

## HotScots FC retain Fitlads Cup

### HotScots FC 7 v London Falcons GFC 1

**HotScots FC: GK: Kris S, Michael B, Steven G, Stu S, Richard A, Craig P\*\*, Alan R, Eric B \*, Angus, Craig A\*\*\*, Captain Paul**

**Subs: \* Kev M, \*\* Kev R, \*\*\*Susan D, Fraser M.**

A stunning second half performance from Scotland's premier LGBT friendly football club, HotScots FC, saw them beat their English rivals, London Falcons, 7-1 to retain the Fitlads Cup trophy.

Despite warnings from assistant manager Ross McClung to keep things tight for the first 20 minutes HotScots got off to the worst possible start, conceding a freak goal within 30 seconds of the kick off. A free kick – given away on the half way line – was aimed into the box, but somehow looped over the HotScots keeper to send the visitors into the lead.

Within ten minutes the HotScots had got over the shock of going behind to such an early goal and began to take control of the game. On 20 minutes last season's top goalscorer Craig Anderson drew the HotScots level with an accurate header inside the 6 yard box. McClung, manager for the day, brought striker Kev Murphy on and moved Captain Paul into centre midfield. This reshuffle paid immediate dividends with Murphy firing the HotScots into the lead with a lovely left foot strike. Despite dominating possession the home team didn't create many goal scoring chances. The new look defence of Black as sweeper with Gray and S. Sutherland in front kept Falcons' chances to a minimum.

Half time score was 2-1.

A very positive half time team talk focused on the need for the HotScots to keep the ball on the ground and being a little more composed. And this is exactly what they did.

Within a minute of the restart a great run by Stu Sutherland saw his shot deflected past the hapless Falcons keeper to give the champions a deserved 3-1 lead. The visitors were shocked and the HotScots took advantage. Two minutes later new signing Angus played a beautiful pass into the path of Anderson who finished well to give the HotScots a comfortable lead.

The HotScots began to play some excellent passing football, much to the delight of coach Susan Dawson. Minutes later an impressive display of one touch passing finished with Captain Paul scoring with an unstoppable 20 yard stike into the top corner. Not to be outdone by his captain fellow midfielder Craig P unleased a 20 yard strike moments later sending the home side into a 6-1 lead. With more than 20 minutes still to play Captain Paul scored a fine individual effort beating three Falcon defenders to give the defending champions an unassailable lead.

Falcons put in a spirited display and counter attacked where possible, but strong performances at the back from Black and Gray limited them to very few chances. HotScots continued to create opportunities but a combination of goal line clearances and the woodwork saw the score remain 7-1 and the HotScots were deservedly crowned Fitlads Champions again.

A great team performance by all made it too difficult for management to choose any individual performance as a 'Man of the Match' display.

