

CELTIC v KILMARNOCK

Bell's Premier Division

Wednesday January 8, 1997

Kick-off 7.45pm



Match Sponsors

Price £1

Official Programme No.16

Celtic



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ROLL OF HONOUR

European Cup: 1967

League Champions (35 times)

1893, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1905,
1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910,
1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1919,
1922, 1926, 1938, 1938, 1954,
1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970,
1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977,
1979, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1988,
Scottish Cup Winners (30 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, 1989, 1995
League Cup Winners (9 times)
1957, 1958, 1966, 1967, 1968,
1969, 1970, 1975, 1982,
Coronation Cup: 1953
Empire Exhibition Cup: 1938
St Mungo Cup: 1951

DIRECTORS

Fergus McCann (Managing)
Dominic Keane, Eric Riley,
John Keane,

Willie Haughey, Michael
McDonald, David Kells

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

Manager: Tommy Burns

Assistant manager: Billy Stark
Club captain: Paul McStay
Reserve coaches: Tom McAdam,
Frank Connor

Head of youth development:
Willie McStay

Physiotherapist: Brian Scott
Club doctor: Jack Mulhearn

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Published on behalf of Celtic
Football Club by First Press Publishing
197 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4HU

TOMMY BURNS

Well placed for New Year

FOLLOWING our 5-0 win over Motherwell on Saturday we are aiming to carry on the good work against Kilmarnock tonight.

The Rugby Park side lost to Dundee United on Saturday and they will be keen to get back on the rails so we will have to be ready for them.

Especially as we well remember that they took the lead the last time we met them at Rugby Park.

It was three of our foreign force who got the goals that day in Andreas Thom, Jorge Cadete and Paolo Di Canio.

Unfortunately it looks like Thom will be missing tonight's game through injury but thankfully the other two have been on form recently.

Cadete has been banging in the goals so hopefully he will keep that up tonight.

And Di Canio has been performing superbly so the signs are looking good in that department.

However, Alan Stubbs, Brian O'Neil and Peter Grant join Thom on the injury list but these things are sent to test us.

We had the same injury problems at the weekend and we managed to come through the game unscathed.

What made that all the more pleasing was that we finished the game with so many youngsters on the pitch.

Stewart Kerr, Jackie

McNamara, Malky Mackay, Stuart Gray, Phil O'Donnell, David Hannah, Simon Donnelly and Brian McLaughlin are all under 24.

So although we will always be on the lookout for talent from elsewhere, it's good to know that we have stars for the future right here.

And I'm delighted to report that the most recent arrival of that bunch, David Hannah, has settled in really well.

But with our injured players almost certainly missing this Saturday's match against Hearts it looks like we will be relying on youth once more.

Hearts, like Motherwell, have caused us problems over the last couple of years.

But it looked like we overcame the Motherwell jinx at the weekend so we would love to do likewise at Tynecastle on Saturday.

But first things first and although we welcome Kilmarnock to Celtic Park tonight, we have them to deal with before Hearts.

So we are going all out for the three points available tonight in maintaining our championship challenge.



"It's good to know we have stars for the future here at Celtic Park"



Scottish Cheddar Cheese

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CRSMITH

ALL IT TAKES TO BE THE BEST

THE SQUADS



**STEWART
KERR**



**Referee:
GA Evans
(Bishopbriggs)**

**DRAGOJE
LEKOVIC**



**TOM
BOYD**

**DYLAN
KERR**



**TOSH
McKINLAY**

**STEVEN
HAMILTON**



**JACKIE
McNAMARA**



**Assistant Ref:
R Orr
(Kilbarchan)**

**KEVIN
McGOWNE**



**MALKY
MACKAY**

**DEREK
ANDERSON**



**PHIL
O'DONNELL**



**Assistant Ref:
J Waugh
(Dumfries)**

**BILLY
FINDLAY**



**PAOLO
Di CANIO**

**JIM
LAUCHLAN**



**PAUL
McSTAY**

**MARK
REILLY**



**PIERRE VAN
HOOIJDONK**

**STAND-BYS:
CELTIC:**

**PAUL
WRIGHT**



**JORGE
CADETE**

Gordon Marshall
(GK), Chris Hay, Brian
McLaughlin, Morten
Wieghorst

**JIM
McINTYRE**



**SIMON
DONNELLY**

KILMARNOCK:
Colin Meldrum (GK),
Ally Mitchell, Tom
Brown, Gus
MacPherson, Ray
Montgomerie,
Mark Roberts

**COLIN
McKEE**



**DAVID
HANNAH**

**GARY
HOLT**



**STUART
GRAY**

**ALEX
BURKE**



IN ASSOCIATION WITH CR SMITH

Roaring back

into the action

MALKY MACKAY should turn out once again in the heart of the Celtic defence tonight following his re-introduction to the first team in Saturday's 5-0 thrashing of Motherwell.

The centre-half came into the side for that game due to injuries to defenders Brian O'Neil and Alan Stubbs.

He and his makeshift defence earned a clean sheet as Celtic blew away the cobwebs in style after their desperately disappointing Old Firm defeat on January 2.

Some supporters may be surprised that Mackay is still at the club considering all that has been written about his future in the press over the last few months.

He did spend some time down at West Brom on trial - but that was curtailed due to illness to Stubbs and he returned north for the last Motherwell match - a 2-1 reverse at Fir Park.

And now Mackay, whose

contract runs out at the end of the season, is hoping he can make a big impression on Tommy Burns.

He said: "There have been two or three things in the papers about me recently but as far as I am concerned I'm part of Celtic Football Club.

"All I can do is make sure I maintain my own standards and try to make sure we keep clean sheets. It is then down to the manager to decide if he wants me in the team or not."

Celtic's rearguard has come in for some heavy criticism of late, but with a change of personnel last weekend a clean sheet was recorded in their impressive 5-0 win.

But Mackay is clearly ever the diplomat, and reckons the defence has not always attracted fair criticism - and the blame for below par performances lies with the whole of the team not just the back

three or four.

He said: "The defence has really taken a lot of criticism in the papers recently, and a lot of it I think has been unjust.

"This is a team game, and a defeat, or a win is not all about the performance of the four at the back or the five further upfield or whatever.

"It was great for me to come into the side in a game like Saturday's and be able to keep a clean-sheet, but it wasn't because I was in there.

"It could just as easily have been me playing on Thursday night against Rangers, and I could just as easily have been slaughtered too."

Many reckon Celtic have absolutely no chance of clawing back Rangers' 14 points lead, but Mackay reckons those people should think again.

He believes the team spirit, which was clearly behind Saturday's result, can carry Celtic through in the coming weeks.

He said: "We all have to pull together, whoever is playing, between now and the end of the season.

"If we keep it tight at the back and the frontmen can

keep producing the goods then our ability will carry us through."

Saturday's 5-0 win will mean nothing however unless it is followed up with a win over Kilmarnock tonight.

Mackay is aware of that fact and knows the Ayrshire men will give as good as they get this evening.

He said: "After the disappointing Rangers game, we were under a bit of pressure, the fans needed a lift, and rightly expected us to turn on the style a bit for them.

"And I think scoring five goals without reply was the perfect result and everyone was a little happier.

"But now we have to carry that on, and face Kilmarnock tonight who are bound to be lifted by the fact that they are playing in front of a huge crowd against one of the Old Firm.

"It's also never easy to play teams who have not been having the best of results recently because they will want to pick themselves up.

"So we simply have to make sure that we go into this game with the same attitude as we had on Saturday."

MALKY'S FIRSTS

Date and place of birth: 19.2.72 in Bellshill

Height: 6ft Weight: 13st 6lbs

1

FIRST CLUB: Queen's Park

2

FIRST DAY AS A CELT: August 1994 on a free from Queen's Park

3

FIRST GAME FOR CELTIC: Premier Division 1-0 win over Dundee United at Tannadice on May 13, 1995

4

FIRST GOAL FOR CELTIC: Against Partick Thistle in a 4-2 win on April 27, 1996 at Firhill

5

FIRST FOOTBALL STRIP BOUGHT: Liverpool

MALKY MACKAY



TONIGHT'S VISITORS...

Bobby dazzles at Rugby Park



IN COMMAND... Bobby Williamson

NEVER underestimate the power of the punter.

Today's visitors Kilmarnock looked all set to appoint Airdrie boss Alex MacDonald as their successor to the sacked Alex Totten last month.

A f t e r Totten's dismissal the new board at Rugby Park immediately promoted reserve coach **BOBBY WILLIAMSON** to the manager's post on a caretaker basis.

But such was the success of Williamson that Killie's fortunes were almost instantly revived and they began to slowly climb their way off the bottom.

Williamson got the backing of the fans, Killie dropped their interest in MacDonald and the new board gave way to punter power and appointed the ex-Ibrox striker until the end of the season.

Until Williamson's appointment Killie have had a hellish time of it this term.

Matters came to a head with the sacking of Totten, the man who replaced Tommy Burns as boss. New chairman Ronnie Hamilton has handed Williamson the role of keeping the Ayrshire men in the top flight.

But this will be a tall order. Williamson, incidentally a Burns signing, has done well as the club's reserve coach but there is a world of difference between running a decent second string side and a first team.

Kilmarnock have accumulated 20 points from their first 19 league matches, losing 35 goals and bulging their opponents' net only 25 times in the process.

The last meeting of tonight's sides pretty well sums up Kilmarnock's season. For an hour Totten's men were in control at Rugby Park in August, taking a deserved lead through Mark Reilly.

Then on came super substitute Paolo Di Canio whose goal, within minutes of his arrival, was followed by classy strikes from Andreas Thom and Jorge Cadete, to give Celts a 3-1 victory.

It wasn't that Kilmarnock played badly - they just couldn't build on a bright opening.

One of the stars for the home side that afternoon was English defender **NEIL WHITWORTH** and an indicator of the bad luck that has dogged the Ayrshire side is that he is currently at home recovering from tuberculosis.

In goal today for the visitors will be **DRAGOJE LEKOVIC**. On Saturday he was forced to pick the ball out of his net twice, Dundee United scoring a 2-0 victory at Tannadice to make for an unhappy first game of 1997 for Williamson.

The back four is likely to feature full-backs **KEVIN MCGOWNE** and Totten's last signing, **DYLAN KERR**, brought from Reading towards the end of last year. In the centre of defence will probably be **DEREK ANDERSON** who could be



KILLING FIELDS... Ray Montgomerie and Neil Whitworth try to halt van Hooijdonk and Di Canio

LOWDOWN

COLIN MELDRUM (Goalkeeper)
Age 21. Signed from Kilmarnock Rangers in 1993

DRAGOJE LEKOVIC (Goalkeeper)
Age 29. Signed from Buducnost Podgorica in 1994

KEVIN MCGOWNE (Defender)
Age 26. Signed from St Johnstone in 1996

JIM LAUCLAN (Defender)
Age 19. Signed from Killie BC in 1994

RAY MONTGOMERIE (Defender)
Age 35. Signed from Dumbarton in 1988

DYLAN KERR (Defender)
Age 29. Signed from Reading in 1996.

GUS MACPHERSON (Midfield)
Age 28. Signed from Rangers in 1986

MARK REILLY (Midfield)
Age 27. Signed from Motherwell in

1991

DAVID BAGEN (Midfield)
Age 19. Signed from Troon Juniors in 1995

BILLY FINDLAY (Midfield)
Age 26. Signed from Hibs in 1995

ALLY MITCHELL (Midfield)
Age 28. Signed from East Fife in 1991

GARY HOLT (Midfield)
Age 23. Signed from Stoke in 1995

PAUL WRIGHT (Forward)
Age 29. Signed from St Johnstone in 1995

COLIN MCKEE (Forward)
Age 23. Signed from Manchester United in 1994

MARK ROBERTS (Forward)
Age 21. Signed from Bellfield BC in 1992

TOM BROWN (Forward)
Age 28. Signed from Glenafton Athletic in 1993



● **TOM BROWN**

partnered by veteran **RAY MONTGOMERIE**.

One of Kilmarnock's old stagers, only midfielder **GUS MacPHERSON**, with a decade of service, has been with the Ayrshire side longer.

He will be expected to give the lead to another of the bright young talents that has been utilised in that area in recent week, **DAVID BAGEN**, a 19-year-old who is tipped to have a big future in the game. Midfield places are also likely to be claimed by **MARK REILLY** and

JIM McINTYRE.

Other midfield options include former Hibs man **BILLY FINDLAY** and pacy winger **ALLY MITCHELL**, who can be accommodated in a number of positions.

Goals have been mighty difficult to come by for Kilmarnock, which is odd when you consider they can call on the services of a striker as talented as **PAUL WRIGHT**.

A pedigree marksman, he has been a reliable scorer throughout

a career that has seen him have spells at Hibs, Queens' Park Rangers, Aberdeen and St Johnstone.

Former Manchester United fringe player **COLIN MCKEE** started at the weekend but others who could come into the frame for forward roles include Scotland B internationalist **TOM BROWN**, **MARK ROBERTS** and **ALEX BURKE**.

The latter is another of the Rugby Park youngsters who Williamson is keen to promote from the reserves.