



Strathclyde faced Bannockburn in a top of the table clash at Stepps sometime in February and this reporter makes no apology for the lack of accuracy in this report as Pete the Cheetah has just asked me to write it. However, what I can say is the Clyde took the pitch after a two week weather break in confident mood after a convincing 2<sup>nd</sup> half performance against Bannockburn earlier in the season. Another statement I can make with positivity is that "inventiveness" is indeed a word after Will Senior provided hard hitting evidence to the dressing room court, ending his summation with, "I rest my case John ya wee fan dan....get it round ye....err yer honour".

Following Will's eloquent English lesson he set about communicating to the team how he planned to negate Burn's main threats, with key instructions going to Scott to suppress the holding midfielder's inventiveness. The team took to the Show Park in glorious (if a touch blustery) conditions and in the usual 442 formation of Pete, Hill, Shanta, Heg (C), MCall, Parr, Timo, Ja, Sean, Capp and Scott.

Clyde started the game in composed fashion and were passing the ball well without really posing to many questions of the opposition defence. In short (no offence Sean, JP, John), several forays down both flanks resulted in few chances on goal with the most notable incidents being Burn's heavy handed and unsporting treatment of Big Capp, ironically, this resulted in the big man picking up a ticket. With Burn's only real threat coming from their pacey, tricky front man Clyde were looking to convert their superiority into goals but it was Burn who had the first real chance to score from the spot.

A blind back pass from Heggie saw a Burn player nipping in ahead of Pete who could do nothing but bring the player down due to his (considerable) momentum (couldnae stop JP) but he redeemed himself and pulled off a tremendous save. This boosted Clyde who were to gain a spot kick of their own after an intelligent run from Shanta, no wait, I mean Timo. Clyde progressed down the right flank with Hill receiving the ball in an advanced position from JP before slipping the ball inside the box (via a meg) to the onrushing Swiss who nipped the ball away from a despairing lunge of the left back, penalty. Unfortunately, the usually reliable Sausage saw his kick saved by the impressive Burn GK but Scott was to redeem himself by giving Clyde the lead late on in the first half. He swept home hard penetrating a hole in the Burn backline after they failed to clear a Parr corner. 1-0 at halftime.

Will requested more of the same in the second half but Clyde couldn't seem to muster themselves into producing any attacks of note in the second half and paid the price as Burn struck twice from set pieces. The first coming after Pete ventured out to punch away a speculative free kick but he could only get it out to edge of the box where the midfielder blindly helped it back in to the unmarked striker who tucked it away past the lunging Heggie and Ja who had retreated to the goal line. This goal also roused the Burn's very poorly behaved sideline into a frenzy constantly encroaching onto the pitch and trying to intimidate JP. Resulting in him bench pressing a 53 y.o. Burn supporter before being subbed for the spritely Troy McClure. The second goal came from a corner that was needlessly given away by Hill, the thorn in Clyde's side, Burn's no.9, on hand to head home unmarked from 5 yards.

Clyde did rally behind each other in the latter, in true Heggie style, after the genial (good guy JP) skipper saw red for two bookings. Despite being down to ten and some questionable interpretations of the laws of the game by the ref, Clyde pegged Burn back in their own half but couldn't sneak that goal that perhaps the performance didn't deserve but certainly their endeavour and effort did. MOM Ja, he drove the team on from the centre of the park ably assisted by Timo.