

St. Neots Town Football Club
Season 2006-07 Match Reports

UCL Premier Division
St Neots 0 Cogenhoe 1

With six victories in their last seven matches the in-form Cogenhoe were probably pre-match favourites to win this match but after twenty minutes that premise looked to be unlikely. The improving St Neots side with new signing James Taylor at the heart of their defence totally dominated the opening period of the match and could have been three goals ahead but for an inspired debut appearance by visiting goalkeeper Patrick Pesel. He had received an International clearance in the past week and so made his first appearance and he broke St Neots hearts with some brilliant saves.

Initially he had some welcome assistance from defender James Thatcher who cleared off the line from John Coley after a clever flick by Ryan Francis after 11 minutes but then he dived bravely at the feet of Francis to block after good work by Martin Williams. He then produced two further outstanding saves going full length to push away from a close range Tom Moran effort and then denying Williams a headed goal from a Craig Reynolds corner with a swallow dive to push the ball for another corner. St Neots maintained their dominance for much of the first half with Ryan Francis shooting wide and Williams seeing a header cleared over his own crossbar by Jason Lee and when half time arrived home keeper Martyn Patching had been in serious action just once to get behind a fierce rising shot from Fazel Koriya.

The second half saw a distinct change in fortunes with the visitors having far more of the possession and they quickly started to create their own chances. Patching made an important save as Steve Diggin burst clear and then Rob Goldring rounded Russell Lawes to set up Jason Lee but his header was over the bar. The visiting goalkeeper was lucky to stay on the field when he pulled substitute Bas Belgrave down just outside the area but escaped with a yellow card and he then made up with a fine save to deny Craig Reynolds a goal from the free kick. Cogenhoe then had a dominant spell in which they contrived to miss several good chances with poor finishing and nine minutes from time a St Neots winner on the break looked certain when Belgrave's pace took his clear and his cross found Coley but the keeper did enough to force his shot wide. Three minutes later and almost predictable Cogenhoe snatched the winning goal. James Taylor looked to be fouled in the build up but Steve Diggin was allowed to go on and his low angled shot went under the despairing dive of the goalkeeper. It was a disappointing result but a very encouraging performance against one of the best sides in the division.

St Neots: Martyn Patching, Jimmy Dillnut, Russell Lawes, Tom Moran (Jason Darvall 67 mins), James Taylor, Ivan Finch, Ashley Deverall, Martin Williams, John Coley, Ryan Francis (Barrington Belgrave 46 mins), Craig Reynolds (Mark Franklin 73 mins).

Subs not used: Cameron Facey & Ryan Hunt

Saints MOM: Jimmy Dillnut