



Vs Westerlands
Saturday 17th January
Steps
KO 2.00 pm



Saturday saw The Clyde entertain Glasgow Uni's graduate team Westerlands. Clyde welcomed back keeper 'Jackson' Bassett (a new nickname offered by Tinny due to Bassett's horrendous 'white socks black shoes' combo) in goal with changes also made to both full back positions. Skipper Murray was given the chance to prove he had a right foot and was moved to right back with McIver filling Murray's huge boots at left back. Crossy and Moray completed the back four. With Tam called up to the 1st team, Paul Shanta came in to play alongside Ross Wilson in the centre of midfield with Niall 'I can't stop scoring' McClure on the right flank and Stevie 'I hate penalties' Stirling on the left. Hammy and Doc started up top to complete the line up.

Clyde started the strongest and both wingers were causing all sorts of problems for the Westerlands full backs early on. McClure and Stirling were both looking sharp with great support from both Murray and McIver. Shanta and Wilson were challenging for everything in the middle and didn't allow the opponents a sniff of the ball. However, for all the dominance from the flanks, it was a long kick up field from keeper Bassett which created the first goal. A huge kick from the keeper was allowed to bounce by the Westerlands centre halves and with Hammy applying pressure the ball fell to Doc who calmly rounded the 'keeper to slot home with his left foot. He loves goals! Buoyed by their goal, Clyde went chasing for a second. Great play from McClure down the right saw him cut in and pull the ball back to the edge of the box. A great turn and shot from Hammy was blocked but the ball fell to Stevie Stirling who steadied himself and drilled the ball past the despairing 'keeper. The Clyde boys were in disbelief with Stirling's Baggio/Waddle penalty miss still fresh in everybody's mind. However, it was nothing more than Stirling deserved who had started brightly and was a constant threat up until his goal. Stirling was then absent for most of the game up until his part in Pikey's strike. Many believe it was down to the fact that he was celebrating his goal for the remainder of the 1st half and the vast majority of the 2nd.

However, with all the possession that Clyde had, it was Westerlands who struck next. A break from midfield saw the back four under pressure on the edge of their penalty box. The opponent was given far too much space and was allowed to pick a pass to a suspiciously offside striker who cut in and curled a shot across the keeper and off the far post. With the defence motionless, another suspiciously offside striker reacted the quickest to score from close range. Clyde were furious with the decision but reacted positively from the kick off. The ball worked its way forward to Doc who slipped the ball through to McClure who found himself in acres of space. McClure carried the ball into the box and shot low and hard into the far corner to restore Clyde's two goal advantage. The half time whistle went and despite a momentary lack of concentration at the back, Clyde were happy with the 3-1 score-line.

The second half started with Westerlands the stronger side. Clyde's flying wingers were kept quiet with the opponents midfield starting to impose themselves on the game. Shanta and Wilson were battling hard to stop the pressure building on the back four. However, a ball through the middle to yet another suspiciously offside striker saw Westerlands reduce the deficit. Westerlands threatened to equalise shortly after when a cross from their right side found it's way to the back post only for McClure clear away under the nose of the Westerlands attacker. Clyde reacted and threatened to counter with McClure down the centre however he was viscosly hacked down by the Westerlands centre half who rightly received a yellow card. Clyde found their feet again and McIver started to get some joy down the left. Pikey replaced Doc and was soon involved with some great link up play with Murray. The full back found the makeshift striker who turned neatly to spread the ball out wide to the supporting McIver. A deep cross from the left found McClure unmarked at the back post, only for his shot to sail wide of the near post. However, it was Westerlands who were looking the more dangerous on the attack. Another attack down the right saw a mix up with between Cross and Bassett with both unwilling to take charge of the situation. Poor communication (who would've thought that from Crossy who never shuts his trap?!) almost allowed an attacker to sneak in but Bassett's shouts of 'Away' was finally heard by the old man who had re-charged his hearing aid and hooked clear with his left foot. Sadly it was not the last time this would happen. With Crossy and Bassett seemingly doing everything in their power to allow Westerlands an equaliser, it was Clyde who scored the fourth, and what and turned out to be the winning, goal. The reappearance of Stirling, who had finally finished celebrating his goal, was the catalyst in providing the fourth. Good play down the left from McIver saw him forward the ball onto Stirling. A cheeky nutmeg saw him round the frozen full back and cut the ball back to the lively Pikey. The Pike opened his body, ready to curl the ball into far top corner for a glorious strike. However, his weak shot rolled down the middle of the goal with the keeper allowing the ball to slip under his body to gift the Clyde a vital goal. Pikey also loves goals!

Clyde were confident of holding onto the lead but were made to sweat it out a little longer after another Bassett and Cross mix-up. Both players proved themselves to the most polite and generous players in the league when they allowed a Westerlands striker to steal in and score a third, with both keeper and centre half claiming the assist for the opposition. However, Clyde did manage to hold out for the three points as the game ended 4-3. A disappointing score-line after the Clyde had threatened to run away with the game at 2-0, however a valuable 3 points nonetheless.

The game will be remembered for many reasons. Doc and Pikey both loving goals, Crossy and Bassett battling it out for 'worst communicator', Stevie Stirling finally hitting the target with a shot, Murray proving that his right foot is just as weak as his left but mainly for Mikey Sutherland finally ditching his red jacket and showing up in some decent gear. About f*cking time too!