Ricky Dear who netted with a well-placed shot. St Ives first meaningful effort came eight minutes before the break when Glynn Cooke shot a yard wide with a low shot through a crowded area following a badly cleared corner. At the other end Bannie did well to save from a curled free kick by Franklin and he also twisted to turn a Sean Murray effort over the bar. However in time added at the end of the first half Joe Jordan making his full senior debut sent over a corner and at the near post Sean Murray directed a header past Bannie to double St Neots' lead.

After an early second half lob by Jon Hoggett St Neots seemed happy to sit back and defend and although St Ives began to shade the possession they created few chances. On a rare St Neots break Bannie did well to save a shot by Gary Walker with his feet and as the minutes ticked away St Ives threw caution to the wind and pinned t Neots back. That made them susceptible on the break and Bannie once again denied Gary Walker with a tip over the bar from a Steve Kuhne free kick. St Ives left their real attack until the last five minutes when Liam Kennett shot wildly over the bar when well placed but as the match moved into injury time he set up Stefan Lewis for the St Ives consolation goal with an unselfish squared pass across the defence. For St Ives it was too little too late and for St Neots it was an important triumph for their fringe players.

St Neots: Young, Matthews, Parr, Hurst, Kuhne Hoggett, Franklin (Warboys 83 mins), Dear, Murray, Walker, Jordan (Smith 68 mins).

Subs not used: Clark, Grant & Fox.

Goals: Dear 22 mins, Murray 45 mins.