

HEART

of Midlothian F.C.plc



B & Q PREMIER LEAGUE

Hearts v Celtic • Saturday 27th April 1991 • K.O. 3.00pm • Price £1

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Comment from the **MANAGER**

Since I last wrote on this page we have enjoyed contrasting fortunes in our two fixtures.

The last home match against Aberdeen was, on reflection, very disappointing. The match received a big build-up and attracted a good crowd. We got off to a great start but after we were reduced to ten men we found it very difficult to cope with an Aberdeen side which has taken 19 out of their last 20 points. They used the ball well and we were always chasing.

That result made it vital that we came away from McDermaid Park with both points. Saint Johnstone have done well against us this season but on this occasion I felt that we controlled the match after getting the two goals early on. Although the home side did a lot of attacking throughout the second half I thought we looked comfortable and restricted them to very few shots on Nicky Walker's goal and in the end thoroughly deserved our victory. It was also good to have Wayne Foster and David McCreery back in the squad after injuries.

This afternoon's match is a vital one for us. Depending on the result of the Scottish Cup Final, finishing fourth in the Premier League could mean European participation next season. It is up to us to make sure we give ourselves the chance by claiming that fourth spot. Our opponents today, Celtic, have the same aim and will, as always, come here and attack. We know that both points today would bring us level on points with the Glasgow Club but we will have to be at our best to achieve this.

BOB BAXTER

All Hearts supporters will be saddened to learn of the recent death of a former club captain, Bob Baxter, who made a significant contribution to the development of several young players just after the Second World War. Bob was born in the Gilmerton area of Edinburgh in 1911 and although he always wanted to play for Hearts, it was Middlesbrough who gave him the chance to play professionally and to leave his job down Gilmerton pit in 1931. He became the finest centre-half of the pre-war period and earned International honours. Bob then came back to Edinburgh at the start of the War to work in Gilmerton pit and played for Hearts as a guest during 1939-40 season. However, Hibs secured his loan for the rest of the war and in August 1945, he had to be formally transferred from Middlesbrough to Tynecastle. Not only did he bolster Hearts youthful team, but he was involved in coaching and was much admired in this area as he practised constructive play from the back rather than the big kick up the field. He concentrated on coaching during 1947-48 season and became player manager of Leith Athletic in May 1948. Bob had, however, assisted with the building of a Hearts team, which would soon be the finest in Scotland. The club extends its sympathy to Bob's family at this time.



TODAY'S REFEREE

Today's match referee is LES MOTTRAM from Forth in Lanarkshire, who is making his first appearance of the season at Tynecastle. Les is one of the new brigade in Scottish refereeing and earlier this year was appointed to the FIFA list of officials. This is his sixth and final Premier match of the season. He was in charge of our away fixture at Paisley back in October.

NOTICEBOARD

NEXT GAMES AT TYNECASTLE

Tuesday 30th April
Reserve League (East)
HEARTS v EAST FIFE
K.O. 7.30

Saturday 4th May
Reserve League (East)
HEARTS v DUNDEE UNITED
K.O. 2pm


Wednesday 8th May
Reserve League (East)
HEARTS v ALLOA ATH
K.O. 7.30pm

Saturday 11th May
Premier League
HEARTS v MOTHERWELL
K.O. 3pm

***Note: Venue for midweek matches may be changed. Watch press for details.**

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Tynecastle Visitorstoday **CELTIC F.C.**

Hearts and Celtic meet this afternoon chasing the same target – to earn one of Scotland's two UEFA Cup places in next season's competition.

Celtic are in a much stronger position than Hearts in this regard. They recovered from a poor start to the current campaign and came back to their best, particularly during a 12 match unbeaten run, after the turn of the year. This saw the Glasgow side establish itself in 4th place in the League and become favourites to win the Scottish Cup after a fine victory over Rangers in this competition.

A surprise defeat from Motherwell recently ended Celtic's cup hopes, but a place in the UEFA Cup is still a possibility.

Our visitors find themselves 4 points behind Dundee United who hold 3rd place in the League and accordingly a guaranteed European spot. With only three matches left it looks very difficult but not impossible for Celtic to overhaul United, but of course, if United win the Scottish Cup then the team finishing in 4th place would qualify for Europe.

Hearts road to the UEFA Cup also requires Dundee United to win the Cup, while in addition, Celtic have to be overtaken in the Championship table.

So while neither Hearts or Celtic have a clear road into Europe, both sides know that they must keep on winning until the end of the campaign to have any chance. This adds to the excitement of what is traditionally one of the most thrilling fixtures on the Tynecastle calendar.

THE CELTIC SQUAD

Commanding the Celtic goal area is the Glasgow club's longest serving player **PAT BONNER** (30) who was signed from Keadue Rovers of Donegal in 1978. The agility and fine handling of the 6'2" Irishman have made him an automatic choice for both Celtic and the Republic of Ireland national side. Polish Internationalist, **DARIUSZ WDOWCZYK** (28) has also been very impressive recently in the role of sweeper, where his pace, composure and skill, enable him to build from the back. Since his £400,000 transfer from Legia Warsaw in November 1989, Dariusz has also excelled at full-back and has proved to have one of the hardest shots in the game.

Celtic's regular central defenders are 27 year old **PAUL ELLIOT** and 22 year old **DEREK WHYTE**, however the former player will be missing this afternoon due to suspension. Glaswegian Derek Whyte will therefore be at the heart of the defence. He is one of many fine players who have come through the Celtic Boys Club to establish himself in the side and earn Full International honours. He is well-built and tough, but is more noted for constructive play at the back.

players

Club teams to

On the flanks, Northern Ireland Internationalist, **ANTON ROGAN** (25) holds the left-back position. Since joining Celtic in May 1986 from Distillery, he has proved to be one of the hardest working players in the squad and is noted for his long runs down the left. Anton is also among the goalscorers on a regular basis. Strong-running **CHRIS MORRIS** (27) operates on the right side, using all his former skills as a winger to help attack from the back. Since his transfer from Sheffield Wednesday in July 1987, Chris has also become a member of the Republic of Ireland international side. **MARK McNALLY** (20) has broken into the squad this season and has already earned Under-21 International caps. The former Celtic Boys Club defender is reliable and steady and looks a great prospect for the Glasgow club. Celtic's midfield is dominated by the creative skills of **PAUL McSTAY** (26) who has made things happen in this area for nearly 10 years. The former Celtic Boys Club player has been capped at all levels by Scotland and is also a dominant force in the

Paul McStay



Gerry Creaney

national team. Another current Internationalist, **JOHN COLLINS** (21), also provides midfield craft and his passing skills can turn any match in Celtic's favour. John cost nearly £1 million when he was signed from Hibs at the start of the season.

Midfield power is supplied by Scottish Internationalist **PETER GRANT** (25) who works tirelessly to provide for the ball-players. The former Celtic Boys Club player is also an excellent full-back. **STEVEN FULTON** (20) is a natural left-foot player and another determined ball-winner. Steve is yet another product of Celtic Boys Club and is now a member of the Scottish Under-21 side. He has passing skill to add to his tackling ability.

Celtic's attack is traditionally strong and their top scorer this term is 28 year old Glaswegian, **TOMMY COYNE**, who has scored 15 competitive goals. The aggressive six-foot striker cost our visitors £500,000 when he was signed from Dundee in March 1989 and he has also had previous spells with Clydebank and Dundee United. Another striker who has made a big impact this season is 21-year-old **GERRY CREANEY** who stepped-up from Celtic Boys Club in May 1987. The Under-21 Internationalist is now an established member of the Parkhead squad and he has scored 10 goals this term – many of them spectacular.

JOE MILLER (23) uses his great pace and dribbling skill to provide the central strikers with goalscoring chances. He also has an eye for goal himself and the former Aberdeen winger, who was signed in November 1987 for £650,000, has scored 10 so far this season. Also available up front is 26 year old **ANDY WALKER** who established his reputation with Motherwell and moved to Celtic in July 1987 for a fee of £350,000. This brave and hard-working striker has been troubled by injury for the greater part of the season however. The highly-skilled **CHARLIE NICHOLAS** (29) has also made a recent comeback after having fitness problems for a long spell. Charlie, of course, started his career with Celtic before moving to Arsenal in 1983. The former International striker returned to Scotland to play for Aberdeen in 1988 and went back to Parkhead in July last year. **GERRY BRITTON** (20) might also feature in the side after making the breakthrough this term. The 6'1" Glaswegian striker stepped up from Celtic Boys Club in May 1987.

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