

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

UCL Reserve Divisions One
Yaxley res. 1 St Neots Town res. 3

St Neots Reserves are finishing their season with a flourish because this result at Yaxley extended their unbeaten run in League and Cup to seven matches. It was also their second victory this season at Leading Drove having also beaten Yaxley in the Scott Gatty Cup. It was a very solid team performance despite making six team changes from that which had won on Tuesday evening and they showed real character coming from behind after conceding an early goal. The victory was based on an uncompromising defensive performance in which sweeper Andrew Wale was outstanding whilst the hard work in midfield provided a stream of attacking support to the front runners. Yaxley's early promise tailed off and in the second half St Neots keeper Jordan Houghton was left to play the role of a spectator.

The early exchanges were fairly even with Kevin Ashby up for a set piece bringing an early save from Jerome Chambers. Then after 19 minutes St Neots were caught as Mark Butler sent a glorious cross field pass to split the visiting defence and the pace of Scott Cunningham took him past the last defender to send a low shot under the diving body of Houghton. St Neots hit back with Ben Cole setting up Sean Fox to angle a shot just the wrong side of the far post and then Cole collected a Marlow through pass to bring a good save from Chambers. Ten minutes before half time parity was restored when a slick St Neots move brought their equaliser. Danny Marlow won the ball in midfield to feed Fox and his shrewd reverse pass set up Ben Cole for a clinical finish. With Ant Davis on for Fox after the break St Neots adopted fresh tactics pushing Huckle forward to make three up front and they quickly began to dominate possession. After 55 minutes Marlow sent over a corner to the near post where Kevin Ashby beat defender and keeper to the ball to glance a header into the net to put the visitors ahead. Home keeper Chambers then kept his sides' hopes alive with a brave save at the feet of Huckle but a third St Neots goal after 71 minutes effectively sealed their victory. Ben Cole showed great persistency to dispossess a defender and his pass set up substitute Ant Davis for a perfectly placed left foot shot beyond the keeper. From that point Yaxley managed just a single attack that terminated with Houghton falling on the ball whilst at the other end Marlow, Davis and Tom Coles all had chances to further extend the winning margin. The three points lifted St Neots up to sixth in the table and with six matches left they could make further upward progress.

Reserves: Houghton, Field, Sincock, Wale, Ashby, S.Lane, Marlow, Coles, Cole, Huckle & Fox.

Subs: Davis (for Fox 46 mins), Churms (for Wale 80 mins), Reed (for Huckle 85 mins).

Man of the match: Andrew Wale