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SATURDAY 28th AUGUST 1993

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Kevin McKee
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David Byrne
Albert Craig
Gerry Britton
ian Cameron
Paul Kinnaird
Roddy Grant
Neil McKilligan
Andy Murdoch

CELTIC

Pat Bonner
Tom Boyd
Dariusz Wdowczyk
Peter Grant
Mark McNally
Mike Galloway
Pat McGinlay
Paul McStay
Frank McAvennie
Charlie Nicholas
John Collins
Stuart Slater
Rudi Vata
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HALF-TIME TEAM CHECK

Premier Division

Aberdeen v St Johnstone
Dundee Utd. v Hearts
Hibernian v Dundee
Motherwell v Raith Rovers
Partick Thistle v Celtic
Rangers v Kilmarnock

First Division

Ayr v Dumbarton
Clydebank v Clyde
Dunfermline v Airdrie
Hamilton v Falkirk
Morton v Brechin
Stirling Albion v St Mirren

Second Division

Berwick Rangers v Arbroath
East Fife v Alloa
East Stirling v Meadowbank
Forfar v Queen of the South
Queen's Park v Montrose
Stenhousemuir v Cowdenbeath
Stranraer v Albion Rovers

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Honours

Scottish Cup Winners

1921

Scottish League Cup

Winner 1971

First Division Champions

1975/76

Second Division Champions

1896/97, 1899/00, 1970/71

Glasgow Cup Winners

1935, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1960,

1981, 1989

Glasgow Charity Cup

Winners 1927, 1935, 1949

From **LAMBIE'S DOOKIT**



Well, we made it through to the quarter finals on Tuesday, but what a battle. Morton made it very tough for us and in the second half, put us under the cosh, but we got the luck that we needed and won through. Our whole pattern had to change when Gregg Watson had to go off, which was a pity as he was playing well. I thought we had the better of the first half, but we did not pose a threat in the second. One or two players were really under pressure to produce the goods and there was a marked improvement, but we still need a player or two to give us the balance. The Raith Rovers game was a huge disappointment because we really should have won. Only taking a point was poor, Tim Carson was the busier of the 'keepers by far, saving on a number of occasions. Our front two played really well

and gave them a number of problems, but our problems were at the back, with both goals coming from defensive errors. It is important that we cut these out, and don't give away anything at the back. Today's match is important because we have made only a reasonable start in the league and need every point we can get. We are starting a critical part of the season with tough matches against Hearts and Rangers to come, as well as the cup game with Hibs. I hope to add at least one new face to the team before today's game as we still need a better balance. I am still trying to get players but, as we all know, finance is tight, but football changes and who knows? Thanks all for your support on Tuesday, it was really appreciated, it was loud and hopefully it helped our squad to victory.

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JAGS TOPIC

Today, we welcome a new writer to our happy band, hopefully bringing to you a different perspective of life in the football world. A season ticket holder for many years and adds, what we think, a very interesting view on our game. His name is Lance Gilmour and his first piece is below.

3 weeks gone...only 37 to go, and already there appears to be an air of "the more things change, the more they stay the same" - Rangers have had several injury crises (Jim White - "but Gerry, they got the result.."), Celtic have taken up semi-permanent residence on Scotsport, and Thistle have hit 11 in one game - ho hum, ever had that deja vu feeling?

In fact, one of the few changes is in the writer of this page (yeah, I know, it used to be funny, interesting, thought provoking..)

Another static has been the start of a testimonial year for one of the game's better paid stars - which is just one of the many things in life totally beyond my comprehension. Look at it this way. If you were a successful lawyer earning £75000 a year, it would take you, after tax, around 10 years to amass £500,000. Ally McCoist made approximately that sum in ONE NIGHT (allegedly). Now far be it from me to cast aspersions on the money making ability of anyone, however, it is a strange reflection on the value system in modern society when a sportsman's rewards are significantly higher than those of a professionally qualified lawyer or doctor.

Furthermore, it would appear that those who have made most out of the game during their playing career, seem to be the ones who reap the largest rewards from testimonials. I wonder, for example, how much Jackie Campbell, after half a lifetime with Thistle, made from his benefit match, or how much the near-legendary Bobby Law could rake in should he be awarded a testimonial next year? (Bet you had forgotten about that one..)

Perhaps it is an opportune moment to look at revamping the system. As earnings from testimonials are exempt from the Chancellor's

greedy paws, maybe the S.F.A. could incur a levy of say 25%, which could be placed into a benevolent fund for players who have been forced to retire through injury. Wouldn't it have been a great gesture if McCoist had decided to split the proceeds of his game with Scott Nisbet, for example?

Personally, I have only attended two benefit matches - Jackie Campbell's and Alan Rough's. Unusually for me, I did not grudge dipping into the old piggy bank for either game, Campbell's after 19 seasons and Rough's after 13. Neither player retired to the South of France on the proceeds of their Thistle pay packets, or even their testimonials. However, when a friend of mine audaciously suggested I might like to stump up £15 of my hard-earned wonga to "pay tribute" to the "Greatest Living Ranger", I found it just too preposterous to contemplate donating money to someone who probably spends more on his hair than I do on food.

See what I mean - odd values we have.

All that withstanding, there clearly is a case for a deserving testimonial - the previously mentioned Jackie Campbell springs to mind immediately. 19 seasons is a long time to spend at any one club (and even longer at Firhill). In these days of short-term contracts, agents, and huge signing-on fees, it is difficult to imagine any current players emulating Jackie's longevity. Club loyalty appears to be a thing of the past. Although some players would have you believe otherwise, you know the sort - "...ever since I was a boy, I dreamt of playing for ——" (fill in the blank as appropriate) - but you can be sure the same player will be "...very sad to leave..." two £=years later as he pockets a fat signing-on fee with a new club, whom he naturally "...supported from the terraces..."

(Incidentally, if you disagree with any of this claptrap, please write in to the usual address and tell me. I won't bother to read it - call me Dixon Blackstock - but You'll feel better.)


Of course, given the relatively short career of a professional footballer, it is difficult to criticise a chap

for trying to improve his financial lot - after all, who knows when a career-crippling injury could come along? - but it would be nice to hear the truth occasionally. I remember being impressed by Graeme Souness (no, really) when he joined Sampdoria and was asked by the media what had attracted him to the club. Was it the "challenge", the "different style of play" the "new experience?" they all wondered - No, Souness replied, the money. Today our guests are Celtic - who have already won here this season against Stirling Albion - for a match that will answer some vital questions, such as - can Thistle record their first Firhill League win over Celtic in 15 years?, will either side gain their initial League win of the season? and crucially, will Gerry Britton and Andrew Smith kiss and make up before the game?..(Kiss Andrew Smith, what a thought!)... enjoy yourselves.


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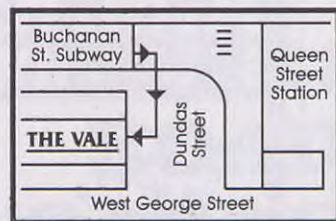


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TODAY'S GUEST



Ian Cameron

It really is good to see Today's Guest, **Ian Cameron** making a significant impact at the start of this season. Ian is, without doubt, one of the most talented players in the Premier League with a really sweet left foot, but it has really taken Ian a long time to establish himself as a regular first teamer anywhere. Ian was born on the 24th of August 1966 in Glasgow and was quickly establishing himself at youth team level via his schools performance. In 1983-84, he made his debut for St. Mirren and went on to have six full seasons at Love Street. Then came a big move for Ian, when he signed for Aberdeen, as he recalled:

"I was delighted with the move as it was a chance to go and play with one of the best teams in the country, Aberdeen's style of play when I signed was really well respected and I hoped that I could have fitted in."

No-one more than Ian knows that his time at Pittodrie could have turned out better, but to be fair, everytime he looked like establishing himself in the first eleven, he suffered an injury of one kind or another.

"It really could have gone better for me at Pittodrie, but although injuries did not help my cause, there were so many good players at Aberdeen that it was difficult to establish myself and I had to look elsewhere for a regular game."

Ian did have some good times at Pittodrie though, and will best be remembered for scoring the winning goal in the Skol Cup semi final against Celtic at Hampden with a stunning goal from 22 yards.

So, onto Firhill and an immediate impact was made. Signing the day before our opening match of the season against Airdrie, Ian had a marvellous debut, although not scoring, being involved in the heart of Thistle's best moves. His first goal for the club came a couple of weeks later in an entertaining 2-2 draw with Motherwell at Firhill, and later on in the season took over the penalty taker role which let him net more goals finishing with a final tally of five goals.

"Moving to Thistle let me get back to playing regular first team football, which was something I needed at this stage of my career, having spent a year in the reserves. First team football is

really different from the reserves. Ian was not surprised that the team managed to stay up last season and to do it the way we did gave him his main highlight from the season.

"The highlight of last season was, without doubt, the win over Rangers at Firhill. To stay up by beating the best was great, but all round we played really well and pleased our fans. Like Willie said in the last programme Cowdenbeath was ferrible, we all look to have a good cup run and to fail the way we did was poor."

For Ian Cameron, this is the last year of his contract and I am sure he will be looking to really have a good season to entice either a new contract or even the chance of playing at the highest level again. It is fair to say that he has made a significant impact so far, with a four goal haul in the league cup tie with Albion Rovers. "Yes, it is always nice to score four goals in one game no matter the level of opposition. This was the first time I have netted a hat trick, never mind four, it was really special. As I said earlier a cup run is really important to a club like ours and this would be a good season to do it.

Lastly, Ian has played in a couple of positions, either up front or many different midfield roles, but what is the preferred position.

"To be honest, I am not really bothered, just to play regularly is what concerns me. If I am given a job to do by the manager, I will go out and do it to the best of my ability.

I am sure that most Thistle fans will have been impressed with the 1993-94 Ian Cameron so far, and the way things are going, I am sure there will be more to come.

LEAGUE CAREER DETAILS

ST. MIRREN	1983-1989	127 APPS.	17 GOALS
ABERDEEN	1989-1992	27 APPS	1 GOAL
PARTICK THISTLE	1992-1993	41 APPS	5 GOALS