

Celtic

HEARTS

**BELL'S SCOTTISH
LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
SATURDAY, DEC 10
1994. KICK-OFF 3PM.**

INSIDE

**THE BIG MATCH
PICTURE REVIEW**

Plus++Plus++Plus



**STUART GRAY
PLAYER PROFILE**



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1





PHOENIX HONDA



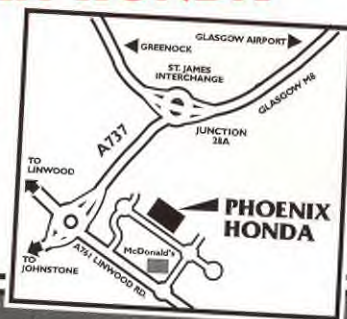
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TODAY'S game brings to a close the first half of the season, a period that's been very much an emotional rollercoaster.

But when a club's taken over, as was the case in March, it's very much like starting from scratch again.

It's not realistic to expect everything to turn brilliant overnight and all of a sudden Celtic to be back in the position it was in its greatest days.

Patience remains the key word. I know supporters have shown a remarkable amount of it in the past five years. But it's vital that they stay with us as we set about getting the infrastructure right in the proper manner.

In the months ahead that will mean bringing youngsters into the senior set-up as well as supplementing the squad with quality signings.

It would be very nice to get three points in the bag against Hearts today in our final game before the winter shut-down.

Class

Last Saturday's 2-2 draw with Motherwell was disappointing after we'd worked ourselves into a two goal lead. We simply didn't perform in the second half, though having said that our opponents played well.

Frankly we got a bit of a chasing at Anfield on Tuesday and the 6-0 defeat demonstrates how far we've got to go to become a top class side.

Liverpool demonstrated why they are in that bracket, possessing 11 players who have the attributes to flourish in the modern game. They all wanted the ball and were looking to make things happen and I hope we learned some valuable lessons from that.

It was pleasing that our young trio of Simon Donnelly, Gary Carberry and Brian McLaughlin were our successes on the night and indeed we have a large crop of young talent that will be give every chance.

Of course the club's real success at Ian Rush's testimonial the other night was once again our supporters.

They were lauded by one and all at the function we attended after the game.

The word on everyone's lips as a description for them was 'fantastic'. I explained that for our supporters this club really is the greatest in the world.

We have fallen a long way behind, but we must

‘The real success the other night was once again our fantastic supporters

make it that way again in every respect and not leave it simply to our fans to fly the flag for Celtic.

We are positive in EVERYTHING we do. It's a tough time to be a Celt right now - whether your a player, part of the management or a supporter.

BUT it will make the good times all the sweeter WHEN we bring them back to this club.

And we'll all look back and say our trials and tribulations were worthwhile.



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THE BEST IN THE FIELD**



**EVERYBODY LIKES TO GET THEIR
HANDS ON REAL QUALITY.**

CRSMITH

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THE SQUADS



GORDON MARSHALL



Referee:
G A Evans
Bishopbriggs

CRAIG NELSON



TOM BOYD



Linesman:
J Rowbotham
Kirkcaldy

STEVE FRAIL



TOSH MCKINLAY



Linesman:
H C Brodie
Linlithgow

COLIN MILLER



MIKE GALLOWAY

WILLIE JAMIESON



BRIAN O'NEIL

NEIL BERRY



PETER GRANT

DAVE MCPHERSON



BRIAN McLAUGHLIN

STAND-BYS:
Celtic - Pat Bonner (GK), Gary Carberry, Charlie Nicholas
Hearts - Henry Smith (GK), Tommy Harrison,

JOHN COLQUHOUN



PAUL McSTAY

JIM BETT



WILLIE FALCONER

JOHN ROBERTSON



ANDY WALKER

JOHN MILLAR



JOHN COLLINS

KEVIN THOMAS



STUART GRAY

GARY MACKAY



SIMON DONNELLY

MASCOT
David McIntosh
Stirling

DAVID HAGEN



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

★ Today's visitors are Heart of Midlothian who are in the lower half of the league at the moment. The last time the teams met it was the boys in maroon who came out on top and so Celtic will be hoping to get revenge. Their team is one of youth and experience and in the last couple of weeks there have been some interesting arrivals and departures from Tynecastle.

HEARTS are having a bit of an up and down season so far and are seeming to struggle at putting a string of good results together. But they can never be ruled out when it comes to pulling off a surprise.

In between the sticks this afternoon is Hearts new boy **CRAIG NELSON**. The young goalkeeper moved to the east from Partick Thistle where some fine performances had made him a fans favourite. A talented stopper, it will take a fine effort to get past him.

STEVE FRAIL is a very underrated player and is one of the most consistent defenders in the country. Has played well since arriving at Tynecastle from Dundee.

COLIN MILLER has proved to be an inspired buy as his wealth of experience is a real asset for Hearts. A good tackler he is a give-all defender.

WILLIE JAMIESON is another new addition arriving at Hearts with Craig Nelson. Never has a bad game and his ability in the air is always a threat.

NEIL BERRY never gives up and always gives 100 per cent. A tough tackler his distribution of the ball is also good.

DAVE McPHERSON may be in the twilight of his career but again he has experience on his side. A steadying influence in the side and in real command in the centre of the park.

JOHN COLQUHOUN is part of a dying breed - that of the pacy winger. He may be small but his shot packs a mighty punch and his ability to get a cross in from nowhere means he is always a threat to opposing defences. One of the country's most skillful players.

JIM BETT has been around and if you are counting on a cool head to get a team out of sticky situations then you couldn't count on a better man. A few years ago he was one of the best midfielders in the country and, although he may have lost a bit of pace, his footballing brain ensures he keeps up with the play.

In **JOHN ROBERTSON** Hearts have a



★ **STARRY WINGER ...**
John Colquhoun is of the old school of pacy flankers who can deliver that telling cross.



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

Hearts are not here for the beating

striker who has a real eye for goal. His record for finding the net really does take some beating. John can always be relied on to pop up and stick the ball away and defenders have to concentrate and keep an eye on him.

JOHN MILLAR was a real bargain 'buy' for Hearts coming in a free transfer from Blackburn Rovers. A cool headed midfielder he has been known to find the net himself on occasions. A busy player, he is always involved.

KEVIN THOMAS is one of the young players to have broken through the ranks at Tynecastle. A bit of an unknown quantity but always seems to get his name on the scoresheet.

GARY MacKAY has been Hearts top player over the years and his tough tackling in midfield make him hard to handle.

DAVID HAGEN is a further new addition to the club who was one of the rising stars at Ibrox. Failing to get a first team berth meant a move was on the cards and he has picked a good club in Hearts. A real talent for the future.

★ **G a r y MacK a y** (above) is a terror in midfield while **John Robertson** can always be relied on to get goal.



+ Lowdown + Lowdown

CRAIG NELSON (AGE 23)

Signed from Partick Th, 1994

STEVE FRAIL (AGE 25)

Signed from Dundee, 1993.

COLIN MILLER (Age 31)

Signed from St Johnstone, 1994

WILLIE JAMIESON (AGE 31)

Signed from Partick Th, 1994

NEIL BERRY (AGE 31)

Signed from Bolton, 1984

DAVE McPHERSON (AGE 31)

Signed from Rangers, 1994

JOHN COLQUHOUN, (AGE 31)

Signed from Sunderland, 1993.

JIM BETT, (AGE 35)

Signed from Reykjavik, 1994

JOHN ROBERTSON (AGE 30)

Signed from Newcastle, 1988

JOHN MILLAR (AGE 28)

Signed from Blackburn, 1991

KEVIN THOMAS (AGE 18)

Signed from Links Utd, 1992

GARY MacKAY (AGE 30)

Signed from Salvesen BC 1980

DAVID HAGEN (AGE 22)

Signed from Rangers, 1994

HENRY SMITH (AGE 38)

Signed from Leeds Utd, 1981.



Young star is keen to impress

The big INTERVIEW STUART GRAY

“ I think ready
to make the
step up to the
first team ”

BRING on the youngsters has been the cry from Celtic manager Tommy Burns in recent weeks...

And he doesn't get any argument from 20 year old Stuart Gray who's performances for the reserves this season have won him promotion to the senior squad in recent weeks.

For the classy midfielder has no doubt he's ready for the big time - and believes there are a number of other young Celts in the same boat.

Stuart won only his second start for the top team in the 2-2 draw with Motherwell last Saturday which followed his appearance as substitute in the 1-1 draw with Hibs at Easter Road four days earlier.

This marked the first occasion he's been involved in back to back games for the senior side and is exactly what the Harrogate-born Celt believes he needs at this stage of his career.

He states: "I think I've served a long enough apprenticeship and I'm ready to make the step-up to the first team.

Chance

"It was back in May 1993 that I made my debut in a 1-0 Aberdeen so my second start's been a long time coming.

"I'm confident in my own ability and first team football's what I need and I intend to prove that I can make my mark if I'm given the chance."

Gray believes the influx of reserves into the first team pool shouldn't be simply viewed as knee-jerk reaction to poor results but as a testament to the achievements of the second string in the past 18 months.

He said: "Obviously if the first team was winning every week the manager wouldn't be looking to change the side and bring in new faces.

"He's gambling but that shouldn't detract from the fact that all us guys in the reserves have worked hard to

Interview: ANDREW SMITH

earn an opportunity and deserve it when you think about how we've performed this season and last.

"Last season we won the Premier Reserve League and the Reserve League Cup and had a heck of a job to follow that this season.

"But we've lost only one game since August and I believe we can top last year's successes. We can't win more trophies but we can win them in more style.

"And I believe there are half a dozen players from the reserve squad who could do a job in the first team and it's great that Tommy Burns is being as true to his word and giving us a chance to prove that.

"In the reserves we've been playing a side made up with players almost exclusively in their early 20s and this is the right age to be breaking through.

"In the past few weeks it's been me, Brian McLaughlin and Garry Carberry who've featured in the first team but I hope others will follow.

"Of course Tommy can't play us all in the same team but I'm sure we can be blended in at various stages."

Stuart isn't simply playing for a place in the first team either, he's playing for his future with the mid-

fielder currently on month to month contracts.

He admits: "It's not an ideal situation and one I'd like to get sorted out. I hope that if I impress enough I'll get offered a long term deal I can accept.

Happy with his form the 20 year agrees with Celts' boss Burns assessment that he's added an edge to his game this year.

Stuart explains: "I've worked hard at my fitness and I feel sharper than I have in years.

"In the past couple of seasons I struggled with a groin injury and it hampered me badly.

"But now I'm running freely and I think all the other areas of my game are benefiting.

Pressure

"I feel as if I've got more time to get the ball down and make passes and have enjoyed operating in the middle of the park in my appearances for the first team this season."

Burns has asked for fans to be patient with the youngsters he's attempting to blood into the side.

But Stuart accepts that the frustrations and disappointment of the supporters over recent events mean there'll be no honeymoon period for any youngsters drafted in to the side.

He said: "I don't think there's a lot of pressure on us with the manager just telling us to go out and express ourselves and enjoy our football.

"But if things don't going right the fans will understandably take it out on the 11 guys on the field in Celtic colours - I don't think it will matter to them whether players are turning out for their first or 101st game for the club.

"I can live with that."



