

That Monday morning feeling....

Firstly congratulations to Shrewsbury who literally flew out of the blocks like a whirlwind. I must be honest I thought the full on intense press would last about 15 minutes but how wrong I was.

At times it seemed that they had extra men on the pitch, they mixed that pressing game with physicality and we had no answer.

We looked a little overwhelmed at times and when they scored after half an hour following a set piece the scene was set.

CD obviously recognised the problem and after the goal he replaced Anderson (who had been booked just before the goal) with Lyndon. This move was brave but surprised me as I was expecting Yokoyama to come on.

The addition of Dykes would change the focus of the attack and we yielded our philosophy of the beautiful game to a degree and it just didn't work. Don't get me wrong it was a brave decision to make so early in the game but it played into their hands really.

Following the substitution we were suckered on the break, it's one of those things when you play the way we do, the philosophy is to score more than the opposition and the back door is often left open when you go in search of a goal.

Two nil and for the first time this season I was questioning our ability to come back from this until Iwata hit a trademark goal from the edge of the box and my faith was restored to a degree,.

I think the game was won at the start of the second half. We came out looking bright and Stansfield threatened a few times as we attacked the goal in front of our supporters.

Shrewsbury were still hitting us with long balls and Lyndon was more involved in defensive headers in the middle of the pitch than ones in the opposition penalty area.

We were trying to get the ball into their box and whilst Alex Cochrane looked effective and managed to find Lyndon on a few occasions Laird on the right wasn't managing to beat the first man very often.

On the hour we were caught on the break again and Shrewsbury's two goal cushion was restored when Bloxham's close range effort was deflected into the goal, we got bodies back but just didn't pick up Bloxham who was having a bit of a field day at the expense of our defence.

The goal sparked a double substitution when May replaced Harris and Leonard replaced Laird.

The Laird substitution was a strange one, not because he was having a good game but because CD then dropped Iwata into the right back position and put Leonard alongside Paik in the middle, odd when he could have simply swapped Laird for TGH.

The Harris substitution also looked a bit odd to me, taking off Harris who was replaced by May, had he not swapped Laird for Leonard he could have used Leonard as the second substitute which would have been a better fit. It looked a bit of a panicked selection but he obviously had his reasons for it.

We now had all three recognised strikers on the pitch but all that does is restrict them, they get in each others way and the result was Lyndon going central with Stansfield running the channels and May dropping back trying to win the ball in midfield.

It all looked very disjointed at this point but when we were awarded a penalty following a hand ball in the box and Stansfield converted hope was restored.

As the last 15 minutes of the game wore on plus the eleven minutes of added time I found myself thinking we wouldn't score if we were there until midnight. Shrewsbury had shut up shop and saw the game out despite only having twenty percent possession, having said that a lot of possession was passes across our own penalty area as Shrewsbury pressed us.

I think CD might need to think about being a bit more basic as we go into the next games. I personally think that TGH deserves another stint as right back, he adds height and is a little more conservative than Laird.

It could also be time to bring Yokoyama into the fray on the left and move Anderson over to the right.

Moving Thor to accommodate anyone is madness, he is wasted if we don't use him as a number 10.

It's certainly not the end of the end of the world and we have to remember that our manager is also learning his trade in his first post, I think his substitutions were a bit reactive and possibly made a few players uncomfortable in positions they're not used to being in.

Tomorrow I'm going to look at how we defend and what our options are.

A special mention for both sets of fans who clapped on the twenty first minute and also to [Anthony Routley](#) Central Blues Travel for the twenty one black roses to mark our murdered friends and family from 50 years ago. I'm saddened that our players didn't wear black armbands bands.

KRO