

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

F.A. Cup

St Neots Town 7 Holbeach United 1

St Neots stormed into the next round of the FA Cup despite not being at their best against fellow UCL side Holbeach United who, lacking their two experienced strikers, failed to stretch home keeper Jon Chatfield during the game.

Saints started brightly with Matt Bannister replacing the absent Jon Hoggett although it was the visitors who had the early efforts on goal when Stacy Cartwright shot wide from a free kick & Omar Joof fired over from 25 yards. Luigi Rocco replied for the home team when he cut in from the right but, on his weaker left foot, failed to hit the target. Ross Nichols headed over the crossbar for Holbeach before Saints took the lead on 18 minutes. Peter Okechukwu forced a corner on the right which was swung in by Declan Rogers. Dean McElroy appeared to flick the ball on to Ben Dyett who headed home to score his first goal for the Club. Five minutes later Saints doubled the lead as Rocco was brought down in the box as he latched onto a through ball and Okechukwu tucked away the resultant penalty. Chatfield then made an easy save from Jonny Allen as Holbeach tried to get back into the game before, on thirty two minutes, Declan Rogers broke down the left and fired a left footed shot across the keeper and into the net after leaving three defenders trailing. He then scored a fourth three minutes later when he caught Stacy Cartwright in possession, rounded keeper James Doughty and slipped the ball home.

A stunned but happy home crowd were almost rewarded by a fifth goal in the first minute of the second half when Rocco, who probably should have shot first time, saw his final effort brilliantly tipped over the bar by Doughty. However, he was not denied for long when Rogers broke once more down the left, left the onrushing keeper stranded and squared the ball across the box for Rocco to score. Substitute Matt Kenneford saw Doughty save at his feet as Saints pushed forward and Barry Albone dragged a shot wide before Holbeach scored a penalty of their own. Dean McElroy was penalised and Matthew Warfield sent Chatfield the wrong way from the spot after seventy one minutes.

The home side restored their five goal lead on eighty one minutes when Matt Kenneford latched on to a high ball on the left hand side of the area and expertly lobbed the unprotected visiting keeper as he came out. Seven minutes later, Saints were in seventh heaven as Kenneford was put through centrally on goal and he calmly slotted the ball home. The striker then shot across goal before the referee blew the final whistle leaving Saints to contemplate another home tie against Lincoln United on 30 August.

Saints: Chatfield, D McElroy, K McElroy, Knight, Dogbe, Dyett, Bannister, Albone, Okechukwu, Rocco, Rogers

Subs: James Hall, Jon Hall, Kenneford (for Okechukwu 40), Field (for Albone 80), Fisk, Sturniolo (for Dogbe 69), Webster

MOM: Rogers