

Staff v Pupils

Match report by Mr Magee,
our Sports and Science Correspondent

Today marked the first Staff Vs Pupils fixture on Craigie's new 3G pitch. A capacity crowd gathered to witness an instant classic unfold. Manager Mr Magee rang the changes from last year's abysmal performance with himself not even making the squad. Mr MacArthur, a late fitness concern was ruled by the medical team due to elderly ailments.

A bold 4-1-4-2 formation was employed and the Staff team started brightly. Mr Baird had an early chance but elected to kick over the bar, an act he feels deserved 3 goals. With pressure building on the Pupils, the first cracks in their composure started to show. First Terry Leslie executed a perfect forward 4-1/2 somersault pike, with a 4.1 degree of difficulty which the ref correctly spotted as a dive. Then Greg Roberts had a sight of goal but a poor finish and the chance was gone.

The breakthrough came when the industrious Mr Breen charged down a poor Adil Din clearance and Mr Smith controlled the ball and beat the keeper from 8 yards. Mr Baird has another chance but again could not find the back of the net. The Pupil's best chance of the half was created by Terry Leslie who found Derryn Kesson who blasted miles over. The rest of his team was going to tear him to pieces, but he Apollo-gised at half time.

Just before the break Mr Tolland made an excellent run and was harshly called offside. Not even close to being offside in my opinion. The fact that there were no linesmen is not an excuse in my opinion. We have all the tools to avoid this kind of thing yet we choose to leave it up to officials who consistently get it wrong at big moments in big games. The Pupils were reduced to 11 players after receiving a red card for foul and abusive behaviour/not being nice to the referee.

A Staff halftime team talk which consisted of a "Everyone alright?? Cool erm same again please" resulted in an equaliser early in the second half. Leslie with a scruffy finish. Staff were still reeling from the equaliser and Keegan McFie would have took full advantage but for the heroics of goalkeeper Mr Moore. Mr Cormack rallied the troops and spotting Mr Smith making a run into the gap pinged a superb ball into the channel. Outpacing his marker Mr Smith curled an absolute peach of a shot towards the bottom right corner which required a truly world class save from Din.

Recent acquisition Mr Gates almost got his first goal for the club, displaying blistering pace down the left but unfortunately left his shooting boots in his car as he sliced it wide. The club hope the new signing could lead to an increase in merchandising sales in the Oceanic region, as well as a significant boost for our other services and products.

James "Tuna" Gallacher made it 2-1 on the night with a finish from an acute angle. He then returned to form with subsequent shots which came nowhere close to troubling the goalkeeper.

The staff were given a lifeline in the form of a penalty. I have to applaud the referee for having the courage to give a penalty in the face of a hostile crowd. Assist goes to Mr Scrimgeour. Teacher for the day Mr Fraser stepped up and calmly slotted home. Straight from the restart Mr Baird retrieved the ball and played a majestic ball for Mr Breen who silkily turned and slotted under the onrushing barricade. After the goal Leslie was ripped to pieces by SFA Gav who finished off with a nutmeg. Feeling sorry for the S6 pupils who had been dreaming of this day for 6 years, the staff then brought off a player and decided to forget how to defend. Leslie was the lucky recipient and the game finished with a respectable draw.

Full Time Staff 3 – 3 Pupils

MoM: There were some notable performances from the Staff team ranging from Mr Breen and Mr Gates bossing midfield as well as Mr Cormack at the back who frustrated the strikers all game long. However just edging it for his crucial tackling and positioning throughout the game is Mr Baird.

Big thanks to all involved and especially Moore, Dudgeon and Fraser for taking a game for the staff.

Lineups

Staff-Moore, Dudgeon, Baird, Cormack, "Gav", Gill, Lorimer, Breen, Gates, Fraser, Smith, Tolland

Pupils-Din, Clark, Gallacher, Gallagher, Harper, Kesson, Leslie, McFie, Roberts, Robertson, Ronan, Russell