



HEARTS

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



**SCOTTISH PREMIER
LEAGUE
v
CELTIC
SUNDAY
6th DECEMBER 1998
Kick-off 6.05 pm**

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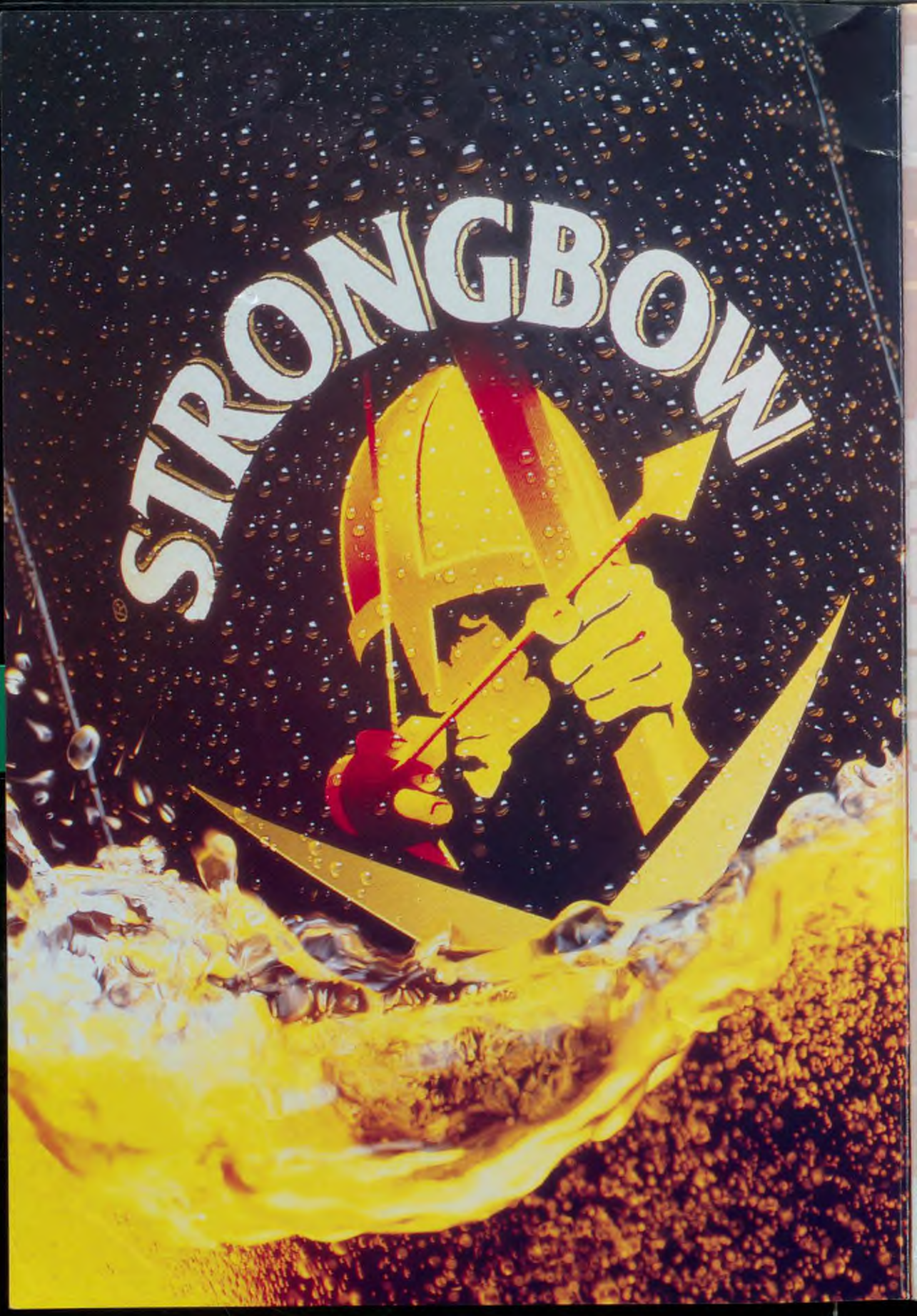
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LEAGUE

SPL
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**HEART OF
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FOOTBALL CLUB**
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JEFFERIES

Today we face Celtic after our 14 day break. We were scheduled to play St. Johnstone last week but as a result of the Saints qualifying for the League Cup Final this match has been postponed until Wednesday 9th December. Today's game will undoubtedly be a highly contested encounter against a Celtic team who have achieved two victories back to back, a target that we ourselves would dearly like to achieve especially after a hard fought but deserved victory against Dunfermline.

We started the game against Dunfermline very well and overall it was a very satisfactory performance. It was especially pleasing to have Neil McCann back in the team after his injury in the European tie in Mallorca. It certainly was from Neil's point of view, great to be back playing and a bonus to score the late winner.

As previously said, we did start the game extremely well unfortunately losing a goal to a mistake the result of which we went into a bit of a shell. Dunfermline gained confidence from their goal and they had the best of the play in the remainder of the first half. But after half time it was a different story, we battled in an attempt to get back into the game and opportunities began to come our way. Our first goal by Thomas Flogel was a great strike and at this stage of the game we fully deserved our equaliser. As the minutes ticked away it looked like the game was heading for a draw but our renowned spirit to see us achieve a result, gained our late winner just before the final whistle. The Premier League this year is very tight and three points can see us jump several places in the League. On the other hand loss of points means that we can be sucked into a relegation situation. We have three very important games coming up and it would be very welcome to achieve three victories – that must be our aim. This would undoubtedly give us the confidence to go into the second half of the season, to push all the way until the last game in May.

Another important factor is that our injury list is gradually clearing up and I will soon be in a position to have a full squad to select from.

Celtic will today undoubtedly provide tough opposition and they have several new signings in their squad since we achieved the 1-1 draw at Parkhead earlier in the season.

We need again your vocal support today. It really does play a big part and can give the players a tremendous lift.

Jim Jefferies

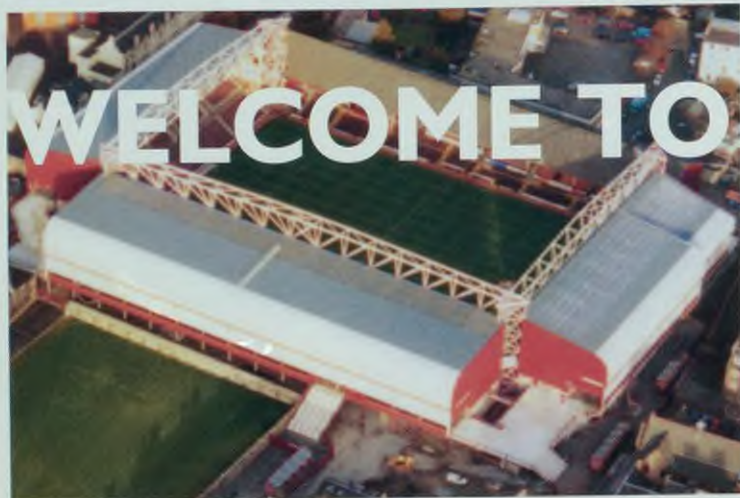


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After winning the League Cup and breaking Rangers' stranglehold on the Championship last season, it appeared as if the balance of power in Scottish football had swung back to Celtic Park. However, the famous Glasgow club has not been dominant this term, due in part to the break in momentum caused by the resignation of head coach, Wim Jansen, during the summer break.

Our visitors were fortunate enough to secure the highly regarded Dr Jozef Venglos as a replacement for Jansen, but he had little time to assess the long term ability of his squad before the new campaign kicked-off. Accordingly, Dr. Venglos gave the Championship-winning players a chance to impress during the opening months of the season, but results were disappointing and Celtic fell behind in the League race and made an exit from three cup competitions.

However, there can be little doubt that the slow start was mainly due to a horrendous injury list which has seen up to eight quality players being sidelined for certain fixtures. In the recent match at Perth, for example, only three of the ten Celtic players that took part in the World Cup were able to start the game. No team can strike up consistency in this situation.



Steven Pressley closely watched by Brattbakk

Tynecastle

HOME OF HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN

With their city rivals spending freely and producing results, pressure was building on Jozef Venglos and his players and accordingly, the Celtic coach has brought in Vidar Riseth, Lubomir Moravcik, Johan Mjallby and now Marko Viduka, to strengthen his squad. This clearly lifted the spirit for the recent confrontation with Rangers, where defeat would

have left Celtic a formidable 18 points behind in the League table.

The players responded with a stunning 5-1 win over the Ibrox club and significantly, followed this up with a solid 2-0 victory over Motherwell. This was Celtic's first back-to-back League win since February and reduced the Rangers lead to four points, although they have a

game in hand.

These results have given Celtic a massive lift and our visitors firmly believe that they can now go on to retain the Championship, particularly as their squad will steadily improve as the injury list diminishes. Hearts will be tested this afternoon as the Celts go looking for that hat-trick of wins



Jim Hamilton scores our equaliser earlier this season

H.M.F.C. HONOURS

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Champions
1895, 1897, 1958, 1960
Runners-up 13 times

SCOTTISH CUP

Winners 1891, 1896, 1901, 1906, 1956,
1998
Runners-up 6 times

LEAGUE CUP

Winners 1954-55, 1958-59, 1959-60,
1962-63
Runners-up 2 times

FIRST DIVISION

Champions 1980
Runners-up 2 times

TENNENT'S SIXES

Winners 1985, 1991

TEXACO CUP

Finalists 1971

VICTORY CUP

Finalists 1919

SCOTTISH LEAGUE E & N


Runners-up 1939

FULL INTERNATIONALISTS

Scotland 65

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OH YES!
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OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS OF TEAM
WEAR TO HEART OF
MIDLOTHIAN

THE SPIRIT OF SPORT

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This is the second occasion this year we have taken part in the Sunday SPL live match on Sky Television. Both occasions have been against the Old Firm. I am sure the atmosphere tonight will be electric for the match and that viewers who have not been to Tynecastle see it as a venue to come to for future games.

Our first live match was way back at the beginning of the season against Rangers and it was an exciting and stimulating start to the season, especially beating Rangers two games in a row. Since then a lot has happened (goal posts in Mallorca!) and expectations set by that game in August have not been fulfilled. Nevertheless we reached the League Cup Semi Final and compared to the last time we were in the Cup Winners Cup we got through to the first round. Interestingly, everyone at Hearts felt that Real Mallorca could and should have been beaten. They are now League leaders in Spain and gaining a reputation throughout Europe for football (excepting their stadium of course!).

Their subsequent opponents, KRC Genk, also had a protest and appeal dismissed by the UEFA bureaucrats in Geneva. Hearts are now considering a challenge match to KRC Genk for the "Unofficial Cup Winners Cup". Any donations of a trophy for this match would be most welcome!

Tonight's game could set us up for what will be an extremely hectic time in December. The atmosphere and backing of Hearts supporters is as always crucial.

I hope you enjoy the match and look forward to seeing everyone back here for our back to back home matches against the Old Firm



Enjoy today's game

Chris Robinson

Chief Executive

OUR FRIENDS AT TYNECASTLE

Today we extend a warm welcome to them and their guests.

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Scottish Telecom

The Watson Group

Stakis (Mr & Mrs Jerry Fox)

Scottish Brewers

AS Neil & Partners

Intasport

British Car Auctions

Clydesdale Bank

Deloitte Touche

Sloan of Edinburgh

**Bank of Scotland
(Core Banking)**

MORSE GROUP

Laidlaw

**Bank of Scotland
(Corporate Banking)**

Connor Malcolm Solicitors

For details of all corporate hospitality packages, please
contact Alison Shanks on

0131-200 7205



Tynie Talk

PITCH PROTECTION

The Tynecastle playing pitch, which has been causing concern in recent weeks, is now being protected against the rain by plastic sheeting. Apparently the problem is that the drains have not been sand-slit, and this cannot be solved until the end of the season.

Meanwhile the Club are trying to protect the pitch against flooding by using the sheeting...and praying for a lot less rain in the coming months.

Pat Begley

The latest news on Pat, injured in a car accident, is that he has had an operation on his facial injuries and has been moved out of the intensive care ward in the Western General, but is still under sedation. Encouragingly, we can report a slight improvement in his condition.

Willie Duff

Former Hearts goalkeeper **Willie Duff** was a guest of the Club at the recent game against Dunfermline.

Willie, who played in the 1956 Scottish Cup Final for Hearts, was over on holiday from his home in America and was impressed by the new Tynecastle where he had so many past and pleasant memories.

BP Cup Draw

The youth side were drawn against Dundee United in the third round of the BP Cup...a repeat of last season's final, when our youngsters lifted the trophy at Tynecastle.

The full draw is as follows:

St. Johnstone	v	Falkirk
Raith Rovers	v	Rangers
Motherwell	v	St. Mirren
Dunfermline	v	Greenock Morton
Dundee	v	Airdrieonians
Dundee United	v	HEARTS
Hibernian	v	Kilmarnock
Aberdeen	v	Celtic

Those ties are to be completed on or before 13th December and by the time this piece has gone to print some of the games may have been played.

Hearts game against Dundee United has however been delayed, and will be played on **Monday 14th December at Tannadice kick-off 7.30 pm.**

New Player on Groundstaff

A new name in our Youth Team is that of **Barry Smith**. The Dublin born youngster joined the groundstaff two weeks ago. However **Craig Findlay** will be out of action until at least January. Craig went through a hernia operation on the 26th November and will be missing from the Youth and Under-21 line-ups for a few weeks.

Tynie Talk

Further Honour for Gary

Gary Naysmith gained a further Under-21 cap when he played in the recent European Championship match against Belgium at Paisley. The 2-2 draw keeps the youngsters' chances of qualification alive, following a battling performance.

Kenny Milne has had his loan period at Third Division Cowdenbeath extended by a further month and ex-Heart Derek Fleming joined the growing colony of ex-Tynecastle players at Livingston, with a move to the Almondvale club from Dundee two weeks ago.



SHORTS

Milestone

Paul Ritchie, brought up a personal milestone in our last home match against Dunfermline when he knocked up his 150th first team overall appearance for the Club.



NOTICE TO Heart of Midlothian Supporters

Dunfermline Athletic v Heart of Midlothian

Saturday 2nd January

Kick-off 3.00 pm



The above match has been declared **ALL TICKET**, therefore category members are invited to apply in writing for Hearts Allocation tickets.

Our ticket allocation is 5,200 so initially we must restrict allocation to **ONE PER PERSON**. However in the event we are under subscribed please detail in your application your preferred allocation for both Adult and Concession. Please note there is no voucher required.

All written applications must include

- Notification of membership categories held.
- A suitable stamped addressed envelope for return of tickets.
- Full details of proposed method of payment, (incl. expiry date for Credit Cards).
- A cheque if preferred as method of payment. As tickets are subject to availability the amount should be left blank, with the instruction on the cheque that the amount should not exceed the number of tickets requested to a maximum value of £14 per ticket.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER

Any public sale of tickets will be announced at a later date.