

The Strathclyde 3rd Team made a fine start to their Glasgow District Saturday Morning League campaign with a dominant 2-0 over AFC Wimbledon. The 3rd fielded a very strong side of experienced SUFC players, including the likes of Paul Shanta and Murray Duff who ran the centre midfield area. At the back, Senior Club Man Pete Hamilton played the first of his 2 matches that day and Paul Cross looking like a dried prune officially started his 9th season as an SUFC player. Will he stay for a tenth and testimonial year...?? Only time and a ruthless coach will tell... At the back Euan Godon also returned from the USA and Roddy MacKay started his first game of the season. John Rox and Troy McLure completed the midfield four, with Doc and Hammy the mercurial front pairing. New 2nd Team Captain Phil Murray retained his left back slot as last years Captain Mark "Judas" Shanta stepped up to the 1's after a fine preseason.

To the game, and credit to Strathclyde for some outstanding football from all 11 players on the pitch during the first half. Every player was keen to get on the ball and go forward positively with the ball on the ground, retaining possession superbly and starting again when avenues were closed down. Murray Duff and Paul Shanta didn't give Wimbledon a moment on the ball and were tackling feverishly to regain possession and bring the returning Mark Docherty and Ross Hamilton upfront into the game. Doc and Hammy were on great form in the final third of the pitch, with Doc waging a one-man war on the Wimbledon goalkeeper, who did well on 3 occasions to stop Doc getting a first half hat trick from shots outside the box.

Seventeen minutes in, and the first league goal for the 3's this season came from the lethal (?!!?) but cheap (£20 Puma Esito as opposed to £80 Puma King – typical centre half) boot of Paul Cross. John Rox delivered a delicious corner which Paul Shanta and Duffer rose to meet. The ball broke to the Old Yin and he doesn't miss from 2 yards (except during relegation playoffs) making it 1-0 to the 'Clyde. This proved to be the only goal of the first half but the staging point for some football that the GDSML rarely sees in terms of quality.

Key moment of the first half had the crowd rising as one to their feet. Clearly inspired by Peles audacious dummy in the 1970 World Cup Semi Final, Mark Docherty replicated the great mans piece of skill including the part where he didn't score. Stepping over the ball on the edge of the box he made a mockery of his markers attempt at tackling him and ghosted past, only for the inspired keeper to bundle the ball away for a corner. As he was praised at half time by Bryson, the banter was flowing from Man of the Match Euan Godon who claimed the 1970 World Cup Semi Final was actually Docs last game!! Much hilarity ensued...

Into the second half and Wimbledon showed pride and tenacity and tried to get back into the game, but 'Clyde were having none of it. With Paul McCusker on to partner DRX at the back the door remained closed but the players knew they needed the second goal to give the extra bit of comfort and to stop the jitters from showing. John Rox, earlier lambasted from the sidelines due to a bit of slack play and turning the ball over, showed his lethality and keenness to score when he followed up a mis-hit Ross Hamilton volley to make it 2-0 and the second in a week from John. After a good debut season, Rox is set to play a key part for the club in his second season.

All in all, a fine start for the lads, as they kept a clean sheet and got the 3 points they deserved on the days performance. Next week, the 3rd team are away to Bearsden.