

Official Matchday  
Programme  
No. 14



# Saints

**ST. MIRREN**  
v  
**CELTIC**



**SCOTTISH PREMIER  
LEAGUE**

**SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER  
2000**

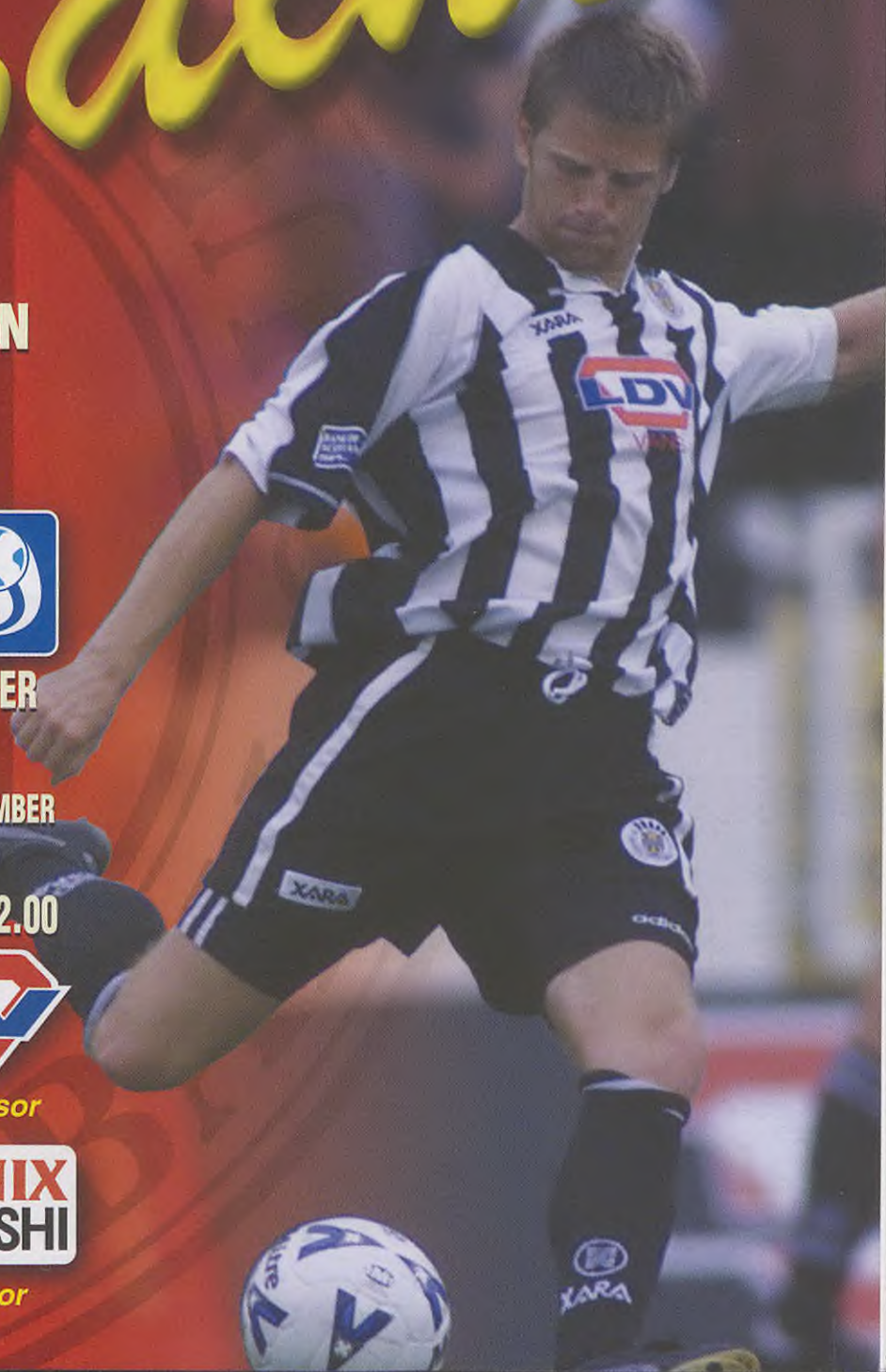
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## The Views of Tom Hendrie

It won't have passed the notice of a considerable number of our supporters that its Yuletide time. That period when we celebrate Christmas, are kind to our neighbours, give presents to all and sundry and generally lie back and take it easy.

Unfortunately that same equation can be applied to our competitive endeavours on the field. Certainly the overhead conditions at McDiarmid Park a fortnight ago made ball control extremely difficult but last week up at Dunfermline it was windless which created perfect conditions to play football. We didn't. We were over generous, gave the ball away too easily and stood back off the opposition when a more resolute challenge was required.

One of my regular moans is that since the start of the season I have been unable to field my strongest team due to a succession of injuries

and illnesses. Fortunately both Chris Kerr and Ian Ross are on the mend, Chris has in fact started playing again while Ludo Roy is not far away from a return.

Having all these lads regularly available for selection would have helped and with our limited resources we have had to soldier on with a substantial window of opportunity available for the rest of the pool to stake a claim for regular inclusion.

This afternoon is one of those special occasions with Celtic as visitors to the Stadium. A full house and a great atmosphere are the ingredients for our players to rise above their recent form and show what they really can do. I'm sure that it is enough to glean something from the points on offer today.

Whatever, I hope you and your families have a terrific Christmas and enjoy this afternoon's game.

### Front Cover

Ricky Gillies has generated a new lease of life since his return to Love Street from Aberdeen

(Pic courtesy of SNS Group)

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### ST. MIRREN MATCH MAGAZINE

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Comments, letters and contributions to the St. Mirren Match Magazine are welcomed. Articles, which may be edited for publication, should be sent to the Editor, c/o St. Mirren FC.

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# Love Street Speak

## Saints exit SFA Youth Cup St Mirren 1 Hibernian 3

It was always evident the young Saints team would experience difficulty in a tie where the Easter Road youngsters were physically superior and generally winners in the 50-50 tackle situation.

Only six minutes had elapsed and when a swinging cross came over the Hibs No 9, Gary O'Connor, beat Saints keeper Willie Rankine in the jump to head home the opener. 16 minutes later another looping cross from the left found Richard Barr in space and he promptly fired home Hibernian's second.

Two down at the break, Stephen Donnachie came off the bench and gave Saints some hope by smashing home a 15 yarder .



Stephen Donnachie

However Hibs passage to the next round was sealed nine minutes from time with a looping header from Hibernian front man Gary O'Connor.

## "Jingle Balls" Courses

Looking for an event to keep the youngsters amused during the Christmas holidays? Then the "Jingle Balls" courses might just be your answer.

Held in the St Mirren Sports & Leisure Complex, the courses run from Wednesday 27th December to Saturday 30th December. Courses cost £15 for youngsters in the 4 to 8 age bracket while courses for the 9 to 14 age group cost £20.

All coaching will be conducted by qualified SFA coaches and further information can be obtained from Community Coach Matt Kerr (Mob : 07779 007469) or his Assistant David Longwell (Mob : 07761 530985).

## Ian stays over the Festive period

With the need to provide adequate goalkeeping cover over the Christmas and New Year period, Manager Tom Hendrie has been successful in extending the loan period of Livingston custodian Ian McCaldon. The former Glenafton Athletic keeper who was born in Liverpool will be available for St Mirren selection until January 11th.

## What's on at "The Plex"?

All information on facilities, courses and membership availability can now be accessed on the St Mirren Website [www.stmirren.net](http://www.stmirren.net)

## From the Ticket Office

There are still tickets available for the Enclosure, Paisley Daily Express and North Stands for the Kilmarnock game on December 26th and the Rangers game on January 2nd in a 'Two Pack' form. Please note that the Match Day Shop will be open from 12.30 pm on December 26th and from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm only on January 2nd.

During the winter break in January, tickets will be on sale for the home matches against Dundee (February 3rd) and Motherwell (February 24th) as well as the away game with Hearts (January 31st with a 7.45 pm kick off) where Season Ticket holders will again be given preference.

## In Charge Today

This is one area of soccer administration where familiarity does not breed contempt. Saints are getting to know Stuart Dougal reasonably well, with no contempt on the horizon, this being Stuart's third game at Love Street this season.

The 38-year old whistler was born in Wishaw and after a playing career as a midfielder with Waterloo Amateurs, he did in fact have a number of Junior trials but a severe back injury curtailed any further progress, on the playing front. A refereeing career beckoned first in 1986 in the Lanarkshire Amateur Leagues before graduating to the SFA's Class 1 List in 1993-94.



At one time, an unfulfilled ambition for Stuart was to qualify as a FIFA referee, he has achieved that ambition and gone further by being elevated to UEFA's top classification in handling European competition. That elevation manifested itself this season when a particular career highlight was the Juventus-Hamburg Champions League match which the Turin club won 3-1.

## And Finally

Many complaints are leveled at the soccer authorities for the apparently congested fixture list. However the solution to the problem is surely not the arrangement that Celtic agreed to in season 1915-16. Towards the end of that campaign there was such a backlog of fixtures in the Scottish League that Celtic played two league games on the same day on April 16th 1916. They beat Raith Rovers 6-0 at Celtic Park and in the evening traveled to Fir Park where they defeated Motherwell 3-1.

# Visiting St. Mirren Park Today: Celtic



## **Robert Douglas**

**Born : Lanark 26.4.72**  
Began his goalkeeping career with Forth Wanderers before joining Meadowbank Thistle in 1993. Made 77 appearances for Thistle and was involved in their metamorphic transition to Livingston before signing up with Dundee. His outstanding form at Dens Park earned him consideration for the full Scotland squad after being called up for the national "B" side. Joined Celtic earlier this season after registering 11 League shut outs for Dundee last term.



**Tommy Boyd**

## **Tom Boyd**

**Born : Glasgow 24.11.65**  
Promoted to club captain following Paul McStay's retirement, Boyd is the model professional – assured and confident and able to play in the central defensive or full back roles. A regular fixture for club and country, he now has over 50 Scotland caps, earning him a coveted place in the SFA Hall of Fame.

## **Joos Valgaeren**

**Born : Louvain, Belgium 3.3.76**

The big defender was snapped up by the Parkhead club in the summer from the Dutch club Roda JC after impressive showings for Belgium in Euro 2000. After making his debut against Dundee United at Tannadice in the opening match of the season he has now settled down to be the corner stone in The Hoops defence.

## **Johan Mjalby**

**Born : Sweden 9.2.71**  
Johan came to public attention both here and overseas when he scored the winning goal against England in their European qualifier in September 1998. After spending 14 seasons with AIK Stockholm, he joined Celtic in November 1998 making his debut in the 5-1 defeat of Rangers at Parkhead.

## **Didier Agathe**

**Born : Saint Pierre, France 16.8.75**  
The French midfielder came to Scotland in August 1999 from Montpellier SC. He joined Raith Rovers and his contribution last term of half a dozen goals put him under the microscope of a number of clubs. Hibernian were first to show interest with Didier making an impact in August with four goals in his first three games. He subsequently joined Celtic and made his debut in the match with St Mirren in October.

## **Alan Thompson**

**Born : Newcastle 22.12.73**

A need to strengthen the Celtic midfield plus Martin O'Neill's in depth knowledge of the English game saw this ball winning midfielder join up at Parkhead earlier this season. He was originally on Newcastle United's books where he clocked up 16 League appearances but it was with Bolton Wanderers that he made his name with 33 goals from 157 appearances which earned him a couple of England Under-21 caps. These performances at the former Burnden Park side earned him a move to Aston Villa before joining up with Celtic.



**Stilian Petrov**

## **Stilian Petrov**

**Born : Bulgaria 5.7.79**  
Stilian's move to Celtic was protracted due to the question over his eligibility for a work permit which was eventually granted. The 20-year old was widely reported to be the

best young midfielder in Eastern Europe. He has already won 11 full international caps for Bulgaria and played in the last nine consecutive internationals.

## **Lubomir Moravcik**

**Born : Slovakia 22.6.65**  
The veteran Slovakian midfielder arrived at Celtic Park as the second signing of Dr Jozef Venglos after being the former head coach's protégé as a youngster with the Czech and Slovakian national teams. He went on to earn over 70 international caps and subsequently captained the Slovakian side. A cultured midfielder with tremendous passing and vision skills.

## **Bobby Petta**

**Born : Rotterdam 6.8.74**  
Petta spent three years at Ipswich Town and signed for Celtic under the Bosman ruling. He was understudy to Regi Blinker at Feyenoord and has been capped for Holland at Under-18 and Under-21 levels.

## **Chris Sutton**

**Born : Nottingham 10.3.73**  
Moved north to Celtic for a record Scottish signing fee of £6M as Martin O'Neill's first signing for the club. Was part of the lethal scoring partnership with Alan Shearer when Blackburn Rovers won the English Premiership in 1995. Seen as a natural foil for the predatory scoring attributes of Henrik Larsson after the departure of Mark Viduka

**Paul Lambert**  
**Born: Glasgow 7.8.69**  
 Paul needs no introduction to the St Mirren fans having spent his formative years at Love Street and winning 11 Scotland Under-21 caps while with Saints. Moves to Motherwell and Borussia Dortmund followed where he won a European Champions Cup winners medal with the latter. Joined Celtic in November 1997 and now performs a holding role in the Celtic defensive line up.

**Jackie McNamara**  
**Born: Glasgow 24.10.73**  
 A bargain buy from Dunfermline by former boss Tommy Burns, the marauding defender turned wingback captured the 'Players Player of the Year Award' in the championship winning season of 1997-98 and earned a place in Scotland's World Cup squad as a reward. Has

spent considerable time on the treatment table but is now back to full fitness.

**Tommy Johnson**  
**Born: Newcastle 15.1.71**  
 A striker with an unhappy injury record since he arrived at Celtic Park from Aston Villa in March 1997. Was on loan to Everton last season for a three month period before enjoying some success in the final of the CIS Insurance Cup when he scored the second goal in Celtic's 2-0 win over Aberdeen.

**Stephane Mahe**  
**Born: Puteaux, France 23.9.68**  
 Played against Celtic in the Cup Winners Cup in 1995-96 for Paris St-Germain, before missing out on the final. His career slipped somewhat during spells with Auxerre and Rennes before moving to Scotland and making the left back slot his own during the championship winning season.

## Celtic Fact File

**Year formed:** 1888

**First League match:** v Renton on 18.8.1890 (H) Lost 4-1

**Record attendance:** 92,000 v Rangers on January 1st 1938 in a Division 1 match

**Biggest win:** 11-0 v Dundee on 26.10.1895 in a Division 1 match

**Heaviest defeat:** 0-8 v Motherwell on 30.4.1937 in a Division 1 match

**Record transfer fee received:** £4,700,000 from Sheffield Wednesday for Paolo Di Canio in August 1997

**Record transfer fee paid:** £6,000,000 to Chelsea for Chris

Sutton in July 2000

**Most capped player:** Paddy Bonner with 80 caps for the Republic of Ireland

**Most League appearances:** 486 by Billy McNeill from 1957-75

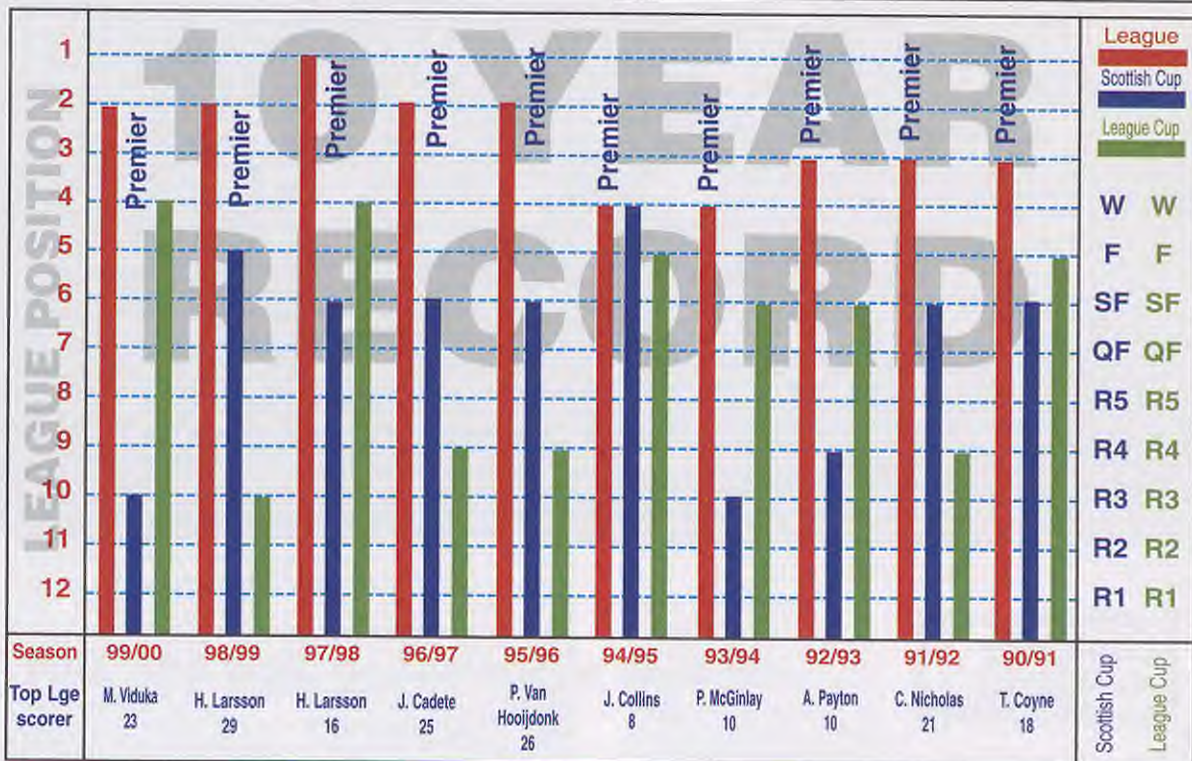
**Most League goals in a season:** 50 by Jimmy McGrory in Division 1 1935-36

**Most goals overall:** 397 by Jimmy McGrory from 1922-39

**Managers since 1975:** Jock Stein, Billy McNeill, David Hay, Billy McNeill, Liam Brady, Lou Macari, Tommy Burns, Wim Jansen, Jozef Venglos, John Barnes and Martin O'Neill

### Last Ten St. Mirren v Celtic Premier League encounters

Date		Date	
Home	Score	Away	Score
08.04.92	1-1	14.10.00	0-2
26.10.91	0-5	14.12.91	0-4
12.03.91	0-2	07.09.91	0-0
29.09.90	2-3	05.05.91	0-1
06.01.90	0-2	17.11.90	1-4



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