



INTER LIONS FC 1 V HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS 1 (MINOTAURS WON 5-4 ON PENALTIES)

GEORGE GANIATSAS THE HERO AS MINOTAURS LIFT CHAMPIONS OF CHAMPIONS CUP YET AGAIN

It's a highlight of every Champion of Champions day and this clash didn't disappoint as St George Football Association's legendary outfit Hurstville City Minotaurs made it back to back titles in the Over 45 men's category with a penalty shootout victory over Inter Lions.

It was their third Champion of Champions title however the squad won in the Over 45's category. But if were honest, it didn't always look likely as despite peppering the Lions goal, the Minotaurs struggled to find the net taking them 68 minutes to find their breakthrough through Sam Panagakis.

For Inter, it will go down as an opportunity missed taking out the big guns, after taking the lead with the first chance of the game through Giuseppe Bartolillo. From then on, their counter attacks just wouldn't click as their opposition racked up quite the shot count.

One shot, one goal. After an even five minutes, Inter Lions broke through. Showing class, Giuseppe Fedele found Giuseppe Bartolillo with plenty of space inside the box. Bartolillo then finished into the far side netting with a low drive.

It would then take them another 30 minutes for Adrian Ciscato to rack up another meaningful strike with plenty of chances being racked up at the other end. At this point we should mention Inter keeper Frank Mikuletic managed to produce many stunning saves including from the penalty spot to keep the lead in-tact going into the half time break.

After the resumption, it was noticeable that the games pattern had changed with Inter now creating chances of their own. Speaking of which Anthony Iancono came oh so close, not being able to apply a finish after a tremendous weaving run into the box.

The Lions were desperate with last ditch defence denying their more fancied opposition. It was going to take something special to breakthrough and that came through Panagakis who scored a wonderful first touch lobbed finish from outside the box on the right wing.

As the minutes ticked on, neither side were able to assert their dominance in the remainder of normal time as well as into extra time.

So, the match was to be decided by a penalty shootout of which was decided in sudden death fashion when Minotaurs stand-in keeper George Ganiatsas heroically saved a Paul Pettenon penalty that gave to Hurstville City Minotaurs the trophy..

Sprinkled with quality across the pitch the likes of former NSL stars Angelo Petratos, Abbas Saad, Spiro Hantzis, Steve Karavatakis, Tom Pontidas, David Barrett, George Souris, Nick Plataniotis and Papoythis have made this team the invincibles.

Match Stats

Inter Lions FC 1 (Bartolillo 5') v Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 (S. Panagakis 68')

Minotaurs won 5-4 on penalties

Hurstville City Minotaurs: 1. George GANIATSAS, 2. Angelo PETRATOS, 3. George HAJITTOFI, 4. Peter PAPOYTHIS, 5. Gennadi SPIVAK, 6. John COSENTINO, 7. Abbas SAAD, 8. Spiro HANTZIS, 9. Steve KARAVATAKIS, 10. Tom PONTIDAS, 16. Harry CHRISTODOULOU, 19. David BARRETT, 22. Michael LARDIS, 38. George SOURIS, 13. Nick PLATANIOTIS, 15. Sam PANAGAKIS, 41. Sokratis AGIASOTIS.

