

Programme 20p

Season 1981-82

(Under the new
Floodlighting System)

HAWICK ROYAL ALBERT

versus

CELTIC

At Albert Park, Hawick

on Monday, 16th November, 1981

Kick-Off at 7.30 p.m.

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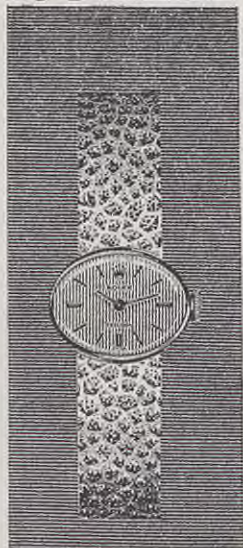
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* * * * *

GOOD LUCK ALBERT !

WELCOME TO ALBERT PARK

On behalf of Hawick Royal Albert Football Club may I take this opportunity to welcome our visitors, Glasgow Celtic, to the border town of Hawick for this great occasion, the official opening of our new floodlighting system and for this reason we at Albert Park wish to thank the Celtic Football Club for coming to Hawick to celebrate this unique occasion.

All the very best from all at Albert Park.

PADDY DUNNE, Chairman.

ALBERT PARK BULLETIN

It is with great pleasure that we present this special match programme for this big and memorable occasion tonight—the opening of the Albert Park floodlights. For all those concerned in the project it is a dream come true. For a soccer club in a rugby stronghold, a magnificent achievement. And for football in the town and indeed the Borders a tremendous overall boost. And on this gala night what more could one ask for than to have as our guests and opponents none other than Glasgow Celtic. A side steeped in tradition. A side renowned throughout the world, whose past glories and fine achievements speak for themselves. And a side who today are fine ambassadors for the game of football, and big in every sense of the word.

It is also fitting that during this season, when light is about to be bestowed on Albert Park, that the Club are doing so well on the park. Unbeaten as this programme goes to print in both cup and league commitments, we certainly have been hitting the high spots. Especially in reaching the final of the Scottish Qualifying Cup, for only the third time in Club history, with victories over Newton Stewart, Dalbeattie Star, Whitehill Welfare and Coldstream.

So let us now take a look at the Hawick squad and manager who not only face the might of Celtic tonight but who have performed so well this term.

Ian Whitehead (Manager)—Made his mark as a player with Vale of Leithen, Gala Fairydean, Queen's Park, Ayr United and Berwick Rangers. Had seven Scottish amateur caps to his name before turning professional with Ayr. Was also a very successful player/manager with Selkirk, guiding the latter club to many honours.

He spent two seasons as coach with Berwick Rangers before taking over as Albert team boss. He is a more than shrewd judge of the game and has added a touch of colour and professionalism to Albert Park.

Rae Nichol—Joined the Albert last season from Gala Hotspur. Despite his sixteen stone frame he is a deceptively agile goalkeeper with a reassuring safe pair of hands. Apart from his football he is held in high regard in cricketing circles. He has been capped for the Scottish 'B' side and is a more than useful spin bowler as well as devastating with the bat.

David McLean—Played with Hawick Youth Centre in the Border Amateur League before arriving at Albert Park. He can operate anywhere in the back four with great authority and is a defender of considerable note. He is at present holding down the right back berth. Impresses in the air and on the ground.

John Robertson—A young full-back who has a great deal of potential. Causes concern to the opposition when going forward and is also sound and positive in the tackle. He has a lot to offer the game and could go far. He came to Royalists this term from Selkirk.

Mike Oliver—Is the Club's longest serving player, having been at Albert Park for ten seasons. He previously played for Hawick Legion. He has missed most of this term through illness, but is a full-back of undoubted talent. He keeps cool under pressure and makes good use of the ball. He was most unfortunate last season in the way of injuries, suffering first from a broken toe and then a fractured cheekbone.

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SIGNIFICANT DATES IN HISTORY

★ The Club was founded in season 1946-47 by Mr Harry Weir and the late Mr William Bunton who formed Hawick Royal Albert from a breakaway of Hawick Railway ★

★ At the inaugural meeting the name "Royal Albert" was derived from Larkhall Royal Albert for whom Mr Bunton was a former player ★

★ Initially the playing staff were from the Denholm Village Team ★

★ The first captain of the Club was centre-forward Andy Cameron ★

★ The Club moved from Wilton Lodge Park to the present Albert Park in 1963 ★

★ The grandstand frame is a remnant of the Wilson & Glennys factory fire and was in fact the steel of the frame flat structure ★

★ Hibernian kindly played the opening match in 1963 ★

★ The present changing pavilion at Wilton Lodge Park (Hawick United pitch) was man-handled there from Burnfoot in the early 1950s on the unlikely date of New Year's Day by Mr Harry Weir and friends ★

★ Biggest crowd at Albert Park was over 3,000 who attended the Elgin City Scottish Cup tie in 1966. Result was 1-1 with Elgin winning the replay 3-1. ★

★ Celtic, Falkirk, Queen of the South, Third Lanark, Carlisle United, Hibernian and Berwick Rangers have opposed the Royal Albert during their history ★

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Albert Park Bulletin (continued)

Kenny Rutherford—An experienced centre-half, who is a tower of strength to the defence. He was formerly with Cowdenbeath, Berwick Rangers and Selkirk. He played with Berwick in their promotion winning season of 1978-79 and was described in a recent book on the history of the Berwick Club as a whole-hearted player who would run through a brick wall if necessary. And this indeed sums him up to perfection.

Andrew Colville—Formerly of Hawick United and Selkirk, he has been switched from full-back to sweeper this season and this move has proved an undoubted success. He marshals matters to a high degree at the back and is a very consistent performer indeed who shows great purpose in everything he does.

John Welsh—Has been a real revelation in midfield since arriving at Albert Park as a pre-season signing from Selkirk. A very talented player who has a lot of skill and natural ability. He reads a game well and can turn out in almost any position and do a good job.

Paul Loughran—Had East of Scotland experience with Selkirk and Gala Fairydean before joining Royalists two seasons ago. He has improved considerably since then, developing into a skilful, highly active midfield operator with a flair for goals. At the moment he is the Club's top goal scorer for the season and he has some real beauties amongst them.

Kenny Tait—One of the two brothers in the side. A real ninety minute performer who always gives his all. Never knows when he is beaten and is a good man to have in any line-up. Adds bite to midfield through his strong, positive tackling. He was previously with Kelso United and Selkirk.

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Albert Park Bulletin (continued)

Mike Tait—Also had spells with Kelso United and Selkirk before coming to Hawick this term. In the past he has often been a thorn in Royalists' flesh through his non-stop, tireless work. He is a real grafter who never stops trying. He can play equally well in midfield or up front.

Neil Brown—A winger of considerable talents, fast and elusive, he has been the scourge and torment of many a defence. Often amongst the goals and without doubt one of the best wing men in East of Scotland football. He was formerly with Hawick United and Selkirk.

Brian McConnell—Superb in the air, in the way of scoring goals and laying of the ball. He leads the attack well and has proved himself a prolific goal scorer with many memorable counters to his credit. He is big and strong and always has to be watched carefully by the opposing defence. Highly respected in the East of Scotland scene, he skips the side and has had previous experience with Hawick United and Selkirk.

Alan Inglis—Spent four seasons with Royalists whom he joined from Hawick United before returning to the Border amateur scene with Hawick Legion midway through last term. He has recently come back to Albert Park for a second spell and has settled in well. A fine footballer whose talents can be used as an industrious midfielder man or a go ahead winger.

John Davidson—Has been unable to gain a regular place in the side but is still very much part of the pool. He is a promising young player however who always gives his best. He formerly played for Hawick United. His brother, Keith, is a former Albert goalkeeper who subsequently went on to join Berwick Rangers.

Sandy Bell—Well on the way to recovery at the moment from a broken leg received in a league match against Vale of Leithen last season. A fiery midfielder man who possesses both skill and aggression, he is good on the ball and always well to the fore. He was with Selkirk for several seasons and also had a spell with Gala Fairydean before coming to Hawick.

JOHN SLORANCE.

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FLOODLIGHTS — IN 1893 !

The football fans in the corner of the pub were having a rare old argument. It was a familiar topic of conversation and there was a bet on it—when did two Scottish teams play the first match under floodlights ?

Answers varied from 1919 to 1951, but all the dates suggested were wrong—by the proverbial mile ! The first recorded match played under the lights in Scotland was held on Christmas Day, 1893 !

The pioneers in this venture were Celtic. Their opponents were Clyde and the score was 1-1. Indeed, a year before this, when electricity was all the rage, a minute taken from Celtic's ancient files records the fact that the Club were anxious to "introduce the Electric Light with the object of having evening football matches and other athletic meetings."

There were of course many problems about illuminating the field of play. In fact, in case there was a black-out or power failure it was decided that arrangements should be made for 100 gas jets to be "laid on" for emergencies !

"The Glasgow Evening Times" of 26th December, besides carrying advertisements for best Scotch Whisky at 3/6d per bottle and Lipton tea at 3d per quarter, carried the headline "Football Under the Electric Light," and described the proceedings as follows.

"The novelty of a football match by the aid of electric light, combined with the fact that the competing teams were such keen rivals as Celtic and Clyde, last evening attracted some 5,000 spectators to Celtic Park, Glasgow.

"Football has previously been played at night under artificial light, particularly at the Edinburgh and Glasgow Exhibitions, but this was the first match of its kind on a private field.

"Sixteen arc lamps are used to illuminate the playing pitch, the lights being hung from high poles erected inside the racing track with a row suspended up the middle of the field.

"Last evening the atmosphere was foggy and not very favourable for the experiment, but there appeared to be sufficient light for the players to follow every movement of the game."

Other records of the match reveal that both goals were scored in the first half and that the second half was even, if hard fought.

So that was the first floodlight match in Scotland. Incidentally, at the meeting when the floodlights proposals were made, it was recorded in the minutes that "It was considered advisable to have the park covered to protect it from the frost," and as one gentleman thought that this could be done with tarpaulin at a cost of £70, another kindly consented "to advance the money in the meantime for that purpose."

We now have floodlights at Albert Park, perhaps under soil heating next?

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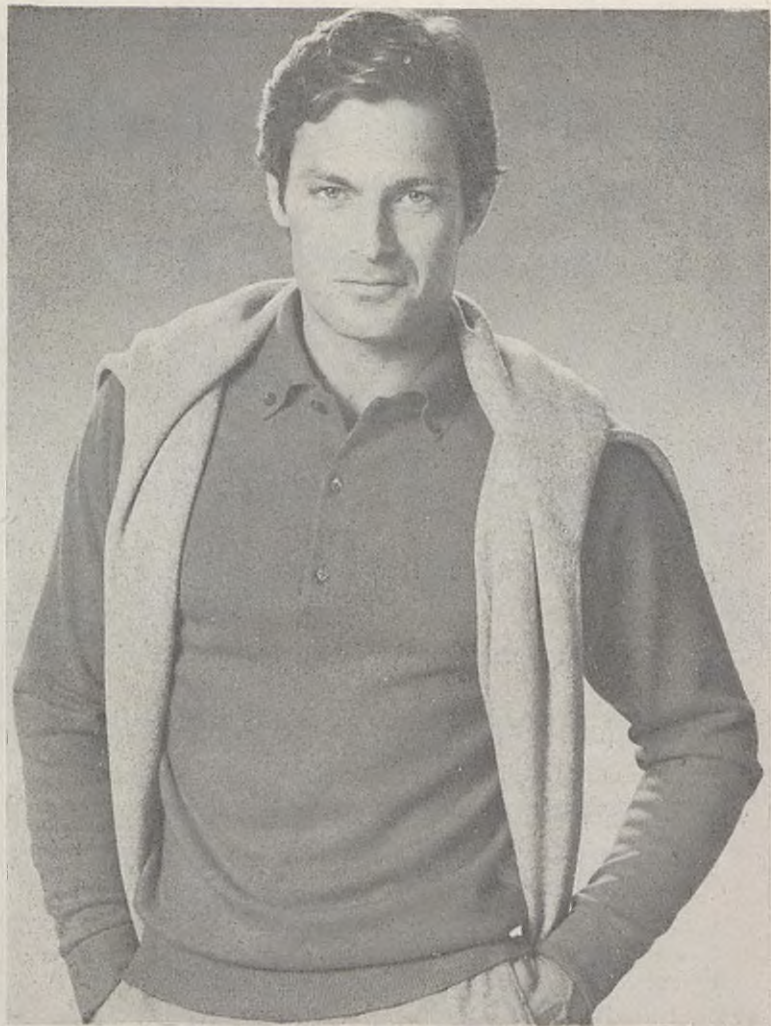
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