

Celtic

V KILMARNOCK

**BELL'S SCOTTISH
LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
SATURDAY, SEPT 17
1994. KICK-OFF 3PM.**

INSIDE

**PICTURE SPECIAL
ON IBROX GLORY**

Plus++Plus++Plus



**TOM BOYD
PLAYER PROFILE**



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TOMMY BURNS



FIRSTLY I'd like to welcome all our own support back to Hampden for our second home match of the season.

But I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all the Kilmarnock supporters and staff. It'll be nice to see some of the lads again whom I haven't seen since leaving the club.

I'm sure Billy Stark feels exactly the same as I do, but, although they know I wish them well in all they do, there will be no sentiment involved once the game starts.

This is a vital period for us with three home games in one week – it is important that we carry on the good form we have shown so far and get the right results.

I would ask all our supporters, who I know have been behind us all the way so far, to really back us this week. If their encouragement keeps up I'm sure they'll see a marked improvement as the season goes on.

They will never know just how big a boost their support gives the players.

I know three games in a week will be hard on the pocket, so I want all the fans to know that we all appreciate them paying out to support us, and we'll do all we can to make sure it's money well spent.

Better

Since the last home game against Dundee United I believe we have improved considerably all round and have been a lot more consistent over the whole 90 minutes.

In that 2-1 win over United we were good for about half an hour in the first half and then so-so in the second. Since then we have played better.

Kilmarnock haven't had the best of starts but they won't be a pushover at all. We must win though, just like we must win all the games against the so-called smaller teams.

The players were told before the Thistle game that leagues are won in these matches, not at Ibrox or Pittodrie, games which take care of themselves.

We are sitting where we want to be at the top

6 The fans will never know how much their support is appreciated by the playing staff ;

of the table and we all know the only people who can topple are ourselves.

But we don't want to get carried away – there is a long way to go yet.

Finally, Phil O'Donnell makes his home debut today and I'm sure he'll be thrilled to run out in front of the support – just as I hope the fans who weren't at Firhill will be thrilled at seeing him for the first time.



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THE SQUADS



GORDON MARSHALL



Referee:
I TAYLOR
Edinburgh

BOBBY GEDDES



PETER GRANT

GUS MCPHERSON



MARK McNALLY



Linesman:
D R LOW
Kennoway

ANDY MILLEN



TOM BOYD

NEIL WHITWORTH



TONY MOWBRAY



Linesman:
W G MCKNIGHT
Newton Stewart

RAY MONTGOMERIE



MIKE GALLOWAY

ALLY MITCHELL



PAT MCGINLAY

STAND-BYS:
Celtic - Pat Bonner (GK), Brian O'Neil, Brian McLaughlin
Kilmarnock - Colin Meldrum (GK) Steve Maskrey, Ray Montgomerie

MARK REILLY



PAUL McSTAY

SHAUN McSKIMMING



JOHN COLLINS

ROBERT CONNOR



PHIL O'DONNELL

COLIN MCKEE



ANDY WALKER



MASCOT
Gary Naismith
Aged 13
Garrowhill

BOBBY WILLIAMSON



SIMON DONNELLY

TOM BROWN



CHARLIE NICHOLAS

JOHN HENRY



+TODAY'S VISITORS+



★ **ASSISTANT** boss Billy Stark should know a thing or two about today's opponents Kilmarnock, so we decided to let him talk us through the Rugby Park squad.

Kilmarnock gained their first point and scored their first goal against Falkirk last Saturday and they should improve now that they've found their feet.

It's always difficult with a new manager, but I hope the team and Alex Totten do well this season. Here's my rundown on a lot of familiar faces ...

BOBBY GEDDES has been around for a long time including his spell at Dundee, and I honestly think his best season was last term. He played consistently throughout, and it was important because we didn't have experienced back-up at Rugby Park.

GUS McPHERSON had been used in a number of positions at Rangers before coming to Kilmarnock, and he was in the midfield for a spell in the First Division. But he found his niche at right-back and was an integral part of a settled defence.

ANDY MILLEN I knew from Hamilton and his attitude is what struck me first of all. Always keen and enthusiastic, I think he could make it a higher level. I don't think Tommy or I did a better piece of business at Kilmarnock than buying him for £75,000.

RAY MONTGOMERIE is one of the longest serving Killie lads. He's as good a competitor as any in the Premier, and was very consistent last season. A very decent, honest man.

TOM BLACK will be suspended this week because of his sending-off. Tom's strength is going forward. He scored a few vital ones for us, and he always looks as though he's enjoying himself as well.

NEIL WHITWORTH is one of the new lads and I don't know a lot about him. If Alex Ferguson recommended him to Alex Totten he must be good. There are players at Manchester United who can't get in the first team and that doesn't mean they're no good!

SHAUN McSKIMMING got a Scotland B Cap last season and that tells it's own story. I know he hasn't been in the team a lot this season so far, but he is a very good player. I'm sure with a bit of a push he could make it to the top of the game.

JOHN HENRY was a good buy from Clydebank. He's a lovely footballer, and Tommy and I actually enquired about him when we were at Killie. He likes to be involved in the build-up and is always sniffing around goal.

MARK REILLY is a gifted left-sided player and played left-back or wide, left in midfield. But we reckoned he had a terrific engine and a real thirst to get involved so we figured he'd be better at the centre of

★ **ACTION MAN ...**
skipper Ray Montgomerie shows the battling spirit which is the hallmark of Killie's approach



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

Finding their feet under new man in charge

midfield. He got the recognition he deserved last season and I was delighted.

MARK SKILLING had an up and down season last year through injuries. One of the young lads who helped get rid of the 'Dad's Army' tag. He looked to be making progress into a top class player.

ALLY MITCHELL had a magnificent season, he played wide on the right but covered byline to byline. He has great energy and a strong shot and is always willing to have a go.

ROBERT CONNOR is one I know very well from Aberdeen. Alex Totten has signed him to prompt and make things happen from midfield. Like Tommy Burns he has a nice left-foot and he'll be able to do for Killie on the pitch what Tommy did.

COLIN MCKEE is the other Manchester United lad - a proven goalscorer which Killie need.

BOBBY WILLIAMSON is one of the Dad's Army lot and you can't underestimate him - he would have been well satisfied with his contribution last season.

TOM BROWN was signed from Glenafton and that kind of signing is always a gamble, but it worked better than anyone expected.

GEORGE McCLUSKEY'S goals were one reason Kilmarnock won promotion. But one thing I have to mention is that he has NEVER scored away from home!

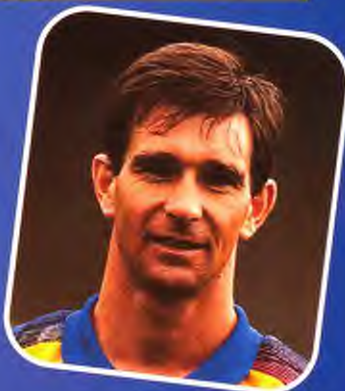
STEVE MASKREY has a bit of pace and he wants to run beyond back fours. Capable of getting a fair share of goals.

DUGALD McCARRISON has had a lot of bad luck with a broken wrist and then a broken leg and I really am looking forward to seeing him back to full fitness.

CRAIG NAPIER is a great athlete and can also play anywhere - the true utility man.

MARK ROBERTS will always be remembered for his goal at Ibrox, and he is still only 18. Good temperament and has shown that he can be a top man.

★ **TOP MEN**
... Killie stars Bobby Geddes (top) and Shaun McSkimming will be all out to make it tough for Celtic this afternoon.



Lowdown + + Lowdown

BOBBY GEDDES (Age 34)

Signed from Dundee, 1990

GUS McPHERSON (Age 25)

Signed from Rangers, 1986

RAY MONTGOMERIE (Age 33)

Signed from Dumbarton, 1988

ANDY MILLEN (Age 29)

Signed from Hamilton, 1993

NEIL WHITWORTH (Age 22)

Signed from Manchester Utd, 1994

MARK REILLY (Age 25)

Signed from Motherwell, 1991

ALLY MITCHELL (Age 26)

Signed from East Fife, 1991

SHAUN McSKIMMING (Age 24)

Signed from Dundee, 1991

ROBERT CONNOR (Age 34)

Signed from Aberdeen, 1994

BOBBY WILLIAMSON (Age 33)

Signed from Rotherham, 1990

JOHN HENRY (Age 22)

Signed from Clydebank, 1994

COLIN MCKEE (Age 21)

Signed from Manchester Utd, 1994

TOM BROWN (Age 26)

Signed from Glenafton, 1993

STEVE MASKREY (Age 32)

Signed from St Johnstone, 1994

GEORGE McCLUSKEY (Age 36)

Signed from Hamilton, 1992

CRAIG NAPIER (Age 29)

Signed from Hamilton, 1994

MARK ROBERTS (Age 19)

Signed from Bellfield BC, 1992

DUGALD McCARRISON (Age 24)

Signed from Celtic, 1993



Versatile Celt is ready to star

The big INTERVIEW

PETER GRANT

‘We are a team off the park as well as on it ...’

PETER GRANT'S great early season form is the result of five combined factors.

A new manager, the end to the boardroom battles, last season's injury, physio Brian Scott, and a new total professionalism at the club.

Peter has earned high praise from boss Tommy Burns for his play in midfield in the six games so far.

And he capped that off by netting the only goal of the game in the 1-0 win over Ayr United in the first Coca-Cola Cup tie in August. Now Peter wants to keep playing the way he is and stay in the side.

He said: "I think the long lay-off through injury that I had last season has given me a new zest for the game."

"I was basically out last season from January onwards."

"After recovering from my ligament injury I played the Rangers game in April, but then went on to break my foot in a reserve fixture and that was that."

Credit

"But I worked hard at getting back and I have to give credit to Brian Scott who really helped me."

"We went training together and did five, six or seven mile runs and generally worked really hard."

"I probably haven't been this fit since I was 18."

"I've never had a long term injury before and I couldn't have got through it without Scotty's help."

While Peter was watching the team play from the stand he admits he sometimes wondered what on earth was happening to the club he has loved all his life.

And he said: "When you're brought up with Celtic at heart and you see people making a mockery it really hurts."

"For the players the way to try and solve that was by playing - but I obviously couldn't do that."

"I just find it hard to believe how bad things got."

Interview: MERLE BROWN

"It was a crazy slide downwards."

"Everything to do with the football was hopeless, the training was terrible, the organisation was terrible and the professionalism was terrible."

"I heard people at games saying the players weren't trying, but what they didn't realise was that everyone was so low it was hard."

Now however Peter is delighted that is all in the past and reckons Tommy Burns will get the success he wants for the club.

He said: "Tommy's appointment has been really great - everything is better."

"It's all sorts of things like the training and then the fact that we all sit down and eat together afterwards."

"It's all about companionship in football - not just a case of doing the training then shooting off home."

"You're a team on the park and have to be off it as well."

And we are fortunate that there are no superstars here.

"It doesn't matter if Paul McStay has 70 caps for Scotland or whatever, we're all in it together and that's good."

"I know because the results are going right just now it's easy for everyone to smile, but even if we have a few hiccups I believe things will stay the same."

"Nobody is promising the world, but I feel if we play as well as we can do we can win something."

"We are professionals and we have to prepare well for the job."

It's the same for everyone - I'm sure this interview couldn't be done without the questions being prepared before. It's the same for everything."

"And I think we've found that professionalism at Celtic again."

Peter knows Tommy Burns well from his days as his team-mate in the 1980s, but the 29-year-old midfielder insists he's looking for NO favours from the new manager.

He said: "It was very fortunate that the new boss was a man I know very well."

"And because of that and the fact that I played alongside him in midfield I don't find it difficult to work with him."

"But I also have no hesitation in calling him 'Gaffer' and neither does Paul McStay or any of the lads who knew him before as a teammate."

"That is purely out of respect."

Success

"Along with Danny McGrain, Tommy Burns was the man who helped me the most in my career."

"But I know if I don't produce the goods I'll be out of the team like a shot and that's the only way it should be. But I want to do all I can to make sure that I don't sit in the stand or on the bench this season."

"We've had a good start and I want to be part of any success we have. But we know there's a long way to go yet. We may be top of the league but only by one point."

"We just have to ignore what's happening at other clubs and only worry about what's going on here, and I'm sure we can be right in there come May."



