

The road north for the Strathclyde Lads making the journey from Glasgow and Edinburgh had been long, but they arrived at Lossiemouth Juniors ground in good spirits and would go on to show they were in good form. Club Captain and tour Mr-Fix-It Pete Hamilton had organised this game with his home-town club, and there were warm greetings for Pete from several of the Lossie staff and players. His reputation clearly preceded him...

To the match, and Vinny Bryson had a good squad to choose from, with a couple of the Strathclyde Legends making returns (hopefully not for the last time). The 2 Scott's – Rae and Birse – also hail from the North and have given sterling service to the 'Clyde over the years. Both played the full 90 minutes and looked like they had never left. Young "Chico" Shade also played 55 minutes and proved a vital cog in the 'Clyde machine.

Strathclyde University FC Lineup; Hamilton, Birse, Hill (c) Rae, McBride; Murison (Shade 37) Duff, Fotheringham, MacIver (Drummond 83); Hornell, Robinson (Robertson 70)

Prematch warmup had gone well and without a hitch, players and staff both happy and the large pitch awaited the footballing feast on offer. A capacity crowd of 27 were all singing for the home team, but Bryson knew his players could more than survive in this cauldron of an atmosphere.

As the match kicked off, 'Clyde took the game by the scruff of the neck with Sean McBride and Calum MacIver buccaneering down the left hand side to deliver some delicious crosses which Hornell and Robinson just missed out on. 'Clyde didn't let up here, with both front men keen to get on the ball and bring their midfield into play. The Lossie back four were struggling to handle the physical presence and deft touches of Andy Hornell, which complimented beautifully the speedy movement and diminutive flicks and tricks of Owen Robinson. The classic "Big Man Wee Man" twosome proved to be a handful for Lossie all night and the defenders were happy to see the back of Robinson when he eventually ran out of gas in the 70th minute.

The first half saw some massive positives for 'Clyde. Man of the Match Sean McBride was adroit in the tackle but was also one of 'Clyde's most potent offensive weapons, with his touch and grace from the left hand side continually finding Hornell in the corners or the feet of Duff and Fotheringham in the centre of the pitch. From here "Timo" and "Duffer" were driving the game as the heartbeat of everything 'Clyde were doing. Always wanting the ball and always looking to go forward the Switzerland/Stonehaven pairing dominated the midfield for large portions of the game.

In terms of chances, it was all 'Clyde and Captain Davie Hill rattled the bar with a superlative effort after a series of Calum MacIver corners. Leading by example all night, Hill showed supreme coolness under pressure and picked up a clearance on the 18 yard line. With everyone expecting a thundering drive he simply lobbed it up and over everyone including the keeper and it was only the width of the bar that kept it out. The rebound fell to Andy Hornell who couldn't quite react quick enough and got a header in although the Lossie keeper stood his ground well to save.

The next talking point again came from a 'Clyde attack when MacIver and Hornell worked Calum Murison onto the ball after more good work from the composed Sean McBride. Murison touched the ball away from his marker and took a little kick to the ankles which the referee immediately reacted to and awarded 'Clyde a spotkick. With regular takers Dave McCall and Mark Shanta not there, Scott "The Sarge" Birse stepped up and took the responsibility. Unfortunately for Birse, the thickness of the post grabbed his moment of glory. Thankfully, Birse shrugged his initial disappointment off and played the rest of the game at his typically high standard.

With the score 0-0 at half time the away dressing room was quietly confident of making inroads in the scoreline. Lossie had worked some opportunities and had shown superb physical prowess in the first half, but Pete Hamilton only had goalkicks to take care of and no saves to speak about. The call in the changing room was for more of the same but also to draw the Lossie keeper into action a bit more with more direct efforts on goal. Instruction was also given to exploit the possibility of counterattacks using both Shade and MacIver on the break.

Having competed and excelled in the first half, Davie Hill led the lads onto the pitch for the second 45 and demanded the intensity and tempo be raised. The lads did not disappoint and started even more feverishly than the first half, using Hornell and Robinson for delightful little 1-2's to get Shade and Birse on the right and McBride and MacIver on the left delivering into the box. 'Clyde's defensive corner setup was also causing havoc for Lossiemouth as 3 times in succession the passage of play was transformed from a Lossie corner into a Clyde counterattack within 10 seconds. McBride and MacIver especially were pivotal in these displays of transitional excellence and in the 61st minute McBride again got past his marker and whipped a low cross into the box which Owen Robinson lunged towards and rattled in off the crossbar. 1-0 'Clyde and no more than was deserved.

Lossiemouth are obviously a proud team and came out with renewed vigour to try and equalise but 'Clyde stood resolute and upped the ante further, with Sean McBride beginning to surge forward from left back and become even more of a thorn in the Lossie side. Hornell got more of the ball and was unfairly penalised a few times by the referee who had suddenly become very strict... In the 81st minute, Scott Rae was penalised for a foul 25 yards out and offered Lossie a path back into the game. Over the next few minutes they began to consistently bring their left side into play, which Birse and Shade had coped very well with. Lossie got a lucky break of the ball in 'Clyde's 18 yard box but still couldn't get past Pete Hamilton who combined well with Timo Fotheringham to clear. Unfortunately, the ball broke to a suspiciously-offside-looking Lossie number 8 who put the ball into the empty goal. 10 minutes later the referee blew the final whistle with the lads from Strathclyde acquitting themselves magnificently. Next fixture is this coming Friday (July 25th) against Cove Rangers, kickoff 7pm