

Evening News

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Colts' cup run finally halted

IAN MACKAY

NORTH Berwick Colts lost 3-2 to Hillwood Boys' Club in their under-13 Dunfermline Building Society Scottish Cup semi-final at Hallhill in Dunbar - but the team from East Lothian went out of this national event with their heads held high.

Two heartbreaking goals in the second half of the game at this magnificent venue in East Lothian settled the tie in favour of the Glasgow team.

You need luck to make progress to the final of a Scottish Cup and it was all on the side of the visiting outfit from the West of Scotland in this game. This was North Berwick's first time in the last four of a Scottish Cup and their loyal army of fans turned out in force to cheer the boys on at Dunbar United's pristine stadium.

On a day when the local side needed to get a fair share of the breaks, they were left with only their pride intact at the end of the game, while Hillwood celebrated getting through to the national final at Airdrie in May.

In the first half, the Glasgow outfit were hemmed in their own half for much of the time with North Berwick hammering away at them without success, the nearest they came to a breakthrough by way of a tremendous free-kick from Andrew Cumming that scraped wide of a post.

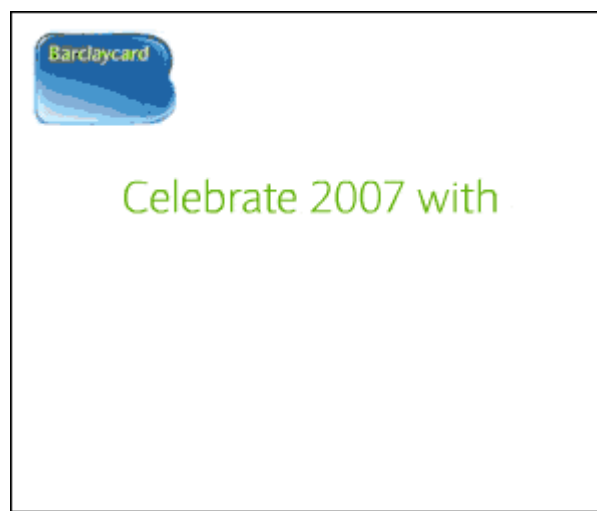
In the 25th minute however, Hillwood broke away up the right and the powerfully-built Brian McInnes lashed an unstoppable shot past North Berwick keeper, Euan McGonigal, from the right angle of the 18-yard box.

It was a spectacular shot from the Hillwood player and McGonigal had no chance of saving the ball.

This goal was against the run of play, but it was a stunning blow to the East Lothian club and their supporters. Five minutes later, though, North Berwick were deservedly back on level terms, Andrew Cumming bundling the ball over the line after a superb ball across goal from Tom Carr on the right. It remained 1-1 at the break, with everything to play for in the second period. But sadly, for North Berwick, two speculative shots at goal from Hillwood's Grant Alexander and Ciaran McKenna both found the back of McGonigal's net to leave the local outfit trailing 3-1.

The second of these two goals came with only 20 minutes left to play and North Berwick struggled to get out of their own half as the buoyed-up Hillwood side threatened to go further ahead.

It was a struggle for the local side to get out of their own half but they did regain some poise to force their way upfield again and were rewarded with a wonderful goal from a Ruaridh Donaldson free-kick into the roof of the Hillwood net in time added on by excellent match



official Alex Miller.

That goal was not enough to keep alive the cup dream of North Berwick Colts but it was a wonderful effort on their part to do so well against one of the favourites to win the silverware.

Possibly, Hillwood Boys' Club were just that wee bit "hungrier" for success than North Berwick. Certainly, one of their coaches was spoken to several times by the referee during the game for aggressive behaviour.

Why this person was allowed to remain in the Hillwood dugout, only the referee can provide the answer to that question.

In their previous ties in the Scottish Cup, North Berwick have always displayed wonderful sportsmanship and respect for their opponents when winning and they accepted defeat with great dignity, too, on this occasion.

Their large support also deserve praise for the exceptional level of encouragement they have given to their team in what has been a memorable run in the Scottish Cup.

This club, based in a town that has rugby as its most popular sport, will continue to make progress in promoting football with a new state-of-the-art facility set to be built in the public park, to be shared by North Berwick Colts and other sports clubs.

North Berwick Colts: Euan McGonigal, Grant Munro, Greg Houlston, Tom Miller, Callum Currie, Steven Purves, Ruaridh Donaldson, Sam Williamson, Andrew Cumming, Tom Carr, Owen Paterson, Arran Smith, Niall Mackle, Alistair Simpson, Connor Johnston.

Hillwood Boys' Club: Stuart Menzies, Colin Price, Scott Jackson, Ted McVey, Jamie Phillips, Daniel Dunbar, Brian McInnes, Ciaran McKenna, Grant Alexander, Frazier Meechan, Matthew Clark, David Brannagan, William Robertson, Aidan Boyce, Connor McGlinchey.

MUSSELBURGH Windsor's under-16 Scottish Cup semi-final against Albion Boys' Club in Aberdeen was called off due to the pitch being unplayable while the East & Midlothian Schools Select v Aberdeen in the semi-final of the Scottish Schools Inter-Region Cup at Hallhill on Monday was also called off due to water on the pitch.

THIS Friday, at Saughton Enclosure, the Eastern Region Youth FA stage the final of the under-13 Steve Maskrey Cup between Hutchison Vale Colts and Currie, kick-off 7.00pm.

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