

THE CLYDEBANK PROGRAMME SUNDAY 26/01/97

Clydebank v Celtic

at Firhill Park, Glasgow

Tennent's
Scottish Cup
Third Round
Clydebank
v Celtic



Official Match
Programme
Issue 12
Price £1



TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP 1996/97

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CLYDEBANK F.C. POSSIBLE LINE-UP

IAN MacFARLANE,

SCOTT MURDOCH, DAVIE IRONS, TOM CURRIE, GRAEME CONNELL,
GARY TEALE, DAVIE NICHOLLS, PAUL AGNEW, GARY BOWMAN,
JAMES GRADY, PAUL BROWN.

SUBS JOE ROBERTSON, STEVE McMAHON, JAMES MCKINSTRY,
SCOTT MILLER, DENNIS CONNACHAN.

CELTIC F.C. POSSIBLE LINE-UP

STEWART KERR,

TOM BOYD, STUART GRAY, MALKY MACKAY, JACKIE McNAMARA
PHIL O'DONNELL, PAOLO DI CANIO, PAUL McSTAY, DAVID HANNAH
PIERRE VAN HOOIJDONK, JORGE CADETE.

SUBS MORTEN WEIGHORST, TOSH MCKINLAY, ANDREAS THOM,
BRIAN McLAUGHLIN, SIMON DONNELLY.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

England

Newcastle v Notts Forest
Chelsea v Liverpool

Italy

Lazio v Bologna
Atalanta v Cagliari
Vicenza v Fiorentina
Verona v Milan
Napoli v Parma
Sampdoria v Perugia
Juventus v Reggiana
Piacenza v Roma
Inter v Udinese

Malta

Naxxar v Hibernians
Hamrun v Sliema

Republic of Ireland

Bohemians v Finn Harps
Bray Wanderers v St. Patrick's
Derry City v Shelbourne
Dundalk v UCD
Home Farm v Cork City
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

Spain

Compostela v Tenerife

Referee

J. Rowbotham Kirkcaldy

Linesmen

G. Hamilton Kilmarnock
K.J. Lowe Wishaw

CLYDEBANK F.C. 1996-1997

Directors: C.G. Steedman (Chair),
I.C. Steedman (Managing), C.A.
Steedman, C.L. Steedman, J.S.
Steedman C.B.E., J. Heggie, W.
Howat

Secretary: A. Steedman

Coach: Brian Wright

Assistant: Mark Treanor

Club Doctors: Stuart Hillis,
Andrew Renwick

Physiotherapist: Peter Salila

Registered Office: Burnbrae,
Milngavie, G62 6HX

*In 1996-1997 Home games are played
at Boghead Park, Dumbarton, and oc-
casionaly Firhill Park, Glasgow!*

TODAY'S THE DAY

KILBOWIE COMMENT

Using an old cliché - it is good to get a break from the league. The Scottish Cup adds a good bit of excitement when your team is struggling to gather points, the draw is the first step. When you are a club of our size there are a good number of "bad" draws.

Thankfully Celtic can be classified as a good draw. As a 'football' draw it is not exactly ideal. To play such a quality side is an awesome task. Funnily enough it is one our players over the years have enjoyed taking part in. If you have any ambition in football you must want to play the best. It used to be the best in Scotland - now it is becoming the best in Europe. Financially it promises to be a good draw. At the best of times that was a help, at the moment it is a godsend.

Over the years we have managed to earn the right to play Celtic a number of times. In addition we have had some cup-ties. The club has changed dramatically in recent seasons. If you look at how football has changed as a whole, that wasn't really hard to predict. The opening up of the club was essential for such an institution in Scotland. Celtic could never have died. The change seemed too messy but to combat the general football changes Celtic had to capitalise in its massive support.

It is only right that a club of Celtic's appeal provides a platform like the new Parkhead Stadium for the team to play in. With all the football laws changing, the supporters are becoming more and more important. In that respect that views of the owners of our principal clubs must be listened to too.

Celtic is a large entertainment centre way ahead of nearly all other Scottish clubs. What must be understood however is that is not the same task as putting players on the park. If Scotland has any chance of

breeding it's own talent it must have a system that includes places to play. Surely the aim should be to produce players from our own country who can be good enough to play at Parkhead or Ibrox? No matter how much Rangers or Celtic put into their youth set-ups the bottom line is that only eleven can turn out on a match day. When you take away possible overseas players the number becomes very small indeed. Is there anything wrong in players starting out elsewhere and finding their way at the correct time to these bigger clubs?

It may seem that this advocates just a feeder system. You must be realistic. If a player was good enough in the past it was difficult for Aberdeen, Kilmarnock, Hearts, Hibs etc. to hold onto him - now it is virtually impossible. What we need is competition from these other clubs. What Celtic/Rangers must accept is that the obvious arguments about the interest in their own clubs being so much greater than any other is too simplistic. It is the price of being the biggest and the best. They need competition. We all need to bring on better players. In a professional game, that costs money. Despite the overseas players, Celtic and Rangers have still as many from other Scottish clubs - as players brought from their youth policies. In football that is not a criticism. It is a backing for my argument that it is very difficult for Celtic and Rangers to breed players good enough for their operations.

The nature of a players development has been shown over the years to favour things, like a regular first team game. Surely it is in everyone's interest to work together and use all our assets and enthusiasm to ensure the game flourishes in the future.

By an official of Clydebank F. C.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of Part II of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995.

TEAM NEWS

This afternoon we welcome Celtic and their supporter's to our second adoptive home of the season for what is sure to be an interesting game. The Scottish cup match will give both teams a break from the pressures of their respective league campaigns, for quite different reasons.

Celtic, as we are never failed to be reminded are chasing their old rivals for the Premier Division title, whereas Clydebank are engaged in a minor struggle to try and survive in the First Division, until the new ground is built.

As you can read elsewhere in the programme, Clydebank have failed in five previous attempts to beat Celtic in the Scottish Cup, so hopefully it will be sixth time lucky this afternoon. Celtic have a long and proud history in the Scottish Cup, but surely there would be some poetry in a Clydebank victory today!

For the visit of Celtic this afternoon Clydebank have a couple of players suspended but that apart they are as near as full strength as they can be. The two players out are key ones. Kenny Brannigan who completes his two game sentence this week after missing the game at Dundee last week. He will be missed in the centre of defence. Also missing from the defence will be Paul Lovering who will miss the next game after this as well. Paul is one of those players who referee's seem to pick on - he is a whole-hearted player whose enthusiasm knows no bounds. The joke sending off at Love Street did not help matters.

That apart Scott Murdoch and Paul Agnew seem to have shaken off their niggles and will be available for selection today, as will Jim Brown, the big centre forward signed after his one half trial at Firhill on New Years Day. Jim was signed from Petershill Juniors, and had previously been on the books of Blantyre Vics. He has previous senior experience having played against the Bankies a number of years back for Clyde, when they were domiciled here. Paul is 28 and we wish him well in his Bankies career.

Signed on Monday night after his trial

game last Saturday at Dundee, was 22 year old Dennis Connachan. Dennis, who played at full-back was on the books on Benburb, and had been watched by Clydebank for some time, and no doubt would have been signed before but has had to struggle with injury. Dennis is no stranger to the Bankies having previously played for the Reserves, he had a decent enough debut, but for one small error. Dennis is the son of his father, who was one of the many players who were back-up to Jim Gallacher over the years, playing for the reserves in the mid-1970's, previously being on the books of Celtic and a couple of other teams. We wish Dennis well in his Clydebank career.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Bankies have a busy few weeks coming up. Next Saturday, 1 February we 'entertain' Airdrie at Boghead in a crunch game which we must win to get out of the precarious position we are in. Having beaten St. Johnstone, St. Mirren and Morton this season it shouldn't be beyond us, although they do seem to have a hex over the team at the moment. The following Tuesday, 4 February the Bankies entertain St. Johnstone in the twice postponed league match at Boghead. That is followed by the vital trip to Bayview, Methil on Saturday, 8 February for the crucial game with East Fife. Which is immediately followed by the rearranged game with St. Mirren on the Wednesday 12th February, which will see some people having to rush back from Monaco. Why it couldn't wait another week..... That is followed by the Fourth Round of the Scottish Cup so let's hope we get a decent draw.

THAT'S THAT

Scott Murdoch played his 150th game for the Bankies when he played in the Bankies last home game, a month ago, against East Fife. Scott who has been with the club, on and off since 1987 was been plagued by injury and has missed half of this season. Hopefully now he is clear of injury and the next 150 don't take so long.

Gary Bowman, one of Clydebank's young stars should have the opportunity to make his 100th appearance for the club, since signing up in March 1994.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY

PROGRAMME NOTES

Just to avoid confusion this is programme number 12 this season. The last one issued was number 9 against East Fife, but since then number 10 against St. Johnstone and number 11 against St. Mirren, have altered the sequence. A limited number of these will be available at the next Bankies home game against Airdrie. New programmes will be produced for the re-arranged games.

At away games Bankies supporters were hit with three double issues over the festive period, at Cappielow, Firhill and Brockville.

Today's programme, has been produced with some different coloured covers, as well as a limited number being produced this morning with the up-dated Scottish Cup results and the Fourth Round draw.

SECOND CLASS CITIZENS

Up at Dens Park on Saturday, Clydebank supporters were treated like second class citizens. Being papped into the farthest corner of the maintain with a chronically inhibited view. The chief steward (?) put the blame on the directors of Dundee, but it seemed truly bizarre the club employing six stewards to police two empty sections, and then complain that they did not have adequate numbers to allow the Bankies supporters to move up the way to a more advantageous view-point. You just wonder what would happen if the Bankies were ever to reciprocate such poor treatment!

BUS TRAVEL

The next away game, allowing for Scottish Cup replays, is at Bayview, Methil on 8th February. The bus that day leaves at 12.30. After that the next away game is in March.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Every Tom, Dick and Harry seems to have a player of the year award just now, and somehow Ronaldo creeps into every one of them. Why? In 1996, he barely played half a seasons worth of football! Anyway, Fish would sort him out!

M.B.E. (MOSTLY BORING EMETIC)

One of the many sycophants in the seemingly puerile world that passes for the Scottish football

media had a cheap and uncalled for dig at one of Clydebank's own founders, Jack Steedman, a couple of weeks ago in the Sunday Mail, not a "paper" I read these days, but I was referred to the matter by a concerned supporter. Normally we would not deign his outburst with comment, but it did occur to us that Jack Steedman was awarded a C.B.E. for his services to Scottish football. The day McNee is similarly rewarded then we will consider his opinions worthy of reading. But as it is we are awarding him our first brickbat of 1997. We pondered long and hard over what to call it, but we were inspired by Robert Wyatt's song title from years ago, "Born Again Cretin". If you want to collect the award Gerry you can do so any time after a Clydebank home game, in the Stags Head, Dumbarton. If not we will erect it in a suitable place at New Kilbowie for you. We will also continue not to read the paper, or listen to his emetic outpourings on the box.

ipso facto

Three teams exist from the original 16 that took part in the Scottish Cup: Queen's Park, Kilmarnock and Dumbarton.

Five Dumbartonshire teams have reached the semi-final stage of the Scottish Cup, Dumbarton, Vale of Leven and Renton, who have all won it: both Helensburgh and most recently Clydebank, failed at the penultimate hurdle.

Renton were the first Second Division side to reach the Final, in 1894-1895.

Apart from Clydebank and Dumbarton, the last Dumbartonshire team to play in the Scottish Cup was Vale OCOBA - Old Church Old Boys Association!

Clydebank have now played Celtic at four different grounds in their six Scottish Cup meetings, Celtic Park, Hampden Park, New Kilbowie Park, and Firhill.

* Duntocher Harp, Dalmuir Thistle, Clydebank (1), Clydebank (2), Clydebank (3), E.S. Clydebank, Yoker, Clydebank Athletic, Duntocher, Old Kilpatrick: all from teams from present day Clydebank have competed in the Scottish Cup at some stage!

BANKIES PEN PICS

Paul Agnew is a 24 year-old who signed in June 1994 from Arthurlie Juniors. His form when he has been fit to play has been a revelation this season, being one of Clydebank's most effective performers. That fitness proviso is highlighted by the fact that he has just made 36 appearance for the club up to last Saturday in the two and a half season he has been with the club. That being said he has played most games this season and the winter lay-off means he has not missed as many games as he would have. Could be a vital cog in the Bankies firmament as they try to eclipse Stirling Albion in the battle for survival, three points in the league next Saturday will be more vital to the club's future than a win today.

Gary Bowman is an exasperating talent. A player of outstanding natural ability but he never seems comfortable in the role he has been allotted in the game. Gary is a defender who can attack or a midfielder who cant seem to defend. Gary is now 22 and an educated boy, who always seems as if he is on the verge of being a great player. He excels in all departments and can beat a man with embarrassing ease. Should be playing his 100th game today, having barely missed a game since being called up from Knightswood Juvs. His day will come.

Jim Brown is the Bankies most recent signing. Bankies have sought after a big, physical centre-forward for a while and Jim seems to fit the bill. At 28 he is making a return to the Senior game having been Junior with Blantyre Vics and Petershill (we hope he joined after they became known as Petershill) for much of his career. Was previously Senior with the Bully Wee, and vividly recalls being in a tussle or three with Jim Gallacher.

Graham Connell has now played over 50 games since joining the Bankies from Ipswich Town at the start of last season. Graham has been used in a number of roles this season, but he is capable of performing at a high level wherever he is put. A combative player, he scored his only goal of the season so far, at Firhill on New Years Day, and a stoater it was too. Graham is 22 years old.

Tom Currie who at just 26, has just three players older than him today in the Bankies line-up illustrating the youthful nature of the team. Only Scott Murdoch has played more games, of the current team, than Tom, who has 123 games under his belt. Tom has been called upon to fill a number of roles this season, and has acquitted himself. Normally a central defender he has played in both back positions this season.

One James Grady. James was signed from Arthurlie on the same day as Paul Agnew. James will be all out to put one over his favourite team this afternoon. James has scored 29 goals in his 105 games for the club so far, but has struggled slightly this season, missing a decent foil for his game. A huge favourite, despite his diminutive stature, and his size should not fool anyone, as Falkirk found out recently.

Davie Irons was originally with the Bankies ten years ago but went on to play for Partick Thistle, Dunfermline and St. Johnstone. At going on 36 he is the veteran in the

team, and he has been allowed the rare luxury of being able to carry on playing, alongside his new role as the Community Coach for South Ayrshire in the S.F.A.'s scheme. Has scored eight goals in his total of 91 appearances for the club and returned last March.

Ian MacFarlane is the third person to have been in goals for the Bankies this season. Signed in an exchange with landlords Dumbarton for cash and young Derek Barnes. Pulled off a quite superb save in the dying minutes of the Bankies game, at Brockville, on the 4th of this month. Has only played five games since signing on 14 December, and only one of those has been at home. Before the Sons he was with Hamilton Accies.

Steve McMahon is the lanky Bankie. Steve who is approaching 27, was signed from crap English team, Darlington in August this season. A much travelled player, he has only recently started to win over the Bankies support. Has now played in 20 games for the club and scored three goals.

Scott Miller was signed up from Shettleston in October 1995, from where he was farmed out. Scott is just 21 and has played 17 times for the Bankies, although he has only started five games. Has yet to score but the lad from Balornock is very capable and given a chance he will come good

Scott Murdoch originally signed for the Bankies in 1987, went away in a huff and spent some time with St. Rochs, before returning in 1992. Of the current crop of players he has played most games in Clydebank colours with 151 appearances. Has been prone to injury and has missed most of this season. Apparently back at a respectable level of fitness. Roguish character who plays in the centre of defence but has also played in midfield.

Davie Nicholls is the current midfield powerhouse, with great ability, accurate passing and a deadly finish. Davie was signed from Cork City at the start of the 95/96 season and has been a regular ever since. Has scored six 'Beckham-esque' goals in his 63 games, he missed only one league game last season and is one of four ever-presents this season, with Currie, Bowman and Irons.

Joe Robertson, is now 19 and signed up from Clydebank Boys Club in May 1995. A delightful player to watch, he has played 57 games and scored eight times, although his appearances have mainly been limited to the bench this season. Nicknamed "Dressage" for obvious reasons. Joe has much potential and it would be nice to see it flourish.

Gary Teale is another with great potential. Gary is the only full-time player on the club's books at the moment, causing problems in training, which has seen him training with another Glasgow football team not represented here today. Capped at Under-21 level for Scotland, he has missed three Clydebank games this season to represent his country, otherwise he would be another ever-present. Has scored three goals in his 41 games but has created many more. One to watch.

David Hardie, James McKinstry, Billy Melvin are about the only other players Clydebank have available today.

BANKIES V CELTIC (SCOTTISH)

As a treat here is a look back at the last five times the Bankies have met Celtic in the Scottish Cup.

Some names to conjure with there! Andy Roxburgh, Kenny Dalglish, Jim Gallacher, Jim Fallon, Mike Larnach, legends all.

THREE DAY WEEK

Sabbatarians are little heard of these days and probably would not be heeded anyway, but back in 1974 when Clydebank first met Celtic in the Scottish Cup there was a wee bit of an uproar, because the Third Round tie was going to become one of the first Senior games of football in Scotland to be played on the Sabbath. The reasons behind it were simply political. And not worth going into just now. Suffice it to say, the game was a novelty and attracted much media attention. And not just because it was Celtic.

Clydebank had met East Stirling in the First Round. The game was at Firs Park on 24 December 1973, and ended up a 0-0 draw. The replay was the next day (think about it), in a game that attracted a paying crowd of 133, but the Bankies won with the solitary goal. The Second Round saw Clydebank take two games to oust Clachnacuddin.

So on Sunday 27 January Clydebank travelled to Celtic Park for only the second time in their short history. A crowd of 28000 turned up to witness the strange spectacle that was Sunday football. One report at the time referred to the fact that some spectators were moderating their language due to the fact that it was a Sunday. Tommy Callaghan erred on the ball, and someone apparently shouted out, "Oh, you duck egg" (Must remember that and that Gerry McNee is the 'me mop panda').

Anyway, the game was over within five minutes, really, as Dixie Deans had scored twice by that stage, and after that the goals came for Celtic in a steady flow. Bobby Lennox in the 28th minute. Deans with his third in the 39th to make it 4-0 at the break. Bobby Lennox got a second ten minutes into the second half. And Vic Davidson completed the Glasgow team's scoring in the 65th minute. The one way traffic had perhaps not allowed for an entertaining spectacle, but that was unsurprising as Celtic were going to go on to win their ninth league title in a row, and Clydebank were in a humble position in the old Second Division. Nearly forgot - Clydebank scored the proverbial consolation goal. In the 89th minute when Jim Brogan handled the ball in the box preventing Joe McCallan from scoring, Jim Fallon stepped up to convert the spot-kick.

The Clydebank team that Sunday was: Jim Gallacher, Davie Mitchell, Gregor Abel, Billy Fanning, Jim Fallon, Ward White, Andy Roxburgh, Sammy Henderson, Mike Larnach, Billy McCall and Ian Currie. The subs were Ian Law and Joe McCallan.

Celtic that day: Ally Hunter, Danny McGrain, Jim Brogan, Pat McCluskey, Billy McNeill, Davie Hay, Harry Hood, Tommy Callaghan, Dixie Deans, Kenny Dalglish and Bobby Lennox. The subs were Pat Wilson and Vic Davidson.

IMMORTAL MEMORY

Bankies met Celtic the next season, 1974-1975, the last season of the two league division set-up. This time they had halved the number of Five teams in the Cup by beating Cowdenbeath in the Second Round, and First Division Dunfermline in the Third.

The Fourth Round tie was again at Celtic Park, this time on Saturday 15 February, and it was to be a much improved performance by the Paper Hankies.

The Clydebank line-up was: Jim Gallacher, Norrie Hall, Gregor Abel, Jim Fallon, Billy Fanning, Dougie Hay, Davie Cooper, Sammy Henderson, Mike Larnach, Joe McCallan and Peter Kane. The subs were Ian Law and Jimmy Caskie.

Celtic fielded a younger team than was usual: Graham Barclay, Danny McGrain, Pat McCluskey, Murray, Roddy McDonald, George Connelly, Harry Hood, Jackie McNamara, Dixie Deans, Kenny Dalglish and Paul Wilson. Jimmy Johnstone and Tommy Callaghan were the subs.

Clydebank got off to a roaring start winning three corners within the first three minutes and generally the Bankies were the superior team in the early part of the game. Bankies astonished everyone but themselves when in the 26th minute Fallon cleared the ball up the park and keeper Barclay and McDonald cocked up the clearance and left the Bankies Blond, Joe McCallan to tap the ball home. Things were looking good for the Bankies, but their hopes were to be deflated by the break. McNamara *per* equalised in the 37th minute and two minutes before the turn that man Dalglish scored a fine goal. And then a minute later the new Newcastle manager scored his second. Bankies were two down at the break but they were not out of it. Clydebank gave a good account of themselves in that second period, but Celtic were too organised and alert to the dangers posed by Messrs Cooper, Larnach and McCallan. McDonald atoned for earlier sins by scoring a gratuitous fourth with minutes to go.

It was to be a measure of how well Bankies were shaping up that from a 6-1 defeat in 74, to a 4-1 defeat in 75, that by 77 the Bankies were fielding a team capable of taking on and beating Celtic. One further thought - after the game Jock Stein, not one to praise lightly stated that Clydebank "were a very capable side. I saw that against Dunfermline (in the previous round) and it was confirmed by this tie". Some current managers may care to learn from a master and acknowledge the fact that football is about two teams, not just their own.

ENGLISH GIRL NAMED SUE

Bankies third encounter with Celtic was the only one up until today (?) to be a home match. The Third Round draw had sent the tie to New Kilbowie Park and a

BANKIES V CELTIC (SCOTTISH)

capacity crowd of 9950 turned up.

The Clydebank eleven that afternoon was: Jim Gallacher, Mark Treanor, Tony Gervaise, Jim Fallon, Billy McGhie, Jimmy Given, Gerry Ronald, Martin Hughes, Bobby Williamson, Tommy Coyne and Gerry McCabe. The team was Pat Bonner, Danny McGrain, Mark Reid, Roy Aitken, Tom McAdam, Murdo MacLeod, Davie Provan, Paul McStay, Charlie Nicholas, George McCluskey and Frank McGarvey.

The game apparently was a bit one-sided with Celtic dominating throughout, with Clydebank seemingly incapable of putting their passing game together. Celtic's goals came from George McCluskey in the 20th minute and two from Nicholas in the 65th and 87th minute. It was the first time that Murdo MacLeod had played on a winning side at New Kilbowie Park.

(With a former friend, I had to stand outside a television shop in Cardiff city centre to watch the scores on the teleprinter. Somehow I was not surprised with the result but the disappointment was there. That evening did go much better tho')

ROUND FOUR

Bankies again travelled to Celtic Park in 1988-1989 in the Fourth Round of the Scottish and that was the fourth meeting of the clubs in the tourney. Once again Bankies were to be thwarted by the team in hoops, but once again they didn't disgrace themselves.

Jim Gallacher, Mark Treanor, Tom Spence, Joe Dickson, Stewart Auld, Paul Harvey, John Davies, Scott Murdoch, Ken Eadie, Tommy Bryce and Owen Coyle completed the Bankies starting line-up. Jim Hughes replaced Tommy Slicc.

The Celtic team was: Pat Bonner, Chris Morris, Anton Rogan, Roy Aitken, Mick McCarthy, Peter Grant, Billy Stark, Paul McStay, Frank McAvennie, Mark McGhee and Tommy Burns.

Clydebank started off quite well but in the 20th minute were a bit shoddy in defence and allowed current Celtic manager Tommy Burns to score an easy goal. Their lead lasted only a dozen minutes until Tommy Bryce coupled was coupled to earn a penalty, which Mark Treanor duly scored. But the teams were only level for a couple of minutes until Celtic's current assistant manager, and Clydebank resident, Billy Stark scored. Ken Eadie had a golden chance to equalise before the break but he was premature and Bonner cleared the danger.

Burns and McAvennie added another two in the second half to take the final score to 4-1. The game was somewhat spoiled by the referee, McCluskey of Stewarton (sounds like a dodgy butcher) booking Scott Murdoch and Joe Dickson for nonsensical challenges on McAvennie.

SEMI HARD

The following season Bankies again played Celtic in the Scottish cup and to-date that was the last time the clubs met. In the process leading up to the tie Clydebank

defeated Albion Rovers at Coatbridge, took two games to beat Premier Division St. Mirren, and then another two games to dispose of Stirling Albion, in the Quarter Finals.

It was the first time Clydebank had been in a Scottish Cup Semi, and to date it is one of only three national semi finals they have taken part in. The crowd that day 34768 was and is the biggest Clydebank have in front of.

The team that Clydebank's support got behind that day was: Jim Gallacher, Joe Dickson, Jim Rodger, John Maher, Sean Sweeney, Jon Crawford, Paul Harvey, John Davies, Ken Eadie, Tommy Coyle and Pay Kelly. The subs were Bryan Smith for Crawford and Harry, Oh Harry, Harry, Caffrey for Jolly.

Celtic's XI was: Pat Bonner, Chris Morris, Dariusz Wdowczyk, Steve Fulton, Mike Galloway, Derek Whyte, Peter Grant, Paul McStay, Dariusz Dziekanowski, Andy Walker and Joe Miller.

For one of the bigger games in Clydebank's history it was to prove to be quite a disappointing one. Celtic scored through Walker in the 11th minute, and despite not scoring again to the 85th minute through the same player, Clydebank were never really able to threaten the Celtic defence. Maybe it was the occasion but the Clydebank team that had played such free-flowing football all season failed to click on that particular afternoon. The game was at Hampden Park and McCluskey was the referee again.

SIX SIX SIX

So we come to today and the visit of Celtic to play Clydebank at our current home in the city. We will now have played both members of the so called old firm this season, and both times here at the home of Partick Thistle. It will be an interesting comparison, both games. Clydebank must have a good chance of winning today, Celtic's expectations are so high that they cannot possibly be realised.

It was only when I started typing this that I realised that this will be the first time we have played Celtic in the Cup without the services of Jim Gallacher in goals. Jim still helps out at Clydebank, often sent on spying missions, so it is certain that Clydebank will be well briefed on the obvious strengths and less well documented weaknesses of the Celtic team.

It would be a bit of a coup to win, and we certainly need something to bring a little light into our lives as football supporters right now. We are looking at a precipice, so hopefully today's match is a piece of ...

Bankies will surely rise to the occasion and my fixed odds' money is on a Clydebank win. Hopefully I will be a bit richer after the game and if I am I will be able to go out and use my new word. Any kind of result and we will go out and rubricate Glasgow, or Clydebank or wherever.

Whatever happens let us all hope it is a game to be remembered for the finer things in football.

DECALOGUE

30

Glossing over the Scottish Qualifying Cup of 1965-1966 when, let's say, Clydebank failed to qualify for the Scottish Cup proper, the Bankies first competed in the nation's premier trophy in season 1966-1967, after their admission to the Scottish League. On 17 December, 1966, the Bankies travelled up to Mackessack Park, Rothes, to play the local Highland League team. The First Preliminary Round draw had also included such teams as Elgin City, Chirnside, Hawick Royal Albert, Bankies previous nemesis, Gala Fairydean, and Vale of Leithen. But it was up to whisky country to meet Rothes for the Bankies.

The team bus had left the burgh at an ungodly hour that same Saturday, and it may have been tiredness that caused the Bankies to struggle that afternoon. The Bankies XI was Sandy McLaughlin, Graham Small, Davie Mitchell, Ernie Colymbine, John McGill, Tommy McGhee, Arthur Rankin, Eddie Jenkins, Frank Russell, Tony Moy and Billy McCallum. Jim Wark was the substitute. Rothes' team was Thomson, Gallagher (Scott), Rolish, Shirreffs, McLean, Cornie, Hay, Todd, McRae, Robb and Middler.

In a match that saw both sides fail to play a decent level of game, the description most commonly used was 'scrappy.' Rothes had set out to keep themselves in the game at half-time and then to hope for a winner in the second. Their plan did little to enhance the game but by the 48th minute it seemed to be coming together for Todd scored an extremely fine goal to give the Highlanders the lead. They then lost defensive stalwart Gallagher with a head injury. The scheme of things was altered when Rankin popped up to score the equaliser just 11 minutes later. Subsequently he was booked, by Mr. Crockett of Dundee, after a tussle with Cornie, the referee finally losing the place with the 'wild kicking' that was going on throughout the match. The local supporters in the crowd of 500 were upset when the official awarded a penalty to the Bankies in the 80th minute. Tony Moy, the Bankies top scorer, had been bearing on goal when the keeper felled him. The striker got up and taking the kick himself, coolly slotted the ball home and that took the Bankies into the Second Preliminary Round.

The Second Preliminary Round saw the Bankies paired with County rivals Dumbarton, at Boghead Park. In the League the clubs had met twice, firstly in September at New Kilbowie when the Sons had won 3-1. The New Years game at

Boghead, five days before the Scottish Cup match had seen the teams draw 2-2. Bankies lined-up: Sandy McLaughlin, Graham Small, Davie Mitchell, Ernie Colymbine, John McGill, Tommy McGhee, Arthur Rankin, Eddie Jenkins, Frank Russell, Tony Moy and Billy McCallum. Jim Wark was the substitute. The game was as poor as that of the previous round, this time the Bankies went behind in the first half, by the margin of two goals, and the Sons, in front of a crowd of 4958, seemed to settle for that. The Bankies could not do a thing to break down the Dumbarton defence, and the game ended up 2-0 in favour of the team from the County town. It was a disappointing start to Bankies Scottish Cup career. Dumbarton went out at the hands of Partick Thistle in the next round. Celtic won the trophy that year.

20

Twenty years ago the Bankies strung together one of their better runs in the Scottish Cup when they went all the way from the First Round to the Fourth Round, meeting teams from all three Scottish League Divisions as well as a non-league team. The First Round saw Clydebank travel up to the Kingdom of Fife to play Cowdenbeath on Wednesday 22 December 1976, three days before the game that produced the most disgraceful crowd scenes ever witnessed at New Kilbowie, until the visit of Dundee, coincidentally also in the Scottish Cup. Bankies supporters of a certain age will relish the memory of the Clydebank team that took the field that winter night: Jim Gallacher, Norrie Hall, Gregor Abel, Jim Fallon, Billy Fanning (Gerry McLaughlin), Tommy Callaghan, Davie Cooper, Billy McColl, Mike Lamach, Joe McCallan and Jim Lumsden. Iain Browning was the unused sub. Cowdenbeath fielded: McPheat, Jones, Breen, Simpson, Rutherford, Reid, Morrison, Harley, Campbell, Hunter and McPaul. A paltry 758 people saw the game, contributing £252 to the clubs' coffers.

The game itself was in the best traditions of cup football. The Fifer's opened the scoring after half an hour when Bobby Morrison got the ball past Gallacher who had been a doubt before the match. Jimmy Lumsden hit a fine reply just four minutes after that to level the scores at the break. After the switch Gregor Abel scored a rare goal. Unfortunately for him it was an own goal after he blasted the ball past a helpless 'Gal.' Bankies struggled to get back on terms, but Joe McCallan eventually balanced the game with a looping header that left McPheat

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aghast. But Cowden kept on coming and Harley scored 12 minutes later to give the Central Park side the lead for the third time. And for the third time the Bankies came back, only five minutes later. Tom Callaghan headed the ball on to Gerry McLaughlin who had the simple task of putting the ball in the net. With the score at 3-3 with 10 minutes left all was to play for. Davie Cooper obviously did not fancy a replay for his cross was so accurate in the 83rd minute that Joe McCallan could not fail to score, putting the Bankies into the Second Round of the Scottish Cup.

That Second Round between the Bankies with the Champions of the East of Scotland League, Selkirk. On Saturday, 8 January 1977 the Borderers travelled up to Clydebank full of expectation of an upset. Along the same lines Clydebank were as follows: Jim Gallacher, Norrie Hall, Gregor Abel, Jim Fallon, Billy Fanning (Dougie Hay), Tommy Callaghan, Davie Cooper, Billy McColl, Mike Larnach, Joe McCallan and Jim Lumsden. Selkirk: McMenemy, Welsh, McFadzen, Bell, MacDonald, Fairgreive, Watkins (Kerr), Tait, McConnell, Dick, Hastie (Barr).

On a chilly January afternoon Selkirk's keeper, McMenemy earned himself the Man of the Match ratings with an outstanding performance. Bankies won the game 2-0, with goals from Gregor Abel, making up for his prior error with a header from a Lumsden free, in the 35th minute, and Tommy Callaghan, with a glorious 20 yarder, in the 68th minute. But those goals were the Bankies only reward, when in actual fact they could comfortably have won 8-0. Clydebank's reward was another away trip, this time to Douglas Park, Hamilton.

The game was scheduled for 29 January, but the weather put paid to that plan, and it went ahead on the following Wednesday, 2 February, 1977. Clydebank made one change: Jim Gallacher, Norrie Hall, Gerry McLaughlin, Jim Fallon, Billy Fanning, Tommy Callaghan, Davie Cooper, Billy McColl, Mike Larnach, Joe McCallan and Jim Lumsden. Dougie Hay and legendary Gerry Ronald were the subs. The Accies lined-up: Ferguson, Drew, McMillan, Lynch, Dempsey, McCroghan, Young, Robertson, Lawson, Fairlie and McDougall. Their subs were Campbell and McDougall. The crowd of 4259 watched a game that saw only two chances, one to each side, neither scoring and a replay was set for the following Monday.

On 7 February, at New Kilbowie Park,

Bankies exhibited the class that was sustaining at the top of the First Division. Bankies made a couple of changes: Jim Gallacher, Norrie Hall, Gregor Abel, Jim Fallon, Billy Fanning, Dougie Hay, Davie Cooper, Billy McColl, Mike Larnach, Joe McCallan and Gerry Ronald. Gerry McLaughlin and Alan Munro were the subs. The Accies lined-up: Ferguson, Drew, McMillan, Lynch, Dempsey, McCroghan, Young, Robertson, Lawson, Fairlie and McDougall. Their subs were Campbell and McNicol.

The game was evenly poised for the first twenty minutes, and then Clydebank scored and went in to overdrive. A Gerry Ronald cross found the willing and extremely capable Joe McCallan waiting to execute a perfect header to set the Bankies off. Davie Cooper was in his glory and his relentless probing and prodding caused the Accies havoc. Bankies had only that one goal to show for their 25 minutes of dominance that half. They did however add two in the second period. Six minutes after the break Davie Cooper crossed, and McCallan headed, not at goal, but flummoxed every one by setting up Billy McColl to nod home. McCallan got the third with a minute to go. Gregor Abel, again, hammered the ball goal-ward, but the bar came to Ferguson's rescue, but the ball fell at McCallan's feet, and he did not miss those. To make things worse Clydebank beat Hamilton, at Douglas Park, the following Saturday in the League.

The prize draw in the Fourth Round was a trip to Tynecastle to play Heart of Midlothian. Once again the settled Bankies were on similar lines: Jim Gallacher, Norrie Hall, Gregor Abel, Jim Fallon, Gerry McLaughlin, Tommy Callaghan, Davie Cooper, Billy McColl, Mike Larnach, Joe McCallan and Jim Lumsden. Gerry Ronald replaced Lumsden. Hearts had: Cruickshank, Kay, Burrell, Brown, Gallacher, Fraser, Bannon, Busby, Gibson, Park, and Prentice. The crowd of 13,618 paid £7112 to attend the match. As an example at today's prices that sort of crowd would generate around £175000!

Bankies dominated their Premier Division opponents by possibly one of the simplest football tactics ever devised - Clydebank's class players kept it simple, kept the ball to themselves and seldom gave away possession. As the sides went in at half-time it was the home eleven who appeared to be the more relieved. Eighteen minutes into the second half Hearts took the lead through Drew Busby who netted with a glorious header. With fifteen minutes to go a replay looked on the cards when Cooper

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drifted in a cross and Joe McCallan, normally so deadly, cracked a superb volley that was destined to go in until Cruickshank somehow pulled off a wonderful stop. Bankies were defeated and deflated but their performance had impressed many.

10

A decade sounds such a long time ago, but ten years is not really that long. The Third Round draw for the Scottish paired Clydebank with Falkirk. The previous season had thrown-up a similar draw and over two games it was the Stirlingshire side who qualified.

Once again it took two games to settle the contest and happily there was to be a different outcome. The original game on 31 January had fallen victim to the weather but the game went ahead at Brockville on Tuesday 3 February. A crowd of around 3500 witnessed a turgid display of Scottish Cup football with neither side looking like be capable of scoring, never mind coming close to scoring. The Clydebank line-up that night was: Jim Gallacher, Joe Dickson, Mark Treanor, John Maher, Stewart Auld, Sammy Conn, Jamie Fairlie, Davie Shanks, Lex Grant, Michael Conroy and Jimmy Given. The subs were Billy McGhie and Davie Irons. Falkirk's starting eleven were: Walker, Martin, McCormack, Dempsey, Manley, MacLeod, Hetherston, McGuire, Eadie, Ashwood and Gilmour. Their subs were Kemp and Hughes.

The replay took place at New Kilbowie Park on Monday 9 February, and the game was to prove the exact reverse of the first game. The referee Mr. K. Hope of Glasgow, had inspected the pitch twice before passing it fit. Clydebank, unusually, adapted to the conditions as did Falkirk and served up a feast of flowing football. There were minor changes to the line-up: Jim Gallacher, Joe Dickson, Jim Rodger, Mark Treanor, Stewart Auld, John Maher, Jamie Fairlie, John Davies, Lex Grant, Michael Conroy and Sammy Conn. Again Davie Irons was a sub. The Bairs were: Walker, Martin, Kerr, Purdie, Manley, MacLeod, Hughes, McGuire, Eadie, McCormick, Gilmour. The subs were Kemp and Hetherston.

The game started off at a rare pace and at times was a bit tousy. After 32 minutes John Maher lofted a free-kick and Sammy Conn was on hand to head the ball past the shortbread man, Nicky Walker. Almost immediately the ball was up the park and somehow Manley was able to deflect the ball past 'Gal' to level the scores. Five minutes later

Fairlie proved instrumental in setting up Auld for another header and the Bankies were 2-1 up at the interval with all to play for. Davie Irons, who will probably be playing for the Bankies today sealed the victory with an excellent goal in the 68th minute after he had come on as a sub. There were only 1627 at the game to see the Bankies qualify to meet another fellow Premier Division side Hibernian at New Kilbowie. In the Falkirk line-ups were two players who would go on to play for the Bankies - Jim Hughes and Ken Eadie, one of the greatest in the pantheon of Bankies heroes.

Hibernian arrived at New Kilbowie on Saturday, 21 February, 1987, a week after winning 4-1 at Easter Road, in the Premier Division. It did not augur well for the Bankies but it was the Cup. Just quarter of an hour into the match the Bankies were one up. The diminutive Stuart Gordon scored a superb goal that proved to be the only count of the match, although he did have another one knocked off 20 minutes later for an alleged handball. The team that took Clydebank into the Quarter-Finals was: Jim Gallacher, Joe Dickson, Jim Rodger (Jimmy Given), Mark Treanor, Stewart Auld, John Maher, Jamie Fairlie, John Davies, Stuart Gordon (Alshy Bain), Michael Conroy and Sammy Conn. The defeated Hibebees were: Rough, Hunter, Mitchell (McBride), May, Rae, McIntyre, Weir, McCluskey (Irvine) Cowan, Chisholm and Collins. The gate was 6437 and the takings were £18000.

Clydebank were paired with their third Premier Division side, Dundee. The Bankies that lined-up on 14 March, were essentially the same: Jim Gallacher, Joe Dickson, Jim Rodger (Michael Conroy), Mark Treanor, Stewart Auld, John Maher, Jamie Fairlie, John Davies, Stuart Gordon, Davie Shanks and Sammy Conn. The Dundonians were: Geddes, Shannon, McKinlay, Glennie, Smith, Duffy, Forsyth, Brown, Mennie (Rafferty), Coyne, Wright (Harvey). The crowd of 5222 saw Dundee rip the Bankies apart. Keith Wright in the fifth minute, Tommy Coyne in the 18th and John Brown in 22 and 83 sorted the Bankies cup pretensions out for that season. The referee Mr. J. McCluskey of Stewarton booked three Clydebank players, Treanor, Maher and Rodger, and according to one report they committed nary, a foul between them. Personally, I do not know. *(I avoided every Bankies Cup that season because I thought I was going to be a jinx. Instead I went to the hospital to see my new born nephew, who will be ten next month. It's not such a long time ago really. Only yesterday....)*

CELTIC PEN PICS

Pen pics are a bit unnecessary for Celtic given the constant exposure given to them and Rangers in the Scottish media, but they may be useful for some of the more discerning supporters - this realisation came a fortnight ago when because of being in the wrong place at the wrong time I had the misfortune to witness the debacle that Rangers called training. It took a ten year old boy to tell me who most of the players were - my campaign to reduce my exposure to the inanities of Scottish football reporting had worked too well. So for my benefit here we go.

Tom Boyd made his senior debut for Motherwell away back in 1983-1984 and subsequently played over 250 league games for the Lanarkshire side before he moved to London, England, to play for Chelsea in 1991-1992, but his stay in the capital was short lived, playing only 23 league matches for them before returning north to join Celtic, with whom he has played approaching on 200 games. An accomplished Scottish internationalist full-back.

Jorge Cadete was born in Mozambique when it was still a Portuguese colony, in 1968. Starred for Sporting Lisbon before signing for Celtic last March. An internationalist, with a proven scoring record, although it took him some time to settle into Celtic's way of things. Takes tips from Gerry McCabe, in the hairdressing department.

Paolo Di Canio signed in the summer from the Italian football team that started out as a cricket club, AC Milan, the man with the golden boots will be 29 in the summer and in his seven months at the club has established himself as a bit of a star.

Simon Donnelly was 22 last month and graduated to the first team via the club's impressive youth set-up. Has now played approaching 100 games for the club since making his debut in 1993-1994.

Peter Grant, had his testimonial last week with a game against Bayern Munich. Made his Celtic debut back in 1983-1984, and has been a Celtic stalwart since. Effective, aggressive midfielder player. Stuart Gray was born in Harrogate, England and has been with Celtic since July 1992. Stuart was 23 last month. His appearances with Celtic have been limited so far, probably being one of those players who suffers because of his versatility.

Chris Hay was born in Glasgow and made his debut in 1993-1994 after signing in May 1993 from Celtic feeder, Giffnock North. Has yet to make a serious impact in the first team.

Stewart Kerr made his Celtic debut in goals earlier this season and has grasped the opportunity and impressed many people so far this season. Young, at 22 for a premier keeper, but has shown a remarkable maturity.

Malik Mackay was signed in 1993 from Queen's Park and has struggled for a game since then but has made a number of appearances this season in the centre of defence.

Thomas McKinlay, better known as Tosh, made his debut for Dundee back in 1982-1983. Now 32 he was on Dundee's books for eight seasons, before spending five at Hearts before moving to Celtic in November 1994. A Scottish internationalist.

Brian McLaughlin is now in his fifth year with the club and has made over 50 appearances for Celtic. Tricky player who is not a stranger to the score-sheet despite his wide role.

Jackie McNamara *fls* was signed in October 1995 from Dunfermline Athletic. A good defender, now 23 years old, with consistency as one of his major strengths.

Paul McStay has been troubled with injury of late but has joined that rare breed of player who has made over 500 league appearances for just one club. A valuable player for Scotland on his day, but now at 32 will have an eye on the future.

Phil O'Donnell was bought for a huge sum from Motherwell in September 1994 but his burgeoning career has been hindered by injury. A player of undoubted ability who will be looking to maintain a respectable level of fitness.

Alan Stubbs is yet another English born player, purchased for megabucks in the summer from Bolton Wanderers, where he had made over 200 appearance since making his debut in 1990.

Andrea Thom was signed in August 1995 from TSV Bayer 04 Leverkusen. Scored five goals in his 32 league games last year but has surpassed that this season.

Pierre Van Hooijdonk is turning out to be a prolific scorer having notched 26 in the league last season, and a dozen so far this season despite his far too well documented problems. On the fringes of the Dutch national squad.

Morten Wieghorst was signed in December 1995 from Dundee, causing a bit of a surprise to some. Made over 100 appearances for the Dens Park side after signing from Lyngby in his native Denmark in 1992. The midfielder will be 26 next month.

DUMBARTONSHIRE CUP

The formula for the eighth Dumbartonshire Cup, 1891-1892, was more chaotic than in the past few seasons. This time around there were just thirteen teams in the draw, eleven of those battling through the "qualifying" rounds to go in to the Semi Finals with Vale of Leven and Dumbarton. Methlan Park got a bye into the Second Round and so the other 12 ten teams scrapped out the First Round. The bigger teams had tried to push through an early form of seeding to avoid having to play the wee teams, but that proposal was defeated at the A.G.M. in the Lennox Temperance Hotel in September.

There were no real surprises in the First Round and only one tie was not settled at the first attempt: that between Clydebank Athletic and Jamestown; the tie proved to be an epic, although mainly for the wrong reasons. The first meeting of the clubs had the game end in darkness, and the match abandoned. The replay at Clydebank was played as a friendly, as the referee failed to turn up. But the game was settled after the 'third' game.

FIRST ROUND

31.10 Clydebank v Duntocher Harp	3 v 1
31.10 Dalmuir Thistle v Bowling	6 v 1
31.10 Old Kipatrik v Union	1 v 6
07.11 Clydebank Athletic v Jamestown	2 v 2
14.11 Smithston Hibs v Kirkintilloch A.	10 v 2
21.11 Jamestown v Clydebank Athletic	4 v 1

The Second Round saw six teams battling it out for the remaining two places in the Semi Final. One would go straight through and the other two would meet in another round to decide the final four teams. As it was Smithston Hibs, from Townhead, Kilsyth were the lucky ones, beating Clydebank by the odd goal in seven. The Irishmen went straight into the Semis but Methlan Park and Dumbarton Union had to play-off in the Third Round for that privilege.

SECOND ROUND

21.11 Smithston Hibs v Clydebank	4 v 3
21.11 Dalmuir Thistle v Methlan Park	2 v 3
05.12 Jamestown v Dumbarton Union	3 v 3
12.12 Dumbarton Union v Jamestown	2 v 0

The Third Round saw another three match tie. Union and Methlan Park met at Union's St. James's Park in a 2 v 2 draw. The replay at Upper Woodyard Park saw a similar result. The third game was settled at St. James's Park with Methlan Park winning 4-2.

THIRD ROUND

30.01 Dumbarton Unn. v Methlan Park	2 v 2
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06.02 Methlan Park v Dumbarton Unn.	2 v 2
27.02 Dumbarton Unn v Methlan Park	2 v 4

Once again the Semi Final draw kept the big two teams separate. The first tie to be played was that between the Vale of Leven and Smithston Hibs. The team from Kilsyth played well and at the break it was suggested that they had played quite well and were looking worthy Semi Finalists.

It all went horribly wrong after the break... Vale scored within a minute through Fleming, and nine minutes later McClafferty added another. After that the Hibs keeper, Ireland, lost the plot and was sent-off for 'insolence'. Hibs lost another player, through injury when Drain had to go off near the end, when he was winded blocking a shot.

In the other Semi Final Methlan Park failed dismally to make an impression on their bigger neighbours. They were trailing 4 v 0 at the break.. by full-time the Sons had more than doubled that to make it 9 v 0.

SEMI-FINALS

27.02 Vale of Leven v Smithston Hibs	2 v 0
12.03 Dumbarton v Methlan Park	9 v 0

DUMBARTONSHIRE CUP FINAL

Dumbarton 2 Vale of Leven 0

April 16th, 1892 at Boghead Att. 3000

Dumbarton: McLeod, Stewart, A. Miller, Smith, Boyle, Keir, Taylor, Thomson, J. Miller, McNaught, Bell.

Vale of Leven: McLintock, Hutchison, Busby, Tait, Nicol, Ker, Cowan, Logan, Fleming, Rankine, McClafferty.

For the fourth time, in the eighth Dumbartonshire Cup, Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven were contesting the Final. It was to prove Dumbarton's fifth win, fourth in a row, and Vale's fifth Final defeat.

The game was all over by the break with the Sons two goals up. The first came from J. Miller who scored with a 20 yarder in the 35th minute. The second came from the proverbial scramble, five minutes later, although Boyle was instrumental in the goal. The second half was evenly balanced but contemporary reports suggested that Vale never looked like scoring.

As a footnote to the Final. It was refereed by Mr. Oliver - the President of the Dumbartonshire F.A. His lines were run by his Vice President and the Association Treasurer. An interesting concept! Unlikely these days!

CLYDEBANK FC 1914-31

In the 1950's the local Clydebank paper carried a history of the first Clydebank team to play in the Scottish League. We complete our serialisation with this instalment of that history.

SENIOR FOOTBALL IN CLYDEBANK (When the Bankies packed up)

The critical position of Clydebank towards the close of 1930 - they had not won a game all season, and in November they had the unenviable distinction of being the only senior team in Britain without a win - was having a most depressing effect. Though they showed some improvement later, and were re-elected to the Second Division the following May, it was decided to withdraw and senior football in the county was represented by Dumbarton.

The thirteenth League match still proved unlucky, another of those one goal defeats, by Montrose, but Stenhousemuir, Third Lanark and St. Johnstone piled on the agony and it was not until the beginning of December that Bankies got their first brace of points against Alloa.

On December 20th, they beat King's Park so that 1930 was finishing with only two home victories. Would the luck turn with the advent of 1931. It did, temporarily - a win against St. Bernard's on New Year's Day and a 2-0 win against Dumbarton. Soon after this the club sustained a blow of a different kind - President T.M. Colquhoun passing away, undoubtedly one of the club's staunchest supporters and most energetic officials.

In January the Bankies were drawn against St. Mirren in the Scottish Cup. they fell 3-1 but received a three figure cheque as a consolation. A series of league defeats followed by Arbroath, Queen of the South and Dunfermline then the next six games ended in wins against Albion Rovers, Armadale and Montrose and reverses at the hands of East Stirlingshire, Stenhousemuir and St. Johnstone.

At the end of March the Bankies had five games to play - four at home, and there were high hopes sufficient points would be gathered to avoid being in the position to seek re-election. They faded and in the final fixture of the season were defeated 5-1 by Raith Rovers.

Rumours of all kinds were in circulation, but in June it was announced they had been re-elected to the Second Division.

A strange secrecy still prevailed - no news of the Bankies intentions were forthcoming and an enquiry appeared in the columns of the Press on 24th June as to the future. As there was no definite information the paper wrote "could Secretary T.N. Downie oblige with an official statement".

The issue of July 3rd, contained the following:

"So Clydebank has resigned from the Second Division and the city press is all putting it down to trade depression.

Perhaps, yet at local intermediate grounds crowds up to 10,000 have attended. No, there are other reasons and if the Directors had put on the field a team which was a winning one, the gate could easily have met expenses and left a balance.

The mistake can be traced back to 1926 when Clydebank had regained promotion to the First Division. Instead of strengthening the eleven to suit the calibre opposed, the management preferred to attempt the impossible with the inevitable result - lost games diminished interest and smaller attendances. Trade depression was unknown in the district in 1928 season and yet the Bankies were struggling to make ends meet.

Admittedly the intermediate opposition is strong, and the 6d gate a powerful counter-attraction, but a winning senior team would have commanded support for there is a large football public in the district from Whiteinch to Dumbarton, which could have come and have come - to see the men of Clydeholm if and when they delivered the goods."

And that was the end of Senior football in Clydebank.

As suggested in the last programme there were a number of parallels between the stories of both the present and past Clydebank F.C. Some are so obvious as to make painful reading. Lessons can always be learned and hopefully the future of Clydebank F.C. is more assured in the hands of the current Directors than that of the previous incarnation at Clydeholm.

As Hank Williams put it - a house without love is not a home - a town without a football team is just a shopping centre

MATCH REPORTS

Scottish League First Division

Match No. 14 16/11/96

Clydebank 1 - 3 Partick Th.

Clydebank: Matthews, Currie, Connell, Irons, Brannigan, Nicholls, Miller, Templeton, Grady, Robertson, Bowman. Subs McMahon for Miller, Murdoch for Robertson, Hardie for Templeton.

Partick Thistle: Hillcoat, Milne, Stirling, McDonald, Farrell, Watson, Evans, Maskrey, Adams, Moss, Lyons. Subs Henderson for Maskrey, Turner and Docherty not used.

After a good first half the Bankies let three valuable points out of their grasp, in a game which saw three players booked on each side with barely a foul committed in it.

Bankies went ahead with a superb strike from Davie Nicholls, a goal that would be a goal for most seasons.

But three second half counts from the Keelies and a penalty miss added to the Bankies dire predicament.

A makeshift Clydebank team saw a trialist used, and young David Hardie called up from his Junior team.

There were a disappointing 1750 supporters at the game, and the Jags certainly had a poorer support than normal.

BANKIES MAN OF THE MATCH

James Grady for a tireless and heartbreaking unlucky performance.

Scottish League First Division

Match No. 15 23/11/96

St. Johnstone 2 - 0 Clydebank

St. Johnstone: Main, McQuillan, Davidson, Sekerlioglu, Weir, Griffen, Dasovic, Tosh, Grant, O'Boyle, Jenkinson. Subs: Scott for Sekerlioglu, Preston for Jenkinson, O'Neil for Tosh.

Clydebank: Matthews, Currie, Connell, Irons, Brannigan, Nicholls, Teale, Agnew, Grady, McKinstry, Bowman. Subs Robertson for Grady, Murdoch and Miller not used.

Bankies lost two first half goals and lost the match 2-0. It was a disappointing Bankies performance and there was little to cheer about. Saints scored through the prodigious Roddy Grant in the 21st minute and then a dodgy goal by George O'Boyle sealed the Bankies fate in the 39th minute. The infringement was clear for all to see. Kenny Brannigan was booked for a soft challenge. James McKinstry marked a reasonable full debut, but he definitely looked to need some games under his belt.

The difference between the teams was that Saints took their chances - Clydebank didn't. The only consolation on a miserable day was that Stirling also lost. It has come to this.

BANKIES MAN OF THE MATCH

Kenny Brannigan had an exemplary game, proving a solid and reliable performer in the heart of defence.

ipso facto

Celtic first competed in the Scottish Cup in season 1888-1889 (the same as the first Clydebank). Clydebank were put out in the First Round by Vale of Leven Wanderers, but Celtic went all the way to the Final, beating Shettleston, Cowdairs, Albion Rovers, St. Bernard's, Clyde, East Stirlingshire and Dumbarton to get there. Third Lanark won 2-1 at Hampden.

This programme was produced for and on behalf of Clydebank F.C.
The views expressed are not necessarily those of the club, players, officials or the writers.

Typed, written and edited by
Frank Cameron

A Risingest Burgh Production 1997