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Motherwell



v
CELTIC
PREMIER LEAGUE
Scheduled for
Saturday, 13th March, 1993
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
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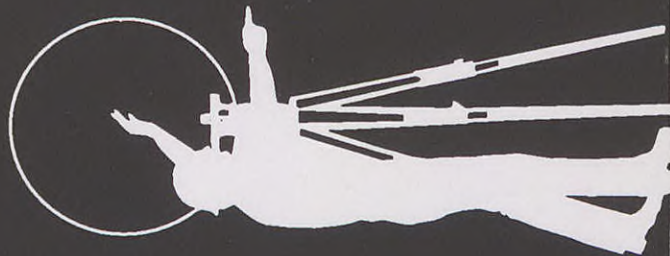
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LILLEY

“IMPRESSED”

We only managed to take two points from our last two matches against St. Johnstone and Dundee which is just not good enough.

We have played them 3 times each and have only managed to achieve 3 draws out of a possible 12 points and that tells its own tale.

Against St. Johnstone we threw away the chance to get off to a good start by missing a penalty and before we regained our composure we were 0-1 down. Psychologically it gave our opponents a lift and a grip on the game and although we equalised soon after our play was too frantic and lacked consistency especially in front of goal where several opportunities went abegging.

Last Saturday at Dundee we were very fortunate to come away with a 1-1 draw especially after our performance in the first half, where our lack of urgency and our general approach to the match was disgraceful.

Out of the thirteen players on duty only about four could be reasonably happy with their contribution and when you have 9 players playing below par you are in serious trouble and very fortunate to come away from the match with a point.

At the time of writing we are due to visit Dundee United in another difficult away fixture. All 11 matches left have got to be approached in a positive manner as points are very much required between now and the end of the season.

Today we welcome everyone from Celtic F.C. to Fir Park. It will be the first time that they will have used our New Stand and I am sure they will be impressed by the facilities and the atmosphere it generates. It is always a fixture that we look forward to as they have many talented players available in their team.

TOMMY TALKING



**TODAY'S
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Front Cover: **BRIAN MARTIN.**



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Scottish Second XI Cup Winners: 1949, 1957
Scottish Reserve League Cup Winners: 1988
Scottish Southern League Cup Runners-Up: 1945

Programme by **JOHN SWINBURNE**
Contributions by **JIM JEFFREY** and
ALASTAIR MacLACHLAN

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HOW MUCH DO YOU COUGH UP FOR CIGARETTES?

DENS PARK

The weather was ideal for football although the park itself seemed to be on the hard side which made the ball a bit more difficult to control at Dundee last Saturday.

Only two days before this game Tommy McLean had no fewer than 18 of his players unavailable for selection due to injury, flu or suspension. This of course includes some of the younger players but nevertheless it underlines the gravity of the situation when our Reserve match had to be postponed.

It is not surprising therefore that the overall pattern of play, particularly in the first half was rather disjointed. Dens Park has rarely been a happy hunting ground for Motherwell and when everything is then put into consideration we did well to struggle back from the set-back of that early outstanding Graham Rix goal to eventually snatch a late equaliser.

Jim Griffin who has been laid out in the first half as he challenged the goalkeeper for a high ball showed the tenacity required to be first to the ball after a David Cooper corner bumbled in the six yard box and smashed the ball home to give his team a share of the points.

Having watched and re-watched the Paul McGrillen "goal" which was chalked off by the stand side linesman I am convinced that Paul was a bit unlucky on this occasion but he will no doubt be given the advantage in the future in similar situations.

Young Paul showed real enthusiasm throughout and he has a chance now to establish himself in the top squad.

Ally Graham had to be substituted after an hour with Dougie Arnott taking over. Ally's height and ability to shield the ball will upset many — "His height gives us another dimension up front".

Big Sieb had no chance with Rix's excellent strike but he did bring off another few tremendous stops.

At the time of writing we have still to return to Dundee to play the United this time. Twice to Dundee in four days — few 'Well fans will thank the computer for this ludicrous programming of our fixture list. We played 5 home games in February (About a quarter of our home fixtures in the shortest month of the year). I wonder if we will ever be able to get back to playing one home game and then one away again on a regular basis?

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DEAR SIR,

An old fan has given me 9 1935 Queen of the South versus Motherwell Reserves progs. (Alliance 'A' League). I don't collect programmes myself but may be some 'Well fans would be interested in buying them. I'll not be asking a fortune for them and will be easy to deal with (offers).

Yours Sincerely
Mr. B. Wright

D. A. McMILLAN**HYUNDAI**

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CELTIC F.C.



TOMMY BOYD

Once again we welcome Celtic to Fir Park for today's Premier League match. This game traditionally is one of the highlights of our season.

It was Celtic who were first to play against Motherwell when we moved to Fir Park 98 years ago which prompts the thought — hopefully there will be a re-run of the encounter in a couple of years time to mark the Centenary of Fir Park being opened and hopefully this would also co-incide with the ground at Fir Park being completely all-seated. Okay, so it will have taken 100 years but most of the progress has only been in the early 90's.

Celtic play an open and attractive attacking style of game and this has always been their hallmark. There has also been a fair number of talented stars who have left Motherwell to play for Celtic with great distinction i.e. Joe McBride, Dixie Deans, Brian McClair and Andy Walker springing immediately to mind with Tommy Boyd now carrying on that tradition.

Tommy was always a favourite at Fir Park and we will always have fond memories of him proudly holding the Scottish Cup aloft as Captain of our Cup winning team a couple of years ago. It is great to see him performing so well for both Celtic and Scotland.

TARTAN ARMY TOURS

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ALLY GRAHAM

ALASTAIR GRAHAM

Ally Graham is the latest recruit to the union of towering target men in the Premier League. The same height as Duncan Ferguson at 6'3", Ally comes packaged in a much more stream lined version, being 12lbs lighter.

A product of the prolific juvenile side, Anniesland United, the

teenage Graham initially caught the eye of the scouting unit at Kilbowie Park. Somehow the Graham expertise didn't quite fulfil the expectations of the Clydebank administration with only three league appearances being registered in a Clydebank strip covering a three year period.

A call came from Cliftonhill with Ally spending three seasons in Coatbridge helping the 'Wee Rovers' win promotion in season 1988-89. His Cliftonhill contribution comprised 93 league outings plus another five as substitute with a goal haul of 32.

His scoring rate of one in every three games was maintained at Ayr United. Joining the Somerset Park side in August 1990, the 26-year old striker was never on the subs bench, pulled on a league jersey on 106 occasions and popped in 31 counters.

His high spot in the scoring stakes was his first senior hat-trick, scored last season at the expense of Raith Rovers at Stark's Park.



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TOP LEFT & RIGHT: STEVE KIRK in action
against St. Johnstone.
BOTTOM RIGHT: ELROY KROMHEER... The
flying Dutchman.



MOTHERWELL CLUB CALL (0898) 121553

Fir Park Focus on Alastair Alexander

FIR PARK FOCUS

IT'S something in the air down Greenock way! The articulate verbosity that hallmarks the TV and radio commentators has stimulated a long line of microphone men from the Tail 'o the Bank. George Davidson, the late Murdo McPherson, Arthur Montford and now Alastair Alexander all hail from the ozone friendly environs of Greenock.

55-year old Alastair has had dreams of football commentating ever since his primary schooldays when he was once smitten by the broadcasting bug after listening to a commentary on an England v Scotland international by Peter Thomson and the man with the handlebar moustache — Raymond Glendenning.

"My dream was to do a Scotland v England match on radio — in effect my Mount Everest. Started my career at a St. Mirren v Third Lanark match at Love Street commentating to one of former 'Sunday Mail' columnist Rex Kingsley's Blind Parties. Did that for six years.

"I remember I was up a ladder doing some painting at home and listening to a European tie involving Liverpool and AC Milan in Italy. The commentator wasn't very good. Instead of naming St. John, Yeats, Callaghan, etc., he opted to describe them as the Liverpool number nine and so on. Wrote to the BBC in the spring of 1965. Eventually had an audition which subsequently led to my first appointment on October 23rd, 1965 for a St. Mirren v Hibernian game again at Love Street."

Now also known as 'Mr. Hockey' — his most recent commitment was the Glenfiddich Invitation Tournament in

the Kelvin Hall last January. In addition to hockey, Alastair has now tackled 14 different sports which include athletics, bowls, table tennis and swimming.

Two years ago to celebrate his 25 years in broadcasting, Scotland's national coach, Andy Roxburgh, dropped in to the BBC Headquarters at Queen Margaret Drive to present Alastair with a special commemorative cake.

Not surprisingly the age old team format of nine players, a goalkeeper and an outside left with the latter two regularly suffering delusions of soccer grandeur found no favours with the likeable Alastair.

"I was a goalkeeper! Played for Greenock High School FP'S in the Scottish Amateur Leagues and also had a spell playing Secondary Juvenile. I soon realised my earning potential was going to be outwith the confines of the football arenas and went on to study architecture. I've been in the building industry ever since with marketing consultancy being my forte for the past ten years."

The calm knowledgeable eloquence gives the listener the feeling of every aspect of the commentary match being under total control. So how does the broadcaster prepare for such a game?

"I sit down on a Friday evening and make up a team sheet with as much information on the players' age, place of birth, previous clubs, goals scored, etc., and any other relevant statistics. On a Saturday I'm at the ground around 1.30 and that's it being on the air, as required, until 5.30."

The Alexander information research is bound to be fully comprehensive

with his database almost putting the Mitchell Library to shame.

Life on the rarified atmosphere of the television gantrys also has its lighter sides.

"I was at Dens Park a number of years ago at the Dundee derby. United had scored and the home fans were standing immediately below us in a somewhat frustrated mode. A can of Newcastle Brown was thrown up, possibly in exasperation. It hit the beam above my head and virtually dropped into my lap. Understandably my taste buds are more closely inclined to a certain Glenfiddich brand of the amber nectar, but my Dens Park thirst was adequately slaked from the contents of that missile at the end of the game."

What may not be apparent to the armchair sports fan is the difference in technique between TV and radio commentaries.

"You don't have to say on TV that he's taking a corner with his left foot — people are well aware of that. More appropriate to highlight the fact that this is the third corner in a row he's taken with the previous two directed to the near post.

"I remember many years ago being with one of the Blind Parties. One of the group proclaimed that 'McTavish' hadn't played very well that day. I thought he had a splendid game. But the blind laddie made the point — 'You didn't mention him in your commentary!' It brought home a fundamental rule in commentary work — always follow the ball."

Away from his architectural heritage and commentating cantrips, Alastair can be found in Glasgow's Concert Hall of a Saturday evening — always assuming he's back in time for his afternoon sports assignment. His musical tastes are varied covering both popular and the classics.

Did he ever achieve his Mount Everest?

"Yes — very much so. The 1989 Scotland v England match fulfilled that particular ambition."



Alastair toasts his 25 years in broadcasting with Andy Roxburgh.



DON'T STOP YOUR HEART — STOP SMOKING



IAIN FERGUSON



ARCHIE GOURLAY



PAUL McGRILLEN



ALEX BURNS

Premier Reserve Results

No.	Date	Ven. Opponents	Result	Scorers
1	July 31	A Dundee United	L 1-3	Brown
2	Aug 7	H Celtic	W 5-2	Burke 2, Ferguson 2, Bryce
3	Aug 14	A Aberdeen	D 2-2	Gourlay, McGrillen
4	Aug 21	H Partick Th.	D 3-3	Jones, McGrillen, Bryce
5	Aug 29	H Hearts	W 4-0	Baker 2, Philliben, SHepstone
6	Sep 5	A Rangers	W 1-0	Bryce
7	Sep 12	H Dundee	W 1-0	Baker
8	Sep 19	A St Johnstone	W 3-2	Gourlay, McGrillen, Ferguson
9	Sep 26	H Falkirk	W 6-1	Burns, Shepstone 2, McGrillen 2, Gourlay
10	Oct 3	A Airdrie	L 1-2	Kromheer
11	Oct 9	H Dundee United ...	L 2-3	Baker 2
12	Oct 17	A Celtic	W 3-2	McGrillen, Burns, Bryce
13	Oct 24	A Hearts	L 0-2	
14	Oct 31	H Rangers	W 2-1	Ferguson, Verheul
15	Nov 7	A Partick Th.	D 3-3	Gourlay, Ferguson, Burns
16	Nov 14	H Aberdeen	L 0-1	
17	Nov 21	H St. Johnstone	W 4-2	Gardiner, Ferguson 3
18	Nov 28	A Dundee	D 3-3	Angus, Baker, Burns
19	Dec 12	H Airdrie	L 0-3	
20	Jan 2	H Partick Th.	W 4-1	Gourlay 3, Shepstone
21	Jan 30	H Celtic	W 2-1	Shepstone 2
22	Feb 6	A Airdrie	W 3-0	Burns 2, Bryce
23	Feb 13	A Hibs	W 1-0	Kromheer



PAUL SHEPSTONE



JIM BROWN



BILLY THOMSON



JIM GARDNER

**Reserve League Appearances and Goals
(include substitute appearances)**

Player	Apps	Goals	Player	Apps	Goals
Angus	2		Brown	20	1
McCart	1		Dykstra	8	
Nijholt	3		Sneddon	9	
Burke	9	2	Kromheer	11	2
Picken	6		Burns	18	6
Griffin	2		Bryce	18	5
Gardner	18	2	Ferguson	7	8
Shepherd	13		Philliben	6	1
Jones	13		Laverty	6	
Dolan	10		Thomson	9	
McLeod	9		Kinross	10	
Gourlay	18	7	Ritchie	10	
Baker	7	4	Verheul	16	1
Kirk	1		Dickson	4	
McGrillen	12	6	Simpson	1	
Shepstone	15	6	Ross	3	



BART VERHEUL



SCOTT KINROSS

Bryce now with Ayr Utd
Jones now with Rochdale Baker now with Gillingham



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