

RANGERS

MATCHDAY MAGAZINE PRICE 70p



MCEWAN'S
LAGER



FINE FARE
LEAGUE

FINEFARE LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION

RANGERS v CELTIC

Sunday, 20th March, 1988

SPONSORS OF RANGERS F.C. SEASON 1987/88
**MCEWAN'S
LAGER**

SNAPSHOT



It's mine . . . Richard Gough performs a leap and a backward knee bend to challenge Celtic's Anton Rogan in an aerial duel at Ibrox earlier in the season.

TEAM TALK

WITH GRAEME SOUNESS



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European Cup Winners Cup Champions

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League Champions: (38) 1891*, 1899, 1900,

1901, 1902, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1918, 1920,

1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929,

1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939,

1947, 1948, 1950, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1959,

1961, 1983, 1964, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1987

* In 1891 the Championship was shared

with Dumbarton

Scottish Cup Winners: (24) 1884, 1897,

1898, 1903, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1935,

1936, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1953, 1960, 1962,

1963, 1964, 1966, 1973, 1975, 1978, 1979,

1981

League Cup Winners: (15) 1946/47,

1949/49, 1969/71, 1981/82, 1983/84,

1964/65, 1970/71, 1975/76, 1977/78,

1978/79, 1981/82, 1983/84, 1984/85,

1986/87, 1987/88

● Whenever in the past I've asked my players to dig down deep into the resources of effort and ability which I know they have it's fair to say they have responded.

Always, in the really big games, they have answered my calls by giving their all. You can never guarantee in this game that even then the result will be the right one.

But, at least, when you can honestly say that all of your players have given you one hundred per cent then there can be no complaints.

This, basically, is the situation today. It is crunch time for Rangers.

We have to win if we are to retain a chance of successfully defending our Championship flag. It's as simple as that. We go into this game knowing that if we don't win then, barring a disaster of unexpected proportions, the title would be Celtic's.

That thought alone should motivate us to the heights we require.

I'm bound to say that overall and barring the odd exception I have been reasonably satisfied with the way we have performed. I say "reasonably" because there is always room for improvement but it's only fair to take into account the difficulties we have had to overcome.

In comparing ourselves with Celtic I don't think it is unfair to say that, by and large, they have been able to field a settled team with the occasional exception here and there.

That situation is the one all managers are seeking, namely to send out a successful team week after week with very few changes and gradually achieve stability.

It's true that by signing new players we have brought about some team changes of our own choosing but in the main it has been a case of constantly lining up without players for reasons outside our control.

Losing players and upsetting the team balance in this way has caused a lot of obstacles but the players have battled their way through very well to reach a stage where we can keep our title hopes alive in this big game this afternoon.

These notes are prepared before our mid-week European Cup game against Steaua Bucharest and since Celtic also had a midweek game it is not possible to be precise about where our respective form guides



currently stand.

Frankly whatever happened last Wednesday has no bearing on what I expect today which is TOTAL commitment from everyone concerned and the supporters can be assured that the team are well aware of their responsibilities.

Looking back eight days, the 1-0 win over Motherwell was simply a case of getting an important Premier League fixture out of the way by collecting the two points.

The result was far more important than the performance on that occasion. The match went exactly as we anticipated with Motherwell getting behind the ball in large numbers and making it difficult for us to break them down.

Fortunately both the players and you the fans remained patient and disciplined to achieve the deserved result.

Talking of supporters it is worth recalling that crowd conduct was very good when we played at Parkhead in January and everyone will be looking for a repeat of that today.

I make no apology for repeating now what I said earlier. After weeks and months of striving hard through difficult circumstances to bring further honours to the club today is crunch time.

I'm confident that, with your help, we will not be found wanting.

WHO PUT THEIR SHIRT ON THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS?



MCEWAN'S LAGER

SPONSORS OF RANGERS F.C.
SEASON 1987/88



ON THE PARK



GOAL
After some fine work from the two Fergusons, Ian Durrant strikes the ball home for the winner against Motherwell last weekend. . . and doesn't he look pleased!



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INSIDE IBROX

RANGERS AROUND THE WORLD

● Plans to establish a "Rangers International" club with members located all around the globe have met with a response that is taking by surprise even the most enthusiastic among the behind-the-scenes organisers.

There are already 35 countries involved in a mailing list for potential members when the scheme is satisfactorily set up it will contain addresses as far apart as Canada and the United States, Australia and New Zealand, South Africa, the iron curtain countries and many in Western Europe.

In due course these far-flung fans will be receiving all manner of material from Ibrox to form a network of global support unmatched by any club in the world.

"Our mailing list already contains something like four or five thousand names," said the Chairman and Chief Executive David Holmes. This basic list was put together simply by advertising in newspapers and by lobbying among season ticket holders etcetera.

In due course these Rangers-around-the-world will be invited to join "Rangers International" with the opportunity to be kept informed of what's going on at their club plus the facility to buy videos of matches and other events at Ibrox plus souvenirs and publications by mail order.

One service already set up is that of match reports sent by fax machine to Canadian outlets after each game. A report of the match is written by a journalist and faxed out to transatlantic fans who thus instantly receive the information they are craving.

"Obviously the newspaper coverage of our affairs overseas is either non-existent or minimal," added Mr. Holmes. "In this sense we plan to become our own media. With desk top printing this is now possible."

TRANSATLANTIC

● Last Wednesday's transmission of the Steaua Bucharest European Cup tie was transmitted to Canada as just one small part of the club's plans to feed the appetite abroad for Rangers contact.

"This is just one example of what can be done," explained the Ibrox chairman. "With satellite TV links plus the availability of video recordings there is no restriction of the way the Ibrox message can be spread.

No estimate has been placed on the exact scope of "Rangers International" in terms of interested parties on a world scale. Current estimates suggest that it is almost limitless.

One supporting reason for the massive optimism in the scheme is that the video of the Championship season in 1986-87 has established itself in the best-sellers lists.

As Rangers have played in more and more soccer centres abroad so it has become clear that there are pockets of interested folk in almost every soccer-playing corner of the world.

These are made up of Scottish families who have moved out for domestic or business reasons and of local football enthusiasts from that country who have developed a liking for the club.

"In a sense we can be our own ambassadors as we travel abroad," added Mr. Holmes.

SPOT ON, IAN

● A number of supporters have pointed out to us that Ian Ferguson got it just about right with "his comments" in the advertisement for the Clydesdale Bank Scottish Football League Review.

Those who have seen the ad in the Rangers programme will get the message straightaway.

Along with five other top personalities Ferguson is pictured on the cover with comic-book-style balloons from their mouth containing light hearted observations.

Fergie is illustrated as saying: "A Cup winners' medal last season, on the cover of League Review this season — next season the world!"

Since then, of course, he has been involved in a certain transfer transaction bringing him to the club he's always supported, opening his horizons to global proportions.

INTERNATIONALS

● It's congratulations, once again, to the Ibrox players selected for Scotland in the most recent squads at senior and Under-21 level.

Scott Nisbet and Ian Ferguson are in the Under-21s for the European Championship quarter final second leg with England at Nottingham, on March 22nd, Scotland having lost 1-0 in the first leg at Pittodrie.

The seniors, for the friendly in Malta include Derek Ferguson, Ally McCoist and Ian Durrant. How's that for five of the best?

CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

● There are few occasions which grip the nation by its emotions more than Rangers v Celtic in a Sunday TV spectacular. So ... today's the day when the old firm take centre stage.

With the Premier League flag as the ultimate prize and Celtic the current leaders chased by Rangers, the holders, there could hardly be a more spectacular fixture to thrill the masses.

However, it has to be said that there is more at stake than football accomplishment, important though that is to both sets of fans.

The good name of the two proud clubs is also on the line and with the eyes and ears of Scotland clearly focused in this direction.

On numerous occasions recently the conduct of Rangers fans has been complimented by the police and other bodies.

Perhaps most important of all both sets of supporters were officially praised by the

police for their conduct at the big game at Parkhead on January 2nd.

What we're looking for today is a repeat of that crowd behaviour ... and a reversal of the result!

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

● Everybody who has kicked about as a young (and sometimes not so young) football mad street corner player will remember with nostalgia the old "please-can-I-have-my-ball-back" routine.

Now the Football Trust, who distribute soccer's share of pools income for ground improvement purposes, have come up with a factual new slant on the well-worn scenario.

It seems that, at a televised match recently the closed circuit TV camera kept its focus on a ball booted clean out of the ground during the pre-match warm-up.

Not only that, it retained its focus on the ball in the street when a punter came along, looked each way, and then secreted the ball behind a garden wall, presumably to collect it and take it home afterwards.

However, the camera operator was able to inform police outside the ground where the ball had been hidden, from where it was safely collected and returned to the club.

Yet even then the story didn't end. The unblinking eye of the camera had kept its story stare on the fan who thought he had a nice match ball waiting for him just outside the ground. Police were able to pick out the guy in the crowd and, with rather cutting if strictly lawful sense of humour, paid him a "friendly" visit to say: "Thanks for looking after the ball for us."

"We've recovered it OK now, sir ..."

A nice light hearted touch, that. But it's a sobering thought for the mindless minority who threaten the game with real harm. The camera's eye is upon them.

HAIR RAISING ...

● A picture from the archives ... but 16



years on the faces are unmistakable.

Yes, it's a 16-year-old Trevor Francis showing a contrast in hairstyles with the one and only Pele (below).

The occasion was a visit by the fabulous Brazilian club side, Santos, to play at Villa Park just at the time when Francis had burst upon the soccer scene as the prolific, goalscoring Superboy.

Long hair was the in thing at that time and the fact amused the Brazilian mega-star no end as the picture shows.

Since then Francis has increasingly lived his professional and private life among the big names in many activities. One of his best mates is Jeff Lynne of rock band ELO. Another is Jasper Carrott.

As a pop music fanatic he's on more than nodding terms with Paul McCartney and others and, while in Italy, he ranked Paulo Rossi among his acquaintances.

Trevor put forward his "Personal Points" in Wednesday's programme against Steaua and in them referred to his mate Nigel Mansell and to having won a snooker celebrity pro-am in partnership with Cliff Thorburn.

For a home lovin' man who likes nothing better than to be home with his wife Helen and the two children he sure has accumulated along the way a few friends with names other folks would dearly like to "drop" if only they had the chance.

OH! GREAVSIE

● Jimmy Greaves must have made Rangers fans around the UK splutter in their early evening cuppa during a recent showing of "Sporting Triangles".

Greavsie was shown a mystery picture of a "top footballer" and, after due deliberation, declared it to be: "Paul Gough".

There was what seemed a lengthy silence before, showing the powers of recovery of the super striker he used to be, Jimmy scored second time around by correcting his answer to: "Er ... Richard Gough."

Well done, Freddie. Er ... Jim.

DIARY

DAY BY DAY

Monday 29th February: Ally McCoist has trained and surprised everyone by the level of his recovery from last week's cartilage operation. His bags are packed to go to Lilleshall but there is a sudden change of mind and he joins the rest of the squad in boarding the plane for Bucharest, just as a passenger, of course.

Tuesday 1st March: The squad of 17 players are in Rumania preparing in earnest for tomorrow's European Cup quarter final first leg against Steaua. Graeme Souness is not yet sure of his own fitness and with various players either unavailable or ineligible team selection is wide open. How to cover for the absence of McCoist is one major query. Up to seven normal choices are unavailable. Around 400 Rangers fans begin to appear in Bucharest, all well behaved. Steaua are an Army side and there is evidence of it everywhere as training takes place in the stadium.

Wednesday 2nd March: Ally McCoist has proved himself fit enough to play as a very late decision. However, Rangers find it hard going against an extremely capable Rumanian side. With so many team changes made necessary the usual fluency is not there and the first leg ends with a 2-0 deficit to be pulled back in the second leg two weeks hence.

Friday 4th March: Back at Ibrox and little time to prepare for the game at Dunfermline where revenge for the shock Scottish Cup defeat is on the agenda. From the Bucharest line-up changes are certain with recent signings Ian Ferguson, Mark Walters and Jan Bartram eligible to play once again.

Saturday 5th March: Form is back on the ball again in a 3-0 win at East End Park with goals by McCoist (penalty), Walters and Gough. McCoist's goal is his ninth against Dunfermline this season. Ian Ferguson is beginning to ease himself into his new team as Rangers show that the title defence is still very much alive.

Sunday 6th March: Now for the start of a spell of three successive home games — Motherwell, Steaua and Celtic — which player-manager Graeme Souness points out will be the make-or-break period.

IBROX IDOLS



ERIC CALDOW

● When the list of all time great full backs is drawn up then there is no doubt that the name of Eric Caldow will figure, if not at the very top, then certainly near it.

For Eric was probably the classiest full back to operate in Britain through the late fifties and early sixties.

And he must have had a wry smile to himself when the Scottish Football Association announced their plans recently to honour all the men who have played 50 or more times for Scotland.

For Eric was well on the way to beating that half century by a mile when cruel injury struck and ended his international career just when he was at the very peak of his powers.

That came at Wembley in 1963 when Eric Caldow's name was linked with the twin roles of Rangers and Scotland captain. It was against the English when Eric went for a bouncing ball with burly Spurs centre forward Bobby Smith.

He went down in agony and was stretchered off suffering from a triple fracture of the leg.

Said Eric: "I never played for Scotland again but although it was a bad break it healed well and has never given me any trouble to this day."

There were fears at the time that the injury would finish the full back but he battled back to fitness and was back in the Ibrox first team by the end of the year.

Eric recalled: "Rangers had a tough programme over the Christmas and New Year holiday period with matches against Dundee and then Celtic. I was back for the game against Dundee and faced Gordon Smith and then it was on to the Old Firm game. We won both."

Those were two important victories for Rangers as they steadied themselves and set up the run in to the title and the Scottish Cup to go with the League Cup which had already been won making it another of those glorious Treble winning seasons at the Stadium.

And they were vital games for Caldow too. For he knew he had to go out and prove himself after suffering such a serious injury.

However, there was never any doubt in his mind that he was fully fit and would not be affected in anyway.

For he explained: "My game was never about tackling so I had no worries on that score and I knew from training that I had not lost my speed. That was the important thing for so much of my game was based on that speed."

In fact there was a great deal more to the Ayrshire man's style than just speed . . . though he was surely the fastest full back ever to wear the Light Blue jersey.

Small and compact Eric had a shrewd footballing brain and could jockey opponents into the

position he wanted them to be in before making his swift and sure challenge.

There were few wingers around in those days who got the better of Caldow. And there were plenty of them who tried.

As Eric said: "Every team had a winger and there was no way a full back could go forward and join the attack the way they do these days. The first job was defending and that had to have a number one priority."

Eric arrived at Ibrox during the last couple of years of the Bill Struth era. He signed from Muirkirk Juniors in 1952 and it wasn't long before he was knocking at the first team door.

At that time George Young and Sammy Cox filled the full back slots at Ibrox but one thing working in Eric's favour was the fact that he could play at either right or left back.

And although he is better remembered as a left back it was in the number two shirt that he made his first team debut in 1953.

Eric recalled it well and said: "The game was at Ibrox and it was against Ayr United. Rangers won 3-1 and the left back was Johnny Little."

However, it took a trip to a lot further afield for Eric to finally establish himself as a regular in the first team. That came in the summer of 1954.

Said Eric: "I had hardly been much further away from my home in the Ayrshire village of Cumnock than Glasgow and then I found myself off on a six week tour with Rangers to Canada."

When he returned to Scotland Eric was a fully fledged first teamer. Though the tail end of that first season wasn't too happy for Eric.

He said: "We did not lose many semi finals in those days but we went down to Aberdeen in the Scottish Cup semi finals by 6-1 that season."

New horizons beckoned in those years with the arrival on the scene of the European Cup and one early tie which Eric remembers was against Nice.

He said: "You hardly expect to be washed out in the South of France but that is just exactly what happened to us. The rain just hammered down and the game was postponed with the park flooded."

The classy shows that Eric, now settled in at left back at Ibrox, was turning on soon caught the attention of the Scotland Selectors. In 1957 he was awarded his first cap.

He said: "It was a wonderful experience to play for Scotland for the first time against England at Wembley. And we got off to a great start with a goal from Clyde's Tommy Ring in only three minutes.

"England came back at us and equalised and then near the end they got the winner with a goal

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

from Duncan Edwards."

That was the start of a great international career and the following year his cool approach to the game led to the selectors going for the Rangers left back as the new Scotland captain to take over from another Ranger, George Young, who had retired.

Eric said: "It's easy to remember that first match as captain of Scotland. It was against Wales at Ninian Park and we won 3-2 and there was another Scottish first that day. It was Denis Law's first cap."

The Caldwell international career was in full swing and it brought him a total of 42 full Scotland caps plus 12 appearances for the Scottish League.

And he looked to that side he led in the early sixties as just about the best Scots outfit in living memory.

Eric said: "The team had a great balance and superb individual players too. The great tragedy was that we missed out on the 1962 World Cup in Chile.

"We had forced a play off against Czechoslovakia in Brussels and were ahead but then we ended losing 4-2. The Czechs went all the way to the final before losing to Brazil."

In the summer of that World Cup the Scots hit their peak with a magnificent 2-0 win over England at Hampden which included a Caldwell penalty.

And there was every hope for the future a year later when Eric led Scotland out at Wembley looking forward to another tussle with the Auld Enemy. Little did he know at that point that his career as a Scotland man had only six minutes left.

It was also the beginning of the end for that fine international side for as Eric pointed out: "I broke my leg and then Davie Wilson and Bill Brown were sidelined with broken ankles. Then came the tragic death of John White."

It was at the start of the swinging sixties that Eric extended his captain's role from the international scene and became, like so many before him and since at Ibrox, captain of club and country.

He said: "Being captain of Rangers and of Scotland too was something really special. It's just about as high as any player can hope to go and I have great memories of those years."

Those were years of Euro campaigning for Rangers and Eric was the skipper who led the team out to do battle as the first British side to reach a European final. That was the European Cup Winners Cup Final of 1960 against Italians Fiorentina played over two legs.

And it was in the first game at Ibrox that Eric went through one of his most agonising moments. For as Rangers lost 2-0 he missed a penalty in bizarre circumstances as the referee allowed the Italian keeper Albertossi - later to serve a jail sentence in a bribe scandal - to prance about.

Said Eric: "It was crazy. He was jumping up and down and was about five yards off his line. The kick should have been re-taken."

That, however, was one of the very few penalties Eric missed as he took over as the Ibrox spot kick king from the daddy of them all Johnny Hubbard.

With so many wingers around in those days Eric was in a perfect position to call the shots about the most dangerous although he said: "I can honestly say none of them gave me too much trouble."

He does, however, single out a couple: "Tommy Ring of Clyde was as dangerous as they come but the best of them all was our own Willie Henderson. I wouldn't like to have faced him too often.

"Willie was better than Jimmy Johnstone because he was faster and more direct. Johnstone was more into jinking."

In Europe Eric came face to face with the legendary Real Madrid flying machine Gento and is able to say: "He was the fastest winger in the world at the time.

"He paid me the compliment after the match of saying that if that was the case then I was the fastest full back in the world."

The Caldwell secret was training in sprinter's spikes. He said: "Even when we were doing our lapping I used spikes and I think that was one of the reasons why I never suffered from pulled muscles."

Although the broken leg robbed Eric probably around double the total of his 42 caps he was back in the Rangers team which got season 64-65 off to a flying start by beating Celtic at Hampden to win the League Cup.

But his Ibrox career came to an end in 1966 and he spent a season with Stirling Albion before going south to be player manager of non league Corby and then returning to Scotland for a year as manager of Stranraer.

He said: "I felt I got a raw deal there but in a way it was all for the best for it decided me I didn't want to stay in football management. I like to sleep peacefully at night."

Nowadays Eric works as a sales rep for an insulation company but keeps in touch with his old club and is a regular attender at games.

He said: "I enjoy watching Rangers and going to Ibrox and I still remember those great nights there in Europe when over 80,000 fans packed in. It was amazing!"

RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB



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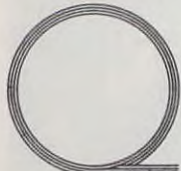


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CELTIC

● **Whatever happens for Celtic at the end of this season the entire domestic football programme must have surpassed their supporters' wildest dreams.**

Less than 12 months ago they would have looked at Brian McClair, Mo Johnston, Murdo MacLeod and Alan McNally going through the exit doors and wondered just what was in store for their team.

Exactly what was in store was a scintillating start to the Premier League campaign and months of hard work that have kept them firmly in the driving seat.

That's still the position they are in as they make the short drive across the city from Parkhead today although there is no doubt we hope to put a dent in their progress this afternoon.

But that has proved a difficult thing to do for every club in the country this season as Celtic have gone from strength to strength.

Manager **Billy McNeill**, together with right-hand man **Tommy Craig**, has worked away putting together not just a team that will challenge for the top honours but a squad that will serve him well.

So far, indeed, so good.

The Parkhead boss has bought in players like **Andy Walker**, **Billy Stark**, **Frank McAvennie** and **Joe Miller** to complement others already installed.

And that quartet have been to the fore all year in terms of the goals they have been scoring.

Walker, taken from Motherwell, remains one of the players who is always slightly under-rated possibly because his goals are not always spectacular.

But one strike that counts is as good as another and whatever the distance they mean the same. Certainly, McNeill is in no doubt about the player's importance.

McAvennie, a big-money buy from the deep south of West Ham, has also more than paid his way so far and it was a surprise to many when he was left out of the Scotland squad get-together – along with our own **Richard Gough** – recently.

Miller, who shaded slightly not so long ago, returned with a bang at Dunfermline in a League match and showed all the pace and flair that prompted a McNeill move.

Miller arrived at Celtic from Aberdeen and even though he has done well this season he is likely to do even better once that first year settling in properly is over.

The case of Stark is a little different. He was also signed from Pittodrie and some people questioned the arrival of the midfield



PETER GRANT

man.

Bags of goals and an overall marvellous commitment has, though, answered any critics.

Stark seems to be able to get goals with the greatest of ease and his contribution in that department has been invaluable to Celtic this season.

But if the likes of those newcomers – together with lads like **Mick McCarthy** and **Chris Morris** – have all made a huge impression no-one has been more important to Celtic than captain **Roy Aitken**.

The international skipper continues to exert a massive influence on all around him and it's to his enormous credit that he's there week in, week out without a break for any reason.

It's a measure of the respect people have from him that he captains both club and country.

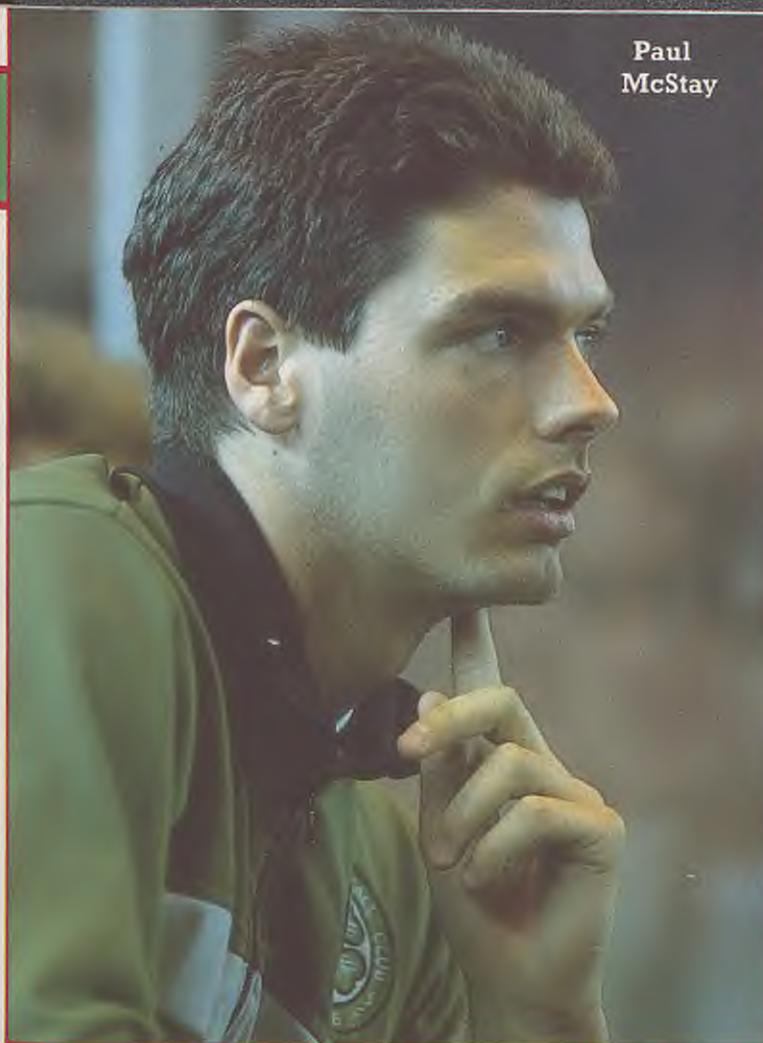
Another almost equally influential, who can hardly be called a "newcomer" is goalkeeper **Pat Bonner** who has recovered from early season problems.

At that time he lost his place to **Allen McKnight** – another Irishman – but he has battled back brilliantly and has been instrumental in Celtic's tremendous run.

Now "Packy" is preparing for the European Championships in West Germany with Eire and there, of course, he is likely to come across our England contingent of **Chris Woods** and **Terry Butcher** at least.

But maybe it's wrong to pick out individuals because McNeill is at pains to point out any success Celtic do achieve will have been a team effort.

All the afore-mentioned have naturally played their parts but so too have **Peter Grant**, **Derek Whyte**, **Paul McStay**, **Tommy Burns**, **Mark McGhee**, **Anton**



Paul McStay

Rogan, **Lex Baillie** and others.

Grant and McStay, in the middle of the park, have both enjoyed excellent seasons and when Burns has come in he has shown he is still a highly valuable player.

Whyte continues to improve and the versatility which allows him to play in the centre of defence or at left back with equal success is critical to Celtic.

Rogan, too, occupies those positions well while Baillie – son of former Ranger Doug – has been tremendous when McCarthy has been absent.

McGhee's appearances have been limited due to the success of the imported trio up front but it must be comforting for McNeill to have a player of his calibre ready,

willing and able to step in.

Altogether it makes for an impressive Parkhead squad rather than just team.

And that has clearly been the key to their success to date with players going in and out of the side without disturbing the balance.

Even now, though, it is very unlikely that it is a good enough pool of players for McNeill and Craig.

They will undoubtedly strengthen as they go for glory whether or not it is this year.

Rangers have proved that it is not just domestic horizons that have to be aimed for and McNeill – like Ibrox boss Graeme Souness – wants European success as well.

DID YOU KNOW?

The combined average attendance at Old Firm League matches over the last 10 years is 48,536. The average is 53,914 at Parkhead and 42,875 at Ibrox.

FACT FILE

● Results of previous "Old Firm" Premier Division meetings.

	Ibrox	Parkhead
1975/76	2-1	1-0
1976/77	0-1	2-2
1977/78	3-2	3-1
1978/79	1-1	0-0
1979/80	2-2	1-1
1980/81	3-0	0-1
1981/82	0-2	1-0
1982/83	1-2	2-4
1983/84	1-2	1-0
1984/85	0-0	1-2
1985/86	3-0	4-4
1986/87	1-0	2-0
1987/88	2-2	—

(Rangers score given first)
 ● **Rangers Premier Division record against Celtic is:**

P W D L F A Pts

51 11 18 22 59 75 40

CELTIC'S PREMIER DIVISION RECORD 1987-88

	Home	Away
Aberdeen	2-2	0-0
Dundee	5-0	—
Dundee United	1-2	—
Dunfermline	4-0	—
Falkirk	3-2	2-0
Hibernian	1-1	2-0
Morton	3-1	1-0
Motherwell	4-1	1-0
Rangers	1-0	2-0
St. Mirren	1-0	—

Appearances: (including those made as substitute)

Aitken 35, Archdeacon 9, Baillie 5, Bonner 23, Burns 20, Grant 32, McAvennie 24, McCarrison 1, McCarthy 19, McGhee 18, McGugan 2, McGuire 1, McKnight 12, McStay 35, Miller 18, Morris 35, Rogan 24, Shepherd 6, Stark 29, Walker 33, Whyte 33.

Goalscorers:

Walker 20, McAvennie 15, Stark 8, McGhee 5, McStay 3, Miller 3, Whyte 3, Burns 2, Aitken 1, Archdeacon 1, Grant 1, Morris 1, Shepherd 1, Own Goals 2.

When the goals were scored:

	Home	Away
0-15 minutes	6	3
16-30 minutes	4	2
31-45 minutes	9	8
46-60 minutes	3	5
61-75 minutes	4	7
76-90 minutes	10	5

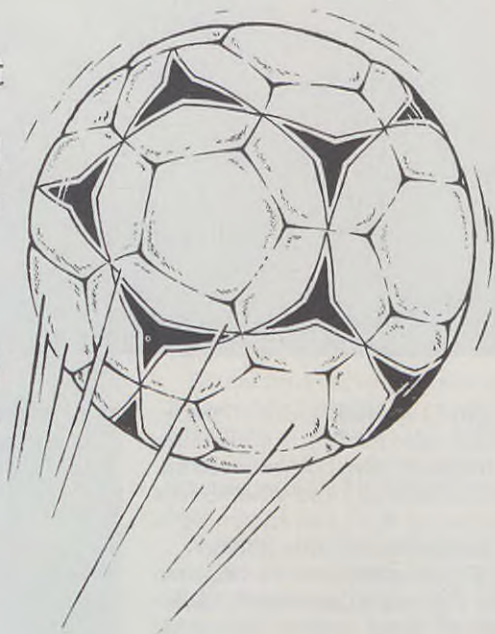
All statistics up to and including Saturday 12th March.

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TOPIC

THE EFFECTS OF THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE

● Everyone in the Premier League will be glad when next season comes around. For that's when things will get back to something nearer normal.

The last couple of campaigns have been ultra hectic with the re-organisation of the leagues going through. That's meant an increase in the workload of all Premier League teams to 44 games.

Which places an extra burden on clubs like Rangers who are also competing in Europe. The early months of the season meant two games a week with the first hint of a break coming just before Christmas.

Now it is especially important for our players to be playing less football on the home front as they prepare next term to tackle a tough World Cup qualifying group.

Trimming the Premier League back to a Top Ten this season has meant it's been a dog's life for those battling it out for survival at the wrong end of the table.

The fact that three clubs from twelve will face the big drop at the

end of the season has certainly made for cut throat competition in the survival stakes.

Just as those ambitious outfits in the First Division have found life tougher than ever as only one team will be promoted to the top flight this summer.

One consequence of the increased level of competition has been yet another increase in gates... even taking into account the amazing crowds which have been flocking to Ibrox over the last couple of years.

The First Division has benefitted also from more people turning up to watch and the injection of money they have given the game can only help it improve at all levels.

Now we are entering the home straight and while Morton will almost certainly go down there is no certainty about who will join them. Dunfermline look increasingly less likely to survive but the tussle between Falkirk and Motherwell has a long way to go before it is resolved.

Dunfermline have been well supported by their fans in Fife and used

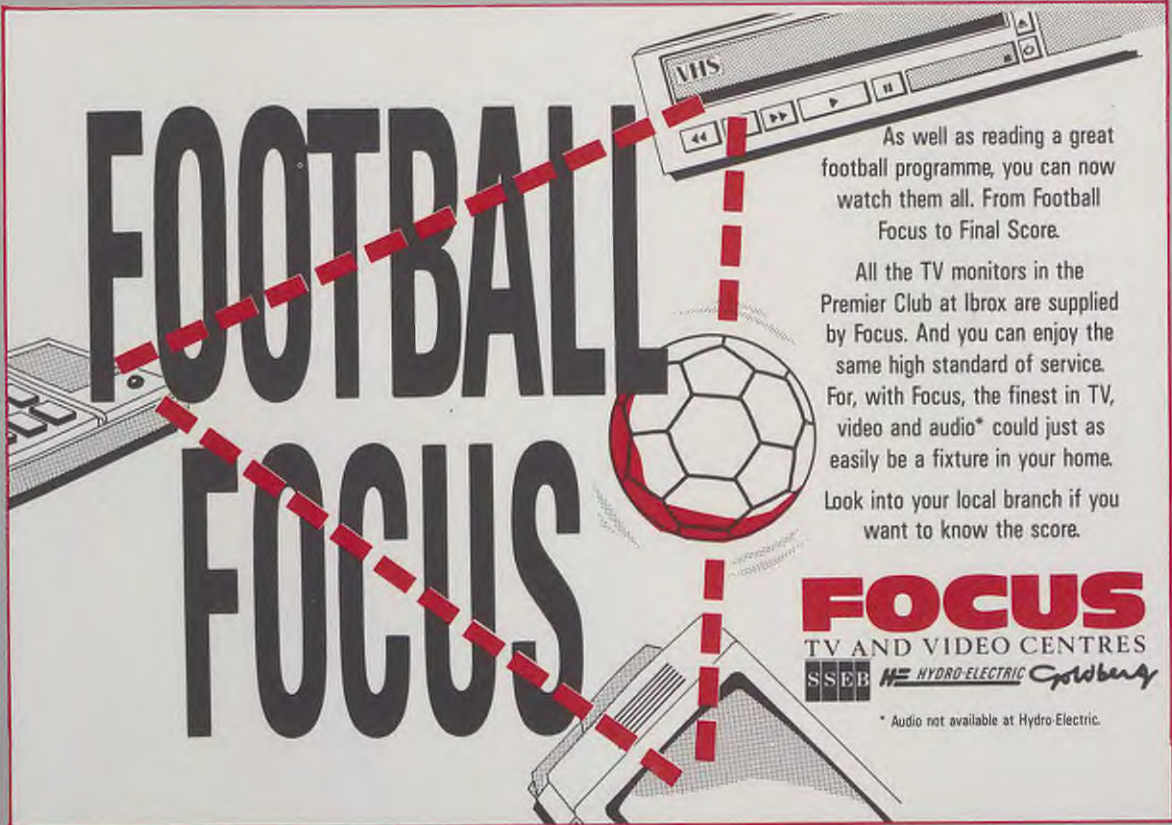
the revenue to buy players yet still find themselves in trouble.

It is a relatively new experience for them for, after their dismal years of tears in the seventies they hauled themselves back from the brink and climbed from the Second Division to the Premier League in successive seasons.

This year the Second Division has been taken by storm by Ally Macleod's Ayr United and some of their crowds at Somerset Park have been truly remarkable.

Ayr appear certain to clinch promotion to the First Division. But, with the new look next season meaning that only one team will be relegated from the Premier League and one promoted from the First Division, Ayr will find it hard to emulate Dunfermline's achievement.

However, while those in the lower reaches face up to their very own set of problems the top line clubs will breathe a sigh of relief as what has been a 44 game league programme for the last two seasons reverts again to the more manageable 36 matches.



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TV AND VIDEO CENTRES

SSEB HYDRO-ELECTRIC *Coventry*

* Audio not available at Hydro Electric.

DAVIE COOPER



RECORD

STATISTICS UP TO AND INCLUDING SATURDAY 12th MARCH

FINE FARE LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE 1987/88

	Home					Away					Pts
	Pt	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A		
1. Celtic	35	13	4	1	36 11	11	5	1	30 9	57	
2. Rangers	36	14	3	1	46 11	9	4	5	23 12	53	
3. Hearts	35	9	8	0	29 14	9	5	4	35 14	49	
4. Aberdeen	35	10	5	2	25 8	7	9	2	22 13	48	
5. Dundee	35	8	4	6	24 18	8	2	7	38 26	38	
6. Dundee United	35	6	5	6	21 19	6	7	5	17 18	36	
7. Hibernian	36	7	6	5	14 13	3	8	7	19 23	34	
8. St. Mirren	35	4	9	5	20 24	3	4	10	14 27	27	
9. Motherwell	36	7	2	9	17 26	2	5	11	9 23	25	
10. Falkirk	36	7	3	8	21 27	1	6	11	12 34	25	
11. Dunfermline	35	4	5	9	14 31	1	3	13	10 41	18	
12. Morton	35	2	7	8	16 34	0	3	15	6 43	14	

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES

	LEAGUE		CUPS	
	App	Gls	App	Gls
Bartram	6	1	3	—
Brown	3	1	3	—
Butcher	11	1	7	—
Cohen	4	(3)	—	2(2)
Cooper	19	(9)	1	8(1)
Durrant	34	(1)	8(13)	6
Falco	9	(5)	5	4(1)
Ferguson D.	24	2	8(9)	—
Ferguson I.	3	—	—	—
Fleck	15	(6)	7	3(3)
Francis	8	(11)	—	3(2)
Gough	24	5	4	—
Kirkwood	3	—	1(2)	—
McCall	8	(3)	1	—
McCoist	34	28	12	10
McFarlane	1	—	—	—
McGregor	20	(5)	—	5(2)
Munro	12	(1)	—	4
Nicholl	17	(1)	—	11
Nisbet	16	(2)	—	2(1)
Phillips	18	—	8	—
Roberts	30	—	12	—
Souness	14	(5)	2	9(2)
Walker	4	—	1	—
Walters	10	3	3	1
West	—	(1)	—	—
Wilkins	16	1	4	—
Woods	32	—	12	—
Own Goals	—	3	—	1

(Figures in brackets indicate appearances as substitute)

PREMIER STATISTICS 1987/88

Highest Attendances:
60,800 Celtic v Rangers, 29 Aug/2 Jan
44,000 Rangers v Celtic, 17 Oct
43,968 Celtic v Hearts, 12 Dec

Lowest Attendance:
2,856 Motherwell v Dundee, 26 Sept

Highest Home Wins:
Rangers 7 Morton 0, 26 Sept
Dundee 5 Dunfermline 0, 29 Aug
Rangers 5 Morton 0, 9 Jan

Highest Away Wins:
Falkirk 0 Dundee 6, 12 Dec
Morton 1 Dundee 7, 18 Dec
St. Mirren 0 Hearts 6, 6 Feb

Most Goals in a Match:
4 Tommy Coyne (Dundee) v
Dunfermline
4 Frank McAvennie (Celtic) v
Morton

Leading Scorers:

31 Tommy Coyne (Dundee)
28 Ally McCoist (Rangers)
25 John Robertson (Hearts)
20 Andy Walker (Celtic)
15 John Colquhoun (Hearts)
15 Frank McAvennie (Celtic)
11 Keith Wright (Dundee)
10 Jim Bett (Aberdeen)
9 Davie Dodds (Aberdeen)
9 Iain Ferguson (Dundee Utd)
8 Crawford Baptye (Falkirk)
8 Ian Durrant (Rangers)
8 Paul Kane (Hibs)
8 Billy Stark (Celtic)
7 Jim Boag (Morton)
7 Paul Chalmers (St. Mirren)
7 Robert Fleck (ex Rangers)
7 Joe Miller (Aberdeen/Celtic)
6 Stuart Burgess (Falkirk)
6 Ian Cameron (St. Mirren)
6 John Collins (Hibs)
6 Willie Falconer (Aberdeen)
6 Ian Ferguson (St. Mirren + Rangers)
6 Ian Redford (Dundee Utd)
6 Craig Robertson (Dunfermline)
6 Robert Stewart (Falkirk)

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Opposition	F/A	Att.	Pos.
Aug 8	Dundee United	H 1-1	39,120	—
Aug 12	Hibernian	A 0-1	22,000	—
Aug 15	Aberdeen	A 0-2	22,500	10
Aug 19	Stirling Albion (Skol2)	A 2-1	13,000	—
Aug 22	Falkirk	H 4-0	32,340	9
Aug 26	Dunfermline (Skol3)	A 4-1	18,070	—
Aug 29	Celtic	A 0-1	60,800	9
Sept 2	Hearts (Skol4)	H 4-1	19,303	—
Sept 5	Dundee	H 2-1	38,302	7
Sept 12	Dunfermline Athletic	H 4-0	39,749	5
Sept 16	Dynamo Kiev (EC 1)	A 0-1	100,000	—
Sept 19	Motherwell	A 1-0†	19,480	4
Sept 23	Motherwell (Skol SF) Hampden	3-1†	45,938	—
Sept 26	Morton	H 7-0	35,843	4
Sept 30	Dynamo Kiev (EC 1)	H 2-0	44,500	—
Oct 3	Hearts	A 0-0	29,000	—
Oct 6	St. Mirren	H 3-1	39,298	4
Oct 10	Dundee United	A 0-1	18,214	4
Oct 17	Celtic	H 2-2	44,000	4
Oct 21	Gornik Zabrze (EC 2)	H 3-1	41,366	—
Oct 25	Aberdeen (Skol Cup Final) Hampden	3-3*	71,961	—
Oct 28	Dunfermline	A 4-0	18,000	4
Oct 31	Motherwell	H 1-0	36,583	4
Nov 4	Gornik Zabrze (EC 2)	A 1-1	23,000	—
Nov 7	Hibernian	H 1-0	37,571	3
Nov 14	St. Mirren	A 2-2	20,469	3
Nov 17	Aberdeen	H 0-1	41,371	4
Nov 21	Falkirk	A 1-0	18,000	4
Nov 24	Morton	A 3-0	16,500	4
Nov 28	Hearts	H 3-2†	43,557	4
Dec 5	Dundee United	H 1-0	41,159	4
Dec 12	Hibernian	A 2-0	21,000	4
Dec 15	Dunfermline	H 2-2	31,687	4
Dec 19	Motherwell	A 2-0†	15,436	4
Dec 26	Dundee	H 2-0	40,938	4
Jan 2	Celtic	A 0-2	60,800	4
Jan 6	Dundee	A 1-0	17,400	4
Jan 9	Morton	H 5-0	38,349	4
Jan 16	Hearts	A 1-1	29,000	4
Jan 23	Falkirk	H 3-1	41,088	2
Feb 6	Aberdeen	A 2-1	22,500	2
Feb 8	Raith Rovers (SC Rnd 3)	A 0-0	9,500	—
Feb 10	Raith Rovers (SC3 Replay)	H 4-1	35,144	—
Feb 13	St. Mirren	H 4-0	41,664	2
Feb 20	Dunfermline (SC 4)	A 0-2	19,000	—
Feb 27	Dundee United	A 1-1	20,846	2
Mar 2	Steaua Bucharest (ECQF)	A 0-2	30,000	—
Mar 5	Dunfermline	A 3-0	19,017	2
Mar 12	Motherwell	H 1-0	39,650	2
Mar 16	Steaua Bucharest (ECQF)	H	—	—
Mar 20	Celtic	H	—	—
Mar 26	Dundee	A	—	—
Apr 2	Hearts	H	—	—
Apr 6	European Cup SF (1st leg)			
Apr 9	Morton	A	—	—
Apr 16	Hibernian	H	—	—
Apr 20	European Cup SF (2nd leg)			
Apr 23	St. Mirren	A	—	—
Apr 30	Aberdeen	H	—	—
May 7	Falkirk	A	—	—
May 14	Scottish Cup Final			
May 25	European Cup Final (Stuttgart)			

*Won 5-3 on penalties.

1987/88 — RESULTS, ATTENDANCES, APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Sub	Sub
Aug 8	Woods	Nicholl	Munro	D. Ferguson	McGregor	Cohen	Kirkwood	Falco	McCoist	Phillips	Cooper	Fleck(7)	Durrant(10)
Aug 12	Woods	McFarlane	Munro	Kirkwood	McGregor	Cohen	Fleck	Falco	McCoist	Durrant	Phillips	Nisbet(7)	West(6)
Aug 15	Woods	Nicholl	Munro	Roberts	Souness	Butcher	Kirkwood	Souness	McCoist	Durrant	Phillips	Fleck(7)	Falco(3)
Aug 19	Woods	Nicholl	Munro	Roberts	Souness	Butcher	Kirkwood	Falco	McCoist	Durrant	Phillips	McGregor(7)	West
Aug 22	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	Souness	Butcher	D. Ferguson	Falco	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	McGregor(4)	Fleck(7)
Aug 26	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	Souness	Butcher	D. Ferguson	Falco	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	McGregor(5)	Fleck(7)
Aug 29	Woods	Nicholl	Munro	Roberts	Souness	McGregor	D. Ferguson	Falco	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	McCall(11)	Cohen
Sept 2	Woods	Nicholl	Munro	Roberts	Phillips	McGregor	D. Ferguson	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	Cohen(7)	Falco
Sept 5	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	Souness	McGregor	Durrant	Fleck	McCoist	McCall	Cooper	Cohen	Falco
Sept 12	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	D. Ferguson	Butcher	Francis	Fleck	McCoist	McCall	Durrant	Souness(11)	Cooper(9)
Sept 16	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	Souness	Butcher	D. Ferguson	Cohen	McCoist	Durrant	McGregor	Kirkwood(8)	—
Sept 19	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	Souness	Butcher	Francis	Fleck	McCoist	McCall	Durrant	McGregor(11)	Cooper(10)
Sept 23	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	Souness	Butcher	Francis	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	Cohen	Falco(11)
Sept 26	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	McGregor	Butcher	Francis	Falco	McCoist	McCall	Durrant	Cohen(4)	Fleck(11)
Sept 30	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	Souness	Butcher	Francis	Falco	McCoist	Durrant	Cohen	Kirkwood(11)	Fleck(7)
Oct 3	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	McGregor	Munro	Butcher	Cooper	Cooper	McCoist	McCall	Durrant	Fleck(8)	Francis(10)
Oct 6	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	McGregor	Souness	Butcher	Francis	Falco	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	McCall(3)	Fleck
Oct 10	Woods	Gough	Munro	Roberts	Cohen	Butcher	McGregor	Falco	McCoist	McCall	Nicholl	Francis(5)	Fleck(8)
Oct 17	Woods	Gough	Phillips	Roberts	D. Ferguson	Butcher	Francis	Falco	McCoist	McCall	McGregor	Cooper(7)	Cohen(8)
Oct 21	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	D. Ferguson	Butcher	Francis	Falco	McCoist	Durrant	Souness	Cohen(5)	Fleck(7)
Oct 25	Walker	Nicholl	Munro	Roberts	D. Ferguson	Gough	McGregor	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	Francis(5)	Cohen(7)
Oct 28	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Gough	D. Ferguson	Butcher	Durrant	Fleck	McCoist	McCall	Cooper	Cohen(6)	Falco(7)
Oct 31	Woods	Nicholl	Cohen	Roberts	Souness	Gough	Francis	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	D. Ferguson	Cooper(7)	Falco(11)
Nov 4	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	Souness	Butcher	McGregor	D. Ferguson	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	—	—
Nov 7	Woods	Nicholl	McGregor	Roberts	Souness	Gough	D. Ferguson	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	Francis(5)	Falco
Nov 14	Woods	Nicholl	Phillips	Roberts	McGregor	Gough	Durrant	Fleck	McCoist	McCall	Cooper	Francis(10)	Falco
Nov 17	Woods	Nicholl	Gough	Roberts	D. Ferguson	Butcher	Francis	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	Munro(6)	Falco(7)
Nov 21	Woods	Nisbet	Phillips	Roberts	McGregor	Gough	D. Ferguson	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	Francis	Falco
Nov 24	Woods	Nisbet	Phillips	Roberts	McGregor	Gough	D. Ferguson	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	Francis(11)	Falco(5)
Nov 28	Woods	Nisbet	Phillips	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	D. Ferguson	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	Francis(11)	McGregor(5)
Dec 5	Woods	Nisbet	Phillips	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	Francis	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	D. Ferguson	Cooper(7)	McGregor
Dec 12	Woods	Nisbet	McGregor	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	Cooper	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	D. Ferguson	Francis	Souness
Dec 15	Woods	Nisbet	McGregor	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	Cooper	Fleck	McCoist	Durrant	D. Ferguson	Francis	McGregor
Dec 19	Woods	Nisbet	Munro	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	Cooper	Souness	McCoist	Durrant	D. Ferguson	Francis	McGregor
Dec 26	Woods	Nisbet	Munro	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	Cooper	Souness	McCoist	Durrant	D. Ferguson	Francis(7)	McGregor
Jan 2	Woods	Nisbet	Munro	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	Walters	Souness	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	Francis(11)	McGregor(1)
Jan 6	Walker	Nisbet	Munro	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	McGregor	Souness	McCoist	Durrant	Walters	Francis	Phillips
Jan 9	Walker	Nicholl	Munro	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	D. Ferguson	McGregor	McCoist	Durrant	Walters	Nisbet(2)	Francis(7)
Jan 16	Walker	Nisbet	Munro	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	Souness	Brown	McCoist	Durrant	Walters	Francis(10)	McGregor(8)
Jan 23	Walker	Nisbet	Bartram	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	D. Ferguson	Brown	McCoist	Durrant	Walters	Cooper(4)	Souness
Feb 6	Woods	Gough	Bartram	Roberts	Wilkins	Brown	D. Ferguson	McGregor	McCoist	Durrant	Walters	Cooper(7)	Souness(8)
Feb 8	Woods	Nicholl	Bartram	Roberts	Wilkins	Brown	Cooper	D. Ferguson	McCoist	Durrant	Walters	Souness(7)	Munro
Feb 10	Woods	Gough	Bartram	Roberts	Wilkins	Brown	Nisbet	D. Ferguson	McCoist	Durrant	Walters	Souness(6)	Cooper
Feb 13	Woods	Nisbet	Bartram	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	Cooper	D. Ferguson	Souness	Durrant	Walters	McCall(8)	Nicholl(10)
Feb 20	Woods	Gough	Bartram	Roberts	Wilkins	Brown	Cooper	D. Ferguson	Souness	Durrant	Walters	Nisbet(7)	Francis(9)
Feb 27	Woods	Nicholl	Bartram	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	D. Ferguson	I. Ferguson	Nisbet	Durrant	Walters	Cooper(9)	Souness
Mar 2	Woods	Gough	Munro	Roberts	Wilkins	Nisbet	Nicholl	Souness	McCoist	Durrant	Cooper	D. Ferguson(6)	—
Mar 5	Woods	Nisbet	Bartram	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	D. Ferguson	I. Ferguson	McCoist	Durrant	Walters	Cooper(9)	Nicholl
Mar 12	Woods	Nisbet	Bartram	Roberts	Wilkins	Gough	D. Ferguson	I. Ferguson	McCoist	Durrant			

● **Graham Roberts has become very much the Rangers man for all duties and all positions.**

The former England defender has taken over the captaincy at Ibrox in recent weeks because of Terry Butcher's absence and has found himself in goal twice in Old Firm derbies this season.

He doesn't mind taking over from Chris Woods between the posts – it's just that all things considered he'd rather not.

"I'm hoping that I don't have to put the red or yellow jersey under my blue shirt," he joked.

Roberts is no stranger to taking over in goal and will often take a stint between the posts in training. It's a string to his bow that goes back some way.

"I was in goal for Tottenham in the FA Cup third round against Fulham when Ray Clemence went off injured in the second half. I enjoy it really. I sometimes go in goal in training and I think enjoying it is half the battle. I think Chrissy Woods could probably learn a few things from me!"

He's not averse, either, to donning the captain's arm band, though he stresses he's only keeping it warm for Terry Butcher.

"Terry's the club captain and I've taken it on while he's away. But I enjoy every minute of looking after the lads on the pitch. The thing is that here we have so many experienced players, they all work as a captain.

"People like Ray Wilkins, Richard Gough and Chris Woods all help out, so it's an easy job for me."

The word "enjoy" runs freely around the Roberts vocabulary. He gives every impression of being a man content with his lot at Ibrox and has recently extended his contract

FOCUS

GRAHAM ROBERTS



with the Light Blues.

"I have signed for another three years after this year," he says. "I felt it was time to give the club back what they have given me."

He adds: "I don't think I have enjoyed my football so much for a long time. This season and last season has given me a new lease of life."

The stay has lasted 15 months so far and Roberts displays unnecessary modesty in explaining why it has worked so well for him personally.

"I can only play one way, so it is easy for me. People like Chrissy Waddle, Glenn Hoddle or Ian Rush might find it more difficult because they are more skilful players. But you don't get much time on the ball up here."

Since signing from Tottenham a year last December, Roberts has become one of the rocks on which manager

Graeme Souness has built his side. As one of the first to arrive, Roberts believes the team-building may be nearly complete.

"I think the manager's nearly built the side he wants, now it is a question of steering clear of injuries and suspensions.

"A club like Celtic have had very few injuries and suspensions this season, but we've used around 20 players already. I'm not saying that we are not going to win the league title, I still think we will, but last year we used 14 players to the end of the season and we were able to get a formation and a pattern going."

He adds: "We are still confident that there are things for us to win this year."

One thing's for sure, Roberts will be once more all out for victory in today's Old Firm encounter, a fixture he says is quite unlike any other on the calendar.

As a veteran of many North London derbies between Spurs and Arsenal, Roberts believes there's nothing to touch the meeting of Glasgow's top two.

"There's nothing like it really," he says. "The tension and the whole atmosphere builds up for three or four weeks beforehand, whereas for the Tottenham-Arsenal games it used to build up on the Thursday before the game.

"There's a lot more pressure and people talk about it earlier. But you just try to put all that out of your mind because you have other games to play."

No doubting, though, that when the whistle goes today, Roberts's mind will be firmly on the job in hand – as central defender, skipper and, who knows... goalkeeper in waiting.



Clydesdale Bank
SCOTTISH FOOTBALL
LEAGUE REVIEW

IF I HAD KNOWN
I WOULD BE ON
THE COVER, I'D
HAVE GIVEN YOU
A SMILE!

OOPS!
I NEARLY
BUMPED MA'
HEAD ON THAT
CREST!

A' RIGHT
WHO'S GOT
A LEAGUE
REVIEW?

A CUP WINNERS
MEDAL LAST SEASON—
ON THE COVER OF THE
LEAGUE REVIEW THIS
SEASON—
NEXT SEASON,
THE WORLD!

PLEASE SIR,
I'VE GOT A
LEAGUE
REVIEW!

OK, HAND
IT OVER!

SEASON — 1987/88

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N O W A V A I L A B L E

RESERVE REPORT

● Our under-18 side crashed out of the BP Youth Cup at the quarter-final stage at the hands of Dunfermline at East End Park on Tuesday, March 8th.

It was a dreadfully disappointing performance from the young side which angered Peter McCloy and the coaching staff to such an extent that we will not be entering the tournament next season.

The general standard of our playing-staff at this level just isn't strong enough at the present time and until the new crop of kids recruited by the new regime come through, there is little point in participating in such a prestigious competition.

We lost a goal in the very first minute when Ian Black touched a free-kick 20 yards out to Ray Sharp and the left-back's low shot got past the defensive wall and beat 'keeper Scott Sinclair at his left-hand post.

Just six minutes later, Dunfermline went 2-0 in front when Sharp curled a free-kick from the left into the penalty-area and Shaun Strang was unmarked as he headed past Sinclair's right-hand into the net from 10 yards.

We hardly ever tested Pars' keeper Craig Timney in the whole 90 minutes, apart from a Gary McSwegan snapshot and another effort from the edge of the box by Scott Murray which were both held well.

And in the 18th minute, Dunfermline crushed our challenge with a third goal.

Our captain Mark Thomson was short with a pass-back to Scott Sinclair and that allowed Craig Donaldson the time to nip in and cleverly lob the ball over the 'keeper and into the net.

The only good points from the 3-0 defeat for us were the performances of John Spencer, Gary McSwegan and the 15-year-old Graeme McVie who could at least hold

their heads up afterwards.

RANGERS: Sinclair, Milligan, McVie, Hamilton, Thomson, Robertson, Murray, Spencer, McSwegan, Henderson, Roe. Subs: Dunn (for Murray) and Paterson (for Thomson).

There were shocks galore in the quarter-finals with Clyde beating Dundee United, non-League Whitehill Welfare ousting Airdrie and Celtic losing 3-2 at home to Dundee.

Stephen Campbell, the midfield player who has guested for us on recent youth trips abroad, scored all three of Dundee's goals in that match!

At least the reserves returned to top form on Saturday 12th March with a brilliant 6-1 Premier Reserve League triumph over Motherwell at Fir Park.

Gary McSwegan grabbed a hat-trick to take his personal tally for the season to 19 while the other goals came from John Spencer (2) and Ian McCall.

Spencer gave us the lead in the 20th minute and four minutes later wee John was on target again after good play between Ian McCall and Jimmy Nicholl on the right.

Jimmy Phillips crossed for Gary McSwegan to make it 3-0 in the 35th minute and that was how it stayed at half time.

Gary grabbed his second to make it 4-0 in the 49th minute, a neat lob, then completed his hat-trick following fine play from David Kirkwood and Ally Edwards.

Well 'keeper Ally Maxwell was beaten for the sixth time by Ian McCall's fourth goal in his last four matches before the home side sneaked a late consolation.

RANGERS: Walker, McPherson, Phillips, P. Hamilton, Nicholl, McCall, Robertson, Kirkwood, McSwegan, Spencer, Edwards. Subs: Rouse (for Robertson) and Henderson (for Spencer).

FACT FILE

RANGERS' PREMIER RESERVE LEAGUE RESULTS 1987/88

Aug 8	Dundee Utd	A	1-4
Aug 15	Aberdeen	H	1-1
Aug 22	Falkirk	A	1-2
Aug 29	Celtic	H	2-2
Sep 3	Dundee	A	1-5
Sep 19	Motherwell	H	5-0
Sep 22	Dunfermline	A	2-0
Sep 26	Morton	A	4-3
Oct 3	Hearts	H	1-4
Oct 7	St. Mirren	A	3-2
Oct 10	Dundee Utd	H	2-3
Oct 17	Celtic	A	2-2
Oct 24	Dundee	H	0-5
Oct 29	Dunfermline	H	3-2
Nov 6	Hibernian	A	2-0
Nov 14	St. Mirren	H	2-1
Nov 18	Aberdeen	A	1-1
Nov 21	Falkirk	H	6-1
Nov 24	Morton	H	1-0
Nov 28	Hearts	A	2-0
Dec 12	Hibernian	H	3-0
Jan 14	Motherwell	A	0-0
Feb 27	Dundee Utd	H	1-2
Mar 5	Dunfermline	H	1-1
Mar 12	Motherwell	A	6-1
Mar 19	Celtic	A	
Mar 26	Dundee	H	
Apr 2	Hearts	A	
Apr 9	Morton	H	
Apr 16	Hibernian	A	
Apr 23	St. Mirren	H	
Apr 30	Aberdeen	A	
May 7	Falkirk	H	

PREMIER RESERVE LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Dundee Utd	24	20	1	3	68	16	41
Celtic	27	19	3	5	68	37	41
Aberdeen	25	15	6	4	68	30	36
Rangers	25	12	6	7	53	42	30
Motherwell	25	12	5	8	45	38	29
Dundee	24	11	3	10	59	43	25
Hearts	25	10	5	10	36	31	25
Hibernian	26	11	3	12	44	52	25
Morton	24	6	3	15	26	50	15
St. Mirren	24	4	3	17	18	55	11
Dunfermline	24	3	5	16	34	73	11
Falkirk	26	2	5	19	19	71	9

(up to and including Monday 14th March)



The Rangers side that met Dunfermline in the BP Youth Cup.



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One down, two to go . . . Ian Ferguson avoids the challenge of Motherwell's Craig Paterson but John Philliben and Tom McAdam provide double cover for the former Ranger.



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ANGLO REPORT

BY MEL HENDERSON

● **Wembley is the password to this week's column, featuring a series of stories all linked by the famous stadium where a succession of Scots have enjoyed turning on the style over the years.**

I wonder, first of all, if little Mickey Weir realises his homesickness has cost him three, possibly four, appearances in the shadow of the twin towers.

Indeed, it might even be five if his former club, Luton Town, defeat Wimbledon in their FA Cup semi-final and then go on to win the trophy to earn another visit for the Charity Shield curtain-raiser in August.

The Hatters are already lined up for the Littlewoods Cup Final against Arsenal, the Simod Cup Final against Reading and the Mercantile Credit Centenary Festival, a two-day event next month in the company of 15 other clubs.

I know Mickey's delighted to be back home with Hibs but I suspect he's also given some thought to what might have been.

After all, Luton don't reach Wembley that often. Their only previous visit in 98 years as a professional club was in 1959 when they were FA Cup runners-up to Nottingham Forest.

● **Big Brian Rice was something of an unlikely FA Cup hero for Nottingham Forest last weekend.**

His cool finish to beat Arsenal goalkeeper John Lukic for Forest's killer second goal was by far his sweetest moment in almost three years south of the border.

Brian, whose elegant style and precision left foot make him stand out in any midfield crowd, cost Brian Clough more than he'd anticipated in the summer of 1985 when his Hibs contract expired and the matter was settled by an independent tribunal.

I seem to remember Cloughie

admitting he'd signed the six-footer without ever seeing him play and, if he's honest, there must have been times when he doubted the wisdom of his expenditure, as Rice struggled to achieve any kind of consistency.

In his first season with Forest he scored three goals in 19 first team appearances and last term, when he was so out of favour that Cloughie permitted him to join struggling Grimsby on loan, he added only three more senior outings, scoring once.

It's a different story in the current campaign, however, and if Forest achieve what many regard as the impossible – victory over Liverpool in the FA Cup semi-final next month – Rice will be one of only two Scots on parade for the final.

The other is his midfield colleague Terry Wilson, a lanky teenager from Broxburn who made his debut this season and recently brought a smile to Cloughie's face when he committed himself to a long-term contract with Forest.

Luton and Wimbledon, who meet in the other semi-final, don't have any Scots in their squads.

Depending on the outcome of the Scottish semi-finals, there could be more Englishmen on duty at Hampden on May 14th than there will be Scotsmen at Wembley.

History in the making?

● **Still in Robin Hood country, Forest are not having it entirely their own way in putting Nottingham on the soccer map.**

Notts County are also bidding for a big day out at Wembley, courtesy of a competition that has undergone a name change this season. For Freight Rover Trophy read Sherpa Van Trophy.

First of all, however, County must overcome the formidable



● **Having just seen Liverpool turn the screw and win 4-0 in an FA Cup sixth round tie at Manchester City, I have to say Kenny Dalglish's side are going to take some stopping.**

The double, which the Reds won in 1986, is a tall order but with the Championship all but clinched, surely they are capable of registering the two wins necessary to regain their grip on the FA Cup.

If they survived a midweek trip to face Ted McMinn's Derby County, Liverpool line up at Everton today, in front of yet another live television audience of around 14 million, seeking to break Leeds' United's 14-year-old record of 29 League games without a defeat.

Goodison Park is surely the perfect venue for the celebrations...

challenge of Fourth Division leaders Wolves in the two-legged Southern Area Final to decide who meets either Burnley or Preston, the only two Northern survivors.

County's prolific marksman, Ian McParland, who was once linked with neighbours Forest in a big-money deal, scored a tremendous double to help his side stun Doug Rougvie's Brighton in the Southern semi-final.

It promised to be a close encounter between two sides well placed in the Third Division promotion battle but County travelled to the South Coast and recorded an incredible 5-1 victory.

MacParland, who joined County seven years ago from East of Scotland side Ormiston Primrose, has been in sensational scoring form over the past three seasons, grabbing around 70 goals.

County's other Scot, midfielder man David Kevan, has an English accent as a result of being transported south to Northampton from his home in Stranraer as a toddler.

He's been at Meadow Lane since he left school, has already attracted Andy Roxburgh's attention at youth international level and his wholehearted style of play has had a lot to do with County's success this season.

David's father is quite a character. Back in September, when County took on Northampton, he ended up £10 better off as a result of a wager with a friend who just happened to be a director of the home side.

It's just possible a few bob could be riding on the outcome of today's Old Firm clash. While David follows family tradition and states a preference for Rangers, colleague Ian makes

no secret of his liking for Celtic!

● **Perhaps the most surprised Wembley skipper this season is Tranmere Rovers' Steve Mungall.**

Yes, Merseyside's poor relations are set to follow neighbours Liverpool and Everton and take the route south to the capital for the two-day Mercantile Credit Centenary Festival.

Sixteen clubs are going to be involved – eight from the First Division, four from the Second and two each from the Third and Fourth.

Qualification was decided over a 15-game period in the League, starting on November 1st, and it would be fair to say that even Tranmere never fancied their chances of making it.

Their manager, John King, was still in a state of shock when I rang him last week. His team made such a nightmare start to the season that they were even lower than Newport County for a while!

But a couple of shrewd signings helped to bring about a dramatic improvement and King is also singing the praises of club captain Mungall, signed from Motherwell eight years ago.

"I signed Steve in my first spell here," said King, "and since I returned last year he's been a tremendous influence."

"He's done Tranmere proud over the years. He's such a tenacious type and what I like about him best of all is that he never knows when he's beaten."

The Merseysiders, with a financial crisis behind them, are set for a bumper Wembley payout no matter how they progress in the tournament.

Not bad for a club who were within one game of going out of the League, perhaps never to return, last season!

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ON THE PARK



Mark Walters strikes Rangers' second goal in the 3-0 win at Dunfermline.



Walters' left wing run is halted by the Pars' Graeme Robertson.

PERSONAL POINTS

No. 18 –

MARK WALTERS

Name the player you most admire: Maradona, he's a great player.

Best goal you've scored and how? For Aston Villa against Northampton in the FA Cup about six years ago. I dragged the ball through my legs, turned and scored.

Best goal you've seen scored? A volley by Glenn Hoddle for Spurs against Manchester United.

Your best pals? I'd like to think I have many.

Your best sporting moment outside football? Getting to the final of a pre-season snooker tournament at Aston Villa, which was a major achievement for me.

Any superstitions? None really. I put my socks on inside out, but that's more of a habit than a superstition.

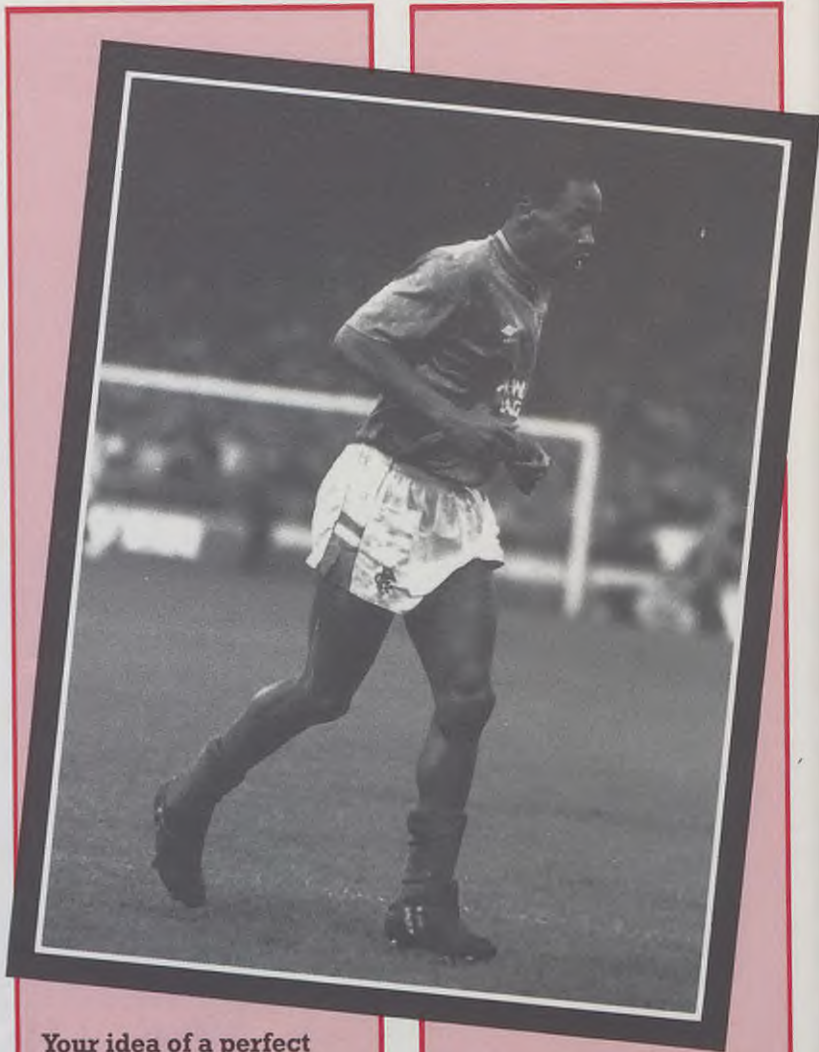
What scares you? The manager when we've lost.

What makes your blood boil? Inconsistent refereeing.

Any personal faults? I don't score enough goals.

With which sports star would you like to change places for a day? Maradona.

Is there any other job you would like to do? None really. Football was the only job I ever wanted to do.



Your idea of a perfect holiday spot? Bermuda.

What was your first car? Ford Escort.

Your favourite possession? My video recorder.

Your best subject at school? English.

The subject you hated most? Maths.

Biggest risk you've taken in your life? Taking out shares in the TSB.

Finally, if you could be a fly on the wall, where would you most like to be? In Bobby Robson's office, because I'd love to know how he goes about picking his teams.

Postbag ...

From: David Robertson, Paisley.

My family are split between Rangers and Celtic. I support the Light Blues, much to the annoyance of my father and brother who are regular visitors to Parkhead.

I know that Rangers have won more 'Old Firm' league matches than Celtic, but can you please print the exact figures in your programme for the game against Celtic on March 20th, just so that I can prove my point to John and Dad.

Editor: Glad to oblige David. In the 205 league meetings between the sides Rangers have recorded 78 wins to Celtic's 64, with 63 games drawn. There have been 584 goals scored in these matches, 303-281 in Rangers' favour.

From: Iain Brogan, Perth.

I made my first ever visit to Ibrox in February for the game against St. Mirren. I'd just like to tell you that the team is brilliant, Mark Walters is brilliant, the stadium is brilliant, the fans are brilliant and the programme is brilliant. I can't wait until April 2nd because we are staying with my uncle Craig in Glasgow that weekend and he's promised to take me to the Hearts game.

From: Richard Love, 6 Forest Drive, Theydon Bas, Essex CM16 7EY.

I am a 13-year-old Tottenham Hotspur supporter looking for a pen pal aged 10-14 who follows Rangers. I would be willing to swap programmes as I am interested in Rangers.

From: Derek Linton, Wirral, Merseyside.

Could you please tell me who were the Rangers goalscorers when they beat my team, Everton 2-1 at Ibrox on August 6th, 1971.

Editor: Both Rangers' goals came from a young Derek Johnstone.

From: Ann McGibbon, Renfrewshire.

Who were the Light Blues first opponents when the Premier League began in 1975?

Editor: Rangers beat Celtic 2-1 on that historical day, Saturday August 30th, 1975. Kenny Dalglish gave the Celts a half time lead but goals from Derek Johnstone (52 mins) and Quinton Young (68 mins) made it an ideal start for the reigning champions.

If you have any questions regarding past matches, wish to be put in touch with a pen pal or would like to make a point of football in general, write to: Rangers Postbag, Sports Projects, 222 Broad Street, Birmingham B15 1AY.

GROUND RULES

THE RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB plc GROUND REGULATIONS

1. All matches are played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Scottish Football Association, The Scottish Football League and, where applicable, the Regulations of U.E.F.A. Competitions.
2. Play cannot be guaranteed to take place on any particular day or at any particular time and the Club reserves the right to change its advertised fixtures without prior notice and without liability.
3. Tickets allotted by this Club are issued on the express conditions that no holder thereof shall sell or transfer same for a larger price than appears on the face thereof. In the event of any breach of this condition, the Rangers Football Club plc reserves the right to cancel this ticket and to retain the money paid thereon on allotment.
4. No refund of any cash admission charge paid at the turnstile will be made in the event of the match being abandoned after having kicked off.
5. In the event of an "all ticket" match, the price of the tickets will not under any circumstances be refunded if the match has to be abandoned after the ticket has been surrendered at the turnstile.
6. In the event of the game to which the ticket admits being postponed for any reason, the ticket will be available on the postponed date. On no account will money be refunded.
7. All children entering the Ground or Stand, must pay for admission or hold a valid ticket.
8. Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play.
9. With the exception of authorised Press representatives holding official passes, the taking of photographs or filming by any means inside the Ground is prohibited. In addition, no transmission, in whole or in part, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise is permitted save with a special authorisation in writing by the Club and, where appropriate, the prior consent of the Scottish Football League, Scottish Football Association or appropriate body.
10. Only persons specifically authorised in writing by the Club are permitted to offer Newspapers, Periodicals or any other Articles for sale in the Ground.
11. Unnecessary noise such as from the use of radio sets and behaviour likely to cause confusion, annoyance or nuisance of any kind, including foul and abusive language is not permitted in any part of the Ground.
12. It is an offence under the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act, 1980, punishable by law, for any person to enter, or attempt to enter the ground:
 - a. Whilst in possession of a controlled container which is or was capable of holding liquid and which if thrown would be capable of causing injury to another person.
 - b. Whilst in possession of alcohol.
 - c. Whilst drunk.
14. It is an offence under the Public Order Act, 1986, punishable by law, for any person to enter, or attempt to enter the ground:
 - a. Whilst in possession of any article or substance whose main purposes is the emission of a flare for purposes of illuminating or signalling (as opposed to igniting or heating) or the emission of smoke or a visible gas; and in particular it includes distress flares, fog signals, and pellets and capsules intended to be used as fumigators or for testing pipes.
 - b. Any article which is a firework.
15. Banners, metal containers or articles which could or might be used as a weapon or to cause annoyance are not permitted within the ground.
16. All persons entering this Ground are admitted subject to the condition that they may be required to submit to search to prevent dangerous articles being brought into the Ground which might be used to cause injury or damage to other persons or property.
17. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any objects whether on to the pitch or track or otherwise.
18. In general, the right of admission is reserved by the Club Management and no transfers within the Ground are allowed.
19. All persons entering this Ground are admitted only subject to the above Ground Regulations and to the Rules and Regulations of The Scottish Football Association and of The Scottish Football League. Entry to this Ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these Rules and Regulations.
20. The Club reserves the right for its servants and agents and for members of police forces to remove from this Ground any person who does NOT COMPLY WITH GROUND REGULATIONS AND WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS of The Scottish Football Association, The Scottish Football League and/or, where applicable, the Regulations of the U.E.F.A. Competitions or whose presence on the Ground is or could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.

TEAMS

RANGERS

- 1 Chris WOODS
- 2 Scott NISBET
- 3 Jan BARTRAM
- 4 Graham ROBERTS
- 5 Ray WILKINS
- 6 Richard GOUGH
- 7 Derek FERGUSON
- 8 Ian FERGUSON
- 9 Ally McCOIST
- 10 Ian DURRANT
- 11 Mark WALTERS
- 12
- 14

CELTIC

- 1 Pat BONNER
- 2 Chris MORRIS
- 3 Anton ROGAN
- 4 Roy AITKEN
- 5 Derek WHYTE
- 6 Tommy BURNS
- 7 Billy STARK
- 8 Paul McSTAY
- 9 Frank McAVENNIE
- 10 Andy WALKER
- 11 Joe MILLER
- 12
- 14

DAVIE COOPER
Star of many an 'Old Firm' derby, he rates his goal against Celtic in the Drybrough Cup Final as his 'best ever'



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