

FALKIRK FOOTBALL CLUB



The Baggies

BELL'S PREMIER LEAGUE
Saturday 10th February 1995
FALKIRK v. CELTIC
Official Programme No. 16 Price £1.00

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JOHN LAMBIE

The performance of the team in the mid-week Scottish Cup tie was felt deeply by all the players and management at the club. With no disrespect to Stenhousemuir, who played well and deserved to win, we let ourselves down badly and more importantly let, you, the supporters down.

The chairman and I decided that it was time to get to the root of the problem. We have good

players, we have a good dressing room atmosphere, we have a great blend of youth and experience we needed to all start to pull in the same direction.

The few days we spent away before last week's game allowed us to discuss the situation away from the glare of the press and in discussing openly, start to rebuild the team spirit. We also completed the signings of two more quality players and it gave them an early opportunity to meet the squad.

Dominic Iorfa has been signed as the forward we have been missing this season and from last week's performance he gives every



indication of offering the attacking options we have been looking for. Tony Finnigan, as he showed last week, offers us experience and quality to add to the defenders we already have at the club.

The game against Kilmarnock was as complete a team performance as we have had since I joined the club. Everyone performed exceptionally and even although we were behind twice

we showed determination and with everyone playing for each other we always looked the better side and got our just desserts. It would be churlish to single out any player for individual praise as they all were magnificent but Steve Kirk was asked to take a role he has never played before and he delivered exactly what was asked of him and more.

As I write this, the weather looks as though it will take its toll and the game may be postponed. But playing Celtic, whenever the game is played, as the form team playing the attacking football they are renown for a great game is in prospect.



FALKIRK FOOTBALL CLUB

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CLUB HONOURS

SCOTTISH CUP WINNERS

1913 AND 1957

FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1990-91 AND 1993-94

FIRST DIVISION RUNNERS-UP

1985-86

DIVISION 1 RUNNERS-UP

1907-08 AND 1909-10

SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1979-80

DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONS

1935-36; 1969-70; 1974-75

SECOND DIVISION

RUNNERS-UP

1904-05; 1951-52; 1960-61

B&Q CUP WINNERS

1993-94

LEAGUE CUP RUNNERS-UP

1947-48

BROCKVILLE BULLETIN

PUBLIC ENQUIRY

The public enquiry ordered by the Secretary of State for Scotland was completed on Friday 2 February. The Reporter will now draft his report and within two weeks it will be distributed to the objectors for their comments before it is finalised and presented to the Scottish Secretary.

There is no precedent for this type of enquiry and it could be up to 4 months before the final outcome of the enquiry is known

JOHN CLARK / JOE McLAUGHLIN

Joe McLaughlin left the club last week with a free transfer and he immediately signed for Hibernian who have been experiencing injury problems with defenders. The 34 year old signed from Watford in 1992 and made 99 first choice appearances for the Bairns and was only named twice as substitute. In his time at Brockville he scored 6 goals.

John Clark joined Dunfermline just before last Saturday's game, a move that had been expected for Joe McLaughlin prior to his move. The ex-Dundee United man moved for a fee of 75,000 and is seen as the man to try to take on the considerable mantle left by the untimely death of Norrie McCathie. The man with the thundering free kicks made 49 first choice appearances for the Bairns and 3 as substitute. He scored 10 goals during his spell as a Bairn.

4 GOAL THRILLER

The last time Falkirk scored 4 goals in a league game was against Dumbarton in the season 1993/94 when the Bairns had the thrilling run in to the championship with great rivals Dunfermline. The game against Dumbarton was the second last home game of the season played on the 23 April 1994 and 2 goals from Eddie May and 1 each from Richard Cadette and Dragutin Ristic won the day.

That same season they also recorded a 4:3 victory against Stirling Albion at Forthbank with David Weir, Richard Cadette, Scott Sloan and current Albion boss Kevin Drinkell scoring. Another 4 goals were scored against St Mirren at Brockville with 2 goals for Dragutin Ristic and 1 each for Richard Cadette and Greg Shaw. To complete the set a 4:2 win over Brechin at home two weeks before the Dumbarton game with goals from Brian Rice, Richard Cadette and Nicky Henderson and significantly a goal for Neil Oliver. This was only Neil's second for the club. He had broken his duck 4 weeks earlier in the 2:0 victory over Ayr United (Greg Shaw scored the second).

Falkirk also registered 5 goals in two games that season. The first was against Morton away in the second game of the season on the 14 August with goals from Richard Cadette, Greg Shaw, Craig Taggart and 2 from Neil Duffy. Morton were also the victims in the second game played at Brockville on the 11 January 1994 with goals from Brian Rice, Eddie May, Richard Cadette and 2 from Greg Shaw.

FALKIRK HOTLINE 0891 70 70 78

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Premier Division

FALKIRK V CELTIC

Hearts v Aberdeen

Partick Thistle v Kilmarnock

Raith Rovers v Hibernian

Rangers v Motherwell

First Division

Airdrie v Dunfermline

Clydebank v St Mirren

Dumbarton v Hamilton Accies

Dundee United v Greenock Morton

St Johnstone v Dundee

Second Division

Berwick v Stenhousemuir

Forfar v QOS

Montrose v Clyde

Stirling Albion v Ayr United

Stranraer v East Fife

Third Division

Arbroath v Caledonian Thistle

Cowdenbeath v Brechin City

Livingston v Alloa

Queen's Park v East Stirlingshire

Ross County v Albion Rovers

Premier Division Match 25

3 February 1996

Celtic 2 Hibernian 1

Falkirk 4 Kilmarnock 2

Hearts 2 Raith Rovers 0

Motherwell P Aberdeen P

Partick Thistle 1 Rangers 2

WHAT WAS HAPPENING LAST SEASON

Premier Division Match 26

25 February 1995

Dundee United 1 Falkirk 0

Aberdeen 2 Motherwell 0

Dundee United 2 Partick Thistle 0

Falkirk 1 Hibernian 0

Hearts 1 Celtic 1

Rangers 3 Kilmarnock 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Rangers	26	16	6	4	46	21	54	25
Motherwell	25	10	9	6	38	36	39	2
Hibernian	26	8	13	5	36	26	37	10
Celtic	26	6	16	4	27	24	34	3
Hearts	26	9	6	11	33	36	33	-3
Dundee Utd	25	8	8	9	32	37	32	-5
FALKIRK	26	7	9	10	32	38	30	-6
Kilmarnock	26	7	9	10	31	37	30	-6
Aberdeen	26	6	9	11	30	34	27	-4
Partick Th.	24	5	7	12	23	39	22	-16

Premier Division Match 25

11 February 1995

Aberdeen 2 Rangers 0

Celtic 2 Hibernian 2

Dundee United P Falkirk P

Hearts 2 Kilmarnock 2

Partick Thistle P Motherwell P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Rangers	25	18	5	2	57	14	59	43
Celtic	25	17	7	1	45	19	58	26
Aberdeen	24	11	4	9	35	27	37	8
Hearts	25	11	4	10	39	37	37	2
Hibernian	25	9	6	10	34	42	33	-8
Raith Rovers	24	8	5	11	25	37	29	-12
Kilmarnock	25	7	6	12	33	39	27	-6
Partick Thistle	25	6	5	14	18	36	23	-18
FALKIRK	25	6	4	15	23	39	22	-16
Motherwell	24	3	10	11	14	28	19	-14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Rangers	26	16	6	4	46	21	54	25
Hibernian	25	10	9	6	38	36	39	2
Motherwell	26	8	13	5	36	26	37	10
Celtic	26	6	16	4	27	24	34	3
Hearts	26	9	6	11	33	36	33	-3
Kilmarnock	25	8	8	9	32	37	32	-5
Dundee Utd	24	7	8	9	30	37	29	-7
Aberdeen	25	6	9	10	30	32	27	-2
FALKIRK	24	6	9	9	31	37	27	-6
Partick Th.	23	5	7	11	23	37	22	-14

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AROUND THE REGION

The pursuit of perfection goes on unabated at Stirling Albion. Kevin Drinkell's men drive on relentlessly to the Second Division title and become ever more obsessed with consistency.

This time a wave of self criticism after a 4:1 win. Steve McCormick, Scotland's most prolific scorer this season, grabs another hat trick as Queen of the South, who've revived under new boss Rowan Alexander, are dispatched. Joy? Backslapping and self congratulation? Not a bit of it. The manager declares his team looked tired and jaded after recent midweek games and the club captain says they were lucky to win and not at their best. In a world where excuses are used all too easily to cover up deficiencies the Forthbank approach is refreshing.

Also a joy to behold is the way they've stuck to playing with four men up front. Alex Bone arrived on a free transfer from St Mirren and has fitted in a treat, helping himself to 10 goals and, more importantly, giving Drinkell adequate cover when Joe McLeod and Ian McInnes have been missing.

McInnes is unlikely to play again this season after damaging ligaments. A man who was an integral part of the team last term has become someone who'll be sorely missed but whose absence is no longer a disaster. Surely, the strength of the Albion squad is such that they won't surrender their two point lead at the top of Division 2 or their 20 match unbeaten league record easily, if at all.

One gripe Drinkell has long held is the size of the crowds at Forthbank. Given the style and quality of their play, and the excellent spectating facilities at Forthbank he has more than a point. He should, however, comfort himself with crowds for home matches that are now beginning to top 1000 on a regular basis. A far cry from even two years ago when they were struggling to achieve even half that figure.

It was hardly likely that Terry Christie would allow his Stenhousemuir team much time to bask in the glory of their recent Scottish Cup triumph. Despite their cup exploits this term, including the famous Challenge Cup win, Christie has been deeply unhappy at The Warriors inability to match Stirling Albion and East Fife in the promotion stakes. To be fair, Stenhousemuir have had their injury problems this season, but for the visit to Ayr they were able to recall the redoubtable George McGeachie in defence and could only muster a 1:1 draw. Apparently the Stenny officials were none too impressed with the state of the pitch. They thought it was dangerous

and were peeved at referee Gerry Evans for allowing the game to go ahead. Their opinion would perhaps have changed once Paul Hunter put Stenny 1: to the good on 23 minutes, although the reservations would have surfaced again six minutes later when Brian Bisland shot the equaliser to give Ayr a point. Withe Berwick winning at Montrose it leaves The Warriors in fourth spot, still eleven points adrift of East Fife.

Alloa had a bright start to the season but now they are seriously toiling. A derby defeat at East Stirlingshire on Wednesday was followed by a crushing defeat 4:0 home reverse at the hands of Ross County on Saturday. These results were the last straw for the Recreation Park board and they sacked manager Pat McCauley on Monday. They have stated that they will take their time find a replacement and in the meantime assistant boss, ex-Bairn Jim Dempsey has taken over the reins. His task is not easy as the Wasps are not accustomed to languishing in the lowliest of positions in the Scottish League. They're only spared the indignity of propping up the entire league by Albion Rovers, who are just three points away. Progressing any higher than second bottom will be difficult with Shire four points ahead and a game in hand.

There are a number of candidates for the job at recreation Park. Eamonn Bannon, currently with near neighbours Stenhousemuir, has made no secret of his desire to start on the management ladder and with experienced campaigners like Tommy McLean kicking their heels they have the opportunity of selecting from a wide choice. The

sacking of Pat McCauley and the promotion of his deputy led to the usual recriminations in the press where the manager let it be known that he had had to support Jim Dempsey when the Board discovered that he had applied for the vacant chair at Albion Rovers. Personally I don't see the significance or otherwise of this. The fact that he was prepared to have a go on his own in trying to revive the Coatbridge side says more for his ambition than it does disloyalty. This ambition could be realised should he be given the responsibility of the post at Alloa and maybe the Board are playing a 'Roy Aitken' type game here in seeing what he can do before the season ends before deciding to offer him the managers chair on a more permanent basis.

This afternoon, Stirling Albion take on Gordon Dalziel's Ayr United at Forthbank, Stenhousemuir travel to Berwick, Alloa visit Livingston and Shire, who haven't played for a fortnight, are at the National Stadium to play Queen's Park.

Billy Little's team still have it in them to produce a few decent results, even with a host of players still missing. They've really missed centre half Scott Sneddon, on a four game suspension, and midfielder, Murray Hunter (cartilage trouble). Despite that, and the constant weather interruptions Shire have won three of their last four games. Given the inconsistency of the teams above them recently it wouldn't be surprising to see them move out of the bottom four by the seasons end. But then, given the high hopes with which they kicked off the season that still would be far from satisfactory.

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that last week's
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