



Vs Links Utd
Saturday 22th November
Steps
KO 2.30 pm



The first team were looking to end a run of two possible defeats in a row in what was effectively a league cup semi final against Links United in their final league cup group match. Clyde needed a point to go through the group and winners into the League cup final. Before the game, there were long discussions about what had been going wrong over the last couple of weeks. It was the return of the flying potato also after missing the previous four weeks due to a shoulder injury picked up at training. Before the game, Clyde seemed up really up for it and ready to put the last two weeks behind them. Will named the team as Pete H in goals, a back four of Paddy, Hammy, Heggie, and McCall, a midfield four of Johnny P, Ja, Timo, and Sean McBride, up front was once again Capp and Scott. On the bench this week was, Johnny G (more to come), Duffer, Pikey and Dave P.

The game started and Clyde were the better team with some good attacking down either flanks and looking like scoring at any point. When Links were getting the ball, however, they were quick to break and the intelligence of their striker and right mid was causing the Clyde defence some problems. It was from some good work from the Links right mid that the opening goal came from. HE picked up the ball on the edge of the box, turned inside and curled a shot across the goal, Pete managed to save the shot however was unable to put it round the post and the ball was met at the back post by a links player who tapped into the Clyde net. A minute after the restart it was nearly 2 – 0 to links. A long ball was held up by the striker who managed to turn and fire a shot narrowly wide. This let off seemed to awaken the Clyde who then started to really dominate the game. It has always been a problem of the 1st team that the goals to chances ratio has never been excellent. Today was no exception. From a Clyde corner, Davie Hill Rose like a salmon to send the ball goal ward, his header came off the underside of the ball (very unlucky not to score), the rebound fell to a Clyde player who should have scored, however, his shot from inside the 6 yard box was saved by the goal keeper. A combination of good saves and bad misses was the story of the rest of the half with Links not really creating anything more.

Half time 0 – 1

The message at half time was simple, just to keep doing what we were doing and eventually goals would come. Clyde once started the second half brightly and looked to be in control and creating lots of chances. From a Clyde corner, Clyde managed to shoot themselves in the foot. The goalkeeper gathered the delivery to fire the ball up to the Links striker who somehow had found himself 1 on 1. He ran down the right hand side to pass the ball into the Links right mid who had ran the length of the park on his own, who then slid the ball under Pete making the score 2 - 0. Links again had punished Clyde for being sloppy at the back making the score 2 -0 and giving Clyde a real mountain to climb. Clyde pulled one back soon after after an excellent first time finish by Scott McLennan. The ball was crossed in by Johnny Parr and was met by Scotty near the penalty spot who diverted it into the top corner. This was the lifeline that Clyde needed and they then went chasing the game and were committing men forward, trying to find the equaliser. This continued until about the 90th minute.

For a neutral supporter, the three minutes of stoppage time were probably the most exciting they have ever seen including three goals and a sending off. The first goal unfortunately went to Links. Some good work down the right hand side by the striker ended with the striker being brought down. The resultant free kick ended in the Links left back hitting a 40 yard free kick across the goal into the top corner. Pete probably wasn't as sharp as he should have been but a fantastic free kick none the less. Clyde then went straight forward and won a penalty that McLennan duly converted for his second goal of the game. Another lifeline for the Clyde. This however, was taken away again by Links going straight up the park and scoring a fourth goal. Some poor defending again from the Clyde saw the ball fall to a Links striker on the corner of the 6 yard box. He hit his shot across Pete and it went in off the post. Another



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poor goal from Clydes point of view. Before the game Finish, sub Johnny Gordan was sent off for a second bookable offence after handbags with one of the Links player.

This was Clyde's third straight defeat in a row, and their worst performance of the three. If chances from the 1st half had been taken it may have been a different story however.