

Celtic



V
HEARTS

BELL'S
PREMIER
DIVISION
SATURDAY
NOV 25

Kick-off 3pm



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NEWS

**'Yogi' Hughes could
play for the Republic?
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Don't ask this man for directions!



MATT McGLONE in GEOGRAPHY SHOCKER !

**Celt's fans keep Matt right
after shocking attack on
supporter seeking the
Statue of Liberty in Paris !**

*After an outrageous outburst in the 'Alternative View'
where he described a fellow supporter as 'CONFUSED'
Matt McGlone regained some credibility when he duly
ate humble pie when his mistake was highlighted.*

*It's rumoured that as punishment,
behaviour can lead to, Matt will be for
Gerry McNee guaranteeing the*



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A WARM welcome to Hearts and their supporters for today's match.

First of all though I'd like to thank each and everyone of the Celtic support for their input to last Sunday's 3-3 draw with Rangers at Ibrox.

The backing they gave the boys on the pitch was nothing short of fantastic and was very much appreciated by everyone.

They were there long after the final whistle and we hope we gave them something to be proud of.

I feel that possibly we were a bit unfortunate not to win, especially after our performance produced three goals.

The most important thing though is that the players are performing with a touch of consistency over the course and we all want them to keep the bit between their teeth and go from strength to strength, starting with today's game against Hearts.

We turned it on the last time we met them with a 4-0 win at Tynecastle back in September, a day that was memorable for the Celtic support.

Young Brian McLaughlin wore his scoring boots for the first time and grabbed a double but other youngsters such as Chris Hay and Simon Donnelly made valuable contributions to the victory - as did Andy Walker in scoring the other two goals.

That was a great result and performance but I think we have improved a lot since then.

What makes the game even more interesting is of course the fact that Hearts have improved as well since our last meeting. Their recent foreign signings have given them a great boost over the past few games.

In saying that though we must win more of our home games. Our away form has been exceptional even though we have yet to produce a scoreline similar to the one we had at Tynecastle.

Our home form can't be sneezed at but it hasn't brought the results to reflect the way we've been performing.

Our home form has been good but it has not brought us the right results

We had a few injuries after last week's Old Firm game but hope they will all be fine for today's match although there a few players waiting in the wings.

Chris Hay scored twice against Rangers reserves here last Saturday and he, along with Stuart Gray, are continuing to knock on the first-team door.





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PETER GRANT



SIMON DONNELLY



PAUL McSTAY



PIERRE VAN HOOIJDONK



ANDREAS THOM



JOHN COLLINS



PHIL O'DONNELL



ANDY WALKER



Referee:
J McCLUSKEY
(Edinburgh)



Linesman:
DJP McBRIDE
(Houston)



Linesman:
DC BOYLE
(Balfon)

STAND-BYS:
Celtic: :Brian
McLaughlin, Pat
Bonner, Jamie
McQuilken
Hearts: Brian
Hamilton, Henry
Smith, Dave
McPherson

GILLES ROUSETT



GARY LOCKE



PAUL RITCHIE



GARY MACKAY



NEIL BERRY



PASCAL BRUNO



ALAN JOHNSTON



HANS ESKILLSON



JOHN ROBERTSON



STEVE FULTON



JOHN MILLER



JOHN COLQUHOUN



ALAN LAWRENCE



IN ASSOCIATION WITH CR SMITH



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +



HEARTS' season serves as the classic example of how quickly fortunes can change in the Premier Division. A month ago the Edinburgh side was languishing third bottom of the table and even new boss Jim Jefferies found himself criticised by disgruntled Tynecastle fans, despite only joining from Falkirk in the summer. But he is undoubtedly shrewd cookie, a manager who doesn't let things simply drift but takes positive action in times of crisis.

Despite the fact that Hearts are so heavily in the red in the past couple of months Jim Jefferies has wheeled and dealed and really freshened up the side.

Incredibly he's already made EIGHT signings, which have totally reshaped the Hearts first team, which, prior to his arrival, seemed to have an inertia about it with the same old faces appearing in maroon year after year.

The arrival of the foreign legion has captured the imagination of the Scottish public at large and brought an upturn in Hearts' fortunes - the Edinburgh men have claimed 10 out of a possible 12 league points in recent weeks - with the help of some astute Scottish buys.

Midfielders Paul Smith and ex-Celt Steve Fulton have settled well, with former Broomfield striker Alan Lawrence also bolstering options up-front.

Hearts had some horrendous goalkeeping troubles early in the season with Jefferies eventually turning to youngster **GARY O'CONNOR** after problems with the, now released, **HENRY SMITH** and **CRAIG NELSON**.

When this didn't have the desired affect he turned to the continent and personality keeper **GILLES ROUSSET**. The 6ft 5in Frenchman, who had spells with Nantes and Marseilles, has been capped twice for his country and seems to have been the answer to Jeffries' prayers in the no.1 slot.

Injury problems in defence were undoubtedly a factor in Hearts leaking goals all too frequently in the early part of the season. Both **STEPHEN FRAIL** and club skipper **CRAIG LEVEIN**, are presently sidelined.

Hearts favour the two markers and a sweeper formation in defence and these roles have been filled by **NEIL BERRY**, **PASQUALE BRUNO** and **PAUL RITCHIE** in recent weeks. Berry is now in his 10th year at Tynecastle and has been enjoying a new lease of life under Jeffries.

He has certainly benefited from playing alongside the hugely experienced Bruno who has over 300 games in the Serie A to his credit after stints at Fiorentina, Juventus and Torino.

The emergence of Ritchie has helped the Hearts defence too. The former Scottish schools' captain only made his senior debut this term but already seems established.

As a result there has been no place for former skipper **DAVE McPHERSON**, who rejoined Hearts in November 1994 when Alan McLaren moved to Rangers. Hasn't had the happiest of times in his second spell at Tynecastle.

The Edinburgh side are likely to string five across the middle and the addition of **STEVE FULTON** has given them much-needed creative flair. Jefferies plucked him from the obscurity of Bolton reserves to buy him for



OLD BOY... Hearts veteran John Colquhoun

+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

Foreign legion just capital for Jefferies



Jambos veterans
John Robertson,
top and Gary
Mackay



Falkirk last August and he signed him for a second time last month, in a deal that took David Hagen to Falkirk.

Fulton links well with the hugely gifted **ALLAN JOHNSTON**, a product of Hearts youth policy who is beginning to live-up to the great things promised from him when he burst on to the scene two years ago.

Another man likely to find a central role is **GARY MACKAY**, who joined the club from school and debuted as a 16 year old.

Another new boy that could find himself involved this afternoon is **PAUL SMITH**, brought to the club earlier this month in a swap deal that saw Colin Miller move to Dunfermline.

Operating on the flanks could be the likes of **GARY LOCKE** and **JOHN MILLAR**. Right-sided Locke is another of the talented bunch who've come through the ranks at Tynecastle and the 20 year old is so well thought of by Jeffries he's been handed the captaincy.

Millar, who joined from Blackburn Rovers in 1991, gets into good positions in the penalty box and possesses a real goal threat.

Up front is new signing **HANS ESKILSSON**. The big striker is proving a handful for Scottish defences and scored on his debut last month.

The former Sporting Lisbon player has eight Swedish caps and has forged a promising partnership with **JOHN ROBERTSON**.

The wee man took his goal tally last Sunday in Edinburgh derbies to 23 goals in 44 matches.

Recent signing from Airdrie **ALAN LAWRENCE** is a similar type of player in that he too is small, but quick and busy and feeds off scraps.

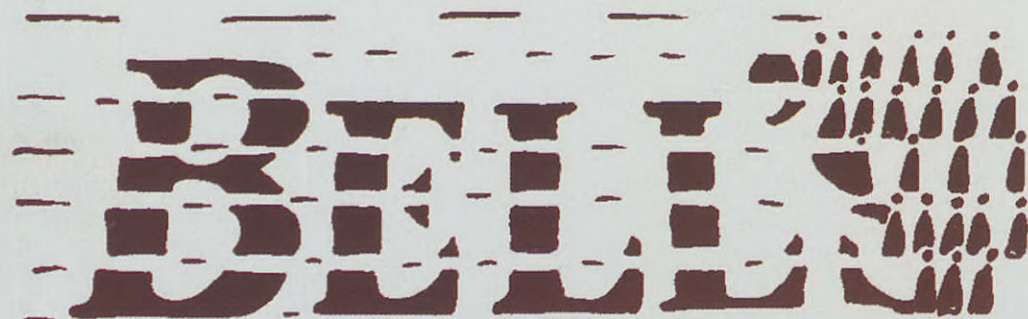
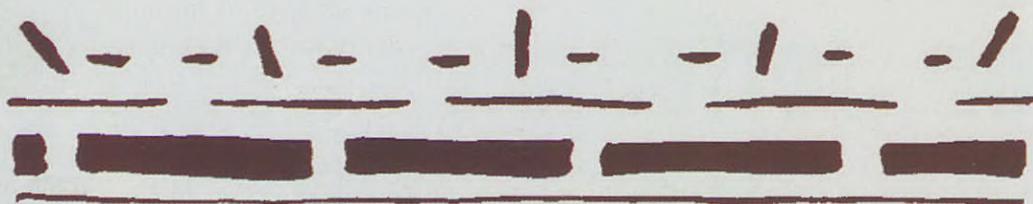
Veteran winger **JOHN COLQUHOUN** is more a bit part player than anything else these days, with talk of a move to Airdrie in the offing for the former Celt. He was on the bench against Hibs and has been used sparingly in this, his eighth, season at Tynecastle, in the course of two spells with the club.

Lowdown + Lowdown

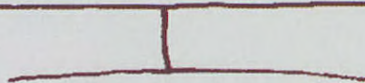
GILLES ROUSSET (Goalkeeper)
Aged 31. Signed from Nantes, 1995.
NEIL BERRY (Defender)
Aged 32. Signed from Bolton Wanderers, 1988.
PASQUALE BRUNO (Defender)
Aged 33 Signed as a free agent, 1995.
PAUL RITCHIE (Defender)
Aged 20. Signed from Links United, 1992.
DAVE McPHERSON (Defender)
Aged 31. Signed from Rangers, 1994.
GARY LOCKE (Midfielder)
Aged 20. Signed from Whitehill Welfare, 1992.
ALLAN JOHNSTON (Midfielder)
Aged 21. Signed from Tynecastle Boys' Club, 1990.
GARY MACKAY (Midfielder)

Aged 31. Signed from Salvesen BC, 1980.
STEVE FULTON (Midfielder)
Aged 25. Signed from Falkirk, 1995.
JOHN MILLAR (Midfielder)
Aged 28. Signed from Blackburn Rovers, 1991.
PAUL SMITH (Midfielder)
Aged 33. Signed from Dunfermline, 1995.
HANS ESKILSSON (Forward)
Aged 28. Signed as a free agent, 1995.
JOHN ROBERTSON (Forward)
Aged 31. Signed from Newcastle United, 1988.
ALAN LAWRENCE (Forward)
Aged 33. Signed from Airdrie, 1995.
JOHN COLQUHOUN (Forward)
Aged 32. Signed from Sunderland, 1993.

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