



Hotscots FC 0-2 Birmingham Blaze

Sunday 12th October

GFSN league matchday 2



Hotscots starting eleven

Ross McClung, Stevie Blythe, Stewart Fraser, Colin Sinclair, Michael Black, Conor Simpson, Alan Rodgers, Stuart Sutherland, Captain Paul, Craig Anderson, Nick Dickson (Subs, Stevie Gray, Darren Girdwood, Martyn Bell, Kevin Rowe)

Manager : Conor Simpson

Jack Kane Centre, Niddrie, Edinburgh. kick off 2pm.

Hotscots had nearly a full squad to choose from with only experienced full back Michel Quiniou and attacker Craig Parnham succumbing to injury for this top of the table clash. The last time out against a strong Haddington side, the Hotscots had acquitted themselves well and looked to carry their form into this game.

The Scots were fast out of the trap, strikers Rodgers and Anderson causing all sorts of problems at the back for Blaze. 5 minutes into the game, a run from Rodgers seemed to be going nowhere, however he attracted a rough challenge from a Blaze defender and won a penalty. Unfortunately Anderson fired over the bar from the spot.

The first half was a real one sided affair, however Hotscots just didn't seem to have their shooting boots on. Wild efforts were being taken, and sometimes the simple thing just wasn't done as players tried to walk the ball into the net. This lack of clinical finishing would end up costing them. Blaze had only one effort, a looping free kick towards the top corner, but McClung clawed the shot away.

After the break and never has the cliché "game of two halves" been more apt. Blaze scored almost straight after the kick off. Striker got behind the defence and fired towards goal. McClung made a good reaction save but the rebound bounced off the strikers shin and into the net. Hotscots tried in vain to get an equaliser and threw on Bell for Rodgers, Girdwood for Fraser and Gray for Dickson to try and boost their attack.

However play between midfield and attack seemed to peter out and become frantic. Blaze were starting to boss the game in the middle and got their reward from a corner. Cross played deep into the box, and Michael Black got his head to it. Unfortunately the ball looped into the top corner of the net, with McClung unable to do anything about it.

Overall a very frustrating afternoon for the Hotscots. After showing early promise, the heads went down going into the second half and in the end Blaze probably deserved to win the game with their late pressure. GFC Bournemouth away on the 16th November before two home games against London Leftfooters and Nottingham Ball Bois. Any Hotscots with ambitions to win this league have to understand that we cannot afford any more slip ups and dropped points. A win at Bournemouth is essential to get this campaign back up and running.