



Vs Westerlands  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2008,  
Pollockshields, KO 2.30pm



### "Fantastic Four Lead Clyde to Three Points"

The article hereon is based on actual events only the names, places and times have been changed cos to be honest I can't remember exactly what happened. Three goals from the lethal and astonishingly handsome strike duo of Andy Hornell and Scott McLennan along with dazzling wing play from Parr and McBride gave Clyde all three points against a resilient Westerlands team. Strathclyde went into this fixture high on confidence after last week's great win at Bannockburn and wanted to continue the excellent start to the season. However, this match was not going to be easy against a determined Westerlands that had come out on top in a pre season friendly. Clyde lined up for battle on the waterlogged pitch with the same team as last week with the only change seeing Paddy coming in for McCall, various sources intimated that McCall was missing cos it was too muddy and he didn't want to get dirty. After a succinct but positive team talk from Will Clyde took to the pitch in their sparkling white strips in positive mood with Will's game plan in mind.

The pitch was not conducive to passing football as Will had pointed out but Westerlands persisted with this early on and almost paid the price when Capp stole the ball from the opposing centre half after great pressing from Scott and yeah you guessed it Teemo but yeah you guessed it again, Capp shot wide. However, this was a sign of things to come. After a decent corner from the excellent Sean McBride was cleared Clyde quickly recycled the ball and Paddy played in a pin point cross onto the head of Davie Hill who managed to leap like a tin of John West and head the ball across to Capp who applied the finishing touch. A truly handsome goal! Strathclyde continued to push Westerlands back through sublime wing play from Johnny "Wheatabix" Parr and Sean "Kid Rock" McBride. The deadly duo were terrorising their respective full backs and it was from one of JP's crosses that Scott spurned a great chance to put Clyde two ahead. JP drove to the by-line only stopping for one bowl of wheatabix before whipping in a cross that the Westerlands GK (known as Upside Down Head) could only flap at, the ball Rick O'Shead of the post and dropped at the feet of Scott who skewed his volley wide but he did get his reward for a tireless performance moments later.

Great work again down the right from Parr set Scott free in the right hand edge of the box and like all greedy pants strikers took a shot at goal instead of cutting it back but on this occasion Scott managed to arrow the ball past Upside Down Head off he post and into the bottom corner, a sublime finish that Shanta would've been proud off. Strathclyde were doing well at this point but Westerlands were still looking dangerous on the break but it was from a long throw that they managed to find a way back into the match before half time. Strathclyde centre backs Heggie and Shanta were superb all day but they could do little to prevent this goal as the two big boned Westerlands centre backs made their presence felt. A neat flick on at the front post was tapped home from six yards by an unmarked Westerlands midfielder, 2-1 at half time and everybody agreed that McCall was at fault for the goal. At half time Will reiterated the need to be wary of Westerlands ability to counter attack but also stressed to continue to feed McBride and Johnny Parr down the wings.

Strathclyde started the second period in positive fashion testing Upside Down Head on numerous occasions before Scott finally applied the finish to an excellent flowing move. Great link up play between Paddy, Capp and McBride saw the latter cut back a tremendous ball from the by-line that Scott ghosted in to finish superbly at the front post. Great movement all round and slick passing considering the conditions underfoot. Unfortunately, the scoring from Strathclyde players didn't stop there. Midway through the half Will brought on some fresh legs to try and halt the now increasing pressure on Clyde's goal with the impressive Westerland's number 9 proving to be a handful with some good movement and direct dribbling. Johnny Gordon, fresh from his vital goal last week, came on for Tam and Duffer replaced the injured Paddy resulting in Sean slotting in at left back. Later John Rox came on for the Duracell bunny Teemo. All three subs, especially Johnny Gordon provided a much needed injection of energy to Strathclyde. However, none of them could do anything to prevent Westerland's second goal of the game. The ever impressive Shanta intercepted the ball at the half way line before being put under severe pressure by the other half of the Westerlands strike duo. At one point Hill was calling for a pass that Shanta chose to decline and pirouette away from yet he was still under heavy pressure. The pressure culminated in the centre forward pinning Shanta for a three count but the referee chose to wave play on citing six of one and half a dozen of the other (this left Johnny Parr at the half way line counting his fingers and scratching his chin). Finally, the striker dispossessed the buccaneering Shanta and released the wide midfielder, with Clyde funnelling back the winger sent in a cross that Shanta managed to intercept but he only managed to volley the ball past Pete into the bottom corner. It was an unfortunate incident for the big man as he was brilliant all day as he has been so far this season. I'm sure w'oor Gaylsey will give him a hug and make it all better. 3-2 with only minutes to play Clyde managed to see out the game and grab a vital three points as they look to progress to the final of the Douglas Smith League Cup.

Overall, it was an excellent performance from Strathclyde in difficult conditions that continued the impressive start to Will Watson debut season. Next week Clyde travel to Lanarkshire to face Mill Utd in the first round of the Scottish Cup and will hopefully welcome back Ja Ja and McCall into the squad, however, it is unlikely we will be wearing the white strips again this season as they are stained with half of Pollock Park (school boy from Pete, I think that is his first nightmare since his 12 on the tour)!