



Vs Edinburgh 3s,
15th October 2008,
Stepps, KO 2.00 pm



The long awaited return to Wednesday football had come and the Clyde 1st team opener was against Edinburgh's 3s at the fortress. After the disappointing end to last season the squad were in good spirits, and after the sacking of manager Sean McLaren, the pressure was on the caretaker management team of Pete Hamilton and Murray Duff. In the dressing room the message was clear, that nothing less than 100% commitment was acceptable and the target of promotion back to division 1A was set. Clyde lined up 442 with Pete Hamilton in goals, a back four of Andy Reid, Chris Drain, Andy Arbuckle and Callum McIver. A midfield four of Ruiridh Fraser, Mark Cameron, new boy Andy Esson and Calum Murison with Murray Duff and Owen Robinson leading the line. On the bench was Aaron Mcalister, Corporal John Rox and Scott Mcfarlane.

In the early stages of the game, Clyde had the better of the possession and the play with some good passing down both flanks with the two centre mids giving good protection of the back four and also opening up the Edinburgh defence with through balls. This pressure was rewarded after about 20 mins when Murray Duff pounced on a loose ball by an Edinburgh defender to coolly slot past the keeper. The rest of the half was more of the same with Edinburgh's attacks being limited to hopeful balls over the top for the forwards to chase. After 40 minutes, however, Clyde created their own problems by giving the ball away 30 yards from goal and were punished accordingly, with a deflected strike past Pete Hamilton levelling the score. The response from Clyde was excellent, and were awarded a penalty before half time when Duff was ruled to have been fouled in the box. The decision was perhaps a bit harsh on the away side, however there were no complaints from the home team. Duffer slotted way the penalty making the score 2 – 1 at half time.

The message from Pete at half time was simple, keep the tempo up and win all individual battles and then the Clyde quality would shine through. At the start of the second half, this was the case with Clyde keeping the away side in their own half. The best chance in this spell came to Callum Mciver who's shot went inches past the post. Next, disaster struck for Clyde. A long ball over the top caused confusion between centre half and Goalkeeper resulting in an own goal. For the next 20 mins or so, Edinburgh showed some quality and were all over the Clyde. Fortunately, Clyde managed to reduce Edinburgh's efforts to mainly long range shots, although a good save from Pete from a corner kept the score at 2 2. The game was dying out and most thought the score would finish 2 2. John Rox and Andy Esson had other ideas however, and a through ball down the right hand side created the opening the Clyde were looking for. Corporal John Rox's first time cross was met by Andy Esson at the back post to head in from a couple of yards sparking massive celebrations from the Clyde. Soon after the final whistle was blown and three points were gained.

The Clyde players new that to win the league, better performances would be needed, however, for a team that was newly put together, everyone went home happy. Next week, the 1s are home to Napier 1s on league business and everyone hopes for more of the same.