

Bishopbriggs Academy Under 18s 2 Stranraer Academy Under 18s 3

In a hard fought match at Broadwood Stadium Stranraer Academy Under 18s progressed through to the final of the Scottish Shield and in doing so again highlighted the never say die attitude that had previously allowed them to get to this stage of the tournament. Twice behind in the match, the boys refused to allow their heads to drop and eventually ran out 3 2 winners against a good Bishopbriggs side.

Prior to kick off the Stranraer team were boosted by the sight of a healthy travelling crowd as a number of pupils, parents, teachers and other people with a connection to the school had travelled to the ground to lend their support. As the game commenced the early stages were evenly matched as both sides try to size each other up, however it was the Stranraer side who looked the more dangerous on attack and striker Dean Waddell was causing the defence problems as he chased down every loose ball and put pressure on the Bishopbriggs back four. Cochrane and Fyfe were starting to pull the strings at the heart of the Stranraer midfield and it was the former who looked the main goal threat as he managed to create space and fire off two long range attempts at goal but on both occasions the keeper was a match for his efforts.



Midway through the 1st half the deadlock was almost broken when Stranraer Academy were awarded a free kick as Blair Dougan was brought down after a mazy run towards the Bishopbrigg goal. Cochrane stepped up and bent the ball round the wall but with the keeper beat, his shot hit the upright and rebounded out for a goal kick. Yet it was the Dumbartonshire side that were to take the



lead after a cross ball to the back post was not cleared and the Bishopbriggs player drove the ball below keeper Reid in the Stranraer goal. To the players' credit this only acted to spur them on and were soon back on level terms when a corner into the box resulted in a goal mouth scramble and Dean Waddell managed to prod the ball over the line to leave the match evenly poised at 1 all at half time.

Into the 2nd half and Stranraer were to suffer another set back when a ball to the back post allowed the Bishopbriggs player to get a run on his marker and from 6 yards out head the ball past the stranded Reid. However Stranraer were not to be denied and with fresh legs introduced onto the park were soon back all square. Substitutes McDevitt and MacKenzie combined well and both had efforts saved before fellow sub Callum McHarrie showed an eagerness to pounce on the rebound and fire the ball home. Stranraer were not finished here and within minutes were in the lead with the best goal of the game. A superb free kick into the box by Angus Cochrane picked out Robert Boyd and the impressive defender rose

above his marker to head into the top corner leaving the opposing keeper with no chance. The Bishopbriggs side appeared dejected and as the game wore on Stranraer went from strength to strength and if anything looked to add to their lead. Apart from a late free kick scare deep into injury time Stranraer Academy looked comfortable and were worthy winners when the full time whistle blew and players, management and fans celebrated an excellent 3 2 victory.

In what was an outstanding team performance, all players contributed to the win and now will be rewarded with a trip to Hampden on the 24th of May to play the winners of Falkirk High School or Larbert High School. Again any support would be encouraged and hopefully by the end of the month Stranraer Academy will have two sides crowned as National Champions which would be a great achievement for the pupils, the school and the local area.

