



SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE **30p**
CELTIC PARK
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

CELTIC
CELTIC
CELTIC

AIRDRIE

SATURDAY 29th AUGUST, 1981



JOHN THOMSON
50th
ANNIVERSARY
TRIBUTE

(Centre Pages)

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FROM THE MANAGER



TODAY we start our defence of the Premier League championship. For me, this is the most important of all the domestic competitions. It may lack the glamour of a cup final, but the team that wins must undoubtedly be regarded as the best in Scotland as this can only be done through consistently good play and by winning more games than anyone else.

Last year we created three records for Premier League winners. We won more games, scored more goals and won more points than any previous holder of the title. That was great, but at the start of every season the board is wiped clean and we have it all to do again.

ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES

I am particularly pleased at the way the club is developing as a whole. We are now getting back into the Celtic tradition of bringing our own young players through the ranks, which was one of my main aims when I came back to Celtic Park as manager.

Last season saw three youngsters — Pat Bonner, Mark Reid and Charlie Nicholas — establishing themselves as first team regulars. Already this year young David Moyes has come into the first team and shown that he has a bright future ahead of him.

We finished our League Cup section with a fine win over Hibs but unfortunately we just failed to snatch a place in the quarter finals. That's in the past now, however, and today we concentrate our thoughts on League points.

The fans are as much a part of the club as any of us and as always we have been delighted with our support during the League Cup section games. I would like to take this opportunity, however, to give a word of caution.

GREAT TRADITION

Celtic fans will always be in the news and are usually very well behaved, but there have been one or two chants heard recently which do not do them justice. Our club has a great tradition for being first with witty songs. Please don't ruin it, let's stick to football!

CELTIC



FOUNDED 1888

Directors:

Desmond White, C. A. (Chairman),
Thomas L. Devlin,
James M. Farrell, M. A., LL. B.,
Kevin Kelly.

Manager:

Billy McNeill, M. B. E.

Address:

Celtic Park,
95 Kerrydale Street,
Glasgow G40 3RE

HONOURS:

League Champions (32 times)

1893, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1905, 1906,
1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1914, 1915,
1916, 1917, 1919, 1922, 1926, 1936,
1938, 1954, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969,
1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977,
1979, 1981

Cup Winners (26 times)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908,
1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927,
1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965,
1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975,
1977, 1980

League Cup Winners (8 times)

1957, 1958, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969,
1970, 1975

Empire Exhibition Cup 1938

Coronation Cup 1953

European Cup 1967

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BEHIND THE SCENES

ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO JOHN THOMSON

ON the centre pages of to-day's programme, we have included a 50th Anniversary tribute in memory of the great John Thomson once described as the "Prince of Goalkeepers."

Next Wednesday the Celtic View will also have a special tribute to the young Fifer who died on September 5, 1931.

Radio Scotland have also recorded a documentary entitled "50-50 ball . . . 1931" telling the story of John Thomson and Sam English.

The programme will be transmitted 50 years to the exact day, and almost the hour, and features the full story in sound of the two close friends whose names entered the history books because of a collision which ended the career of one football hero and ruined the life of another. Their fate was sealed in a Rangers and Celtic game in the split second they decided to chase the . . . 50-50 ball.

There have been other deaths in football but the nationwide emotion roused by the death of John Thomson has never been surpassed in Scotland and his memory is revered all over the world to this day, 50 years later.

Broadcaster and journalist Fraser Elder tells the full story about both players rising to fame and the aftermath of the Ibrox incident and for the first time on radio interviews relatives talk about the football game which changed their lives. In music and song Robin Hall and John Watt trace the folklore which was evolved around "The Prince of Goalkeepers" and reached every part of the world. BBC commentator Archie McPherson is also featured in the programme.

The programme will be

transmitted on BBC Radio Scotland on Friday, 4 September at 6.30 p.m. and Saturday, 5 September, the 50th Anniversary, at 2.05 p.m.

* * *

NEW SWEAT SHIRTS



Murdo MacLeod was pictured at the ground during the week wearing one of the new sweat shirts which are now available from the Souvenir Shop.

The smug green tops with the official club badge cost £6.95 and can be obtained by mail order for an additional 55p to cover postage.

Murdo's comment: "I think it's a smashing top and it will be popular with the fans."

LAST DAY FOR TURIN TICKETS

Today is the closing date for applications from tour operators, clubs and individuals for match tickets for the European Cup match in Turin on September 3.

Journeys by plane, bus and train will guarantee a support in the region of 500 in the Comunale Stadium in Turin on the last Wednesday in September.

* * *

FEAST OF ENTERTAINMENT

The matches coming up in September will provide a real challenge of the team and a feast of entertainment for the fans.

Following the game at Aberdeen next week Celtic are at home to Morton on September 12 and Juventus on the following Wednesday. On September 19 the 'bhoys' travel to Ibrox and a week later face Partick Thistle at Celtic Park before departing for the second leg European Cup match in Turin on September 30.

* * *

LEAGUE FLAG WILL BE UNFURLED

Celtic's League Championship Flag will be unfurled by director Kevin Kelly and his wife Anne. The ceremony will take place a few minutes before kick-off time.



Eighteen-year-old Davie Moyes who was introduced to the side against St Mirren and had a sound game in the centre of the defence.

MATCH TEAMS

CELTIC (from) **5**



Manager
BILLY McNEILL

SCORE
CELTIC 5
AIRDRIE 2

- Pat BONNER
- Danny McGRAIN
- Mark REID
- Roy AITKEN
- Davie MOYES
- Murdo MacLEOD
- Davie PROVAN
- Dom SULLIVAN
- Frank McGARVEY X
- Tommy BURNS X
- George McCLUSKEY XX
- Tom McADAM
- Charlie NICHOLAS X
- Mike CONROY

AIRDRIE (from) **2**



Manager
BOBBY WATSON

- John MARTIN
- Jim RODGER
- Ian GORDON
- Pat McCLUSKEY
- Steve RICHARDSON
- Jim KERR
- Tom WALKER
- Sandy CLARK X
- Brian McKEOWN
- Colin CAMPBELL
- Willie McGUIRE X
- Norrie ANDERSON
- Jim MARCH
- John FLOOD

HALF-TIME SCOREBOARD

A	DUNDEE UNITED v ABERDEEN		H	HAMILTON v RAITH ROVERS	
B	HIBERNIAN v DUNDEE		I	KILMARNOCK v MOTHERWELL	
C	PARTICK THISTLE v RANGERS		J	QUEEN'S PARK v CLYDEBANK	
D	ST MIRREN v MORTON		K	ST JOHNSTONE v QOS	
E	DUMBARTON v EAST STIRLING		L	COVENTRY CITY v MANCHESTER U.	
F	DUNFERMLINE v HEARTS		M	MIDDLESBROUGH v TOTTENHAM H.	
G	FALKIRK v AYR		N	WOLVES v LIVERPOOL	

Referee
Mr K. J. HOPE
(Clarkston)

Linesmen
Mr J. M. DARROCH
(Johnstone)

Mr D. F. ROBERTSON
(Locharbriggs)

SPECTATORS ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE CARE — PARTICULARLY LEAVING THE GROUND AFTER THE MATCH



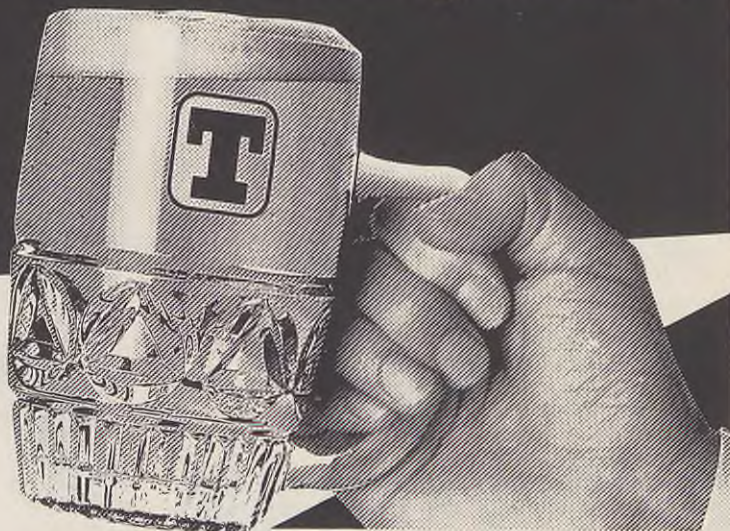
Airdrie striker Sandy Clark who was the centre of transfer speculation last season will be out to show his worth today.

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SCOTTISH SPORTSCENE

By
DAVID BELL

Bobby's in the hot seat

BOBBY MURDOCH has not had his troubles to seek since moving in to the manager's chair at Middlesbrough . . . and the season only kicks off this afternoon with a home fixture against Tottenham Hotspur.

His rapid promotion from youth team coach to team manager was earned but with the hint of a pacifying move by chairman Charles Amer in the aftermath of the controversial sacking of John Neal.

Neal had been a popular figure among the Ayresome Park support, but an F.A. Cup k.o. by Wolves when a trip to Wembley looked a possibility led to his sudden dismissal.

Murdoch, three years the astute midfielder and five years the equally astute youth team coach, had gained many admirers especially in his backroom assignments under three managers.

It seemed a natural choice, and one which was readily acceptable to the Teesside support. But Bobby's hopes of adopting track-suit management had to be put into cold storage: he became desk bound.

For he inherited a playing potential in which eleven established performers were playing out their freedom of contract. And that meant weeks of talking, persuading, cajoling and in most cases signing up . . . eventually!

The former Celtic midfield

ace, one of the principal architects of our European Cup triumph that sunny June evening in 1967, had seen two top-line performers depart from Ayresome Park prior to his assuming the top job.

His persuasive tongue, as effective in boardroom and high level discussions as was his long-range passing in a Celtic or Scotland jersey, countered most transfer thoughts but could not hold on to Nottingham-bound Mark Proctor.

A possible replacement might have been the much-sought-after Ally McCoist and Bobby, keeping a watchful eye on the Scottish scene, was first to table a firm offer of £300,000 which was topped soon after by Wolves.

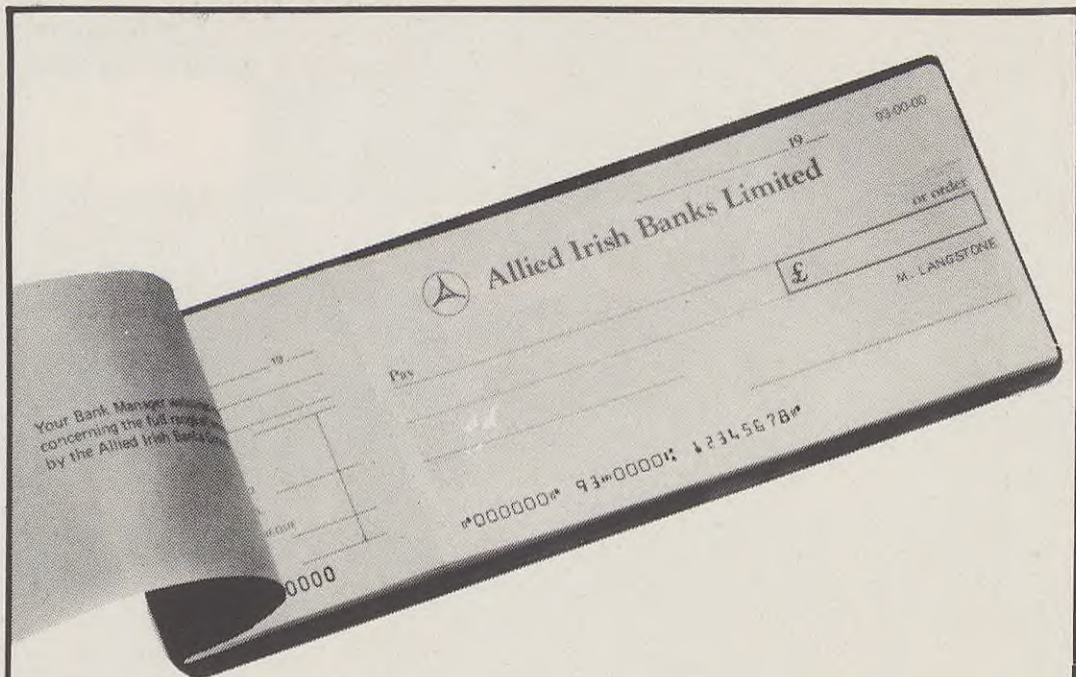
Murdoch, the master of the 40-yard pass, has taken all the coaching certificates which say he can do the job. And Bobby has the confidence that he can put that theory into practice.

Only time will tell. But if the wishes of his former teammates and his admirers of a decade ago can assist in his securing success, then Bobby Murdoch will succeed.

* FOOTNOTE: Among Bobby's first public appearances as 'Boro boss, a post once held by ex-England skipper Jack Charlton, was at the club's Open Day where proceeds reached £2500 for the International Year for the Disabled.



● BOBBY MURDOCH



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TEAM MATES AGAIN



● WILLIE HUNTER

WILLIE HUNTER who in his hey-day formed one of the most entertaining football partnerships with Pat Quinn during the "Anzell Babes" era at Motherwell has teamed up again with Quinn, this time to work for Hibernian.

Pat is assistant manager at Easter Road to that former Parkhead favourite Bertie Auld while Willie has been appointed chief scout after an unsuccessful spell in management with Queen of the South.

JOE CARSON has not had his troubles to seek since assuming the Motherwell captaincy in an eleventh hour appointment following the transfer of Albert Kidd to Dundee the day before the critical "off".

In the Lanarkshire Cup final, he was one of three 'Well players to miss from the spot in the penalty kick decider. In the opening day League Cup-ties he conceded the late penalty from which Partick Thistle netted the clincher.

Then, a fortnight ago, he became the first 'Well player to score after 104 minutes of League Cup action. But his goal came at the wrong end, with 'keeper Hugh Sproat helpless to stop the deflected cross into his own net.

* * *

The Stirling schoolboy who had millions of TV viewers gasping at his dazzling display of wing-play in the 15-years Schools International at Wembley last June has decided that his footballing future lies in London.

Despite having all but two of the English First Division clubs and a series of Scottish scouts and managers at his door Alasdair Dick opted for Keith Burkinshaw's Tottenham Hotspur.

* * *

Steve Archibald who set out on the first paths of a star-studded career less than a mile from Parkhead — at Shawfield Stadium — returned a fortnight ago to the Aberdeen ground where he became expensively famous to take part in a testimonial game for Aberdeen and Scotland sweeper Willie Miller.

PAT GLAD TO BE BACK IN THE BIG TIME

LEAVING Celtic was a heckuva wrench for Pat McCluskey. After all, he had been a supporter at Parkhead since he was a young boy and had spent nine award-winning years in the famous green-and-white hoops.

But the aspect of his transfer to Dumbarton in 1978 which was to niggle him repeatedly was his loss of Premier League status. For one with such a keen competitive spirit Pat felt his game was going flat.

"To me, there's a world of difference between the Premier League I had known with Celtic and the First Division I was experiencing with Dumbarton," said Pat ruefully. "And it was getting to me . . . fast!

"That's why I'm so grateful to Bobby Watson for whetting my appetite for football and give me the chance to get back into the Top Ten. It also let me put behind my two-year spell best forgotten.

"He signed me at a time when I know, and admit, to being out of shape. Such were the circumstances at the time. But I reckon I'm 100 per cent fitter now than I was at the start of last season, and rarin' to go.

IDEAL PLACE

"What better place, I suppose, to kick off my first full season back in the Premier League than by facing Celtic at Parkhead. But past associations are in the past — it's Airdrie for

me now!

"When I was with Celtic, we knew that we could always count on a hard game at Broomfield, and I respected them for that. Living within a few miles of the Airdrie ground made the Diamonds offer all the more attractive.

"But," emphasised the player who had won two League Championship medals, two Scottish Cup-winners medals, four League Cup-winners medals and one runners-up "gong", "it was the lure of the Premier League which appealed.

"In the Premier League, players get psyched up for practically every game, League or cup-tie. Not so in the First Division. Certainly, there were a few special games where the adrenalin started to flow. But not too many.

"The difference in standards between the two divisions is tremendous in my view. I would reckon it's probably more difficult to get out of the First Division than it is to stay in the Premier League.

FASTER

"Premier League football is much faster, yet paradoxically, there seems to be more time to move because of the tendency to back-check. The atmosphere is much livelier, and the tension keener . . . and I was missing that.

"I had been hesitant about leaving Celtic but there was personal friction which didn't look like lifting, and I was being offered a lot of money to sign for Dumbarton.

"To be honest, this large sum of money being dangled before my eyes clouded my thinking.

"Newcastle and Norwich were supposed to have been sniffing around but nothing came of their so-called interest so with cash in mind I packed my boots, accepted the handsome cheque, and duly signed for Dumbarton.

"The transfer arrangement was lucrative, and with many long-serving players possessing greater football skills than I unlikely to get the chance to lay hands on a neat little sum I persuaded myself I was making the right move.

REGRETS

"The regrets started to come in steadily after a short spell in the First Division. It got worse in my second season at Boghead, I lost my incentive and the parting of the ways became imminent.

"That's why I'm so grateful for Bobby Watson for giving me this chance. He signed me at a time I know, and admit, to being out of shape, for I had been training on my own for several weeks.

"And let's be honest, training for any length of time on one's

JOHN THOMSON 50th ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE





THAT FATEFUL DAY!

FOR the younger fans . . . The accident occurred during the Scottish League fixture at Ibrox Park on September 5, 1931.

The first-half was a drab period neither Rangers nor Celtic ever looking like scoring. The 75,000 crowd had had little to enthuse over.

The second-half was only five minutes old when Rangers' Jimmy Fleming raced down the right wing. His cross into the centre beat Jimmy McStay, Celtic's centre-half, to put Sam English, the Ibrox leader in the clear.

As he advanced, John Thomson hesitated then ran out and threw himself at the ball. His head made contact with the centre's knee. When he failed to rise after the ball

had gone past the goal, trainers and officials raced on to the field.

It was obvious his injury was serious and after ambulancemen had bandaged his head, he was rushed to the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, where he died from a depressed fracture of the skull at 9.30 p.m.

Outside the infirmary, thousands of fans had waited for hours. When the Celtic manager Willie Maley came out, he stood on the hospital steps and answered the unspoken question of the crowd by taking off his hat and bowing his head.

They knew then the worst had happened. Off came thousands of hats and caps and some unashamedly wept.

A POETIC TRIBUTE TO JOHN THOMSON

Hail and Farewell! We say of those

Who come, and pass too soon,
The broken arc, the blasted rose,
The life cut short ere noon.

Hail and Farewell to you, Dear John,

More regal than a king,
More graceful than the flett-limbed fawn,
Your year ends at its spring.

The athlete rare, who typified,
All that is best in life,
Your brilliant deeds! The death you died!
Our lovely lad from Fife.

The unerring eye, the master touch:

More buoyant than the ball!
The fearless heart, the powerful clutch,
The genius praised by all.

The squirrel's swift leap, the falcon's flight,
The clear quick-thinking brain.
All these were yours, for our delight:
Never, alas! again.

We did not need your death to tell
You were the sportsman true,
We bow to fate, Hail and Farewell!

We shall remember you.

T. SMITH (Darvel)
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NEW AWARD

"Among the galaxy of talented goalkeepers Celtic have had, John Thomson was the greatest . . ."

IT is fifty years since John Thomson played for Celtic but, to those who were fortunate enough to see him, these words of former club manager, the late Willie Maley, are still true today.

When Kirkcaldy-born Thomson lost his life half-a-century ago — on Saturday September 5, 1931 — it was the worst field tragedy in Scottish football.

He signed for Celtic when he was a seventeen-year-old from the Fife League club, Wellesley Juniors, at that time a prolific nursery for the club.

Indeed, manager Maley told at the time that the young goalkeeper added his name to the signing form as he held it against a telegraph pole at the roadside near his home.

When he arrived at Parkhead in 1926, his brilliant skill which was immediately apparent, was

matched only by his gentlemanly manner and sincere modesty.

His greatest rivals were amongst his greatest admirers. His critics found little to carp about.

Had there been such an award in those days, John Thomson would certainly have been named "Goalkeeper of the Year".

Even now there is no such award but that omission is about to be rectified.

The idea comes from club chairman Desmond White, himself an amateur international goalkeeper with Queen's Park, in their days of greatness.

The new trophy will perpetuate the name and memory of John Thomson and will be awarded to the best young goalkeeper of the Year.

Full details will be announced later.



THE HUMAN TOUCH

Once against Partick Thistle at Firhill, in the final minutes of the game, a soft shot came towards the goal about a foot off the ground. Thomson, instead of picking up the ball, made a kick at it — and missed.

His face was as red as his famous scarlet sweater as he watched the ball trundle into the back of the net.

PROPHETIC . . . Only a week before, the Sunday Mail (August 30, 1931) commenced a feature series by Deputy Sports Editor Archie McCulloch, on How to Play Football, directed towards schoolboys and youths.

In the first article — How to

Play Goalkeeper — John Thomson's advice to the youngsters was "a goalkeeper should never leave his goal unless he cannot avoid it . . ."

The following Saturday, he made that decision himself.

HE LEFT as his life's monument, a goal, an UNDEFEATED goal.

JOHN THOMSON 50th ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE · JOHN THOMSON

DESMOND WHITE (Chairman, Celtic F.C.): "I was at Ibrox Park all those fifty years ago when Johnny Thomson, the greatest goalkeeper I have ever seen, died in that tragic accident to protect his goal.

"Johnny, of medium stature like that other great star and team-mate Jimmy McGrory, had the ability to rise in the air high above the opposition. It was this almost ballet-like ability and agility which, in his tremendous displays, endeared him to the hearts of all Celtic supporters.

"Johnny goes down in history with the truly great, men like Jimmy Quinn, Patsy Gallacher, 'Sunny Jim' Young, 'Jinky' Jimmy Johnstone who have brilliantly painted the pages of Scottish football history.

"To this day, Johnny remains the greatest."

JAMES E. HANDLEY in his book "The Celtic Story" records: "The generation that saw John Thomson in action will agree it would be hard to exaggerate his magical skill . . . and will acknowledge that neither before nor since have they seen a goalkeeper so swift, so elegant so superbly safe in operation.

"He had the spring of a jaguar and the effortless grace of a skimming swallow."

GEORGE BROWN (Rangers), former Ibrox director who played in that fateful game: "John Thomson was a most excellent goalkeeper without any doubt. He was a most likeable person who was popular with everyone. It was an utter tragedy that his life and career should have been cut off so soon."

JACK HARKNESS (Queen's Park, Hearts and Scotland goalkeeper): "I thought the world of John Thomson, not only for his unsurpassed brilliance as a goalkeeper, but as a gentleman.

"He was a splendid person. You could search his life story and you would never find one bad feature.

"John was one of my greatest friends. We used to meet every Saturday night in the old Green's Playhouse and chat over tea, but no matter how great his success, he was always the same modest person."

REV. Mr. McLELLAND (Minister of Trinity Congregational Church) at the memorial service at which Glasgow paid its last tribute, said:

"We are met here to pay tribute to the memory of a very gallant gentleman, John Thomson.

"It was his ballet-like ability and agility which endeared him to the hearts of all Celtic supporters."

JIMMY McGRORY (Celtic's centre-forward in that game): "John was the greatest goalkeeper I have ever played with or against. He was a joy to watch.

"He was only 17 when he made his debut in a League game at Dundee which we won 2-1. We were back at Dens Park the next week in the third round of the Scottish Cup and won again — 4-2 this time. He never lost his place in the team from then on.

"John went on proudly to win eight caps for his country before that collision cut short his life. It was a tragic accident and not one Celtic player blamed Sam English for what happened.

"But when I heard later that night that John Thomson had died, it was the only time in my life that I wanted to quit football.

"At the funeral, I had to fight back the tears as I helped to lower his coffin into the grave. He was just a boy of 22 and, in my opinion, he would have become the greatest goalkeeper of all time."

BRUCE SWADEL, wrote in the Scottish Sunday Express: "The great secret of Thomson's goalkeeping genius — for it was nothing less than that — was the way he could find extra muscular power to change course and find fresh drive in mid-air.

"His mid-air agility was responsible for the save that his Celtic team-mates agree was the best they ever saw even John Thomson make.

"It was against Kilmarnock at Parkhead. The man who shot was 'Peerie' Cunningham, a centre-forward whose shots, taken on the pivot, left either foot with a velocity that had brought him fame.

"Cunningham hit the ball in such a way that it seemed certain to go for the right-hand post. Thomson dived for it in that direction. Almost on the instant he divined his mistake. The ball was travelling towards the left-hand post.

"Thomson twisted, literally in mid-air, hurled himself across the goal and got his fingers to the ball to turn it round the post."

"What we saw at Ibrox on Saturday, was an act of superb courage, an act of supreme and unflinching loyalty.

"John Thomson did not give his life for a goal. He gave his life for an ideal — the ideal for which every brave life ought to be willing to lay itself down: loyalty to the trust placed in our hands."

CELTIC HANDBOOK (1932-33 Season): "John Thomson as a goalkeeper stood out in splendid isolation. A life of severe dignity and yet his reign had but begun. Peerless among goalkeepers and still in the morning of his career.

"It sounds almost paradoxical, but withal it is true — John Thomson's brilliance, his greatness vanished ere yet it had lived.

"He had attained heights never before scaled by goalkeepers of experience and greatness.

"His memory and his services are remembered and cherished. Amongst the great Celts who have gone he has a place — an honoured place."

SCOTTISH SPORTSCENE

own is a joke — we're only kidding ourselves if we believe that we are going flat out when we train outwith the pack and without supervision.

"Getting back into a routine of two sometimes three sessions each week improved my fitness towards the end of last season. But during the close season I really worked hard to get down to my lightest ever weight of 12st 6lbs.

"Losing the half-stone or so overweight was damned hard work, but I've come so close nevertheless to tipping the scales around the 12st 6lbs mark. And feel much better for it.

"This was the second time in my career that I had been encouraged to perk up my approach to football. The previous occasion was when I returned after a year with Chelsea, a 16-year-old, disillusioned and fed-up.

"My father was a real pusher, and he kept on at me to forget the Chelsea experience and take up football again. I did, and soon after Celtic put me on a form, and farmed me out to Maryhill Juniors for experience.

MEMORIES

"After a year, I was called up to Parkhead, made my league debut a year or so later, and still cherish as my happiest moment in football being brought on as substitute in the European Cup semi-final against Inter Milan in the fabulous San Siro Stadium.

"We lost on the penalty kick decider that night, and in the space of a couple of hours I experienced my most memora-



● PAT McCLUSKEY

ble and my biggest disappointment in the one goal.

"I was a few weeks off my 18th birthday that night, and had we won I would surely have been in the squad for the final. What a spectacle that would have been for a 17-year-old.

"But that's ail in the past. I'm

an Airdrieonian now and will probably play that bit harder against my former team-mates — players usually do. I've never been on the receiving end of any abuse among the Celtic fans when I played for Celtic. I wonder if that will hold good by Saturday evening!"

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NO RELIEF FROM THE FOOTBALL BUG

WHEN Grade I referees pack away that whistle on reaching retirement age they invariably swap roles and merge in to the football scene under another guise. Once bitten by the football bug, it's difficult to clear up the infection.

Scotland's No. 1 whistler at the 1966 World Cup finals Hugh Phillips writes a question-and-answer column on refereeing enquiries for a Sunday newspaper, just as Jack Mowat did before him for a rival publication.

Scotland's whistling ambassador at the Munich World Cup finals — and a man hotly tipped for the final itself — Bobby Davidson now views his football from the comfort of the

Airdrieonians directors' box as a member of the board.

Ian Foote, the Scottish Cup final referee last May, has spent the summer refereeing, coaching and lecturing on the art of handling games on a tour of the United States.

John Paterson can be heard giving voice reports on Junior football for Radio Clyde each Saturday; while David Murdoch quit the whistle to become St Mirren's Public Relations Officer.

The latest departure from the ranks of the men in black to the spy missions is Bill Anderson of East Kilbride who last week was appointed Lanarkshire scout for Dundee United.

Tom Kellock, also of East



● JOHN PATERSON

Kilbride, stepped off the Grade I list last May on reaching the age limit but the topic of refereeing is unlikely to be dropped in their home.

For his school-teacher wife is a qualified referee, and although her only experience is likely to be primary school matches she is eligible to referee games up to Junior level.

That's keeping it in the family . . .!

Even among referees who spend so much of their time enforcing rules there are exceptions to the rule . . . in this case Tom "Tiny" Wharton who has switched allegiance from football to bowling.

The big fellow who officiated at the memorable Real Madrid v Eintracht European Cup final at Hampden is a fair old performer on the greens, and is establishing himself an equally fair reputation for himself as a TV commentator too!

CUT-BACK FOR JIM

FORMER Celtic striker Jim Conway who had a brief spell with Partick Thistle on leaving Parkhead before moving into English League football has become a victim of economic measures being forced on Bolton Wanderers.

Jim moved into the back-ground staff on hanging up his boots, acting as trainer to the promotion-seeking Bolton side in the mid-70's before switching to scouting to head the club's recruitment programme.

But with the number of scouts being curtailed the club felt Jim's post had been devalued through a lack of funds being available to move for players being recommended and so decided to end his contract with the club.

Jim won his case when he took it to the industrial tribunal, but would still hanker for a return to the game, either in a training or a scouting capacity. He had been with Bolton for 12 years.

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Hat-trick hero George McCluskey takes on Airdrie defender Norrie Anderson in last season's game at Parkhead.

TODAY'S VISITORS

AIRDRIE

"A VISIT to Celtic Park to open the League campaign is a daunting task at any-time," Bobby Watson told us this week, "but to face Celtic in their present mood is almost unthinkable. However, we will be helped by the atmosphere in the ground and my players should respond to the challenge."

The irrepressible Airdrie manager, who always manages to retain his sense of humour quipped: "We'll probably include sandbags and landmines in our gear for the match to close down the space on the Celtic wings."

On a more serious note the Broomfield boss was very disappointed with the performances of his team in the League Cup campaign.

"The main thing for us now is to shrug off the disappointing League Cup showings and get down to the business of collecting league points.

"Let's face it, our start of Celtic, St Mirren, Dundee United and Aberdeen is going to keep us too busy to dwell on League Cup might-have-beens. The Airdrie side is made up of part-time footballers and that results in highs and lows throughout the season. If we can get more of the former and less of the latter then I'm confident we'll give a good account of ourselves in the league campaign."

John Martin — Goalkeeper, signed from Tranent Juniors in

1979. Quick to assert his challenge. Commands his goal area confidently, reads play well and is a reliable last line of defence. Lives in Musselburgh.

Tom Walker — Transferred from Arbroath in 1974. Tall, powerful midfielder, packs strong shot and used the ball well. Has moved into the right back position during Airdrie's Premier League run.

Jim Rodger — Called up from East Kilbride Thistle in 1979. Was one of Bobby Watson's "breakthrough babes" in the push for promotion. Speedy defender, enjoys coming forward on overlaps and scores regularly.

Pat McCluskey — Transferred for a reported £15,000 from Dumbarton in 1980. Formerly with Celtic for a lengthy spell, picking up considerable experience (and domestic medals). Signed as midfielder but cast as a sweeper.

Norrie Anderson — One of the local products, signed from Caldervale High School. Has played both central defence and more recently in midfield. Great enthusiast, firm tackler.

John Flood — Transferred from Sheffield United last season to bring bite and experience into the attack. Shows promise as a right-sided raider. Has stacked away a few goals. Hails from Glasgow.

Sandy Clark — Another recruit from the Airdrieonians Boys' Club, signed from Caldervale High School in 1974. Was voted the First Division Player of the Year in Airdrie's promotion run. Fast all-action striker, top scorer for the past four years.

Ian Gordon — Signed from Livingston United in 1979. Tossed in at the deep end but responded well with skilful energetic left-sided midfield play. Great-nephew of former Tynecastle hero Tommy Walker.

Jim Kerr — Transferred for a reported £20,000 at the start of the season from Dundee United. Plays left-sided midfield, but couldn't break into Jim McLean's side. Formerly with Stonehouse Violet Junior side in Lanarkshire.

Colin Campbell — Transferred a few days before Jim Kerr from Dundee United. Formerly with Hibernian with whom he won a Scottish Cup runners-up medal. Graduate of Edinburgh University. Plays striker.

Brian McKeown — Signed from Fauldhouse United in 1978, made debut a few months later. Can adapt his raiding style to suit midfield or front-line play. Crosses the ball well. He had trials with Derby County before signing for Airdrie.

Willie McGuire — Signed from Petershill in 1975. Small but tricky footballer, possesses good control in tight situations and is regular penalty kick taker.

Davie Thompson — Signed from Aberdeen in 1979. Still a teenager but shows promise either in midfield or in the attack. Packs strong shot.

Jim March — Signed from St. Roch's in 1973 as a left-sided midfielder. Has stepped back into the central defence where he puts his height and weigh to advantage. Has played centre forward on occasions.



AIRDRIEONIANS F.C. 1981-82

Back row left to right: George Anderson, Harry Cairney, Frank Close, Tom Black, Alan Davidson, Ian Gordon, Albert Burnett, Kevin Farrell, John Flood. Centre row: Dan McLindon (2nd XI Coach), Harry Erwin, John McCafferty, Jim March, Davie Thompson, John Martin, Colin Campbell, Stuart Miller, John Irvine, Jim Kerr, Willson Humphries (Assistant Manager). Front row: Billy Reid (2nd XI Manager), Bobby Watson (Manager), Willie McGuire, Tom Walker, Norrie Anderson, Pat McCluskey, Sandy Clark, Brian McKeown, Jim Rodger, Steve Richardson, Bill Ramsey (Physiotherapist).

A BIT OF LUCK . . .

OF course I'm really happy to have figured in the scoring during the League Cup, but quite honestly I think there's been a bit of luck involved.

I got a lot of pleasure from my goals against St Mirren last Saturday. The ball fell perfectly for my first, I just had to hit it and I connected perfectly. That's where the luck comes into it, on numerous occasions I've attempted a very similar shot, but struck the ball with the wrong part of my foot and sent it wildly off target. My second came from a great build-up involving most of the team and made me particularly happy because I don't score with my head too often.

I've started well, with four goals from the first five games, but if I can finish the season with half the number that Charlie Nicholas or Frank McGarvey scored last season, I'll be more than happy.

The town of Airdrie has come into a lot of the player's conversations this week. Not only because that's where today's opponents come from, but also because of an entirely different sport — golf. Danny McGrain, George McCluskey, Tom McAdam, Charlie Nicholas and myself are all taking part in a 'Stars for Spastics' tournament there on Sunday.

Among the others taking part are Jim Watt, Larry Marshall and former Celtic player Paul Wilson. What happens is that businessmen each pay a fee of £50 or so to partner a celebrity round the course and all the money goes to the Spastics Society. I don't think I'll be among the prize



winners, but I'm sure I will enjoy the golf.

When I'm away from football I like to relax at home listening to music by Diana Ross and Rod Stewart or playing with my two daughters, Gilan who is four and two-year-old Mhari. I also enjoy water sports and this year during the family holiday I had a chance to try wind-surfing for the first time.

I have gained a lot through football and have a lot of people to thank, from the people who ran my very first team, right through school football to Alec Wright and Davie Wilson at Dumbarton, and of course Billy McNeill and everyone at Celtic Park. I've always paid attention to advice throughout my playing career and I'm sure this has helped the development of my game.

My ambitions now are to play for Scotland and to play in a European Cup final. The way we're playing just now and the confidence that all the players have, this could be the season when I achieve the latter.

Murdo MacLeod

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