



Vs Mill Utd
20 September 2008,
Hamilton, KO 2.30 pm



With everyone meeting (more or less) smartly dressed at the union for the first Scottish cup game of the season, there were two pre-match talking points: Crossy's freekick goal in the morning and Mark "fashion victim" Shanta's new leather jacket. The first was according to his group text (that's quite sad, isn't it?) from 30yards out, although eyewitnesses said it was just outside the box. However, the fact that miracles like that happen every now and then in football made Heggie confident that he could bag a goal for the Clyde this season too. With nobody knowing much about Mill Utd or the quality of their pitch, Jonny Gordon's "Oh no, I played here before" as we turned off the motorway did not leave much hope for a decent surface. However, Will Watson brought it right to the point when he mentioned that the opening rounds of the Scottish Amateur Cup are more often about matching the underdog's determination and effort than about pretty football.

In the starting minutes of the game, Mill Utd showed more hunger for the ball and had the chance to drive forward as Clyde wasn't in the game yet. However Mill Utd only ever came close to the goal with long throw-in's, which Pete and his back four quite comfortably cleared. With Clyde failing to gain control over the game within the first half hour, there were signs of a few players loosing their nerves. This was most illustratively shown by Jonny "the Gladiator" Parr, who outburst as he could not handle Capp's mental abuse any longer. Although a rather unusual sight of a player in a Strathclyde jersey, it was the point where the whole team realised that more effort and quality was needed to avoid an embarrassing 1st round replay. After settling down, it also became evident that Strathclyde would get much more joy from the left wing, where David McCall and Sean were constantly asking for the ball, as they had acres of space in front of them. Although the midfield and defence was in the beginning not able to switch the play as often as requested, the left wing duo were always threatening the opponents defence when they got on the ball. Mill Utd's reply to this was to kick Sean as often as they could. However the wee man did not let this distract his game and it was after a cross from the left and a fumble in the box that Jonny Gordon was brought down. It was an easy call for the ref and McLennan dispatched the spot kick with the usual confidence.

With the start of the 2nd half, Jaja came on for Jonny Parr and made his comeback after missing previous games through an achilles injury. However there were some unconfirmed reports saying that the real reason for his absence was his preference for his country over the club and a wild wedding party where the captain of the beer team lived up to his reputation. While still lacking some match fitness, he was quick to show his ability on the ball and the vision for other players' runs. Some more fresh legs were put on when Davie Hill was replaced by Paddy after an hour. The fact that Hill was always closed down very quickly whereas McCall on the left side had a lot of time and space showed that the Mill Utd Manager had (correctly?) identified the more threatening full back on his two scouting trips to Strathclyde games. Paddy almost instantly had an impact when he managed to create some space for himself on the break and drove down the right flank. Although there were some Clyde bodies in the box, the cross was met by a Mill Utd defender who was slightly luckier than Shanta last week, as his clearance effort only hit the post. In the manner of a real goal getter, McLennan was there to pick up the rebound and fired the ball over the keeper into the roof of the net and celebrated his 9th goal of the season. Having established a two goal lead, Clyde should have been able to comfortably progress to the next round. However Mill Utd brought themselves back into the game when they were allowed too much space in midfield and attack and a decent strike from 20 yards into the bottom corner found the back of the net. Although it gave Mill some hope, a Jonny Gordon's shot from within the box that made it 3-1 buried them shortly after.

With Mill Utd still playing very physical and interrupting the flow of play by constant fouling, Sean was taken off to ensure that he would make his way back to Glasgow without an injury. Tam, who came on for him, effectively implemented the gaffer's instructions to match the opponents physically, even though this meant receiving his first ever booking of his career. With the blow of the final whistle, Clyde was happy to have progressed in the Scottish cup against a tough first round opponent, but also knew that far better performances were needed to remain in the competition until its final stages. Although there was little celebration after the victory, Heggie was clearly in a very good mood and showed off the latest fashion items in the shower.