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v HAMILTON ACCIES

CELTIC



CELTIC PARK  
WEDNESDAY  
AUGUST 24, 1988  
KICK-OFF 7.30pm



SKOL CUP  
3rd Round

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# Ian Skelly

## *Congratulations*

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**LIVERPOOL:**  
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# Billy McNeill



## THE CELTIC BOSS SPEAKS OUT

PREMIER League newcomers Hamilton Accies are our visitors this evening for the third round of the Skol Cup.

Everyone seems to be writing the Accies off as being relegation fodder once more this term but you'll find I'm not one of them. Their boss John Lambie has a wealth of experience of the game in Scotland and you can be sure that he'll have learnt and applied the lessons learnt during Hamilton's last stay in the top flight two years ago.

Of course we meet Hamilton after having negotiated Ayr United in the second round last Wednesday.

Ally McLeod's men bore out my prediction that they wouldn't be coming to Celtic Park looking for a draw and string six men across the back. Ayr, to their credit, came out and made a game of it and played some neat football before succumbing to our superior all round fitness and firepower. I was glad to see Andy Walker and Frank McAvennie get among the goals so early in the season and at this early stage things seem to be ticking over quite nicely although there remain, as you might expect at this stage in the season, a couple of rough edges to smooth down.

Obviously we will go into tonight's match as favourites but the only way we can do justice to ourselves is if we treat Hamilton as equals. That always has to be the attitude to adopt in games of this kind. The history of football in Scotland has, time and again, shown that big clubs who take wins for

granted against smaller clubs, almost invariably come croppers.

In saying that though, I don't think Celtic has a problem with ill-founded arrogance. We remember only too well how we were written off by so many at the beginning of last season and how it managed to fire our determination to prove so many people wrong.

A comment too about our mini goal-keeping crisis. I can discount rumours that we have asked Ronnie Simpson to come out of retirement to help us out. Seriously though, I don't think I've witnessed such an amazing turn of events which has seen us lose the services of four 'keepers in such a small space of time either through transfer or injury. If I hadn't bought Alan Rough I shudder to think what we would have done for the Ayr United game. And I'm sure you will agree with me that Alan has lost little of the form which made him the best in the land throughout the last decade.

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# NEWS BEAT

CELTIC'S reserve match against Rangers Reserves in the Premier Reserve League this Saturday has a 2.00pm kick off. Several Celtic fans who would normally be at Ibrox for the big game but who couldn't manage owing to the ticket shortage may be interested in coming along to cheer on the young Celts. These matches can often be just as exciting as ones involving the big brothers of each side.

The new official history of Celtic will be officially launched tomorrow (Thursday at a press conference at Celtic Park). The book is called *Celtic — A Century With Honour* and is written by Scottish Labour MP, freelance journalist and Celtic fan Brian Wilson.

Its a magnificent publication bringing the Celtic story right up to date with original research and stylish writing about the great events and personalities in the club's glorious history. The book is hard-back and costs £9.95 from the Celtic shops and other good book-stores. Its a publication no Celtic fan will want to miss.

When Celtic were looking for someone to write the club's official history, no-one could argue that they didn't choose the right man.

Brian Wilson, a life-long fan of the club is founding Editor of the West Highland Free Press and is a regular contributor to the Glasgow Herald, Observer,

Guardian and New Statesman. He was also the first winner of the Nicholas Tomalin award for outstanding journalism. He became Labour M.P. for Cunninghame North in 1987 and soon after accepted an invitation to become Parliamentary adviser to the Scottish Professional Football's Association.

Alan Rough has joined Celtic at an ideal time. For Alan is nicely placed to gain a bit of revenge over events which occurred some 16 years ago. That was when Alan, then with Partick Thistle, played against Honved in the UEFA Cup. Unfortunately for him and his team mates despite losing only 1-0 to the Hungarians away from home they were soundly beaten 3-0 at Firhill. And if Alan has the chance of playing against the same side in Celtic's first round European Cup tie there will be no lack of incentive on his part to turn the tables on the men from Budapest.

Celtic have signed another goalkeeper. He's young David McLean whom the club signed from Clydebank juveniles. Chief Scout John Kelman spotted David playing in a youth tournament in Ireland a couple of weeks ago. And days later he was turning out for Celtic's Reserve League West match with Dumbarton.



## DIRECTORY

**Directors** — John C. McGinn (Chairman), Kevin Kelly (Vice-Chairman), James M. Farrell MA LLB, Christopher White CA, Thomas Grant; **Manager:** Billy McNeill MBE; **First Team Coach:** Tommy Craig; **Reserve Team Coach:** Bobby Lennox MBE; **Physiotherapist:** Brian Scott; **Secretaries:** Desmond White & Co. **Commercial Manager:** John C. McGinn; **Chief Scout:** John Kelman.

## CLUB ADDRESS

Celtic Park, 95 Kerrydale Street, Glasgow G40 3RW ☎ 041-556 2611 or 041-554 2710.

**Commercial Offices Address:** 18 Kerrydale Street, Glasgow G40 3RW ☎ Celtic Pools: 041-551 9922; Celtic Lottery: 041-556 7171; Commercial Manager: 041-554 0040; The Celtic View: 041-551 8103; Celtic Shop: 041-554 4231 or 041-332 2727; Ticket Enquiries: 041-554 2710.

## HONOURS

**League Champions (35 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, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1988.

**Scottish Cup Winners (28 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, 1980, 1985, 1988.

**League Cup Winners (9 times):**  
1957, 1958, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1982.

**Empire Exhibition Cup:** 1938.

**St Mungo Cup:** 1951.

**Coronation Cup:** 1953.

**European Cup:** 1967.

**Record victory:** 11-0 v Dundee (Division 1) October 1895.

**Record defeat:** 0-8 v Motherwell (Division 1) April 1937.

**Most individual League goals in a season:** 50 James McGroarty (1935-36).

**Highest aggregate score:** James McGroarty 397 (1922-1939).

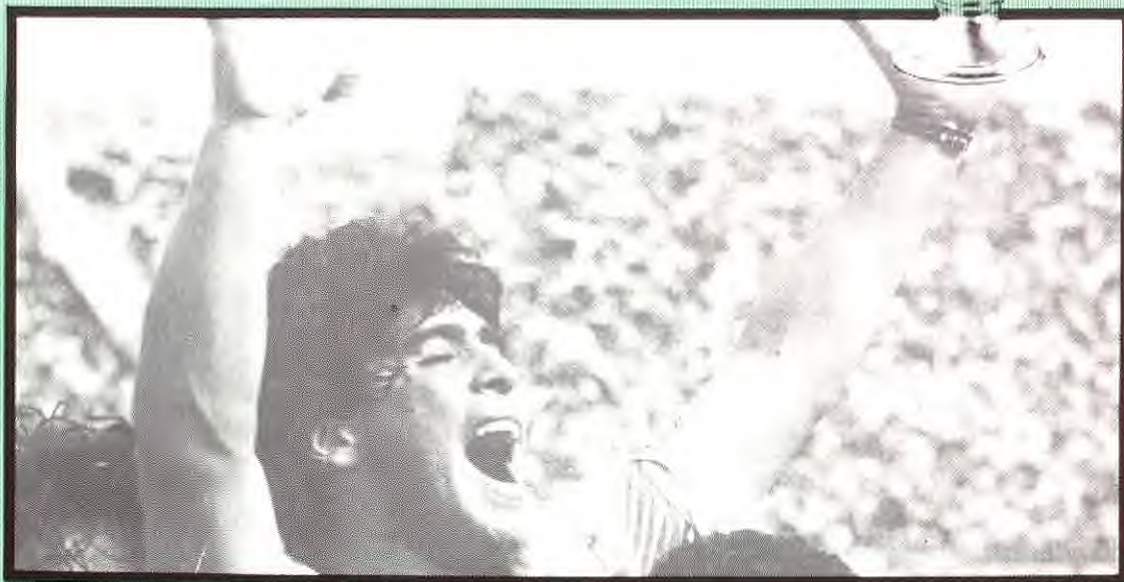
**Most capped player:** Danny McGrain 62 times for Scotland.



# EURO SPOTLIGHT



## DIEGO MARADONA



**FOR the majority of people Diego Maradona remains quite simply the greatest player in the World. Now approaching his twenty seventh birthday the phenomenal ability of the Argentinian has dominated soccer headlines since he was a teenager and within that time his popularity has remained undiminished.**

Maradona was born on 30th October 1961, the son of an Argentinian factory worker and one of seven children. He played league football for Argentinos Juniors at the age of fifteen and his precocious talent brought him his international debut one year later. Only at the last moment was he omitted from the 1978 Argentinian World Cup squad as he was considered too young.

In the wake of the World Cup Maradona established himself in the international team and a truly world class performance at Hampden Park against Scotland in June '79 underlined his right to take over from Pele as the greatest player in the world. In 1981 he moved to Boca Juniors but remained with them less than twelve months before signing for Barcelona in 1982. That same year marked his

World Cup debut but the Argentinian superstar had a disappointing series. He was subjected to some callous man to man marking, notably by Gentile of Italy and ended up being ordered off himself in a match with Brazil, for a brutal foul that was probably borne out of frustration.

After two years the violent play which bedevilled Spanish football saw Maradona move to Napoli for five million pounds. He settled easily into Italian football and began to produce the exciting football that was expected of him. He guided the Italian club to the first league title in 1987 twelve months after he had used the Mexico World Cup to show that he was indisputably the world's finest footballer. The underlying memory was his goal against England in which he accelerated past some of the tournaments best defenders, leaving them in his wake to score a goal unequalled in the competition. As he approaches his peak it is pleasant to contemplate that the skill of Diego Armando Maradona should entertain us for a number of years to come.



LET'S TOAST TONIGHT'S  
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AND HERE'S TO  
THE NEXT ROUND!



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# ON THE SPOT



ALAN  
ROUGH

THERE'S only one side in the world that Alan Rough would turn down the offer of a lucrative coaching post in America for. And that team had to be Celtic. As Alan explained this week:

"I was on the verge of accepting Orlando's offer when Billy McNeill stepped in to take me to Celtic.

And as soon as he spoke to me I realised Orlando would have to look elsewhere for a coach. It's taken me 20 years to get here and when the opportunity arose I just couldn't turn my back on it. I also intend to make the most of it."

That much is true if Rough's display in last Wednesday's 4-1 win over Ayr Utd. is anything to go by. Due to Ian Andrews' food poisoning scare he made his Celtic debut sooner than he'd expected. He has no illusions though about what his contributions are likely to be in the following months: "Billy McNeill paid £300,000 for Ian who demonstrated against Dundee Utd. that he intends paying that back pretty quickly. And with a fit Pat Bonner to contend with I realise that I am expected to add depth to the squad and contribute now and then with some of my knowledge of the game over 20 years. But I'm in peak condition and will not let anyone down if my chance comes again."

Rough is one of the most popular professionals in the land among both players and fans alike. Much of this is due to a laid back nature which has helped him handle countless big



match ordeals. The first of these he experienced at 19 years of age when Partick Thistle faced Celtic at Hampden in 1971 in the final of the League Cup. Thistle's chances were on a par with a judge seeking an honest U.S. government aide — virtually nil. The fact that they went on to humiliate a star studded Celtic side by four goals to one was, among others, down to the display of young Rough who single-handedly repelled everything Celtic threw at him in the second half of that game.

Looking back on his career with Thistle he regrets not having moved sooner than he did: "But winning over 50 caps for Scotland during that time helped compensate for the barren terraces I sometimes encountered at Firhill," he explains.

A move to Hibs in 1980 ended in acrimony just after the beginning of last season when he was discarded by Hibs boss Alex Miller in favour of Andy Goram: "I didn't like the way it was all handed," was all he would say about the matter.

His nonchalant nature has also helped in the face of the squalid criticism he's had to face from some English pundits: "I would only be worked if what they said was true," he retorts, "and let's face it, who can take these people seriously when they only see one match in Scotland per season if they're lucky. Almost invariably any time they saw a Scots keeper in action he was losing a goal and that's because T.V. highlights are more concerned with goals than saves. And anyway I'm in exalted company — some of the very best Scots keepers have endured the same."

Billy McNeill has certainly bought shrewdly in the acquisition of Rough. His experience and attitude to the game is sure to benefit every young player at Celtic Park. And it also ensures that Celtic shouldn't have 'keeper problems in the foreseeable future.



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# THE MEN CELTIC

## Hamilton Accies squad for 1988-89

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John Lambie

**SECRETARY**  
Alan Cassels Dick

**CHAIRMAN**  
Jan Stepek

**VICE-CHAIRMAN**  
James W. Watson

**DIRECTORS**  
William P. Davidson  
Andrew Dick  
George J. Fulston  
John Heeps  
David S. Morrison  
(Managing Director)  
Goerge McLachlan



**COMMERCIAL MANAGER**

George Miller

**CLUB ADDRESS**

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Douglas Park Lane  
Hamilton ML3 0DF

**CLUB TELEPHONE**

Ground Hamilton 286103

**GROUND CAPACITY**

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Standing 13,000

**CLUB SHOP**

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Tel. Hamilton 286103

**YEAR OF FORMATION**  
1875

**MOST CAPPED PLAYERS**

Robert Howe and  
James King

**MOST LEAGUE POINTS  
IN A SEASON**

56 (Div. 1 1985/86)

**BOBBY BAR** — Joined the club from Alloa Athletic for £20,000 in June 1986, and was a regular in the side until he broke his leg against Rangers at Ibrox in January 1987. Broke his leg again in one of his comeback games in the reserves.

**GERRY COLLINS** — Club captain who cost £8000 from Ayr United three years ago, and was previously with Albion Rovers. A great competitor and very determined. Central defender. Best Man at the wedding of Tommy Burns!

**JAMES FAIRLIE** — Now in his second spell with the club, he signed for the first time in 1974 but joined Airdrie in 1983 and has since played for Clydebank and Motherwell. Re-signed last season.

**ALLAN FERGUSON** — Young goalkeeper who made his debut against Meadowbank in the Scottish Cup last season and went on to make eight appearances. A great prospect for the future and has a safe pair of hands.

**SANDY FRASER** — Twenty-year-old striker who has appeared on a couple of occasions for the first team since arriving from Celtic in September 1987. Holds the ball well.

**JIM FRITH** — Only 18 years of age but had a tremendous season in the reserves last year, scoring over 20 goals. Came from Rangers in August 1987, he is very pacy.

**STUART GORDON** — Was a junior with Pollok and Kilbirnie before going to Clydebank from whom he signed for £20,000 in September 1987 and scored twice on his debut against Partick Thistle. Small, bustling striker.

**COLIN HARRIS** — Previously with Hibs and Dundee, Colin was snapped up from Raith Rovers towards the end of last season for a fee of £15,000. Scored six goals in the last eight games of the season.

**WILLIE JAMIESON** — Equally at home at centre-forward as he is at his usual position of centre-half. Willie arrived on a free transfer from Hibs three years ago.

**JIM KERR** — Previously with Airdrie, Dundee United, Raith Rovers, Brechin City and Falkirk from whom he arrived in

October 1987. Normally plays at left-back and has a powerful shot.

**GERRY McCABE** — Joined his home-town team two years ago from Clydebank and has also served Hibernian and Clyde. Spent the tail end of last season on loan to Dumbarton. Skilful, left-sided performer.

**PAUL McDONALD** — Small, left-winger, aged 20, who has been in and out of the side over the past two seasons, but continues to show a lot of promise. Crosses the ball well.

**KEVIN McKEE** — Came to the club on a free transfer from Hibs in June 1986, and had an excellent season in the First Division last season. Plays at right-back, he doesn't score as often as he should.

**JOHN McNAUGHT** — A great favourite of the fans who is in his second spell with the club. Joined Chelsea from Accies in May 1986 for £82,000 but didn't settle in London and joined Partick for a spell last season before moving back to Hamilton for £50,000.

**MARTIN NELSON** — Began as a junior with Glencairn before signing for Dumbarton and then Alloa from whom he cost £25,000 in February 1988. Small, skilful and determined.

**GORDON SCOTT** — Came to Accies from Forfar Athletic in a player-swap deal in November 1987, he is a striker who tends to lie deep with the ball. Good in the air.

**BOBBY THOMSON** — Experienced player who has served St Johnstone, Hibs, Morton, Blackpool and Hartlepool before coming to Douglas Park. A utility player and very versatile.

**JIM WEIR** — Teenage defender or midfielder who was in the Scotland Under-19 squad for the World Youth Cup in Chile last season. Strong and forceful player who shows a lot of potential.

**DAVE ROSEBURGH** — Joined Hamilton on the eve of the season from Meadowbank Thistle in a deal worth £45,000. Normally plays in a left midfield role, he is a prolific marksman as well as a creator of chances.

## GET YOUR 12 PAGE CELTIC VIEW



# FACE TONIGHT



"Gerry Collins, Hamilton's captain receives the first division trophy from Scottish League secretary, Jim Farry at the end of last season.

Picture courtesy of Alan Dick



John Lambie

## A PREVIOUS CLASH

Scottish Cup quarter final, March 5th, 1955. Att: 49,000

CELTIC 2      HAMILTON ACCIES 1

THE Celtic camp were wary about this quarter final tie against their second division opponents which they were expected to win with something to spare. This caution though, was well founded for the Lanarkshire side had caught the imagination of the whole country, belying their second division status with a thrilling series of victories to take them to this meeting.

A huge crowd thus turned up intrigued at the prospect of an interesting game. Bobby Collins opened the scoring for Celtic in 36 minutes but Accies were not prepared to sit back and keep the score down. Back they came and Quinn shocked Celtic with an equaliser a minute before half time.

Accies seemed to have taken the initiative in the second half only to lose it when Willie Fernie scored what proved to be a brilliant winner after an hour.

CELTIC: Bonnar, Haughney, Meechan, Evans, Stein, Peacock, Tully, Smith, Fallon, Fernie, Collins.  
HAMILTON: Houston, Shearer, Quinn, Barratt, Boyd, Martin, Quinn, Walker, Cron, Reid, Armit.

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# FRANK TAKES THE MAIN CHANCE



*Frank McAvennie showed against Hearts in the opening match of the season just why he's called the king of the penalty box poachers. His lightning strike in the 51st minute of the match bore all the hallmarks of a quality striker being despatched behind the 'keeper with the minimum of fuss and the maximum of efficiency. Who will bet against more of the same tonight? Incidentally that was his 99th league goal.*

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# THE CENTENARY QUIZ

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The video lasts 1½ hours and is set to become a classic. It was put together by an award-winning BBC team and includes some rarely-seen clips of Celtic in action.

All you have to do is answer the following question:

How many times have Celtic won the League Cup/Skol Cup?

Answers on a post-card please to Centenary Quiz, The Celtic View, 18 Kerrydale Street, Glasgow.

Entries to:  
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Street,  
Glasgow  
G40 3RW



**ANSWERS  
ON PAGE 19**

# THE HALF-TIME QUIZ

1. Who scored Wimbledon's solitary goal in the Charity Shield defeat by Liverpool at the weekend?
2. When did Peter McCloy join Rangers?
3. Name the president of the International Olympic Committee.
4. Who is the new Chelsea assistant manager.
5. What was remarkable about Ian Ferguson's transfer to Hearts?
6. Who is the French national team boss?
7. Who is the present world record holder for the men's 100 metres?
8. What team is currently top of the Scottish Second Division?
9. What side does ex-Celtic player John Halpin play for?
10. Name the clothing firm who are Hamilton Accies sponsors.



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# Reserve Scene

## THE STARS OF TOMORROW



By *Bobby Lennox*



I COULD not have asked for a better start to the season from our young lads.

After our great 7-1 victory against Hearts at Tynecastle the previous week we faced Premier Reserve League champions Dundee United at Celtic Park on Saturday. This was always going to be a stiff test of our ability as United have one of the most accomplished reserve squads in the country right now.

At half-time it was 0-0 and perhaps we were a little bit fortunate to be in that position at the break. Alan Rough proved that he has lost none of the ability which made him such a successful Scotland 'keeper throughout the years. He defied United with a string of superb saves.

After half-time though, Celtic took the game by the scruff of the neck and John Traynor scored after 49 minutes. The youngsters were playing some attractive football at this stage and it was clear that the initiative had passed to us. But this situation was shattered after 60 minutes when United scored what several thought was a blatantly off-side goal. And to compound our misery they went in front a minute later after a controversial penalty decision had gone their way.

Celtic showed character however by playing their way back into the match and the double-substitution of Creaney and Fulton for Christie and McCarrison paid off. Almost as soon as he'd appeared in 65 minutes Creaney struck the woodwork twice as he made himself a

real thorn in the flesh of United. But with five minutes to go his persistence paid dividends when he scored a fine solo effort to grant us a share of the points. And Billy Stark might have sewn it up for us in the dying seconds but he shot narrowly over the bar.

Two days previous to this on the Thursday evening a very young side travelled to Boghead, home of Dumbarton for their first Reserve League West fixture. Included in the side were several players who had been playing youth football last season including our new 'keeper David McLean from Clydebank Juniors. Creaney, Baillie, Stobbie and McEwan were our scorers in a 4-0 romp.

Celtic v Dumbarton: McLean, Balmer, Fulton, McNally, Baillie, McBride, McEwan, McStay, Stobbie, Creaney, Britton. Subs: McCarrison, Dornan.

Celtic v Dundee United: Rough, Balmer, Elliot, McNally, Baillie, Murray, Mathie, Stark, Christie, McCarrison, Traynor. Subs: Creaney, Fulton.



Charlie Christie

# MAKE A DATE

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# HELPING THE GAME

There is an organisation which receives £9 million annually from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters and spends it all on projects which benefit football throughout the United Kingdom.

It pays £4.5 million to the Football Grounds Improvement Trust to help League clubs meet the demands of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act and improve their stadia.

It has set aside £2.3 million to ensure that all grounds in Scotland and England are covered by closed circuit television systems. It has allocated over £1 million to fund Football and the Community schemes at clubs throughout the UK.

The organisation is also injecting £1.25 million to assist 'non-League' clubs with essential safety work, paying over £1.3 million every year towards policing costs at League matches and investing £750,000 to improve transport facilities for football supporters.

The name of this organisation is THE FOOTBALL TRUST.

By the end of the year Spotting-the-Ball will have generated almost £70 million for The Football Trust and its sister organisation the Football Grounds Improvement Trust.

The body uniquely brings together representatives from all areas of the game and draws its membership from the Scottish Football League, the Scottish Football Association, the game in England, the PFA, local authorities, the police and pools firms.

The Football Trust's annual income of £9 million is in addition to the £6.5 million the Pool Promoters Association pay to the football authorities for the reproduction of the copyrighted fixtures on the pools coupons, thus making them the game's largest benefactor by far.

## SUPPORTING SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

During the past year The Football Trust has been committed to developing Scottish football at every level. Its initiatives range from supporting an educational trust for Scotland's professional footballers to providing kit for unemployed teams; new terracing at Kirkintilloch Rob Roy to a new artificial pitch for community use at Stirling Albion; the UK's most extensive closed circuit television system at Hampden Park to portacabins at the Hill of Beath Ramblers; developing football in the Scottish Isles to a £250,000 safety programme at the national stadium; new coach park at Ibrox to covering 35% of policing costs at B&Q League matches.

The Football Trust works closely with the Scottish Football League, Scottish Football Association and the Scottish Sports Council.

## WARNING

At the beginning of the season more than 110 League grounds in Scotland and England will be equipped with CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION which has been funded by The Football Trust.

It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law.

## CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

## SAFETY FIRST

Football grounds in Scotland have reached their highest ever level of safety thanks to the £7.5 million invested by the Football Grounds Improvement Trust since 1976.

Almost every League club has been assisted with essential safety work and further substantial sums have been invested to enable them to improve facilities.

In the past year alone FGIT grants to Scottish clubs totalled:

	£
Safety	416,385
Improvements	770,561

In addition to its safety programme, FGIT has also allocated £1 million to build or improve family and disabled facilities at League grounds during 1988.



# What the Papers Say...



Celtic's defeat by Dundee United on Saturday was caused by several factors one of which as Celtic manager Billy McNeill pointed out, was the home side's determination to hold on to their one goal lead come hell or high water. "They deserved their win," was the manager's comment.

James Traynor of the *Glasgow Herald* though, pointed to United's tactical know-how as a major factor in their win: "However it was United's tactical awareness which stifled much of the opposition's flair. More than one player had to be assigned to the task of monitoring one as fleet footed as Gallacher who was in the mood to cause further grief, and the forward momentum of Morris in particular, was checked by Paatelainen."

Dixon Blackstock of the *Sunday Mail* pinpointed Celtic's defensive frailty: "The Celtic defence was never at ease against the combination of Kevin Gallacher's pace and the aerial power of big Mixu Paatelainen."

While Glen Gibbons of the *Observer* volunteered yet another reason for Celtic's lapse: "Most of Celtic's trouble appeared to stem from their line-up of three defenders in the middle — Aitken, McCarthy and Whyte — with full-backs Morris and Rogan patrolling forward and back on the flanks. The trouble was that United employed the same system and looked much more practised and, consequently, much more comfortable."

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Justin Fashanu; 2. 1969; 3. Juan Samaranch; 4. Ian Porterfield; 5. It was the first time two club's had taken advantage of a last minute chance to settle their differences privately after first having gone to a transfer tribunal; 6. Henri Michel; 7. Ben Johnson; 8. Montrose; 9. Carlisle United; 10. Daks Simpson.

## Tonight's Teams



## CELTIC

Ian Andrews  
Chris Morris  
Anton Rogan  
Roy Aitken  
Mick McCarthy  
Derek Whyte  
Joe Miller  
Paul McStay  
Frank McAvennie  
Andy Walker  
Peter Grant  
Tommy Burns  
Billy Stark  
Mark McGhee

## HAMILTON ACCIES

Allan Ferguson  
Kevin McKee  
Willie Jamieson  
John McNaught  
Chico Speirs  
Jim Kerr  
Gordon Scott  
Colin Harris  
Paul McDonald  
Jamie Fairlie  
Gerry McCabe  
Gerry Collins  
Bobby Thomson



## Half Time Scoreboard

Dunfermline v Motherwell	Rangers v Clydebank
Dundee v Falkirk	St Mirren v Dundee United

### Referee:

Mr H. F. Williamson (Rentfrew)

### Linesmen:

Mr R. F. R. Wylie (Falkirk)  
Mr J. Hamilton (Stranraer)



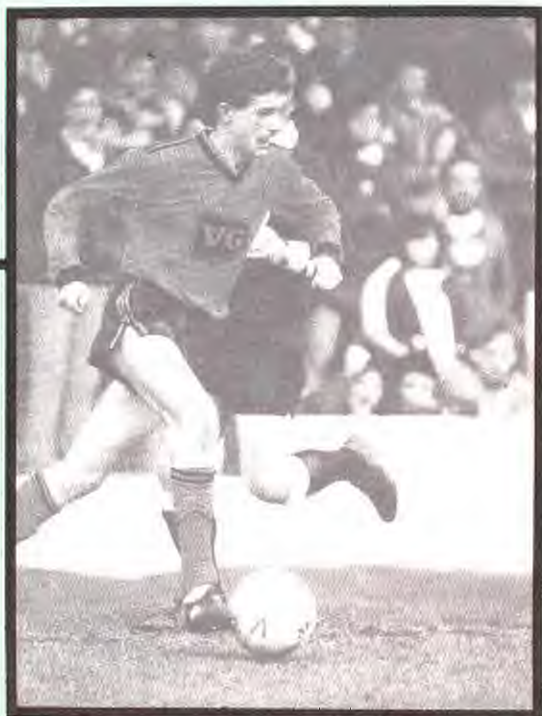


TWO matches into the league season and it looks as though one of our predictions as to the eventual out-come in the Premier League could be off the mark. For Dundee Utd. have once more confounded those ready to write them off this season with a superb start to their campaign. They followed up the previous Saturday's away win at St. Mirren with a deserved win over Celtic at Tannadice on Saturday. And this was achieved without the services of Bannon and Ferguson — transferred to Hearts and their new signings Meade and Krivokapiv.

For years now Jim McLean has watched his best players depart for pastures new in the knowledge that he has little hope of replacing them with big money buys. The problem being, as McLean himself admits, that few top class players would look upon a move to Utd, as a progressive one. Nonetheless he still manages to put together a formidable outfit each season as Celtic and no doubt others will find to their cost.

Hibs have also made a magnificent start to the season, and their draw against Rangers on Saturday at Ibrox could be just the confidence booster they need early on to convince themselves that a realistic tilt for a European place is most definitely on. Once Steve Archibald gets more games under his belt they could become one of the most formidable sides in the country. As was the case last season their major strengths lie in an iron-clad defence which looks set to be complemented this term with more punch in the striking department. And with the imminent flotation of Hibs shares in the stock market there's little doubt that the club is seeking to become a force again in the land sooner rather than later.

Meanwhile Hamilton Accies gave a fright to the other side of the Edinburgh double act. Already the Accies look to be up against it but the fact that they managed to score two goals at Tynecastle will have given them confidence for the future. If they can secure an early win in their league programme it could be the turning point for them. The last time John Lambie's men set foot in the Premier League's hot waters they underwent the ordeal of going months without a victory. And when they did finally achieve two points in the one game it set them up for a useful wee run which unfortunately came too late to give



**Kevin Gallacher scored Dundee United's goal last Saturday.**

them a chance of avoiding the drop. Hope springs eternal . . . Charlie Nicholas though must wonder if there is such a commodity as hope. Fitness problems have postponed the start of the season for him so far after last season's less than auspicious form with Aberdeen where he struggled to gain match fitness. In my book though, Charlie is one of the few players in Scotland who have what it takes to match the best in Europe for sheer skill. In fact he was the last player in a Scotland jersey who was capable of holding his own in exalted company as he showed against Denmark in the World Cup two years ago. He's almost 27 now though, and time is running out for him to re-capture the form that made him the best in Britain with Celtic. But he has had such a run of cruel luck since then that somebody somewhere must soon scoop a windfall when eventually his star rises again. Aberdeen manager Alex Smith will be hoping it's him.

Motherwell's fighting 1-1 draw against a Dundee side which let them off the hook showed all the survivalist qualities which they have honed after several seasons hovering near the danger zone.

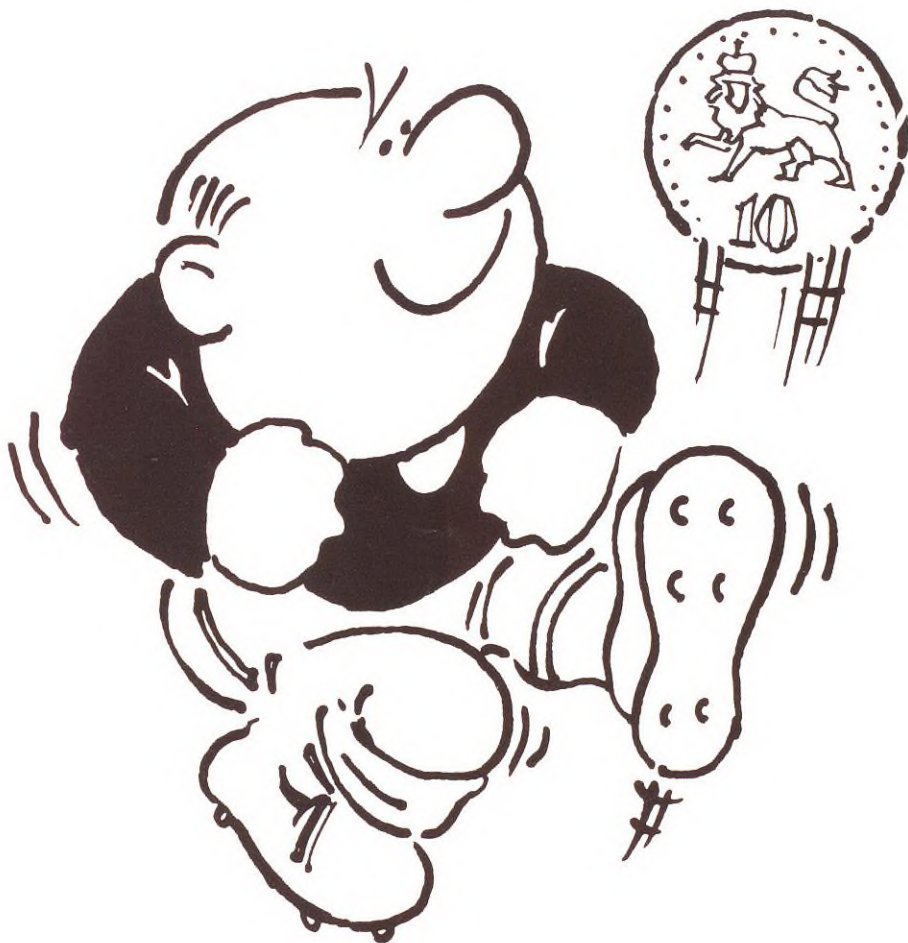
Aberdeen minus Nicholas were jeered by their own fans after allowing St. Mirren back into the match after they had been reduced to ten men with the dismissal of Hamilton. Manager Alex Smith must dream of waking up one morning without seeing the word "crisis" next to his name in the newspapers.

One of the most entertaining episodes of Saturday was the live barney on Radio Clyde between two of their star men over the sociological implications of a certain club's alleged signing policy.

No prizes for guessing where I'll be tuning into later this evening. Stereo live . . .



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