

Royal High School 2 Trinity Academy 3

Friday 26th September

Trinity exhibited sheer grit and determination to grind out an extra time victory over the Royal High School in the Lothian's Cup. The victory came following a disappointing result on the previous Friday, but Trinity showed their bouncebackability by performing admirably against a decent outfit in the way of Royal High.

Trinity started positively and forced the home side on to the back foot, not allowing them to settle into the game. Yet, despite the promising start it was Trinity who would concede first in this cup tie.

A back pass arrived at the feet of goalkeeper Blair Dodds which was immediately chased down by several Royal High forwards. Dodds was forced into making an error with his kick arriving at the feet of Havelin, who had the simple task of stroking home to put the home side ahead.

The response however was excellent from Trinity and they did not allow this set back to hinder them going forward in the game. A goal was coming from the team in their new, flash, yellow and black strips and that it was as we soon had parity once more.

A long thrown in wide right, from Sonny Swanson caused panic in the box as Royal High struggled to clear. For this they would pay as the ball soon found the feet of Gabriel Hill at the fringe of the box, and he calmly slotted the ball through a host of players and into the net.

Trinity did not settle for simply being on level terms, they wanted more. This told in the tenacity of the midfield and the desire to retrieve the ball when not in possession of it. This was soon to be rewarded as Trinity managed to flip the game on its head and take the lead.

Creative spark in midfield, Swanson fed the ball to Josh King who then in turn dinked the ball over the Royal High back line allowing Ozzy Bajo to use his pace to get in behind.

Due to the lightening pace of Bajo who reached the ball first and his sweet first time strike found the side netting inside the left hand post. The ebullience amongst the away team was evident.

As the second half began the general flow of the match became extremely scrappy and either side were finding it difficult to settle into a rhythm once more. Several promising probes forward from Royal High were quickly thwarted by the stalwart Trinity defence.

Since going ahead Trinity had fallen into the trap of sitting back too early and they were only inviting pressure upon themselves. The second period was devoid of chances as both sides struggled to create much in the way of clear cut chances.

Just as it appeared as if Trinity were to hang on for the win one of Royal High's last forays forward availed a goal. A last gasp toe poke at the back post from Jack trickled into the net to bring the tie all square and to drag the match into extra time.

The first period of extra time continued in much the same vain as the second half and chances were few and far to come by for both sides. So the game moved into the second half of extra time and somehow it sparked into life.

A surge forward from Trinity allowed Josh King to strike a powerful strike from just outside the area that looked destined to find the top corner. However the Royal High goalkeeper made a brilliant leap to his right and with a strong hand clawed the ball out of danger.

Then the game's moment of magic. Both sides were beginning to brace themselves for spot kicks but centre half Stephane Murray had other ideas.

He strode forward with the ball with confidence, striding into the oppositions half. No one came to meet him and he continued his move forward until he reached about 30 yards out where he unleashed a stunning strike that dipped and swerved past the helpless goalkeeper to win the match for Trinity. A simply wonderful strike from Murray.

On the whole the result it would have to be said was well deserved as Trinity performed admirably against an opponent who are currently competing at a higher level. A brilliant result that the side can use to kick on and hopefully put a string of promising results together.

FT (aet): The Royal High School 2-3 Trinity