

IAN McALLISTER

Testimonial

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AYR UNITED F.C.

v



CELTIC F.C.

Tuesday 6th March 1990
at Somerset Park, Ayr. K.O. 7.30 p.m.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE TESTIMONIAL COMMITTEE

Make this the year of Ian McAllister

As chairman of the Ian McAllister Testimonial Committee, it gives me great pleasure to contribute to this very special programme. Much of the pleasure comes from the fact that it is, in fact, being produced because that signals the coming to fruition of a seven month build-up to the highlight of the career of Ayr United's club captain and longest serving player, Ian McAllister.

The testimonial committee of Helen Nelson, Ian Wilson, Mike James, Bill Rodger, John Dalton, Bill McWilliam and John Grigor have met regularly since last August and have continually astounded Ian and myself with their contacts, ideas and general awareness of what it takes to make a testimonial year successful.

The game against Celtic is certainly a high spot. There isn't a footballer at any level who would not wish to come face to face with unquestionably one of the finest clubs in British football as a celebration of their life's contribution to the sport.

We are greatly indebted to Ayr

— Urges
Bob Johnston,
the committee
chairman



United Boys' Club obviously in producing Ian McAllister, but in more recent times for organising the distribution and sale of prediction sheets of this season's top league placings in Scotland and England and, as a result have made a substantial contribution in the form of a gift to the Testimonial Fund.

The Testimonial year really got underway last November when Bill McWilliam and his Ayr United Travel Club organised a race night which proved very successful and proved an important spring board to other events.

Who, of those who attended, will be able to forget the dinner in the Eglinton Rooms on Sunday 11th February. The face of Ian

McAllister looking down from the top table in utter disbelief when a bid of £750 was made for his promotion winning No5 jersey, or the £450 that was paid for a signed Scottish team ball.

He certainly recovered to finish the evening with a splendid — he'll tell you it was spontaneous and unrehearsed — speech which in itself, was an achievement, considering the superb input to the night from Chick Young of B.B.C. T.V. and Radio Clyde, Jim Blair of the Daily Record, Bob Crampsey of B.B.C. Scotland Sport, and the Master of Comedy, Johnny Beattie.

A true night to remember with sporting personalities like Glen Michael, John Lambie, Steve Nicol, Robert Connor, Jim McSherry,

Jim Fleeting, Gerry Collins and George Caldwell and a host of others too many to mention, but of course, also including the entire Ayr United Board of Directors, all paying tribute to 'Cally'.

Our job is almost complete now but not before we extend an invitation to a final event of this testimonial year, a country and western night in the Towans Hotel, Prestwick, on Sunday 11th March when the finest talent around will provide the entertainment, the bill topped by West Sound's one and only Tommy Truesdale and the Sundowners.

This 'year' has given me immense pleasure but it is the workers — the committee members, who deserve the credit for making this **'THE YEAR OF IAN McALLISTER'**.

I can only say in conclusion something that thousands of Ayr United fans and the Club Management team will echo — Best Wishes, and many more years wearing the No5 jersey of Ayr United. Best Wishes to Ian.

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THE TEAM BEHIND CAPTAIN CALLY

FAMILY MAN IAN

■ *Meet the team behind Captain Cally . . . Ian relaxes at home with wife Carolyn and daughter Victoria (4)*

Picture by
**LES
FLANNIGAN**



Ian and family

Leading by example



ALLY MacLEOD . . .
. . . tribute to Cally

ALLY MacLEOD sums up the Ian McAllister character simply.

"Ian would come in on Thursday on crutches and still want to play on Saturday. He's that type of person."

Ally and Cally go back a long way together. As a young teenage hopeful with Ayr United Boys' Club, Ian trained with the senior United team once a week when Ally was in his first managerial spell at the club.

Coach at the time was Jim McFadzean, a Kilmarnock school-teacher who knew McAllister from schools football.

Recalls Ally: "It was no surprise that, when I

came back to the club in 1978, Ian had broken through to the top team.

I have always maintained that he is the best player in that position since Rikki Fleming not to be transferred from Ayr.

Ayr have been lucky over the years that we have had loyalty in the centre-half position. Players such as Stan Quinn and Fleming served us well — now McAllister has carried that trend on.

When I went to Aberdeen, I made Willie Miller captain at the age of 21. Cally is similar in that he leads by example.

He doesn't ask anyone to do anything on the field that he can't do himself. I have a good relationship with Ian — it's always good when the captain and manager have that bond.

The reason that Celtic agreed to play in this testimonial is that they have a high regard for him."

An unlucky run of injuries has affected Cally in recent years and United have suffered in his absence.

Says Ally: "Last year, when he was missing, it cost Ayr dearly. It was achilles tendon trouble and I knew it must be serious to sideline him for so long.

Everyone at the club respects Ian. He's not a loud mouth. He gets on with the job and is a good professional, a good example to the younger pros.

CALLY HAS AYR UNITED AT HEART."

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE . . .

GEORGE SMITH the Ayr United chairman, reckons he has seen four outstanding centre-halves in a lifetime supporting the club. And Ian McAllister takes his place among them.

Says Mr Smith: "In all my days at Somerset Park, including those as a spectator, four centre-halves stick out in my mind — Norrie McNeil, Jim McLean



(better known as Dandy and who later went to Dunfermline), Stan Quinn and Ian McAllister.

"Cally has been a loyal servant to the club for over 13 years and a good ambassador both on and off the field.

It was fitting that at his testimonial dinner, one of the speakers remarked that it was nice to see players who have stayed with one club being rewarded — other than being transferred and getting cash that way.

It is good to see players who have stayed getting a just reward. Cally fully deserves a good testimonial year."

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THANKS TO . . .

Celtic Football Club for kindly agreeing to provide the opposition for tonight's game . . . to match sponsors, the Ayrshire Post who, immediately the game was announced, offered to sponsor it for a substantial sum . . . to ball sponsors Central Taxis whose sole proprietor Ian Wilson, not only as treasurer of the testimonial committee, also volunteered a substantial sum to be ball sponsor . . . to corner flag sponsors, Robert and Jacqueline Dowds of the Cherry Tree Hotel, Coylton, and Ken and Helen Blair of Westwired Fencing of Cumnock . . . to ticket sellers and companies who sold tickets on our behalf . . . to stewards, turnstile operators, programme sellers, referee and linesmen all of whom are giving their services for nothing . . . to Mike Wilson, Sports Editor of the Ayrshire Post, compiler of tonight's programme.

CELTIC WERE HIS BOYHOOD LOVE

HE'S Mr AYR UNITED!

When I was asked to compile this testimonial programme for Ian McAllister, it was no difficult task. You could fill a book on his contributions to Ayr United.

From his early days with the Boys' Club to playing in all three divisions, 'Cally' has seen and done it all. A grand total of 410 appearances and 26 first team goals have marked his 13 years as a senior signing.

Fittingly, Celtic provide the opposition for his much deserved testimonial game this evening. For, as a boy, Ian was a keen Parkhead fan and regularly watched them play.

Fortunately for Ayr, he was spotted by Willie Blair playing for Kilmarnock and District under 12s and was invited to join the Boys' Club.

Ally MacLeod had set up the successful boys' network in the early '70s. Soon, 'Cally' was plying his trade in the teams run by Willie and Jim Morrison.

At the age of 15, he became manager Alex Stuart's first 'S' form signing for the club, along with Derek McCutcheon and Walter Craig.

by **MIKE WILSON**

Sports Editor of the Ayrshire Post



TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSORS

Ipswich wanted him as well but Ian weighed it up and decided he was better off with Ayr.

It was a sound decision for honours were soon to follow for the Darvel youngster. He was a member of the Ayr United Boys' Club team that became the first winners of the prestigious Gothia Cup in Sweden in 1977.

The final was 'Cally's' last game for the boys' team. On his return, he was immediately called up to United's Premier League squad, along with Richard Northcote, Derek McCutcheon, Graham Roos and Ian Sim.

Progress was rapid and Ian was

introduced to the hurly burly of the Premier League on October 22, 1977. He came on as a substitute for Davie McCulloch in a 2-1 home defeat by Partick Thistle who incidentally were inspired by Alan Rough, now a Somerset Park coach.

His full Premier League debut was less than two months away. On December 17, 'Cally' was called in for 'flu stricken Rikki Fleming and played in the team that beat Clydebank 2-0 at Kilbowie Park. There was only one blot — he was booked.

A crowd of 1500 saw Derek McCutcheon put Ayr ahead from a John Hyslop pass. Walker McCall ensured victory in the 58th minute with an 18 yard drive.

The teams that day were: AYR: Sproat; McDonald, Murphy; McAllister, Hyslop, McAnespie, Hannah, McCall, McCutcheon, McLaughlin, Cramond. Subs — Christie McSherry. CLYDEBANK: King; Hall, Colgan; Fallon; McCormick; Houston; O'Brien; Callaghan, Larnach, Gourlay, McNaughton. Subs — McCall, Hay.

Meanwhile, 'Cally' was also making his mark for Andy Roxburgh's youth team. His two goals in Denmark gave Scotland victory over the Danes and, when they won the return 1-0 at Somerset Park in December, a place in the finals in Poland was guaranteed.

Also involved in that second leg were Robert Connor and Derek McCutcheon — there was talent in depth in the young Ayr ranks.

In Poland, McAllister continued to be the head man and he top scored with four goals before the Scots ran out of luck in the semi-finals.

Alex Stuart didn't rush Ian in the tightrope Premier League. Ian's appearances were rationed but he did manage a goal after coming on as a substitute against Dundee United.

Sadly, Ayr couldn't beat the drop and relegation followed after three seasons in the top flight.

After a fraught start to the first season back in the First Division, Stuart was replaced at the helm by Ally MacLeod who resigned from the Scotland job following the '78 World Cup.

It was only a brief stay, however, and Ally soon moved on to Motherwell to be replaced by Willie McLean.

McLean was followed by George Caldwell and it was during this spell that Ian scored a headed hat-trick in a 5-1 win over Airdrie, managed at the time by Ally MacLeod.

In November '85, Ally returned for his third spell at the club to link up with McAllister yet again.

Although the pain of relegation

Cally has been the rock at Somerset for 13 years



WILLIE BLAIR

TALENT SPOTTER . . .

Willie Blair, the man who first discovered Ian McAllister.

He used to drive from Ayr to Darvel to collect him for training and then drive him home afterwards.

Recalling his partnership with Boys' Club president Jim Morrison, Willie declares: "I got the rough diamonds and Jim polished them off".

followed, Ian had the thrill of leading Ayr to the Second Division championship in '88 with a record 104 goals scored in the season.

The McAllister-MacLeod partnership, formed in Ian's early teens with the boys' club, was a winner again.

'Cally', now 30, declares: "I've known Ally for more than 15 years and I thank him wholeheartedly. He saved my career three years ago when I was going nowhere."

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CALLY ENDS HIS BOYS' CLUB CAREER ON A HIGH NOTE AND THEN STEPS UP

GOTHIA GLORY

. . . . Ian made history in Sweden

A product of Ayr United Boys' Club, Ian McAllister bowed out on a winning note by helping the team to Gothia Cup glory.

Ayr became the first team from Scotland to win the prestigious competition played in Gothenburg, Sweden, in the summer of 1977.

And immediately, the tournament was finished — Graham Roos got the winning goal in the final — Ian was called up to join

Ayr's Premier League squad at the age of only 17.

Jim Morrison, honorary president of the Boys' Club, recalls: "Ian really was the leading player in the team over the years."

Ally MacLeod set up the Boys' club at the start of the seventies and it was to provide a conveyor belt of talent over the following years.

McAllister played his way through the boys' club teams and, at the age of 15, became manager Alex Stuart's first 'S' form signing. Joining at the same time were Derek McCutcheon and Walter Craig.

The Gothia Cup became the launch pad for a number of promising senior careers for the Ayr teenagers.

For, on their triumphant return, Cally and goalkeeper Richard Northcote, Derek McCutcheon, Graham Roos and Iain Sim were rewarded by being called up to the senior team.

Another young man making the big step was Robert Connor, who graduated straight from the under 16 team and therefore missed the taste of Gothia success.

The Boys' Club also saw the emergence over the years of outstanding young talent such as Alan McNally, Steve Nicol and Billy Hendry.

All were to make the mark with Ayr United in a big way during the ensuing years.



A triumphant return from Sweden . . . Ian is pictured second from the right in the back row — with one hand on the Gothia Cup



*The Ayr United Boys' Club team which won the Gothia Cup in July 1977
Back row (left to right): WALLACE GEMMELL, RICHARD NORTHCOTE, IAN ELLIOT, IAN McALLISTER, KENNY COID, JIM KIRKLAND, GRAHAM ROOS, LESLIE WATSON, JIM MORRISON (Manager). Front Row: WALTER CRAIG, JOHN DUNLOP, RODDIE McNEIL, IAN IVORY, DEREK McCUTCHEON, IAIN SIM, BRIAN GRAHAM, JIM PATRICK.*

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IAN JOINS THE EXCLUSIVE CLUB

'CAPTAIN CALLY' is a member of an exclusive Ayr United club. For only eleven players in the club's 80 years can boast ten or more years service to the club.

Not surprisingly, Ian McAllister is one of them. Signed in 1977 and still going strong in 1990, he takes his place in a list that contains some of the club's best known characters.

There is a theory that players from long ago had more club loyalty but

supporters who are not even middle aged will remember seeing five of the eleven names listed below.

The list may well give rise to a few arguments because other long-standing club servants have been omitted. However, the fact is that there are a few United characters whose career at Somerset Park fell marginally short of ten years.

It would be an interesting exercise to form these names into a team. But there is a snag — there are two

ONLY ELEVEN PLAYERS HAVE SERVED AYR FOR 10 YEARS OR MORE

goalkeepers and nine outfield players.

'SWITCHER' McLAUGHLAN — 1910-1920

'Switcher' played at left-half for United during the club's highly successful seasons in the First World War era. At that time, the team had a veritable array of talented players who were destined to play for Scotland in the future. Although 'Switcher' did not become an internationalist, he remained fondly remembered by veteran supporters for many years. He was a particularly prolific exponent of penalty kicks. On leaving, he signed for Stevenston United.

BOB HEPBURN — 1926-1936

'Hep' was a native of the Lanarkshire village of Quarter and, apart from his goalkeeping ability, he was also important for the morale which he helped to uplift in the dressing room. He was a lively character with a reputation for sharp wit. He is the only Ayr United goalkeeper to have scored in a match — (apart from Hugh Sproat at Girvan). In January 1931, he scored with a penalty in a 1-2 Scottish Cup win against Clackmannan. On September 19th, 1931, he played for Scotland in a 3-1 win over Ireland.

NORRIE McNEIL — 1945-1955

Norrie was an accomplished centre-half by the time he signed for Ayr United on August 16th, 1945. Although his previous club was listed as Hurlford, he had played with and against the best in wartime representative football.

In three matches against England centre-forward Tommy Lawton, he confined him to scoring only one goal. Playing against the R.A.F. at Stamford Bridge, he combined with Sammy Cox to eliminate the threat of Stanley Matthews. Norrie was an inspirational captain and later became reserve team coach at Rugby Park. (1955-71).

ALEX BEATTIE — 1946-1956

Alex was signed as a 23-year-old winger from Rangers on August 5th, 1946. He was part of the promotion winning forward line in 1956 which fans happily recall off by heart: Japp, McMillan, Price,

Stevenson and Beattie. Alex was very popular and the local community was greatly saddened by the news of his death in a car accident in 1957.

LEN ROUND — 1946-1957

It is possible that Len's inclusion in this list could be open to question. Although signing for the club on October 28th, 1946 he was afterwards sent to India for his national service and did not make his debut until 1948.

Len was a goalkeeper and a native of the West Midlands. On being released from Ayr United in 1957, his departure actually made front page news. He then joined Hull City before going to Kent non-league side Sittingbourne. We were favoured by a visit from Len at Somerset Park this season.

BOBBY THOMSON — 1951-1961

Bobby was a typically solid full-back who joined Ayr from Craigmark Burntonians and soon became established as a half-back. He, too, saw the emergence of United as a force and during these years his play was characterised by his determined qualities. Much of Sanny's popularity was attributed to his attitude.

SAM McMILLAN — 1955-1968

Sam appeared as a trialist for United as early as 1953. He later played for Irvine Meadow before being transferred here. Sam was an inside forward of exceptional skill and Peter Price attributed much of his scoring success to the service he got from him.

At his peak, he was the subject of much transfer speculation. Was particularly outstanding in the strong going Ayr United teams of 1958-59 and 1959-60. Overall, he had the distinction of playing in three promotion seasons.

Inspirational captain and an outstanding club man



RIKKI FLEMING



ALEX McANESPIE



SAM McMILLAN



BOBBY THOMSON



LEN ROUND

JOHN MURPHY — 1963-1978

'Spud' came to Ayr after a short junior career with Hurlford United and then Darvel. To date, no other player can surpass him for length of service to this club. He was a full-back who commanded tremendous respect and he saw the club emerge from the depths of the Second Division and eventually develop into one of the most formidable in Scotland. John was hard and fair in the tackle and a thorough sportsman. In the present day, he scouts for Aberdeen on a part-time basis.

ALEX McANESPIE — 1964-1978

'Sanny' joined Ayr from Craigmark Burntonians and soon became established as a half-back. He, too, saw the emergence of United as a force and during these years his play was characterised by his determined qualities. Much of Sanny's popularity was attributed to his attitude.

In the intervening years, he has been involved as manager of Cumnock Juniors and Irvine Meadow as well as being a coach at Kilmarnock and now manager of Stranraer.

RIKKI FLEMING — 1968-1978

The release of Rikki Fleming, Alec

Cally takes his place among the team's elite

McAnespie and John Murphy in the same year was a drastic action as proven by a certain lack of progress in the ensuing years. As a youngster, Rikki had been freed by Rangers. Fleming was a defender with great composure. He used to have a great rapport with Stan Quinn at the heart of the Ayr defence. A significant number of players from this phase of the club's history had long service and this was surely due to the very high morale which prevailed. On leaving Somerset Park, Rikki signed for Hibs. Nowadays, he is a cab driver in Glasgow.

IAN McALLISTER — 1977-

The story of Cally's career at Somerset Park has not been completed. Hopefully, it will remain incomplete for a considerable number of years.

There is little which could be written here that the supporters do not know already. Inspirational captain. Outstanding club man. Everyone will already be familiar with his credentials.



ALEX BEATTIE



NORRIE McNEIL



BOB HEPBURN



S. McLAUGHLAN



JOHN MURPHY ... no other player can surpass him for length of service to Ayr United

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LOYALTY — THAT'S THE NAME OF THE GAME

Centre-half ... central defender ... stopper ... sweeper. Call him what you will, the man who wears the No5 jersey is a vital component in the structure of any football team.

It is around this player that the entire defensive unit pivots, and his is a role which demands a wide range of talents; insight and foresight; speed of thought and movement, the ability to switch defence into attack and the physical strength to compete against opposing players hell-bent on shrugging aside his resistance.

Such a player is Ian McAllister, arguably the most consistent centre-half (I use that description in deference to older readers) Ayr United has ever produced. And in that time, the black and white No5 jersey has been pulled on by a succession of first-class players.

In my time, the list includes Adam Thomson and Eddie Monan, Stan Quinn and Rikki Fleming ... men who graced Somerset Park with varying degrees of hardness and skill.

Ian McAllister has made the position his own since graduating to the first team; in his term at Somerset Park, there has been no genuine contender for his place.

Even when United have been going through lean patches and changes were necessary, no one expected the name of McAllister to be missing from the team line.

Achieving such consistency is only possible through hard work and dedication to the cause, and these attributes are as evident in Ian's performances today as they were when he first appeared on the Somerset Park scene 13 years ago.

He remains one of the most honest 'Honest Men' I have had the pleasure of watching.

by
JIM ROBB
Editor of the
Dumfries and
Galloway
Standard



No one could ever accuse 'Cally' of not giving maximum effort on a Saturday afternoon.

In terms of goals, his contribution has been limited, not unnaturally for a defender, but almost always without exception, spectacular. Not for Ian the poacher's scrambled effort from three yards' range — rather, he will be remembered for the many powerful headers bulleted into the opposition net from much greater distances.

Ian McAllister has seen many players come and go during his career at Somerset Park. Under other circumstances, he might have joined colleagues and friends Steve Nicol, Robert Connor and Alan McNally on a route to more glamorous surroundings.

Instead, 'Cally' has remained at Ayr to captain the side for what may well be a record spell and to be named Supporters' Association Player of the Year. The club and the fans should be grateful that he did.

In an era when freedom of contract has encouraged players to adopt a mercenary attitude, Ian McAllister has proved that, for some, loyalty still has a place in the sport.

Thank you for that, Ian, and for contributing so much to Ayr United — and the game of football — over the past 13 years.



EYES SHUT . . . Ian in the thick of play during an Ayrshire Derby

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A LOOK BACK AT THE TESTIMONIAL DINNER

CALLY'S BIG NIGHT



A glittering testimonial dinner for Ian McAllister in the Eglinton Rooms, Ayr, attracted personalities from throughout Scottish football.

They were among a sell-out crowd of more than 300 who were treated to an entertaining night of hilarity from guest speakers Chick Young, Bob Crampsey, Jim Blair and Johnny Beattie.

An auction of jerseys of Cally and former Ayr stars Steve Nicol, Alan McNally and Robert Connor helped to swell the testimonial fund as did various other donated prizes.

Picture left shows testimonial committee members and top table guests.

Back row (from left): John Grigor, Mike James, Bill Rodger, Bob Johnston, Mrs Helen Nelson, Ian Wilson, Bill McWilliam, John Dalton.

Front row: Jim Blair, Bob Crampsey, Johnny Beattie, Ian McAllister, Ally MacLeod, Chick Young.



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I always thought you were older — says 'Rambo'

ALAN McINALLY, now a million pound player with Bayern Munich, may be a big hit in Germany — but he doesn't forget his debt to Ian McAllister.

Both progressed through the ranks of Ayr United Boys' Club where a young Alan looked upon Ian as an elder statesman.

Reveals 'Rambo': "I'm three years younger than Cally. Even when I was 17 and he was 20, I always considered him as being a bit older.

I always thought he was one of the senior players. He was so well thought of — everyone had respect for him.

When I got to know him, he became a real good friend of mine and still is today.

He's been an unbelievable servant to Ayr. In this day and age when people are moving on in transfers, it says a lot for him that he has stayed with one club.



HIGH FLYER . . .
Alan McInally is now a hit in Germany

He has seen the good days and the bad with Ayr United. I hope he gets the testimonial he fully deserves."

While McInally dreams of making Scotland's World Cup squad for Italy, he still remembers his first United game alongside Cally.

He recalls: "It was against Dunfermline in the First Division and we won 2-1 with Derek Frye on the goal sheet."

You're Premier League Material — says Eric Morris



DOUBLE ACT . . . Cally and Eric Morris drive Ayr on

Formers Rangers and Ayr United player ERIC MORRIS has the distinction of playing alongside Cally and also AGAINST him. And he gives this verdict: "Ian is a marvellous big player who could have played all his career in the Premier League. The only reason he is still at Ayr is because he wants to."

Eric recalls playing against McAllister in a reserve game at Somerset Park and also in a first team friendly at Ibrox that was arranged to give Rangers match practice before they flew to Germany for a European tie.

He says: "Ian is a great competitor whose loyal service to Ayr United speaks for itself."

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IAN GAVE ME MY BIG CHANCE

—reveals STEVE NICOL

SCOTLAND and Liverpool star STEVE NICOL well remembers his Ayr United debut — for he took over from an injured Ian McAllister.

And Nicol is firm in his views. "Cally could have been one of the better centre-halves in the country if he had just got a lucky break."

Recalling his debut game on October 20, 1979, Nicol reveals: "I started my first full team game at home to Arbroath which we won 2-1 but it was Ian who gave me my chance.

He had been injured in a car crash, and I took over at centre-half for one game.

The next week, Cally was back and I was out, but a few months later, I came into the team at left-

back. My first game then was a 4-1 home win against Hamilton and I can remember I was detailed to watch Bobby Graham.

When I came up from Ayr United Boys' Club, Cally and Robert Connor were two of the boys I was trying to emulate."

Modest Nicol, who moved south from Ayr in a near £300,000 transfer, still a United record, declares: "I am the prime example of a player getting a move at the right time. I wasn't even playing particularly well at the time, but I got the break.

Cally was unfortunate not to get the chance to realise his potential with a bigger full-time club. He could have been one of the better centre-halves in the country."

ALL ABOUT LUCK — says Robert Connor



ROBERT CONNOR

ROBERT CONNOR crossed paths with Ian McAllister at an early age — in the school gym where they regularly met at football and basketball. And even then, Robert knew Cally was a winner.

Connor left Ayr for Dundee in 1984 before moving to Aberdeen where he has won Scotland recognition.

Now a firm Pittodrie favourite, Connor recalls: "I went to James Hamilton Academy in Kilmarnock and Cally went to St. Josephs which was just across the road. So I knew him even then.

"We didn't play in the same Ayr United Boys' Club team I was in the under 16s and unlike Ian, never played for the under 18 side. But we were both called up to Ayr at the same time in 1977 when Alex Stuart was manager.

"I remember when Cally was in Andy Roxburgh's Scottish youth team and they went to Poland for an international tournament.

I missed out on the trip to sit exams but Cally had a great tournament. He was the top scorer and the papers were full of talk about a possible move to a bigger club.

It never happened for Ian but luck has a lot to do with it. It's all about getting a lucky break and then capitalising on it. I'm fortunate that's what happened to me.

But I still remember my seven years playing alongside Cally at Ayr. They are happy memories."

PARADISE LOST FOR ERIC MORRIS — SEE PAGE 19



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(Middle Row - Left to Right): JOE LOVE, CHRIS ELLIS, BRIAN ROSS, ROBERT BROWN, GREG SHAW, JIM HENDERSON (Now East Stirling), ALAN GILLESPIE, ALLY FRASER, BILLY BORTHWICK, GRAHAM GILMOUR, ANDY WILLOCK.

(Front Row - Left to Right): DAVID WELLS (Coach), BRIAN McLAUGHLIN (2nd Team Coach), JIM McCANN, JIM HUGHES, ROSS SCOTT, MR. GLEN HENDERSON (Managing Director of Centrum — main Sponsors), IAN McALLISTER (Captain), HENRY TEMPLETON, STEVE EVANS, ALLY MacLEOD (Manager), BOB McINTYRE (2nd Team Physio).

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(Back Row - Left to Right): CHRIS MORRIS, DEREK WHYTE, ANTON ROGAN, TOMMY COYNE, DARIUSZ DZIEKANOWSKI, STEVE McCAHILL.

(Middle Row - Left to Right): BRIAN SCOTT (Physio), ŠTEVE FULTON, BILLY STARK, IAN ANDREWS, PAUL ELLIOTT, PAT BONER, MIKE GALLOWAY, TOMMY BURNS, TOMMY CRAIG (Assistant Manager).

(Front Row - Left to Right): DAVIE ELLIOTT, PETER GRANT, PAUL McSTAY, BILLY McNEILL, ROY AITKEN, ANDY WALKER, JOE MILLER.

HIBS GOAL FEAST FOR NORRIE MCNEIL

'Famous Five' stars strike back in a super tribute

IN APRIL 1971, Ayr United travelled to Dumfries to play a Queen of the South Select in Iain McChesney's Testimonial Match. However it was something of a rarity to be asked to take part in a testimonial against another senior club.

Celtic, by contrast, carry such massive repute that they are requested somewhat more often for this type of match and not only at Somerset Park but such superb venues as Old Trafford and the Arsenal Stadium.

Through the years, there have been a number of testimonials for Ayr United players. 1978 — Ayr United-Kilmarnock X1 v Rangers-Celtic X1 (Alex McAnespie);

1975 — Ayr United v Aarhus (John Murphy); 1966 — Ayr United v Kilmarnock (Sam McMillan); 1950 — Ayr United v Hibs (Norrie McNeil); 1939 — Ayr United v Barnsley (Jock Taylor) and 1934 — Ayr United v Manchester City (Bob Hepburn).

Which was the best match out of that lot? Opinion may differ but it is hard to see past the Ayr United v Hibs match in September 1950.

An estimated crowd of 8,000 saw Ayr United race to a 4-1 lead by the 22nd minute. It was a complete shock. Hibs went on to win Division 'A' by a ten point margin and then retained the championship in 1951-52. Obviously there could have been no sterner opposition in Scotland at this time.

Hibs rallied and the eventual outcome was 5-5. It is a fact that a Kilmarnock player opened the scoring. That player was Bob Thyne who was a friend of Norrie McNeil and as such was requested to guest for Ayr United. Our other scorers were Goldie (2), Beattie and Nisbet.

It is only necessary to look at the names of the Hibs scorers to prove that they fielded a strong team. They were Lawrie Reilly (2), Eddie Turnbull, Willie Ormond and Bobby Johnstone. These players comprised four of



IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO PROVIDES THE CHEERS FOR SCOTTISH FOOTBALL - ASK A SKOLAR!



ALLY MacLEOD took time off from Scotland duties to return to Somerset Park for Alex McAnespie's Testimonial game in 1978.

'The Famous Five'. It was a glowing testimonial for Norrie McNeil and it is a little known fact that Hibs had tried to sign him shortly after his Ayr United career began in season 1945-46.

The 1934 Testimonial was also something of a scoop regarding the quality of opposition. When Manchester City agreed to play for Bob Hepburn they were holders of the F.A. Cup. Bob had already played once in goal for Scotland and that was against Ireland on September 19th, 1931.

It was an international appearance which may never have taken place had it not been for the death of Celtic goalkeeper John Thomson exactly a fortnight earlier. At the other end of the field at Bob's Testimonial was another legendary goalkeeper, Frank Swift.

The famous Swift later returned to Somerset Park to play in representative wartime football. Sadly, he lost his life in the Manchester United air crash of 1958 while a journalist.

If any reader can recall seeing Manchester City at Somerset Park please get in touch. However, it is more likely that the high scoring Testimonial for Alex McAnespie will be more readily remembered. That 1978 match had Old Firm players as team mates and, just as astonishingly, Ayr United and Kilmarnock players as team mates.

Sam McMillan's Testimonial also saw an abundance of famous stars at Somerset

Was this the best benefit match seen at Somerset?



Long serving Alex McAnespie gets set for his 1978 Testimonial against an Old Firm select.

Park. They were players from the English international squad who were here as spectators. In 1964, they had also visited Somerset Park. On that occasion they had trained here prior to the Hampden international.

Sam McMillan's Testimonial comprised one of the legs of an Ayrshire Cup tie with Kilmarnock and the game was played on the Friday evening before the Scotland v England game.

The 1975 visit of Aarhus for John Murphy's benefit was keenly anticipated. Ayr United supporters still had reasonably fresh memories of a game against Polish side Gwardia and a keenly fought match was again expected. On this occasion, our continental opponents were mediocre and we beat the Danes 4-1. Perhaps it should be

stated that the Danes were made to look mediocre.

Tonight there is absolutely no possibility that Celtic will be mediocre. At times the 1989-90 season has not unfolded as they would have wished but there was the very large consolation of having the Scottish Cup in their possession, and a 1-0 defeat of Rangers makes them favourites to hold on to the silverware this season.

For Ian McAllister there is also the added satisfaction of having a particular liking for Celtic. For the rest of us, there is the pleasure of looking forward to a good game of football without having to worry about the 'life or death' nature of league or cup fare.

Testimonial Match

for



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SELECT

v.

Ayr United

at

PALMERSTON PARK, DUMFRIES

on

WEDNESDAY, 28th APRIL, 1971

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The Programme for Ayr's Testimonial visit to Palmerston in 1971. It was something of a rarity for United to be asked for a Testimonial game by another club.

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A YOUTH STAR FOR SCOTLAND . . .

MAGIC!

Scots rise — and shine

SCOTLAND'S youth team can begin packing their bags for the European youth tournament finals in Poland in May.

This win, recorded in stylish fashion in the trim ground at Molbeck, near Copenhagen, makes the return of the qualifying section a formality at Somerset Park next month.

And coach Andy Roxburgh didn't hide his delight after the match. He said: "We played quite magnificently and it was a display that gives us a lot of hope for the future."

Capably

"I have told the lads that it is only half-time and that we still have to complete the job at home."

But there can be no doubt now that the pride of Scotland's youngsters secured their place in the finals on a heavy pitch against a Danish side who had worked so hard in preparation that they had SEVENTEEN matches before facing Scotland, culminating in a 3-0 win over the East German youngsters.

Repeat

The Scots played a confident containing game in the first half.

Pressured by the Danes, they played soundly, and Montrose keeper Jim Moffat coped capably with any problems.

However, it was in the second half that the Scots were given greater rein by coach Roxburgh. More players were allowed to go forward, and it was mid

DENMARK 0 SCOTLAND 2
Scorer: McAllister (43, 48 mins.)

RECORD REPORTER

field man Ian McAllister of Ayr, who grabbed the goals.

In 43 minutes, he rose to a Joe McBride free-kick and headed past the keeper and five minutes later repeated the act from a cross by Peter Shields, of Ipswich, who had made a good run down the left side.

From then on, there was no problem.

Scotland brought on Rangers' Billy McKay for McBride, and Aberdeen's Andy Watson for Ian Redford.

Now the Scots are ready for those finals. They can't fail now . . . they proved that last night.

SCOTLAND — Moffat (Montrose), McLeod (Dumbarton), Shields (Ipswich), Gillespie (Falkirk), McAveety (St. Mirren), McAllister (Ayr), Leation (Falkirk), Stewart (Dundee Utd), Capaldi (Aston Villa), McBride (Everton), Redford (Dundee).

Cally was the Euro head man

IAN McALLISTER was a European hero . . . at the age of only SEVENTEEN.

Cally earned rave reports as he played a leading role in Scotland's march to the European youth finals in Poland in the late seventies.

McAllister's two goals, both headers, gave the Scots a 2-0 win over Denmark to set up their final ticket for Poland.

The Daily Record report (see left) underlined the role played by Ian. And his performance delighted the Scotland coach Andy Roxburgh, now the country's number one.

The match report revealed: "It was midfield man Ian McAllister of Ayr who grabbed the goals."

In 43 minutes, he rose to a Joe McBride free-kick and headed past the keeper and five minutes later, repeated the act from a cross by Peter Shields of Ipswich who had made a good run down the left side."

Cally was in illustrious company. The team included Murdo MacLeod, Gary Gillespie, Ray Stewart, Joe McBride and Ian Redford who all went on to make their mark at the top.

McAllister kept up his sterling form in the finals where he was Scotland's top scorer with four goals in eight games.

Cally's only regret — he missed the semi-final defeat on penalties by Poland. He was sent off after the quarter-final win over Portugal.

Apparently, the Portuguese started a fight after the game and they had three players sent off along with Cally. A two game ban was the outcome.



Alex Stuart with the Boys who won the Johnstone Stuart Trophy

TROPHY TIME FOR IAN AND THE BOYS

THE all-conquering Ayr United Boys' Club team of 1977 were no strangers to silverware.

Their greatest triumph was undoubtedly winning the prestigious Gothia Cup, when they became the first Scottish team to bring home the magnificent trophy.

Sixty-four teams from eleven countries gathered for a football feast and it was Ayr who came out on top. They scored 22 goals in their eight games, conceding only two. In

the final, they beat local team Gallivare 1-0.

However, prior to setting out for Sweden, the lads gathered at Somerset Park for another trophy presentation.

They had been adjudged the best of Ayr's boys' teams on their performances in league and cup and won the Johnstone Stuart Trophy.

And playing a key role was Ian McAllister (pictured sixth from the right, at the

back).

Picture shows skipper Jim Kirkland holding the trophy watched by United manager Alex Stuart.

Pictured, back row from left, are: Colin Campbell (trainer), Les Watson, Derek McCutcheon, Ian Ivory, Ian Elliot, Roddy McNeil, Richard Northcote, Jim Morrison (team manager), Ian McAllister, John Dunlop, Jim Patrick, Brian Graham, Kenny Coid and Graham Roos

PARADISE LOST

WHEN Brian McLaughlin sees a ball player hit by a late tackle it hurts him more than you or me.

For the former Parkhead 'Quality Street' kid's career was irreparably damaged by one such tackle while playing for Celtic fully 18 years ago.

And although Brian went on to make a living out of the game, few who saw him as an outstanding Scottish schoolboy internationalist disagree with McLaughlin's own assessment: IT WASN'T THE SAME SECOND TIME AROUND.

Recalling his Parkhead career, Brian said: "I signed for the club in 1968 when just 13 and a pupil of St. Mungo's in Falkirk.

"I went to Parkhead straight from school aged 16 and it really was 'Paradise' at the time.

Kenny Dalglish, Lou Macari, Danny McGrain, George Connolly Davie Hay and myself all played in the same reserve team.

I made my first team debut in a 6-2 win over Clydebank in the League Cup in September 1971 but only had about three other appearances that season.

I was in the team at the start of the following season, playing in midfield.

But after about a dozen games I got the injury against Clyde and was out of action."

Brian's injury was what is known to readers of the Daily Record as an 'Ian Durrant', and to everyone in Ayrshire as a 'Dougie McCracken' — a severed cruciate ligament.

"It was a terrible injury and it was a long, long time before I could kick a ball again," remembered Brian.

"Jock Stein always reckoned you were never the same player

by **PETER JARDINE**
Sports Editor
of the
Ayr Advertiser



again after something like that and, in my heart of hearts, I knew he was right.

It took me a long time to get over it and eventually Mr Stein decided that a change of club might help."

In fact, Brian came to Ayr in 1976 in a deal which saw Joe Filippi go to Celtic. Three years later and McLaughlin joined Ally MacLeod at Motherwell.

Further spells at Hamilton, Falkirk and Adelaide in Australia were completed before 'Super' found his way back to Somerset.

But while his tragic injury clearly robbed Brian of a tremendous career with Celtic, he realises there are those worse off than him.

"At least I made a living out of football. Look at Stevie Murray — his career promised so much but now he walks with a caliper.

Look at Ian Cashmore — his injury has confined him to a wheelchair.

That's why with my own experience, I really take my hat off to Dougie McCracken for working so hard to be fit enough to play again."

Ian McAllister is another who knows the pain of a serious injury.

Brian added: "I have nothing but admiration for Cally. He has had more than his share of injuries and the achilles one last season was very bad.

But he never complains and will never say if he is feeling pain.

He has played through the pain barrier for Ayr United many

Painful memories for ex-Celt and Ayr star Brian

times because the occasion demanded it!

He fully deserves this testimonial and I wish him well."



BRIAN McLAUGHLIN . . .
A terrible injury

'At least I made a living from football. Look at Stevie Murray — his career promised so much but now he walks with a caliper'.

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DARVEL'S LOCAL HERO BUILT HIS OWN HOUSE IN THE TOWN . . .

Ian has never forgotten his roots — SAYS JIM McSHERRY



A visit by the players to Seafield Hospital went down a treat with patients and staff. Players from left are Jim Fleeting, Lawrie McGee, Eric Morris, Mark Shanks, Steve Nicol, Willie Kelly, Robert Reilly, Ian McAllister, Jim McSherry, Derek Frye, Robert Connor and Ian Cashmore.

WILLIE'S FITNESS TEST WAS A REAL HOWLER

he has built his own house and lives with his two favourite girls, his wife Carolyn and daughter Victoria.

Ian has never forgotten his roots and the people of the 'face' town are very proud of him and many will be in attendance at the game tonight.

During the late 70s and early 80s, Ian was very much a stalwart in a team that came from Rennie, Shanks, Nicol, McSherry, McAllister, Fleeting, Frye, Armour, Morris, Connor, Christie, McColl and Cashmore. It was a team that challenged for promotion for three seasons.

Apart from having a fair amount of success on the field, we were all great friends and constantly spent our time away from football visiting hospitals, doing quiz nights and breaking bottles etc.

There have been many memorable moments during Ian's career. One of his finest games came in the last game of the 1987 season against Stirling Albion.

Although Ayr were to lose, Ian was immense, leading the fightback. He scored and then brought out one of the finest saves seen at Somerset by Albion keeper Andy Graham in the final minute.

Ian has scored many fine goals particularly from set pieces. The highlight was when he raised the Division Two championship trophy above his head.

Over the years, Ian has had more than his fair share of injuries. I can recall him fracturing a cheek-bone in a game at Celtic Park and Celtic manager Billy McNeill, whom I know has a high regard for Ian, coming to visit him after the game in the Victoria Hospital.

One of the injury stories which Ian will find funny now but not at the time involved Ayr's popular trainer at that time, Bob Paisley lookalike Willie Wallace.

Ian has been out for weeks with an ankle injury and, after

all the hard slog, he was to have a fitness test on the morning of the match. As usual with Willie's fitness tests, he always included a medicine ball. Why? We'll never know.

He sent Ian up and down the terracing a couple of times with the ball and asked him how he felt.

Fine, Ian replied, so the bold Willie tells Ian to look away. As he does so, Willie proceeds to boot him on the injured ankle!

This brought great roars of pain and anger from Ian and it took six of us to keep him back from the wee trainer who was insisting his unorthodox test was correct.

We'll never know now but Ian was out for another two weeks. But we don't know if it was the original injury or as a result of Willie's blooter!

Here's hoping for a good night for one of United's finest and Darvel's very own local hero.



TARGET PRACTICE . . . Jim McSherry, Ian McAllister and Robert Reilly turn their hands to darts. The occasion was a grand challenge match against the regulars of the North Beach Hotel in Prestwick.

He's the best says Robert

LIFELONG friend Robert Reilly went to school with Ian McAllister in Kilmarnock, played alongside him at Ayr United and was Cally's best man at his wedding a few years ago.

Robert, who now plays for Kilmarnock, recalls: "We both played for the St Josephs school team and then I followed him to Ayr United Boys' Club."

"Ian was called up to Ayr in 1977 and myself a year later and we played alongside each other a good few times."

"I am convinced he is underrated and never been recognised by Scotland because Ayr is far removed from Glasgow and Edinburgh. If he had been playing for a city team, he might have got more recognition."

CAN YOU SPOT THE STAR?



The young lad (pictured centre) proudly clutches a match football which he won in an Ayrshire Post competition. It was organised by Jim McSherry (right) whose McSherry File was a popular feature of the Post during the early 80s. Doesn't he bear a striking resemblance to David Kennedy, now a first team regular with Ayr United . . . ?

It is a privilege for me to contribute to this programme as I have the highest regard for Ian McAllister as a person and one of Ayr United's finest players.

A few weeks ago at Ian's testimonial dinner, it was nice to see Jim Morrison and Willie Blair, his former team managers at Ayr United Boys' Club get a special mention.

I can recall Ian coming to Somerset all those years ago. I occasionally picked him up to take him to training from his home town in Darvel — the town where



Spot the funny faces as Jim McSherry breaks a charity bottle at the Braehead Hotel in the early 80s. Players (from left) are Robert Reilly, Jim McSherry, Ian McAllister, Jim Fleeting, Ian Cashmore, Derek Frye and Steve Nicol. Why is Cally wincing?

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MEET UNITED'S YOUNG HOPES OF THE SEVENTIES ...



Youth was the key for United

THIS crop of youngsters were manager Alex Stuart's big hopes for stardom in the late seventies.

It was a quality group and a young Ian McAllister (second right, back row) fulfilled Stuart's faith by making his Premier League debut at the age of 17.

Included in the picture (front row, first left) is Robert Connor, now a Scottish internationalist and first team regular at Aberdeen.

Gerry Christie, now resident in Australia, became a popular star while Derek McCutcheon is still playing today for Stranraer.

Back row (from left) — Steve McLelland, Gerry Christie, Derek McCutcheon, Ian McAllister, Ian Walker.

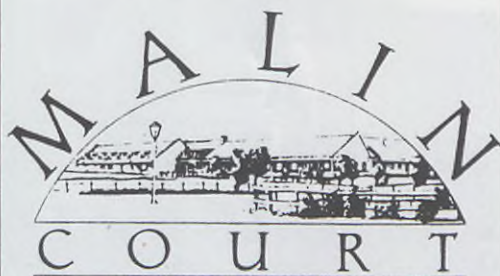
Front row — Robert Connor, Garry Devine, Jim Rodgers and Iain Sim.



Ian and his wife Carolyn at the Malin Court where they met one of Ayr's oldest supporters, 95-year-old Andrew Lawson



IRISH FLING ... Cally fights for possession in this pre-season friendly against Northern Ireland team Ards



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PICTURE FOCUS ON SOME STAR CELTS . . .



CHRIS MORRIS



PAUL McSTAY



TOMMY COYNE



JACKI DZIEKANOWSKI

Pictures by: **INNES ROSS**

CAMERA CALL WITH UNITED THROUGH THE YEARS . . .



A big turnout of Ayr United players at a charity Race Night around ten years ago



CALLY —A CHAMPION CAPTAIN

Champagne time after Ayr clinched the Second Division Championship at Stirling in 1988.

Manager Ally MacLeod has the bubbly but Cally is right at his shoulder . . .



Ayr's Premier League hopefuls in the late Seventies. Ian McAllister is pictured front row, third from left—but how many other players can you recognise in the line-up.

DUNCAN CARMICHAEL LOOKS BACK AT SOME PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS . . .

TEAMING UP TO HELP



Ayr and Celtic have a history of good rapport



It can be stated with complete confidence that nobody will have any recollection of Celtic's first visit to Somerset Park. The match was played on the Wednesday evening of May 8th, 1895 and resulted in a 1-0 win for the visitors.

This was one in a series of glamour friendlies for Ayr F.C. Preston North End had been here on Monday, April 22nd, (1-1) and Rangers were at Somerset Park on the Saturday after Celtic, (0-8).

The Ayr public certainly had a feast of quality football between April and May, 1895. During the same period, Parkhouse were visited by Queen's Park, (5-8), Third Lanark, (0-4) and St. Bernards, (1-3). Believe it or not, the match involving the latter club was a special attraction. St. Bernards held the Scottish Cup at the time.

It is highly likely that a programme, or rather team card, was printed for the 1895 visit of Celtic. A team card was issued for the Preston game referred to and there is at least one copy still in existence.

Celtic's next journey to Ayr was for a challenge match which ended Ayr F.C. 1 Celtic 1 on September 19th, 1901. By that time, Somerset Park had a completely different aspect. The renovation work of 1897 had transformed the place to such an extent that it was known as the Celtic Park of Ayrshire.

From 1904-05 to 1909-10, inclusive, Celtic won six league championships in a row and former Ayr F.C. players who represented the club during that successful era were full-back Jimmy Weir and, more notably, half-back Jimmy Hay.

However, after the formation of Ayr United in 1910, the new club fared exceptionally well in dealings with Celtic due to Lawrence Gemson's influence with Willie Maley.

That story was covered in the programme for the Hamilton match on August, 15th, but briefly, the point of the article was to illustrate the early links between Ayr United and Celtic. The Celtic



Action from an Ayr v Celtic League Cup tie at Somerset Park during the early 70s. Kenny Dalglish was thwarted on this occasion by Ayr 'keeper Jim Gilmour.

players loaned to Ayr United were McStay, Cassidy, Cringan, Dodds, McAtee and no less a person than John Thomson.

Everyone of them played for Scotland at some point of their career. Willie McStay obviously enjoyed his lengthy loan spell with Ayr United.

Many years later, in 1950, Ayr United were set to face Kilmarnock in a League Cup tie at Rugby Park. In the dressing room, a telegram was read to the players and it wished them every success. The telegram was sent by John Bell and Willie McStay, and to confirm their identity, it contained the expression "the two backs of 1914."

Earlier in 1950, (April), Celtic won 4-3 at Somerset Park in a challenge match. The teams make interesting reading. Ayr United: Round, Duncan, Coupland, Rutherford, Shearer, Nesbit, Henderson, McMenemy, Newnman, McGuigan and Beattie. Celtic: Bonner, Boden, McAuley, Evans, McGrory, Baillie, Collins, Fernie, McPhail, Peacock and Tully.

It is also interesting to note that Bobby Evans and Bobby Collins played here as long ago as 1950. The length of their careers is proven by the fact that Bobby Evans played at Somerset Park for Raith Rovers in 1966-67 whereas Bobby Collins appeared here for Morton as late as 1970-71. The name of

Alex Boden might be familiar to Ayr United supporters, he was transferred here from Celtic in 1956.

Celtic's next friendly at this ground was on the last Saturday in April, 1953. The teams were Ayr United: Round, Newman, Leckie, Cairns, Rodger, Strickland, Japp, W. Fraser, J. Fraser, Robertson and McKenna. Celtic: Bonnar, Haughney, Rowe, Evans, Stein, McGrory, Collins, Fernie, McPhail, Peacock and Tully.

This game was played on the Cup Final day and our visitors were handicapped when Bobby Collins left the field after only 25 minutes with an eye injury. The result was a 3-1 win for Ayr United.

Not too much can be made of Ayr United's 2-0 win in a friendly match against Celtic on Christmas Day, 1965. Celtic had a First Division fixture on the same day and their reserve side faced our first team.

When Celtic next returned for a friendly it was part of their build-up for a European Cup quarter-final tie against Ajax. The teams were Ayr United: Stewart, Filippi, Murphy Fleming, McAleer, Mitchell, Doyle, Ferguson, Ingram, McCulloch and Rough. Subs — McGregor, Flynn and Lannon. Celtic: Lally, McGrain, Quinn, Dalglish, Craig, Clark, Macari, Davidson, Hughes, Lennox and Auld. Subs — Wilson and McCluskey.

A crowd in the region of 7,000 watched this floodlit match. A goal from Jackie Ferguson separated the teams until a late fade-out by Ayr. Bobby Lennox equalised in the 78th minute and then scored again a minute later. Kenny Dalglish finalised the scoring at 3-1 with an 88th minute penalty.

On a Tuesday evening in February 1975, an Ayr United v Celtic challenge match took place at Somerset Park and the publicity was greater than would normally be expected for this type of game. The element of media anticipation happened due to Peter Latchford making his debut in goal for Celtic. Less publicity was accorded to the fact that Hugh Sproat was making



PRESTWICK man Adam Fullarton has a link with Celtic's first ever visit to Somerset Park in May 1895.

For Adam's grandfather — also Adam played for Ayr F.C. in that historic game 95 years ago, which Celtic won 1-0.

Adam, who recently retired as head of Scottish Television's outside broadcast department, is pictured above with a photograph of his grandfather's team and some old match tickets.

his debut for Ayr United. A 2-0 home win was recorded.

Throughout the seventies and eighties, other friendlies have taken place between Ayr and Celtic at Somerset Park on a series of midweek dates and once even on a Sunday. However, neither of these other games has been contested by two full strength sides and that is the reason why this article has suddenly assumed a vague tone. In the interests of accuracy, it must be stated that these matches were played against sides more correctly termed Celtic X1.

Tonight, however, the strongest available teams will pay tribute to Ian McAllister. Undoubtedly, the choice of opposition is fitting. The reputation of Celtic F.C. as the testimonial specialists is well deserved.

Throughout the years there has been such a good rapport between Ayr United and Celtic that it is certain that other friendlies have been played between the clubs which are not recorded here. An even finer toothcomb would have

been necessary to have made a complete summary.

For instance, it is known that we also met in a challenge match in January 1948. Incidentally, that game marked goalkeeper Len Round's first appearance for Ayr United since signing for the club in 1946. After becoming an Ayr United player he had been sent off to India for his National Service.



HEAD MAN . . . Ian McAllister demonstrates the aerial ability that has long been a trademark of his play

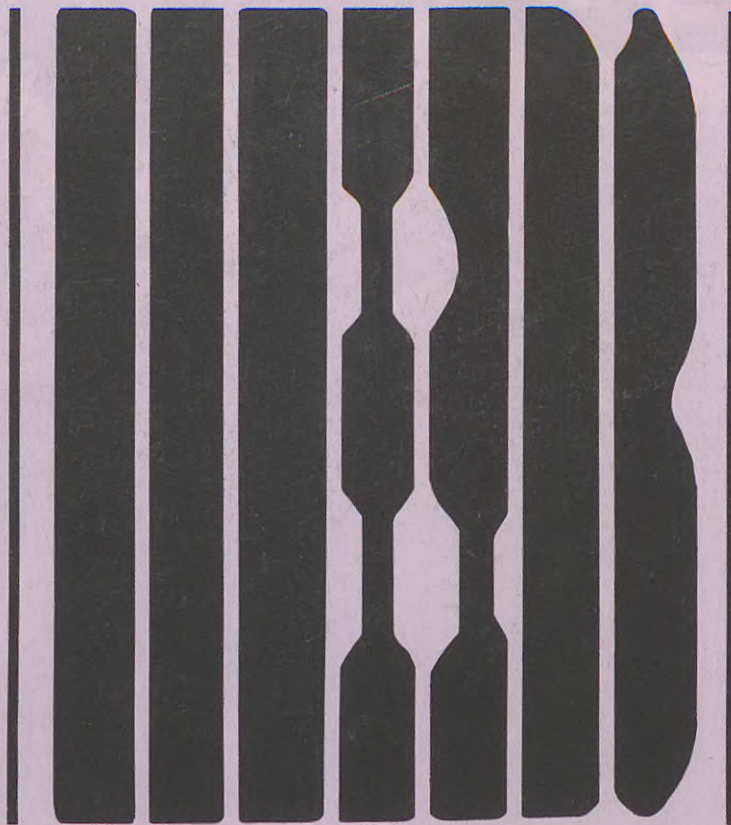
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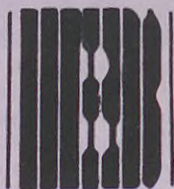
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