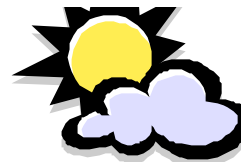




## Seven goal Saints lay losing record to rest



**The front page can't be without a memorable Men's 1st's match report—from The Hunts Post 15th January 2001**

**St Neots 7, Gorleston 3**  
SAINTS won their first league match in over two and a half years in emphatic style on Saturday. Their first victory in nearly 100 matches was duly celebrated afterwards by the whole club.

Iain Moore opened the scoring in the East League Division Two North match,

and Darren Coles doubled the advantage after a stunning solo run. Gorleston then responded with a soft goal to remind Saints that they would not have it all their own way. Chris Slatcher netted again for St Neots, only for Gorleston to fire another one back. Then the hosts opened up a gap with Moor adding two more to complete his hat-trick and Coles scoring another before the break.

Gary Croft had an array of chances for the seventh, and he finally took

one to settle the Saints' nerves. Gorleston scored a late consolation but they could not take the shine off St Neots' superb and long-awaited victory.

**And since that report the M1's have added to their tally with a 2-victory against Spalding, despite Gorleston dropping out of the league, voiding the 7-3 result. However results are getting much closer—a few more wins by the end of the season?**

## Club Weekend—7th & 8th April

### Saturday 7th

- Men's 1 match
- Ladies 1 match
- Boys U15 match

**End of Season Social** including awards, with a new award given out by Ben Sturges's parents.

### Sunday 8th April

- Girls U15 East League finals (St Ives)
- Wombles match
- Ladies Vets match
- Men's Vets match

Teas at Ye Olde Sun, Huntingdon Street

## AGM

Wednesday 11th April  
Ernulf School  
8 pm

**End of Season Social**  
The Rivermill Tavern  
Saturday 7th April 01  
7.30-12.00

Tickets £12.50 each  
Available from 10th March  
Buffet and Live Band

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**Note change of phone number**  
**from the Club Handbook**

# Clothing to keep you warm

**JACKETS** £23, **SWEATSHIRTS** £15-19.50, **FLEECEES** £23, **FLEECE HATS** £10, **CLUB SOCKS** £4, and **CLUB SHORTS** £15 (2 pairs available (L))

Contact [secretary@stneotshc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@stneotshc.co.uk) or phone Ros T to order

## Spotlight on .... Men's 2nd XI

To follow last year's achievement of coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with the same points as the two sides above was always going to be difficult, especially when all the younger players that did the work were promoted.

### First choice

A policy of always trying to play one juniors has paid off with 15 year old **Wayne Tunnah** now always a first choice when available. The remainder of the core squad have to rely on their experience, as well as pre-match ointments. It's paying off though, results so far show 8 wins and 3 draws from 15 league starts.

In goal we have **Nick Grant** who keeps the defence on their toes, and never misses an opportunity to tell them what they're doing wrong – even when they're playing well. In front of Nick, making him look good, we have a solid back four that combines youth (nearly) and experience.

### Youth & experience

At sweeper and vice-captain **Steve Moore** is one of 3 players who has only missed one game this season and has now found the goal for the first time in years – the Friday night training obviously works! **Phil Sargeant** is LD, making sure very little gets past, and **Steve Cameron** is back in the squad at RD. **Richard Owen** commands the central position bringing with him years of experience, and now weekly tales of another part of his body that could potentially go on the injury list.

The midfield has seen the greatest change this year. **Mark**

**"Eddie" Ireland** filled the centre spot until the first XI talent spotters saw him, now skipper **Phil Gillett** has the job of controlling the game and stopping the up and coming international players that we sometimes have to face. And Wayne Tunnah isn't just there to bring the average age down – he's learning from those around him, and should be part of the nucleus of the 1st XI in a few years.

### No prisoners

The forwards hold the top two positions in the Club's goalscorers table so far this year. **John Rip-pin** at CF is a prison officer off the pitch, but he takes no prisoners on it (sorry!) with 17 goals so far. Big **Kev Sequins Sequenza** can miss from anywhere – but he's still scored 10 goals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, so he can't be that bad!

On the LW **Craig Edwards** continues to show the skills that made him such a good player when he was younger, and he too has now discovered the goal again after a barren spell. A mention must also be made of **Michael Wilderspin** now that we've at last got Barry to let him play for us. Michael's speed, skill, and 2 goals in three starts means we'll always be trying to find a place for him from now on!

Last but by no means least we have our ever-present umpire **Brian Cooke** who keeps control of the game in his legendary way ("Oi Pal – look at me like that again and you're off!"), and entertains us by trying to keep son Oliver away from the pitch.

# Sidelines



## Goodbye

**Connie Stuart** (above) goes back to Canada on February 18th after two years at St. Neots and the hockey club. Connie played for the Ladies 3rd and 2nd XI's, despite never having played field hockey on an astropitch before coming to the UK.

**Darren 'Iggy' Coles** has also left the club to play hockey elsewhere in the county. Iggy (20) was been a member of the club since he was 14, and had recently played for Cambs U21's. We wish him well at his new club.

## Award nominee

**Kelly Farrer** (below) is leading the junior section by example – passing her Level 1 umpiring exams with flying colours, and being nominated for a Sports in the Community award, all within a couple of months of her 18th birthday. Kelly leaves at the end of the season to go to University, but will hopefully drop in occasionally to help out on the umpiring side! We'll keep you posted on whether she wins her award.



# Club future needs more volunteers, says President

One of the advantages of being in a wheelchair is that you don't have to fly around doing 101 jobs at the speed of light (unless you are pushed onto the Ernulf pitch by Dave Bailey, and released at 15 mph to sail gracefully, on your own, into the far corner).

Instead you sit there with time to observe—"see all, hear all, say nowt" is the old Yorkshire saying. I can't resist the urge to ignore the last one, so I've shaken myself out of my lazy brain-in-neutral- ways, and decided to put pen to paper.

## Young side

This season I've not been able to watch as many teams as last year, because I wanted to support Peter Giffard in the M1's. He's doing a splendid job under very difficult circumstances, and I can't praise the team enough for their stickability and willingness to learn. They are a very young side, beginning to work as a team, for one another, and it is now showing in their results.

Rome wasn't built in a day, and playing consistency will come with more experience and maturity. It must feel frustrating at times, but now they can see what they are capable of achieving.

The colts section of the club is a sound formation for the future. Your future. You have the ambition to play the game for as long as you can and 'put a bit back' into the game that has given you some much pleasure and pain over the decades.

## Folding clubs

Recently a bleak picture emerged in North Lincolnshire, where hockey clubs are folding, but only those that have not bothered with youth development. We at St. Neots cannot rely on a steady conveyor belt of youngsters from our local schools because

hockey is not highly developed there.

The youngsters love hockey' they want to play it every week. No messing about.

## Coaching pressures

This puts pressure on senior club members, who are there, week in week out, helping these kids realise their ambitions in the game. Trust me, it's a great feeling you get when one of them is chosen for a county squad. All that effort is suddenly worth watching their faces and hearing the excitement in their voices when they tell you the news. Even I got a great kick when I went to watch Vince Furey (ex-St. Neots member) umpire his first National League game this season, after ten years of hard work.

If you feel you can help occasionally,



even as a voluntary reserve, to cover for illness or commitment elsewhere (such as family) by a regular coach, it helps take the pressure off them. Even parents of colts are welcome because there are many non-specialist jobs that need to be done for and during colts matches.

**HAVE A GO!**

***John Slack (Club President)***

# Pitches

Hinchingbrooke is finally being relaid, hopefully in the next six months, but Ernulf is also starting to show its age, so how long before the Council re-lays our pitch? That is something we are going to investigate before the end of the season.

In the meantime please make sure you report any problems to the Reception at the Recreation Centre or to Ros T. This includes unsanded areas, goal problems, or studded boots!



# Teas

As most of you have realised—the teas have not been the same since Christmas as we lost our caterer.

We've been using the Rec Centre café, but are looking for anyone who is prepared to do the teas for between 3 and 5 teams every week. Price negotiable, but you need a food hygiene certificate.

Contact Ros T or Emma R if interested.

## Be nice to umpires please

Love them or hate them BUT you can't do without them, writes **Helen Sargeant**.

Remember the next time you criticise or whinge about the umpires, you can't play without them and consider whether you could do any better!

Umpires turnout on Saturday's and Sunday's just the same as you, in all weathers and conditions, and be it an umpire attached to the team, a pool umpire or the opposition's umpire they all do it so you can play hockey. Pool umpires believe it or not, actually do the job because they enjoy it! So think first before you start complaining.

An umpire sees (or should see?) the whole game not just the two metre square that you are playing in, so if you don't get the foul it could be that there is a superb advantage OR that the umpire is just human. If an umpire gets it right 95% of the time then surely you should be able to forgive the times that they don't.

Umpires, these days are encouraged to talk to the players. This doesn't mean a chat on the sideline but if a player asks the question (civilly!) then they should take the time to explain the decision. Also many good umpires will pass comments with players and have a good natured exchanges, maybe sympathise etc BUT don't try this with them all because, unfortunately, there are those that will still card you for uttering a word out of turn, although hopefully these are on the decrease.

If you totally disagree with an Umpires decision, its always easier to discuss it after the game in the bar with a drink than to end up watching the game from behind the goal.

### A few discussion points for the bar afterwards. What would your decision have been?

#### A shot at goal

A shot is taken at goal, goal keeper saves (as they should) and goes down on the ground. The ball remains free in front of the keeper, say one metre. The attacker storms in (as they do) and rifles it at the keeper. **What should the decision be?**

*Foul against the attacker, the attacker needs to make the effort to raise the ball over the keeper into goal.*

#### Raised ball

Ball taken down the wing and crossed (a hit). It enters the circle at knee height. One attacker no other players near, controls the ball and scores. **Is it a goal?**

*Yes, raised ball anywhere should be judged on danger only. The raised ball into the circle which is disallowed is the aerial. Note if the same scenario above was into a crowd of players then the foul would be for the defence because the ball was dangerously lifted.*

*But note—lots of umpires do not play this rule properly so don't expect it to be allowed even though it should be, i.e. six inches off the floor and they blow!!*

Helen Sargeant is St. Neots' resident Level 2 umpire, and is married to Phil Sargeant, who plays in the Men's section. Helen umpires every week for the East League, and was a regular member of the Ladies teams until she decided to take her umpiring a little more seriously a couple of years ago.

Helen and Phil are also regulars at colts training on Sunday mornings.

## Next year's committee

After trying out two committees this year — playing and general—it's been decided that they should come back together again, to try to pass the workload of running the Club around.

As John Slack's article emphasised—lots of hockey clubs are struggling at the moment, and St. Neots shouldn't be complacent. We, unfortunately, are reliant on the Astro at Ernulf, and without it the club would struggle.

### Finding money

But there are other issues to worry about within the Club. Money, is as always, a major consideration. Shirts, balls, junior training equipment, goalie kit, coaching fees, teas, and pitch hire. What do all these have in common—we need more money to pay for them!

We are desperate for someone, or several people, to join the committee as **Commercial Officer**, or as a sub committee. Their primary aim will be to search out sponsorship and apply for all the grant money there is available out there.

### Running the Club

And there are other positions to fill for next season as well. Maurice Young and Ros Twemlow would like to step down from the committee, so opening up the positions of **Club Chairman, Club Secretary and Club Captain**.

Captains will also be needed in the ladies and men's sections of the Club. With a very strong junior section at the moment, there is plenty of scope to change and bring in new talent next season in both the senior sections.

This will probably affect results in the short term, but I believe the Club is in one of those transient phases, when, in another couple of years, results will swing our way again due to the hard work, and foresight of captains now.

### Where to now?

**If you are interested in any of these positions, as either a playing member of the Club, or—given the size of the junior section—a parent, and would like to discuss these positions further contact**

**Ros Twemlow (01480 218213) or Maurice Young (01953 884362)**