



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

Vs Glasgow Harp
Allan Glen Park
Bishopbriggs
Wednesday 19th August
Kick off 6.45 pm



Strathclyde faced Glasgow Harp at Allan Glen Park (not far from Millionaires Row) in a tough opening fixture following Saturday's inevitably postponed game against Westerlands. Pikey Power's are currently taking bets as to when Westy's will play their first home fixture as their pitch is pure shite, I mean inadequate.

Clyde lined up in the increasingly familiar 4-3-3 formation mainly due to personnel issues, in other words Johnny Gordon will sign anything for a sandwich....FACT. So with Johnny's ineligibility posing a selection dilemma for Will he (after nipping outside the changing room for a quick chat and a wee snog with wee John) put Pete Ross in beside Ja Ja and JP in a 3 man midfield. The defence lined up with Broaders, Shanta, Hill and McBride, with Duffer, Niall (sorry am late I was at Hampden) and Sausages forming a 3 pronged attack. Last season's impressive performance and indeed our record against Harp meant the team went into this game full of confidence but Will and John stressed the need to win the battle and grind out a result.

As envisaged the game started at frenetic (fast JP) pace with both teams finding room on the flanks and zipping the ball about on lush slick surface but there were few openings in the first 15 minutes. The half progressed in the same vain with Harp perhaps moving into the ascendancy getting a lot of joy down their right flank. Wee Sean was heard to shout, " somebody geez a haund ah'm getting pumped oot here!". However, it was from a corner from the opposite side that saw Harp open the scoring. A high looping corner eluded the Clyde defensive zone and an unmarked Harp player (well Pete Ross was beside him but he was fixing his Alice band) headed it back across where the onrushing midfielder stooped to head home.

Strathclyde, slightly knocked off their stride took the game to Harp but were unable to draw level before the deficit was 2. A swift counter attack down the Harp right resulted in another cross to the back post where the Harp striker was on hand to volley the ball goal wards but Pete (slim jim) Hamilton pulled off a great save followed by brave block at the feet of the onrushing harp support only to see his efforts go unrewarded as a 3rd unchallenged Harp player was there to slide the ball home.

The second half saw Clyde alter shape to 4-4-2 and totally dominate possession although susceptible to the counter attack were able to prevent Harp scoring a third but couldn't find the net themselves. Several chances came and went and the longer the game went it felt like it wasn't going to be Clyde's night. Ja Ja saw a couple of headers miss the target, JP smashed a volley off the face of the GK who knew nothing about it and finally Scott was unlucky when he was closed out by some tight marking. In fairness to Harp they defended resolutely and looked to have added some more steel to their ranks for the coming season and should be a serious title contender.

Oh aye and Crossy came on and moaned at Pete for not kicking it straight to him from 80 yards. A rude awakening for the coming season and some players and personalities were missed but once everybody is back and JP has had his porridge and Capp has sewn his tights the Clyde will be back and this reporter predicts a 2-1 victory in the next game.

MoM Pete.