



FALKIRK FOOTBALL CLUB

The
Bairns

Bells Scottish League Premier Division

Saturday, 29th April, 1995

FALKIRK v CELTIC

Kick-off 3.00pm

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Our great run continues. After three straight victories we carried on the good work by taking maximum points from two of our rivals to really boost our hopes of a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

Before the visit of Motherwell, we perhaps had half an eye on a European place. In fact securing a victory was as much about removing us from the mathematical equation of relegation.

Against Motherwell, we got off to a great start with Steve Kirk scoring another vital goal against his former colleagues. Conditions weren't good with the pitch very bumpy, but we did the right things. Our commitment and organisation were first class and eventually ended up scoring three times. It was also a particularly solid performance at the back and as a result Coyne and Arnott were limited to very few chances and that speaks volumes about our performance.

As our attacking record shows - only Rangers have scored more goals than us - we are always capable of creating chances and taking them.

From victory over Motherwell we went on to face another of the clubs keen to win a place in Europe. being frank, we didn't play well, but perhaps this was a case of the breaks evening themselves out over a season. In two earlier draws, we undoubtedly deserved to win, but didn't. There was also some poetic justice in the fact that Colin McDonald scored the clinching goal because it enabled him to atone for the miss which would have given us three points the last time we were at Easter Road.

As I mentioned earlier, the team's performance at Easter Road was no where near approaching our best, but when a team is going well as we are and

you show determination you make your own luck.

Once more conditions were far from ideal. Another bumpy pitch allied to the tunnel effect of the wind caused by the reconstruction work going on at Easter Road made playing football no easy job.

To Hibs credit this was probably their best performance in opposition to us this season, but, importantly, they didn't take their chances and we struck

thanks to a tremendous free-kick by John Clark. In addition we were forced into two early substitutions with Joe McLaughlin and Paul McGrillen having to go off and had we had another substitute available, Maurice Johnston would normally not have appeared after the interval.

HOWEVER, THE GREAT SPIRIT IN THE CAMP EARNED US THREE MORE VALUABLE POINTS AND WE ARE NOW DETERMINED TO FINISH THE SEASON ON A HIGH NOTE, PARTICULARLY AS WE NOW HAVE A VERY DEFINITE CHANCE OF PLAYING IN EUROPE NEXT SEASON.

And that means that this afternoon's visit by Celtic is a very big game. The cup finalists have lost their last two league games and will view this afternoon as a chance to get back into the European frame. If we win we can really put the pressure on Motherwell as getting a European spot is not in our own hands. However, with two games at home and one away, we can make it very difficult for Celtic who have games in hand to catch us.

None-the-less, it will be a very tough match, but if we continue to be professional at the back and create chances then there is no reason why our recent very good run cannot continue.



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RUNNERS-UP

1904-05; 1951-52; 1960-61

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BROCKVILLE BULLETIN

NEW - THE BAIRNS HOTLINE

Falkirk FC are delighted to announce the development of a brand new telephone service to supplement the increasing awareness of supporters throughout the country.

In association with Sportslines, Falkirk FC are introducing from today the very latest in telephone technology with supporters throughout the world able now to access the very latest news, views and interviews from inside the club. Updated every 24 hours by top broadcaster Terry McGeadie from Scot FM's "The Dug-out", this service will provide every useful piece of information from team news with Jim Jefferies and Billy Brown, the latest ticket, travel and pitch inspection reports direct from grounds around the country, commercial news and projects as they break plus instant access to official club statements.

The new technology allows supporters who for one reason or another cannot call on a daily basis to access all of the previous seven days news as they require, with the very latest messages first. With full match cover and after match reports, this service is designed to bring the supporters closer to the club, with an opportunity for our fans to air their views on a regular basis.

The new number is 0891 70 70 78. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times, and every call benefits the club.

If there is any specific news that you you have found difficult to obtain, then drop us a line to the Commercial department at the stadium and we will ensure that the information you require is available to you 24 hours a day.

N.B. THIS NEW NUMBER IS EFFECTIVE FROM TODAY, SO PLEASE DISREGARD THE ADVERT ON PAGE 18 OF TODAY'S PROGRAMME.

SIX IN A ROW

Rangers may have confirmed their seventh title in a row, but there is one thing that the Bairns have not only equalled, but can in fact surpass Rangers in this season. And we are not talking about Jim Jefferies men magnificent record at Ibrox this season, where they have remained undefeated in three visits.

It will not come as a surprise that the Bairns five league victories on the trot is their best at Premier level, but it did raise the question has any other Premier side managed five wins on the trot this season. Again unsurprisingly, Rangers are the only team to have done so.

However, if the Bairns can win this afternoon, they can go one step ahead by making it six straight successes. And if you are wondering how long ago it is since a Brockville side did that the answer is not very. Just last year in fact, when half a dozen back-to-back wins over February and March proved crucial in the promotion run in.

CCTV

THIS GROUND IS EQUIPPED WITH CCTV INSTALLED WITH THE HELP OF A GRANT FROM THE FOOTBALL TRUST

CLARKIE'S BEST

The current front cover on the programme shows John Clark celebrating a goal at Firhill and though he was signed primarily to bolster the Bairns defence, he has popped in quite a few memorable and important goals. The latest - a high velocity free-kick which

crashed past Jim Leighton at Easter Road in the Bairns last outing - took his tally since coming to Brockville last September to eight and that marks his best aggregate in a season at first team level. Previously, the seven goals he scored for Dundee United in the 1986-87 campaign was his highest tally in a single term. Four of that total came in the Tannadice side's UEFA Cup run and perhaps he might get the opportunity to revisit that stage next season with the Bairns. Let's hope so!

AS OTHERS SEE US

This is very much the season of awards and reviews and The Bairn has already been mentioned in despatches by Programme Monthly. Now it comes in for a mention in "The Great Leap Forward" which as everyone knows(!) is a Motherwell fanzine. They rate the Falkirk programme ahead of their own Fir Park read, reviewing it as follows. "Very similar to Thistle's programme without the clever manager's column title or a McCormick cartoon, but it still contains a good mix of adverts and Features."

EDINBURGH PROGRAMME FAIR

Saturday 6th May 1995
10.30 am - 2pm

ADMISSION IS 40P ADULTS; 20P JUVENILES.

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CAMELON'S CUP FINAL DATE

Success in local football isn't confined to the Bairns enjoying their best run in the Premier Division, because, local junior club Camelon have reached the Final of the OVD Junior Cup for the first time since 1952. Thanks to two goals by David Flynn they defeated Lochee United at Tannadice in midweek, so at last a team from Falkirk has won there! In their only other final appearance, they went down 2-1 to Kilbirnie Ladeside at Hampden. The other semi-final between Alan Rough's Glenafton and Whitburn of the East Region went ahead last Thursday at Love Street. Camelon, therefore will meet the winners of that tie at Fir Park, Motherwell on Sunday 21st May. No doubt a few Bairns fans will make their way to the final. If you want to know more about the Mariners then there is an article about them in this week's Guest

Spot.
NEW BAIRNS SHOP HOURS
The Bairns Shop at 47 Glebe Street, Falkirk Telephone (01324) 639366 has new opening hours. These are now as follows
Mon & Tues 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Wednesday Closed all day
Thurs & Friday 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Saturday 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

BEWARE OF YOGI

Bairns defender Yogi Hughes has recently acquired his own personalised set of number plates. We don't know if he has gone up-market because he now carries a very important passenger, transporting Mo Johnston through from Edinburgh. As we believe he is equally as fierce on the road as he is on the park, we thought we'd better warn you to take a wide berth when you see A5YOG hurtling up and down the M8!

VOUCHERS

Every programme this season will have a voucher in the centre pages.

By collecting these vouchers it will help you to obtain briefs for the several all-ticket games which will be held at Brockville this season.

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GUEST SPOT

Falkirk heading for Europe, Stenhousemuir after a great Scottish Cup run are now looking to gain promotion for only the second time in their history and Camelon reaching the last four of the O.V.D. Cup, football in the area is really buzzing just now. Here we look more deeply into the junior side who have rallied so remarkably in the last couple of seasons after years in the doldrums.

This article first appeared in the semi-final programme for the match against Lochee United at Tannadice last Tuesday evening.

"Camelon Juniors were founded in 1920 and for a team which comes from deep in the central belt of Scotland, their nickname, 'The Mariners' requires a bit of explanation. You can put that down to the fact that in the old days Camelon was a flourishing shipping port on the Forth and Clyde Canal.

The newly formed Camelon Juniors first competitive match was against Bannockburn Juniors in the 2nd round of the Scottish Junior Cup. They won and went on to beat Yoker Athletic at Ochilview before going out to Wishaw in the next round.

Before reorganisation when they joined the East Regional League, they were members of the Stirlingshire, Intermediate and Lothian Leagues.

Over the years, the club has produced some very famous names. None more so than international keeper Jerry Dawson who played for Rangers and Falkirk. Archie McAulay was another big name to go to Rangers and who later managed Norwich City. In more recent times Stewart Kennedy who also kept goal for Scotland in 1975 when he was at Ibrox, though he originally turned senior with Dunfermline and was re-instated to Linlithgow Rose before starting all over again with Stenhousemuir.

Not surprisingly, in view of its proximity, several players have found their way from Carmuir to Brockville. Birkenshaw, Nisbet and Silcock are names which will only be recalled by older Bairns fans, but Kevin McAllister now of Hibs is the name most will associate between the two clubs. With two caps, 'Crunchie' was their most capped player. Now, however, they can boast three current internationalists reflecting how far the club have progressed recently.

Previously, Dennison (1927), Rennie (1933), Smith (1956), Conlin (1961), Kemp (1962), McCulloch (1969), McKay (1978) and Smith (1980) as well as Kevin McAllister were the men who represented the Juniors at international level.

Success had been limited. They have, however, reached the Final of the Junior Cup in 1952, but lost to the only goal of the game scored by Ashe of Kilbirnie Ladeside. Incidentally, a crowd of 69,959 watched that match - the second highest ever for a Junior final.

But that is all very much in the past and now the Fairley management team are trying to rewrite the history books.

As recently as four seasons ago the club were in the doldrums when Brian and George Fairley stepped in as manager and player/coach respectively. Then they asked for three years to turn things round.

And last year following a fourteen year trophy drought, Camelon won the League title, the League Cup and the East of Scotland cup. This season they are on course to retain the title and after starting the season as 33-1 outsiders for the O.V.D. Cup, the Carmuir side are just one step away from making their second final appearance.

In the Camelon ranks there are three men with the experience of semi-finals. Unfortunately, neither Derek Haston (Three semis with Whitburn, nor George Fairley (two semis, also with Whitburn) and Alan McGonigal (one semi for Linlithgow Rose have finished on the winning side!

The only man at Camelon to have played in the final and know what it is like to win the cup is manager Brian Fairley who played in the triumphant Bo'ness side in 1984. He feels the side are capable of emulating his success. "We've a very good blend of youth and experience." he said.

Next October, Camelon Juniors will celebrate their 75th anniversary and winning the O.V.D. Cup would be the perfect present for the event."

PRINT DEADLINES PREVENT US KNOWING THE OUTCOME OF WEDNESDAY'S MATCH, BUT LETS HOPE THAT THE MARINERS ARE READY TO SAIL TO FIR PARK ON SUNDAY 21ST MAY WHEN THE O.V.D. FINAL TAKES PLACE.

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BELL'S 

It's challenging stuff.

FALKIRK'S FORTUNES

The victories over Motherwell and Hibs took the Bairns unbeaten tally to eight matches, easily the longest undefeated run by a Falkirk side in the premier Division and whilst no one would go overboard about the quality of the performances, the grit and professionalism shone through.

Steve Kirk's second match in opposition to his former colleagues brought him his fifth goal in seven games and second against Motherwell.

'Steve stuns his old mates' was The Sporting Post headline. His goal after 7 minutes came when Brian Rice swung over a free-kick and Steve out-jumped everyone to head into the top corner.

Apart from Dougie Arnott passing up a good chance, the Bairns defence was too solid for a Motherwell side showing little creativity.

Six minutes after the break, David Weir ventured forward to all but seal three points with his first goal of the season thanks to defensive negligence on Motherwell's part as he eventually scrambled the ball home from close range.

Two former Celts combined to carve open the visitor's defence in the last minute as Maurice Johnston was again provider in chief with a tempting cut-back which substitute Steve Fulton gratefully accepted!

The Sunday Mail acknowledged that a Falkirk march on Europe was on when Iain McFarlane wrote, "Second half strikes by David Weir and Steve Fulton have allowed Jim Jefferies men to start dusting down their passports." But that does beg the question when did Falkirk last play in Europe? Steve Kirk was in the Sunday Mail's Team of the Day, but the fact that this was

more down to professionalism rather than flair can be seen in that Steve was the only inclusion in that selection.

The Scotland on Sunday reporter was obviously more impressed by the Bairns performance. John Clark, Steve Kirk, Brian Rice and Mo Johnston were all nominees in the Bell's Team of the Week.

Their reporter Brian Morton is obviously a classical music buff. Gustav Mahler, managed appear twice in his report. I wonder who he played for!!

But the main thrust of his thoughts between the musical lines could be found when he opined, "There's been much to recommend a side who inside eight weeks have lifted themselves out of the slough of threatened relegation to within a gleam of Europe." Try singing that on the terraces. The tune, of course must be to Gustav Mahler's Resurrection!

After the game, the Motherwell players were under lock and key after their low key performance whilst manager Alex McLeish presumably pointed out the errors of their ways. It obviously wasn't a wasted exercise because, Motherwell went four points ahead before Falkirk's tea-time date with fellow European chasers Hibs at the Easter Road building site.

With both ends razed to the ground, it was almost unrecognisable as a football stadium and the same almost applied to the game where the wind and pitch made flowing football a near impossibility. Hibs were better than Falkirk, but not in the important matter of putting the ball in the net.

A blistering free-kick from John Clark left Leighton clawing thin air even though the ball appeared to

be within reach after 15 minutes and right on the final whistle, Colin McDonald popped up with a cute lob over Leighton of precision-like measure as it dropped into the vacant net to send the 1100 plus Bairns supporters home happy and now a European place was there for the taking if not the asking.

Apart from the obvious alterations in the ranks as Big Joe McLaughlin and Paul McGrillen were forced to come off injured, both Yogi Hughes and Mo Johnston were carrying injuries throughout the second half, so little wonder, it was the rest of the week off for the Bairns Euro chasers with no weekend fixture. Falkirk Herald Sports editor Stuart Barber thought Tony Parks was the main man for the triumphant Bairns.

"Parks was the hero at Easter Road as Falkirk took another giant step towards achieving their UEFA Cup dream," was the intro to his report on proceedings.

The chase for Europe is certainly hotting up, but the defeat was a real blow to similar aspirations of the home side.

"The Bairns are on course for their first involvement in Europe thanks to John Clark's eighth goal of the season and an injury-time strike from sub Colin McDonald."

And that comment by Gary Ralston in the Daily Express pretty well summed up the whole match, though to be fair Hibs did miss a hatful of chances, but Falkirk fans weren't complaining. Wouldn't be nice if all the Premier clubs came from Edinburgh because in the eight meetings with Hibs and Hearts this season, the Bairns haven't been beaten once.

All you can say about that is **JUST CAPITAL!**