

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

Hinchingbrooke Cup Semi-Final
St Neots Town 3 Stofold 0

With Stotfold pressing the disciplinary self-destruct button and finishing the game with nine men, Saints finished up comfortable 3 – 0 winners and will meet St Ives in the final on 18 May.

Both teams had players missing due to injuries or unavailability and it was Stotfold who started slightly the better with Lee Crockett saving a Paul Donnelly free kick after a couple of minutes. Saints began to come more into the game and Tommy Hull sliced a Matt Kennford cross over his own bar. From the corner, Glen Fuff's shot was just wide before only an excellent goal line clearance prevented Luke Knight from giving the Saints the lead. Bickerstaff and Mitchell both put in shots before, on 38 minutes, a good break by Shane Fox and Ismael Ehui saw Knight shoot over the bar when he probably should have done better. The game then took a dramatic turn right on half time when Knight's cross was volleyed home from the edge of the box by Luke Abraham. A minute later, Ehui was brought down in the box by Tommy Hull. Mark Bryant, who was one of three Stotfold players already booked, received a second yellow card for disputing the decision and was sent off. Ehui then stepped up to take the penalty but was denied by a fine save by Brad Gillham.

Ryan Mitchell headed an early Stotfold free kick over the bar at the start of the second half but Saints were determined to keep their shape and composure. Abraham and Kenneford had efforts on goal before the decisive second goal came on 73 minutes when Abraham's effort was blocked and Ehui put away the rebound. Two minutes later Paul Donnelly earned a second yellow card for a deliberate trip and his dismissal left Stotfold two players short. Mitchell almost punished some slack home defending before Saints made their numerical superiority count on 81 minutes with the third and final goal of the game. Substitute Pete Okechukwu's fine cross left Kenneford with a simple tap in and Luke Swain was unlucky not to add a fourth with two efforts in the closing minutes.

Saints: Crockett, Dogbe, Jon Hall, Hyem, Fuff, Legwinski, Kenneford, Knight, Fox, Ehui, Abraham

Subs: Conroy-Owen, Swain (for Abraham), Okechukwu (for Fox), Bannister

MOM: Michael Hyem