



**Vs Bishopton**  
**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January**  
**Bishopton**  
**KO 2.00 pm**



The 1<sup>st</sup> day of February saw Strathclyde 2s in league action away to Bishopton- an important match that the boys were desperate to win given that both teams were level on points in joint 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league, with the home team having a few games in hand. It is lucky Strathclyde even had a full team to put out after a re-enactment of *Worlds' Wildest Police Chases* from "Doctor Death" Paul Cross on the M8 on the way to the game...

The lads were in high spirits as usual before the match and took to the field for a warm up after an informative discussion on fisting, amongst other topics. The pitch at Bishopton was obviously part-time tattie field, and so it was going to be difficult for the boys' natural passing game to be effective.

Clyde lined up with a few changes from last week's success with Bassett returning to goal, and a back four of Phil Muzza, Moray, Doc Death and Calum MacIver. The midfield looked strong with Ross and Tam in the engine room, and Tinny and Shanta on the flanks. Rosasco finally turned up at the pitches after "car trouble" and started up front supported by Troy "you may remember me from such games as the one in which I scored, again" McClure. Hammy, Mikey S, Euan and Ruiridh joined Vinny and stand in assistant John Rox watching out for poor people at pitchside.

Bishopton kicked off and were ahead within 5 minutes, blowing a hole in Clyde's clean-sheet game plan. A corner was partially clearly, and from the resulting cross from the left, an opponent sent a looping header over Mike Bassett in the Clyde goals illustrating the downside to the average height of the Clyde team being around 5 ft 3. Strathclyde took time to find their feet in the match, but Ross and Tam began to exert authority over the midfield with some admirable attempts to actually play football in the mud bath. After going behind, the Clyde defence dealt well with any further threats and were looking solid, while the whole team were competing well in their individual battles. The game became open with both teams having periods of pressure, but Strathclyde struggled to bring their strikers and wingers into the game, although Troy was tracking back from up top and putting in a lot of work defensively. Clyde were unlucky not to equalise when first Rosasco, then Tinny forced excellent point blank saves from the home 'keeper. Bishopton were playing a high defensive line and it was from this that Clyde finally made the break through after numerous close calls for offside. A Bishopton attack was halted by great work from El Capitaino and Shanta on the right, Phil seized possession and released Troy through on goal with a brilliant through ball. Troy had reached the penalty box practically before the opponents had time to turn and chase, and showed why he is so highly thought of at the club with a slick finish. This was effectively the last action of the half, and Clyde had visibly been given a lift with the late goal.

Half Time: Bishopton 1 – 1 Strathclyde 2s

Vinny made 2 changes at half time on the right hand side with Phil and Shanta coming off after great shifts, Euan returning to right-back and Ruiridh going up top with McClure dropping back to his natural right-wing.

The Clyde lads kept the momentum from the first half going with a period of early pressure. They should have taken the lead with 2 contenders for the coveted "Would Have Been Goal Of The Season" award. Firstly, a long kick from Bassett was expertly controlled by Rosasco who helped it on to Troy with his first touch. McClure played the ball into Ruiridh who found Rosasco's defence splitting run with a back heel of top quality. The Irishman was through on goal but unfortunately put his effort over the bar, to the dismay of all football purists in the area. Minutes later, Rosasco found space on the right after good work from McClure and Euan and floated a pin point cross to the unmarked Tinny inside the opposition penalty area. The winger took a perfect first touch on his chest, narrowly avoiding his teeth, but the keeper was sharp and made a first-class save. However, Bishopton then took the lead against the run of play- Clyde were unfortunate as blocks from Tinny and Calum looked to have prevented the goal, only for the striker to prod home.

As the tackles became ever more ferocious, Clyde had a number of chances to equalise again, notably through Rosasco and a shot for the cameras from the man for the cameras as Ross Wilson attempted an overhead kick that almost found the net. Crossy moved up front in a change of tactics from Vinny, and Clyde started to utilise Troy's long throw. Hammy entered the fray in place of the impressive Mr Parkhill as Clyde searched for a goal. As the final whistle loomed, Troy launched the ball into the box from a throw in. An aerial scramble ensued, and Tinny found Ross Wilson with an accurate looping header. Not content with his earlier attempt, Wilson capped a man of the match performance with an action replay of his majestic overhead kick- only this time the ball clipped the post and nestled in the back of the net, cueing wild celebrations from the boys. The Dubious Assists Committee is still deciding whether Tinny should be credited...

The delight of the Clyde players was evident, and the goal was just reward for an excellent battling second half performance. The final whistle followed shortly afterwards, and Coach Bryson was said to be proud of the character and fight shown by his players and by the hard-earned point in the league against strong opponents. Next week the boys are away to strugglers Whitehurst, and keen to get back to winning ways.