

FOOTBALL CLUB

# Hibernian



**CELTIC**

**3.00pm Saturday  
28 February 1998**

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# FOOTBALL

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# Hard work demanded

**I** was delighted with the attitude of our players against Rangers and Dundee United last week, but was very disappointed with the manner in which we lost both goals on Saturday. For the second, in particular, we were perhaps caught by being a little too positive. Overall, though, we gave the champions a lot of problems throughout the game and if we can do that we can give anyone problems.

I threw down the gauntlet to the players we all know are potential matchwinners and they responded by allying their undoubted skills to hard work. If you don't work hard in this game you're never going to make it at this level. I demand that of my players and I'm going to keep demanding it every day. On Tuesday night against United the team showed character and resolve to get back in the game after an

unlucky break led to us going behind.

Today we face a Celtic side buoyed up by recent performances. Harald Brattbakk has broken his League duck and will undoubtedly pose a threat along with Henrik Larsson. The challenge to our defenders is to prevent them from adding to their tally today. They will certainly have learnt from last week.

Meanwhile I would like to pay tribute to the Hibs support who were exceptional last week. I have always believed that it doesn't matter what the team does if they show commitment. Supporters appreciate this and want to see players that will give everything for the club. They recognised that last Saturday and, like me, every Hibs supporter will be looking for the same level of commitment week in week out. You can expect to get more of the same this afternoon and hopefully we can secure a vital three points.



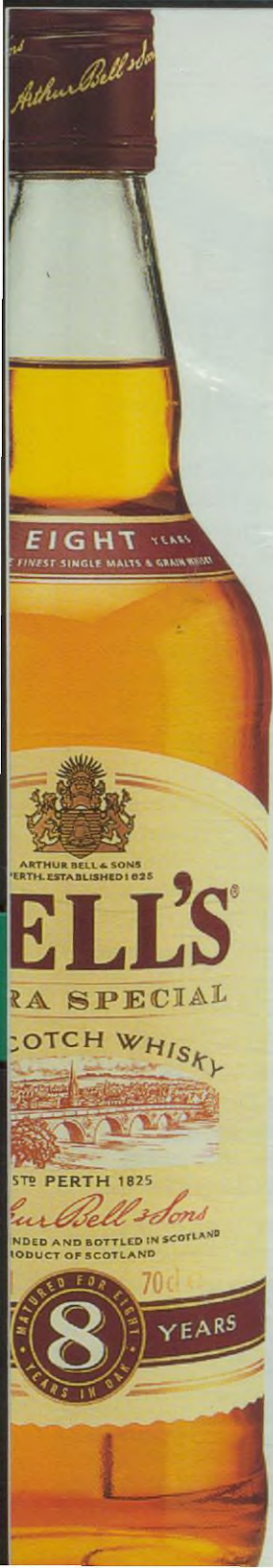
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# LIFE OF BRYAN

## Bryan Gunn's arrival at Easter Road is just another move in maintaining the impressive international tradition Hibs keep between the sticks.

Rough, Goram and Leighton.....need we say more. And truth be told Hibs haven't boosted too many internationalists in other positions so we have cherished our goalies' success.

However of them all, Jim Leighton's story sticks out in particular as the move to Hibs revived a career that looked down and all but out.

Just as Alex Miller showed faith in Jim, so Alex McLeish is showing similar belief in Bryan.

His career had been a bit in the doldrums with only four first team starts this season and his 11 year spell in East Anglia looked as if it had finally burnt itself out.

When Big Eck called his former bootboy at Aberdeen, the chance of regular first team football was too good to miss.

Unlike previous years, goalkeeping has proved a problem position for Hibs this season with both Chris Reid and Ollie Gottskalksson looking short of confidence, a

keeper's most vital commodity.

The manager acted decisively and got Gunn.

The 34 year-old said: "I had no hesitation coming to Hibs. I enjoyed my time at Norwich but every professional must want first team football. I know Alex from my early days in football and I used to clean his boots as an apprentice at Aberdeen and learned so much from him, Jim Leighton and Willie Miller. It was a great education and now I want to repay some of it by helping Hibs."

Bryan had an impressive debut against Rangers and confidence seeped throughout the team from the back. He had two great saves off Marco Negri and Paul Gascoigne and the one when he whipped the ball from Gazza's feet was a stand-out. In fact, as the press reports reflected, Andy Goram was by far the busier keeper. Jorge Albertz's winner was a cruel blow and as several Rangers players stated no keeper in the world would have saved it.

Meantime as Bryan is intent on helping Hibs fight against relegation who knows what it could lead to. He won six caps between 1990-94 against Egypt, Estonia (2), Switzerland, Holland and Italy.

Bryan Gunn



# PARKIE'S NATIONAL ROLE

**Prodigal son Donald Park returned to Easter Road last week as part of Alex McLeish's new backroom team, but the wee man's not been idle during his recent absence from the club.**

Parkie's a well respected coach in Scottish football circles and he's had a key role in preparing the country's Under 16 squad for the European Under 16 Championship which Scotland is hosting this spring.

Along with Tommy Craig, Donald is an assistant coach for the youngsters who are gearing up for the biggest competition to be held in the country since the very successful staging of the Under 16s World Cup in 1989.

It's hoped that the Scotland side perform this time as well as their counterparts did on that occasion. The home team made it all the way to the final before losing out to a very mature looking Saudi Arabian side.

Donald and Tommy work under the man in charge of the team, Ross Mathie, the SFA's Youth Programme Director.

They have spent months assessing the best talent available and a squad of

around 30 players have been coming together on a regular basis. Ross Mathie says, "The preparations have been going exceptionally well." He also points out that they have received coaching off the pitch as well as on it. "They have had a lecture on drug awareness, two sessions on mental preparation with a psychologist, undergone a full medical, and been given individual weight training programmes to incorporate in their club programmes."

Donald's recently returned from a trip to Ireland with the youngsters where they began their warm up for the competition with a 2 - 1 win over Northern Ireland and a 0 - 2 defeat at the hands of the Republic.

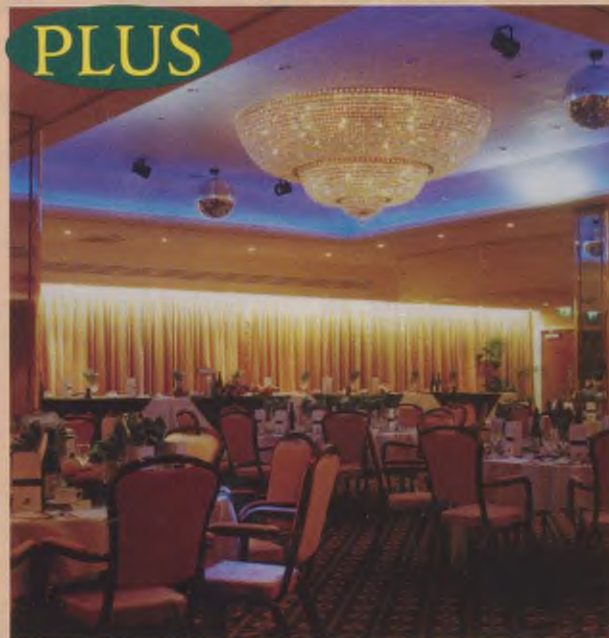
Scotland have drawn tough competition in their group which includes Spain, Finland and either Belgium, Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland. This group's initial matches will be played at



Forthbank in Stirling and McDiarmid Park, Perth. Other venues include Almondvale Stadium, Livingston, Fir Park, St Mirren Park and Broadwood Stadium, Cumbernauld.

The championship kicks off on Sunday, 26 April with the final on Friday, 8 May.

## HOSPITALITY PLUS



**After a period of change Hibernian Hospitality has settled into a new structure but it's still offering a terrific conference venue, corporate hospitality and private functions in great surroundings.**

New Project Manager, Robert Laurie, says, "Easter Road is a fantastic location offering the best of facilities to conference organisers, business people and anyone holding a wedding, birthday party or any other celebration."

Meanwhile, Robert and his team are busy setting up events and attractions. Coming up is a St Patrick's Day buffet and disco on Tuesday, 17 March. This will include a Guinness Promotion so lovers of the black stuff would be mad to miss it. A few days later, on Sunday, 22 March there

will be a Mother's Day Lunch with the special incentive of a free bottle of wine for every booking.

Prices for the events range from £8 to £14 and you can book through Garry Kinnear on 656 7075.

\* Hibernian Hospitality is recruiting Waiting and Bar Staff for functions in the North Stand suites. If you're interested in working at Easter Road, you can get more information from Lynne Paddock or Marie-Claire Armstrong on 661 2159, ext. 7092.



# Celtic success begins at the back

**C**eltic's cavalier style may have been somewhat tempered this season but the continental canniness in defence introduced by coach Wim Jansen has come to be growingly appreciated by the faithful.

In the three-way fight at the top, they have conceded only 17 goals

as opposed to Rangers (27) and Hearts (33).

Clinical ruthlessness in front of goal has been lacking, but Harald Brattbakk's four goals against Kilmarnock suggests maybe the final piece of the jigsaw has been slotted in.

The first fixture at Easter Road (the opening game of the season) was a sobering start for the Dutch coach, but a man who has played in two

World Cup finals and won a European Cup medal was never likely to be phased by such a setback.

Henrik Larsson (16 goals), who looked all at sea in his debut, soon settled to become the ideal accomplice for an out-and-out striker which is not quite the description of Darren Jackson or Simon Donnelly.

As said, that seems to have materialised in Brattbakk and any player who has scored nine times in the Champions League in successive seasons surely has the pedigree to succeed in Scotland.

Celtic's new season keeper Jonathan Gould may have been the unlikely foundation for New Celtic to build on but has been a real find. Meanwhile, Alan Stubbs has shaken off an edgy first season and is flourishing alongside Mark Rieper in a Parkhead back three with Tommy Boyd ever stalwart. Italian Enrico Annoni has been ready to jump in and rise to the occasion.

With the back sorted, the midfield combo of Morten Weighorst, Craig Burley (11 goals) and Paul Lambert has gelled to be the most effective in Scotland.

Supplemented by wingbacks Stephane Mahe and Jackie McNamara - finally in his ideal role - Celtic will always create

One to Watch

## Stephane Mahe

**Date of birth:** 23/9/68

**Position:** Defender

The French defender has, like the team this season, gelled after an initial edgy start. His career with Auxerre, Paris St Germain and Rennes, as well as representing his country, suggested he had the pedigree and was a steal at £650,000 for Celtic. Rock solid, he perfectly complements other wing-back Jackie McNamara. Stephane got onto the scoresheet with his first goal for the club against Dunfermline in the Cup.



## Craig Burley

**Date of birth:** 24/9/71

**Position:** Midfield

A midfielder's goals can often win a championship and Craig has rattled in 11 so far this season. He has gained Celtic vital wins as the team developed into shape. His first class form is a real boost for Scotland as they approach the World Cup as is his seamless partnership with Paul Lambert at both club and national level.



chances. Taking them has been the only problem. According to some reports Brattbakk should have scored nine last week. So maybe the Celtic spirit has not really changed. It's just they've locked the back door.

Celtic came into the New Year six points and eight goals behind Rangers. They were level as we went into this week's games and Hibs will have to watch as they go for full points in the championship charge.



## Factfile

CELTIC

**Year of formation:** 1888

**Most league points in a season:**

72 (Premier Division 1987/88 - 2 points for a win)

83 (Premier Division 1995/96 - 3 points for a win)

**Most league goals scored in a**

**season:** 50 (by Jimmy McGrory, season 1930/31)

**Record attendance:** 92,000 (v Rangers 1/1/38)

**Record victory:** 11 - 0 (v Dundee, Division 1, 26/10/1895)

**Record defeat:** 0 - 8 (v Motherwell, Division 1, 30/4/37)

### Celtic 97/98 League Record

- 3 Aug Hibs 2 Celtic 1
- 16 Aug Celtic 1 Dunfermline 2 (46,206)
- 23 Aug St Johnstone 0 Celtic 2
- 13 Sep Motherwell 2 Celtic 3
- 20 Sep Celtic 2 Aberdeen 0 (49,017)
- 27 Sep Dundee Utd 1 Celtic 2
- 4 Oct Celtic 4 Kilmarnock 0 (48,165)
- 18 Oct Hearts 1 Celtic 2
- 25 Oct Celtic 2 St Johnstone 0 (48,545)
- 1 Nov Dunfermline 0 Celtic 2
- 8 Oct Rangers 1 Celtic 0
- 15 Nov Celtic 0 Motherwell 2 (48,010)
- 19 Nov Celtic 1 Rangers 1 (49,509)
- 22 Nov Celtic 4 Dundee Utd 0 (48,581)
- 6 Dec Kilmarnock 0 Celtic 0
- 9 Dec Aberdeen 0 Celtic 2
- 13 Dec Celtic 1 Hearts 0 (50,035)
- 20 Dec Celtic 5 Hibs 0 (49,094)
- 27 Dec St Johnstone 1 Celtic 0
- 2 Jan Celtic 2 Rangers 0 (49,350)
- 10 Jan Motherwell 1 Celtic 1
- 27 Jan Dundee Utd 1 Celtic 2
- 2 Feb Celtic 3 Aberdeen 1 (46,006)
- 8 Feb Hearts 1 Celtic 1
- 21 Feb Celtic 4 Kilmarnock 0 (49,231)

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# The Word

WITH JOHN 'YOGI' HUGHES

'Bearing' all for the programme this year is John 'Yogi' Hughes. If you want to find out about everything that goes on behind the dressing room doors at Easter Road, Yogi's yer man!

## TOTAL IMPACT

Alex McLeish and Andy Watson have certainly made their mark and no one is now in doubt about what is expected of them. Training has been very professional and I am sure they have a great future at the club.

## EARLY DAWES

Have you noticed the resemblance between Bryan Gunn and George Dawes of BBC TV's Shooting Stars. The crucial difference is that George Dawes seems to have a better all round physique. But Bryan has made an immediate impact as a big mouth. By that I mean an excellent talker. The big man had a great debut and I'm sure he'll strengthen the defence.

## HATS OFF

I must take my hat off to the fans. Your backing has been brilliant despite disappointing results. Last Saturday although we had just got beat you cheered us off the park and again on Tuesday you turned out in great numbers in Dundee. We all got a tremendous boost from that.



## Cheers CHIC & CHRIS

It was sad to see Chic and Chris go. Chic was always good for a laugh and a great trainer. He was never more happy than when he had a ball at his feet. Fans will remember his contribution to some great performances earlier in the season and I am sure he will go on to do the same for another club. As for Chris he has been at the club for many years and will always remain a great Hibbie. He's a more than capable goalkeeper and we all hope that he gets the regular first team football that he craves.