



**Vs Barnhill Ams**  
**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January**  
**Stepps**  
**KO 2.00 pm**



The last 32 of the Scottish Cup was the task facing an in-form Strathclyde side; and specifically Barnhill AFC of Dundee. A third consecutive home game was particularly pleasing for the team as they do prefer the luxurious pitches that Stepps has to offer and they do not have to worry about getting lost due to distinctly average directions from the Uni's favourite graduate public servant (a.k.a Sniffer McCall).

Gaffer Watson had to make some last minute squad changes as Will Jnr was struck down by a menacing tooth canal injury; the result being the introduction of the banterful Phil Gal. The only other absentee from a reasonably consistent squad was JG, who is still enjoying his well-earned winter break in the land of tie's. There was also some tinkering to the starting line up, as the Ginger Broadfoot was brought back into the fold for Shanta Mark and after turning a 1-0 lead into a 5-1 win with his introduction last weekend (albeit without scoring or setting up any of the goals!) the Ja man was brought in for the industrious Murray "Don't shoot, don't score" Duff. The former probably due to the fact that the Gaffer knows it is unfair on other teams to play all of team Ayr as they never seem to get beat and the latter due to the fact that Duffer is probably all goaled out after his midweek exploits (a record of almost 2 a game).

The match started at a not unexpectedly frantic pace as the two teams attempted to sound each other out. Right from the off the game was open and the ball was making it's way freely to the Clyde's midget wingers. The Clyde were able to get their passing game on the go, although were getting continuously closed down by an athletic opposition. However, a few good moves were put together and the Clyde were unfortunate not to make an early breakthrough after good attacking down both flanks which led to crosses just missing the other attackers in the box. Apart from that, the Clyde were limited to some long range efforts that didn't overly trouble the visiting keeper.....until the man who always takes a lot of time in the shower (some would say the longest....) Ja unleashed a 25 yard thunder bolt towards the top of the onion bag, which the keeper did well to get to but could only palm out the ball in front of the goal to Capp who coolly slotted home. Although this is Capp coolness, therefore this involved awkwardly semi-controlling the ball with both knees before shin bashing it home!

The Clyde defence was holding firm against a lively opposition attack, who were ultimately limited to a few first half corners which were on the whole defended resolutely. The referees whistle brought the half time break and with it words from the Gaffer to continue with the hard graft (with the exception of Kid Rock who is a flair player) and to look after possession of the ball.

HT - 1-0

The second half continued in a similar way with the game becoming even more open. Top scorer S.Fingers was coming even more into the game and was unlucky not to score with a few efforts. The left hand post was also hit after McCall released Kid Rock on the left who beat the offside trap and fired in an excellent ball into the pomo to Capp who managed to direct the ball on target (much to the shock of anyone who saw him in the warm up). A goal there would of seen a more comfortable end to the game for the Clyde, however what entailed was a more nervy serious of crosses and long balls which he defence had to deal with. And deal with they did, as PC was not forced to make any of his outstanding blocks. This excellent defending meant that the Clyde were able to hold on to their lead to see the game through.

A good result for the Clyde which sees them progress to the last 16 of the Cup. A solid goalkeeping display behind a very dependable back four, which also included Shanta Mark as he replaced the General for the last 25 mins, was the cornerstone for the win. The midfield was hard working and organised as always with two middle men displaying a particular keenness and ability to take the ball from the defence and use it well. The front two would of been happier with a few more goals, but it was one of those afternoons, epitomised by a three on one break near the end which was wasted as the intended pass came off one of Fingers' sausages. However as they say in Switzerland, a victory is a victory.....

FT - 1-0

Team: P.Fast Cat, G.Broadfoot, MC All, General (65 S.Mark), S.Lifter, K.Rock (80 D.Muff), JBB.Parr, J.Binks, TG.Fothers, S.Fingers, F.Reak, Sub: P.Gal.

MoM: S.Lifter - could of gone to any one of the five used in the back four, but the organisation of the inspirational skipper was clear to see.