

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

UCL Premier Division  
**St Neots Town 2 Kempston Rovers 0**

St Neots biggest win of the season so far this season had come in October at the expense of bottom of the table Kempston but those fans who had come to this return match expecting another goal feast were disappointed. The home side never looked like emulating their earlier 7-0 success despite probably having as much to play in this return match as the first. It was one of those nights when the ball did not seem to want to go into the net and the harder St Neots tried the less success they had. Perhaps the most frustrated player was goalkeeper Jon Hoggett who was a virtual spectator having not a single direct shot to save in the entire match. The first goal did not come until the 75th minute where the collective sigh of relief was apparent and the second goal – a penalty – came in time added at the end of the match. In fairness to Kempston they worked extremely hard and defended stoutly but the Management team will be keen to iron out the problems before the very testing Christmas period when they have three vitally important fixtures.

St Neots included Kevin Byrne in attack for his home debut and he looked very lively but lacked support with Barrington Belgrave withdrawn from his usual role to play behind Byrne and Steve Kuhne. Goals looked certain to come as St Neots dominated but Mark Franklin shot across the face of goal, Jon Hoggett brought a good save from Kempston keeper Chris Williscroft and the keeper made another fine save to keep out a low shot from Byrne. Kempston's only first half shot came from Matthew Cheveralls after good work by Ashley Yeomans but the ball finished up in the side netting. St Neots became increasingly frustrated at the lack of success and towards the break play became very scrappy with neither side looking like scoring so the half time whistle was a relief to both.

The second half began with the introduction of another new signing Luigi Rocco and he was handed the midfield role filled by Belgrave with the striker pushed wide on the right which did nothing for the shape of the side. However St Neots continued to dominate with Rocco making an early contribution with a shot that flew only just wide. Williscroft who had impressed in the first half did well to parry a stinging shot from Franklin and then Mark Burrows had a close range header from a Franklin blocked on the line. The closest to a goal came after 72 minutes when Rocco drifted wide to cross and find the head of Steve Kuhne who beat the keeper to the ball but saw James Cooper clear off the line. The eventual breakthrough came three minutes later when Franklin produced another searching free kick that was not cleared and Mark Burrows netted to claim his first St Neots goal. St Neots sent on two more substitutes and the unlucky and hardworking Kevin Byrne was twice denied a debut goal by fine saves and Burrows had the ball in the net again but was ruled offside. With the match in added time Byrne went clear to be pulled down by the keeper and a penalty awarded. The Referee correctly issued a yellow card and Mark Barry took responsibility for the kick and scored his fourth goal in as many matches to seal an important but unimpressive victory.

**Saints:** Chatfield, Hoggett, Barry, Burrows, Dogbe, Marlow, Franklin, Belgrave, Kuhne, Byrne, Francis.

**Subs:** Rocco (for Francis 46 mins), Garwell (for Marlow 78 mins), Fisk (for Kuhne 82 mins).

**MOM:** Kevin Byrne