

# super saints

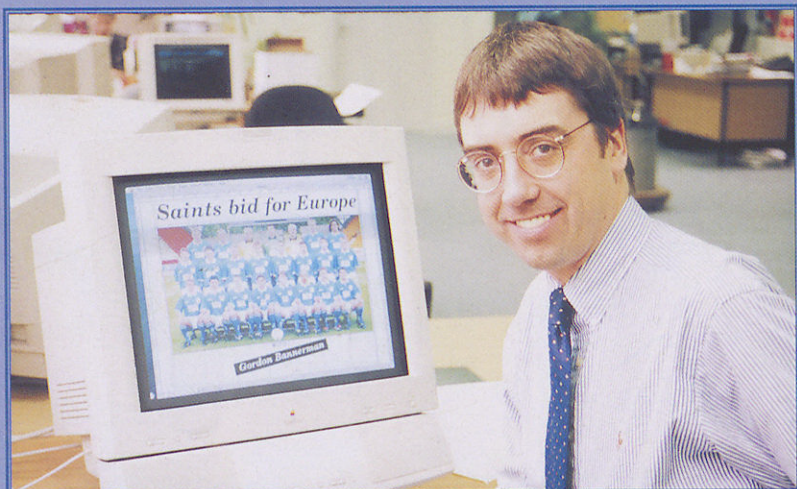


## St. Johnstone V Celtic

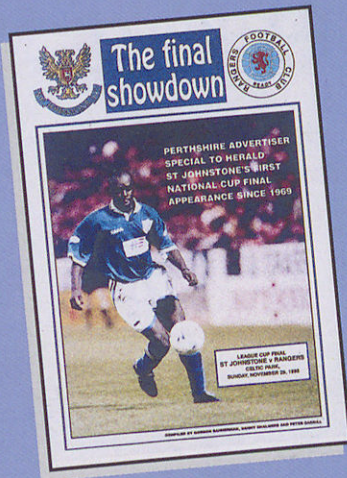
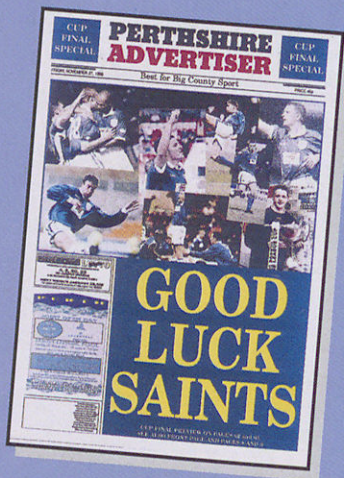


McDiarmid Park, Perth  
Scottish Premier League, Saturday, 24th April, 1999  
Kick off 3.00 pm. Price £1.50. Number 20

# READ GORDON BANNERMAN



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Last Saturday saw the first 0 - 0 draw since I came to Perth. In truth, it wasn't the best of games, but I am pleased that we've now played Hearts, one of the best teams in the country last season, five times and they've not managed to beat us once.



The number of injuries to key players continues to cause problems. This season we've had a lot of important men out and it's to the credit of the rest of the lads that they've demonstrated their versatility by turning out in a variety of different positions.

Our game against Celtic this afternoon is a big one for both clubs. Both of us have a lot to play for, with the possibility of the League championship seemingly coming closer every weekend for Celtic and the goal of qualifying for Europe still in St Johnstone's sights. By the time you're reading this, we'll know if we are going to have to finish third in the League to qualify for Europe, or whether we must endure a play-off against Dundee United. I hope that it is the former. The Celtic players know that they have to win to have any hope of catching Rangers. This will mean there is no danger of any complacency from today's visitors and we must match, if not exceed them, in terms of work rate and commitment if we wish to take anything from today's contest. We too want to win all our matches and while it will be tough today, if we all work hard then we have a chance of victory.

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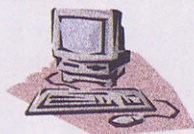


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Last Saturday Alan Main played for the first half of the game and, because he was injured, Allan Ferguson came on in the second. Both players did not let in a goal, so should we record shut outs for both players? We contacted the Association of Football Statisticians and they said that if the keepers played for an equal amount of time they should both be given clean sheets, so we have amended the statistics accordingly. Allan Ferguson had a good, confident game last Saturday but the word from the club was that Alan Main was likely to play against United. If he didn't make it for the Tannadice match, he was expected to have recovered enough to play this afternoon against Celtic.

Two Saints players have been included in the Scotland squads to play friendlies against Germany in a few days time. Kieran McAnespie is in the Under 21 squad to play on the 27th and Alan Main is in the full squad to play on the 28th April. George O'Boyle and Danny Griffin can tell them all about playing against Germany in a friendly.

**St Johnstone FC  
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St Johnstone is highly committed to a Youth Development programme as we feel that this is a major way forward for the Club and we are already reaping the benefits of this with 10 players already appearing in the first team and a further six who have represented their Country at International level.

The Celebrity -Am Golf Tournament is a fund raising day for Youth Development at the club and businesses or individuals are invited to submit a team, with an entry fee of £250 +VAT. Each team will be partnered by St Johnstone personnel (Management, Player or Director)

**Itinerary**

12.30 - 12.45pm Register at Whitemoss Golf Club, Coffee & Bacon Rolls  
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5.15pm Return to McDiarmid Park - Open Bar  
6.00pm 5 - course meal with table wine  
8.00pm Presentation of Prizes  
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**T**he last time that Celtic visited McDiarmid Park was just over 5 months ago. It was just after Jock Brown had left and Celtic had just beaten Dundee 6 - 1. This time around the unfairly maligned Fergus McCann has just left Celtic and they have beaten Dundee 5 - 0.

**W**ay back in November, **Jonathan Gould** had just signed a new five year contract but he was injured and **Tony Warner**, who is now on loan to Aberdeen, was on loan from Liverpool. Gould injured his shoulder in the midweek game against Hearts and **Barry John Corr** came on as a substitute and made a number of good saves. Gould may be out for 6 weeks with damaged shoulder ligaments but **Stewart Kerr** will be used as a replacement keeper. Kerr was said by the press to be interested in moving to Chelsea.

**A** few days after the November game, 27 year old Swedish internationalist midfielder **Johan Mjallby** was signed from AIK Stockholm for around £1.5m. He had been part time in Sweden as was described as "probably the most influential and important player in the Swedish League." Mjallby, number 35 in the squad, has improved over the season as his fitness has improved - he scored his first goal for the club against Dunfermline just before Christmas.

**Darren Jackson** had gone on loan to Coventry but he did not get a permanent move south and recently moved to Hearts for around £450,000. At the end of November Celtic beat Rangers 5 - 1 - a result that was unexpected at the time and where the skills of **Lubomir Moravcik** were shown to their full. Moravcik has subsequently been injured. **Alan Stubbs** returned to the first team for that Old Firm game after being out through injury. A cultured, footballing defender, Stubbs apparently does not want to stay in Scotland but new Celtic chief executive designate **Allan MacDonald** is currently trying to change his mind.

**Mark Viduka** first joined Celtic in December but did not play for them until the end of February when he came on as a sub, (as No 36), in the win against Dundee Utd. Although Viduka is a powerful centre forward he is also skillful on the ball. When Mark arrived it was thought that **Harald Brattbakk** may move on, possibly to Derby, but he is still with the club. Young striker **Mark Burchill**, of



**Regi Blinker, who has been on form recently**

whom much is hoped, has renewed his contract.

**Vidar Riseth** scored his first goal for the club against Dundee on Boxing Day. **David Hannah** moved to Dundee United for £500,000 and **John Paul McBride** moved to Saints for £200,000. In February Celtic beat Kilmarnock 1 - 0 with a goal from Riseth and leapfrogged them to second place in the table. In February **Craig Burley** returned after injury to be a substitute in the 7 - 1 win over Motherwell. **Henrik Larsson** scored four goals in that game and became the first player to score four goals in one match in the Premier League. Eleven days ago Henrik signed a four year contract to make him the highest paid Celtic player ever. The players also came to an agreement with the new chief executive over their bonuses.

**I**n March it was announced that **Phil O'Donnell** and **Simon Donnelly** were going to Sheffield Wednesday at the end of the season on four year contracts. **Scott Marshall**, Gordon's brother, was signed on loan from Southampton as the club were short of defenders - Mjallby and Riseth were suspended for the Scottish Cup semi-final and **Alan Stubbs** and **Marc Rieper** were injured. **Enrico Annoni** returned to the first team, after injury, for that game and **Tosh McKinlay** has also played recently because of the injury situation. **Morten Wieghorst** has recovered from injury and has recently returned to the side.

**C**eltic will have been considerably boosted by Rangers draw with Dundee last weekend. Their season will possibly hinge on the forthcoming Old Firm game. Celtic's form of late has been sublime and the season is poised for an exciting climax.

**W**hat price a Rangers' League flag now? After faltering against Saints, they nearly repeated the result against the Dark Blues. All of which means that it is likely that both sides of the Old Firm will get increasingly edgy as the winning line hoves into sight. I suspect that some weekends will see them hammering some luckless teams (but not please today), while on other occasions the nerves and tension will get too much. A lot will depend on how Rangers cope. Celtic have nothing to lose: they are playing catch up, while Rangers have seen their lead being slowly whittled away and, like a team which has been four up at half time and then loses three goals in the next half hour, there are signs that they might crack. It must also be said that having to play twenty four hours after their rivals is most unfair, although I doubt if many of today's visitors will see it that way!

**I**n the battle for Europe, it must be said that Kilmarnock are in the driving seat. Nonetheless, if Saints can emulate Celtic and set out to win every remaining game, then there is still a chance that we too might claw back our own particular deficit. The reports that we might have to play off against Dundee United so that Scotland has a representative from our premier Cup competition are worrying.

**A**t the foot of the table, Hearts are still not out of it, but they face a real crunch match when they play

Dunfermline at Tynecastle. I do not believe any Jambos' fan would have expected to be playing a crucial relegation decider in the last of their so-called 'derbies', four games before the end of the season. If Dunfermline lose today and then lose to Hearts then that, I fear, will be that. Sadly, there will be no great fuss, because the Pars are not the Hearts. This does great disservice to a side which the late, great Jock Stein made into one of Scottish football's finest in the 1960s.

#### Bank of Scotland Premier League

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rangers	31	20	5	6	66	28	66
Celtic	31	18	5	8	77	27	62
Kilmarnock	31	14	6	11	44	24	53
St Johnstone	30	12	8	10	35	36	46
Motherwell	31	8	13	10	31	44	34
Aberdeen	31	9	15	7	36	58	34
Dundee	31	9	15	7	27	52	34
Dundee Utd	30	8	14	8	33	37	32
Hearts	31	7	16	8	29	47	29
Dunfermline	31	4	12	15	23	48	27

correct at 18th April 1999

#### Top Premier Scorers

- 28 - Larsson (Celtic).
- 18 - Wallace (Rangers).
- 13 - Jess (Abdn), Dodds (Dundee Utd).
- 10 - Albertz (Rangers), Winters (Abdn).
- 9 - Burley (Celtic).
- 8 - Johansson (Rangers), Annand (Dundee).
- 7 - Coyle, Smith (Dunf), Hamilton (Abdn), Spencer (M'well), Olofsson (Dundee Utd), McCaist (Killie).
- 6 - Adamczuk (Dundee), Wright, Mitchell (Killie), Moravcik (Celtic), McCann, Van Bronckhorst (Rangers), Adam (Hearts).
- 5 - Donnelly, Brattbakk, Burchill, Viduka (Celtic), Guivarc'h, Kanchelskis (Rangers), Vareille (Killie).
- 4 - Grant, Simao (Saints), Durrant (Killie), McSwegan (Hearts), Brannan (Motherwell).

#### Premier Shut outs

- 17 - Marshall (Killie).
- 8 - Douglas (Dundee), Gould (Celtic), Main (Saints).
- 7 - Dykstra (Dundee Utd).
- 6 - Charbonnier (Rangers), Kaven (M'well), Butler (Dunf).
- 5 - Klos (Rangers).
- 3 - Rousset (Hearts).
- 2 - Leighton (Abdn), Niemi (Rangers), Goram (M'well), Ferguson (Saints).

#### This weekend's other Premier League games

Dundee v Kilmarnock  
Dunfermline v Dundee Utd  
Motherwell v Hearts  
Rangers v Aberdeen

#### Today's match officials

Today's referee is Kenny Clark of Paisley, assisted by Peter Crilley of Wishaw and Derek Lowe of Kennoway. The fourth official is Kevin Bisset of Inverness.



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## Mole's BACK!

Digby's thinking of calling it a day at the end of this season. After all, there are only so many stories about Roddy which you can actually use. However I'm determined to go out on a high note.

Keigan Parker is displaying an alarming amount of naivety when it comes to learning about the offside rule. However, the Mole is glad to report that the punishment for being stupidly offside is currently 10 press-ups for each offence, and the young Thunderbirds' puppet regularly has to get through up to 100 at a time after each youth match.

Physio Nick Summersgill has a new nickname. It's Viagra. This story will probably touch a raw nerve or two!

On a similar subject, the lads were discussing what they used to do for a living before they became footballers. Jim Weir used to put up tents at race meetings (presumably at Hamilton?) and has also worked in an ice cream van in his time. This is probably why Jim's so hard. It's well known that working in ice cream vans in the west of Scotland is a dangerous profession.

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**O**K for some more Saints historical trivia?

**O'Rourke, Jimmy:** provided some real entertainment for Saints fans when this former Hibe favourite spent some of the last years of his career at Muirton. A fans' favourite whose goals, particularly some of free-kicks, helped Saints into the Premier Division in 1975. Jimmy moved to Motherwell when Saints were relegated at the end of that disastrous first Premier season (which would have meant part-time football for him if he'd stayed).

**Ormond, Willie:** The Saints' manager from March 1967 to January 1973; he then followed his predecessor Bobby Brown into the Scotland manager's job. As a player he had been the outside left in Hibernian great 'Famous Five'. Under Willie Ormond Saints reached new heights and got into Europe for the first (and to date the only) time. Willie took over Brown's team and moulded them into a wonderful side, which reached its zenith in the 1970-71 season when it attained 3rd place in the old First Division. This is the best placing we've ever had and resulted in some rather enjoyable trips to the continent,



Willie Ormond

to Hamburg and Budapest and, less happily, to Sarajevo. Ormond's greatest strength was his ability to judge players, to understand them as men and, consequently get them to play as a team. All his players got on well together and had tremendous team spirit: something which seems to be duplicated today with Sandy Clark's side.

St Johnstone's finest hour and a half ever came under Ormond against SV Hamburg in the First Round of the UEFA Cup. The second leg match at Muirton when Saints won 3 - 0 with goals from Whitelaw, Hall and Pearson is arguably the best game in the club's history. Not many Scottish teams get to the third round of a European tournament nowadays!

**Offside:** probably the single most argued over Law of football: without it the game would be much less fun! A Grade 3 ref of our acquaintance tells us that it is almost impossible to look along the line *and* watch the player kick the ball forward. Be warned: one of your editors nearly had an apoplectic fit in a League Cup quarter final match against Raith when he thought a Rovers' player was miles offside. Television later showed the unfortunate linesman was right, as Paul Cherry played all the Raith forwards onside!

**Old Firm:** two teams from Glasgow who are fortunate to number amongst their supporters most of the Scottish newspapers' football scribes.

**Ower, Ian:** a goalkeeper who joined the club as a youngster and played 18 times for the first team between 1960 and 1962 when Billy Taylor was injured. Good enough to be looked at by West Ham, but he ended up at Workington.

Prepare for some more nonsense next time



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Where to now I wonder with only three home games to go? Why not to the ground that has probably been at least this season Scotland's most controversial. Where? Boghead, of course. The very appropriately named stadium has probably seen more games postponed this season than all the other grounds in Scottish football put together. Between about October and the end of March, hardly a week went by without at least one match being called off, quite often at short notice which caused problems to the supporters. Even now, late April, games at Boghead are having pitch inspections before the game gets the go ahead. The ground sharing with Clydebank makes matters worse, remember Firhill's pitch suffered under ground sharing before it was improved. I have a great deal of sympathy for Dumbarton but something needs to be done - someone, somehow, needs to grasp the mettle.

For those supporters who have never visited Boghead, you ain't been missing much. There is an archaic stand about half the size of the old one at Muirton park. In front of this, there is a standing enclosure again similar to that of Muirton. Behind one goal, which is usually given over to visiting supporters (on average 35 for Third division game) there is quite a large covered terracing which is unlike anything else I can remember seeing in Scottish football. Opposite the main stand there is a thin open terracing which looks little more than a grassbank and which is now, presumably, closed off for safety reasons because I can never remember seeing anyone standing there. It is certainly closed off to visiting supporters, which means that watching games is restricted to behind the goal which doesn't make for great viewing. At the other end of the ground there is more open terracing. The loos are four portaloos, one of which is kindly reserved for ladies.

Apart from the state of the pitch, it also slopes quite steeply towards the away end. Behind this goal, there is a large area between the pitch and terracing. When this is not boggy, this is where both sets of substitutes do their warming up, so

it always possible to indulge in a bit of banter. On the right hand side of the ground, as visiting supporters look at it, the pitch seems very wide. However, this is pretty deceiving, because there must be about two yards of grass on the other side of the touchline.

Once again, Boghead was a ground that took me long time to get to (and that is nothing to do with the drive there). My first sortie was the Challenge Cup in season 1994/95. That game saw a very unusual sight, a Paul Ramsey goal in a comfortable but unspectacular 4 - 2 victory for Saints. For those who can remember, Ramsey was better known for his whole hearted approach to the opposition than directing the ball towards their goal. The next game after that was when the '9 to 5' training regime had just started. After a very poor first half Saints were struggling, but in the second half it was a totally different team, with Biscuits outstanding. That day he tackled like Paul Ramsey and took everybody by surprise. Alan Main did help a bit by saving a penalty which proved to be the real turning point of the game. Another visit to Boghead that season saw Saints run out comfortable winners.

Although Dumbarton were to be relegated that season it didn't stop Saints turning up at Boghead, this time to play our regular bogey team Clydebank. True to form, Saints who were going great guns at the top of the First Division were duly beaten 2 - 1 on a quagmire of a pitch. It just goes to show, that no promotion winning season is complete without a defeat by The Bankies. Even later that season, following a postponement, Saints still couldn't manage to beat Clydebank, although a certain young man called McAnespie announced his arrival with a screamer of an equaliser from 25 yards into the top corner.

If Saints do ever have to go to Boghead again, my tip for getting there is to turn off the M80 towards Kilsyth and head through Milngavie. It's a breeze because you don't get stuck in traffic queues going to Ibrox and you also don't have to pay tolls on the Erskine Bridge

**O**ur U-21 side completed their home fixtures recently with a 2 - 0 win over Aberdeen, in a match which saw John O'Neil return to competitive action after injury. Both sides included some well known faces, with Paddy Connolly and Nathan Lowndes among the Saints starting XI, while the Dons featured Russell Anderson, Ilian Kiriakov and Ricky Gillies.

**T**his match was far from a classic and what excitement there was came in the first half, including the two goals which kept the points in Perth. We opened the scoring in under three minutes with a fine solo effort from Nathan who broke down the right and cut across the

penalty box before firing a left foot shot low past Tony Warner. That advantage was doubled on the 27th minute and again it was Lowndes who caused the visitors problems down the right. After creating space for himself, he tried to find John O'Neil with a pass but it went behind the returning midfielder and into the path of Danny Griffin, whose 20 yard strike, like the first goal, had Warner beaten low to his left. The second half belonged to Aberdeen in terms of possession as Saints disappointingly fell away but the Pittodrie side could do little with the ball in terms of forcing Allan Ferguson into serious action. **Saints: Ferguson, Whiteford, McCulloch, Malcolm, McCluskey, Griffin, O'Neil, Preston, Parker, Connolly, Lowndes. Subs: Stewart, Keddie, Bauld, Cuthbert, Crozier.**

**A**nother three points in our quest to be Under 21 league winners - a quest helped by Dundee United's 0 - 0 draw with Hearts 24 hours later - but there is still work to be done before we can be sure of success, with four very tough away games to come.

**T**he curtain came down on the U-18 League campaign last Saturday and sadly it finished with a 6 - 2 defeat from Dundee. It was tied 1-1 at half time, Stephen Stewart having scored direct from his corner kick in only two minutes, but the roof fell in on our young lads in a 15 minute spell in the second half. Keigan Parker got our other goal. **Saints: Cuthbert, Ward, McCulloch, Bauld, Goldie, Keddie, Crozier, Lofting, Parker, Stewart, Kearney.**

**N**ow that he's had a few months at the club, the Saints Matchday programme spoke to Billy Kirkwood this week about his thoughts on the youth set-up here at McDiarmid Park.

*"I been very pleased with what I've seen so far and I think the club is favourably placed to bring through some more good young players - Keigan Parker and Brendan Crozier's recent performances at Under 21 level are examples of that.*



Billy Kirkwood

*All you can do for the ground staff boys is give them the opportunity to make a profession of football. Any lads who come here are assured of good quality coaching from people like the Boss, myself, Alastair and Atholl, but it's up to the boys themselves to grab the chance. That's one of the hardest tasks in football, not just at Perth - making youngsters realise that all we can do is give them the tools and it's up to them whether they can do the job."*

Having been a player at Dundee United when they had their successful youth policy in place, been a youth coach at Rangers and had a spell in England, 'Kirkie' is well-placed to judge what needs to be done to bring young players to fruition, and it's from his short time with Hull City that he points out an improvement he thinks the Scottish game could pick up on.

*"We're asking mid-teens YTS boys to do a man's job in a very short space of time and I personally believe that we should adopt the system from England, where ground staff boys are given a 3 year apprenticeship, not the 2 years they get at Scottish clubs. That way, the youth league goes up to 19 as opposed to 18 and gives them an extra year to develop. It also allows lads who struggle to settle into full-time football, or who pick up a long-term injury, that bit more time to*

*succeed. Remember, what we're doing here is taking 15 and 16 year old boys and deciding, in the space of two years, to map out their profession for the rest of their lives."*

**B**illy, like many others in the Scottish game, feels that the current set-up does not best serve the needs of younger players.

*"I'm not saying anything new here, but the present situation does not allow clubs to introduce youngsters as much as they would like because there is too much at stake. Having said that, clubs such as ours have to do it because we can't afford to build a team using the cheque book, so boys will get their chance here. Sandy did it at Hearts and he'll do it here too."*

**F**inally, Billy had a word for the current crop of YTS boys who have found life tough in the U-18 league, often giving away at least 18 months in age to most of their opponents. *"They've done well and will benefit next season. It's not about winning at that level, it's about developing the boys as players and human beings."*

**Paul Smith.**

**Scottish Under 18 Youth League 98/99**

Aug 29	KILMARNOCK	0 - 2
Sep 5	Celtic	1 - 2
Sep 12	RANGERS	0 - 2
Sep 19	Dundee	0 - 1
Sep 26	DUNDEE UTD	1 - 1
Oct 3	Hearts	1 - 4
Oct 10	HIBERNIAN	3 - 2
Oct 31	Kilmarnock	0 - 1
Nov 14	Rangers	0 - 1
Dec 12	Hibernian	2 - 1
Jan 23	ABERDEEN	1 - 6
Feb 6	HEARTS	0 - 2
Feb 13	CELTIC	1 - 0
Feb 20	Dundee Utd	2 - 1
Mar 6	Dunfermline Ath	0 - 4
Mar 13	DUNFERMLINE	1 - 1
Apr 12	Aberdeen	0 - 2
Apr 17	DUNDEE	2 - 6

*Home games in capitals.*

**Scottish Premier Under 21 League 98/99**  
(All dates are week commencing)

Aug 17	DUNDEE	1 - 0
Aug 24	Dunfermline Ath	0 - 0
Sep 7	HEARTS	1 - 0
Sep 14	Kilmarnock	2 - 0
Sep 21	RANGERS	0 - 1
Sep 28	Dundee United	3 - 1
Oct 19	Motherwell	3 - 2
Oct 26	ABERDEEN	3 - 1
Nov 9	Dundee	1 - 0
Nov 16	DUNFERMLINE	3 - 2
Nov 23	Hearts	1 - 1
Nov 30	KILMARNOCK	2 - 1
Dec 14	DUNDEE UTD	0 - 3
Jan 18	MOTHERWELL	1 - 1
Jan 25	Aberdeen	0 - 3
Feb 1	CELTIC	3 - 1
Feb 15	Dunfermline Ath	2 - 1
Feb 22	HEARTS	2 - 0
Mar 1	Kilmarnock	3 - 0
Mar 8	RANGERS	2 - 4
Mar 30	DUNDEE	1 - 1
Apr 7	Motherwell	2 - 1
Apr 13	ABERDEEN	2 - 0
Apr 19	Celtic	
	Celtic	P - P
	Rangers	P - P
	Dundee United	P - P

*Home games in capitals.*

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# St. Johnstone FC - First Team Statistics, Season 1998/99

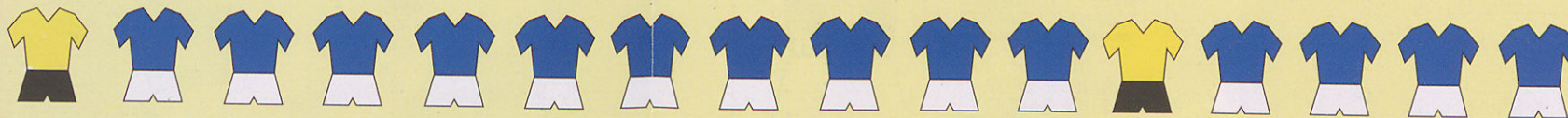
Saints Statistics

Date Opponents Result Att

Date	Opponents	Result	Att
01 Aug	Motherwell	0 - 1	5,686
08 Aug	STRANRAER (LC)	3 - 0	2,679
15 Aug	KILMARNOCK	0 - 0	6,210
18 Aug	Falkirk (LC)	1 - 0	3,749
23 Aug	Dundee	1 - 0	3,641
29 Aug	Rangers	0 - 4	48,732
08 Sep	Hibernian (LC 4)	4 - 0	8,165
12 Sep	DUNFERMLINE	1 - 1 @	5,997
19 Sep	ABERDEEN	2 - 0	5,814
23 Sep	Celtic	1 - 0	55,889
26 Sep	DUNDEE UTD	1 - 3	6,665
04 Oct	Hearts	1 - 1	13,121
17 Oct	MOTHERWELL	5 - 0	4,062
24 Oct	Kilmarnock	2 - 2	9,336
27 Oct	Hearts (LC semi)	3 - 0	12,027
31 Oct	Dunfermline	1 - 1	5,911
08 Nov	RANGERS	0 - 7	9,636
14 Nov	CELTIC	2 - 1	9,762
21 Nov	Aberdeen	1 - 0	10,044
29 Nov	Rangers (LC Final)	1 - 2	45,533
05 Dec	Dundee Utd	1 - 1	7,293
09 Dec	HEARTS	1 - 1	4,808
12 Dec	DUNDEE	1 - 1	6,033
19 Dec	Motherwell	2 - 1	5,700
26 Dec	Rangers	0 - 1	49,479
29 Dec	DUNFERMLINE	1 - 1	6,070
02 Jan	ABERDEEN	4 - 1	9,316
23 Jan	FORFAR (SC3)	1 - 0	3,714
31 Jan	Celtic	0 - 5	60,092
06 Feb	DUNDEE UTD	1 - 0	5,771
13 Feb	Livingston (SC4)	3 - 1	5,700
20 Feb	Hearts	2 - 0	12,229
27 Feb	Dundee	1 - 0	7,245
06 Mar	Motherwell (SC5)	2 - 0	7,660
13 Mar	KILMARNOCK	0 - 1	5,461
20 Mar	Dunfermline	0 - 1	5,504
04 Apr	RANGERS	3 - 1	9,740
11 Apr	Rangers (SC6)	0 - 4	20,664
17 Apr	HEARTS	0 - 0	6,146
20 Apr	Dundee Utd		
24 Apr	CELTIC		
01 May	Aberdeen		
08 May	MOTHERWELL		
15 May	Kilmarnock		
23 May	DUNDEE		

## Starting Line-Up

## Substitutes



Starting Line-Up	Substitutes
Ferguson	Robertson
McQuillan	Scott <
Preston *	Connolly >
Dasovic *	O'Halloran ^*
O'Neil <	Whiteford
O'Boyle	McAnespie
Kane **	
McMahon >	
Griffin	
McAnespie ^	
Dods	

Half-time quiz 1. Who was manager of Spurs' 1991 FA Cup winning side? 2. A collision with what ended 'keeper Chick Brodie's career? 3. What is the 'green' connection between the first Celtic and Rangers sides? 4. Newcastle signed Andy Cole from? 5. League runners-up five times out of six from season 1988-89 were? 6. The scorer of the only goal in the 1980 Old Firm Cup final? 7. What does USSF stand for? 8. Which is the only Scottish club ever to have openly and publicly stated that it was sectarian in its choice of players? (clue - it's not Rangers!)

\* beside player's name = booking \*\* beside player's name = sending off - - ^ beside players' names indicates 1st sub, < indicates second sub, > indicates third sub, @ indicates own goal.



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**I**well remember as a young teenager, taking the football special train to Edinburgh to see Saints play Dunfermline at Tynecastle in the 1968 Scottish Cup Semi Final. A fan from an older generation remarked that, as it was the first time we'd got to that stage for 35 years, I'd better enjoy the day. I was unlikely to see it happen again until I was an old man.

**S**ome people might think that I've got to that stage, but at least I've now seen Saints in four Scottish Cup Semi Finals. Sadly none of them have been won, and a couple of weeks ago at Parkhead we never looked like breaking that record. One day I'm sure I will get to a Scottish Cup Final. I haven't been to one, and I won't go until St Johnstone are participating on the field.

**L**ast Saturday's draw against Hearts was not an entertaining match. The Saints team had the look of a side that had come through a long, hard season. Maybe not as hard a season as the relegation threatened visitors from Edinburgh, but a long one anyhow. The defence was as solid as ever, with Alan Kernaghan absolutely outstanding. Darren Dods has maintained his consistency throughout the season, and Gary Bolland is as hardy as ever. Behind them Allan Ferguson looked safe and competent when he came on for Alan Main.

**I**t was good to see John O'Neil back after injury, but despite his comments following the game I thought he faded in the second half. Overall, the midfield has lost some of the spark and drive that provided many of the season's highlights. The form of some players has, perhaps, shaded in the last few weeks, and the fluent passing game, which, in my opinion was our trademark, has stuttered during recent games. Mind you, these lads worked themselves into the















ground week in, week out for the cause and they more than most will deserve a rest at the end of the season. When the game does not flow through the midfield, we need the forwards to display the guile and invention necessary to open up defences. This did not happen last Saturday against Hearts.














**C**eefax continues to brighten up the lives of football fans across the country. Last week the following bulletin was on their sports pages - "Reading have announced the departure of reserve team coach Alan Pardew after the scraping (sic) of their reserve team." If you ever wondered what football trainees are put through, now you know. Two months ago when the English transfer deadline was getting closer, the transfer information stated that Philip Scott was said to be going to Sheffield Wednesday for £500,000! If only.

**T**he Still Life Fantasy Football League are holding a football quiz on Friday 21st May, 1999 at 7.30pm, in the Muirton Suite at McDiarmid Park. Entries are welcome from all football fans. Teams should be made up of up to four people, and at least one anorak would be an advantage. Entry costs £5, and you can book your place by calling Sean Bartlett on 1738 628355.

**A**s it is getting towards the end of the season, I shall be putting some thought towards the brightest, and not so good, moments over this long season in the next two programmes. By the end of the season Saints will have played 45 games - 36 League and 9 Cup - and possibly even more if we have to have a play off against Dundee United to decide on an European place. By the time you read this we should know how the European place is to be decided.

# Saints' Player Sponsors 98/99

 <b>Gary Bauld</b> (Birse I.T. Solutions)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>Gary Bollan (15)</b> (Fothergill & Associates)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 34 (1) goal 3 <b>Career</b> appearances 34 (1) goal 3	<b>98/99</b> appearances 8 (2) goal 2 <b>Career</b> appearances 10 (4) goal 2	<b>Brendan Crozier</b> ( )	
<b>Paddy Connolly (14)</b> (Harry Taylor & Co, Ch. Building Surveyors)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>Kevin Cuthbert</b> (Perthshire Advertiser)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 33 goal 3 <b>Career</b> appearances 68 (1) goal 4	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>Nick Dasovic (4)</b> (Graeme & Roselyn Reid)	
<b>Darren Dods (24)</b> ("Wendy Who?"(Former fanzine)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 39 goal 3 <b>Career</b> appearances 39 goal 3	<b>Allan Ferguson (22)</b> (Ascot Products)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 3 (1) goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 3 (1) goal 0	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>Roddy Grant (9)</b> (H. G. Stewart)	
<b>Andrew Goldie</b> (The "J" Files)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 18 (14) goal 6 <b>Career</b> appearances 221 (62) goal 79	<b>Danny Griffin (16)</b> (PhD Recruitment)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>98/99</b> appearances 12 (8) goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 85 (24) goal 2	<b>Kieran Guy</b> ( )	
<b>Paul Kane (11)</b> (Muirton Park Travel Club)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 35 (1) goal 3 <b>Career</b> appearances 64 (4) goal 4	<b>Allan Kernaghan (6)</b> (McCash & Hunter)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 32 goal 3 <b>Career</b> appearances 63 goal 6	<b>98/99</b> appearances 5 (9) goal 2 <b>Career</b> appearances 7 (20) goal 4	<b>Aaron Lofting</b> (Paul Brocklehurst)	
<b>Kieran McAnespie (23)</b> (David Anderson - Luxury Private Hire)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>Nathan Lowndes (28)</b> (Ian Ower & Family)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>98/99</b> appearances 12 (19) goal 4 <b>Career</b> appearances 12 (19) goal 4	<b>Alan Main (1)</b> (Alastair Blair & Family)	
<b>Stuart Malcolm (26)</b> (The Dewar Family)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>Steven McAllister</b> (Perthshire Advertiser)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0			

<b>98/99</b> appearances 3 (1) goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 27 (12) goal 2	<b>Stuart McCluskey (19)</b> (The Perthshire Advertiser)		
<b>Gerry McMahon (12)</b> (Strathearn Taxis)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 17 (9) goal 2 <b>Career</b> appearances 26 (10) goal 2	<b>John McQuillan (2)</b> (The Ashvale Fish Restaurant)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 32 goal 1 <b>Career</b> appearances 142 goal 4	<b>98/99</b> appearances 17 (1) goal 3 <b>Career</b> appearances 160 (8) goal 82	<b>Keith O'Halloran (17)</b> (Keith Fehilly & Liam Ferry)	
<b>George O'Boyle (10)</b> (Harry Taylor & Co. Ch Building Surveyors)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 9 (6) goal 1 <b>Career</b> appearances 25 (21) goal 2	<b>John O'Neil (8)</b> (Gail Schofield)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>98/99</b> appearances 34 goal 3 <b>Career</b> appearances 167 (12) goal 24	<b>Marc McCulloch (27)</b> (Joyce Brown)	
<b>Keigan Parker</b> (The "J" Files)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>Allan Preston (3)</b> (Donald Houston)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 10 (7) goal 2 <b>Career</b> appearances 136 (33) goal 9	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>David Scott</b> ( )	
<b>Stephen Robertson (18)</b> (Stuart Cosgrove)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>Philip Scott (7)</b> (Alastair Blair & Family)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>98/99</b> appearances 17 (2) goal 3 <b>Career</b> appearances 138 (21) goal 36	<b>Miguel Simao (29)</b> (Kippen Campbell W.S.)	
<b>Daryn Smith</b> (The Dewar Family)	<b>98/99</b> appearances 17 (10) goal 5 <b>Career</b> appearances 17 (10) goal 5	<b>Stephen Stewart</b> ( )	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>Jim Weir (5)</b> (A & L King)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 (2) goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 13 (7) goal 1	<b>98/99</b> appearances 3 (1) goal 1 <b>Career</b> appearances 123 (1) goal 4	<b>Andy Whiteford (21)</b> (Jim Masson)	
<b>Ryan Witkowski</b> ( )	<b>98/99</b> appearances 0 goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 0 goal 0	<b>John Paul McBride (20)</b> (Keith Fehilly)	
<b>98/99</b> appearances 3 (2) goal 0 <b>Career</b> appearances 3 (2) goal 0			

# ON THE BALL



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**A** lot has been said about Gary McAllister's retirement from the Scotland squad following his reception at Scotland's last international. Just because you buy a ticket, does it mean that you can treat players in any way you like?

**F**ind it hard to believe that any player deliberately tries less than his best, but that doesn't mean that they'll always manage to produce the goods. Have you never had a bad day at school? When you did, which would have helped you more: being told what a stupid idiot you were or that your teacher knew you could do better if you just tried?

**Y**es, we had all hoped for a better Saints performance in the Semi-Final but those fans that made the trip kept behind the team. That's how it should be - trying to give them a lift when they need it. After all, if you'd been asked last August if you'd be pleased with one Cup Final, one Cup Semi-Final, a 3rd or 4th spot in the SPL and a possible European place, what would you have said?

**O**ur next JUNIOR SAINTS trip is to Aberdeen on 1st May and, as usual, there has been a great response from members wanting to go. Details will be sent through the post very soon.

**A**nd finally, Birthday greetings tomorrow to Alan Kernaghan, last week's Man of the Match.

**T**oday's match mascots are 8 year old David Venters from Auchterarder and 10 year old Jamie Colquhoun from Perth. Both boys like to play football in their spare time - David likes to play in attack and his favourite Santeee is George O'Boyle whilst Jamie likes to play in midfield and his favourite Saints player is Nathan Lowndes. Jamie would like to meet his favourite Scotland player Kevin Gallacher. Both boys also admire Brian Laudrup and Jamie would like to sign

him for Saints. David gets all his energy from eating chocolate spread sandwiches whilst Jamie prefers chips. Both boys want to be footballers when they leave school.



David Venters



Jamie Colquhoun

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Stuart McCluskey

**S**tuart McCluskey has been with Saints since he was about 15. He's only 21 now and, like his close colleague Danny Griffin, he's thought of by many as one of the players who could well become a mainstay of the side for years to come. He has the traditional Scottish footballer's pedigree: born in Bellshill, lives in East Kilbride. As always, I began by asking Stuart about his early playing career.

SM - "I was with East Kilbride Youth Club, from Under 9s up to Under 15s. I had a brief spell with Rangers, at around the same time as Danny, but like him I came to Saints with Alastair Stevenson. John McClelland was the manager then, but he left very soon after I arrived so my first real manager was Paul Sturrock."

*Q. Were you aware of any interest from any other clubs?*

SM - "No, no-one I knew of!"

*Q. Like Danny, you made your debut in midfield - did you play there at EK Youth Club?*

SM - "Yes, although I prefer to play at

the back. Mind you, I think there are some advantages in being seen as a versatile player, rather than being thought of as only able to play in one position."

*Q. You've had a lot of international appearances at various levels - is there any match which stands out?*

SM - "At Under 21 level I remember when we played in Sweden and drew 2 - 2 with them. We were winning until a few minutes from the end. It was a right good game and we played really well. I played against Anders Blomqvist, the brother of the Manchester United player. At Under 18 level there was a game against England, when I played against some really superb players. Frank Lampard, Emile Heskey, Jody Morris and Steven Clemence were all in that England side."

*Q. Who's the most difficult opponent you've come up against in Scotland?*

SM - "Henrik Larsson, without a doubt."

*Q. Why?*

SM - "Because he's deceptively strong, very unpredictable, a good runner with the ball at his feet and you can't tell what he's going to do from one minute to the next."

*Q. You've had two managers at Saints. What are the major differences between the two?*

SM - "I got on well with Paul Sturrock, and also John Blackley. They were both more defensive in outlook than Sandy. Sandy Clark is different and, I think, allows the flair players to express themselves better."

*Q. Unfortunately, you've suffered from more than your fair share of injuries. What is your current state of health?*

SM - "I'm just getting back now. I'd just got going at the start of the season

and had a few games in the first team. Then I suffered the double hernia and in reality I've missed most of the season. I'll need to work hard to get back my sharpness. You can't just have a couple of weeks' training and expect to be back to your best. It takes time and matches. I want to have a decent holiday once the season's over and then a good pre-season and hopefully get a chance in the first team after that."

*Q. You'll have watched the Hearts game from the sidelines - what did you think of it?*

SM - "Well Hearts put on a dogged performance, but it wasn't the best match I've seen."

*Q. Do you think we can still finish third?*

SM - "Definitely, but we must now win almost all our games. Kilmarnock have some difficult matches at the end of the season, including their game with us at Rugby Park and an outing against Rangers. If we can get the margin to two points going into the game at Kilmarnock then we've got a good chance."

*Q. What's the best game you've played in?*

SM - "The game against Celtic last season when they won the league. Playing in front of a huge crowd like that is amazing. The atmosphere was superb and even though we lost a goal early on, we had a few attacks during the first half and I remember looking at some of their fans and you could just see them panicking as we went up the park."

*Q. Does the match pass more quickly if it's a big game in front of a huge crowd?*

SM - "It can do, if you're winning. On

the other hand, if you're getting a right gubbing then it seems to take ages!"

*Q. What are your thoughts on the journalists who report on football?*

SM - "Like any profession, there's good and bad. I've not been interviewed very often, but I've been misquoted once as speaking out against Tommy Craig and I wasn't happy about it. That was when I was captain of the Scotland Under 21's and this guy asked me a lot of questions and then distorted my answers. I was annoyed and went to Tommy and told him what I'd really said."

*Q. Are the local newspapers' journalists any better?*

SM - "Probably. We all generally get on well with Gordon Bannerman and Jim Masson."

*Q. What about your taste in music?*

SM - "It's anything really. Some of the lads have a bit more outlandish tapes in the car on the way through from the west. There's a Celtic car, with me, Del and John Paul, and a Rangers' car with Robbo, Allan Ferguson and Andy Whiteford. Andy's a bit of a Chick Young - he pretends he's a St Mirren supporter but always wants to know the Rangers' score."

*Q. Tell us a secret about one of the lads which would surprise us. Is there anyone with a hidden talent?*

SM - "Believe it or not, Andy Whiteford is an expert on birds, and I'm talking about the feathered variety here. He's even got books on them and if we're training he can tell you about almost any bird you see, whether it's an Oyster Catcher or a Red-breasted whatever. I think he got interested in them when he was younger and stayed in a wee village in the country."

Interview by Alastair Blair

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Due to the nature of the training we can only accept the first 32 applicants. This will be done as follows:-

9 and 10 year olds - the first 16 applicants.

11 and 12 year olds - the first 10 applicants.

13 to 16 year olds - the first 6 applicants.

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NUMBER 106295



## Coach Education Courses

**T**here are several SFA COACH EDUCATION COURSES due to take place in the Perth area in May and June, which may be of interest to you.

### G (Goalkeeping) Basic Certificate

Anyone over 16 years of age or over can take part in this course for Goalkeeping Coaches at Kilgraston School, Bridge of Earn, on Mondays 31st May and 7th June between 6.30 and 9.30pm.

### Coaching in the Game Certificate

This brand new course is included at Level 3 in both the Children's and Youth's Structure and looks at coaching strategies within game situations.

It will now be held on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June, 10am - 3pm, on the new fieldturf pitch at McDiarmid Park. Applicants must have completed both the Early Touches and Coaching Young Footballers Programme. (Please note that this replaces the original March dates in the brochure).

### C(Club Coach) Certificate

You must be over 18 years old or over to undertake the Club Coach award which goes ahead at McDiarmid Park between 12th and 19th June.

This course is aimed at coaches who work with adult players at amateur, junior or senior level and includes various practical teaching situations. To complete the award, attendance at "The Coaching Process" and "Laws of the Game" Modules are required, on 23rd and 30th June.

**For information on all Saints Community Events, call Atholl Henderson on 01738 459090/459095.**

## Travel Club News

**A**uchterarder - Bus leaves Crown car park at 2pm for home games and 1pm for away games (except Kilmarnock, 12noon, and Aberdeen, 10.30 am). If you are interested in going to a match please call C. Thomson on 01764 662854.

**T**he Jeanfield Swifts Saints Supporters' Club buses leave from the Jeanfield Club and pick up from the Tulloch Institute. Call John Kaylor on 630427.

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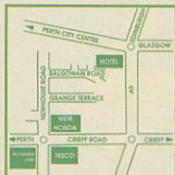
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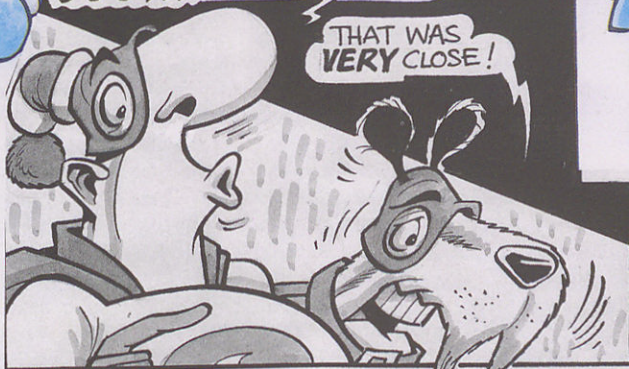
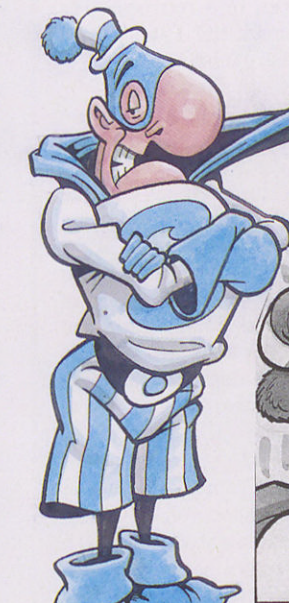
**PARP!**

by **STEVE BRIGHT**  
and **MORRIS HEGGIE**

**OOOH!** THAT WAS CLOSE!

THAT WAS  
**VERY** CLOSE!

CO-STARRING  
**ORMOND**  
THE WONDER DOG.



THEY DON'T COME  
MUCH CLOSER  
THAN THAT....

... NICE  
HAIRCUT,  
NATHAN!

CHEERS,  
LADS!

# WIPPER SAINT

**David Mellor's dangerous nonsense**

I have now made my mind up about David Mellor and Radio Five's 'Six-O-Six'. I don't know if many of you listen to Mr Mellor, but if you do then you'll know that his programme is full of people phoning in to complain about referees, amongst other things. Many of these people seem to me to belong to the brand of 'new', often middle-class, English supporters who get upset when everything isn't just how they want it. These people seem to be the only ones who can afford the prices in the English Premiership these days. Certainly, the kind of supporter whose calls are taken by David Mellor is very different to the kind who used to phone Danny Baker when he ran this particular show. Mr Mellor persistently abuses referees and is very keen on the use of technology to help redress their alleged failings. One of his arguments is that because football is big business it's important that the right decisions are made. This, in my opinion, is dangerous nonsense which must be resisted at all costs, unless you want our sport to become a mere computer game. Cricket has shown us that the third umpire doesn't always get it right, so it is unlikely that football, a much faster game with more 'variables' in play will be any better. However, if Mr Mellor wins the argument and our game is turned into an American-orientated, slo-mo replay farce, will England ask for photographic

evidence to be taken into retrospective account and give back the 1966 World Cup? Somehow I don't think so!

**Great moments in Journalism**

Step forward the Herald's Ken Gallacher. Last year, after only 14 League games, he wrote "...the Celtic supporters who are clamouring for the head of ... Dr Josef Venglos, have a strong case against the man who was appointed at the start of the season" .... "Neither Vidar Riseth nor Lubomir Moravcik is the kind of signing which sets the pulses racing or appeases fans" ... "Venglos is simply muddling through... he does not appear to have established any authority in his role as first-team coach ... even the dismissal of Venglos will not end the troubles". I wonder how many Premier managers would like to take a chance of having their pulse set racing by signing Moravcik now?

Moreover, Dr Venglos has now got his team playing superbly well. He clearly had a difficult time at the start but it is obvious that those people, like Ken Gallacher, who criticised signings like Moravcik, didn't know what they were talking about. At the start of this year, the 'Tic' players made it clear they couldn't afford to lose any more games and, in fact, would have to win most of their remaining matches. They have been spectacularly on target to do so. And while I hope that Saints win today, if they do it won't be because Dr Jo is a bad coach! Alastair Blair

Quiz answers: 1. Terry Venables 2. A stray dog on the pitch 3. Glasgow Green, where both played their early games. 4. Bristol City 5. Aberdeen 6. George McCuskey 7. United States Soccer Federation 8. Hilberian - who were very clear they would only select Catholics in their early days.

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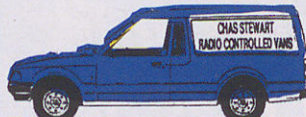
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