



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SEASON 2013/14 PRICE £3.00

Steelmen

ISSUE 21 CELTIC

SATURDAY 19.04.14
KICK OFF 12:45PM



CRAIG

Moore

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STUART McCALL | JIM O'BRIEN | MATCH REPORTS | KEITH LASLEY


'MON THE 'WELL!



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MOTHERWELL FC

FIR PARK STADIUM, MOTHERWELL, ML1 2QN

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| | |
|---------------------|---|
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| Goalkeeping Coach: | Gordon Marshall |
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| Physiotherapists: | John Porteous Adam Stokes |
| Club Doctors: | Dr Danny Rodgers Dr Mark Bonnes Dr Kayrn Devlin |
| Kit Coordinator: | Alan MacDonald |
| Scout: | Bobby Jenks |

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Press & Media Manager: | Alan Burrows |
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| Photography: | SNS Pix |
| Design: | Karl Wheeler |

CLUB HONOURS

Domestic Success

Scottish League Champions (1): 1931-32
 SPL Runners up: 2012-13
 Scottish First Division Winners (2): 1981-82, 1984-85
 Scottish Second Division Winners (2): 1953-54, 1968-69
 Scottish Cup Winners (2): 1952, 1991
 Scottish League Cup Winners (1): 1950

European Campaigns:

European Cup Winners Cup: 1991-92
 UEFA Cup: 1994-95, 1995-96, 2008-2009
 Europa League: 2009-10, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2013-14
 Champions League: 2012-13

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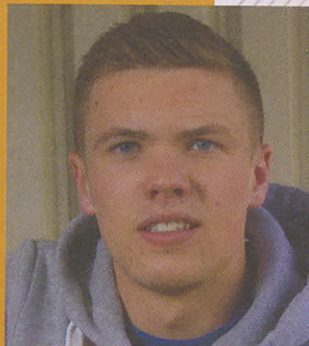
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Designed & produced by



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STUART McCALL

“ Good afternoon and welcome to today's Sky Live SPFL Premiership match here at Fir Park.

As always, I would like to extend that warm welcome to Neil Lennon, Johan Mjällby, and Garry Parker, along with the rest of the coaching staff, players, directors, officials and supporters of Celtic Football Club.

As you can imagine, we are glad to have a match again after waiting two weeks since our last outing at St Mirren Park.

Unfortunately, we cannot control things that are out of our hands and that's exactly what happened in Paisley. We've got to kick on with five massive games left of the season and we dearly want to grab one of those European places.

Last weekend's Cup results now mean we really need to be in the top three to absolutely guarantee that and the fight for that really begins this lunchtime.

The task certainly isn't made any easier by us once again missing key personnel with Keith Lasley's suspension joining a raft of players who we hope return but it seems to be taking forever for us to clear John Porteous' room.

I've watched Celtic closely of late. I've watched the whole of their match

against Dundee United at Tanandice and they were superb. Some of the football was terrific but we don't need to be warned about Celtic's quality. You need only look at the last time they were at Fir Park and some of the football they played that night.

I think it's fair to say Neil and his side probably hasn't had the credit they deserve this season. I think they can still set a record points tally, which, in any league, is phenomenal.

People are making a lot of noises about their big performers like Forster, van Dijk and Commons, and rightly so.

For me, I think Scott Brown has been huge for both his club and the Scottish national team. Our improvement as a nation goes hand in hand with his fitness and availability and it's the same with Celtic. It's easy as a player to get yourself up for big games, but you need guys like him in the squad, who can not only get themselves up for every match, but push teammates on too.

As a manager, you try and come up with different ways to counter teams that are better than you and, at times, we've managed to do that and at others, we've been beaten out the park.

I've said this before and I can reiterate it again, because it's common sense really. If a team like Celtic came and bring their A game, then it's very hard for anyone in this league to stop them.

However, we've got to be on the front foot; fight and scrap for everything and if a chance presents itself, we need to be clinical.

It's that blend between stopping Celtic and playing to our strengths too. It's important to carry an attacking threat and that will form part of our game plan today.

Obviously, it goes without saying that we need to be playing at our maximum and, if we're honest, carry a little luck too, which we're probably due after that call at St Mirren.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO QUICKLY PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR CHIEF SCOUT BOBBY JENKS, WHO IS CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS OF COMBINED SERVICE TO MOTHERWELL FC. HIS FAMILY ARE ALL HERE, MANY OF WHOM ARE MASCOTS, AND I HOPE EVERYONE HAS A GREAT DAY.



Enjoy the match





KEITH LASLEY

“ Hello everyone and welcome to today’s SPFL Premiership match against Celtic here at Fir Park.

Obviously, I am extremely disappointed to be missing today’s match through suspension, but I will be on the sidelines giving the boys every support I can in what will be a difficult match; as it always is against the League Champions.

After arriving at the post split matches, there is certainly a feeling that it’s the final push towards the end of the season. Today’s match is the start of this run of games that will decide where we finish the 2013/14 campaign.

In the last couple of years, we’ve had a couple of decent performances against Celtic (and a few not so decent), so we’ve got to try and aim to get a result.

Some people may have thought, after winning the league so early, Neil Lennon and his players may have downed tools, but anyone who saw their performance at Tannadice two weeks ago will know that’s certainly not the case.

Their manager has high standards and will demand a strong finish to the season. They have that

100-point total to aim for as well. We cannot expect, nor should we, any favours from Celtic today.

It’s certainly good to get back into things and everyone in the dressing room is thankful to have a match after that fortnight break.

Obviously, you can imagine the disappointment everyone felt at St Mirren Park fourteen days ago.

Not only did we lose a lead, the way things went with that incorrect penalty decision really left everyone deflated. We are obviously acutely aware of how big each game is, and how precious every point could be at this stage of the campaign.

However, after that initial few days of anger and frustration, we’ve managed to get back into it again and get it out the system. Time is a great healer in football and training has been sharp this week; everyone is looking forward to this afternoon’s Sky Live match.

We are obviously delighted to be in this race for European places once again, but for us, it’s not enough just to be involved. We’ve been there or thereabouts for a while now, so the focus for us is to try and nail at least third.

People have asked me if the Cup Semi Final outcome will change

the dynamics, both in terms of the potential participants in Europe and the last few games, but I don’t think it will.

Aberdeen don’t have a Cup Final to look forward to when many predicted they would, but I don’t think they would have taken their foot off the gas anyway. With league places still up for grabs, I think it’s unrealistic to expect Dundee United to start loosening off and, even if they do mix it up with their squad a little, much like we did in 2011, they have real strength and depth to carry them through.

No, we have to do this on our own and take care of the only thing we can control and that’s our own performances and results.

There is a real desire to go on and achieve a strong finish and that hopefully starts again today.

**GET RIGHT
BEHIND THE
LADS TODAY**

”

Keith Lasley



Keith Lasley Testimonial

Golf Day Dinner-Only option

Monday 28th April, 5.30-11pm
Colville Park Golf Club, Motherwell

Not a golfer, but want to be part of the after-golf experience.
Come & join Keith and his current ex-players for the dinner,
prize presentation and guest speakers with raffle & auction

£25 per person

Includes:

3 course meal in the club house

Prize presentation

Auction & raffle

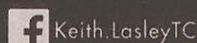
Hosted by Tam Cowan

Plus Guest Speaker, John Rowbotham

Dress code: smart

Ladies welcome

To book your place, email keithlasleytc@gmail.com



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LATEST News



THE LATEST HEADLINES FROM FIR PARK

GIRLS GET A CHANCE TO GET 'FFIT'



FOOTBALL FANS IN TRAINING

Motherwell FC are providing female supporters aged between 35-65 the chance to become more active, improve their diet and develop a healthier lifestyle through the Football Fans in Training (FFIT) project.

A nationwide health initiative, Football Fans in Training is set to kick off at 6pm on April 28th in the Davie Cooper Suite at Fir Park.

Any female supporter aged 35-65 with a BMI of 27 and over and a belly of 100cm and over is eligible to take part in this free service.

Programme Development Manager, Graeme McArthur said: "Supporters will become part of the club for 12 weeks, being issued with official Motherwell FC training kit to work with our football and health coaches one evening a week.

"Similar programmes have proved a massive success with clubs in the English Premiership and Championship. Now we will be leading the way in Scotland!"

Interested supporters should contact the MFC FFIT Team by phone on 01698239926, text on 07912389936 or by email on graeme.mcarthur@motherwellfc.co.uk confirming the following details:

Name
Address
Postcode
Contact Telephone
BMI & Belly size

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It's just £1 per seat (as opposed to number). Visit www.wellotto.co.uk for more information and to play online.





HEIGHT FOR THE FIGHT

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: BY GAVIN McCAFFERTY

“CRAIG MOORE HAS ALWAYS CLASSED HIMSELF AS A DETERMINED PERSON BUT HIS EDGE HAS BEEN FURTHER SHARPENED BY SOME MAJOR CHALLENGES IN THE EARLY PART OF HIS CAREER.”

“ Craig Moore has always classed himself as a determined person but his edge has been further sharpened by some major challenges in the early part of his career.

After being told he was too short to be a footballer when he was released by Hearts at Under 15 level, he quickly bounced back and scored his first Motherwell goal against the Edinburgh club seconds into his Scottish Premiership debut at the age of 19.

Moore had already proved he could score at senior level during a prolific spell with Cowdenbeath, as he helped the Fife club avoid relegation from the First Division.

And this season he has recovered from a cracked rib to regain his place in the Motherwell team as they fight for a European place.

His next challenge is to rediscover his goalscoring touch - and experience has taught him that determination and hard work are the key.

Those attributes came to the fore when, in an era when Barcelona's diminutive trio of Lionel Messi, Xavi and Andres Iniesta have dominated world football, he became the latest Scottish youngster to be wrongly told he was too small to make the grade.

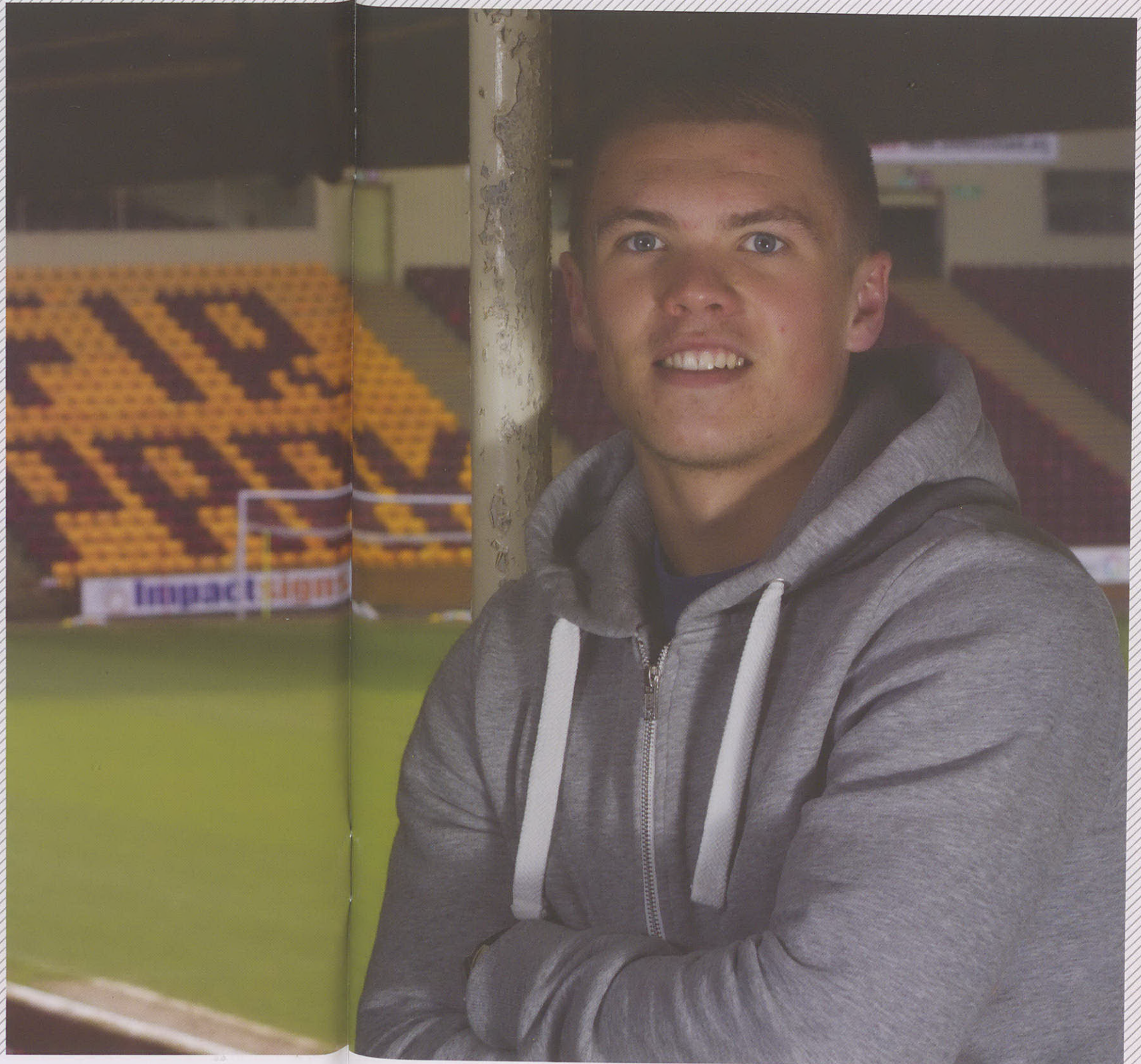
As with the likes of Pat Nevin before him - who suffered the same fate at Celtic - Moore fought back to prove his doubters wrong after then Motherwell youth supremo Gordon Young picked him up.

The teenager, who spent six years with Hearts, said: "They let me go because of my height. I was gutted. I didn't know what to do. It was the first time I had really been knocked back from anything.

"Thankfully I got another team quite quickly and came to Motherwell, so it didn't affect me as much. If I had a wee bit of time off I might have been thinking about it more and wondering what I was going to do. But I came to Motherwell more or less straight away.

"It's just one of those things. You look at them now and they are not the biggest team. Maybe they used it as an excuse, I don't know.

"My dad just told me not to let it affect me, just go out and let my ability do the talking rather than worrying about my height.



"When I came here, Youngy was brand new to me and told me I didn't need to worry about my height at all, which gave me confidence."

Moore got his chance at first-team level in the second half of last season with a successful loan spell with Cowdenbeath where the goals flowed.

"It should have been nine but it was seven because two got chalked off when a game got abandoned," he said.

"It was great experience, it's a lot more competitive than the under-20s. It helped me push on.

"We fought a relegation battle and won against Hamilton on the last game of the season and Dunfermline lost, so they went into the play-offs and ended up going down. We had to win and I scored in that game so it was good. It was a big relief."

Moving to the do-or-die situation of a relegation dogfight helped prepare Moore for his surge into the Motherwell first team this season.

"We had to win every game, so you always had to be at your best.

"It woke you up a wee bit, you thought 'there's a wee bit more to this'. The club could go down and lose a lot of money.

"Fighting for something gave you a little bit more to work for.

"No footballer wants to get relegated. As soon as I went there it sunk in, everyone is fighting for their life so we better make sure we stay up.

"Colin Cameron was great, I thank him for giving me the chance to show what I can do.

"It was a pleasure playing under him and I felt welcome as soon as I went up, and never really looked back from there.

"The first game I scored against Partick, that was the game that got called off, but it gave me a confidence boost. Not just the goals, but playing a full game was a boost, it got me fitter and sharper."

Moore made his Motherwell debut in the away leg of the Europa League tie with Kuban Krasnodar in August and netted a sensational 30-yard equaliser moments into his league debut - against the team that knocked him back.

The goal in a 2-1 win over Hearts was the perfect introduction to the Motherwell first team and he put in an impressive performance in a 2-0 win at Kilmarnock that marked his first start for the club.

But Moore is always focused on improvement and wants to kick on from that goal and grab his second for the club.

Speaking about the goal against Hearts, he said: "Don't get me wrong, they treated me brilliantly, but they let me go so it was great to give that wee bit back to them.

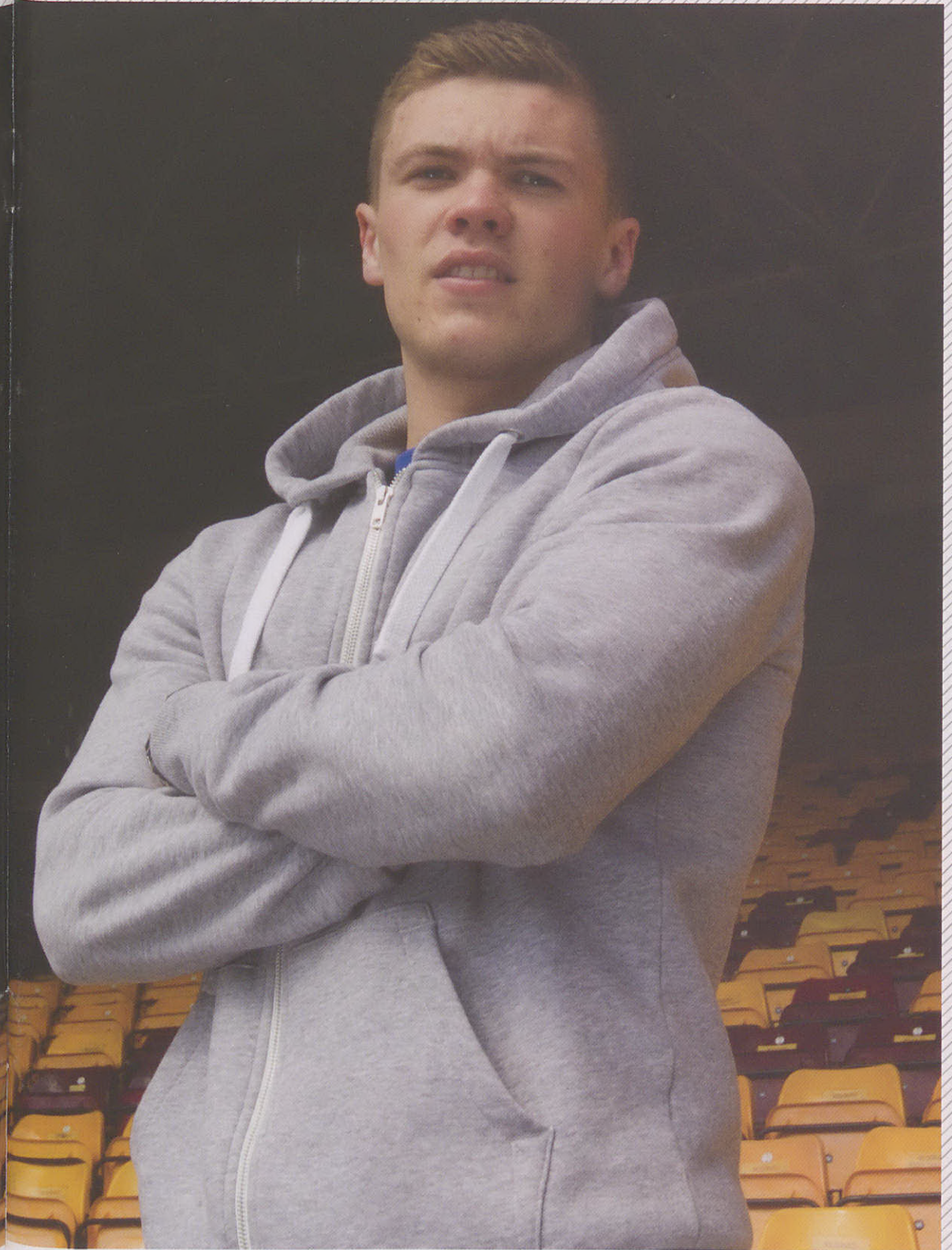
"But I have wanted to kick on a wee bit more since that first goal. I've had chances and I should have had more goals, but it will come.

"I'm not going to lose confidence. I know I can do it.

"I am a bit critical of myself, I am probably my biggest critic. When I get chances, I know I should be taking them. I am working on it.

"You don't let it affect you, you just keep getting in the positions, and you are going to take one at one point.

"I'm gaining experience. Coming on and scoring that goal straight away has probably been a stone round my neck as well. People are expecting another goal, another goal. I've been expecting it as well, but as soon as it comes, more will come."



Moore's chances of scoring again were not helped by a two-month lay-off with a cracked rib but he worked his way back into Stuart McCall's plans last month and has made a significant contribution in recent weeks, setting up three goals in as many games.

Moore is not satisfied with that though and he wants to get back on the scoresheet and do everything he can to help Motherwell achieve their goal of securing another season of European football.

"I've been happy with getting a couple of assists as well but I think I should be scoring more," he said.

"I've been working on it in training. I know I need to work hard, I have that instilled in me and I always work hard anyway.

"Even after training putting in extra work, going up the gym, that will help me. It's all about hard work and determination.

"I've always had that and getting let go by Hearts has made me a wee bit more determined to prove everybody wrong as well. They let me go but I'll come back stronger.

"I PLAY EVERY GAME AS IF IT'S MY LAST, LIKE EVERY GAME IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE SEASON. THAT'S THE WAY I LOOK AT IT.

”





MY TOP 5

BY CRAIG MOORE

1 THE GAMBLER
Kenny Rodgers



2 CONCRETE ANGEL
Gareth Emery ft Christina Novelli



3 LOSE YOURSELF
Eminem



4 THE WORLD'S GREATEST
R Kelly



5 BURN
Ellie Goulding



Three of Craig's favourite songs will be played prior to kick-off in the stadium.

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WELCOME TO CELTIC

FOR OUR FIRST POST-SPLIT GAME OF THE 2013/14 SEASON, THE CLUB IS PLEASED TO WELCOME OUR FRIENDS FROM JUST DOWN THE M74, CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB.

It's been another successful season for Neil Lennon and his side as they confirmed their third consecutive league title in almost record time.

The Bhoys sit a whopping 25 points ahead of their nearest challengers, which surely calls into serious doubt any suggestion of any other side realistically competing for the title in the near future, sadly.

The SPFL Premiership is desperately crying out for some sort of title challenge, but it doesn't look likely for some time.

That being said, that's not the fault of anyone at Celtic, all they can do is win games and that's exactly what they've managed this season. After nine months, they've lost just once and that was after being reduced to ten men early doors against Aberdeen.

That brought about some of the ludicrous suggestions that the Dons may be able to mount some a serious title bid in 2014/15, a notion completely dismissed by boss Derek McInnes.

Yet, for their dominance of the domestic league and even their success in navigating through

several tricky ties to again qualify for the UEFA Champions League, Celtic's achievements have pretty much gone under the radar, if that's possible?

They've probably not had the sort of credit they deserve (sound familiar?), much of that down to the weight of expectation placed upon them, and probably in no small part to the disappointing exits from both domestic Cup competitions (there's a pattern emerging here, I think?).

For sure, Celtic have a massive budget compared to the rest of the league and should be light years ahead of the rest. However, plenty of teams in our league and others have done nothing of note despite having seemingly endless pots of cash. The same can't be said of Celtic.

Both the League Cup and Scottish Cup will be a source of real disappointment to Lennon, but at the same time, they are probably down the pecking order now as the Parkhead's club real focus is success on the continent, although you might struggle to get someone to admit that publicly.



That may come at a cost when it comes to Hampden Finals (or Celtic Park this season), but that's a price probably worth paying given not only the prestige of Europe's premier competition, but also the financial rewards that come with it.

Lennon and his staff may well be in demand come the summer, given the English's game new found fashion of replacing managers every quarter. On the flip side, it would be understandable if the former Northern Irish international, who spent time at Fir Park as a young kid, fancied a few more years north of the border, with more league titles an almost certainty and ventures into Europe not only good for the CV, but also invaluable experience.

**FOR NOW
THOUGH, THEIR
WIN AT TANNADICE
TWO WEEKS AGO
SUGGESTS THAT
NO ONE IN THE
TOP SIX WILL FIND
IT EASY GOING
AGAINST THE
CHAMPIONS.
MOTHERWELL
HAVE HAD A FEW
DECENT RESULTS
AGAINST THE CELTS
ON THEIR OWN
PATCH. THEY WILL
NEED TO BE FIRING
ON ALL CYLINDERS
TO GET ANOTHER
THIS AFTERNOON.**



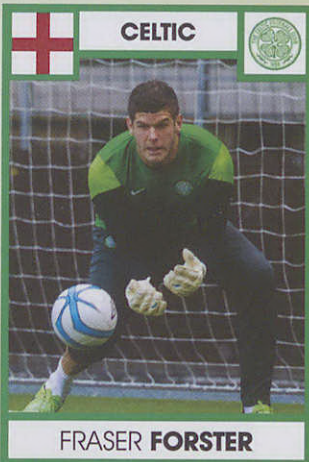


NEIL LENNON

Lennon played 561 games during his career with Glentoran, Man City, Crewe Alexandra, Leicester City, Celtic, Nottingham Forest and Wycombe Wanderers. Capped 40 times by Northern Ireland, scoring 2 goals for his country. Took over the hotseat at Celtic Park in March 2010 as caretaker manager, following the departure of Tony Mowbray and has won the SPL title in 11/12 and 12/13 along with winning the Scottish Cup in 10/11 and 12/13.

CELTIC FC

Founded: **1887** Nickname: **The Hoops, The Bhoys**
 Ground: **Celtic Park** Capacity: 60,832



FRASER FORSTER

D.O.B.: **17.3.88**

BORN: **Hexham**

POSITION: **GOALKEEPER**

CLEAN SHEETS **20**

APPEARANCES 13/14: **33**



LUCASZ ZALUSKA

D.O.B.: **16.6.82**

BORN: **Wysokie Mazowieckie**

POSITION: **GOALKEEPER**

CLEAN SHEETS: **0**

APPEARANCES 13/14: **0**

SPFL FIXTURES

| DATE | OPPONENT | RES |
|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| 3 Aug | ROSS COUNTY | 2-1 |
| 17 Aug | Aberdeen | 2-0 |
| 24 Aug | ICT | 2-2 |
| 31 Aug | Dundee Utd | 1-0 |
| 14 Sep | Hearts | 3-1 |
| 21 Sep | ST JOHNSTONE | 2-1 |
| 28 Sep | Kilmarnock | 5-2 |
| 5 Oct | MOTHERWELL | 2-0 |
| 19 Oct | Hibernian | 1-1 |
| 27 Oct | Partick Th. | 2-1 |
| 2 Nov | DUNDEE UTD | 1-1 |
| 9 Nov | Ross Co. | 4-1 |
| 23 Nov | ABERDEEN | 3-1 |
| 6 Dec | Motherwell | 5-0 |
| 14 Dec | HIBERNIAN | 1-0 |
| 21 Dec | HEARTS | 2-0 |
| 26 Dec | St Johnstone | 1-0 |
| 29 Dec | ICT | 1-0 |
| 1 Jan | PARTICK TH. | 1-0 |
| 5 Jan | St Mirren | 4-0 |
| 18 Jan | MOTHERWELL | 3-0 |
| 26 Jan | Hibernian | 4-0 |
| 29 Jan | Kilmarnock | 4-0 |
| 2 Feb | St Mirren | 1-0 |
| 15 Feb | ST JOHNSTONE | 3-0 |
| 22 Feb | Hearts | 2-0 |
| 25 Feb | Aberdeen | 1-2 |
| 1 Mar | ICT | 5-0 |
| 14 Mar | Kilmarnock | 3-0 |
| 22 Mar | ST MIRREN | 3-0 |
| 26 Mar | Partick Th. | 5-1 |
| 29 Mar | ROSS CO. | 1-1 |
| 5 Apr | Dundee Utd | 2-0 |
| 19 Apr | Motherwell | |
| 27 Apr | ICT | |
| 3 May | ABERDEEN | |
| 7 May | St Johnstone | |
| 11 May | DUNDEE UTD | |



CEL TIC

ADAM MATTHEWS

D.O.B.: **13.1.92**

BORN: **Swansea**

POSITION: : **DEFENDER**

GOALS: **1**

APPEARANCES 13/14: **18+2**



CEL TIC

CHARLIE MULGREW

D.O.B.: **6.3.86**

BORN: **Glasgow**

POSITION: : **DEFENDER**

GOALS: **6**

APPEARANCES 13/14: **23+1**



CEL TIC

EMILLIO IZAGUIRRE

D.O.B.: **10.5.86**

BORN: **Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

POSITION: : **DEFENDER**

GOALS: **0**

APPEARANCES 13/14: **31**



CEL TIC

EFE AMBROSE

D.O.B.: **18.10.88**

BORN: **Kaduna, Nigeria**

POSITION: : **DEFENDER**

GOALS: **1**

APPEARANCES 13/14: **32+1**



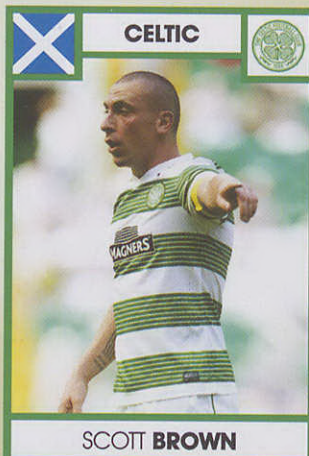
MIKAEL LUSTIG

D.O.B.: 13.12.86
 BORN: Umea, Sweden
 POSITION: DEFENDER
 GOALS: 0
 APPEARANCES 13/14: 7+5



VIRGIL Van DIJK

D.O.B.: 8.7.91
 BORN: Breda, Netherlands
 POSITION: DEFENDER
 GOALS: 4
 APPEARANCES 13/14: 30+1



SCOTT BROWN

D.O.B.: 25.6.85
 BORN: Dunfermline
 POSITION: MIDFIELDER
 GOALS: 0
 APPEARANCES 13/14: 33



DERK BOERRIGTER

D.O.B.: 16.10.86
 BORN: Oldenzaal, Holland
 POSITION: MIDFIELDER
 GOALS: 1
 APPEARANCES 13/14: 4+10



STEFAN JOHANSEN

D.O.B.: 8.1.91
 BORN: Vardo, Norway
 POSITION: FORWARD
 GOALS: 2
 APPEARANCES 13/14: 8+3



NIR BITON

D.O.B.: 30.10.91
 BORN: Ashdod, Israel
 POSITION: MIDFIELDER
 GOALS: 0
 APPEARANCES 13/14: 8+7

 **CELTIC** 



KRIS COMMONS

D.O.B.: **30.8.83**
 BORN: **Mansfield**
 POSITION: **MIDFIELDER**
 GOALS: **23**
 APPEARANCES 13/14: **28+1**

 **CELTIC** 



TEEMU PUKKI

D.O.B.: **29.3.90**
 BORN: **Koika, Finland**
 POSITION: **FORWARD**
 GOALS: **5**
 APPEARANCES 13/14: **12+10**

 **CELTIC** 



JAMES FORREST

D.O.B.: **7.7.91**
 BORN: **Prestwick**
 POSITION: **FORWARD**
 GOALS: **4**
 APPEARANCES 13/14: **10+6**

 **CELTIC** 



ANTHONY STOKES


D.O.B.: **25.7.88**
 BORN: **Dublin**
 POSITION: **FORWARD**
 GOALS: **14**
 APPEARANCES 13/14: **26+2**

 **CELTIC** 



GEORGIOS SAMARAS

D.O.B.: **21.2.85**
 BORN: **Heraklion, Greece**
 POSITION: **FORWARD**
 GOALS: **5**
 APPEARANCES 13/14: **9+9**

 **CELTIC** 



LEIGH GRIFFITHS

D.O.B.: **20.8.90**
 BORN: **Leith**
 POSITION: **FORWARD**
 GOALS: **5**
 APPEARANCES 13/14: **8+1**

US AND THEM WITH JIM O'BRIEN

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: ALAN BURROWS

"JIM O'BRIEN HAS ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS A MORE THAN CAPABLE MIDFIELDER IN THE ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP, BUT IT WAS HIS GROUNDING AT CELTIC, ADVICE FROM A LEGEND AND MATURING AT MOTHERWELL THAT MADE THE MAN."

O'Brien was born into a Celtic-supporting family in Vale of Leven, Dumbartonshire, so it was a dream come true when he joined the Hoops as a youngster, under the tutorship of Tommy Burns at the Celtic Academy.

He went on to progress through the age groups, eventually making his senior debut in a 2-1 victory over Gretna on 7 October 2007, ironically, played at Fir Park.

Sadly, that would be his one and only experience of life in the green and white and although he's not bitter about not getting an extended opportunity, he does admit to a sadness, more for his father.

"Any disappointment I have about leaving Celtic was probably more so for my family, my dad in particular," he told the Motherwell Matchday Magazine.

"I am old enough now to realise that's just the nature of football.

Obviously, with Celtic being the club I supported growing up, I would have loved it to last a bit longer. I dreamt of playing for Celtic and I achieved that, even if it wasn't prolonged.

"Who knows, I might look back when I finish my career and feel a bit of sadness at not playing more, but I am realistic about it all. I got a good education there, a good grounding.

"I owe a lot to their coaching staff, and Tommy Burns in particular. I remember a bit of advice he gave my Youth team and it has stuck with me to this day. He said 'It won't be the most talented player that makes it, it'll be the player that wants it the most' and I thought that was unbelievable.

"I genuinely believe Tommy's influence, and that sort of advice, is the reason why the majority of the lads from that side are still earning a living from the game."

Armed with that sound instruction from Burns, and after spells on loan at Dunfermline and Dundee United, Mark McGhee brought Jim to Fir Park in the summer of 2008.





"I really loved my spell at Motherwell," he recalled.

"In many ways, I feel it helped me grow up and mature not only as a player, but as a person.

"It was a little tough to start with, I wasn't in the starting eleven and I obviously never had the safety net of playing with a big club like Celtic. I was out on my own and could only rely on myself, it wasn't a loan deal, it was my livelihood.

"I enjoyed it under Mark and Scott Leitch. Training was excellent, there was a good atmosphere at the club and there was a philosophy that if you did well you would play.

"I liked both so much so that I almost followed them to Aberdeen. I didn't get on with our manager at the time and they wanted me to move up. I really thought about it.

"Life under Jim (Gannon) was tough. It was a difficult one as I'm the type of person who won't bite my tongue. If I feel something needs to be said, I'll more often than not just say it. Quite often, in football and in life, it's better to keep your head down, but that's not in my nature so we had a couple of clashes.

"We were probably just as stubborn as each other, which didn't help. That being said, he was the manager and I still worked hard but it just didn't work out. I felt at the time as if nothing was good enough.

"It got to the point where I was desperate to leave. I was counting down the days to the January Transfer Window so I could get away, which was sad as I had loved it at Motherwell.

"Then Jim left and Craig (Brown) came in and it was night and day; it was brilliant. Craig's man-management skills were first class; it might sound strange but he had an

aura about him. He had a way of relaxing players to get the best out of them and he certainly did, not just with me, but the rest of the squad too."

O'Brien's contract expired in the summer of 2008 and with offers from England and interest from Rangers, he eventually opted for Oakwell and Barnsley.

As much as a big move South of the Border seems like a no-brainer, the truth was quite different.

He recalled: "On paper, most people think a player moving from Scotland to England is easy, but it wasn't for me. I wrestled long and hard about leaving Motherwell as, for eighteen months of my two years there, I loved it.

"But Craig made it easy for me. He allowed me to go down to Barnsley and have a look and when I did, it felt right.

"It's a great club, a hard-working club not dissimilar to Motherwell in many ways. We're certainly not one of the glamorous sides in the Division, but people work hard.

"It was the right move and the right time and I feel as if I have developed and proved myself at this level. Obviously no one wants to be in a relegation dogfight, but it's up to us to change that.

"I HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPPORTERS. I LIVE LOCALLY AND LIKE EVERY OTHER CLUB I'VE BEEN AT, I GIVE EVERYTHING I'VE GOT AND FANS RESPOND TO THAT. WE'VE GIVEN OURSELVES A GOOD CHANCE OF STAYING IN THE DIVISION THIS YEAR AND ALTHOUGH RECENTLY I'VE BEEN FRUSTRATED WITH INJURY, I'M HOPEFUL I CAN HELP THE TEAM IN THE LAST FEW MATCHES."



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HISTORICAL Pictures



1967: Celtic's Jim Craig is tightly marked by Dixie Deans of Motherwell



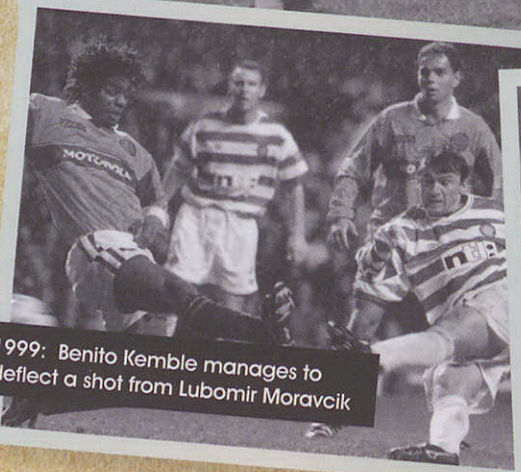
1975: Gregor Stevens watches as Joe Craig shoots for goal.



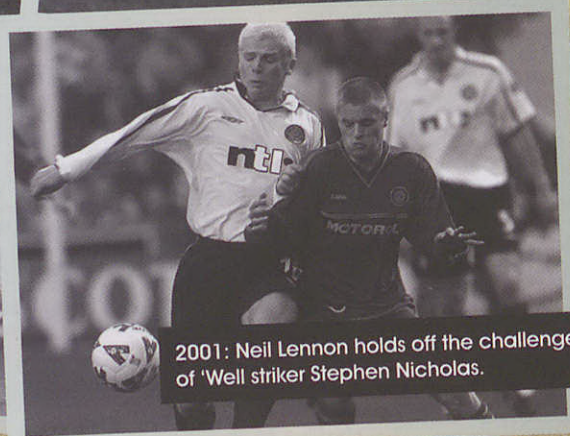
1976: Stewart McLaren takes no prisoners against Bobby Lennox



1987: Celtic striker Andy Walker is thwarted by 'Well stopper Cameron Duncan.



1999: Benito Kemple manages to deflect a shot from Lubomir Moravcik



2001: Neil Lennon holds off the challenge of 'Well striker Stephen Nicholas.



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Programmes

THROUGH THE YEARS...

Club director Graham Barnstaple will take you through a number of unique programmes in each Matchday Magazine between now and the end of the season...

Motherwell 0 Celtic 2 8th April 1967

Days before they took on Dukla Prague in the European Cup Semi Final of 1967, Celtic travelled to Fir Park looking to win every competition they played in that season, which included the European Cup, Scottish League, Scottish Cup, Scottish League Cup and the Glasgow Cup.

There were two changes from the side that would triumph in Lisbon only a month later, with Bobby Murdoch and Jimmy Johnstone missing, replaced by John Hughes and Charlie Gallagher

The programme for the match was nothing special for the time, with the classic diving goalkeeper image on the front cover and the 'Lucky Programme number' printed alongside for a chance to win a whole £5!

Previewing the game there is a timeless understatement about results and performances against Celtic, which read: "Celtic have, in recent years, been proved to be a bogey team to Motherwell. Our luck seems to run out when we face the green and white jerseys."

Who many times could this have been written throughout our history?

There was also one 'Well player featured in the programme who had his own bad luck in the week ahead of the game, "Ian Ferguson received a kick in the head during the Monday night game and was seeing double for the last quarter-hour. It was during this time Airdrie scored the winner."



Motherwell 3 Celtic 2

24th January 1976



This was another strong Celtic side visiting Fir Park as they stormed through the League in their quest for 'Nine in a row'. However, they couldn't have been relishing coming to Fir Park in the Cup as in three games previously played that season, there had been one win apiece and a draw.

At half time a Motherwell win looked unlikely, as Celtic had raced into a two nil lead thanks to goals from Kenny Dalglish and Andy Lynch. The introduction of winger Ian Taylor at half time, replacing Gregor Stevens, changed the game completely as Motherwell fought back to win the tie; the goals coming from Bobby Graham, Taylor and who else but Willie Pettigrew.

Motherwell made the semi finals that season, only lose to Rangers in

another game that is legendary in our history (for all the wrong reasons).

The programme for this one has a very non-descript cover of two players challenging for an aerial ball in insipid Claret and Amber colours.

Inside former Celtic man Vic Davidson was the "personality profile" and when as the differences between Motherwell ad Celtic he said, "Undoubtedly the family atmosphere and team spirit at Fir Park... At Motherwell I am sure everyone is upset if the team loses – genuinely upset!"

Celtic should have been aware of the danger of Willie Pettigrew as near the back of the Programme is a cartoon of the man himself, drawn by Celtic's Steve Murray with the caption – "Fastest Shot in the West... Anybody want to argue?"

Motherwell 2 Celtic 1

22nd May 2005



This was the game which would eventually be dubbed "Helicopter Sunday", as the SPL title changed hands in the dying minutes of the season. Scott McDonald's two late goals saw the Helicopter with the SPL Trophy being diverted to Easter Road to be presented to Rangers rather than Celtic.

This came at the end of a season that saw Well make the top six and finish runners up in the League Cup, after losing to Rangers in the final in March. This prompted Terry Butcher to say, "I thank you most sincerely for all your fantastic support and backing this year, it will be hard to replicate the success next time of asking..."

There was also a feature tucked away at the back of the programme on former Motherwell players who had won promotion that season, including Roberto Martinez and Mark Gower

helping Swansea sneak into the third promotion place in League Two! Changed days for Martinez and the Swans, eh?

The Player squads at the back shows that we still have Steven Hammell in our squad with Celtic having no one remaining in their squad almost ten years later.

There are a few that are still on the relative back room staffs, with Gordon Marshall and Scott Leitch at Fir Park, and Neil Lennon at Celtic. Towards the bottom of the Celtic squad with number 44 was Stephen McManus not at Fir Park, of course.

The back page of the programme features the new away strip for the following season. It was to be the black strip with claret sash, to be worn that fateful day, and, of course, Stevie Hammell and Kevin McBride beautifully modelled it.



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

16TH APRIL
23RD APRIL

Saturday 16th April 1932

Motherwell had been league leaders for some time and could all but guarantee their first (and only) title with a win at home to Cowdenbeath. Goals from Bobby Ferrier and John McMenemy had effectively secured the win before attention turned to Willie McFadyen to see if he could break the scoring record for the season. He missed several chances but eventually got his historic 50th when he acrobatically converted a rebound off the bar.

Saturday 17th April 1982

After three years in the First Division, Motherwell returned to the big time as they cruised to promotion. That was sealed with a 3-1 win at Falkirk.

Saturday 19th April 1952

At long last, Motherwell finally lifted the Scottish Cup when the side beat Dundee 4-0 at Hampden. A massive crowd of 136,274 saw Motherwell withstand severe pressure in the first half as Willie Kilmarnock played a captain's role by clearing off the line on various occasions. Things changed after the break and goals from Jimmy Watson, Willie Redpath, Wilson Humphries and

Archie Kelly ensured claret and amber ribbons would finally be attached to the famous old trophy.

Saturday 19th April 2003

The Cup had provided a great distraction to the struggles in the league and the club took part in a sensational semi-final with Rangers at Hampden. Despite going a goal behind within a minute, goals from Stevie Craig and a James McFadden wonder strike gave 'Well a half-time lead. Rangers were too strong though and recovered to win 4-3.

Tuesday 20th April 2004

After a long battle, Motherwell emerged from administration on this day in 2004. The Court of Session in Edinburgh approved the club's petition to discharge the administrators and resume trading as a normal limited company. Bryan Jackson of administrators PKF had been responsible for turning round the club's finances and majority shareholder John Boyle paid tribute to him and his team: "I would like to thank the administrators for the valuable assistance they have given the club. Motherwell is emerging from administration on a sound

financial footing and can meet the challenges ahead with confidence."



Saturday 23rd April 1994

The beautiful football played under Tommy McLean produced some fabulous wins and some great goals; none more so than this 2-0 win at Easter Road. Miodrag Krivokapic, a cult hero with the fans for his calm style, carried the ball out of defence and released Coyne on the right. Mio continued his run forward and met the return cross with a perfect header to leave Jim Leighton helpless. He celebrated his only goal for the club in fantastic fashion, leaping onto the perimeter fencing.



AUTOGRAPH

22

Commercial NEWS



We have just two home matches left for the current season and the Commercial Department have confirmed prices for the St Johnstone (3rd May) and Inverness CT (7th May).

vs ST JOHNSTONE

Maxim Office Park – £130pp

Centenary Amber – £99pp

Centenary Claret – £60pp

Arrival for 1pm – Home Made Lentil Soup, Traditional Steak Pie and Chocolate profiteroles served with Chocolate cream Sauce with Tea, Coffee and Mints.

vs INVERNESS CT

Maxim Office Park – £130pp

Centenary Amber – £99pp

Centenary Claret – £60pp

Arrival for 5.45pm – Creamy Potato & Leek Soup, Roast Pepper Chicken Breast in a Pink Peppercorn Sauce and Chocolate Fudge Cake with Tea, Coffee and Mints.

If you would like to join us as we aim to end the season in style, contact our Commercial Department by calling 01698 333333, emailing commercial@motherwellfc.co.uk or visiting our online store, motherwellbuyonline.co.uk.

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GALATASARAY – TURKEY

Many believe the Turkish giants share our famous Claret and Amber colours but it turns out they actually simply wear red and yellow, but the variants of red and yellow they use are pretty close nonetheless.

TEAM COLOURS AND KIT

When they were founded, Galatasaray wore red and white colours, then played in dark yellow and dark blue during the 1907–1908 season. For a match against the football team of the Royal Navy cruiser HMS Barham's crewmen, played on 8th December 1908, Galatasaray finally settled on playing in red and yellow, inspired by the roses which Gül Baba (sixteenth-century Ottoman poet) offered to Sultan Bayezid II.

Since 1908, the club's home kit has typically been an 8-piece halved design. The shirt's front, back and sleeves are made up of two alternating colours. This changed in the mid-1980s, when sportswear manufacturer Adidas began to provide the shirts.

The club reverted to the "classic" kit in 2012. The official colours are now Pantone shades 1235 (yellow) and 201 (red), which is more like amber and a very light claret.

THE CLUB

Galatasaray Spor Kulübü, commonly known as Galatasaray, is a Turkish professional football club based in Istanbul, Turkey. It is the association football branch of the larger Galatasaray Sports Club, itself a part of the Galatasaray Community which includes the Galatasaray University and Galatasaray High School.



They have won 46 domestic trophies, including a record 19 Süper Lig titles, a record 14 Turkish Cups and a record 13 Turkish Super Cups. It is one of three teams to have participated in all seasons of the Turkish Süper Lig since 1959, following the dissolution of the Istanbul Football League, and are the only club to have won the Süper Lig in four successive seasons.

Internationally, Galatasaray has won the UEFA Cup and UEFA Super Cup in 2000, becoming the first Turkish team to win a European trophy, and one of the few teams in the history of UEFA competitions to become the undefeated winners of a major tournament, losing none of their games in the 1999–2000 UEFA Cup season.

In the 1999–2000 season, the club achieved the rare feat of completing a quadruple by winning the Turkish Süper Lig, the Turkish Cup, the UEFA Cup and the UEFA Super Cup in a single season. Galatasaray is also the only Turkish club to have been ranked 1st on the IFFHS World Rankings.

Since 2011, the club's stadium is the 52,695 capacity Türk Telekom Arena in Seyrantepe, Istanbul. Previously, the club had played at the Ali Sami

Yen Stadium, as well as a succession of other grounds in Istanbul, which included groundshares with Besiktas and Fenerbahçe at the Taksim Stadium and İnönü Stadium.

The club has a long-standing rivalry with other major Istanbul teams, namely with Besiktas and Fenerbahçe. The derby between Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe is dubbed the Kıtalar Arası Derbi (English: Intercontinental Derby) due to the location of their headquarters and stadiums on the European (Galatasaray) and Asian (Fenerbahçe) sides of the Bosphorus strait in Istanbul.

RECORD

Galatasaray fans broke the "loudest crowd roar at a sport stadium" record on 18 March 2011 at Galatasaray's new stadium Türk Telekom Arena in Istanbul. A peak reading of 131.76 dBA was recorded.

POPULARITY OF GALATASARAY IN TURKEY

According to media polls since 2000, Galatasaray is the most popular team among football fans in Turkey.

The latest poll in June 2012 places Galatasaray in the first place with a 41.8% level of popularity while Fenerbahçe comes second with a 35.9% level, Besiktas third with 16.3% and Trabzonspor fourth with 4.7%

LINKS TO MOTHERWELL

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Motherwell have never played Galatasaray.

They do have several Scottish links with Graeme Souness counted amongst their former managers. They are currently managed by Roberto Mancini who has another former Rangers midfielder, Tugay, as his assistant. The Turks played Rangers in a Champions League match at the end of the 1990s and, more recently, took on Celtic in a friendly tournament in Antalya last January.



MEN UTD SIGN MOTHERWELL FC



Motherwell FC is proud to have signed for 'Men United' in the fight against prostate cancer – a unique new campaign from Prostate Cancer UK.

With prostate cancer affecting 1 in 8 men in the UK and the death rate increasing at an alarming rate, Prostate Cancer UK aims to reach millions of fans, players and staff, by raising awareness of prostate cancer and encouraging men to wise up to the disease and take action.

Men United v prostate cancer aims to unite the football community and create a new movement for change in men's health.

Motherwell midfielder Paul Lawson said: "Football isn't just

about the 90 minutes of play and picking up three points, it also plays an important part of the communities we live in. We have a responsibility to our fans both on and off the park and this is why I'm signing for Prostate Cancer UK's 'Men United' campaign."

Recent signing Craig Reid added: "Men tend not to open up about difficult health matters, preferring to talk about the weekend result instead. The fact is that as we all get older the prostate can become a problem, so we all need to face up to it and be aware of the risks.

"With the disease killing one man every hour – we can't afford to ignore this any longer. We're calling on Motherwell fans

to join us by supporting Men United v prostate cancer – together we can win this battle."

Stuart Carswell added said: "I am proud to sign for 'Men United' with the rest of the lads to support the most common cancer in men in the UK.

"I was shocked to learn that that the disease is rising at an alarming rate. It is important that clubs and fans alike support this positive movement for men's health – by talking to our mates about it and bringing the subject up with our Dads we can break the old taboo, face up to the risk and hopefully help save lives."

To take the test – sign up at www.prostatecanceruk.org/menunited!

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ST MIRREN

MOTHERWELL

3

2

KICK OFF: 3PM
05.04.2014
ST MIRREN PARK



MOTHERWELL FAILED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RESULTS ELSEWHERE AFTER SUFFERING A CONTROVERSIAL 3-2 DEFEAT AT ST MIRREN PARK THIS AFTERNOON.

Henri Anier and John Sutton took advantage of space in the St Mirren defence to put Motherwell two ahead inside 27 minutes.

But, with Motherwell missing injured centre-back Shaun Hutchinson, St Mirren looked dangerous at corners and Steven Thompson converted one just before the break to give the Buddies hope.

They pressed in the early stages of the second half but Motherwell had chances on the break and appeared to have withstood the pressure.

However, stand-in referee Iain Brines inexplicably awarded the hosts a controversial penalty for handball by Stephen McManus in the 86th minute.

Thompson's header clearly hit the former Scotland defender's face at point-blank range but Brines, after some hesitation, decided it was deliberate handball despite the Motherwell defender's disbelieving protests.

Kenny McLean converted from the spot and Thompson stunned the visitors when he turned and fired home from close range a minute later.

FOR AN IN-DEPTH REPORT FROM THIS MATCH SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE DEVICE.



ST MIRREN:

Dilo, McGregor, Goodwin, McGinn, Thompson, McGowan, McLean, McAusland, Kelly, Naismith, Newton

SUBS

Mathers, Magennis, Van Zanten, Djemba-Djembe, Wyld, Teale, Campbell

MOTHERWELL:

Nielsen, Reid, Hammell, McManus, Sutton, Vigurs, Lasley, Kerr, Anier, Ainsworth, Leitch

SUBS

Stewart, Francis-Angol, Erwin, Moore, Murray, Thomas, Cadden



McCALL SAID...

"A LONG BALL CAME AT THE BACK POST AND THE BALL HITS STEPHEN IN THE EYE SOCKET AND FLIES OUT TO THE EDGE OF THE BOX, AND THE CROWD SHOUT. THE REFEREE, FROM 30 YARDS AWAY AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BOX, GIVES A PENALTY. THAT DECISION ALONE HAS COST US THREE POINTS BECAUSE I FELT, AS THE GAME WAS PETERING OUT, WE WERE NOT ONLY QUITE COMFORTABLE DEFENSIVELY, BUT I FELT WE WERE GOING TO HIT THEM ON THE BREAK. WE HAD SEEN THE DANGER OUT.



CELTIC 3 MOTHERWELL 0



LENNOXTOWN

MOTHERWELL UNDER 20S CRASHED TO A DISAPPOINTING 3-0 DEFEAT TO CELTIC AT A RAIN-SOAKED LENNOXTOWN LAST WEEK.

Denny Johnstone grabbed all three goals as 'Well failed to get out of first gear for most of the afternoon.

Johansson made four changes to the team that beat Inverness five days ago. Brett Long, Danny McNulty, Frazer Johnstone and Steven Higgins dropped out and were replaced by Ross Stewart, Zaine Francis-Angol, Craig Moore and Lee Erwin.

Celtic started the game much the stronger and took the lead after just seven minutes.

Denny Johnstone latched onto a lovely Patrik Twardzik through ball. His initial shot was blocked by the sliding Euan Murray, but he smashed the rebound low under Stewart for 1-0.

Johnstone should have doubled his tally shortly after when he was afforded time and space in the area after a free-kick from the right, but his low shot was excellently saved by Stewart.

However, the Celtic front man wouldn't be denied on 31 minutes. A corner from the left came off the back of Dale Shirkie and dropped invitingly inside the six-yard box for the 19-year old who smashed home.

It was an unfortunate time to concede for the Steelmen who had just began to work their way back into the game.

The visitor's only chance of the half fell for Shirkie, but he scooped it over after being teed up by Paul McCafferty on the edge of the area.

Johansson's men did have a shout for a penalty just before the break when a Stephen Cadden cross struck the arm of a defender, but the ref decided it was ball to hand rather than the other way round.

Motherwell started the second period on the front foot with Francis-Angol and Erwin shooting wide. Dom Thomas then beat two Celtic defenders at the edge of the box before lashing his shot wide when a square ball to the supporting Moore might have been a better option.

Those misses would prove vital as Celtic added a decisive third after fifty-four minutes.

Patrick Twardzik, brother of former 'Well loanee Dan, picked up a loose ball on the left and charged towards goal. His cross into the box was perfect for Johnstone to score from close range to seal his hat trick.

As the game headed towards its conclusions, both teams traded chances with Lee Erwin have a shot saved before Twardzik ended another fine solo run by blasting wide.

Celtic came closest though and in the dying stages, a header from Marcus Fraser was cleared off the line before substitute Luke Donnelly fired wide of the post after racing clear of the 'Well defence.

Motherwell U20s: Stewart, Ferguson (Higgins), Francis-Angol, Murray, Neill, Shirkie, McCafferty (Johnstone), Erwin, Moore, Thomas, Cadden

Subs: Long, Hall, McCall, Mackin





MOTHERWELL

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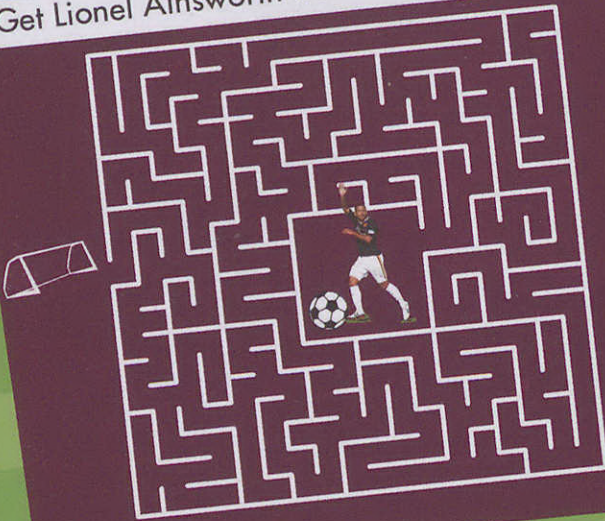


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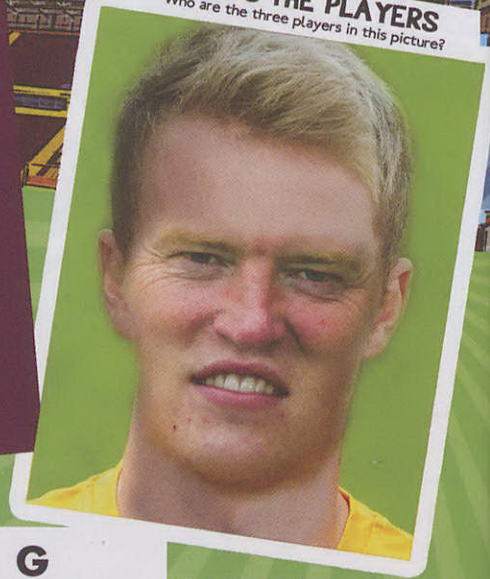


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Community UPDATE

EASTER PROGRAMME'S A CRACKER!



"This Easter camp has been fantastic. We've had a large number of kids come through the door each day & they all seemed to have a really enjoyable experience."

The Soccer Camps will be running again during the summer holidays. For more information please contact The Trust on 01698 239926.



Over the past two weeks, Fir Park has been packed with young football enthusiasts taken part in the Easter Holiday Camp hosted by Motherwell Football Club Community Trust.

Andrew Gemmill, Football Development Officer at Motherwell Football Club Community Trust, added:

The boys & girls attending the Camp enjoyed a wide range of football activities from dribbling, passing and shooting through to penalty competitions and small-sided games.

They also got to rub shoulders with their first team heroes who took the time to talk about their experience playing the game & sign autographs.



The Well SOCIETY



TWO BIG EVENTS THIS MAY

THE 'WELL SOCIETY IS HOLDING IMPORTANT EVENTS ON THE FIRST TWO FRIDAYS OF MAY.

The annual general meeting will take place on May 2 and a fund-raising quiz night takes place seven days later.

The society's first AGM took place earlier this season but it was agreed that the second meeting should be held at this time to align the meeting with the football season.

Business includes discussion of the audited accounts and progress made in achieving the society's aims of raising £1.5million and transferring majority ownership of Motherwell Football Club to the fans and community.

One new board member will be elected to replace Sandy Kilpatrick, who is stepping down. Alisdair Molloy, Robert Montgomery, Kenneth Nicol and Allan Todd have all been nominated to join the board.

The meeting will start at 7pm in the Millennium Suite of the Phil O'Donnell Stand on Friday, May 2 and all members are encouraged to attend.

The following Friday sees the Well Society host a quiz night - two days before the end of another memorable season.

Members and non-members are welcome to attend with entry £5 per person for teams from two to five people.

Questions will be general knowledge but there are special rounds on Scottish football and Motherwell FC.

The evening starts at 7.30pm on May 9 in the Cooper Suite at Fir Park. You can pay in advance or on the night.



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Box Office

Tickets for the SPFL Premiership match with Dundee United on Saturday 26th April 2014 at Tannadice (3pm KO) will be available on the gate priced at:

ADULTS: £21

CONCESSIONS: £12



- Concessions are listed as Over 65s, Under 18s and Full Time Students with a valid matriculation card.
- A maximum of x2 Under 12s can gain access for £3 with a full-paying adult.
- Motherwell fans will be housed in the Jim McLean Fair Play Stand upper tier.

Tickets for the SPFL Premiership match with St Johnstone on Saturday 3rd May 2014 at Fir Park (3pm KO) will be available on the gate priced at:

ADULTS: £22 / £18

CONCESSIONS: £15 / £14

JUVENILE: £12 / £9

FAMILY: £28 / £24



- Concessions are listed as Over 60s and Full Time Students with a valid matriculation card.
- Juveniles are listed as Under 16s.
- Family tickets consist of 1x Adult and 1x Juvenile.
- The cheaper priced ticket is for the East Stand only.

Tickets for the SPFL Premiership match with Inverness CT on Wednesday 11th May 2014 at Fir Park (7.45pm KO) will be available on the gate priced at:

ADULTS: £22 / £18

CONCESSIONS: £15 / £14

JUVENILE: £12 / £9

FAMILY: £28 / £24



- Concessions are listed as Over 60s and Full Time Students with a valid matriculation card.
- Juveniles are listed as Under 16s.
- Family tickets consist of 1x Adult and 1x Juvenile.
- The cheaper priced ticket is for the East Stand only.

Tickets for the SPFL Premiership match with Aberdeen on Sunday 11th May 2014 at Pittodrie (12.15pm KO) will be available on the gate priced at:

ADULTS: £23

CONCESSIONS: £17

UNDER 12s: £9



- Concessions are listed as Over 60s, Under 18s and Full Time Students with a valid matriculation card.
- Motherwell fans will be housed in the South Stand as per normal.



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| Motherwell | 01698 322100 |
| Wishaw | 01698 348200 |
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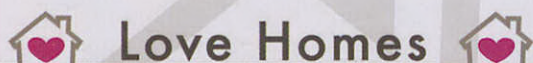
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Today's OFFICIALS

Referee for this afternoon's SPFL Premiership clash with Celtic here at Fir Park Stadium will be Craig Thomson.

The 41-year old will be handling his third Motherwell game of the current season after being the man in the middle for the 1-0 at St Mirren Park back in September and the recent 2-1 win at the Caledonian Stadium, Henri Anier and Iain Vigurs doing the damage.

It would have been his fourth but a New Year appointment between Well and Caley was the postponed due to heavy rain.

Thomson, arguably the highest rated amongst the Scottish officials, regularly hosting Champions League, Europa League and International matches, will be a more than familiar face to Well fans, having being a top-flight whistler for over 12 years.

He took three Well matches last term.

His first was the 4-1 demolition of Aberdeen back in December when goals from Tom Hateley, Michael Higdon and a Jamie Murphy swept Craig Brown's side away.

The second was the 2-1 win at Tynecastle, when two early goals from Michael Higdon and a Dylan McGowan own-goal was enough to see off the Jambos.

The third was the 2-0 home victory over Ross County in the last home game of the campaign - James McFadden and Chris Humphrey amongst the scorers.

His record in charge of the Steelmen is a bit of a mix bag with fourteen wins from 38 matches. There have been sixteen defeats and eight draws too.

Not included in that list was the 2007/08 Scottish Cup fourth round replay win against Hearts at Fir Park, when he replaced the injured Stuart Dougal midway through the second-half.

In those games, Motherwell have scored 52 and conceded 50.

132 players have gone into the book, 65 were wearing claret and amber, while five players, including former and current captains Stephen Craigan and Keith Lasley, have been dismissed.

Craig will be ably assisted by Alastair Mather, Douglas Ross with Craig Charleston on fourth official duties. Referee Observer is Bryan Robertson and SPFL Delegate is Alan Dick.



UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT:

The SPFL have instigated an initiative on unacceptable conduct.

This initiative makes it the responsibility of the club at both home and away games regarding the conduct of their supporters. This initiative came into being on 1st August 2007.

The list of offences is extensive but includes disorderly conduct, damage to the fabric of a stadium, threatening or abusive words towards any group or gender, colour or race, nationality, ethnic

origin, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability.

Also included are chants or songs of a racist, sectarian or grossly offensive nature. There is no list of banned songs or chants but the Match Commander, SPFL Delegate, referee or the opposition club may report any of the above.

Sanctions against the club can mean an official warning, a fine, ordering the game to be replayed or, as a last resort, the loss of points.

MASCOT:



Name: Laurence Keenan

Age: 1

School: Firtrees Nursery



Name: Emmillie Keenan

Age: 4

School: Firtrees nursery



Name: Hayden Alexander

Age: 6

School: St Ignatius primary school



Name: Laurell Alexander

Age: 7

School: St Ignatius Primary School



Name: Bobby Moran

Age: 10

School: Kick Start Creche, Wexford, Ireland



Name: Donnacha Moran

Age: 6

School: Gaelscoil, Ireland

SEASON TICKETS FOR 2014/15

Season Tickets have gone on sale from Fir Park this week and, once again, it represents tremendous value for money.

This year you will notice a modest increase on adult and concession tickets. There is still significant savings to be made on normal 'Pay at the Gate' prices – as much as 231% in the Davie Cooper Stand.

To continue our policy of trying to attract the Motherwell fans of tomorrow, we are also pleased to confirm that we have kept the prices for youngsters the same.

We still believe a season ticket, whether bought individually or as part of a family package, represents tremendous value. Through our 'WELlevate' offer, a parent or grandparent can take two kids to every match in the Cooper for the equivalent of just over £5 each per game.

The fantastic Season Ticket offers which can be used to earn a host of discounts in a number of well-known businesses also returns and is back and bigger than ever.

The likes of Barrett and David Wilson Homes, Motorpoint, First Bus, Subway and Peter Vardy have been added

to a 37 strong list which already contained the likes of McDonalds, KFC, Pizzahut, LivingWell Health Club, Evans Halshaw, M&D's and many, many more.

We've enjoyed a fantastic run in the last six or seven years. Together, the club and our loyal fans can continue to grow Scotland's best community and family club.

Season Ticket hodlers should receive their renewal pack this coming week but for prices, full details and ways to buy, including online, visit the online home of the Steelmen – www.motherwellfc.co.uk.



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2014-15

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| AUGUST 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thu 01 | 19:45 | Kuban Krasnodar | UEL | 0-2 | 6,748 | Hollis | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Lawson |
| Sun 04 | 13:15 | Hibernian | SPFL | 1-0 | 9,237 | Hollis | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Lawson |
| Thu 08 | 18:00 | Kuban Krasnodar | UEL | 0-1 | 31,754 | Nielsen | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Lawson |
| Sun 11 | 15:00 | Aberdeen | SPFL | 1-3 | 6,242 | Hollis | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Anier 1 |
| Sat 17 | 15:00 | Inverness CT | SPFL | 0-2 | 3,031 | Hollis | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Lawson |
| Sat 24 | 15:00 | Partick Thistle | SPFL | 1-0 | 5,527 | Hollis | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Anier |
| Sat 31 | 17:30 | Kilmarnock | SPFL | 2-1 | 4,353 | Hollis | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Anier 1 |
| SEPTEMBER 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 14 | 15:00 | St Mirren | SPFL | 1-0 | 4,012 | Hollis | Hammell | Francis-Angol | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Anier |
| Sun 22 | 15:00 | Dundee Utd | SPFL | 2-2 | 5,808 | Hollis | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Anier 1 |
| Wed 25 | 19:45 | Livingston | SCC3 | 2-1 | 1,660 | Nielsen | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Ainsworth | Lawson |
| Sat 28 | 15:00 | Ross County | SPFL | 3-1 | 4,263 | Hollis | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Anier |
| OCTOBER 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 05 | 15:00 | Celtic | SPFL | 0-2 | 46,608 | Hollis | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| Sat 19 | 15:00 | Hearts | SPFL | 2-1 | 5,350 | Nielsen | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson 1 | McManus | Lasley | Anier |
| Sun 27 | 15:00 | St Johnstone | SPFL | 0-2 | 2,449 | Nielsen | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Lawson |
| Wed 30 | 19:45 | Aberdeen | SCC4 | 0-2 | 6,995 | Nielsen | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Lawson |
| NOVEMBER 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sun 03 | 15:00 | Hibernian | SPFL | 1-0 | 3,864 | Nielsen | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus 1 | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| Sat 09 | 15:00 | Dundee Utd | SPFL | 0-4 | 5,103 | Nielsen | Cummins | Francis-Angol | Kerr | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| Sat 23 | 15:00 | Kilmarnock | SPFL | 2-0 | 3,704 | Nielsen | Kerr | Francis-Angol | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Lawson |
| Sat 30 | 15:00 | Albion Rovers | SCP4 | 0-1 | 2,950 | Nielsen | Hammell | Francis-Angol | Hutchinson | McManus | Kerr | Lawson |
| DECEMBER 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fri 06 | 19:45 | Celtic | SPFL | 0-5 | 9,117 | Nielsen | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Kerr |
| Sat 14 | 15:00 | Ross County | SPFL | 2-1 | 2,792 | Twardzik | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| Sat 21 | 15:00 | St Mirren | SPFL | 3-0 | 3,867 | Twardzik | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth 1 |
| Thu 26 | 15:00 | Aberdeen | SPFL | 1-0 | 12,494 | Twardzik | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | Kerr | Lasley | Ainsworth 1 |
| Sun 29 | 15:00 | Partick Thistle | SPFL | 5-1 | 4,588 | Twardzik | Hammell | Ramsden | Francis-Angol 1 | McManus | Lasley 1 | Ainsworth 1 |
| JANUARY 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wed 01 | 15:00 | St Johnstone | SPFL | 4-0 | 3,763 | Twardzik | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth 1 |
| Sat 11 | 15:00 | Hearts | SPFL | 1-0 | 12,888 | Nielsen | Hammell | Ramsden | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| Sat 18 | 15:00 | Celtic | SPFL | 0-3 | 47,489 | Nielsen | Hammell | Francis-Angol | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| Sat 25 | 15:00 | Aberdeen | SPFL | 2-2 | 5,756 | Nielsen | Hammell | Francis-Angol 1 | Hutchinson | McManus 1 | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| FEBRUARY 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 15 | 15:00 | Partick Thistle | SPFL | 4-3 | 5,048 | Nielsen | Hammell | Francis-Angol | Hutchinson | McManus 1 | Lasley 1 | Ainsworth 1 |
| Fri 21 | 19:45 | Dundee Utd | SPFL | 1-3 | 7,029 | Nielsen | Hammell | Francis-Angol | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| Tue 25 | 19:45 | St Johnstone | SPFL | 0-3 | 1,892 | Nielsen | Hammell | Francis-Angol | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Reid |
| MARCH 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 01 | 15:00 | Hearts | SPFL | 4-1 | 4,914 | Hollis | Reid | Francis-Angol | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth 1 |
| Sat 08 | 15:00 | Hibernian | SPFL | 3-3 | 8,277 | Hollis | Reid | Murray | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth 1 |
| Wed 19 | 19:45 | Inverness CT | SPFL | 2-0 | 3,432 | Nielsen | Hammell | Reid | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth 1 |
| Sat 22 | 15:00 | Ross County | SPFL | 2-1 | 4,080 | Nielsen | Hammell | Reid | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| Sat 29 | 15:00 | Kilmarnock | SPFL | 1-2 | 4,467 | Nielsen | Hammell | Reid | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| APRIL 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tue 01 | 19:45 | Inverness CT | SPFL | 2-1 | 2,366 | Nielsen | Hammell | Reid | Hutchinson | McManus | Lasley | Anier 1 |
| Sat 05 | 15:00 | St Mirren | SPFL | 2-3 | 4,377 | Nielsen | Hammell | Reid | Kerr | McManus | Lasley | Ainsworth |
| Sat 19 | 12:45 | Celtic | SPFL | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 26 | 15:00 | Dundee Utd | SPFL | | | | | | | | | |
| MAY 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sat 03 | 15:00 | St Johnstone | SPFL | | | | | | | | | |
| Wed 07 | 17:45 | Inverness CT | SPFL | | | | | | | | | |
| Sun 11 | 12:15 | Aberdeen | SPFL | | | | | | | | | |

SUBSTITUTES

| McFadden | Sutton | Vigurs | Francis-Angol | Nielsen | Cummins | McHugh | Carswell | Kerr | Moore | Anier | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|--|--|
| McFadden | Sutton | Vigurs | McHugh | Nielsen | Cummins | Francis-Angol | Carswell | Kerr | Moore | Anier 1 | | |
| Carswell | Kerr | Anier | Francis-Angol | Hollis | Cummins | McHugh | Leitch | Erwin | Moore | McCafferty | | |
| McFadden | Sutton | Vigurs | Francis-Angol | Nielsen | Cummins | McHugh | Carswell | Kerr | Moore | Lawson | | |
| McFadden | Sutton | Vigurs | McHugh | Nielsen | Erwin | Francis-Angol | Carswell | Kerr | Moore | Anier | | |
| McFadden | Sutton 1 | Carswell | Francis-Angol | Nielsen | Cummins | McHugh | Lawson | Kerr | Moore | Vigurs | | |
| McFadden | Sutton 1 | Carswell | Vigurs | Nielsen | Cummins | Francis-Angol | Lawson | Ainsworth | McHugh | Moore | | |
| McFadden | Sutton 1 | Carswell | Vigurs | Nielsen | Cummins | Leitch | Lawson | Ainsworth | McHugh | Moore | | |
| Francis-Angol | Sutton | Carswell | Vigurs | Nielsen | Cummins | Kerr | Lawson | Ainsworth 1 | McHugh | McFadden | | |
| McFadden 1 | McHugh 1 | Carswell | Francis-Angol | Hollis | Cummins | Vigurs | Sutton | Moore | | | | |
| McFadden | Sutton 2 | Carswell | Francis-Angol | Nielsen | Cummins | Kerr | Lawson | Ainsworth | McHugh 1 | Vigurs | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | Francis-Angol | Nielsen | Cummins | Kerr | Lawson | Moore | McHugh | Anier | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | Francis-Angol | Stewart | Cummins | Kerr | Lawson | Moore 1 | McHugh | Murray | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | McHugh | Stewart | Cummins | Kerr | Ainsworth | Moore | Francis-Angol | Anier | | |
| Anier | Sutton | Carswell | Francis-Angol | Stewart | McFadden | Kerr | Ainsworth | McHugh | | | | |
| McFadden | Sutton | Carswell | Anier | Stewart | Vigurs | Kerr | Lawson | McHugh | Francis-Angol | Moore | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | Anier | Stewart | McFadden | Leitch | Lawson | McHugh | Murray | Moore | | |
| McFadden | Sutton 1 | Moore | Vigurs | Stewart | Cummins | Carswell | Ainsworth | McHugh | Hammell | Anier 1 | | |
| McFadden | McHugh | Carswell | Anier | Stewart | Cummins | Sutton | Lasley | Leitch | | | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | Moore | Stewart | Cummins | McFadden | Lawson | Ainsworth | Murray | Anier | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | Anier | Stewart | McFadden | Leitch | Lawson | McHugh | Murray | Moore | | |
| McFadden | Sutton 1 | Moore | Vigurs | Stewart | Cummins | Carswell | Ainsworth | McHugh | Hammell | Anier 1 | | |
| McFadden | McHugh | Carswell | Anier | Stewart | Cummins | Sutton | Lasley | Leitch | | | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | Moore | Stewart | Cummins | McFadden | Lawson | Ainsworth | Murray | Anier | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton 2 | Carswell | Anier | Stewart | Cummins | McFadden | Lawson | Leitch | Murray | Moore | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | Anier 2 | Stewart | Cummins | McFadden | Lawson | Kerr | Francis-Angol | Moore | | |
| Lawson | Sutton | Carswell | Anier | Nielsen | Cummins | McFadden | Vigurs | McHugh | Francis-Angol | Moore | | |
| Vigurs | McFadden 1 | Carswell | Anier | Nielsen | Cummins | Sutton 1 | Lawson | McHugh | Murray | Moore | | |
| Vigurs 1 | Sutton 1 | Carswell | Anier | Nielsen | Cummins | McFadden 1 | Lawson | McHugh | Francis-Angol | Moore | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton 1 | Carswell | McFadden | Stewart | Anier | Murray | Lawson | McHugh | Francis-Angol | Moore | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | McFadden | Stewart | Anier | Murray | Lawson | Kerr | Leitch | Moore | | |
| Kerr | Sutton | Carswell | McFadden | Stewart | Anier | Murray | Lawson | Thomas | Leitch | Moore | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton 1 | Carswell | McFadden | Stewart | Anier | Murray | Lawson | Thomas | Leitch | Shirkie | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton 1 | Carswell | McFadden | Hollis | Anier | Murray | Reid | Thomas | Leitch | Shirkie | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton | Carswell | Anier | Hollis | McFadden | Murray | Ainsworth | Cadden | Leitch | Shirkie | | |
| Vigurs 1 | Sutton 1 | Leitch | McFadden 1 | Nielsen | Carswell | Murray | Thomas | Cadden | Shirkie | | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton 2 | Leitch | McFadden | Stewart | Hammell | Neill | Thomas | Cadden | Moore | Shirkie | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton 1 | Carswell | McFadden | Stewart | Francis-Angol | Murray | Thomas | Cadden | Leitch | Moore | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton 1 | Carswell | McFadden 1 | Stewart | Francis-Angol | Murray | Thomas | Anier | Leitch | Moore | | |
| Vigurs 1 | Sutton | Moore | Francis-Angol | Stewart | Erwin | Murray | Thomas | Anier | Leitch | Kerr | | |
| Vigurs 1 | Sutton | Leitch | Kerr | Stewart | Francis-Angol | Murray | Thomas | Cadden | Ainsworth | Moore | | |
| Vigurs | Sutton 1 | Leitch | Anier 1 | Stewart | Francis-Angol | Murray | Thomas | Cadden | Erwin | Moore | | |

THE LATEST STATS FROM FIR PARK

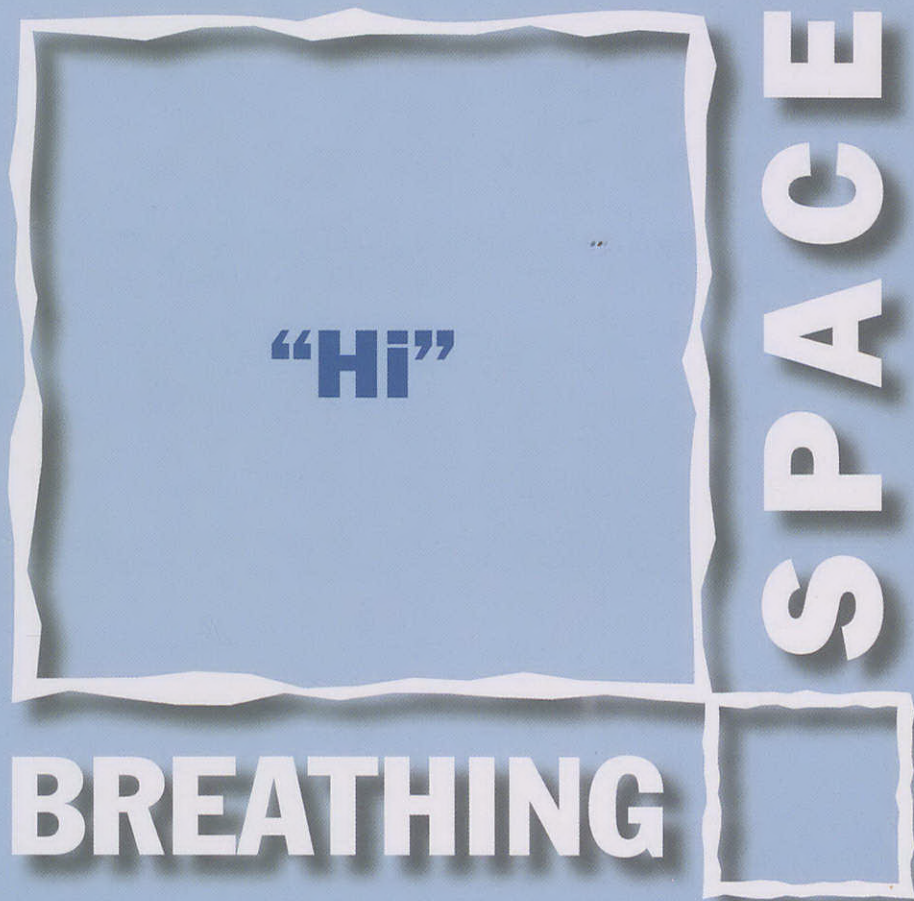
FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES

| Player | SPFL | | SCOTTISH CUP | | | LEAGUE CUP | | | EUROPE | | | |
|---------------------|-------|----|--------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|----|-------|
| | APP | GL | B/S/O | APP | GL | B/S/O | APP | GL | B/S/O | APP | GL | B/S/O |
| Lee Hols | 11 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Craig Reid | 8/1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stevie Hammill | 29 | | 6 | 1 | | | | 2 | | 2 | | 1 |
| Simon Ramsden | 18 | | 2/1 | | | | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| Shaun Hutchinson | 30 | 1 | 8/1 | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Stephen Marmarus | 32 | 2 | 4 | 1 | | | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| James McFadden | 19/5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Paul Lawson | 5/12 | | 5 | 1 | | | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| John Sutton | 32/1 | 20 | 1 | 0/1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Ian Vigus | 27/2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Gunnar Nielsen | 17 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 | | 1 | | |
| Keith Lasley | 33 | 2 | 6 | 0/1 | | | | 1 | | 2 | | |
| Adam Cummins | 1/2 | | 1 | | | | | 0/1 | | 0/1 | | |
| Bob McHugh | 3/4 | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1/1 | 1 | 0/1 | | |
| Zaine Francis-Angol | 17/11 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| Shaif Coswell | 25/3 | | 4 | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Fraser Kerr | 7/7 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | 1/1 | | |
| Craig Moore | 3/12 | 1 | 3 | | | | | 0/1 | | 0/1 | | |
| Euan Murray | 1/2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Henri Anier | 17/11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1/1 | | |
| Lionel Ainsworth | 19/5 | 9 | 1 | | | | | 1/1 | | | | |
| Jack Leitch | 4/2 | | | | 0/1 | | | | | | | |
| Don Twardzik | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dale Stratton | 0/1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chris Cadden | 0/3 | | | | | | | | | | | |

LEAGUE TABLE 13/14

| TEAM | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Celtic | 33 | 28 | 4 | 1 | 82 | 16 | 66 | 88 |
| Aberdeen | 33 | 19 | 6 | 8 | 47 | 30 | 17 | 63 |
| Motherwell | 33 | 19 | 3 | 11 | 55 | 50 | 5 | 60 |
| Dundee Utd. | 33 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 57 | 40 | 17 | 54 |
| Inverness CT | 33 | 15 | 7 | 11 | 40 | 35 | 5 | 52 |
| St Johnstone | 33 | 14 | 6 | 13 | 41 | 34 | 7 | 48 |
| Hibernian | 33 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 29 | 44 | -15 | 34 |
| Kilmarnock | 33 | 9 | 6 | 18 | 41 | 57 | -16 | 33 |
| Ross County | 33 | 8 | 7 | 18 | 38 | 56 | -18 | 31 |
| St Mirren | 33 | 8 | 7 | 18 | 34 | 55 | -21 | 31 |
| Partick Thistle | 33 | 6 | 12 | 15 | 36 | 57 | -21 | 30 |
| Hearts | 33 | 7 | 7 | 19 | 33 | 57 | -26 | 13 |

TABLE AND Stats



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FROM THE PRESS BOX

BY SCOTT MULLEN

Group sports production journalist and writer at the Evening Times, Herald and Sunday Herald.

AS AN EVERTONIAN, I WATCHED LAST WEEKEND'S LIVERPOOL VERSUS MANCHESTER CITY GAME WITH MIXED EMOTIONS.

This has been undoubtedly the best Barclays Premier League we have seen, well, possibly ever. It's just unfortunate 'that mob' remain at the very forefront of it.

Their victory over City was a defining moment in Liverpool's season. Going into a 2-0 lead against a team of that quality is impressive enough, but to stop their resurgence at 2-2 and somehow turn the game back around was nigh on miraculous. This was a game, which could have easily turned into a four or five goal walkover for the Etihad club last season.

The slight change in playing personnel last summer only underlines that the transformation in this club is down to one man, Brendan Rodgers. Given Liverpool finished last season seventh place - a whole two points behind Everton, by the way - and that in the summer they only added names such as Mamadou Sakho, Victor Moses and Kolo Toure, the new acquisitions were never likely to trigger a revolution at Anfield, but merely compliment the solid base which had been laid last season.

Seventh place is hardly anything to shout about when you look historically at where the club is used to operating, yet the devil is in the detail. It resulted in their highest points total since 2010 at 61, a figure which has already been surpassed by 16 points with four games still left to play.

Last Sunday's three points means the league is now Liverpool's to lose, with a win against Chelsea next weekend all but ensuring bar a last-gasp collapse. Steven Gerrard greetin' after the game is proof of how close they are to their first title in 24 years.

A two-horse race, never mind three, would do in Scotland these days, unfortunately it's something which won't be around for a long time if last weekend's Scottish Cup semi-finals are anything to go by.

Rangers losing to Dundee United surprised few, even the majority of Rangers fans. Their defending was woeful, especially from experienced guys like Steven Smith and Ricky Foster, two players who should know better. White Dean Shiels' shot at 0-0 when through on goal near enough knocked the flag out the far side linesman's hand. Even Nicky Law looks a shadow of the player who decided to give up a shot at European football to play in Scotland's third tier.

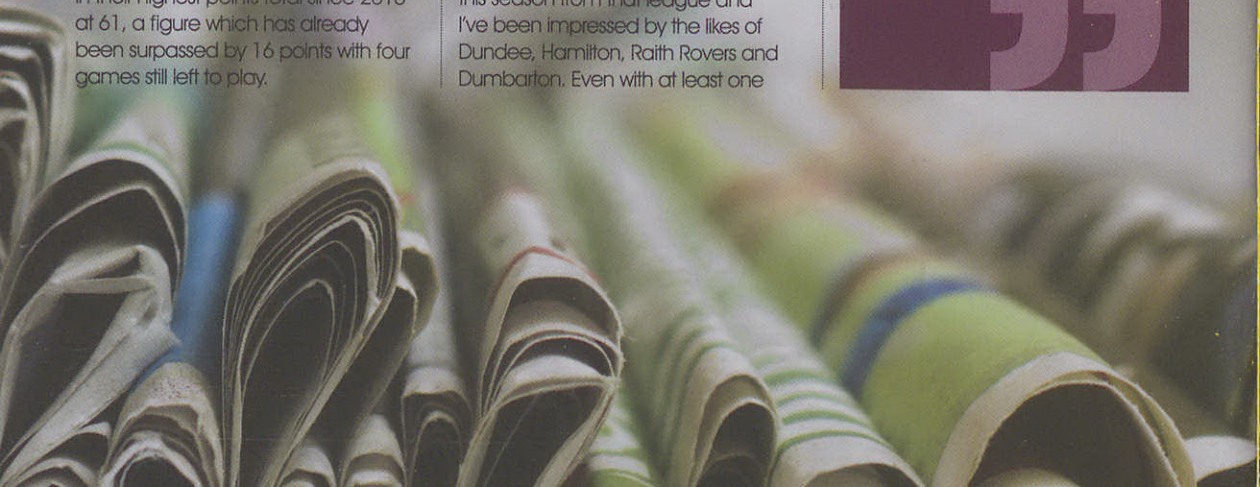
At the moment it's not even a matter of Rangers not being strong enough to compete with Celtic when they come back to the top flight next year. By no manner of means is it a given that Rangers will win the Championship. I've watched quite a few teams this season from that league and I've been impressed by the likes of Dundee, Hamilton, Raith Rovers and Dumbarton. Even with at least one

of them being promoted to the Premiership - probably Dundee - Ally McCoist's side shouldn't be favourites to go up, especially with Hearts and possibly one other from Hibs, St Mirren, Ross County and Partick Thistle there.

The other semi-final showed that Aberdeen are in fact human, and do have an element of fallibility to their play. I was at Easter Road two weeks ago for their 2-0 win over Hibs, and Niall McGinn and Adam Rooney were unplayable at times, even if there wasn't much opposition in front of them.

However St Johnstone stopping them reaching a second cup final this season proves that even in full flow they can be brought to a shuddering halt, and that talk about having a team fit to challenge for a title next season is a bit premature at best.

ONE TEAM IN RED WINNING A LEAGUE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ANYONE!



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MOTHERWELL

STUART McCALL **MANAGER**

| | | |
|--|---------------------|----|
| | LEE HOLLIS | 01 |
| | STEVIE HAMMELL | 03 |
| | SIMON RAMSDEN | 04 |
| | SHAUN HUTCHINSON | 05 |
| | STEPHEN McMANUS | 06 |
| | JAMES McFADDEN | 07 |
| | PAUL LAWSON | 08 |
| | JOHN SUTTON | 09 |
| | IAIN VIGURS | 11 |
| | GUNNAR NIELSEN | 12 |
| | KEITH LASLEY | 14 |
| | ADAM CUMMINS | 15 |
| | BOB McHUGH | 16 |
| | ZAINE FRANCIS-ANGOL | 17 |
| | STUART CARSWELL | 18 |
| | LEE ERWIN | 19 |
| | FRASER KERR | 20 |
| | ROSS STEWART | 21 |
| | CRAIG MOORE | 22 |
| | EUAN MURRAY | 23 |
| | HENRI ANIER | 24 |
| | LIONEL AINSWORTH | 25 |
| | ALLAN TODD | 51 |
| | DAVID LINDSAY | 52 |
| | GRAEME BALMER | 69 |
| | STEPHEN GRIEVE | 80 |
| | JOE SMITH | 91 |



CELTIC

MANAGER NEIL LENNON

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| 01 | FRASER FORSTER |
| 02 | ADAM MATTHEWS |
| 03 | EMILIO IZAGUIRRE |
| 04 | EFFE AMBROSE |
| 05 | VIRGIL VAN DIJK |
| 06 | NIR BITON |
| 08 | SCOTT BROWN |
| 09 | GEORGIOS SAMARAS |
| 10 | ANTHONY STOKES |
| 11 | DERK BOERRIGTER |
| 15 | KRIS COMMONS |
| 16 | JOE LEDLEY |
| 17 | AMIDO BALDE |
| 18 | TOM ROGIC |
| 19 | HOLMBERT FRIDJONSSON |
| 20 | TEEMU PUKKI |
| 21 | CHARLIE MULGREW |
| 22 | STEVEN MOUYOKOLO |
| 23 | MIKAEL LUSTIG |
| 24 | LUKASZ ZALUSKA |
| 25 | STEFAN JOHANSEN |
| 28 | LEIGH GRIFFITHS |
| 31 | JOHN HERRON |
| 32 | TONY WATT |
| 33 | BERAM KAYAL |
| 36 | JACKSON IRVINE |
| 37 | BAHRUDIN ATAJIC |
| 38 | LEONARDO FASEN |
| 40 | LEWIS KIDD |
| 41 | DARNELL FISHER |
| 42 | CALLUM McGREGOR |
| 43 | JOE CHALMERS |
| 44 | MARCUS FRASER |
| 45 | LEWIS TOSHNEY |
| 46 | DYLAN McGEOUCH |
| 49 | JAMES FORREST |
| 50 | PAUL GEORGE |
| 53 | LIAM HENDERSON |
| 56 | FILIP TWARDZIK |
| 58 | PATRIK TWARDZIK |

REFEREE CRAIG THOMSON ASST REFEREE 1 ALASTAIR MATHER ASST REFEREE 2 DOUGLAS ROSS 4TH OFFICIAL CRAIG CHARLESTON
 SPFL MATCH DELEGATE ALAN DICK REFEREE OBSERVER BRYAN ROBERTSON