

HIBERNIAN

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ISSUE No.3



HIBERNIAN v CELTIC

SATURDAY 25th AUGUST 2001

KICK-OFF 5.35pm

£2.00

www.hibernianfc.co.uk



A microscopic view of numerous red blood cells, appearing as bright red, biconcave discs against a dark background. One cell on the right side of the image is highlighted with a white outline and contains the white lecoqsportif logo, which is a stylized rooster. A small registered trademark symbol (®) is located below the rooster logo.

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HIBERNIAN FOOTBALL CLUB
12 ALBION PLACE
EDINBURGH EH7 5QG



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CLUB PHONE NUMBERS

SWITCHBOARD 0131 661 2159

TICKET HOTLINE FOR CREDIT CARD
BOOKINGS 0870 8401875

CONFERENCE & BANQUETING
0131 656 7075

INTERNET <http://www.hibernianfc.co.uk>

CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Malcolm McPherson

MANAGING DIRECTOR Rod Petrie

DIRECTORS Stephen Dunn,
Erick Davidson, Ken Lewandowski

STADIUM MANAGER Garry O'Hagan

TEAM MANAGER Alex McLeish

ASST. TEAM MANAGER Andy Watson

COACH Donald Park

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
John Park

SFA COMMUNITY COACH
Malcolm Thomson

PHYSIOTHERAPIST Malcolm Colquhoun

HEAD GROUNDSMAN Tam McCourt

PROGRAMME EDITOR
James Alexander

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER
Mark Jackson

PROGRAMME PRODUCED BY
Garthland Design and Print
0141-445 5360



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Alex's Angle



We go into today's match against the league champions on the back of a positive performance at Ibrox last weekend. Having performed well in Glasgow, the players will doubtless find themselves under additional pressure today to maintain those standards, but as I have said to the squad this comes with the territory. Expectation levels rise with good performances and good seasons, but this is the type of pressure that I believe aspiring footballers need to become better.

We travelled to Ibrox not having done well there in recent seasons, but on this occasion we gave a very good account of ourselves and it would have been a travesty if we had returned empty-handed. Indeed we almost sneaked all three points at the very end of the game. There was good belief in the squad, we expressed ourselves when we had the ball, and I was pleased to leave Glasgow with a piece of the pie.

I was delighted that we made the pocket of Hibernian fans at Ibrox so happy. It was a wonderful equalising goal by Alen Orman who has a ferocious shot and has been threatening to score in recent weeks. To have done so in a live Sky match and at a venue such as Ibrox Stadium is especially pleasing.

When you consider that we still have Freddy Arpinon to come back from injury, Gary O'Connor and Lyndon Andrews on the sidelines, Ulises de la Cruz recovering from a punishing travel schedule, and players such as Allan Smart and Derek Townsley pushing for a starting place you can appreciate that competition for a starting spot is very keen. The lads in possession of the starting jerseys face enormous pressure to maintain the standards they have shown so far this season.



I feel that we have come off our defeat at Dundee with a renewed vigour. The defeat at Dens Park was in sharp contrast to the way we started last season. We were a bit disjointed in that game and we have as a consequence adjusted things a little at the back. By working on our shape and organisation I think we have used the Dundee game as a catalyst for the results we achieved against Aberdeen and Rangers.

Against both Aberdeen and Rangers the Hibernian players were very hungry and showed the level of commitment and passion that brings rewards.

“ We certainly carried the passion we rediscovered in that game to Ibrox ”

Throughout the home fixture with the Dons we defended better and we could have scored a few more goals. We certainly carried the passion we rediscovered in that game to Ibrox.

Consistency is now the key!

I'd like to finish my notes by drawing your attention to the fact that our relationship with Carlsberg continues. This is undoubtedly a further fillip to the club. Arrangements such as this help us to maintain the beautiful stadium that we now have and work towards the future. Allied, as it is, to wonderful season-ticket sales we have many reasons to be pleased with things as they stand at Easter Road today.

Get behind the team and enjoy the game.

