

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | SEASON 2020/21 | ISSUE 01 | £2

# KILMARNOCK F.C.



# Aaron Tshibola Tshibola Tshibola



09.08.2020

KILMARNOCK

v CELTIC

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

KICK-OFF: 4.30PM





# WELCOME



## It's strange and undoubtedly different but football is back.

This matchday programme, like those at other clubs, is meant to serve not just as a mirror on the footballing landscape of the time but also the world that surrounds us.

Since football was first shutdown due to Coronavirus in March, we have been waiting for the moment that competitive action would be seen again at Rugby Park.

Nobody wants it to be like this, devoid of the colour and noise that supporters of both teams bring to stadiums around the land.

Our grounds are not the same without you but for now we must persevere, knowing that you are roaring us on with as much passion and enthusiasm as if you were in your treasured seat which awaits you when all this is over.

Today's game is a little step towards what we are used to and I hope this programme acts as another small memento to the football experience you know and love.

Thank you for your continued support and you will not be forgotten.

**Scott McClymont, Programme Editor**

## HONOURS

### SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION

Champions 1964/65

### OLD SECOND DIVISION

Champions 1897/98, 1898/99

### SCOTTISH QUALIFYING CUP

1896-97

### SCOTTISH CUP

Winners - 1919-20, 1928-29, 1996-97

### SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

Winners 2011-12

### AYRSHIRE CUP

Winners 42 times

### TENNENT CALEDONIAN CUP

Winners 1979



Programme Design & Print:



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The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily the views and policies of Kilmarnock FC.

# KILLIE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



BURKE CELEBRATES AFTER HIS WONDER-STRIKE

For us, although we were going to the capital, the song was "Paper Roses".

We knew it would be different: health checks, questionnaires, social distancing, piped crowd noise, no catering, but most of all no fans.

Jock Stein was right. The fans are the lifeblood of football.

Entrance to Easter Road was controlled, administrated, careful, and friendly. Except for the Press Area, the stadium was deserted and soulless.

The Hibs backroom staff had done their best with flags, banners, cardboard cutouts, including 33 Kangaroos for their Australian international Martin Boyle, from the Aussie Hibs Supporters Association, but the main ingredient was still missing.

Easter Road is a big stadium when there is no one in it.

As for the game, both teams put everything into it.

You will have seen the reports, watched the highlights or the whole game on KillieTV, and have formed your own opinion on how we played.

Were we a shade unlucky over the whole game, did we deserve a point or three etc?

Certainly, the lack of atmosphere affected both teams and the whole match experience. No buzz on entering or leaving the ground, no pie or bovril, random crowd noise not generated by action, little or no traffic around the stadium at the start or finish.

Going home from a game you always feel elated or disappointed. Did we win? Did we lose? Did we play well? Was it a good game?

Everyone knows these feelings, but it wasn't really like that for me on the first day of August this year.

For the majority of fans, it would be a sadness about not being there, and although you could listen or watch on KillieTV, good as it is, it's not the same.

Well I was there, and I'm a fan, and my sadness, what I missed, was you, all of you.

We'll still go and do our job next week, but at Rugby Park, I expect I'll miss you even more.

*Alan Cochrane is part of our regular Killie TV team, acting as a co-commentator for matches both home and away.*

“

I WAS PLEASED WITH MANY ASPECTS OF OUR PERFORMANCE AGAINST HIBERNIAN LAST WEEK AND BELIEVE WE MERITED A POINT FOR OUR SECOND HALF DISPLAY.

”

GOOD AFTERNOON AND A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE AHEAD OF TODAY'S PREMIERSHIP MATCH AGAINST CELTIC AND I'D LIKE TO START BY WELCOMING NEIL LENNON, HIS PLAYERS AND STAFF.

When the fixtures come out, one of the matches you always look out for is your first home game – a chance to see the stadium full of colour and optimism with the fans coming in with smiles on their faces, refreshed after a close season break.

Naturally, things will feel very different today with no supporters in the stadium but they will be in our thoughts as we take on the reigning champions this afternoon. The players and staff hugely appreciate the passion and support that they have shown us both before and during the football shutdown and it is an honour and privilege to serve as manager of this wonderful club.

Life has been tough for so many in a number of different ways but they have stuck with us and the club and we will do everything in our power to

repay them with good results this season. I was pleased with many aspects of our performance against Hibernian last week and believe we merited a point for our second half display.

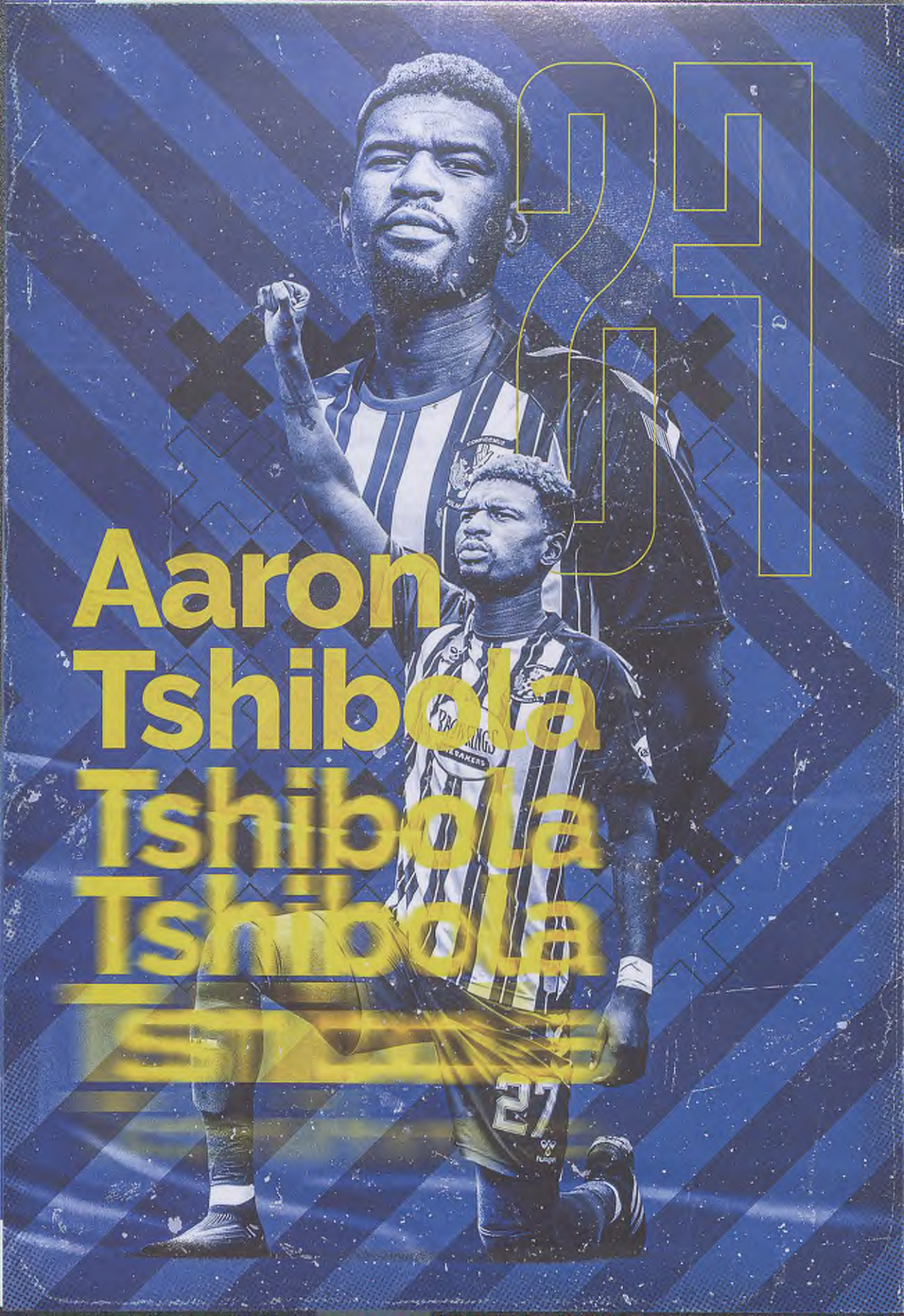
We're fully aware of the qualities Celtic possess all over the park and they wasted no time in showing their strength as a team with an impressive opening display last weekend. We know we'll have to be at our very best to get a positive result today but the players have worked hard in training and they are determined to do you proud.

Thanks for your support and wherever you are watching today, enjoy the match.

Alex Dyer

ALEX DYER

MANAGER



Aaron  
Tshibola  
Tshibola  
Tshibola

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# THE INTERVIEW

THE SENTIMENT OF HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS  
WILL RESONATE MORE THAN USUAL TODAY AND IT'S A  
FEELING AARON TSHIBOLA CAN RELATE TO.

**B**ack for a third spell with Killie, the 25-year-old feels comfortable with life back in Ayrshire after football adventures in both Belgium and Portugal.

Like so many, he is still getting used to the thought of Rugby Park without supporters but he's determined to remind them of his qualities while they have to take in the action through a TV screen.

"It feels very good to be back home because it has been a long time coming and I feel really happy here and seeing everyone again has made me really happy.

"I've matured as a player and a person following my experiences abroad, developing a different understanding of the game than I had before."

His range of passing and willingness to receive the ball in tight situations was in evidence at Easter Road as the midfielder made an immediate return to the starting line up for the season opener, barely 24 hours after sealing his Rugby Park return.

The pain of defeat remains in the form of a nasty bash to the mouth, which forced him off in the second half but Aaron is sure that Killie can bounce back during a busy August schedule.

"We shouldn't be too downbeat about the first game because we created many opportunities in the game and while we can learn from some of the mistakes we made, there are positives to take out of it going into the Celtic match."

With the champions coming to town, many supporters will immediately recall what perhaps remains Tshibola's finest Killie display as Steve Clarke's Killie beat Brendan Rodgers' imperious Celtic side 2-1 back in September 2018.

It was a match where he was placed in direct competition with his former Killie team-mate

Youssef Mulumbu in the middle of the park and he seemed to relish the responsibility and passion on the day.

Recalling the game, he said: "It was an exciting game where the team really played well and the place was rocking with everyone off their seats.

"It showed with the right attitude and approach that we can beat anyone in this league and I'm sure that we can take something from this game. It won't be easy as Celtic are the champions and we'll give them the right amount of respect but as long as we concentrate on what we need to do then we can make it a good match."

Casting his eyes over the stadium, Tshibola admits the players will miss the boost the backing of the home support can provide but knows that they must find the right mental spot to perform to their maximum.

He added: "There's no doubt we will miss the fans getting behind us and roaring us on and they will miss us too.

"We have to approach things in a professional manner and show our desire to do well for them on the pitch."

As well as the absence of fans, one of the enduring images of the opening weekend was the collective stance taken by Premiership clubs to show their support for the ongoing fight against racism, following a summer of protests around the globe.

"Everyone is doing their bit to make a change and it has been a long time coming" he said.

"The fact that everyone can come together and recognise the matter at hand is a step in the right direction and while there's a lot more to be done, we are making progress."



# KILLIE QUIZ



1. Who was the only player to play in all 30 of Kilmarnock's Premiership matches in season 2019/20?
2. Which club won last season's National League, gaining automatic promotion to English League Two?
3. Which player finished as top scorer in the English Premier League last season, with 23 goals?
4. Who scored all four goals for West Ham United in their 4-0 League win over Norwich City at Carrow Road in July this year?
5. During season 2019/20 Liverpool won the FIFA World Club Cup in Qatar. Who did they beat 1-0 after extra time in the Final?
6. Who won the EFL League Two Play-off Final, beating Exeter City 4-0 at Wembley?
7. The 2019/20 Scottish Challenge Cup Final has yet to be played due to coronavirus. Who were due to meet in the final?
8. Name the two beaten FA Cup semi-finalists last season.
9. Who did Leicester City beat 9-0 away from home in an English Premier League match in 2019/20?
10. Kilmarnock scored four times from penalty kicks in Premiership matches last season. Eamonn Brophy netted three times, but who scored from the other penalty kick?

## PICTURE ROUND



Despite the green-and-white hooped shirts it isn't Celtic that Kilmarnock are playing in this 1991 pre-season match. It's from a 5-1 win over Floriana in Malta – but can you name the three Killie players getting ready to attack the corner kick?

Answers: Tommy Fair, Ross Jack and Bobby Williamson

Answers: 1. Gary Brier 2. Barrow 3. Jamie Vardy (Leicester City) 4. Michail Antonio 5. Flamengo (Brazil) 6. Northampton Town 7. Raith Rovers 8. Inverness Caledonian Thistle 9. Manchester United 10. Chris Burke

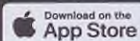


## SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

### FANTASY FOOTBALL

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# NAME THAT GROUND

NAME THAT GROUND

GROUND 1



## GROUND 1

Kilmarnock's George McCluskey in action during a Scottish League First Division match against Stirling Albion in March 1993. Can you name the ground where the match is taking place?

## GROUND 2

Then KFC manager Jim Fleeting (with his back to the camera) and assistant Jim

McSherry give a half-time team talk in a bounce game against Danish opposition in the early 1990s.

Willie McStay, Tommy Burns, Stuart Burgess, Bobby Williamson and Ian Porteous are in the picture, amongst others. But can you name the Ayrshire ground? It's been used for Junior football in recent seasons, and its 1960s concrete cantilever stand is actually a Listed Building!

Answers: Ground 1 Stirling Albion had sold their old ground, Anfield, for housing, and their new ground at Fortbank wasn't ready, so in season 1992/93 they shared with Stenhousemuir. The answer is Ochilview! | Ground 2 Dam Park, Ayr

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