

## BEFC 2-3 (1-0) HIBS

9am, Saturday November 13th

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*"...An exquisitely executed goal from a well worked set piece saw BEFC go up 2-1 with 8 minutes to play..."*

The victory was an inch away. Against the league leader, unfortunately it slipped away from BEFC in the last minutes.

As usual, Hibs looked well prepared as the whole squad performed an extensive warm up session before the bleary eyed BEFC players – perhaps recovering from the previous evening's liquid intake?

The game started more even than expected, Hibs started to control the game gradually and give BEFC constant pressure. There weren't many clear chances or danger to Keith in goal, except for a frantic line clearance from an unchallenged header by a Hibs central defender visiting our box. Rob and Tim narrowed the space in the middle with the help of our two central midfielder, Kenji and ????, while Tetsuro, in the left full back position covering intelligently & winning some great arial duels (note – he is the shortest player on the pitch), and Takashi comfortably controlling the right corner with some excellent tackles.

Quick move of Masato and Futoshi move direct to the Hibs goal, with pinpointed crosses from Biffa and dribbling with the special rhythm, pulled BEFC back in sharp counter-attacks.

After about 25 minutes a beautiful header penetrated to Hibs goal from a corner thus obtained, as Hibs own goal, practically resulted from strong pressure of BEFC. Just before the half time, Masato slipped behind the Hibs defensive line to fire a dynamite right foot from nearly 30 yards that crashed against the cross bar.

Half time - BEFC 1 and Hibs 0.

The second half had a slightly different outlook. Hibs organized combination both of the side lines, stretched BEFC defense more widely to create little more dangerous space in between BEFC players. With 13 men to fight, BEFC's tires became more apparent. After around 60 minutes, a low free-kick from the right side, was flicked by the heel of the Hibs #8, the player always produced trouble in BEFC games. There was no chance for Keith to stop this.

According to the official TML report, it was 8 minutes to go to the end of the game, another corner produced a second lead for BEFC, with Tim striking the ball by some part of his left leg, narrowly clearing a Hibs head on the line. Goal!!!! BEFC 2 and Hibs 1.

BEFC could have won this exciting match if we had been able to concentrate a little more. The loss of the last two goals could have been prevented if we had a little more pressure on the opponent. At 5 minutes?? to go, the ball stolen at the left produced a very accurate early cross to a diving header by #3 of Hibs; according to Richard, he had already been cautioned twice in the game along with several other Hibs players who had to resort to some 'desperate' tackling at times.

A ball bounced right to the left through our players, then gave another strike by #8 in the last minute. Disappointed were we? Perhaps. Very exciting and entertaining, missing only the result. Rob put the words to those of us standing silently.

**Team:** Keith;Tim, Rob, Takashi, Tetsuro; Biffa, James, Kenji, ???, Richard ,Allan; Futoshi, Masato