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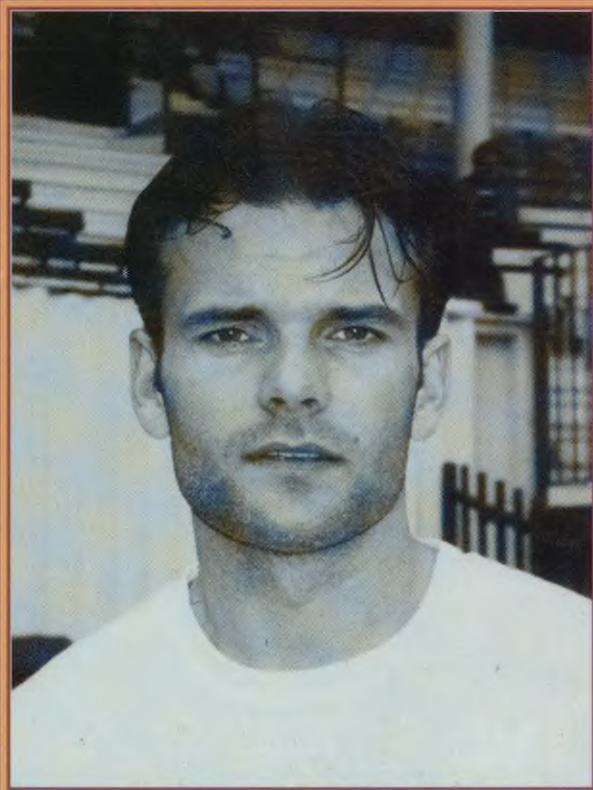
Scottish Premier League
Saturday 3rd October, 1998

Motherwell v.

Celtic



The Well



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THE quality of our overall performances in our last two away matches fell well below the standard which we have achieved in the earlier games this season.

Today we play Celtic and there can be no better way to redeem ourselves than to excel against the league champions.

Much has been said and written about our last two games but we have worked very hard all week and the benefit of this effort will be reflected in our attitude today.

The Motherwell fans have given us great support and it is now time to repay their loyalty.

Motherwell Football & Athletic Club Ltd

Registered Office & Ground:

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Margaret MacFarlane ('Well Club / Restaurant),

Linda Duddy (Asst. to General Manager),

Wendy MacFarlane (Functions / Marketing),

Arlene McGuigan (Reception / Tickets)

Groundsman: Grant Murdoch

HONOURS

Scottish League Champions: 1931/32

Runners-up: 1926/27, 1929/30, 1932/33,
1933/34, 1994/95

Scottish Cup Winners: 1952, 1991

Runners-up: 1931, 1933, 1939, 1951

Scottish 1st Division Champions:

1981/82, 1984/85

Scottish 2nd Division Champions:

1953/54, 1968/69

Runners-up: 1894/95, 1902/03

Scottish League Cup Winners: 1950

Runners-up: 1954

Scottish Summer Cup Winners:

1944, 1965

Scottish Second XI Cup Winners:

1949, 1951, 1957

Scottish Reserve League Cup Winners: 1988

Scottish Southern League Cup Runners-up:
1945

UEFA Participation:

European Cup Winners' Cup: 1991-92

UEFA Cup: 1994-95, 1995-96

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Team Mascots

- ALASTAIR FORREST**
Alastair lives in Bothwell and attends Hamilton College. He is 7 years old and his favourite player is Brian McClair.
- JONATHAN FORREST**
Jonathan lives in Bothwell and attends Hamilton College. He is 9 years old and his favourite player is Brian McClair.



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Motherwell - Celtic Factfile



It is not often that today's guests, Celtic, arrive at Fir Park having won only two of their opening league matches. However, in what is a remarkably tight Premier Division perhaps we should not be surprised. After all Rangers, who lead the way, have won only half of their league games. A glut of early European fixtures has probably contributed to the less than rewarding early season form.

Celtic come here today as champions and determined to hold on to their crown. Previous seasons have shown that the Premier Division title can go right down to the wire with the last couple of months throwing up all kinds of surprise results. So those who write off Celtic do so at their peril.

The Bhoys have appointed a new manager since we last met them. Wim Jansen was the man in charge as they lifted the title last term, but his departure in the summer necessitated a new 'gaffer'. The chosen man is Dr. Josef Venglos, a native of Czechoslovakia, who was once manager of Aston Villa. He has been patient as he finds his feet in Scottish football but 10 days ago went into the transfer market and recruited Norwegian international Vidar Riseth for £1.4m from LASK Linz of Austria. Having played in the World Cup Finals in France (including the match against Scotland) he is clearly a quality performer.

Last season our four league meetings with Celtic went as follows:-

Motherwell 2 (Coyne 2), Celtic 3
Celtic 0, Motherwell 2 (Coyle, Weir)
Motherwell 1 (Falconer), Celtic 1
Celtic 4, Motherwell 1 (McMillan)

We also met Celtic in the League Cup, losing 1-0 in a match which saw Ian Ross sent-off.

Motherwell's Brian McClair was a sensational young player whilst at Motherwell and was lured to Celtic by Billy McNeill. Brian went on to become the most dangerous striker in Scottish football whilst at Parkhead and even the mighty Celts could not fend off the interest of Manchester United a few seasons later. Today Brian, if selected, will line up against the side for whom he made such a huge impact.

Of course, as you would expect of sides founded in 1886 and 1888 there have been numerous connections between the clubs over the years. Strikers in particular have switched clubs with Andy Walker, Dixie Deans and Joe McBride being three of our more prolific marksmen to have served both clubs. Taking the opposite journey, albeit with a few stops along the line, was Tommy Coyne

Amongst others to have played for both Celtic and Motherwell are Phil O'Donnell, Paul Lambert and Tom Boyd (all of whom could feature today), Vic Davidson, Johannes Edvaldsson, John Fallon, Harry Hood, Tom McAdam, Brian McLaughlin, Andy Ritchie, Tony Shepherd and Paul Wilson.

Familiar Favourites



Phil O'Donnell



Brian McClair



Tom Boyd



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Photo Action



Over 9,000 made their way through the Fir Park turnstiles for the visit of Kilmarnock on September 19th. They saw a 0-0 draw which harmed neither side but hardly set the 'heather alight'. Here we see some of the key moments. 1. Owen Coyle wriggles between Martin Baker and Gary Holt as 'Well' launch another raid. 2. An almost identical pose from Killie defender Martin Baker as Ian Ross takes a tumble near the Killie goal. 3. A big day for two young mascots. Ian McWilliams and Colin Daniels were the youngsters who led the sides out and here they are with Brian McClair, referee Jim Herald and Killie captain Ray Montgomerie. 4. Jan Michels fends off the attentions of Martin Baker. 5. Jan Michels leaves the field after an hour to be replaced by recent signing Pat Nevin.

Don't blame drink for bad behaviour





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AIRTIME

Owen Coyle



• Although born in Paisley, Owen was brought up in Glasgow. As a schoolboy he had a chance to join Dundee United but elected to join Dumbarton. His elder brothers, Ronnie and Thomas, were both at Boghead and were able to keep their eye on Owen. He signed schoolboy forms with the Sons when only 13

• Known as a striker these days, Owen was originally a midfielder, even when he made his senior breakthrough he found himself stuck on the wing as a 16 and 17 year old.

• It cost Clydebank £25,000 and 20% of any subsequent sell-on fee to take Owen to Kilbowie. As a Republic of Ireland Under 21 internationalist at the time he was understandably greeted with genuine enthusiasm by the Steedman's at Clydebank. A top first division side at the time, Bankies had opened professional doors for the likes of Bobby Williamson, Tommy Coyne and Davie Cooper so Owen was joining a club with a solid reputation for promoting youngsters.

• A measure of Owen's growing quality came when Airdrie paid a club record £175,000 to make him a Diamond. Signed by Jimmy Bone he enjoyed a remarkable opening stint at Airdrie scoring goals as if they were going out of fashion. Highlights of his Broomfield days were playing in the 1992 Scottish Cup final and against Sparta Prague in Europe.

• When Owen's contract expired Bolton were quick to offer him terms. Two and a half remarkable years followed in Lancashire. Signed by Bruce Rioch, he helped the Trotters in their remarkable FA Cup run. Before beating Everton, Arsenal and Aston Villa they had to see off non-league Gretna. With just 3 minutes to go in the tie Bolton trailed 2-1, but Owen stepped in to score twice and send Bolton's cup run on it's way. Sadly the run ended at the quarter final stage when local rivals Oldham beat Bolton 1-0 at Burden Park.

• The cup exit didn't stop Owen scoring at Wembley. In the First Division play-offs Bolton beat Reading 4-3 in a drama laden contest . . . and Owen was on target.

• Dundee United's Billy Kirkwood had to spend £400,000 to take Owen to Tannadice. Again Owen scored a vital and dramatic goal, this time the goal that took United back to the Premier Division.

• Motherwell has been a great move for Owen. Signed by Alex McLeish, Owen has enjoyed some memorable games. Perhaps the most dramatic being the match against Rangers at Ibrox when Motherwell won 2-0 on what was meant to be Rangers 9 in a row celebration. And that win went a long way to keeping Motherwell up.

• Today we face Celtic and Owen has many happy memories from past jousts with the Bhoys. Pride of place he reckons should go to the 2-0 win at Parkhead last season. "We were missing the likes of Tommy Coyne that day and had to field a number of youngsters. Not only did we win and end a 6 match run without a point but we also gave the young boys a confidence booster in that they had stopped the rot and shown they could play anywhere".

• Kilbowie, Broomfield and Burden Park have all gone since Owen played there.

FACT FILE

Date of birth: 14.7.66
 Place of birth: Paisley
 Height: 5'11"
 Weight: 10 stones 5 lbs

DID YOU KNOW ?

- Owen has certainly travelled in his career. He has played with Dumbarton, Clydebank, Airdrie, Bolton, Dundee United and Motherwell ... as well as Eire 'B'.
- He knows a thing or two about big cup clashes and has helped to see off Arsenal and Everton in FA Cup ties ... as well as little Gretna.
- Owen has five brothers and two sisters. His family regularly come to watch him, but as Owen suggested it can be quite a struggle getting tickets for them all!



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