

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

Friendly Match  
**St Neots Town 5 Oxford United 2**

Mirroring their performance against Luton the previous week, Saints recovered from conceding two early goals to score five themselves to complete a fine victory at Rowley Park inspired by the hard working Luigi Rocco.

The home side were a goal down in the first minute when Ben Dyett was caught in possession and Matty Taylor scored with a delightful chip over keeper Jon Chatfield. Buoyed by the early goal, Oxford continued to press with Chatfield having to make a couple more saves with Chris Fower looking particularly dangerous. After Rocco had forced the Oxford keeper to smother his shot, Fower doubled the visitors lead on ten minutes with a powerful header when Saints were caught out by a quickly taken corner.

Oxford continued to dominate but Saints gradually clawed their way back into the game as their passing game came together and, after Rocco had hit a post, James Hall was sent clear by an excellent pass but was cynically pulled down by Foster in the Oxford goal just outside the penalty area. Declan Rogers made sure that this did not go unpunished by scoring direct from the resulting free kick to raise the home team and crowd.

Rogers then made a good break down the left and fed Rocco who shot disappointingly wide. Oxford then went back on the attack as the pace of the game quickened and Fower was wide with two shots and a header which was dealt with capably by Chatfield. With the final action of the half, Rogers had a powerful shot parried by the keeper.

Saints came out with even more purpose in the second half. Knight knocked the referee over with one shot and had another tipped round the post by the Oxford goalkeeper who then had to parry an effort by Jon Hoggett who couldn't quite force the rebound home. Rogers then hit the post before the Saints pressure told after fifty seven minutes when Jon Hoggett's effort from a free kick taken from the right was touched over the line by substitute Pete Okechukwu for the equaliser. Oxford then came back into the game and had one effort cleared off the line from a corner.

Saints, however, gradually became the dominant team and emphasised this with a hat-trick in the last ten minutes by Luke Knight. His first effort, on eighty minutes, was a direct free kick after Okechukwu, who was causing the Oxford defence numerous problems with his pace & footwork, was brought down about twenty five yards out. This was followed up five minutes later by a searing right foot shot into the top corner of the net and a quick finish inside the box when the ball fell kindly to him after several efforts by Saints players had been blocked three minutes from the end.

**Saints** Chatfield, Dean McElroy, Granville, Hoggett, Dogbe, Dyett, Knight, Bannister, James Hall, Rocco, Rogers

**Subs:** Jon Hall, Webster, Okechukwu, Kev McElroy, Kenneford, Sturniolo, Fisk

**MOM:** Luigi Rocco