



**Scottish Premier  
League**

**CELTIC**

**versus**

**ST  
MIRREN**

**CELTIC PARK  
WEDNESDAY  
25th APRIL 1979  
KICK-OFF 7.30 p.m.**

**PROGRAMME**

**10p**

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# We're in good spirits for a testing time



**IT'S grand to be home after playing away four times on the trot — at Tannadice, Tynecastle, Paisley and Aberdeen.**

A return of five points from the eight at stake keeps the team on course for a place in Europe next season.

Celts are still there in the run-in for the League Championship, a position which quite a number of people were forecasting not so long ago was beyond the capabilities of the Parkhead players.

There is a tendency — though not at Celtic Park — to keep comparing the current squad with the Lisbon Lions. This is a negative attitude. These are different times and teams must be judged on the standard of 1979.

Of course, we want to become a better side, but I'm highly satisfied with the manner in which our players are tackling things today. They've got commitment and it has shown through clearly in their last four games.

It hasn't been a kitty-bar-the-door attitude. Celts have put the emphasis on positive football. We want to take the play to the opposition. It was that attitude that brought our clear-cut penalty kick at Aberdeen at the week-end.

After this evening we have seven league fixtures to fulfil before May 18 . . . and , if our ambition in this season of change for the club is to be fulfilled, we've got to tackle every one of them as crunch matches.

With Dundee United and Rangers (twice) on the list clearly Celtic will have a big say in the ultimate destination of the championship.

We go into this testing time free of injury problems and in high spirits with a squad which is gathering cohesion with every match.

The spirit of the side has been helped considerably by fans who travel from all over the country to matches at considerable expense and time.

The best way we can show our appreciation of their effort is to seek the maximum points in every test.

There is no better time to get on with that task than tonight against St. Mirren, a team for which I have the highest respect. They are a good footballing side. We must show we are a better one.

**BILLY McNEILL**

# CELTIC



**FOUNDED 1888**

**Directors:**

Desmond White, C.A.

(Chairman)

Thomas L. Devlin

James M. Farrell,  
M.A., LL.B.

Kevin Kelly

**Manager:**

Billy McNeill

**Address:**

Celtic Park,  
95 Kerrydale Street,  
Glasgow G40 3RE

**HONOURS:**

**League Champions (30 times)**

1893, 1894, 1896,  
1898, 1905, 1906,  
1907, 1908, 1909,  
1910, 1914, 1915,  
1916, 1917, 1919,  
1922, 1926, 1936,  
1938, 1954, 1966,  
1967, 1968, 1969,  
1970, 1971, 1972,  
1973, 1974, 1977.

**Cup Winners (25 times)**

1892, 1899, 1900,  
1904, 1907, 1908,  
1911, 1912, 1914,  
1923, 1925, 1927,  
1931, 1933, 1937,  
1951, 1954, 1965,  
1967, 1969, 1971,  
1972, 1974, 1975,  
1977.

**League Cup Winners (8 times)**

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1967, 1968, 1969,  
1970, 1975.

**Empire Exhibition Cup 1938**

**Coronation Cup 1953**

**European Cup 1967**



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## OUR VISITORS

# SAINTS RECOVER

**AFTER a quite unexpected slump, the talented St. Mirren squad which had genuine aspirations about a place in Europe next season got back on the victory trail against Hearts at the week-end.**

It is a win that will clearly have relaxed manager Jim Clunie's team and make them a formidable company tonight at Celtic Park.

Tension was their trouble in recent weeks. Having gone off the boil, the fear of making mistakes on the field meant they were making more than their usual quota.

Indeed, in the Love Street match with Celtic two Saturdays ago, their manager spent most of the ten minute interval telling them to relax and play their natural game.

They did so against Hearts last week-end and knocked on wood so often that with a little luck the 2—1 victory might have been 5—1 against the problem hit Edinburgh team.

In short, Saints looked more like their menacing selves and will clearly have to be treated with considerable respect this evening.

Mark you, there's little chance that Celts will underestimate them. Not after that tight match at Paisley which brought two points from a single George McCluskey goal that must be on the short list for the score of the season!

In fact, some St. Mirren fans

wondered why he wasn't called upon to release more thunderbolts when Celts were awarded some long distance frees. It is a point Celtic fans have pondered as well!

The quality of St. Mirren's football these last two seasons has been widely acknowledged and aces like Frank McGarvey and Tony Fitzpatrick have been the subject of considerable scrutiny by the big guns in England.

All credit to the Paisley outfit for holding on to them. Saints have ambitious plans. Ground reconstruction gets under way shortly and while transfer cash would let them proceed with extra security on the work the club has made it clear any player departure would be at their time — and their price.

Measuring a need for transfer cash against the playing future of the club is always a delicate affair, but Saints do have a wealth of young players in the back-ground.

Some of the players of the future won an international tourney in West Germany at Easter and, against Hearts, teenager Peter Weir, who not so long ago was playing with Neilston Juniors, showed his considerable paces.

Normally a midfield operator he took up a more advanced role at the week-end and his showing seems likely to bring a third big team appearance after a spell on the substitutes' bench.



**CELTIC** winger Davie Provan is first to the ball against challenging St. Mirren central defender Jackie Copland.

# MATCH TEAMS

## CELTIC

*(from)*

**PETER LATCHFORD**  
**DANNY McGRAIN**  
**ANDY LYNCH**  
**ROY AITKEN**  
**JO EDVALDSSON**  
**MURDO MacLEOD**  
**DAVIE PROVAN**  
**MIKE CONROY**  
**VIC DAVIDSON**  
**TOMMY BURNS**  
**GEORGE McCLUSKEY**  
**JOHNNY DOYLE**  
**TOM McADAM**

Ref  
**Mr I. M.**  
 (Gla)

Line  
**Mr J. R.**  
 (Grang)

**Mr J. I.**  
 (Har)



Spectators are  
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# HALF-TIME S

<b>A</b>	<b>ABERDEEN RANGERS</b>		<b>E</b>	<b>KILMARNOCK DUNDEE</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>PARTICK THISTLE HIBERNIAN</b>		<b>F</b>	<b>RAITH ROVERS ST. JOHNSTONE</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>DUNDEE UTD. HEARTS</b>		<b>G</b>	<b>STIRLING ALBION AIRDRIE</b>	
<b>D</b>	<b>CLYDEBANK DUMBARTON</b>		<b>H</b>	<b>ALBION ROVERS BERWICK</b>	

# BELL'S SCOTCH



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 (emouth)  
**LIMOND**  
 (ilton)



requested to take  
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 er the match.

## ST MIRREN

*(from)*

**BILLY THOMSON**  
**JOHN YOUNG**  
**IAIN MUNRO**  
**TONY FITZPATRICK**  
**ANDY DUNLOP**  
**JACKIE COPLAND**  
**PETER WEIR**  
**BOBBY TORRANCE**  
**JIMMY BONE**  
**BILLY ABERCROMBY**  
**FRANK McGARVEY**  
**LEX RICHARDSON**  
**BILLY STARK**

# SCOREBOARD

<b>I</b>	<b>FALKIRK BRECHIN</b>		<b>M</b>		
<b>J</b>	<b>COWDENBEATH MEADOWBANK</b>		<b>N</b>		
<b>K</b>			<b>O</b>		
<b>L</b>			<b>P</b>		

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## SIDELINES

### SAINTS' SCORERS

St. Mirren's top scorer is Frank McGarvey. His close control and sharpness has brought a total of 12 goals so far this season. Bobby Torrance has netted eight and former Celt Jimmy Bone, Derek Hyslop and Billy Stark have six apiece.

### GAMES TO COME

Celtic fixtures still to come are: Dundee United (H), Rangers (H and A), Hearts (H), Hibernian (H), St. Mirren (A), Partick Thistle (A).

### TOP SPORTSMAN

The winner of the fair play award for which the St. Mirren players compete through the season will be announced this week. Each week the top sportsman in the side is awarded points. The winner receives a Chrysler car for a year. Frank McGarvey was the winner last season.

### PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Dundee Utd.	32	17	9	7	51	32	41
Rangers .....	28	13	6	9	38	26	35
Celtic .....	28	14	8	6	45	30	34
Aberdeen ....	30	10	7	13	47	28	33
St. Mirren ....	32	14	13	5	41	35	33
Hibernian ....	32	10	9	13	39	38	33
Morton .....	34	11	12	11	48	50	33
Partick Thistle	29	11	11	7	31	31	29
Hearts .....	30	8	15	7	38	56	23
Motherwell ..	34	5	23	6	29	81	16



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**ST. MIRREN 'keeper Billy Thomson touches clear from high flying Celt George McCluskey while Paisley full back John Young keeps guard on the goal line.**