



After numerous previous call offs the 1<sup>st</sup> team finally got their Challenge Cup campaign off with a tie away to East Kilbride YM. After losing the previous week to Bannockburn in the League, Will made it clear that there was to be no hangover like the last time we lost a game and that all boys were playing for their places in the up and coming last 16 of the Scottish cup. Will named a starting 11 of Pete H in goals, a back four of Hammy, Shanta, Heggie and Paddy at left back. A midfield four of Johnny "boom boom" Parr, Ja ja, Teeemo, and Callum McIver, and starting up front were Capp and Duffer. On the bench this week was Scott Mc, Niall McClure and Sean McBride. And so to the game.....

The game kicked off and was a scrappy affair from the off with Clyde unable to get into their usual passing rhythm which was frustrating for everyone involved. Credit must be given to East Kilbride here as they were battling for everything and pressing Clyde in every position. Frustration was being shown throughout the team and even Will was getting on at players more than usual as Clyde struggled to find their form. The first half sort of passed by without either team really imposing themselves on the game. The EK keeper made some good catches from Clyde deliveries into the box however no real saves come to memory. It took a good block from Heggie at the other end however, after the EK centre mid created a bit of space to unleash his shot from about 8 yards on the angle.

At half time, Will made no effort to hide his annoyance by telling the boys that the first half performance was the worst he had ever seen from the team. It was quite a statement considering he has been following the team for many years before becoming the manager at the start of this season. Changes were made there and then with Paddy going to right back, Callum McIver to left back and Sean McBride coming on at left mid with Hammy being the man sacrificed. There was then some strong words exchanged between players to start trusting their ability when they get the ball and not to panic because of the poor surface. Clyde then retook the field ready for the second half.

The strong words at half time paid off as Clyde began the second half much brighter attacking down both the left and right flanks. This was rewarded after about 10 mins when Ja Ja got his first of a brace. Some good play through the midfield with a resultant overlap leaving Paddy on the ball on the edge of the 18 yard box. He then clipped the ball across to the waiting Ja who headed in to the goal from about 6 yards. Massive celebrations followed which maybe showed a bit of relief more than anything. However, after going a goal up. It took a good stop from Pete at the feet of the big EK striker to keep the score at 1 – 0. Pete injured himself in the process but was able to continue. After missing that chance, EK seemed to fall out of the game, perhaps not really believing that they could go on to win. With that more goals from Clyde seemed inevitable and this was came true when Scott McLennan,(n for Duffer) ran onto a Timo through ball and smashed the ball home past the keeper. 2 – 0. A third then followed when Paddy got down the right hand side again to cut back to Capp, who saw his first time shot saved by the keeper who could only deflect the ball into Ja's path who hammered home his second goal of the game. Full time 3 – 0.

In summary, it was a game that Clyde should maybe have had wrapped up sooner, however the goals eventually came through being patient and breaking down EK. Will summed up the game with, "well its a win, and Hurlford learned nothing about us so that's a positive" however I'm sure every Clyde player knows they will need a much better performance next week if they are to succeed in booking a place in the last 8 of the Scottish cup.