



**Vs Daziel,
Saturday 10th January
St Andrews High
KO 2.00 pm**



After the traditional U-turn on the trip to park the boys arrived in buoyant mood after the festive break. It should be said at this point that the highly dangerous middle of the road manoeuvre Capp attempted in the Alfie was the quickest he turned all day, although, like the car he is extremely handsome. Dalziel, and Strathclyde, were desperate to get this game played and as such the game was moved to a local 3G park to mitigate the impact of the inclement (bad, Shanta and JP) weather.

A somewhat historical team talk from Will Senior, taking into account a lot of the positive points to be drawn from the Falkirk game in December, focussed the lads on what standards needed to be maintained and where we should look to be more clinical (i.e. in front of goal, no names shall be mentioned but some could learn from Shanta's strike rate). The team that performed magnificently against Falkirk again merited starting this game: Peter the Cheater, Paddy, Heggie ©, Shanta, McCall, JP, Ja, Duffer, Sean, Scott and Capp.

The game started very nervously for both teams with possession being surrendered very cheaply indeed with the conditions playing a starring role, however McCall was later to take centre stage. Mistakes and misjudgements from both teams resulted in a few half chances but neither team was able to profit from these openings. As the half progressed Clyde began to impose themselves on the game with Heggie showing tremendous leadership and JP and Paddy linking well on the right with great assistance from Ja on several occasions. At this stage Ja began to link up the play well via short simple passes (increasingly with Daziel players as the game wore on) and surging forward when the chance arose and it was from one of these surges that the first goal came. The big man broke forward and dribbled at the heart of the Daziel defence and after a clever jink, similar to a Shanta move, was brought down just outside the D. Up stepped Dave McCall (fresh from closing a record 4 businesses down in December) and intelligently used the wind to curl the ball with power over the goal keeper and into the top corner. One nil to Strathclyde at half time, a great effort given the conditions were against them but it should be noted that some good luck allied to poor finishing from the hosts helped maintain the slender lead. The only thing that was lost in the first half was the feeling in Will Jnr's feet.

0-1 Half time.

The second half started brightly with some slick passing moves and great team pressing resulted in a territorial advantage being gained by Strathclyde. The midfield duo of Ja and the recently impressive Duffer began to use this to their advantage by bringing both full backs into the game and playing some excellent probing passes. It was from an excellent move down the left hand side that McCall bagged his second. Great play from Sean and McCall resulted in the latter being given the space to surge in to the 18 yard box on the angle, he let fly with his trusty left peg and whistled the ball in at the front post. Obviously, he wasn't listening to Will when he pointed out that we should concentrate when we have clear chances and shoot across the goal. 2-0 to Strathclyde with an unfamiliar list of scorer(s) but soon this list would become more handsome and how!

Clyde now began to drive home their superiority only hindered by the weather and Ja giving the opposition the ball on numerous occasions. Nonetheless, it was soon three nil as Duffer slotted home a deserved third after a great Arsenal esk move. After a slick exchange of passes, probably not involving Ja, Capp released the late runner from midfield with an inch perfect pass and without breaking stride Duffer delightfully ran onto the ball and delicately slotted it home from 12 yards a great finish to a penetrative move. However, arguably the best was yet to come. McCall full of confidence from his 2 goals was released on the left hand side but in a relatively harmless halfway line position, however, showing a great turn of pace (lol) and controlled dribbling was able to glide past 3 Daziel players before dispatching a rasping right foot, yes right foot, shot in off the upright. A great goal and hatrick for McCall. Jeff Stelling on Soccer Saturday was adamant that is his fourth in the last 2 games. It was alleged that McCall dedicated his hatrick to a local green grocers he closed down on Friday! It should probably be mentioned at this point about some great defence work from Pete, sandwiched in between the flurry of goals, in the form of a double save which was magnificent, but if he is honest he should have just had to had to make one save although he misjudged the flight of the first shot he pulled off a remarkable block after recovering his footing but we all know that Pete likes things in twos like his ladies and his sandwiches.

Following, the introduction of Timo, Hill and Watson (Jnr) Strathclyde added to their commanding lead after a sublime finish from Capp. The front two by this stage were linking up almost telepathically (without thinking Shanta and JP) and it was from a move that started with Hill and Paddy at the back that the ball was eventually rifled into the top right hand corner from 20 yards. The ball was worked across the pitch after a series of crisp passes, the excellent McBride then rolled the ball into the tireless Sausage Fingers (who's hands looked like the big blue foam hands you get at the Gladiators they were so cold) he back flicked the ball perfectly into the path of handsome Hornell who fired the ball into the top corner past the now drenched and despondent goalie. This sublime finish was also acknowledged by the Daziel number 9 who greeted Cap with a high 5. During the



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animated celebrations somebody was heard to say "Capp is on fire, two birds' numbers at New Year and now scoring from out with the 6 yard box.....Wow!" Also, it was alleged that McCall said, "not as good as my goal, oh no!" Shanta and JP just asked what the score was?

The remainder of the game was played out in relative calm, discounting the weather of course, if only Pete would have shut up about the new match ball after it was booted (probably by Ja) over the fence into a local business (that McCall is probably going to close down). Overall, a great result that lifted Strathclyde above their opponents in the league with two games in hand.

Man of the match: Will Watson, great to see a real goal scorer back at the club to give Scott some company but seemingly Will is out for 6 weeks after contracting hypothermia (a serious sniffle Shanta and JP) on the sidelines.