

2008 Edinburgh Diversity Cup

Hotscots FC 1

Squad: Ross McClung(GK), Stuart Sutherland, Alan Rogers, Seamus Kealey, Colin Sinclair, Mark, Michael Black

Manager: Conor Simpson

Hotscots looked forward to a tournament which promised a very high standard of opposition, against teams which were completely new to play against. The lack of 5's experience would begin to tell near the end of the competition, however our performance in the group stages were excellent, and we managed to get out a tough group which contained one of the finalists

Group Stages Results:

Hotscots FC 2-1 Sporting Al-Nasr

A very tough game to open with, and one that saw outstanding performances from Mark (despite injury) and Sinclair. Hotscots took an early lead through Alan Rogers, but struggled to keep pace with the quick passing and pacey breakaways of Al-Nasr. A deflected drive from the edge of the area equalled the game, before Hotscots finally got a late winner

St Vincents 1-0 Hotscots FC

Watching St Vincents on the sidelines was like being a animal staring into the abattoir! We knew we were up against what turned out to be one of the finalists of the tournament. St V's played very fast passing football, but Hotscots bravely defended and broke up moves with efficiency. Just as it looked like a 0-0 draw was about to be salvaged, a messy St V's attack broke down with a deflected ball to the corner of the park. From an acute angle, St V's striker lashed the ball into the roof of the net.

Hotscots FC 1-1 Generation Game

Arguably one of the weaker teams of the group shocked Hotscots, pulling an unexpected draw out of the hat. Make no mistake, despite being the "weaker" side in the group, this was a group of players with plenty experience, and they used Hotscots' lack of 5's practice against use very well. Hotscots took a deserved lead before being pegged back.

Hotscots FC 2-0 Pele's People

Hotscots needed a win to progress, conversely a win for Pele's People would see them progress too. The best result and performance of the campaign included goals from Kealey and Sinclair as the Hotscots were rampant in victory, rising to the occasion when required. McClung enjoyed his only clean sheet of the campaign with a very quiet game.

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(Top 2 from each group qualify into quarter finals)

Quarter Final:

Hotscots 2-4 The Magnificent Seven

Hotscots were well beaten by a side which ended up progressing to the final to face St Vincents. Hotscots took an early lead, and seemed to be dictating the play but a breakaway allowed the M7 to take advantage and equalise. Their forward on a 1-on-1 with the keeper, and McClung got a hand to the shot, which then trickled over the line. An onslaught was to follow, with 3 goals in 5 minutes killing off any chance of progression. Sutherland got a late consolation.

SUMMARY

Hotscots were certainly not disgraced in this tournament, and in fact with a fully fit squad could have progressed even further. No Anderson, Dickson, Parnham, Simpson, Gray, Fleming, Amos and a number of others unavailable for this tournament meant that although the teams that were sent out could still inflict some damage, it was felt that we certainly missed some aspects through these guys being unavailable.