

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

Friendly Match
St Neots Town 4 Luton Town XI 2
(Attendance 521)

Saints delighted a large Rowley Park crowd coming back from two goals down to deservedly beat Luton Town in a very entertaining pre-season match. The visitors were the better side for the first 25 minutes but as the match progressed St Neots got more and more confident and they dominated much of the second half and could have won by a more convincing margin. Amongst the side there were a number of triallists some of whom looked very promising and another feature of the home side was the number of teenagers on view. There was also a dominant performance from Steve Dogbe in defence and it seems that the back four will again be built around him.

There was a very disappointing start for the host side when after just four minutes Jon Hall carelessly gave away the ball that was switched quickly to the unmarked Scott Sinclair and he finished clinically with a low shot.. St Neots struggled in the early stages to forge an attacking momentum with Peter Okechukwu playing a lone role up front but the visiting keeper did make one brave save at his feet when hew broke clear. St Neots best early effort came when Luigi Rocco cut in from the right to fire narrowly over the bar but after 23 minutes the visitors doubled their lead. The goal came from defensive hesitation and the lively Scott Sinclair pounced to claim his second goal.

This seemed to spur St Neots and ten minutes later they were awarded a free kick some 30 yards from goal and Declan Rodgers claimed the first ever St Neots goal at the new Rowley Park with a shot that caught Aaron Fletcher napping at his near post. That was the impetus the home side needed and two minutes after the restart Peter Okechukwu chased a Barry Albone through ball and beat the substitute keeper to the ball to take advantage of a rebound to walk the ball into the empty net and level the scores. Eleven minutes later a poor clearance by goalkeeper James Gilbert presented the ball to Declan Rodgers and he confidently made ground before scoring with a well placed shot. From that point on there was only going to be one winner as St Neots dominated play from midfield creating further scoring chances. Substitute Kevin McElroy left the keeper rooted to the spot as his shot rebounded from a post and he then headed a James Hall cross over the bar when he should have scored. With five minutes left James Hall was brought down as he sprinted on goal and although Gilbert parried the spot kick Dean Sturnolio followed up to complete the victory with St Neots fourth goal.

Saints: Webster, Granville, Jon Hall, Hoggett, Dogbe, Dyett, Bannister, Albone, Okechukwu, Rocco, Rodgers.

Subs: James Hall, Dean McElroy, Chatfield, Knight, Wennford, Kevin McElroy, Fisk & Sturnolio.

MOM: Steve Dogbe