

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

UCL Premier Division
S & L Corby 4 St Neots Town 3

Leading three one just after half time and playing some excellent passing football, St Neots stopped doing what they were doing well and, as a consequence, conceded three goals and three points to S & L Corby.

With the kick off delayed due to the lack of an Assistant Linesman, Saints looked strangely out of sorts at the beginning of the match, particularly in defence, and conceded the first goal of the game on 12 minutes when Paul Djoneralovic turned Dean McElroy on the edge of the box and shot low past Jon Chatfield. This set back seemed to settle the visitors and, although they were grateful for a great saving tackle by Steve Dogbe, Saints began to force their way back into the match. Matt Kenneford was to the fore dragging a shot wide on 18 minutes and then seeing S & L goalkeeper Richard Lavin turn another shot away for a corner a minute later. From the corner Saints equalised as Lavin flapped at the ball under pressure from Dogbe and Jon Hoggett fired into the net.

From then on, St Neots now trade mark passing football clicked into top gear as they began to stretch the home team, particularly down the left hand side where Kevin McElroy and Declan Rogers found plenty of room. Lavin had to tip over a Luke Knight free kick after a foul on Matt Bannister and then saw Rocco shoot wide. However, Rocco was on target on 32 minutes when Bannister released Rogers on the left who, in turn, set Rocco up to score the second goal with a neat turn and shot. Another flowing move saw Luke Knight have another effort well saved and Kenneford almost got on the end of two successive through balls which just ran away from him down the famous S & L slope. Two minutes from half time Rogers made another break down the left but Rocco could not quite get over the ball and headed over.

The third goal was not far away and came three minutes into the second half when, as Rocco took a defender away to the right, Knight slipped a delightful through ball to Kenneford who slotted the ball past Lavin with an economical finish. From this point on, Saints let the game slip away as S & L, to their credit, fought their way back into a game they should have been out of. Paul Malone headed over from a corner on 54 minutes and then Michael Sneddon headed past Chatfield following a free kick. On the hour mark, Chatfield made a brilliant tip over from another free kick but, from the resultant corner, Rocco was penalised for handball and Mark Forbes scored the equaliser despite Chatfield diving the right way.

Stung by this, Saints tried to get back in front as a Rogers cross was cleared away from Rocco as he tried to get on the end of it and a Bannister effort went over the bar. Chatfield was kept busy and made another fine save from Malone before Steve Dogbe was harshly penalised on the edge of the box from what seemed to be a clean tackle. S & L made the most of the Referees decision as Forbes scored his second goal of the game steering his right footed shot past the wall and into the bottom corner of the nest despite Chatfield's despairing dive. This goal was scored on 80 minutes and the last ten minutes saw Saints pour forward in search of an equaliser. Bannister was denied by a last ditch tackle and, from the corner, Dean McElroy could not get enough power on his effort. St Neots then came even closer to a goal when Rocco's cross was cleared off the line but it was S & L who almost snatched a fifth goal in injury time but a superb "one on one" save by Chatfield denied them.

Saints: Chatfield, D McElroy, K McElroy, Hoggett, Dogbe, Dyett, Bannister, Knight, Kenneford, Rocco, Rogers

Subs: Field, James Hall (for Kenneford 72), Jon Hall

MOM: Jon Chatfield