

TT1011-208

TT No.208: Ian Brown - Sat 19th March 2011; **East Kilbride Thistle** 3 Petershill 1; NCA West of Scotland Cup; Admission: £5; Programme: n/a; Scotch Pie: £1; Coffee: £1.

East Kilbride otherwise known as Cille Bhrìghde an Ear (in Scottish Gaelic) is a large suburban town in the South Lanarkshire council area, in the West Central Lowlands of Scotland. Designated as Scotland's first "New Town" in 1947, it forms part of the Greater Glasgow Conurbation. The area lies on high ground on the south side of the Cathkin Braes, about 8 miles (13 km) southeast of Glasgow city centre and close to the boundary with East Renfrewshire.

The town is enclosed by the White Cart River to the west and the Rotten Calder to the east, the latter flowing northwards to join the River Clyde near Cambuslang. This area was previously the site of the small and historic village of East Kilbride, prior to its post-war development. The modern settlement serves both as a dormitory town for the city of Glasgow and maintains its own commercial centre.

East Kilbride takes its name from an Irish saint, Saint Bride (or Brigit) who founded a monastery for nuns and monks in County Kildare, Eire in the 6th century. Irish monks introduced her order to Scotland. Kil, from the Gaelic, cill, means church or burial place.

The Railway station and ground are just a few minutes' walk apart via the old centre of town, now known locally as The Village.

The Show Park has a social club outside the ground, and a small area of covered standing set quite well back from the pitch. There is hard standing all around, somewhat overgrown on the far side.

The tea bar is at one end of a portacabin housing the committee room.

A programme wasn't issued for today's game due to bad weather earlier in the week which made it doubtful that the match would go ahead but the line-ups were both read over the PA and written up on a white-board by the entrance. They are one of a few junior teams who provide this service along with music over the PA System.

Thistle were certainly up for this match, against their higher league opponents. A long ball out of defence in the 7th minute found the run of the unmarked Steven McClung who fired an early shot on goal from 18 yards, seemingly catching Spaniard Mikel Arruti unawares in goal. The keeper could only parry the ball into the path of the advancing McClung, who fired high into the roof of the net to put the home side ahead.

Thistle doubled their lead on 15 minutes when a pass back to Arruti got caught under the feet of the keeper. McClung was quickest to pounce, robbing the stopper of possession, and rolling the ball home for his easiest goal of the day.

McClung's and Thistle's third of the day came on 26 minutes when a loose ball in the Peasy (as they are known) area fell to the striker, who took his chance well, burying the ball low to the right of the keeper from 10 yards out.

On 47 minutes a shot from just outside the area was touched over the bar by the EKT keeper Murdoch, and the resultant corner caused problems in the Thistle defence as the keeper appeared to come and claim the ball before changing his mind, leaving striker Paul McLeod the easy job of heading home from close range.

Buoyed by this Peasy dominated large periods of possession and creating chances in the second half, without really troubling the Thistle custodian.

On 78 minutes the game was effectively over for Peasy when defender Ross McCabe saw a straight red card for what appeared to be extreme dissent towards the referee.

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