



Vs Scotsman FC,
Saturday 4th October,
Stepps, KO 10am

GDSML

With Scotsman 3 points ahead after the first 3 games and sitting top of the table it was a big game for an unfamiliar 'clyde team with 4 freshers and McCusker Jnr making Saturday morning debuts. The team lined up Mitchell in goals a back four of Brucey, Hot Rod, McCusker Snr and Donald. In midfield was Shuta wide left, Beggsy and Rossco W in the centre and Rossy C out right with Polite Andy and McCusker Jnr up front. On the bench, Crossy, Calum Muirison and Thommo.

Clyde started well with lots of possession in the opposition half leading to several set piece opportunities from which Shuta's left footed deliveries were causing havoc using Donald's height and Rossco's salmon like jumping ability. The 'clyde were knocking on the door and after about 10 minutes it was knocked down. A corner whipped in by Shuta fell to Donald who was moving away from goal when he was clattered in the box. Penalty to the 'clyde. Rossco stepped up and slotted it low to the keepers left. Perfect start. The home pressure continued for the next 20 minutes with some great industry from Andy and McCusker Jnr up top, the back 4 looked steady enough apart from a couple of very uncharacteristic slips from the usually rock steady Hot Rod only to be bailed out by the solid McCusker Snr. With the midfield winning the majority of balls in the air and on the deck it was only a matter of time before the second goal came. No surprises that it was to come from a corner taken by Shuta and a header from Rossco to the left of the keeper again. The 'clyde seemed to switch off for the last 10 minutes of the first half and were inviting more pressure but managed to restrict the opposition to shots from outside the box one of which forced a great save from Mitchell. So brought the game to half time.

The 'clyde then knew that against the wind in the second half they would face a bombardment of long balls. They started the 2nd half well and with Rossy C coming into the game more on the right hand side it looked like another goal might come. There were a couple of moves that showed real promise and shows good signs for the rest of the season if the same team sticks together. For the majority of the second period however at times the 'clyde resorted to some long ball football which only brought pressure upon themselves and made the opposition look a lot better than they were. Some poor refereeing decisions did not aid either side and stopped the flow of the game several times. With 20 minutes to go Donald went down with cramp in both legs and was replaced by a dishevelled looking DRX who aided the back 4 with his aerial ability. Thommo also came on to replace Rossy C on the right as McCusker Jnr dropped into central midfield and the 'clyde went 4-5-1. A few chances were carved open one of which Thommo the Shanta slater blazed over after beating the keeper. As Scotsman went to a 5-5 formation the 'clyde did well to restrict them to only outside shots which Mitchell was more than capable of dealing with.

It was a good result for the 3s in McCuskers first game in charge and the team can take many positives away from the game. Shuta was named man of the match for some of his dead ball deliveries, a controversial decision from Muirison as many thought Hot Rod and Ross Wilson were more deserving.