



Vs Sporting Larkfield,  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2008  
WS Cup Rd - 1,  
Steps, KO 1.30 pm



Clyde's second string had their second game of the season in the West of Scotland cup against a side from out Port Glasgow way called Sporting larkfield. Conditions for the game couldn't have been better taking into account the previous two postponements. Clyde were looking to set the record straight after the poor showing against Erskine in the Scottish Cup. With competition for places extremely fierce a squad of 17 were named. The starting line up was Mike, Euan, Phil, DRX, Moray, Troy, Steven Stirling, Aggelos, Ross Wilson, Hammy and Muirison. On the bench was Michael Sutherland, Calum Maciver, Owen, Ruriadh, Donald and Corpral. In the dressing room, Coach Bryson had tried to get the message across that Clyde needed to play their own game and compete for everything as one thing was for sure Larkfield would certainly compete for everything.

The game kicked off and Sporting started the better of the two sides and pushed Clyde back toward their own goal. The back four were struggling to cope with the early pressure but no clear cut chances came Sporting's way. What was early to see was the ridiculous challenges that Sporting's number 9 was throwing about, this reporter counted at least three in the first half that should've earned him a caution. Clyde slowly started to get to grips with Sporting with some neat build up play down the right through Euan and Troy. Some neat play in the middle of the pitch between Aggo and Venus were also starting to cause Sporting some problems, however, no clear cut chances came either sides way in the first half, where the highlight had to be a straight red tackle by Sporting's left mid on Phil Murray for the ref to bottle it and show a yellow. Sporting were not as shy as the ref and promptly substituted the boy as they knew what would be coming next.

Some encouraging words at half time from Vinny lifted the lads who had competed well with Sporting, a side that might have been well ahead against teams of a few years ago. It just showed that the current team are capable of handling themselves. Clyde went out for the second half with a bit more confidence and quickly pushed Sporting back. Best chance of the half came to Aggo who had a chance from some great work down the left but couldn't keep his shot down when the goal was beckoning. For the passage of play it would've been a deserved lead. Then the biggest talking point of the game came. Sporting got a throw and Euan, who was off the pitch picked the ball up only to receive a two footed tackle by Sporting's number 9, he might've received a yellow in the first half, but this was surely a straight Red, No referee bottled it again and showed a yellow. Five minutes later surely this was a red for their number 9 after a two footed tackle on mike, nothing, then a tackle through the back of DRX, nothing. The referee had at least 6 tackles to show a yellow card for from the same player, but only one came. Sporting introduced another striker, and to be fair to the big lad, he seemed to be more productive than the other strikers they had. Clyde introduced three subs to try and change the game, big Donald for hammy, Ruriadh for Troy and Owen for Aggo (the guy who held his face every time he was tackled). With the game being stretched at both ends with both sides looking for a goal to win the tie both defences did well and some good saves by both keepers sent the game into extra time.

Captain Murray lost the toss for extra time and the game started with the same end to end action as the game had finished. With chances few and far between in the first half of extra time the teams switched round and kicked off for the second half of extra time. This was the half where more goal scoring opportunities came than in the rest of the match. The deadlock was broken by a great bit of play from Clyde and a great finish by Calum "I always score when I start upfront" Muirison. Clyde were understandably overjoyed and with the game only five minutes away from finishing were looking towards finishing the game off. But then disaster struck, with two minutes to go a soft free kick was awarded to Sporting and up stepped the big lad who came on a sub for them to strike home the free kick to take the game to penalties.

Penalties Sporting took first after Murray had won the toss (never take 2nd pen Murray)  
Sporting 1. Goal Clyde 1. Steven Stirling Goal (this guy underwent a barrage of abuse even getting the nickname Tin opener teeth, but held his nerve to slot home the first)

2. Goal 2. Donald Goal (best penalty of the lot top corner, keeper no chance)  
3. Goal 3. Ross Wilson Goal (calmly sent the keeper the wrong way)  
4. Miss 4. Murray Goal ( I'll take fourth with Dave McCall saying I'd bet my Ouse on Murray  
scoring t' penalty)

5. Goal 5. Ruriadh Miss (keeper pulled off a good save)  
6. Goal 6. DRX (another who suffered abuse as he walked down for the penalty, Longshanks was being shouted, the memory of N.I. in his head, he slotted it home sending the keeper the wrong way)



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7. Goal                    7. Murison Miss (another who let the keeper make a good save and send Clyde out on pens for 2nd time in three years)

A couple of things that need to be added was that after the praise given to the blonde striker for Sporting a concerning feature was spotted by Tin Opener teeth from a Clyde defensive corner. The big lad was on the keeper and seemed to every time shove his fingers up Mike's @rse. Worrying I hear you say, but the pitch side camera's never saw this, but it was highlighted to the ref by Tinny. The RR doesn't know what's more worrying, the fact that the striker was putting his digits up our Keepers @rse or the fact that Mike "brokeback" Basset, didn't complain to the ref or the guy doing it. Hope he cut his nails.

The second had to be Sporting's secretary offering a square go to the boys after the penalty shoot out. And the third had to be the brilliant nickname that Sporting have given Steven Stirling.

Not a positive result for Clyde, but a better performance than the last one. Here is to starting off the league campaign with a bang away to Lennox Amateurs next Saturday. Some good performances all round with a few standouts from Moray, Aggo and Ross Wilson. The RR will hopefully be along to watch the game at the weekend but with me taking in Arsenal v Man Utd at 12.45 it might be a bit tight.

Keep on trucking

RR