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**CELTIC
v
HIBERNIAN**

Celtic Park
Saturday,
April 25, 1998
Kick-off
3.00pm

Official
programme
Price £1.50

Programme No: 24

**First Press
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No one would pretend that the result between Aberdeen and Rangers last Sunday was not a helpful one for us.

But, that does not change the fact that it is what WE do that really matters now. It's vitally important that, after Sunday's game, we go out today and win this match.

And I make no apologies whatsoever for once again asking the fans to give us a 90-minute *Wall of Sound* as they did against Motherwell last week.

Hopefully, as happened last Saturday, the supporters will stand solidly behind us once again.

Even when we were 1-0 down the fans and their encouragement helped us through a difficult period and no one should doubt the importance of the support on the players.

If it's going well then it is easy for the fans to get behind us, but we appreciate the fact that the majority are getting behind us at all times and we hope for the same again today.

Today's game presents us with a very similar situation to last week. When Motherwell came to Celtic Park last Saturday they desperately needed the points to help avoid relegation - as they demonstrated when they went ahead.

Hibs, if anything, need the points even more and they will fight for everything today. Indeed, all of our games will be against teams fighting for something and we should not expect an easy time from any of them.

It's all down to us now

I know that many of our fans will be listening to radios today when Rangers face Hearts in Edinburgh. However, I have preached since the first day I walked into Celtic Park that it is what we do ourselves that matters. Other results now are irrelevant. Forget what happens elsewhere.

Even with a three-point advantage, we always just take things just one game at a time. But that has always been the case all along, so today's game is no different to any other.

Obviously the timing of the international matches in midweek was not ideal but there is nothing we could do to change that.

What is important is that last week proved we can score goals with the help of the fans even when things are going against us. With your help we can do the same again today.



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Celtic Park, Glasgow, G40 3RE

Roll of Honour

European Cup: 1967
League Champions (36 times)
1893, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1922, 1926, 1936, 1938, 1954, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1988, 1988.
Scottish Cup Winners (30 times)
1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1991.
League Cup Winners (10 times)
1957, 1958, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1982, 1997.
Coronation Cup: 1983
Empire Exhibition Cup: 1938
St Mungo Cup: 1951

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**When He's Not
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Enough Said!

Ecky Thump!

Celts drove home the advantage against his old team Motherwell, now Alex 'Big Eck' McLeish's Hibeers face the Hurley Burley of Celtic Park!



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HIBERNIAN



**Bryan
GUNN** 

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DODS** 

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BREBNER** 

**John
HUGHES** 

**Brian
WELSH** 

**Kevin
HARPER** 

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ROUGIER** 

**Stevie
CRAWFORD** 

**Barry
LAVETY** 

**Pat
McGINLAY** 

**Paul
TOSH** 

**Jean Marc
BOCO** 

TURN ON, TUNE IN AND FEEL TENSE!



By **STEPHEN MCGOWAN**

Celtic fans contemplating bringing their own radio to listen to certain results elsewhere today need not bother – the nervous Hibernian travelling support are sure to have more than enough to go round.

Anyone who believes the bottom of the league Easter Road side will take to the field today under any less pressure than the title-chasing Celts might as well expect a visit from a little green man this evening.

Mind you, however results have gone by the end of today there will be green-bedecked men aplenty drowning their sorrows in either Glasgow or Edinburgh's pubs come 6 p.m.

Should Hibs lose to Celtic – they haven't won here in nearly six years – then they will be at least five points behind the team above them with just two games to play. Not a mathematical doomsday, of course, but still enough to spell trouble.

To make matters worse, they could suffer defeat and then witness scenes of mass celebration from the surrounding fans in the event of a Rangers defeat – to their bitterest rivals, Hearts.

And if relegation rivals Dunfermline win against

Broadcast could leave fans feeling radio ga-ga

Motherwell? Well, that hardly bears thinking about.

Little wonder then that many Hibeers will begin today in a state of trepidation – although old warhorse manager Alex McLeish certainly won't countenance such thinking.

Since taking over in a sage reminiscent of a French farce following Jim Duffy's resignation, the former Motherwell chief has staged a mini-revival around Leith way. Not a spectacular one, but a revival none the less.

BRYAN GUNN (left), of course, was one of McLeish's early signings for the goalkeeping position following some erratic performances from the now-released Chris Reid and error-prone Icelander **OLAFUR GOTTSKALKSON**.

A former team-mate of Big Eck's in the all-conquering Aberdeen team of the Fergie-era and an experienced campaigner with almost 400 league

appearances for Norwich, Gunn has been over the course before.

So has, of course, **BRIAN WELSH**. The big defender was part of the Dundee United team who went down a few years ago – and then scored the crucial play-off goal for the Tannadice club which kept them in the Premier Division two years later at the expense of Partick Thistle.

And, as his late crucial counter against Dunfermline two weeks ago proves, important goals are his stock and trade.

Full-backs **DARREN DODS** and former Chelsea man **ANDY DOW** have been somewhat overshadowed by the arrival of Frenchman **JEAN MARC BOCO** this season. An experienced campaigner at 34, Boco arrived from Lens last close season and has proved a powerful figure in defence.

Likewise, lifelong Hibs fanatic **JOHN HUGHES**. Big Yogi captured the imagination of Celtic fans after he arrived for a 14-month spell at Celtic Park in 1995. An inspirational club captain, Hughes is adept in the air at set-pieces.

In midfield, Hibs have swapped the mercurial talents of veteran Chic Charnley for the altogether more youthful qualities of on-loan Manchester United babe **GRANT BREBNER**.

The 20-year-old is also a Hibs fanatic and is currently being sought on a permanent basis by boss Alex



McLeish following some fine displays.

Brebner has been accompanied in the middle of the park by another former Celt, **PAT MCGINLAY**.

A frequent scorer during his time at Celtic Park, Glaswegian McGinlay is enjoying his second period of daily travel along the M8.

Up front are two tricky characters who have never played for Celtic – but who at various points have had Celtic fans wishing they might have.

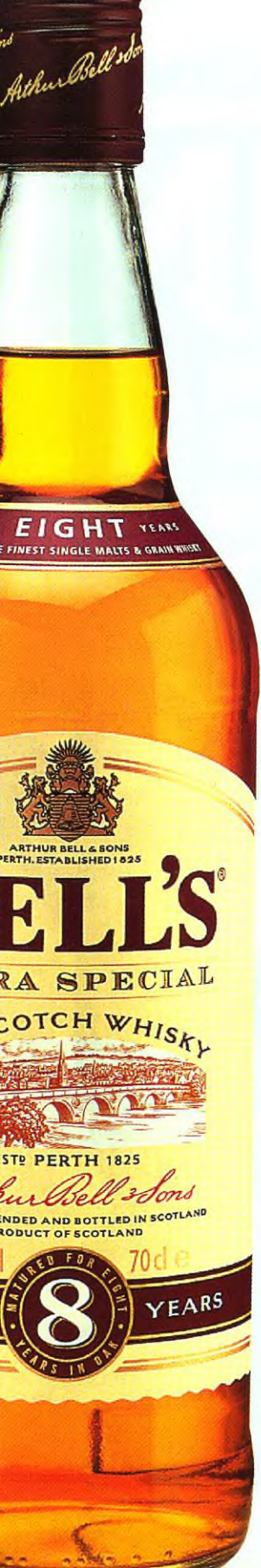
KEVIN HARPER seems to have been around for ever, but is still only 22. After making a name for himself with the Scotland under-21 side, Harper recently returned to prominence when his goal against

Hearts effectively destroyed the title hopes of the Jambos.

TONY ROUGIER (above) almost DID become a Celt when former boss Tommy Burns took an interest in the strong Trinidadian winger while he was still at Raith Rovers. Sadly for Hibs fans, Rougier has never quite fulfilled his early promise – yet.

Another two options up front for McLeish come in the shape of another ex-Stark's Park man **STEVIE CRAWFORD**, who Celtic fans know all about from the 1995 Coca-Cola Cup final, and ex-St Mirren star **BARRY LAVETY**, another yet to fulfil dazzling early potential.

“Many Hibeers will begin today in a state of trepidation”



A
winning
combination.



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NAME: Brian Hanlon
FROM: Glasgow
AGE: Nine
GAME: Celtic v Motherwell - April 18, 1998

Young Brian Hanlon was obviously delighted with the four home goals at last weeks' game, when he donned his mascot strip and led his footballing heroes to a crucial victory against Motherwell.

And he is no stranger to "high goal scoring" games either. This happy-go-lucky young lad was once a key player with his local team, the Fernhill Bravehearts, and although not all of his memories are good ones, he bears no grudges and can now laugh at one particular game which he will never, ever forget.

The Bravehearts were unfortunate and lost 51-1, but the good news is - guess who scored the

MEET THE MASCOT

one and only goal for the Bravehearts? Brian, of course!

This experience has definitely not left a bitter taste in Brian's mouth, as he is holding out for the ideal opportunity to come his way for his footballing skills to be shown off in the future. And he won't go short of support from the army of friends and family who came along to cheer him on, including, not only his school teacher, but the head mistress as well!

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