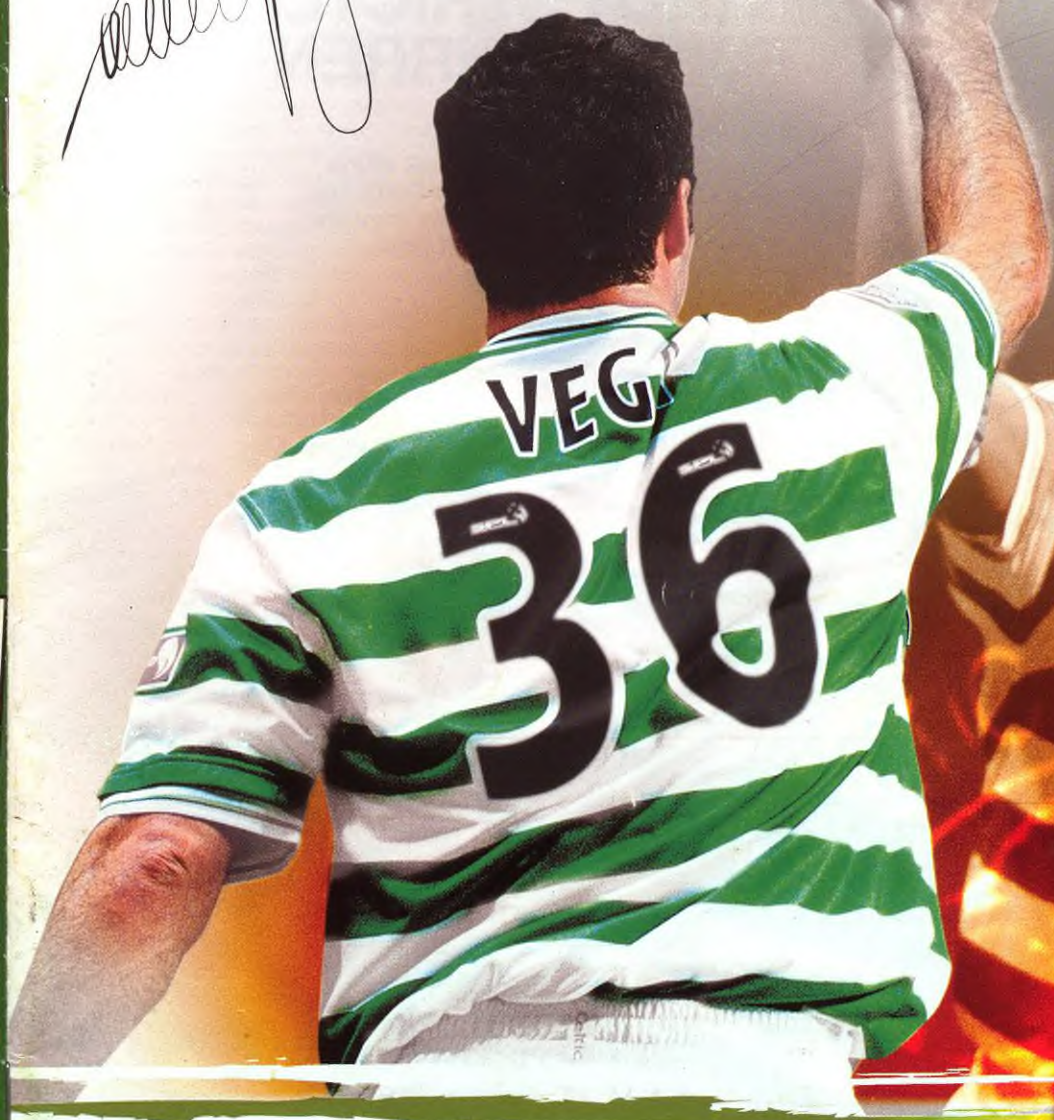


*Alan Ferguson*



Verve

ntl:



CELTIC v MOTHERWELL

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CELTIC PARK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2001

KICK-OFF 7.45PM



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### MUCH has happened in the short space of time since I last welcomed you to Celtic Park.

On that day printing deadlines had forced me to sit down in advance of our CIS League Cup semi-final to write my notes, and I was eagerly awaiting two extremely tough Old Firm clashes.

That is, of course, exactly how it turned out, although fortunately when you picked up your programmes on Sunday, we had already claimed the first of two wins over our greatest rivals.

Maintaining our bid to retain the League Cup by setting up a final meeting with Kilmarnock was terrific, and the Bhoys will be going all out to win a competition that provided them with last season's one moment of joy.

It was a pity post-match headlines focused on the last-minute flare-up at Hampden because it allowed the football, some of which had been very entertaining, to be side-tracked.

However, although tempers had become frayed, we should be proud of the way in which players from both sides went about their business in what was always going to be a highly-charged SPL fixture at Celtic Park.

That day, we were nothing short of immense in the first half, and should have had a greater half-time cushion than Alan Thompson's solitary goal.

Rangers, as I fully expected they would do, came roaring back at us in the second half, but we held firm and thoroughly deserved the three points.

No-one was more delighted than myself to see you singing and dancing at the final whistle, but we all know there is much work to be done before the real celebrations can begin.

An 11-point cushion is nice to have at this stage, but there are still more than enough matches for quality sides such as Rangers and Hibs to punish us should we slip up.

Having said that, I couldn't be more delighted with how well the players have done thus far. During the summer, perhaps most of you would have settled merely for signs that inroads were being made into Rangers' domination.

In any case, it would be fair to say expectations have risen considerably since then.

But we are by no means invincible, as was shown when Dunfermline held us to a draw in Saturday's Scottish Cup fourth round tie at East End Park.

I'm sure that the match was an



ABOVE PAR: Larsson hits his second in the cup draw with Dunfermline

# Let's go for one final title charge

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entertaining one for the neutral spectator, but I was more than a little disappointed when we twice conceded the lead to give Dunfermline a way back into the tie.

But still, I did say before the match that I would be delighted to still be in the competition at the end of the 90 minutes, and I'm sticking by that.

Games are beginning to mount up for us, though, and while the players have shown a resilience which will serve them well between now and the end of the season, it's a pity that we do not yet have the strength of squad to be able to shuffle our pack on a regular basis.

At the weekend, our joy at the early return of Joos Valgaeren was tempered by the absence of Johan Mjallby and, thanks to a shoulder injury picked up in an under-21 game, young Jamie Smith.

Nevertheless, we still possess enough

good players to win matches, and tonight Motherwell are the side we must overcome here at Celtic Park.

I know Billy Davies will have his players fired up for the match as they chase a top six finish, and I expect them to give us a very tough time.

Motherwell remain one of only four sides to have taken points from us this season and, both times we have encountered them, there has been little to separate the two teams.

Therefore, I would ask you, the supporters, to get right behind us, as you have done quite magnificently in recent weeks, while we make one final push together for the league title.



*Antony*

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**celtic:**  
probable formation 3-5-2

**motherwell:**  
probable formation 4-4-2



subs	celtic	motherwell

### celtic squad

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Jonathan GOULD             | 21 Stewart KERR             |
| 2 Tom BOYD (captain)         | 22 Stephane BONNES          |
| 3 Stephane MAHE              | 23 Dimitre KHARINE          |
| 4 Jackie McNAMARA            | 24 Collin HEALY             |
| 5 Joos VALGAEREN             | 25 Lubomir MORAVCIK         |
| 6 Alan STUBBS                | 26 Paul SHIELDS             |
| 7 Henrik LARSSON             | 27 Mark BURCHILL            |
| 8 Alan THOMPSON              | 30 Vidar RISETH (on loan)   |
| 9 Chris SUTTON               | 31 Rafael SCHEIDT (on loan) |
| 10 Eyal BERKOVIC (Blackburn) | 32 Simon LYNCH              |
| 11 Morten WIEGHORST          | 33 John CONVERY             |
| 12 Tommy JOHNSON             | 34 Mark FOTHERINGHAM        |
| 14 Paul LAMBERT              | 35 Johan MJALLBY            |
| 15 Bobby PETTA               | 36 Ramon VEGA               |
| 16 Olivier TEBILY            | 37 Liam KEOGH               |
| 17 Didier AGATHE             | 38 Barry John CORR          |
| 18 Neil LENNON               | 39 Jamie SMITH              |
| 19 Stilian PETROV            | 40 Stephen CRAINEY          |
| 20 Rob DOUGLAS               | 41 John KENNEDY             |

### motherwell squad

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Andy GORAM        | 21 Paul HARVEY        |
| 2 Martyn CORRIGAN   | 22 Keith LASLEY       |
| 3 Stephen McMILLAN  | 23 Ange OUEIFIO       |
| 4 Benito KEMBLE     | 24 Martin WOOD        |
| 6 Greg STRONG       | 25 John CONNOLLY      |
| 7 John SPENCER      | 26 Colin MILLER       |
| 8 John DAVIES       | 27 James McFADDEN     |
| 9 Lee McCULLOCH     | 28 Brian DEMPSE       |
| 10 Don GOODMAN      | 29 David CLARKE       |
| 11 Stephen NICHOLAS | 30 Scott WILSON       |
| 12 Derek ADAMS      | 31 Kevin MacDONALD    |
| 14 Kevin TWADDLE    | 32 John FALLON        |
| 15 Tony THOMAS      | 34 Andrew BELL        |
| 16 Steven WOODS     | 35 Shaun FAGAN        |
| 17 Stephen WOODS    | 36 William KINNIBURGH |
| 18 Derek TOWNSLEY   | 37 John CRAWLEY       |
| 19 Stuart ELLIOTT   | 38 Barry TULLOCH      |
| 20 Dougie RAMSAY    |                       |

Referee: JOHN ROWBOTHAM

Assistant Referees: ROSS McCLUSKIE

FRANK COLE

Fourth Official: STEVE CONROY



### JACK CHARLTON was once asked his opinion of former Celtic striker Tommy Coyne.

"He's one of the most skilful players around," said Jack. "If he had another yard of pace he'd be worth millions."

The former Republic of Ireland manager's view might have been accurate; then again, Big Jack's reputation for not being able to identify his own players may mean he was talking about someone else entirely.

But while pace was certainly not one of Coyne's greatest strengths, he possessed the single most important ingredient to make a good striker - the ability to put the ball in the net.

He scored goals wherever he played: Dundee, Dundee United, Tranmere Rovers, Clydebank, Falkirk, Motherwell and, of course, Celtic.

In 132 appearances for the Hoops, Coyne netted 52 goals. Yet at one time in his Celtic career, the player was banished to the footballing equivalent of the Gulag Archipelago.

Left out of the first team towards the end of season 1988/90, the player did not feature at all the following season until the visit of Motherwell to Celtic Park in November 1990. It was to prove a turning point in Coyne's Parkhead career.

"I had been left out of the team, since before the end of the previous

# Celts see two sides of golden Coyne

## Striker came back to haunt Hoops

season and the team were playing badly," Coyne recalled. "Billy McNeill, who was manager at the time, came to me and asked if I was in the right frame of mind to play in the first team, which I always was.

"I was determined to show him he had made the wrong decision in leaving me out. It's always frustrating for any player to be out the team, but you've just got to keep training and wait for your chance."

And Coyne made sure he grabbed the chance. After 34 minutes, Celtic were 2-0 ahead against Well and Coyne had scored both goals.

"That game sticks in my mind for obvious reasons," he admitted. "It was my first game back in the team that season, I scored two goals and nearly scored a third but Chris McCart cleared off the line. A hat-trick would have been great on my first game back."

Despite a late goal from Bobby Russell, Celtic held on for all three points and Coyne was never out of the first team again that season,

scoring 19 goals in Celts' campaign.

And those goals were a bright spot in an otherwise bleak time at the club, something not lost of the long-suffering fans.

"I always felt the Celtic fans were behind me," Coyne said. "The thing about Celtic fans is that as long as you give 100% and they see that, then they'll support you."

Just over three years later those same supporters had to watch as Coyne helped Motherwell to a 1-0 victory over Lou Macari's Celtic side in the third round of the Scottish Cup.

"To score the winning goal against the team that has let you go gives you a certain amount of personal pleasure," Coyne admitted. "I had family and friends who were Celtic fans, so I wasn't flavour of the month with them, but as a footballer you just give your all for the team you're playing for.

"I knew I could still score goals for Celtic and there was maybe an added incentive in that game in trying to prove they shouldn't have let



**TOMMY GUN:** Coyne was a big hit with Parkhead fans



**STRIKE RATE:** Tommy Coyne came back to haunt Celts when he was at Motherwell

me go. I felt I should have still been at Celtic but these things happen in football."

To anyone wanting an illustration of Celtic's fortunes at that time, a glance at the respective line-ups from the game would show an enviable collection of footballing talent at Motherwell, while Celtic had some great players surrounded by what could only be described as mediocre colleagues.

"We had a couple of great seasons at Motherwell," said Coyne. "It was a really good side under Tommy McLean and we finished second and third behind Rangers in consecutive seasons. I think it was the best ever for the club."

While he won't be at the game tonight, Coyne believes the Hoops won't have it all their own way against Billy Davies' side, who lost 1-0 at Celtic Park in the second game of this season

and then secured a 3-3 draw against the Hoops at Fir Park in October.

"Motherwell have always had a decent record against Celtic," said Coyne. "A lot of teams go to Celtic Park and get hammered but Motherwell will maybe just lose by the odd goal or even sneak a result.

### Tommy Coyne fact-file

**Born:** 14/11/62. **Clubs:** Hillwood BC, Clydebank (Aug 1981), Dundee United (Oct 83), Dundee (Dec 86), Celtic (Mar 89), Tranmere Rovers (Mar 93), Motherwell (Nov 93), Dundee (Jul 98), Falkirk (Aug 99), Clydebank (Aug 2000)  
**Celtic record:** 132 app, 52 goals

"Obviously, at Fir Park, with the tighter ground and the fans split 50-50, they might have a better chance, but at Parkhead, with 60,000 Celtic fans behind their team, and with Celtic doing so well, it will be hard for them."

Coyne, recently sacked as Clydebank coach, has been linked with a move to Albion Rovers. Regardless of the pace of the game, or the player, one thing is guaranteed; Coyne will soon be on the score-sheet at Cliftonhill. Even Jack Charlton would recognise that.

**PAUL CUDDIHY**

November 6, 1990  
B&Q Scottish League, Premier Division

#### CELTIC 2

Coyne 26, 34

#### MOTHERWELL 1

Russell 73

**Celtic:** Bonner; McNally, Wdowczyk, Baillie, Rogan; Miller, McStay, Fulton, Collins; Coyne, Creaney

**Motherwell:** Maxwell; Burley, Paterson, McCart, Boyd; Nijholt (Russell), Griffin, O'Neill (Kirk), Cooper; McLeod, Cusack

**Attendance:** 20,317

January 29, 1994  
Scottish Cup, third round

#### MOTHERWELL 1

Coyne 83

#### CELTIC 0

**Motherwell:** Dykstra; Krivokapic, McCart, Martin; Shannon, Dolan, Lambert (Kirk), O'Donnell, McKinnon; Arnott, Coyne (McGrillen)

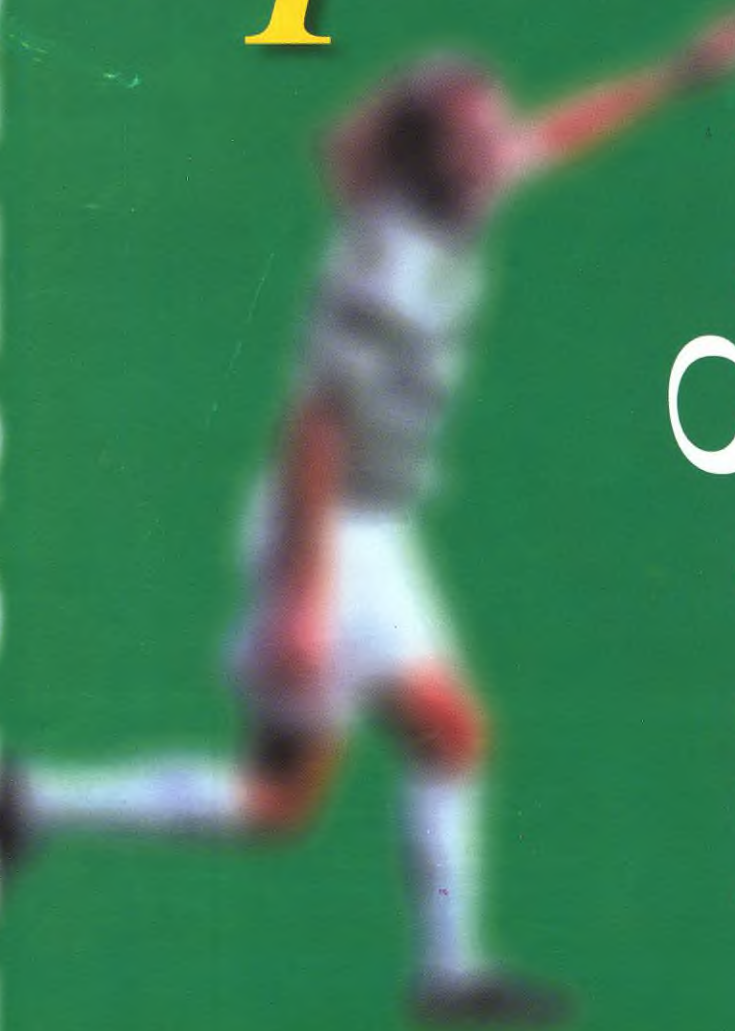
**Celtic:** Muggleton; McNally, Gillespie, Mowbray, Boyd; Byrne (Biggins), McStay, McGinlay, Collins; McAvennie, O'Neil

**Attendance:** 14,061

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FIRST BLOOD: Henrik Larsson congratulates Johan Mjallby on Celts' opener in the 3-3 draw at Fir Park

# SPL rivals have a few scores to settle

ONLY once in the last eight league meetings between Celtic and Motherwell at Celtic Park, have both teams scored.

That was on April 18, 1998 when Celtic won three crucial points on their way to the title. Stevie McMillan opened the scoring for Well in 14 minutes, but doubles from Craig Burley (25 and 43) and Simon Donnelly (50 and 63) gave the Hoops a 4-1 win.

IN the 3-3 draw this season at Fir Park, Johan Mjallby, Joos Valgaeren and Jackie McNamara became the 65th, 66th and 67th players to score for Celtic against Motherwell in the Premier Division/SPL.

GED BRANNAN'S penalty in the above match was his fourth Premier goal against Celtic. He is now joint fourth in Motherwell's list of top Premier scorers against Celtic alongside Vic Davidson

and behind Tommy Coyne (5), Stevie Kirk (7) and Dougie Arnott (8).

CELTIC'S top Premier scorers against Motherwell are Brian McClair (11) and Paul McStay (10). No prizes for guessing top current Celt: Henrik Larsson, of course, with six.

CELTIC have completed a grand slam of four league wins over Motherwell in one season three times. They were 1985/86, 1987/88 and 1998/99.

LAST season Motherwell got the better of Celtic in the four league meetings for the first time since 1994/95 with two wins, one defeat and one draw.

CELTIC'S recent 1-0 victory over Rangers was their 13th straight home league win this season, keeping up the 100% record. This beats the club's previous best of 12 from 1914/15. That

season Celtic went on to win 18 of their 19 home games. But last term Celtic had won all their league games until a certain Fir Park team visited!

THERE have been six seasons where Celtic have won all but one of their home league matches. They were 1891/92, 1892/93, 1897/98, 1914/15, 1953/54 and 1965/66.

In two of those seasons (1892/93 and 1897/98) the only one they failed to win was the last one. But back then Bhoys played just nine home league games in a season. (So Celts are six matches away from their first ever 100% home league season record.)

The current Bhoys are chasing the club record of consecutive home league wins. Including the two from last season they stand at 15, just behind the 17 from 1965/66 to 1966/67.

**DAVID McDONALD**