



The Official Match Day Programme

Academia

Hamilton Academical FC v Celtic FC

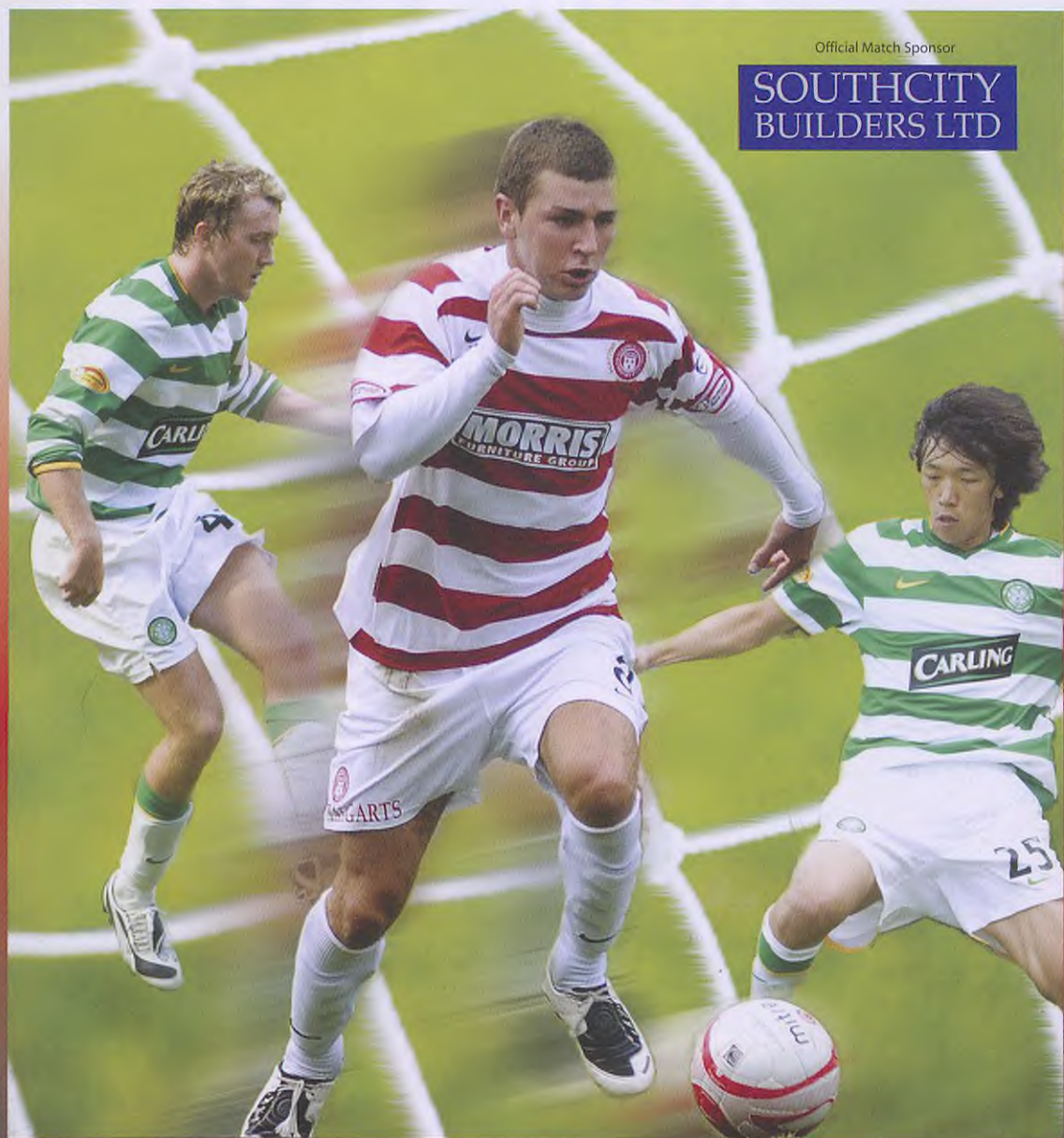
Season 2008-2009

Sunday 16.11.08 • Kick-off 2.00pm

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Sunday 16.10.08

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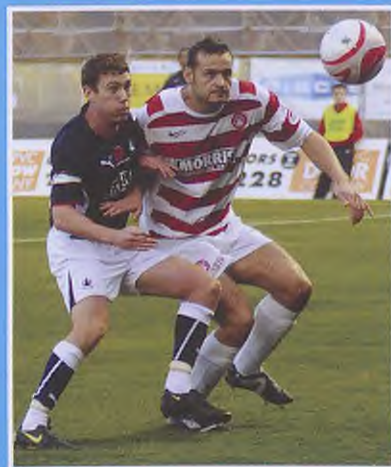
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v Falkirk FC 08.11.08



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Billy Reid

the gaffer

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We have now played every club in the SPL and we welcome Celtic to our ground for the first time in many years. We are currently in a run of difficult games but you expect that when you get into this level, and that's what it's all about.

We were well turned over the last time we played Celtic at their ground. They were worthy winners and it was a learning curve for our young players and myself, but we're hoping that home ground advantage will allow us more possession of the ball. We shall try to play a bit more in their half of the park, hopefully create a few chances, and the longer the game goes on, we may be able to frustrate them a little like we did against Rangers before scoring the first goal.

But they are a fantastic side - a Champions League team - playing against top clubs, so it's a great experience for everyone connected with this club to play them. We have to make sure we do ourselves justice, however. We have to play our own game but at the same time give Celtic the respect they deserve.

Celtic play at the highest level, playing against sides like Manchester United and Villarreal, who play at a tremendous pace and we have just arrived from the First Division. When they play against us, they get more time on the ball, so we have to make sure we work the right areas, we try and save our legs, make sure we are disciplined enough - compact enough when Celtic have the ball because without being disrespectful to our players, that's why they have been the champions of Scotland for the last three seasons running, but there is no reason if Celtic have an off day and we play to our potential, we can't win the game.

Finally, well done to Brian Easton for his international call up to Scotland's under 21 side to face Northern Ireland here at our ground in a couple of days.

He joins McCarthy and McArthur getting to that level, and these guys have come through the system here and that has to be pleasing for everybody connected with Hamilton Accies. Everybody has played their part in the development of these players and that has been quite staggering. Brian Easton it could be argued has been our best player in the SPL and has been a model of consistency and considering where he's come from, is quite remarkable. His call up is long overdue and I'm surprised it's taken so long for that. I hope he does himself justice if he gets a game. There's no reason they can't go on and develop further.



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