



Vs Newton Mearns Rovers
30th Aug 2008, Stepps
KO: 2.30pm



New coach Will Watson Snr took charge of the 'Clyde boys for the first time today and only made one change with injury meaning Calum Murison was unavailable and Scott McLennan took his place. Mark Shanta continued in the centre with Nicky Heggie and Timo and Tam stayed in Central midfield. Andrew Hornell renewed his partnership with Scott McLennan, and the 2 of them almost gave 'Clyde the lead after 7 seconds of kickoff when Capp mugged the Mearns centre mid and played a neat 1-2 with McLennan before his shot was blocked. Intentions were laid bare...

'Clyde dominated the first 15 minutes in front of a capacity crowd of Ja's in-laws, Ja's bagman Pikey, Roddy and Paul from the 2's and Greig Mailer, returning for the first time to Stepps this season. The terraces were later swelling due to the arrival of new man Quaisy and his young lad. 'Clyde were very forceful, with the ball being retained superbly at the back and switched from side to side with consummate ease, getting Jonny Parr and Sean McBride on the ball and causing real grief to the Newton Mearns fullbacks. The movement of Hornell and McLennan was forcing the mearns centre-backs to chase all across the pitch and it was from a beautifully curved run by Capp that allowed Tam Mcaughlan to thread the eye of a needle with his slide-rule pass to Scott McLennan, who finished beautifully under the body of the advancing Mearns keeper. This made it 1-0 but the next 20 minutes were very frustrating as each flowing move was broken down by a sloppy first touch or a poor choice of pass.

The 2 Davids (McCall and Hill) were looking for every opportunity to advance, and it was from a fantastic overlap by Davie Hill that led to Sean McBride rattling home from 18 yards. Jonny Parr stepped inside allowing Hill to buccannear round the outside right channel and deliver the ball across the 18 yard box for Capp who rolled it into Seans path and the youngster rattled it home. 5 minutes later Capp was a recipient of Jonny Parr and Davies mastery of the right side when he stroked his first chance of the day home to make it 3-0. Right on half time, Sean again got across the near post for a McLennan delivery after yet more penetration down the right by Parr and Hill and the pint-sized winger cheekily backheeled 'Clydes 4th into the net. the previous 20 frustrating minutes had been blown away by some absolutely breathtaking football from The 'Clyde, with every single player able to take the ball under pressure and retain possession whilst keeping the team going forward. A deadly combination...

At half-time Will Watson asked for a similar score-line but more quality and the lads were in total agreement as they felt they could raise their own performance another notch. And raise it they did 7 minutes into the second half as Scott McLennan got on the end of Timo Fotheringhams pass and glided a magnificent first touch finish over the top of the keeper from 25 yards to make it 5-0. Timo and Tam had enforced their ability on the Mearns centre midfielders and taken control of the game in the first half, a control they never relinquished. From this dominance, the ball was constantly re-cycled by Timo and Tam out to the wide areas where Jonny Parr and Sean combined with their respective fullbacks Davie and Davie to great effect. In the 62nd minute John Rox came on for his second Match of the Day and almost made it 6-0 with a great run to the near post after Jonny Parr had led the left back another merry dance.

'Clyde maintained control of the game until the 90th minute, and created a few more chances which weren't taken, however Mearns continued to press forward and Pete Hamilton marshalled his goal superbly, always offering an option to re-start as well as coming to claim crosses superbly and distributing correctly (in the second half at least...). Will Watson couldn't have got off to a better start.