



FOOTBALL CLUB ■

£1.00

Hibernian

3pm Saturday 9 December 1995

Issue 12



CELTIC

Bell's League Championship
Premier Division



There is no substitute.



All set for keen contest

APPROACHING TODAY'S match it was both important and pleasing to get a victory last week at Motherwell.



In particular, it was good to see Keith Wright come back from injury and notch another two important goals. Keith's performance was very

the top of our form if we are to secure another home win. Celtic are currently playing an attractive brand of football and have struck a rich vein of

"With so many youngsters in the side the backing of the supporters is vital as we continue our assault on the league."

heartening, especially since he learned he would be in the team just one hour before kick-off, and there was also a significant contribution from Kevin McAllister who turned in an impressive midfield display.

What's more, Jim Leighton once again showed why he is such a highly-regarded professional.

Overall, the players worked very hard and in the end we achieved the result our determination merited.

Against Rangers two weeks ago, I believe the match was much more closely fought than the final scoreline suggests. The three goal margin in favour of Rangers did not accurately reflect the difference between the two sides. During the period upto Rangers' second and third goals, we had been on top. However, that third strike gave the Ibrox side a cushion which allowed them to relax and play with some confidence.

There's no doubt that today's game will be a difficult one and we will have to play to

form in recent weeks.

Michael O' Neill's loss will be a blow. He is out because of a lapse in discipline, and we will just have to get on with it in his absence. The problem of coping without first team regulars will be nothing new, since we have had to overcome similar difficulties since the start of the campaign.

At such times it is important for everyone to show patience and to get behind the team. With so many youngsters in the side the backing of the supporters is vital as we continue our assault on the league.

Hibs and Celtic have produced exciting and entertaining matches over the years and I've no reason to think that today's game will be any different.

With a packed stadium providing a terrific atmosphere, all the elements are there for an enthralling contest.

Alex McLeish

day by day

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

Thu 30
NOV

ALLEGED MISCONDUCT by seven players results in the SFA handing out bans to some players but not to others. Rangers' Andy Goram is chosen as Bell's Player of the

Month, with Aberdeen's Stephen Glass the Young Player. Managerial awards go to Craig Brown (Scotland), Jimmy Nicholl (Raith Rovers), Jim Duffy (Dundee), Kevin Drinkell (Stirling Albion) and former Hibs, Tom Steven (Cowdenbeath). The hoped-for return from injury of Hibs' Willie Miller is deferred until after the New Year. Jim Duffy is part of a consortium that buys Dundee from Canadian business tycoon Ron Dixon for a reported £3 million.

ABERDEEN SIGN Dean Windass, from Hull City, for £700,000.

Fri 1
DEC

Sat 2
DEC

TWO GOALS from Keith Wright give Hibs a 2-0 win at Motherwell. Rangers' Ally McCoist scores

his 250th Scottish league goal (22 were for St Johnstone). Four goals by Craig Brewster help Dundee United to an 8-0 win over Dumbarton. Alan Shearer scores a hat-trick for Blackburn Rovers in 4-2 win over West Ham.

THE PROMISE OF YOUTH

HIBS WERE hoping to find the form that won them the BP Youth Cup nearly four years ago when, on Wednesday, they took on Celtic in this year's competition.

After a third round 3-0 win over Clydebank at the beginning of last month, the Hibs youngsters travelled to Glasgow (kick-off 7.30pm) encouraged that, after a slow start, goals by McCaffrey, Newman and Paton in the end gave Hibs a comfortable win over the Kilbowie Park side.

Unfortunately, at the time of going to press the Matchday Programme did not have the result of the youngsters' dress rehearsal for today's game. However, the large travelling support that made the journey to Celtic Park would have every reason to expect something special of a Hibs youth team. Of the cup winning side that defeated Ayr United in front of a crowd of 6,562 in April 1992, four have since made the step up to the senior squad, with Chris Jackson deprived of being a fifth only because of injury.



Eric Paton - penalty scorer

Of the win over Clydebank, Hibs coach, Donald Park, said: "We started nervously and didn't play particularly well in the first half. But after the interval, we started passing the ball about and dominated the game thereafter. It was a good, solid team performance. Eric Paton scored from a penalty and the other two goals, by Stuart McCaffrey and Andrew Newman, came from crosses from the right to the back post and were both well taken."

Underlining the impressive system at Hibs, eleven players drawn from the youth ranks have appeared in the first team since the start of pre-season: Donald, Dods, Harper, Jackson C, Love, Miller Graeme, Miller Greg, Reid, Renwick, Riley and Tweed.

See pp 22 and 23: Craig Brown on Youth Football.



Andy Newman - well taken goal

Clubs With Character

A WARM welcome to Celtic on their first visit to the new Easter Road. Like us, Celtic have been investing heavily in the comfort and safety of supporters by undertaking a massive redevelopment of their traditional home.

And I am sure that, like us, they are looking forward with confidence to reaping the benefits that their investments will bring.

Recently, Celtic supporters rallied round their club by taking advantage of a unique share issue. At the same time, supporters of Hibernian were

many of our own supporters are enjoying the facilities in the new North Stand on non-match days.

I am told that over 1000 people have already booked Christmas lunch and dinner in the available suites, and I fully expect this number to increase.

The additional commercial

"Hibs and Celtic have a unique place in the history of Scottish football and their standing in the communities they serve is as important to them now as it has always been"

quick to put their hands in their pockets to back the Hibs 100 scheme.

These actions say much about the characters of the two clubs and the place they hold in their supporters' affections.

Hibs and Celtic have a unique place in the history of Scottish football and their standing in the communities they serve is as important to them now as it has always been.

I hope our visitors to the new South Stand find the facilities there to their liking.

Our aim, which I am sure is also shared by Celtic, is to provide supporters with the best facilities. We believe they deserve nothing less.

I am also delighted that so

opportunities that developments like these represent can only be good for the club. However, we will always remember that football is our core business and is the reason why thousands will flock to the stadium this afternoon.

There have been many outstanding matches between Hibs and Celtic over the years, and with so much at stake for both clubs this afternoon, there is every reason to expect another entertaining occasion.

I am sure it will be another classic encounter and I hope that you enjoy it.

Douglas Cumst





CELTIC

Factfile

FOUNDED: 1888.

GROUND: Celtic Park.

HONOURS: League champions 35 times, runners-up 22 times; Scottish Cup winners 30 times, runners-up 16 times; League Cup winners 9 times, runners-up 10 times; European Cup winners 1966/67, runners-up 1969-70, semi-final 1971/72 and 73/74; Cup Winners' Cup semi-final 1963/64 and 65/66.

MOST CAPPED PLAYER:

Paul McStay, 72, Scotland.

RECORD VICTORY: 11-0 versus Dundee, Division One, October 1895.

RECORD DEFEAT:

0-8 versus Motherwell, April 1937.

RECORD ATTENDANCE: 92,000 versus Rangers, Division One, January 1938.

RECENT INS/OUTS (as at Dec 5): Out: Tony Mowbray £300,000 to Ipswich, Jamie McQuilken £150,000 to Dundee United. In: Jackie McNamara, £600,000 from Dunfermline.

LAST SEASON:

Premier Division, finished 4th.

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Celts on the

ALTHOUGH THEY are still searching for an out-and-out striker, Celtic poses more threat in attack than they have done for a long while.

IF YOU go down to Celtic Park today, you're sure for a big surprise. The Teddy Bears on the other side of Glasgow might be sitting on seven league championship wins in a row, but in the city's East End the other half of the Old Firm is beginning to rise from its recent slumbers. The Bhoys are on the march again – ten goals in the last three games makes something of a mockery of their supposed problems up front – and they are doing it on the back of some of the most studied football to

be seen in Scotland.

With players of the calibre and youth of Simon Donnelly, Brian McLaughlin and recent signing from Dunfermline, Jackie McNamara, they are playing some exquisite football.

Appropriate, then, that Celtic's upturn in fortunes should coincide with their return to Celtic Park after a year renting Hampden. Building work meant having to temporarily vacate their spiritual home and although the new Celtic Park is far



Paul McStay – Celtic are in his blood.

march again



Winning last season's Scottish Cup confirmed that Celtic are on the way back.

from complete, in the place of the old 'Jungle' terracing, there is now a bright new stand of nerve-tingling steepness and beauty.

PHILOSOPHY

If the recent capture of McNamara is the clearest indication that manager Tommy Burns wants his football played with a touch of continental panache, the more veteran members of the squad appear to be as keen to embrace the new philosophy.

After appearing to be at loggerheads with his manager a couple of months ago, John Collins now seems to be thoroughly enjoying his football, scoring his first senior hat-trick a fortnight

ago, against Hearts. And 30-year old Peter Grant looks like he has found an important role as midfield anchor. And on Tuesday, Paul McStay's loyalty to Celtic is rewarded with a match against Manchester United as part of a Testimonial Year.

WONDER

McStay is one of the great football enigmas. Since the day his prayers were answered and he was given his Celtic debut in 1982, his name has been perpetually linked with possible moves to England and the continent. Yet, he remains at Celtic. Only three players have made more league appearances for Celtic and, of them, two

(Roy Aitken on 483 and Billy McNeill on 486) are within easy striking distance. In total, McStay has played over 600 games for Celtic. With 72 caps for Scotland, he is Celtic's most capped player. Little wonder the club is in his blood.

That tie is reinforced by the fact that two of his great uncles played for Celtic, with one, Jimmy, managing the club during the 40s. His brother, Willie, is presently head of youth development at Celtic Park and another brother, Raymond, was on the fringes of the first team before moving to Hamilton Accies.

There's been a few McStays at Celtic, but there is only one Paul McStay.

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With Youth On Our Side

THERE IS more to being a centre forward than just scoring goals, as Scott Bannerman is beginning to find out.

SCOTT'S problem is that, before he signed for Hibs during the summer, he hardly had to do any defending. Such was the quality of the teams he used to play for, while he got on with the scoring, there was no need to let anyone else but defenders do the defending. "I played for Hutchison Vale Boys Club, then Duntocher Boys Club, and really there was no need for me to do that much defending, we were that good."

But reserve team and first team football demands that defending begins from the forwards down,

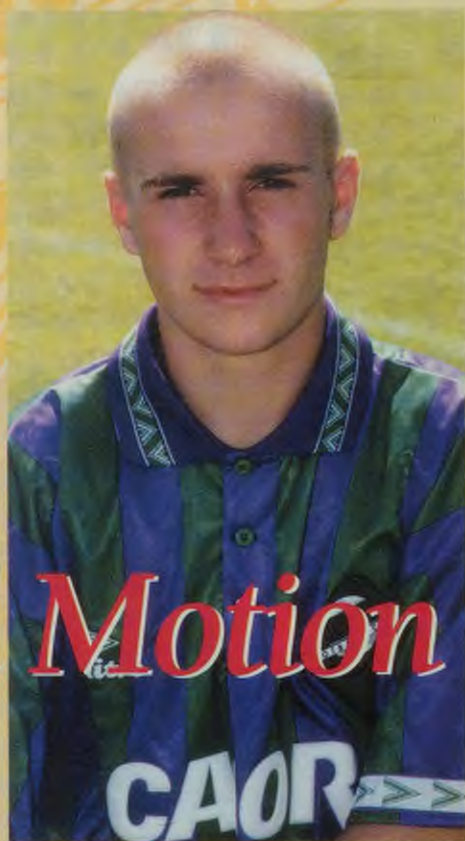
Forward Motion

meaning that Scott is having to learn a brand new set of skills.

The 16-year old admits that, at times, it can be tough going. The nephew of Hearts' sharpshooter, John Robertson, says that what he has to concentrate on most when he is on the park is not being lazy.

"I work hard in training, but there are times when I'm playing when I get a bit lazy. That is something I am working hard on. I am learning about tracking back players and doing my bit in defence."

There is no shortage of incentive for Scott who has followed Hibs since he was young. "Other clubs were interested in me, but what swung it were three things: being a Hibs supporter, wanting to stay in Edinburgh and how well everything is organised at Hibs. One of things



I like about the coaching is that if you do something wrong you are not embarrassed in front of everyone by a coach shouting at you. Instead, they take you aside and explain things quietly and sensibly."

However, one concern that Scott does have is that, at 5'6", he still has a bit of growing to do to make the grade.

But, as players through the generations have shown (including Brazilian superstar Juninho at Middlesbrough), height is no problem when you have the ability and are prepared to work tirelessly developing it.