



Vs Garnock Valley  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008  
Johnstone, KO 2.00 pm



After one win and a draw in their league campaign so far, Clyde headed to Johnstone knowing a win was crucial if they were to stamp an authority on the league. Their opponents – Garnock Valley - had already enjoyed a successful start to the season, and Coach Bryson stressed that they were the current form team, but also made it clear that Clyde had the quality to overcome them. Vinny lined up 1-4-4-2, with Mike in goals and the familiar back four of Phil, Crossy, Moray and Euan. In midfield, Tinny and Niall took up left and right wings respectively, whilst Paul Shanta and Tam lined up in the middle. Up front were Calum MacIver and Hammy.

As soon as the game kicked off, Clyde struggled to settle on the ball, as their opponents dominated proceedings. Within 5 minutes of the start, a Garnock forward broke the off-side trap to race through on goal, but saw his effort saved by Mike. This set the tone for the majority of the first half, in which Garnock should have scored many more goals. Mike tipped away a close range effort, whilst Crossy had to make a recovering tackle after a slack pass across the back. However Garnock eventually made their breakthrough. A long, hopeful ball looped over the Clyde defence and the striker beat Moray to slot past Mike into the corner.

Clyde didn't go through the first 45 without any chances. Niall McClure was Garnock's main threat with his runs down the right, which eventually won Clyde a corner kick. From the in-swinging delivery, Paul Shanta rose well to head on target, but his effort agonisingly rebounded off the keeper, who didn't know much about it. Garnock were causing all sorts of problems down the left side, and after the half hour mark, they were two goals up, courtesy of a debatable penalty. A through ball released the Garnock forward on goal. Although Moray Grant was leading him away from goal, Mike attempted to come out and smother the danger. Unfortunately, the Garnock striker turned before collapsing over the goalkeepers legs. The referee awarded a soft penalty, whilst Bassett escaped dismissal as the referee had adjudged the player to be moving away from goal. The half time whistle came to Clyde's rescue with Garnock leading 2-0.

After what can only be described as a half time "bollocking" from coach Bryson, Clyde left the changing room with a different mind-set and different formation. Crossy was pushed up front as Doc took his place in a new 3-4-3, whilst Tinny made way for Owen Robinson. Clyde began to gain composure and they were unlucky with two efforts on goal; one bouncing off the top of the crossbar and the other being a header that was well saved by the Garnock goalkeeper. At the back, Clyde were getting to grips with the new set up, but they were fortunate not to concede a killer 3<sup>rd</sup> goal. Possession was cheaply given away on the left, and the resultant cut-back came to a Garnock striker who looked destined to score, however he scuffed his close-range effort and Clyde breathed a sigh relief. As the half wore on, Clyde began to gain an upper hand, and their efforts were rewarded with a goal in the last 10 minutes. After a series of passes within the Garnock box, DRX laid the ball off to **Hammy**, who crashed a downward volley into the corner, and gave Clyde a lifeline. This sparked severe panic amongst Garnock, as for the last 5 minutes they attempted to play into the corners in a bid to grind out the result. The final whistle blew with Garnock winning narrowly by 2 goals to 1.

In summary, Clyde's 1<sup>st</sup> half performance was their worst of the season, and they were fortunate to still be in the game. However, they showed in the second half that they are a team with spirit and unquestionable footballing ability, and these two factors combined to result in a deserved goal and plenty of positives, despite the disappointing result.