

HotScots Football Club Match Report



London Falcons 2 – 1 HotScots FC

FitLads Cup 1st Leg

Old Deer Recreational Ground, Richmond Kick Off 2 p.m.

Sunday 9th March 2008

HotScots FC travelled down to Richmond for the first leg of the Fit Lads Cup tie versus the London Falcons First Team.

There was a strong home support for the Falcons and the atmosphere was tense and intimidating, with changeable weather conditions and a slightly heavy pitch.

Captain for the day, Conor Simpson, won the toss and opted to play with the wind in the first half - a decision taken in the knowledge that the opposition are a formidable side with good fitness and plenty of subs whereas the HotScots had only the two substitutes to play with.

The game started off lively with some early pressure from Edeki, the Falcons big striker. Some superb marking from Stuart Sutherland ensured that most efforts were in the end fairly harmless and Ross in nets wasn't tested too much.

After 20 minutes though there was a break from the Falcons which resulted in a shot from Edeki which struck the post & went across the face of goal past the helpless keeper. Kerr made sure of the goal by pushing it over the line off his thigh which led to calls for offside. However, the appeal was rebuffed as the referee felt the ball had already crossed the line from the original shot. Controversial but arguably deserved after the Falcons' sustained pressure.

Falcons 1- 0 Hostcots FC

Some gutsy tackles in the centre of the park from the HotScots' captain and Paul ensured that it was an even contest, with Simpson finding room to play some clever balls into the channels for Kealey and Dickson to run onto.

Light relief came when, in the midst of some tough tackling on the edge of the HotScots' danger area, Seamus Kealey bizarrely grabbed the ball having heard the whistle go... only problem was it went off on the adjacent pitch! Luckily this hilarious incident didn't result in a goal, but the HotScots' captain had to politely yet firmly remind Seamus that this was NOT Gaelic Football we were playing that day!

There was certainly no quarter given in terms of pulling out of tackles and the HotScots were not afraid to get stuck in to what was a big, strong, physical side - Seamus Kealey letting their big centre back know he wasn't too happy with the attention being given to Alan Rogers, who was terrier-like throughout the game. That foul led to a free kick on the edge of the eighteen yard box which asked some questions of the Falcons' defence with Simpson unlucky to reach a good ball whipped in.

Half-time: London Falcons 1 - 0 HotScots FC

With a change being made up front, swapping Darren for Bev, the HotScots started the second half full of confidence that they could get a result.

True enough, about 10 minutes into the game, the Falcons gave away a free kick deep in their half. Simpson, who was experiencing a lot of joy in the air against his opponents, sensed an opportunity and pushed the Falcons back four right onto the edge of their eighteen.

Stu floated a dangerous ball right into the penalty spot with Simpson straining upwards managing to beat both the keeper and the big centre back to see the ball make its way into the Falcons' net with Bev coming in to make sure.

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It was a well-deserved equaliser, and it really took the wind out of the Falcons and their home supporters!

Unfortunately as the half progressed, the lack of subs began to show for the HotScots and the Falcons began to exploit the tired legs to find more and more space.

Thankfully, the Hotscots' defence put up a stirring performance and weathered the onslaught until Edeki, the big forward, finally found some room on the edge of the area and finished well into the bottom corner on around the 75th minute.

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The Falcons' relief was apparent from their exuberant celebrations, & once the game restarted, the Falcons continued to push for a 3rd.

Its was a fairly one-sided affair for the rest of the second half, & with no subs left, the Hotscots had no option but to show some heart & dig in. Kev Rowe, playing alongside Stu at the back, made a crucial goal line clearance, and the keeper and the full-backs were also dealing admirably with the pressure which was being heaped upon them.

Nonetheless, the HotScots could have clinched a second equaliser in the last 5 minutes following a break from the ever hungry Alan Rogers.

The Falcons kept the lead until the final whistle, & it now sets up a mouth-watering 2nd leg in Edinburgh on Sunday 13th April with the HotScots a goal down on aggregate, but certainly not out of the competition taking with them a potentially crucial away goal.

Full time: London Falcons 2 - 1 HotScots FC

HotScots' Man of the Match: Ross (Goalkeeper)

**Goals: Edeki (?) (20, 75)
Bev (55)**