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**THE B&Q
LEAGUE**

Tuesday 26th December
1989

Premier League
Hearts v Celtic

Kick off 3 p.m.

Volume 4 No. 14 Price 80p



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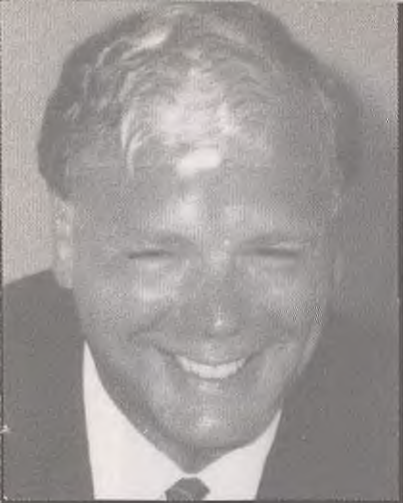
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**Our team line-up
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John Frame

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Charles M. Burnett

SALES EXECUTIVE

Allan Paul

NATIONAL HONOURS

Scottish League Champions 1895, 1897, 1958, 1960
(Runners up) 11 times)

Scottish F.A. Cup Winners 1891, 1896, 1901, 1906,
1956 (Finalists 5 times)

Scottish League Cup Winners 1954-55, 1958-59,
1959-60, 1962-63 (Finalists 1961-62)

First Division Champions 1980 (Runners-up 2
times)

Tennents Sixes Tournament Winners 1985

59 Full Internationalists for Scotland; 1 for Wales; 2
for North Ireland

Texaco Cup Finalists 1971, Victory Cup Finalists
1919, Scottish League East and North Runners-up
1939-40

Southern League Cup Finalists 1940-41

Dear Supporter

May I first of all say that I hope that you had a very pleasant Christmas Day and welcome you to Tynecastle Park for this first Boxing Day fixture for many years.

It has long been the feeling of this Club that Boxing Day could be an attractive day to play a fixture, but the fact that Celtic are today's opponents makes it more difficult to ascertain how successful this could be given the fact that these games are always all ticket.

May I also thank everyone who turned out on Wednesday for the Aberdeen match in difficult and uncertain weather conditions. The attendance was very respectable given the counter-attractions and family commitments in the run up to Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

A. WALLACE MERCER
CLUB CHAIRMAN

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CHAIRMAN'S VIEWS

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WE'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER.

Unfortunately the weather struck with a vengeance ten days ago and the resulting snow and ice wiped out the attractive match against Aberdeen. Postponements are so disappointing as all the hard work in training and preparing is wasted. Bad weather also causes problems for outdoor work, etc, let's hope it's the first and last call off of the season and the game re-arranged for Wednesday went ahead as planned.

Midway through the campaign and I am reasonably happy with our position in the table, a major improvement on last season's fortunes. Our consistency has been quite good, especially away from home where we have been getting good results, Aberdeen and Motherwell easily springing to mind when we chalked up two fine wins. However we also lost points at Celtic Park and Tannadice when we lost a late silly goal on both occasions and came home with nothing.

Our form at home has been good as well despite a bad defeat by Dunfermline. Celtic and Rangers have also recorded victories here at Tynecastle which is so disappointing as we have to take points off the "Old Firm" as well as the Aberdeen's and Dundee United's. We have to be more consistent against the top teams or chances of honours soon disappear.

On the player front it's often unfair to single out individuals when all players play their part but the breakthrough of Scott Crabbe surely has to be the highlight of the season. The return of full fitness of Craig Levein and John Robertson is also another bonus and David McCreery has added a bit dig in midfield. But, always remember that it's a team game and the above mentioned players could not do a job without the support of their colleagues.

I welcome you to Tynecastle today as Celtic provide the opposition and another difficult ninety minutes is on offer. This will be our fourth meeting with the Glasgow club this season and I feel, despite the results, we have held our own in the previous games and been a bit unlucky especially in the Skol Cup match in August. I will be looking for the same kind of display in that particular match being maintained over the ninety minutes.

I hope you enjoy today's game.



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OUR VISITORS



Formed: November 1887
First Match: 28 May 1888
Ground: Celtic Park (opened 1892)
Capacity: 53,880 (9000 seats)
Pitch Size: 114 x 75 yards
Record Attendance: 92,000 v Rangers 1-1-1938
Founder Members of the League in 1890 (never relegated)
Chairman: John C. McGinn
Manager: Billy McNeill (since May 1987)
First Team Coach: Tommy Craig
Reserve Team Coach: Bobby Lennox
Colours: Green and White hoops
Nickname: The Bhoys
Captain: Roy Aitken
Club Sponsor: C.R. Smith
Most Capped Player: Danny McGrain (62)
Most League Points: 72 in 1987-88
Most League Goals in a Season (Player): Jimmy McGoroy 50 (1935-36)
Most League Goals in a Season (Team): 116 in 1915-16.
Record Victory: 11-0 v Dundee (League) 26-10-1895
Record Defeat: 0-8 v Motherwell (League) 30-4-1937
Highest Aggregate Scorer: Jimmy McGoroy 397 (1922-1939)

HONOURS

League Champions: 35 times
Scottish Cup Winners: 29 times
League Cup Winners: 9 times
Empire Exhibition Cup Winners: 1939
St. Mungo Cup Winners: 1951
Coronation Cup Winners: 1953
European Cup Winners: 1967

Premier Record

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
538	323	109	106	1073	519	755

Although the Celtic squad has been dramatically re-shaped this season with the introduction of Jacki Dziekanowski, Paul Elliot, Mike Galloway, John Hewitt and Dariusz Wdowczyk, there is no question of the Parkhead club accepting second best while the team goes through a transitional period. Accordingly, the men introduced have been quality players who are used to the big occasion and who can immediately produce the high standard demanded of those who wear the green and white shirts.

There have, of course, been temporary set-backs as players become accustomed to each others' style and while the impact of suspensions and injuries affect the team. Indeed, from late October to late November, Celtic only collected two points from five League matches. The Parkhead side also failed to score in three successive games - a rare event for Scotland's traditionally most attack-minded side.

However, despite this lean period, Celtic must be happy at the manner in which the new men have settled into the side and the team has overcome that difficult period of re-establish their Championship challenge. The Glasgow side are currently 3rd in the table and moving into top form. They have won their last 3 League matches and the goals are now beginning to flow. Aberdeen and Rangers may top the Division at present, but both are looking over their shoulders at Celtic's recent progress.

PAT BONNER: Goalkeeper. Age 29. Height 6'2". Born in Donegal. Signed in 1978 from Keadue Rovers, Pat made his debut in 1979 and has been a Celtic regular since 1980-81 season. An excellent all-round keeper who dominates his goal area and has the total confidence of his defensive colleagues. Pat is the number one choice for the Republic of Ireland.

CHRIS MORRIS: Defender. Age 25. Height 5'10". Born in Newquay. Fast and tenacious attacking full-back who is now a regular in the Republic of Ireland side due to his outstanding form for Celtic. Chris began his career at Sheffield Wednesday after winning Schoolboy caps for England and transferred to Celtic in the summer of 1987 for a bargain fee of £125,000.



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DARIUSZ WDOWCZYK: Defender. Age 27. Born in Poland. Strong and accomplished left-back who was a recent £400,000 signing from Legia Warsaw. Darak, as he is known, is the current captain of the Polish International side and has over 40 caps for his country. The classy defender also has an eye for goal and hit a sizzling 25 yard free-kick against Hibs earlier in the month.

ROY AITKEN: Defender. Age 31. Height 6'2". Born in Irvine. The backbone of the Celtic team – strong, experienced and an inspirational captain, who has a driving will-to-win. The former Celtic Boys Club player turned professional in 1975 and has featured in the Parkhead side since he was 16. Roy's recent request for a transfer must be a temporary misunderstanding. Has played 50 times for Scotland.

PAUL ELLIOT: Defender. Age 25. Height 6'2". Born in London. Rugged, commanding centre-half who has now established his position in the heart of the Celtic defence after recovering from several minor injuries early in the season. The English Under-21 Internationalist started his career with Charlton, moved to Luton in 1983 and then to Aston Villa for £400,000 in 1985. Paul then went to Italian club, Pisa, from whom he was signed for £600,000 by Celtic in July.

DEREK WHYTE: Defender. Age 21. Height 5'11". Born in Glasgow. Has the height, physique and ability to be a great central defender and has already earned 3 caps for Scotland. Although only 21, Derek has been in the Celtic squad since February 1986 when he made his debut against Hearts. He graduated from Celtic Boys Club in 1985.

PETER GRANT: Midfield. Age 24. Height 5'9". Born in Bellshill. Hard and aggressive ball-winner who is a perfect foil for Paul McStay in midfield and a key man in this important area for Celtic. Peter stepped-up from Celtic Boys Club in 1982 and his drive and consistency were recognised by full International honours at the end of last season. Recently returned to top form and must feature in Scotland's World Cup plans.

PAUL McSTAY: Midfield. Age 25. Height 5'10". Born in Hamilton. The man who makes things happen in Celtic and Scotland's midfield with his immaculate vision and passing ability. Paul also has a great right foot shot and is a regular goalscorer. Celtic's main playmaker was signed in 1981 from Celtic Boys Club and he has been a regular since his debut at Aberdeen in January 1982. Won his first cap at 18.

JACKI DZIEKANOWSKI: Forward. Age 27. Height 6' 0 1/2". Born in Warsaw, Poland. A skilful striker who has great flair and is one of the most popular players at Parkhead. The Polish International striker has now won more than 50 caps since he started his career with Stal F.S.O. He moved to Polonia Warsaw, Gwardia Warsaw, Widzew Lodz and Legia

Warsaw from whom he was signed by Celtic in the summer for £550,000. Has scored 12 competitive goals this season.

ANDY WALKER: Forward. Age 24. Height 5'8". Born in Glasgow. Bustling, all-action striker who was signed from Motherwell in the summer of 1987 for £350,000. Andy – who has gained one Full International cap – scored 8 League goals last season and has hit 5 so far this term. Celtic's penalty expert.

JOHN HEWITT: Forward. Age 26. Height 5'8". Born in Aberdeen. Quick and dangerous striker who established a record of scoring important goals – including the winner in the European Cup Winners Cup Final in 1983 – with his only other senior club, Aberdeen. The pacey forward moved to Celtic Park in September and is only now making his mark, due to a 2 month lay-off with a knee injury.

JOEMILLER: Forward. Age 22. Height 5'8". Born in Glasgow. Fast and skilful forward who can operate wide or through the middle. Joe began his career with Aberdeen on leaving school and made such an impact that Celtic paid £650,000 for his transfer in November 1987. The Under-21 Internationalist has hit 3 league goals so far this season despite missing several matches. Has great pace and ball control.

MIKE GALLOWAY: Midfield. Age 24. Height 6'. Born in Oswestry, Scotland Under-21 Internationalist who achieved a football ambition in June when he joined Celtic from Hearts for a £550,000 fee. Prior to his spell at Tynecastle, Mike played in England with Mansfield Town and Halifax Town. A hard-working, hard tackling and versatile player who can be effective in defence, midfield or at centre-forward.

TOMMY COYNE: Forward. Age 27. Height 6'. Born in Glasgow. Experienced striker who has previously played for Clydebank, Dundee United and Dundee. Tommy joined Celtic for £500,000 from the Dens Park club in March this year. He has scored 6 League goals for the Parkhead side this season – 4 against Hearts! Excellent in the air.

STEVE FULTON: Midfield. Age 19. Height 5'10". Born in Greenock. Strong and creative midfielder who was developed through Celtic Boys Club and who broke into the first-team squad at the end of last season. Steve was on the bench in the Cup Final which indicates how highly the youngster is regarded at Parkhead. Now in the Scotland Under-21 squad.

ANTON ROGAN: Defender. Age 23. Height 5'11". Born in Belfast. Hard working and positive full-back who joined Celtic in 1986 from Belfast Distillery F.C. The Northern Ireland Internationalist may struggle to make today's match after suffering a severe ankle injury against Dundee last weekend.

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WATER

Now that winter is upon us, the annual calls for summer football, winter breaks and undersoil heating are in full cry.

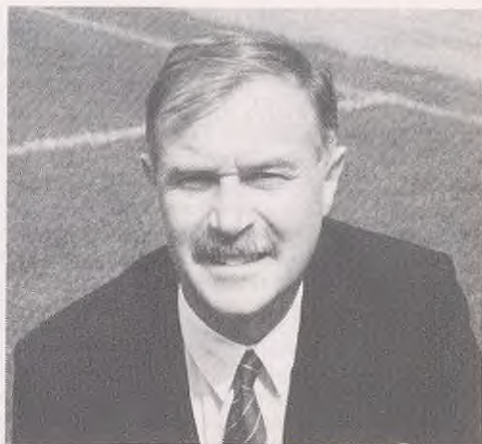
Let's take the undersoil heating situation first. Whilst it certainly is of benefit to a club, how many times is it required in a winter? How many have broken down? I can name a few, usually burst pipes. In our recent game at Tannadice, one side of the park was firm and I can recall a BP youth cup tie two seasons ago when the park was brick hard. At an estimated £500 a week to run, is it too expensive?

Take today's opponents Celtic, who played Dundee at Parkhead ten days ago. While most news bulletins advised people to stay at home, I was one of the 17,860 crowd daft enough to travel to this game. In normal conditions it takes me 50 minutes; that day it took 1 1/2 hours. Compare that crowd of 17,860 to their next lowest 23,100. More than 5,000 fans lost gave me the answer. Yes, a winter break. I know it is hard to predict just when to have this break, but we wouldn't be far wrong, stopping after the New Year Derby game until the end of February. If fixtures are missed in December, they are rearranged as happens now, last off first on basis. How about reversing the fixtures for the second half and restart with a Derby fixture? Imagine the build up. Summer football? Well if we did have the winter break, then we would obviously extend the season through May and June, probably the best two months for playing football.

Celtic travel to Tynecastle for this our fourth meeting of the season. The previous three were all nail-biting encounters. Who can forget that epic struggle when Celtic came from behind in regulation time to snatch a draw and we did likewise in extra time to force that dramatic penalty decider. Another epic encounter is anticipated, the winners being you the fans.

P.S. Groundsman (Question) "Wattie, just when do you expect me to fix the park?"

Wattie (Answer) "Remember Willie, it won't get in such a state with no games in January and February, and it starts growing again in the Spring." "NO PROBLEM"



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