

St. Neots Town Football Club  
Season 2008-09 Match Reports

UCL Premier Division  
**St Neots Town 3 Bourne Town 4**

In his first match in charge at Rowley Park St Neots new Manager Steve Lomas found out the extent of the problem in front of him as his side were beaten by Bourne Town who are two places below them in the league table. The result match probably hinged on two factors – two first half errors by home keeper Lee Crockett and a well taken hat trick from visiting striker Miles Hunter. Two players on loan from the Peterborough United academy made their débuts for St Neots and a quick check on the line up showed that only two players made the starting line up from the last team named by former Manager Marvin Johnson. That probably sums up the problem because despite the obvious ability in the St Neots side there was a lack of cohesion and rhythm that can only come from fielding a settled side. However with four more home matches to come in April there may be time to iron out some of the difficulties.

A fair sized crowd in shirtsleeves witnessed a very confident start by St Neots with Michael Hyem firing over the bar in the first minutes and then them taking the lead after ten minutes. A shrewd cross over the defence by Keith Thomas just cleared the last defender and making his first start for the Club Luke Abraham confidently volleyed the ball into the net. One minute later the lead could have been doubled when the other Peterborough apprentice Scott Ginty shoed fine pace to beat a defender but shot just over the bar. After 15 minutes in Bourne's first attack they silenced the home supporters as Miles Hunter produced a snap shot from 25 yards that beat Crockett's dive and levelled the scores. At the other end a clearance off the line by Sam Kirton saved his side from an Abraham cross but just three minutes after drawing level Bourne were ahead. Full back Owen Smith overlapped and crossed into the six yards box where goalkeeper and defenders failed to move and Miles Hunter strolled in to head the ball over the statuesque keeper. Abraham continued to pester the Bourne defence and his cross was taken off the toe of Ginty by Aaron Ridout and Crockett then made some amends for his earlier boob by saving well from Hunter. After 34 minutes Bourne were awarded a free kick 30 yards from goal and Gary Walters drifted in a free kick catching Crockett on the wrong side of his goal to extend the lead to 3-1. St Neots only reply was a shot by Josh Sozzo well saved by Lambley.

St Neots made two substitutions almost straight after the break moving Michael Hughes into midfield and introducing another new signing Tony Scully who looked quite impressive on the right flank. However after 50 minutes Sylvain Legwinski slipped as he attempted to tackle Miles Hunter who gleefully advanced on goal to complete a memorable hat trick. St Neots were then dragged back into the contest as Luke Abraham hit a lengthy volley over the visiting keeper to pull the score back to 4-2 and in a bid to add fresh legs Chris Johnson became St Neots final substitution for Ginty. With ten minutes left Josh Sozzo had a shot blocked by the keeper but when the ball returned to him he made no mistake with his second effort giving St Neots those last few minutes to seek a fourth goal. It nearly arrived three minutes from time when Thomas and Abraham set up Sylvain Legwinski but his header came back off the inside of a post into the surprised goalkeeper's arms. St Neots final effort fell to substitute Johnson but he shot wide.

**St Neots:** Crockett, Bannister, Hughes, Thomas, Fuff, Legwinski, Abraham, Hyem, Ginty, Sozzo, Knight.

**Subs:** Jon Hall (for Hyem 48 mins), Scully (for Knight 48 mins), Johnson (for Ginty 76 mins), Okechukwu & Steve Dogbe

**Man of the Match:** Keith Thomas