



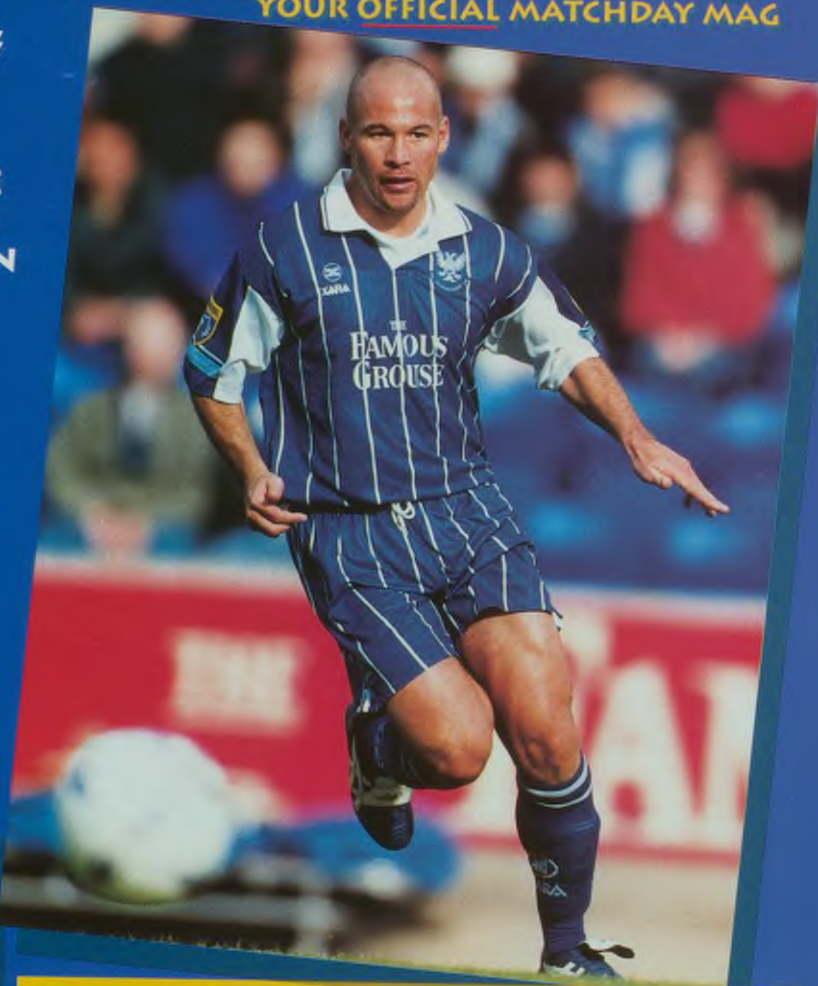
Super

SAINTS

YOUR OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAG

Inside this week

- **FACE TO FACE WITH ALAN KERNAGHAN**
- **AROUND GROUNDS - PITTODRIE**
- **THE GREAT SAINTS - TOMMY CAIRNS**



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every success for
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PA SPORT: Match Reports and Previews Tuesday and Friday

SAINTSVIEWS

Well, what with Christmas deadlines at the printers and everything else (office parties etc), this programme is being written before the visit to Tannadice. Consequently, we don't know if Christmas was a time of rejoicing or misery.

What we do know is that the game against Kilmarnock was, to put it mildly, dire stuff. In the end justice was seen to be done and a draw was a reasonable result. However, if this is the kind of fare we are going to be served until the end of the season, then the sooner there is a Top Ten Breakaway the better.

One bright light from the Killie game was the form of new boy Tommy Wright. His pace, direct running and willingness to have a pop at goal whenever there was an opportunity bodes well for the future.

Most pundits expect that teams such as St Johnstone and Kilmarnock will feature

in many such games before the season is out. It is said that these are the matches which Saints have to win if we are to have any hope of staying up. Not for us the joy of drawing with Rangers! Yet the ability to take points off the Old Firm may be critical before next May. Other clubs, deemed fellow strugglers, have already drawn, or even won, against Celtic and Rangers. It would be nice if St Johnstone could emulate those such as Dunfermline, Aberdeen and Motherwell. Thus far, we have done better against the 'lesser' teams than against the Old Firm. If Saints really want to ensure that their stay in the Top Ten is permanent, then at least once a season we shall need a victory over Rangers and Celtic. Today would be a good day to start, but with Celtic playing well it will be far from easy. Happy Christmas!

St Johnstone FC

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Today's Squads

St Johnstone

Main
Griffin
Davidson
Dasovic
Kernaghan
Weir
Tosh
O'Neil
Kane
O'Boyle
Preston
Wright
Jenkinson
Grant

Celtic

Gould
Boyd
Mahe
McNamara
Rieper
Stubbs
Larsson
Burley
Lambert
Blinker
Donnelly
Brattbakk
Jackson
Wiegthorst

Today's referee is **Sandy Roy** with linesmen
Tom Brown and **Willie Weir**.



A
winning
combination.



CELTIC

Celtic last visited McDiarmid Park four months ago. Their first visit was in the Third Round of the Coca Cola Cup - a trophy they went on to win. This success has given further encouragement to the team after a sticky spell in the League. Celtic's League results were poor at the beginning of the season as Wim Jansen's new team took a while to gel. However, he has introduced new players slowly and this seems to be bearing fruit. For instance, Marc Rieper's introduction in September, after months of speculation, has made a difference to the defence where he has teamed up with Alan Stubbs, who has made an impressive recovery from injury.

The two players have formed a good bond and both players have also scored some important goals, such as the one that Marc scored in the Coca Cola Cup final which relaxed the team and opened the floodgates for more goals. Alan Stubbs has scored two goals this season but they were important ones: the first was an away goal in the UEFA Cup against Tyrol and the second was a last minute equaliser against Rangers in the League. Henrik Larsson has scored 14 goals but the club are still looking for an out and out striker and, hopefully, for Celtic, Harald Brattbakk will fill that gap. Certainly his performance in his debut against Hearts was impressive. Harald moved from Swedish team Rosenborg where he had scored 127

goals from 148 games, including the Champions League. Paul Lambert moved back to Scotland, after playing for Borussia Dortmund for 15 months, to play for Celtic in November. Good news for Celtic is the quick return to the first team of Darren Jackson who had to



Marc Rieper

undergo brain surgery four months ago and was not expected to be back in action before the New year. Morten Wieghorst has also come back into the reckoning with his excellent performance in the Coca Cola Cup final when he dominated the midfield. By the time you read this Morten should have a new contract with the club. Jonathon Gould has impressed the

Celtic supporters and given his career a jump-start with his performances so far this season. He has been rewarded for his shut-out displays by a new contract which will last until the next century.

Peter Grant left Celtic, after 15 years at Celtic, to move to Norwich City for £200,000 in August. Stuart Gray moved to Morton on a three month loan in October. A couple of months ago youth coach Danny Crainie left, followed by assistant general manager Davie Hay.

Fergus McCann plans to leave Celtic in 1999 but hopes to complete the stadium with a new west stand named after Jock Stein and increase the capacity to 60,000 by next summer. The new stadium would have the highest capacity in Britain for a club stadium.



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SAINTS SOCCER SNIPPETS

Ton Up For Jim Weir

Jim Weir made his 100th appearance for Saints against Kilmarnock two weeks ago. 'Whispering Ted' is one of the most popular players at Saints for ages and we look forward to recording his 200th appearance in our colours!

George moves up

As we mentioned in the last programme, George O'Boyle and Roddy Grant had reached joint

sixth place in the all-time Saints' scorers list.

George's penalty against Kilmarnock takes him into sole ownership of the sixth spot (unless Roddy has done anything sensational at Tannadice).

And the moral is...

Those of you who were at the last home match, against Kilmarnock, will have seen debutant Tommy Wright being booked for allegedly tackling a dive when tackled

by Gus McPherson. Our spy on the park tells us that the two players were actually laughing together about the incident afterwards. Apparently, McPherson, fearing a booking for his initial, robust challenge on Wright, stayed down after the tackle, hoping to avoid a booking himself. Much to his amazement, it was Wright's name which was recorded in the Ref's wee black book!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

1998 Coach Education Programme **E (EARLY TOUCHES)** **CERTIFICATE COURSE**

Course outline

This course is designed to assist anyone, 16 years of age and over, who works with children aged 5 to 12 years in a football, physical education or activity context.

Course Content

- 1) a 6 hour practical session £15
- 2) a 2 hour Working with Children Module £10
- 3) a 2 hour Basic First Aid Module £10

Each course member will receive an Attendance certificate for each element of the course and full certification on completion of all three.

Course materials

- 1) 40 Minute Video
- 2) Booklet
- 3) Module Handouts

Venues

Modules at McDiarmid Park on 4th & 11th February. Practical sessions at Kilgraston School on 5th & 12th February 1998.

COACHING YOUNG FOOTBALLERS' CERTIFICATE COURSE

Course Outline and Content

This course is designed to assist anyone, 16 years of age or over, who works with children aged 5 to 12 years in a football, physical education or activity context. Course members must have completed the E (Early Touches) Certificate Course. The format of the 12 hour course includes:-

- 1) Coaching demonstration by course tutors

- 2) Delivery of coaching sessions, in pairs, by course members

Course Cost
£30

Course Materials

- 1) Video
- 2) Booklet
- 3) Course Handouts

Venue

Kilgraston School on 12th, 19th, 24th & 26th March 1998.

On completion of the above two programmes, coaches are then eligible to attend the SFA Children's Licence which will be introduced in 1998.

Saints Football Fours

We are introducing 4-a-side football in 1998 for boys and girls born in 1989 to 1990.

This is in addition to our successful SAINTS SOCCER SEVENS which will continue on Mondays at McDiarmid Park.

SAINTS FOOTBALL FOURS will be on Wednesdays between 4.30 and 6pm. Fifteen sessions are planned from March to May and from August to October and they will consist of a warm-up, a game and calm down.

7-a-side football for young players is proving to be of great benefit with frequent touches of the ball and greater repetition of basic soccer situations. With even less players involved in 4-a-side, each player can expect to improve very quickly and enjoy each game in a realistic, friendly environment.

FOR INFORMATION ON ANY COMMUNITY FOOTBALL EVENT, CONTACT ATHOLL HENDERSON, SFA COMMUNITY COACH, ST JOHNSTONE FC, McDIARMID PARK, PERTH. TEL 01738 626961.

FACE TO FACE WITH

Alan Kernaghan may not be with Saints by the time you read this. His three month period on loan from Manchester City was due to end after the Dundee United game, although the day after we spoke he had an appointment with Frank Clarke, the City manager, to see if a move north could be made permanent. He has made it clear that he would be happy to extend his stay at Perth, even if it means reducing his income considerably. St Johnstone, believe it or not, cannot compete with Manchester City when it comes to salaries, but it is nice to know that when it comes to all-round team spirit and camaraderie the current McDiarmid dressing room takes some beating.

One thing was clear from our conversation. Alan Kernaghan comes across as much more intelligent than the average footballer! Whether this is reflected in paper qualifications, I didn't enquire, but it was apparent that here is a man who talks clearly and concisely about his sport, without descending to those mundane clichés so beloved of the media. We began with that most boring of initial questions...

Q. Where were you born, and what was your early football experience?

AK - "I was born in Otley, in Yorkshire, by the famous Ilkley Moor, but we moved to Northern Ireland very soon after and I stayed there until I was about 16. I played schools football in Northern Ireland, and played in international schoolboy games for the Republic. When I was sixteen, I signed for Middlesbrough, where I stayed for ten superb years. Then four years ago I went to Manchester City."

Q. Why was your time at 'Boro so enjoyable?

AK - "It just was great. I was there through some real period of adversity, including the club becoming virtually bankrupt, but there was a great bunch of

lads and wonderfully passionate fans."

Q. What were the local derbies for Middlesbrough?

AK - "We had two, against Sunderland and Newcastle."

Q. Have you played in the Manchester derby, and how does it compare to the Teeside/Tyneside contests?

AK - "I've played against Manchester United and the atmosphere is great, but it's very different from the Middlesbrough v Sunderland or Newcastle games."

Q. Who do you particularly remember from your time at Middlesbrough?

AK - "When we were struggling, I recall that Bruce Rioch and Colin Todd were in charge. They played a central role in turning around our fortunes on the playing field. We also had Tony Mowbray at the centre of defence and his spirit epitomised 'Boro in those days.'"

Q. What went wrong at Manchester City - not as regards your own circumstances, but as regards the club as a whole?

AK - "I'm not sure. The fans are great at away games, but they're not always so good at home. The pitch is too big - that doesn't help, because when the team loses a goal their heads go down and they end up chasing all over the park. Psychologically that isn't good."

Q. How did you come to end up at Saints?

AK - "I'd had loan spells at Bolton and Bradford and when you're in that situation, you simply get a phone call asking you if you want to speak to another manager. St Johnstone had called Frank Clarke and when he asked me if I was interested in coming here I'm afraid that my first reaction was, 'where are they?' Frank said, 'they're in the Scottish Premier', and I had to explain that I meant where in the country were they!"

Q. Hadn't you played at McDiarmid in a pre-season game for Middlesbrough?

ALAN KERNAGHAN

AK - "Yes, I think I did. Some pre-season match rings some bells, but I obviously didn't remember where it was played! Anyway, once Frank had spoken to me, Paul Sturrock called me in the evening. I remember it was about 9.00 pm and he asked if I could be in Perth for 9.00 am the next day. I then made my debut against Rangers although I didn't know anyone in the side. It was a case of 'my ball' and 'give it here', but I soon discovered everyone's name."

Q. Had you played against any of the Rangers' players in England?

AK - "In my very early days at 'Boro, I'd played against Gazza when he was a youngster at Newcastle. He was just the same as he is today - a good laugh and a great lad."

Q. It has been widely publicised that you are very happy at Saints. Is this true?

AK - "Yes. I'm thoroughly happy here. The whole place is great, everyone is very honest and the players give their all every time they play. Not only that, but everyone at the club, at every level, has been fantastic."

Q. A lot of the players have said that the dressing room atmosphere at McDiarmid is excellent. How does it compare to the English clubs you've been at?

AK - "It's certainly louder. I think that's a Scottish thing. At Saints we all slag each other off all the time. You couldn't do that in England. You'd upset some of the egos."

Q. I know this is an old chestnut, but how

do you find Scottish football compared to English?

AK - "It's not as bad as people make out. There's some very good players in Scotland. The Rangers players could handle themselves anywhere and although I haven't played against Celtic I can see that their players have lots of quality."

Q. Are there any specific players outside the Old Firm who have impressed you?

AK - "Billy Dodds is quite a handful and Tommy Coyne is one of the most intelligent players I've come up against. Tommy has given me more trouble than most."

Q. What about our own players. Who could make it in England?

AK - "Phizzy looks a good prospect. He came back into the side after injury and took several games to get going, but he's been looking likely to score in almost every game recently. Alan Main is another good player. For a defender it is great to have a keeper who can kick the ball as well as Alan. I haven't seen enough of Callum, although I'm trying to arrange a game of golf with him. I was looking forward to getting a game of golf in Scotland: I brought my clubs but haven't had a chance to use them!"

Q. And finally, have you met Oasis on the back of the City connection?

AK - "Yes, several times at games at Maine Road. They're just ordinary lads, albeit with lots of money. I get the impression that they are sometimes uncomfortable if they're invited to the Directors' Box. They've been brought up as ordinary supporters and are quite genuine in their affection for the club."



Alan Kernaghan

IT'S A GOAL!

As promised, we are now looking at the first fifty goals scored by St Johnstone in the Premier League in home matches. The first came, of course, from John Muir in the first ever Saints Premier game, against Dundee United on the 30th of August 1975. It wasn't until the 1st of December 1990 that we scored our 50th home Premier goal. The scorer was a well-known Celtic supporter, Alan Moore.

The goal itself came in a match against Motherwell, which Saints won 2 - 1, with our other strike that day coming from another 'Tic



Alan Moore

fan, Harry Curran. The Saints side that afternoon was: Hamilton, McGinnis,

Baltacha, Cherry, Inglis, Davies, Moore, Curran, Maskrey, Grant and McVicar, with Turner and MacDonald on the bench.

If my memory serves me correctly, Moorie's goal was a header from a corner - something which you don't see everyday from a player of his stature. I also seem to recollect that he left Tommy Boyd standing on more than one occasion that afternoon. Perhaps Alan Moore has slowed down a bit since then.

Today's contest between Messrs Jenkinson and Boyd might be instructive!

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The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years.

Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementations of the Taylor Report recommendations.

The Trust has distributed over £67m of pools derived income for the benefit of Scottish football at all levels. Four new grounds have so far been built and over 50 new and refurbished stands have been made possible thanks to the vital contribution of the Trust and the determination of clubs throughout the Scottish Football League.

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing CCTV and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators to enjoy. The Government's commitment to the vital work of the Trust will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game. The Football Trust will continue to support football in Scotland.

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Saints player sponsors, 1997-98

Player/Sponsor (at 15th December)	1997-98		Career	
	App	Goals	App	Goals
Paul Sturrock (Grassicks Garage)				
Gordon Brown (Perth Labour Party)	0	0	(1)	0
Nick Dasovic (Roselynn & Graeme Reid)	7(1)	0	22(1)	0
Callum Davidson (The Dewar Family)	11	0	39(5)	3
Gary Farquhar (Gail Schofield)	3(2)	1	31(23)	6
Roddy Grant (H G Stewart, Ch. Surveyors)	10(8)	3	192(39)	70
Danny Griffin (PhD Recruitment)	10(2)	1	72(15)	2
John Hollis	0	0	0	0
Leigh Jenkinson (The Dewar Family)	9(2)	0	54(5)	8
Paul Kane (Jeanfield Saints Supporters)	10(3)	0	10(3)	0
Alan Kernaghan	11	1	11	1
Charlie King	0	0	2(3)	0
Kieran McAnespie (David Anderson, Luxury Private Hire)	(1)	0	1(10)	2
Stuart McCluskey (Stuart Cosgrove)	8(1)	0	19(6)	1
Marc McCulloch	0	0	0	0
Michael McDowall	0	0	0	0
John McQuillan (The Ashvale Fish Restaurant)	19	0	90	2
Alan Main (The Blair Family)	19	0	119	0
Stuart Malcolm	0	0	0	0
George O'Boyle (Harry Taylor & Co, Ch. Surveyors)	15(3)	6	124(6)	71
Keith O'Halloran (C.Garvie & R. Mackie)	8(8)	1	12(9)	1
John O'Neil (Duncan Dow)	12(2)	3	117(8)	18
Stewart Orr	0	0	0	0
Allan Preston (Liam Fehilly)	14(4)	1	104(26)	7
Stephen Robertson (Joyce Brown)	0	0	5	0
Philip Scott (The Blair Family)	15(2)	1	113(18)	33
Attila Sekerlioglu (A & L King, Auchterarder)	11	0	59(2)	9
Daryn Smith	0	0	0	0
Steven Tosh (Donald Houston)	4(4)	1	39(14)	6
Jim Weir (The Schofield Family)	10	0	100	3
Andy Whiteford (Jim Masson)	0	0	12(5)	1
Tommy Wright	0(1)	0	0(1)	0

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Kilmarnock game

Daily Record: "Killie had enough pressure to win the match." "Saints gaffer Paul Sturrock was furious with his side's display.... He said: The players have to learn they can't start in a low gear."

Glasgow Herald: "It (Wright's

booking) was one of the more interesting moments in a match devoid of excitement and entertainment."

Sun. Telegraph: "A plethora of poor passing and uninspiring play must have had many wishing they'd gone Christmas shopping after all."

SAINTS STATISTICS - SAINTS STATISTICS - SAINTS STATI

Premier Division Table

Season 1997-98 (at 14th December)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	17	12	1	4	37	18	37
Rangers	17	10	6	1	42	18	36
Celtic	17	11	2	4	29	12	35
Dundee Utd	17	5	6	6	27	25	21
Dunfermline Ath	17	5	6	6	21	32	21
St Johnstone	17	5	5	7	18	24	20
Kilmarnock	17	5	4	8	16	33	19
Motherwell	17	4	4	9	21	29	16
Hibernian	17	3	5	9	23	27	14
Aberdeen	17	2	7	8	17	33	13

Half Time Quiz

- for real anoraks of all ages - some easy, some impossible!?

1. What American team did Wim Jansen play for?
 2. Who is the manager of Fulham?
 3. How many teams has Wim Jansen been head coach for, including Celtic?
 4. What colours did East Germany wear?
 5. With which club did Jonathon Gould start his senior football career?
 6. What is the nickname of the South African national football team?
 7. Where was Regi Blinker born?
 8. How long has Matt le Tissier been at Southampton?
 9. How many teams, apart from Celtic, which were founder members of the League are still in existence?
 10. Where do Bristol City play?
- Answers on page 30

St Johnstone FC - fixtures and team-lines, season 1997-98

Date	Opponents	Result	Att.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	16
2 Aug	DUNDEE UNITED	1-1*	6,592	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Sekerlioglu	Weir	Griffin	Scott	Tosh	Ferguson	O'Boyle	Jenkinson	Preston	Grant(9)	O'Halloran(10)
9 Aug	CLYDE (CC Cup2)	3-0	2,943	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Kane	Weir	Griffin ¹	Scott	Tosh	Grant	O'Boyle ²	Jenkinson	Preston(3)	O'Halloran(8)	Monachino
16 Aug	Motherwell	1-0	5,036	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Sekerlioglu	Weir	McCluskey	Scott	O'Halloran	Grant ¹	O'Boyle	Jenkinson	Kane(8)	Ferguson(9)	Preston(11)
19 Aug	CELTIC (CC Cup 3)	0-1(aet)	7,488	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Sekerlioglu	Weir	McCluskey	Scott	O'Halloran	Kane	O'Boyle	Preston	O'Neil(9)	Farquhar(7)	Grant(11)
23 Aug	CELTIC	0-2	10,265	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Sekerlioglu	Weir	McCluskey	Scott	Kane	O'Boyle	Preston	Griffin(6)	O'Halloran(4)	McAnespie(11)	
30 Aug	Dunfermline	2-2*	6,354	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Sekerlioglu	McCluskey	Griffin	Scott	O'Neil	Kane	O'Boyle ¹	Preston	O'Halloran	Tosh(8)	Grant(9)
13 Sep	HEARTS	1-2	5,836	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Sekerlioglu	McCluskey	Griffin	Scott	O'Neil	Grant	O'Boyle	Preston	O'Halloran(8)	Farquhar(4)	Tosh(6) ¹
20 Sep	RANGERS	0-2	10,093	Main	McQuillan	Preston	Sekerlioglu	McCluskey	Griffin	Scott	Kernaghan	O'Neil	O'Boyle	Bowman	Tosh(5)	Grant(7)	Robertson
27 Sep	Hibernian	1-1	11,172	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Sekerlioglu	Kernaghan	Griffin	O'Halloran	O'Neil	Grant	Farquhar ¹	Jenkinson	McCluskey	Preston(10)	Tosh
4 Oct	ABERDEEN	1-0	6,290	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Sekerlioglu	Kernaghan	Griffin	O'Halloran	O'Neil ¹	Grant	Farquhar	Jenkinson	Preston(4)	Tosh	O'Boyle(11)
18 Oct	Kilmarnock	1-0	6,572	Main	McQuillan	Preston	Sekerlioglu	Kernaghan	McCluskey	O'Halloran ¹	O'Neil	Grant	Farquhar	Jenkinson	Dasovic(10)	Scott(5)	O'Boyle(11)
25 Oct	Celtic	0-2	48,545	Main	McQuillan	Preston	Sekerlioglu	Griffin	McCluskey	O'Halloran	O'Neil	Grant	Dasovic	Jenkinson	Kane(10)	Scott(7)	O'Boyle(4)
1 Nov	MOTHERWELL	4-3	4,566	Main	McQuillan	Preston	Dasovic	Kernaghan ¹	Griffin	Scott	O'Neil ²	Grant ¹	O'Boyle	Tosh	Kane(10)	Farquhar	O'Halloran(11)
8 Nov	DUNFERMLINE	0-2	5,239	Main	McQuillan	Preston	Kane	Kernaghan	Griffin	Scott	O'Neil	Grant	O'Boyle	Tosh	McCluskey	O'Halloran(8)	Jenkinson(11)
15 Nov	Hearts	1-2	13,611	Main	McQuillan	Preston	Dasovic	Kernaghan	Weir	Scott	O'Halloran	Kane	O'Boyle ¹	Jenkinson	McCluskey	Tosh(11)	Grant(8)
22 Nov	HIBERNIAN	1-0	5,403	Main	McQuillan	Preston	Dasovic	Kernaghan	Weir	Scott ¹	O'Halloran	Kane	O'Boyle	Jenkinson	McCluskey(7)	O'Neil(11)	Grant
29 Nov	Rangers	2-3	48,142	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Dasovic	Kernaghan	Weir	Scott	O'Neil	Kane	O'Boyle ¹	Preston ¹	Griffin	O'Halloran(8)	Grant(11)
6 Dec	Aberdeen	1-1	10,974	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Dasovic	Kernaghan	Weir	Scott	O'Neil	Kane	O'Boyle	Preston	Griffin(7)	O'Halloran(11)	Grant(9) ¹
13 Dec	KILMARNOCK	1-1	4,385	Main	McQuillan	Davidson	Dasovic	Kernaghan	Weir	Scott	O'Neil	Kane	O'Boyle ¹	Preston	Jenkinson(4)	Wright(3)	Grant(8)
20 Dec	Dundee United																
27 Dec	CELTIC																
3 Jan	Dunfermline																
12 Jan	HEARTS																
17 Jan	Hibernian																
24 Jan	SFA Cup 3																
31 Jan	RANGERS																
7 Feb	Kilmarnock																
14 Feb	SFA Cup 4																
21 Feb	ABERDEEN																
24 Feb	Motherwell																
28 Feb	DUNDEE UNITED																
7 Mar	SFA Cup 5																
14 Mar	HIBERNIAN																
21 Mar	Rangers																
28 Mar	KILMARNOCK																
4 Apr	Aberdeen																
11 Apr	DUNFERMLINE																
18 Apr	Hearts																
25 Apr	Dundee United																
2 May	MOTHERWELL																
9 May	Celtic																

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Aberdeen v Motherwell
Dunfermline v Heart of Midlothian
Hibernian v Kilmarnock
Rangers v Dundee United

1 Year Ago -

Falkirk, home, Div 1, 3 - 1.

Main, McQuillan, Davidson, O'Neil, Weir¹, Whiteford, Dasovic, Tosh, Grant¹, Scott¹, Jenkinson. Subs: Griffin, Ferguson, McAnespie. Att: 6,331.

5 Years Ago -

Airdrie, home, Premier, 1 - 0.

Rhodes, McGowne, Deas, Baltacha, Inglis, McAuley, Curran, Turner, Wright, Arkins¹, Davies. Subs: Maskrey, Cherry. Att: 4,136.

10 Years Ago -

Stenhousemuir, home, Div 2, 4 - 1.

Balavage, Thomson, McVicar, Barron, McKillop, Johnston², G Thompson, Coyle, Maskrey, Watters¹, Heddl¹. Subs: Powell, Gavin. Att: 2,289.

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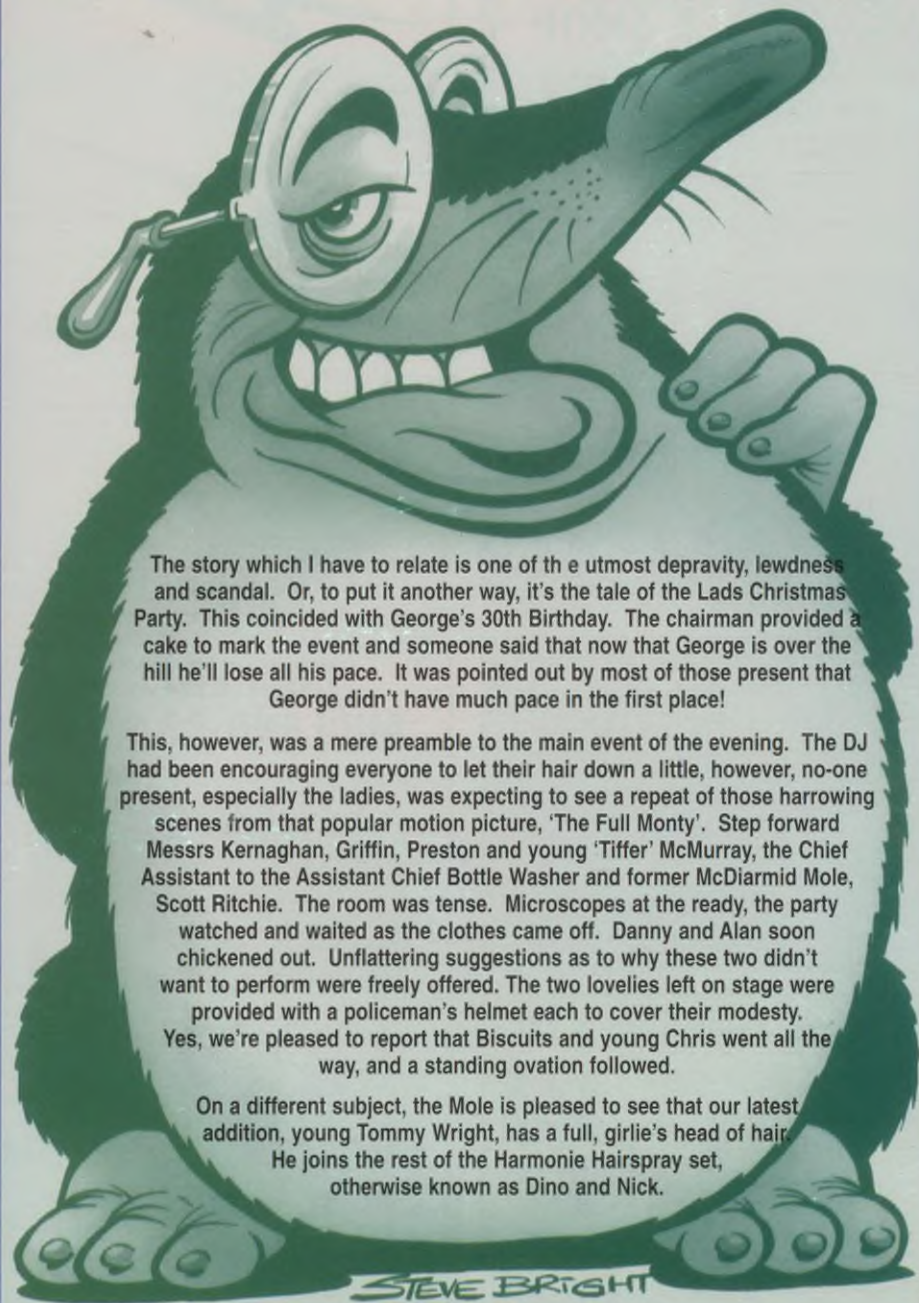
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IT'S THE MOLE!



The story which I have to relate is one of the utmost depravity, lewdness and scandal. Or, to put it another way, it's the tale of the Lads Christmas Party. This coincided with George's 30th Birthday. The chairman provided a cake to mark the event and someone said that now that George is over the hill he'll lose all his pace. It was pointed out by most of those present that George didn't have much pace in the first place!

This, however, was a mere preamble to the main event of the evening. The DJ had been encouraging everyone to let their hair down a little, however, no-one present, especially the ladies, was expecting to see a repeat of those harrowing scenes from that popular motion picture, 'The Full Monty'. Step forward Messrs Kernaghan, Griffin, Preston and young 'Tiffer' McMurray, the Chief Assistant to the Assistant Chief Bottle Washer and former McDiarmid Mole, Scott Ritchie. The room was tense. Microscopes at the ready, the party watched and waited as the clothes came off. Danny and Alan soon chickened out. Unflattering suggestions as to why these two didn't want to perform were freely offered. The two lovelies left on stage were provided with a policeman's helmet each to cover their modesty. Yes, we're pleased to report that Biscuits and young Chris went all the way, and a standing ovation followed.

On a different subject, the Mole is pleased to see that our latest addition, young Tommy Wright, has a full, girlie's head of hair. He joins the rest of the Harmonie Hairspray set, otherwise known as Dino and Nick.

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THE GREAT SAINTS

Tommy Cairns was one of many Saints' players who went to Rangers and was subsequently capped for Scotland. His career spanned the years before and after the First World War and he was one of those fortunate footballers who were able to play at the top level for many more years than most.

Born in 1890, in Merryton, by Hamilton, Cairns started out with local teams Burnbank Athletic (where he won a Scottish Junior Cup medal) and Larkhall Thistle before going to Bristol City. He came back north to play for Peebles Rovers and then in August 1913, at the age of 22, moved to St. Johnstone.

Although still living in Merryton Rows, Tommy had all the skills required of an inside left and also the requisite degree of hardness. He made an immediate impression in the blue and white hoops and although Saints started the 1913-14 season erratically, Cairns' abilities stood out like a beacon amidst the rest of the Second Division. The local press reports invariably mention his skills and he quickly attracted the attention of a number of First Division outfits. Morton were the first to express their interest. The Greenock side were then one of the better teams in the top Division and they wrote early in October, 1913 to open negotiations. The Perthshire Courier knew of interest in a number of Saints' players and although they didn't specify the men concerned there can be no doubt that Tommy Cairns was the jewel in the Perth crown. The paper noted on the 7th of October that, "Cairns is the master mind of the attacking forces", and

also commented, "Needless to say, the players being singled out such distinction are those men who cannot be parted with under any circumstances".

Despite the media concern, the Board took a more sanguine view of the situation



Tommy Cairns

and wrote to Morton asking them to name their price. Whatever figure the Morton Board came up with clearly wasn't enough for the Saints' Directors, who wrote back saying the minimum they would accept was £150. On the 10th of November, at a Board meeting, a further letter from Morton was discussed and its contents seem to have brought their interest to an end. However, there were other, bigger, clubs prepared to invest.

On the 8th of November 1913, Arthurlie came to the Recreation Grounds. The Perthshire Courier reported that, "seated on the grandstand was Mr Wilton, manager of Glasgow Rangers. There were those who thought Mr Wilton's visit was

connected with St. Johnstone and Cairns; and if he was indeed present to witness the form of Cairns he was to be disappointed". He certainly seems to have done so, for on the 15th of November the

Directors held a special meeting to consider the Ibrox interest in their star asset. It was agreed to ask Rangers for the same £150 requested from Morton. However, what they didn't realise was that Mr Wilton had also been impressed by another of that season's signings, John Muir, and the eventual deal which took Cairns to Glasgow also included Muir. A fee of £225 came to Perth - a massive sum for the day. Saints' entire profit from the previous financial year was only £40:5:11d!

Tommy Cairns had an exceptionally long career with Rangers. He won many domestic honours and was capped 8 times. He left Rangers in 1927 and went south to Second Division Bradford City. In 1932 he gave up playing - only a few months short of his 42nd birthday. However, his long and very successful playing career may not have happened if St. Johnstone hadn't given him the opportunity to parade his skills. Although Saints had had veteran internationalists in their colours before Tommy Cairns, he was the first to play for the club and then go on to play for his country. His was only the briefest of acquaintances with Perth and St. Johnstone, but from all the contemporary accounts his skills illuminated the day for all those Recreation Grounds' supporters lucky enough to have seen him play. (born 30.10.1890 - died Dec 1967)

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AROUND THE GROUNDS

After my trips down memory lane in Angus, the next ground I wish to cover on my travels is Pittodrie. A visit to Aberdeen is a special treat for Saints fans, as it is the only place in Scotland that we can crack the sheep jokes!

There was a time when a trip to Pittodrie was a big adventure (in more ways than one) and a very formidable place for Saints to try and get a positive result. Fortunately this is no longer the case and the ground itself is no longer unique. Prior to McDiarmid, Pittodrie and Kilbowie were the only all-seated grounds in Scotland and obviously comparisons between these two grounds were like chalk and cheese. Having said that, in my view Pittodrie was vastly over-rated. The seats comprised wooden benches and it was not all covered (despite what the media used to report). McDiarmid Park was, in fact, the first all-seated, all-covered stadium in Scotland. What was tremendous about Pittodrie though was the Beach End. It was certainly possible to create a bit of atmosphere in there. What a pity it had to be knocked down. The replacement stand just looks so out of place when compared to the rest of the ground.

Once the Beach End had been demolished and visiting supporters were housed in the stand opposite the Main Stand it became quite clear that looks were deceiving. The stand that looked quite impressive from the Beach End was nothing like it close up, as it became clear that the ground had been made all-seater on the cheap. Instead of individual tip up seats, supporters were in fact sitting on pieces of plastic bolted to the old terracing. Thankfully this has changed now and proper seating, similar to that at other grounds is now in place.

Over the years I have had some strange experiences at Pittodrie. This definitely includes the first time I ventured to the Granite city. The one, and only, time I travelled to a match by train. Laden down with our carry outs as we arrived at Perth station these had to be quickly deposited in a

locker, before the British Transport Police got their hands on them. Still the train sold drink but at extortionate British Rail prices and our budget only stretched to a few cans. I should have known then it was going to be a bad day! Once we arrived in Aberdeen we were advised by the local constabulary to walk to the ground. This was certainly good advice (and I don't think). The station is miles from Pittodrie and to make matters worse we got jumped by the Soccer Casuals. And the football? As you might expect it was rubbish. We had the super agile Mike McDonald in goal that day and promptly lost 5 - 0. Even Ian Andrews (remember him?) couldn't have produced a worse performance. The only good thing was coming home to pickup our carry- outs to drown our sorrows.

Later on that season ('83 - '84), Saints were up at Pittodrie for the New Year fixture. 3 - 0 down at half-time but Saints were spared another gubbing thanks to a blizzard forcing the game to be abandoned. Our joy, however, was short-lived as we ended up stuck outside Stonehaven for over 2 hours.

One particular enjoyable trip was the first visit to Aberdeen after Saints had hammered them in that memorable 5 - 0 victory. What a day out. With the Dons desperate for revenge a very large Saints support travelled up to Pittodrie, many wearing their "Rod Alert" T-shirts. Every time the Dons supporters started singing the Saints fans started a chorus of 5 - 0, 5 - 0 which really wound up the home support. An honourable 0 - 0 draw was achieved that day. Unfortunately the chant of 5 - 0 no longer has the sane effect as quite a few teams have since put five past the Dons.

Finally, full marks to Aberdeen for keeping their prices at a reasonable level. After being charged £14 at Tynecastle, Aberdeen charged £12 and made no attempt to charge for a child under 2. This was a pleasant surprise because the time previous to that Aberdeen's admission prices were about the highest in the Premier League.

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RESERVE REVIEW

By Paul Smith

League points have proved hard to come by for the St Johnstone reserve side in recent weeks with matches against Aberdeen and Kilmarnock yielding just a single point. Aberdeen left McDiarmid Park three weeks ago with a 2-0 victory under their belts

thanks to a goal either half including a fine effort from Joe Miller, although even he must have been taken aback by the space afforded him by the home defence. This was a pretty dull affair despite a generous sprinkling of respective first team players taking to the field - in addition to Miller. The Dons had Derek Stillie, Brian O'Neil, Ricky Gillies and

Mike Newell in their starting line-up while Saints fielded Danny Griffin, Steve Tosh, Keith O'Halloran and Roddy Grant.

The main point of interest for the home support was the appearance as a trialist of Tommy Wright and, of course, he impressed suffi-

ciently for him to be taken on by Paul Sturrock for the rest of the season.

Ten days ago our second string travelled down to Rugby Park and gained a point in a goalless game against Kilmarnock.

In a bid to keep some of the young players ticking over Alistair Stevenson

sent a youthful side up to Station Park to play Forfar and they recorded a creditable 2-0 win.

Stuart Malcolm scored a remarkable goal from some ten yards inside his own half when a long clearance bounced in front of the home keeper and over his head into the net. Stuart insists that the effort was deliberate but others remain

unconvinced. The second goal that night was scored by Kiegan Parker.

There is no winter break as such in the Premier Reserve League this season and we should have a home fixture against Dunfermline in the near future - watch local press for details.



*Reserve Goalkeeper
Stephen Robertson*

RESERVE TEAM SCORERS TO DATE

Kieran McAnespie	3
Stuart McCluskey	2
(Gavin Price	2)
Gordon Brown	2
(Trialists	3)
Keith O'Halloran	1
John O'Neil	1
Andy Whiteford	1
Gary Farquhar	1
Steve Tosh	1
Philip Scott	1
Roddy Grant	1

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JUNIOR SAINTS

Well, that's Christmas over for another year. For 130 Junior Saints, their Christmas season began a couple of weeks ago at their disco. So many wanted to come that we had to run two discos this year. After being on duty through that lot the parents committee's heads had a taste of what New Year might be like!

In between dances there was a swap-shop going on as everyone tried to complete the Panini photo sets they had been given. All that and they still found time to give our visiting players no rest, asking questions and getting autographs. Youngsters Kieran McAnespie and Andy Whiteford did a great job alongside "Golden Oldies" Nick, Dino and Rhino. By the way, has nobody got a proper nickname for Nick yet? "my little pony" is just a bit too long.

First Christmas presents of the year were received by Jack Davidson, Carolann Christie, Anthony McGuiness, Lauren Swan, Sandy Millar, Christopher

Addley, Colette Anderson, Chris Davidson, Lesley Ann Blair, David Hunter, Pamela Lawrence, Stephen Morton and Katie Reilly, who all won prizes. Thanks again to Allen Davidson and Mars for these.

We all hope you have had a very Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year following Saints! Remember, if you have not returned your forms for the bus trips, get them in soon; it's first come, first served, after those who missed out last time.

Today's Match Mascots

These are 5 yr old Sam Weir from Perth and 7 yr old Matthew Souter from Blairgowrie. Sam chooses his Dad, Jim, as his favourite Saints' player although he does not want to follow in his Dad's footsteps, instead he wants to be a fireman as does Matthew. Both boys are keen on the Spice Girls. Matthew would like to see Ally McCoist play for Saints again.



Sam Weir



Matthew Souter

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THE LAST WORD ?

A few weeks ago, you may have seen a debate on the state of Scottish football on BBC 2. This was part of the Beeb's Night of Sport, which was a nice idea. The 'debate' demonstrated that everything in the garden is not lovely, nor indeed anything like it. The animosity which the attempted breakaway by the 'top ten' clubs has engendered was simmering barely below the surface and the gap between Messrs Hunter and Fulston on one side, and Chris Robinson on the other, was all too apparent.

This programme also featured some 'fans' who, just in case you didn't believe the captions, had to wear a scarf, shirt or other such item of club merchandise to demonstrate their affiliation (or affliction in some cases). The presence of these scarves, team jerseys etc was somewhat incongruous, given that many of those present

criticised the clubs for their blatant commercialism in producing such merchandise.

The quality of some of the debate was less than impressive. Even St Johnstone fans 'representative', Archie McGregor, came out with some nonsense, suggesting that if clubs cut their entrance prices by half, twice as many people would turn up. Sorry Archie, try the real world. If we adopted this approach, clubs like Saints would go bust at a rate of knots.

It is only too easy for punters to come up with ideas, which bear no resemblance to reality. However, everyone, fans, journalists, even programme editors, is entitled to his or her views. Why not drop us a line and tell us what you think? Any good, or even lunatic, ideas will be revealed in the programme and, you never know, may even be taken up by the powers-that-be!

Quiz Answers from Pg 16: 1. Washington Diplomats 2. Ray Wilkins 3. six 4. blue top, white shorts 5. Halifax Town 6. Batana batana 7. Surinam 8. Eleven years 9. Four 10. Ashton Gate.



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Quality in an age of change