

# Celtic

**V PARTICK TH**

**BELL'S SCOTTISH  
LEAGUE  
PREMIER DIVISION  
WEDNESDAY, NOV 9  
1994. KICK-OFF 7.30PM.**

**INSIDE**

**THE BIG MATCH  
PICTURE REVIEW**

**Plus++Plus++Plus**



**PHIL O'DONNELL  
PLAYER PROFILE**



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# PHOENIX HONDA

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# TOMMY BURNS



**F**IRST of all I'd like to welcome everyone involved with Partick Thistle to Hampden for tonight's league match.

I know we are in for a difficult game as Thistle always make it tough for the bigger clubs but we are looking to get our own house in order first and will definitely be looking for three points.

We also hope to utilise one or two younger players in tonight's encounter. This doesn't mean I'm criticising the first-team squad as I certainly can't question their effort and application.

***But results dictate everything and, of late, they have been pretty ordinary.***

In saying that though, the main thing we have at the moment is very good team morale – the feeling in the camp is exceptional, especially as we know we are in the season's first cup final.

The Coca-Cola game will be Celtic's first final for five years and there is a smashing attitude among the players which in itself can only be good for team spirit.

We are also looking forward to getting ourselves further up the league table and we have to use the positive morale to that end by converting it into results on the pitch.

Once we **ATTAIN** that we have to ensure we **MAINTAIN** it as the players are happy in training but the consistency is not yet there on the pitch. We must strive to change that.

Tonight can be the ideal platform to begin that process as every game provides us with a fresh opportunity to kick-start our league campaign.

But no-one has been more disappointed than the players about recent results, especially as the backing from the supporters has been excellent.

Now we need the support from the stands more than ever and the fans must stay behind the players to help us reach a higher position.

The supporters can urge on the players to better things – supporting the team is all about getting behind the players whatever happens.

***It's not just about supporting when the going is good because the people in the stands can turn events on the pitch.***

The fans can help bring back the good times

**‘The club spirit is never in question but we really need to be more consistent’**

and I would ask them to back the team to the hilt tonight as they have done in the past.

I'd also like to welcome Tosh McKinlay to the club – it's such a pity he's missing out on what would have been his first 'home' game.

He had a good first half on Saturday and linked up well with John Collins until he picked up an injury. Once he came off it obviously affected our rhythm.



**WE ALWAYS  
LEAVE THE  
COMPETITION  
STANDING**



**CR SMITH**

**SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST BY FAR**



# THE SQUADS



**GORDON MARSHALL**



**TOM BOYD**



**MARK MCNALLY**



**BRIAN O'NEIL**



**TOSH MCKINLAY**



**JOHN COLLINS**



**PAUL BYRNE**



**PAUL MCSTAY**



**PHIL O'DONNELL**



**ANDY WALKER**



**SIMON DONNELLY**



**CHARLIE NICHOLAS**



**WILLIE FALCONER**



**Referee:**  
**G A TRAN**  
Kirkcaldy



**Linesman:**  
**L W THOW**  
Prestwick



**Linesman:**  
**G W KERR**  
Stenhousemuir

**STAND-BYS:**  
*Celtic* - Brian McLaughlin, Barry Smith, Pat Bonner (GK)  
*Partick* - Mark Cairns (GK), Isaac English, Grant Tierney



**MASCOT:**  
Noreen Pinkman  
Aged 10  
Edinburgh

**CRAIG NELSON**



**KEVIN MCKEE**



**STEVE PITTMAN**



**ALAN DINNIE**



**WILLIE JAMIESON**



**GREGG WATSON**



**ALEX TAYLOR**



**ALBERT CRAIG**



**ROD McDONALD**



**ISAAC ENGLISH**



**CHIC CHARNLEY**



**ANDY GIBSON**



**BOBBY LAW**



# +TODAY'S VISITORS+

★ **PARTICK** Thistle have had a mixed season so far and now struggling badly at the foot of the table.

Last time Celtic met them at Firhill in September they won 2-1 thanks to a debut day double from Phil O'Donnell.

Celts defender Tom Boyd takes us through the team that will be looking for a better performance and result tonight.

**PARTICK THISTLE** aren't having the best of seasons really, and I'm sure they'll be looking to improve on recent results, so we'll have to watch them tonight. But we're also out to improve on our recent form and we definitely want to take all three points.

And the man we'll have to get past is **CRAIG NELSON**. There was a lot of talk about the Thistle goalkeeping situation in the summer, whether Craig would be going or staying and with Andy Murdoch looking to be on his way out as well.

But Craig seems to be staying now and he's been doing well, and they'll be glad he didn't move I'm sure.

**KEVIN McKEE** is a very difficult defender to get past. I know him from playing at Youth Under 18s level and he's a very solid man at the back.

**GREGG WATSON** plays mainly as a sweeper, letting the other central defenders win the ball. Former Aberdeen man, he uses the ball from the back very well.

**WILLIE JAMIESON** has been around a while and is vastly experienced. He's strong and reliable and a good professional to have on your side.

I think **STEVE PITTMAN** was very unlucky to get sent off against us in the last minute the last time we played. That was his debut for Thistle as well and he'll not want to remember it in a hurry. He likes to go forward and is a strong guy with a powerful shot.

**BOBBY LAW** has played in both full back positions in his time but I guess he prefers the right side ... geddit! No? Never mind, he can always do a good job wherever he's playing.

**ALEX TAYLOR** gets about the park a lot and is a very gifted player which I've noticed every time I've played against him.

He has the ability to pass the ball well with good control and is one we'll have to watch out for.

I remember **ISAAC ENGLISH** for scoring against Rangers - that seems to stick in the memory! I just hope he doesn't do the same against us tonight. He's a young guy but is doing well, and he's strong with good control.

**ALAN DINNIE** hasn't been back at Thistle too long but he seems to be settling in. Good utility player to have around - I think he prefers full-back but is doing a job just now in the middle of the park.

**DEREK McWILLIAMS** is another who hasn't been at Thistle that long, but is doing well. From what I know of him he's very good on the ball. He has a lot of talent and can use either foot just as well.

**IAN CAMERON** plays intelligent football on the park and I hear he's a bit intelligent off it as well with a degree. Mainly a left-footer and another ex-Aberdeen man.

**RODDY GRANT** is probably the main threat up



★ **SWEEP STAKE!**  
Thistle rely on Gregg Watson to tidy up at the back as they bid to beat the drop.



# + TODAY'S VISITORS +

## Battling their way through tough times

front for Thistle, a real target man. He's strong and robust and always threatening to score. One that definitely has to be kept under control by the defence.

**ANDY GIBSON** is ANOTHER ex-Aberdeen man! He's a sharp, nippy little player who plays off flicks from Roddy Grant. Will always get in about the danger areas.

I think **CHIC CHARNLEY** is definitely one of the most gifted players in the Premier Division. Apparently, he did very well when he played for Celtic against Manchester United at Old Trafford last season. If he's playing tonight we'll have to be hoping he doesn't turn in the same sort of performance.

**ROD MacDONALD** scored a great goal on his debut after signing from Walsall. This is the first time any of us will be seeing him, and it's always good to play against a new element in a team - like a fresh challenge really.

**GRANT TIERNEY** is another experienced hand - a competent player who knows the score and does a good job for his side.

**TOM SMITH** came off the bench at Celtic Park last season and scored the goal that really kept Thistle in the Premier. A good Celtic fan and a good player for the future.

**ALBERT CRAIG** has played for a few teams now and has always done well. His goals last season really helped keep Thistle up. I think it was about 15 or 16 he scored which is pretty unbelievable for a midfielder.

★ **JAGGED EDGE!** *Chic Charnley (top), did so well in a Celtic jersey at Old Trafford and keeper Craig Nelson seems settled after an uncertain spell.*



### + Lowdown + Lowdown

**CRAIG NELSON (AGE 23)**  
Signed from Cork City, 1991  
**KEVIN McKEE (AGE 28)**  
Signed from Hamilton, 1991  
**STEVE PITTMAN (AGE 27)**  
Signed from Dundee, 1994  
**GREGG WATSON (AGE 24)**  
Signed from Aberdeen, 1993  
**WILLIE JAMIESON (AGE 31)**  
Signed from Dundee, 1992  
**ALAN DINNIE (AGE 31)**  
Signed from Dundee, 1994  
**ROD MacDONALD (AGE 27)**  
Signed from Walsall, 1994  
**ALBERT CRAIG (AGE 32)**  
Signed from Dundee, 1992  
**ANDY GIBSON (AGE 25)**

Signed from Aberdeen, 1993  
**RODDY GRANT (AGE 28)**  
Signed from Dunfermline, 1993  
**IAN CAMERON (AGE 28)**  
Signed from Aberdeen, 1992  
**DEREK McWILLIAMS (AGE 27)**  
Signed from Dunfermline, 1994  
**CHIC CHARNLEY (AGE 31)**  
Signed from Djurgarden, 1993  
**ISAAC ENGLISH (AGE 22)**  
Signed from St Mirren, 1989  
**TOM SMITH (AGE 21)**  
Signed from Cork City, 1992  
**DAVID BYRNE (Age 33)**  
Signed from St Johnstone, 1993







# Cup will give a great boost

## The big INTERVIEW

PHIL O'DONNELL

**I am loving being at Celtic and I can't wait for every game**

**PHIL O'DONNELL** might not be playing an actual part in Celtic's Coca-Cola Cup campaign.

But although cup-tied and unavailable for selection he believes he's every bit as involved in the countdown to the final of the competition as the Celts who are on the field.

And the 22-year-old midfielder puts that down to the happy atmosphere at the club and boss Tommy Burns.

Phil said: "There's a real high about the place due to being in a final, and although I'm disappointed not being involved, I still feel part of it."

"Tommy Burns has been great involving me as much as he can. The atmosphere is good at the club and it's a very happy place."

"All the guys are jumping about at the thought of the final and it's only natural that that feeling passes on to me."

"Although I may not be able to play, I'll still be there supporting them and giving them vocal backing."

"They've done really well to get to the final coming through a few difficult ties, and hopefully they can go on and win the trophy - for themselves, the club and most of all the fans."

### Winner

And Phil also believes that if Celtic do pull off a win in the Coca-Cola Cup that could help him pick up a winner's medal in his first season and give everyone the spur needed to go on to greater things.

And there's nothing Phil wants more than to be a winner with Celtic.

He said: "I am loving being at Celtic so much that I can't wait for every game, all associated with the club have been brilliant since I arrived and I'm enjoying every minute of it."

"But one thing I want more than anything is to win honours here. And I think we have the potential

### Interview: MERLE BROWN

and the players to do just that.

"If we win the Coca-Cola Cup then I think the lift we'll get from that will put the Scottish Cup and the league well within our grasp."

But Phil knows that Celts will have to get back to their winning ways soon if they are to challenge for the league - and he admits that he will have to lift his own form as well.

And he would love to have been playing against Partick Thistle tonight as on his debut in September at Firhill he netted a double in the 2-1 win. But he will be the team's no. 1 fan in the stand.

He said: "We need to start winning and get back up the league as soon as possible."

"But we're not too far off things. A couple of wins and we're right back up there."

"Hopefully I can start playing a bit better. I haven't been doing as well as I could recently, I know that."

"I'd also like to start scoring a few more goals, although at least I'm getting into the positions right now even if I'm not scoring. It's when I DON'T get into the positions that I'll start to worry!"

Phil made his Old Firm debut a week past Sunday and he insists that despite the 3-1 defeat he enjoyed the match and can't wait to taste the unique atmosphere again.

He said: "The Old Firm match was a lot more nerve-wracking than I thought, but I think I was only really nervous before kick-off. Once I was out there I felt OK."

"The thing that got me though was the noise level. It was unbelievable to me - and the stadium wasn't even full."

"The result was obviously disappointing, but it was still one of the greatest matches I've played in."

"It was different to all I've experienced before, and very hard to explain - I just hope I'm involved in a lot more of them."

Phil is also hoping that an improvement in his club form will help him get involved at international level.

### Injury

He was picked as a last minute replacement for the Scotland squad for the Faroe Islands game last month but couldn't go due to injury.

And now he's hoping that Craig Brown will still have him in his thoughts.

He said: "It was a bit annoying that I got a wee niggle and couldn't join the squad for the Faroes game."

"But there may be other chances. It's all down to club form really, and my main priority is to do well for Celtic."

"Anything after that would be a nice bonus."

