

FOOTBALL CLUB

Hibernian



CELTIC

3.00pm Sunday  
4 May 1997

£1.50



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# FOOTBALL

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**Glory run** – Marathon Man, Mike Lieberman (L) keeps Hibs ahead of the pack in London. Page 14

**8 At the crossroads** – Recent disappointments prompt re-assessment for Celtic.

**12 Renwick on record** – We set the questions, Michael provides the answers.

## TODAY'S MATCH SPONSORS

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## HIBERNIAN FOOTBALL CLUB

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**13 Fifty up** – Darren Jackson's recent goal against Dunfermline sees him join the 'fifty club'.

**20 Here comes the Summer** – But it's no holiday for many of our footballers. Scott Coull reports.

**PLUS** – Backstage, Quiz Time, Hibs Kids and much more.

## WELCOME TO EASTER ROAD

Everyone at Easter Road wishes a warm welcome to our visitors today, Celtic



**Paolo di Canio**  
Page 8



**Jack Docherty**  
Page 15

**Chairman:** Douglas Cromb  
**Vice chairman:** Thomas J O'Malley  
**Directors:** Ian Brennan, Lex Gold  
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**Assistant Manager:** Jackie McNamara  
**Physiotherapist:** Stuart Collie  
**Reserve Team Coach:** Donald Park  
**SFA Community Coach:** John Ritchie

**Honours:** Scottish League winners: 1902-03, 1947-48, 1950-51, 1951-52.  
 Scottish Cup winners: 1886-87, 1901-2.  
 Scottish League Cup winners: 1972-73, 1991-92.  
 Drybrough Cup winners: 1972-73, 1973-74.  
 Tennent's Sixes winners: 1989-90.  
 BP Youth Cup winners: 1991-92.



# All to Play For

**W**HAT CAN you say about this afternoon's game that doesn't sound trite? You just can't underestimate its importance. No matter how things went yesterday, elsewhere in the Premier Division, our sights are firmly fixed on securing survival through our own efforts. The motivation is obvious, we must keep our concentration.

We won't be making assumptions of Celtic. They have had a rough run-in to their season, but you just cannot predict how they will respond. They could be incredibly fired up for this game. Certainly we will be.

If this is, as I hope, the last home game of the season, I want to thank you, the fans, for your excellent backing. It has not been the best of seasons. For that matter, it hasn't been the best couple of seasons. But you have given both myself and the team nothing but superb support. Certainly, since I have been here, your support has been vital to the cause.

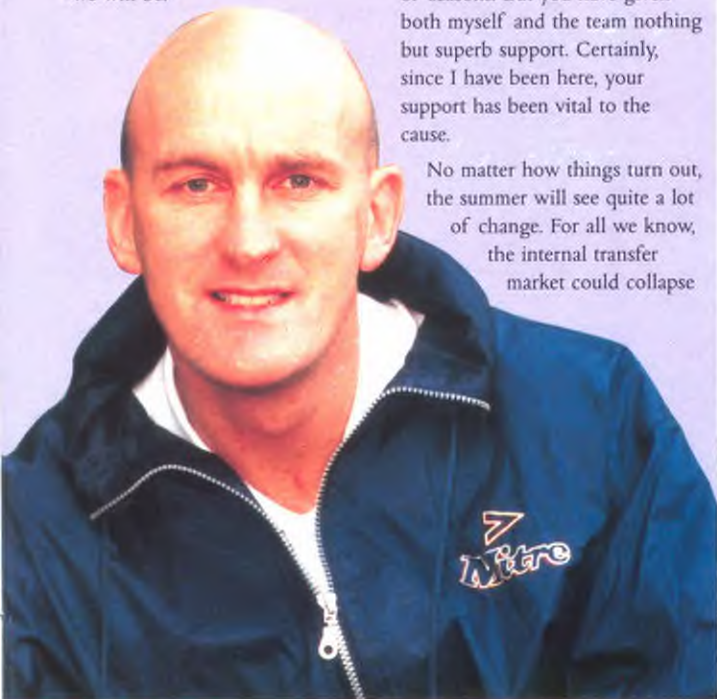
No matter how things turn out, the summer will see quite a lot of change. For all we know, the internal transfer market could collapse

over the summer, especially with a test case being pursued by Wimbledon's Vinnie Jones.

At the club, I envisage changes in personnel. I want to freshen things up a bit and I also want to give the youngsters at the club more of a chance to contest for first team places. We played Dundee United in the Premier Reserve League on Tuesday night and not only was it a great game, a 2-2 draw, but it gave youngsters such as John Martin and Kenny Miller a chance to test themselves against Premier Division-quality players. That sort of exposure is vital to their development, preferable to poorer quality games in the Reserve League East.

The players who do leave the club go with our best wishes. Their leaving is just part of the dynamic growth that every club must strive to achieve. It is certainly no reflection on their efforts on behalf of Hibs. We have one or two signing targets in mind, though, for fear of alerting other clubs to them, I'll hold back on revealing their identities.

Looking to the future is important. But for the moment, all our attentions are on this afternoon's game. It is a big game for us all. Play your part by giving the team all the backing you can muster.



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# DAY by DAY

The news, as it happens, from Easter Road and beyond...

**TUE APR 1** SCOTLAND UNDER-21s lose 1-2 to Austria at Fir Park. Hibs' Kevin Harper was in the starting line-up.

**WED APR 2** TWO GOALS from Blackburn Rovers' Kevin Gallacher (his second, a wonder strike) gives Scotland a 2-0 win over Austria to head their World Cup qualifying section by seven points. East Stirling appoint former Hibs, John Brownlie, as manager. Queen's Park coach, Hugh McCann, resigns.

**SAT APR 5** A PENALTY by Chic Charnley (his first goal for Hibs) and a goal by Pat McGinlay give Hibs a 2-0 win over Dundee United to take the club five points clear of second-bottom Motherwell. However, the game is blemished by the booking of Charnley, likely to rule him out for all but one game this season. Clydebank coach Brian Wright resigns in the wake of his side's 4-1 defeat by Airdrie. Inverness Caledonian Thistle win promotion to the Second Division with a 3-2 win over Montrose. In the Premiership, Derby beat Manchester United 3-2 at Old Trafford.

**SUN APR 6** A STALE Coca-Cola League Cup final sees Leicester City and Middlesbrough draw 1-1 (aet).

**MON APR 7** KILMARNOCK MAKE caretaker boss Bobby Williamson their manager on a permanent basis.

**WED APR 9** MANCHESTER UNITED lose their semi-final, first leg tie of the Champions' Cup, 0-1 away to Borussia Dortmund. The Premier Division chairmen commission an independent review of Scottish football.

**THU APR 10** LIVERPOOL ARE thumped 3-0 away from home by Paris St Germain in their semi-final, first leg tie of the Cup Winners' Cup.

**FRI APR 11** CELTIC DENY press reports suggesting they have spoken to Kevin Keegan about becoming their new manager.

**SAT APR 12** A PENALTY by Darren Jackson gives Hibs a share of the spoils in 1-1 draw against Dunfermline. Elsewhere, Motherwell, second-bottom of the Premier Division, defeat Raith Rovers 5-0 to move within three points of Hibs. In the first semi-final of the Scottish Cup, Celtic and Falkirk draw 1-1.

**SUN APR 13** THE SEMI-FINALS of the FA Cup in England see Chelsea defeating Wimbledon and Middlesbrough and second division Chesterfield play out a thrilling 3-3 draw.

CLUB PLAN



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# LOOKING BACK LOOKING FORWARD

**F**IRST OF all, I want to say welcome to Celtic who are our guests today for the last game of the season at Easter Road.

Looking back over the past nine months you can only conclude that it has been a topsy-turvy season for Hibernian.

We have gained a new management team and several new players, and things have taken a little time to settle.

However, the players have responded well and they have worked hard in the last few weeks to get things on track.

Although it's normally unfair to single out individuals, one person who deserves a mention for the tribulations he's gone through is Barry Laverty. With his long term illness now behind him, it's heartening to see the way the supporters have taken to Barry, and to witness the impressive performances he has put in. I have no doubt he will be a big asset when he's back to full fitness next year.

On the subject of 97/98, I can confirm that we are already planning for the coming season and our aim, as always, is to get back into Europe at the earliest opportunity.

Although we have been plagued by injuries this term, I have no doubt we have a squad that's capable of challenging for all the major honours.

What's more, Jim Duffy is confident

of improving that squad and adding further quality.

The new season begins on August 2 and it is likely that our first two league games will be at home.

Season ticket brochures and application forms will be available in the next few days and there is likely to be a big demand, so make sure you get yours early.

As well as welcoming Celtic, we are also hosts today to Scottish Television and it is good to see them back at Easter Road. I hope the match offers the viewing public entertainment of the highest order and the supporters generate the kind of excitement that characterises the very best in Scottish football.

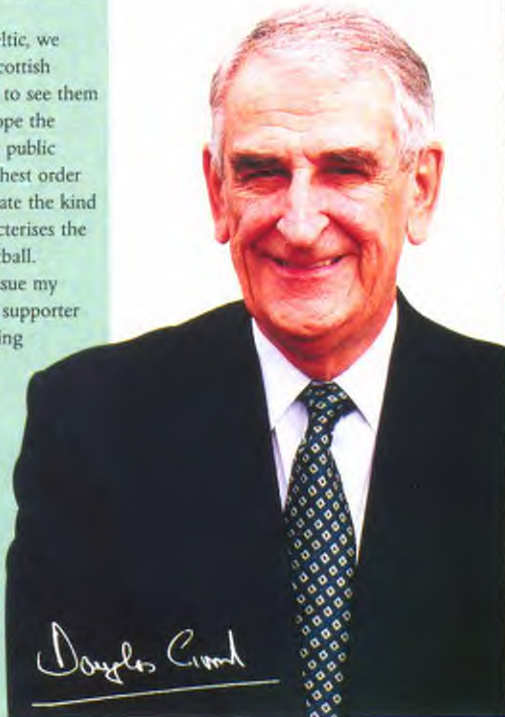
Finally, I would like to issue my personal thanks to every supporter for the magnificent backing we have enjoyed this season. Special recognition goes to our away support. We realise it costs a lot of money to follow Hibernian around Scotland.

Therefore, to show our appreciation, we will once again be running buses to our final match against Raith Rovers next week for the

nominal booking fee of just £1.

Furthermore, because of the size of support (4,200) we took to Dunfermline recently, the Fife police have made our trip to Kirkcaldy an all ticket affair. We have been allocated 4,000 tickets so make sure you get yours early.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy Easter Road's final match of 96/97.



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# Celtic a a cross

**W**HAT TO write about Celtic that has not already been written and in gruesome detail? What to write about Celtic that makes sense of the mixed messages coming from all those who have an interest in the club? And, for that matter, the mixed messages from those who have really no interest in the club but are taking the opportunity to add their tuppence worth anyway?

It is stating the obvious, but winning has a knack of smoothing away all the tensions that trouble a football club. And that, conversely, losing exposes and exaggerates those tensions.

Falling dramatically behind in the title race was bad enough. But losing to Falkirk in the semi-final of the Scottish Cup has worsened things.

However, whatever jolts the club has endured recently to its morale, it doesn't mean they will be lying down this afternoon,



Paolo di Canio



Tom Boyd





# Factfile

CELTIC

## CELTIC'S '96/'97 PREMIER DIVISION RECORD, LEAGUE POSITION AND ATTENDANCES (home only)

Aug 10	Aberdeen	2	Celtic	2	(3rd)
Aug 17	Celtic	4	Raith Rovers	1	(2nd)(47,200)
Aug 24	Kilmarnock	1	Celtic	3	(2nd)
Sept 7	Celtic	5	Hibs	0	(2nd)(47,042)
Sept 14	Dundee United	1	Celtic	2	(2nd)
Sept 21	Celtic	5	Dunfermline	1	(2nd)(50,032)
Sept 28	Rangers	2	Celtic	0	(2nd)
Oct 12	Celtic	1	Motherwell	0	(2nd)(49,422)
Oct 20	Hearts	2	Celtic	2	(2nd)
Oct 26	Hibernian	0	Celtic	4	(2nd)
Nov 2	Celtic	1	Aberdeen	0	(1st)(50,136)
Nov 14	Celtic	0	Rangers	1	(2nd)(50,041)
Nov 30	Celtic	2	Hearts	2	(2nd)(50,034)
Dec 7	Motherwell	2	Celtic	1	(2nd)
Dec 21	Celtic	1	Dundee United	0	(2nd)(46,590)
Dec 26	Aberdeen	1	Celtic	2	(2nd)
Dec 28	Celtic	4	Dunfermline	2	(2nd)(45,818)
Jan 2	Rangers	3	Celtic	1	(2nd)
Jan 4	Celtic	5	Motherwell	0	(2nd)(45,374)
Jan 8	Celtic	6	Kilmarnock	0	(2nd)(45,724)
Jan 11	Hearts	1	Celtic	2	(2nd)
Jan 14	Raith Rovers	1	Celtic	1	(2nd)
Jan 18	Celtic	4	Hibernian	1	(2nd)(49,092)
Jan 29	Dunfermline	0	Celtic	2	(2nd)
Feb 1	Dundee United	1	Celtic	0	(2nd)
Feb 6	Celtic	2	Raith Rovers	0	(2nd)(45,233)
Feb 22	Motherwell	0	Celtic	1	(2nd)
Mar 1	Celtic	2	Hearts	0	(2nd)(49,729)
Mar 11	Kilmarnock	2	Celtic	0	(2nd)
Mar 16	Celtic	0	Rangers	1	(2nd)(49,929)
Mar 22	Dunfermline	2	Celtic	2	(2nd)
Apr 5	Raith Rovers	1	Celtic	1	(2nd)
Apr 20	Celtic	3	Aberdeen	0	(2nd)(47,293)

# t roads



Rico Annoni

disinterested in how the game will go. There is the player's own pride to consider. There is no better place than the football park to prove the sceptics wrong. Far from being indifferent, they could be going all out for victory. Manager Tommy Burns may use the occasion to blood some youngsters. But he is as likely to give his players a chance to atone. Celtic's last game was their defeat by Falkirk. Hibs

could feel the backlash.

Two seasons ago, Celtic arrived at a half-re-developed Easter Road with nothing to play for in the League but a Cup final against Airdrie still ahead. But they still held Hibs to a 1-1 draw, at a time when Hibs were desperate for the points to finish second in the league and win the only remaining place in the following season's Uefa Cup.

Celtic have recently, however, struggled to find fluency on the park. With striker Jorge Cadete slightly off form, they have not gelled as they might. There is no doubt about the quality of their players, but for all the flair of their individuals, they have not knitted together as a team over the last few weeks. They have lacked a strong personality down the middle of their side.

Various pronouncements are expected about the future of the club. All that can be guaranteed is that there will be no let up in the chattering about it.

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