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Hamilton Academical FC v Celtic FC

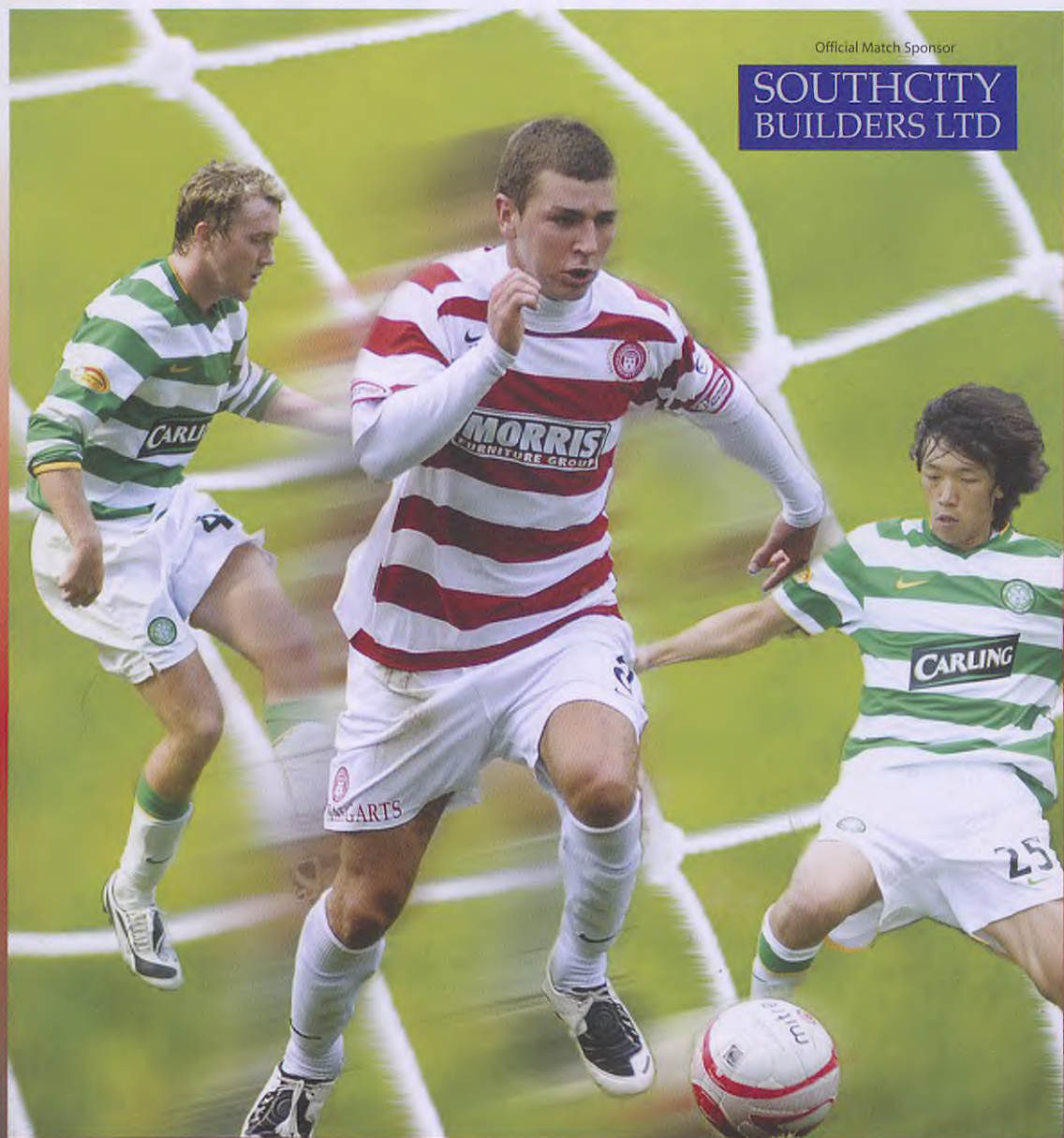
Season 2008-2009

Sunday 16.11.08 • Kick-off 2.00pm

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Sunday 16.10.08

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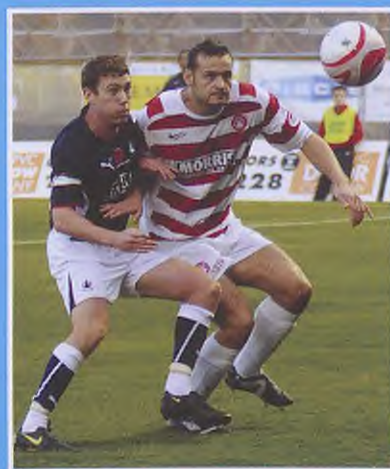
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Billy Reid

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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QUIZ

Five anagrams - Accies players

A Bairns Note

My Ancestor

Sum Arch Ramjet

Cry Me Chat Jams

Nine Sings Mom

Shugg's Five

- 1 Who scored Celtic's goal against Manchester United in the Champions League this season?
- 2 Who are the older wearers of the hoops - Accies or Celtic?
- 3 Which simple minded Glaswegian missed out on the glittering prize when Fergus McCann became the owner of Celtic?
- 4 Who made his debut for Celtic in the cup defeat to Clyde in January 2006?
- 5 What infamous headline appeared the morning after Celtic were knocked out of the Scottish cup in 2000?

Three to watch!

Jo Jo Connolly

Age: 17

Signed from: Clyde

Position: Centre Midfield

Fav players: Xavier Alonso;

Henrik Larsson; Deco

Liam Fagan

Age: 17

Signed from: Aberdeen

Position: Striker

Fav players: Roy Keane;

Chris Sutton; Steve Gerrard

Declan McAvoy

Age: 16

Signed from: Dunfermline

Position: Sub (left back)

Fav players: Cristiano Ronaldo;

Frank Lampard; Daniel Alves



Jo Jo Connolly

Liam Fagan

Declan McAvoy

The Accies Honours

Scottish Cup Runners Up 1910-11, 1934-35

Division 1 (New) Champions 1985-86, 1987-88, 2007-08

Division 2 (New) Runners Up 2003-04

Division 3 (New) Champions 2000-01

Division 2 (Old) Champions 1903-04

Runners Up 1952-53, 1964-65

B & Q Cup Winners 1991-92, 1992-93

League Challenge Cup Runners Up 2005-06

Reserve League Cup Winners 1983-84

Runners Up 1992-93, 2000-01

Scottish Second Eleven Cup Winners 1933-34

Reserve League Champions 1978-79, 1979-80

Reserve League West Champions 1997-98

Lanarkshire Cup Winners 1881-82, 1901-02, 1904-05,

1905-06, 1909-10, 1919-20, 1923-24, 1933-34, 1938-39,

1951-52, 1985-86

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Our Visitors - Celtic FC



Gordon Strachan brings his squad of international stars to New Douglas Park this afternoon as they continue their push to retain the SPL title they won at the death last term.

As usual, Strachan has choices other managers can only dream about as he decides which 11 to perm from a host of big name stars. One choice made for him, however, is the absence of controversial keeper Artur Boruc who at the time of going to press was set to undergo an operation to his knee, leaving former Rangers, Motherwell and Inverness Caley keeper Mark Brown as the obvious replacement.



From there, it's anyone's guess as to the likely line up as 16 defenders, 9 midfielders and any one from 11 up front are available. Celtic lined up against Manchester United in an impressive 1-1 draw: Boruc, Hinkel, Caldwell, McManus, Wilson, Hartley, Brown, Robson, Maloney, Sheridan and McDonald. Aiden McGeady was left out with Cillian Sheridan getting a start up front which surprised a few pundits that evening.



In defence we are likely to see a similar back four to that who faced the Manchester Euro champs, although there has been some speculation Strachan may use this game to rest several players. Lanark born Stephen McManus, nicknamed 'Mick' after an English wrestler, has a habit of scoring with 15 to his credit so far. The transfer fee Celtic paid to Hibs for Scott Brown remains the highest ever between two Scottish clubs, with fellow ex-Hibee Gary Caldwell a regular in the centre of defence, although he can also play at right-back. Scotland under 21 defender Mark Wilson and German international Andreas Hinkel completes the likely defensive line.





Our Visitors - Celtic FC

It's good to see the return of Paul Hartley to Hamilton where he started his professional career with The Accies. He was top scorer at the club in 1995 with eleven goals before moving to Millwall for a record club fee at the time. Ex Dundee United midfielder Barry Robson's start to his Celtic career couldn't have been better, netting a debut goal with his first-ever touch against luckless Aberdeen who went down 5-1 that particular day. Cillian Sheridan who hit a double against Kilmarnock last Wednesday featured against Alex Ferguson's side at Celtic Park and could play again today. He gave up Gaelic Football to sign for Celtic. He hails from County Cavan in Ireland.

In Shunsuke Nakamura, Celtic look to have found a hero to succeed Henrik Larsson although it's unclear whether he will remain in Scotland after the coming transfer window. None other than Kilmarnock's Jim Jefferies summed up his contribution to Celtic by claiming he would be happy to personally drive him to Glasgow Airport as his ability at times has destroyed the Rugby Park men. An interesting statistic is 12 of his 25 goals scored have been direct from a free-kick.

Up front is harder to predict, with Scott McDonald outstanding since his arrival at the club, as has the return of Shaun Maloney, back after a disappointing spell under ex-Celts manager Martin O'Neill at Aston Villa.

Add to that the form of Aiden McGeady, the power of ex-PSV Eindhoven striker Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink and Georgios Samaras who like Barry Robson scored on his debut (against Kilmarnock – maybe Jim Jefferies will put him in his back seat when he takes Nakamura to the airport), Celtic can rely on any permutation to get the goals needed to win titles.

Of course, if manager Strachan decides to change things up a little, he could play a starting 11 of Brown: Lee Naylor, Glenn Loovens, Jean-Joel Perrier-Doumbe, Darren O'Day; Marc Crosas, Paddy McCourt, Massimo Donati, Koki Mizuno; Chris Killen, Ben Hutchison.

One wonders how well this team would do in the SPL and they don't even play regularly?





David Elebert

DUBLINER David Elebert gets the opportunity to face his childhood heroes Celtic – assuming of course manager Billy Reid selects him.

The arrival of Martin Canning and the return from injury of Mark McLaughlin and Chris Swailes means Reid has several options available to him for the first time in many months, with the Republic of Ireland under 23 captain philosophical about winning a start.

Injury at the start of the season plus the arrival of Canning has seen Elebert posted missing from a few games and he said: "You know, it's healthy for the squad having so much competition. It keeps you on your toes. I was left out of the squad a couple of weeks ago which is obviously disappointing, but that's the nature of the beast really.

"But isn't that what you want at a football club – competition for places? I look forward to competing with the rest of the lads for a start in the team."

As a Dublin born lad, he has a special affinity for our visitors as do all potential Dublin footballers, but Elebert said this game means as much to him as a visit from Old Firm rivals Rangers. "Everyone looks at the fixture list when it comes out to see when we are playing the Old Firm as these are huge games for us and our fans. It's a game we all hope to do well in."

Celts boss Gordon Strachan has several options available to him up front, from the nippy Scott McDonald and Aiden McGeady to the strength of Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink and Georgios Samaras, so does Elebert have any preferences to who he faces?

FAVOURITES

Biggest moan: Danny Cuning our kit man followed closely by Alex Neil

Worst dresser: Stephen Ettien

Car: Audi Q7

Aftershave: Channel Allure sport

TV Prog: Dirty Sexy Money

Blondes or brunettes: Brunettes

Best goal ever scored: The header here at New Douglas Park against St Johnstone last year. An important one for me and the club

"I prefer the bigger guys because you can get right into them.

"You tend to tackle them a bit harder. The smaller guys tend to go over but the bigger strikers come right back at you. Rangers have smaller, sharper guys like Nacho Novo and Kenny Miller, but no matter who you face it's a test for me. If my sharpness isn't there I don't play as well.

"I watched them against Manchester United and after they scored they seemed to sit back and defend and that will change against us. But we're confident. You have to be going into these games. The manager tells us in the team talk to go out and enjoy ourselves, to compete, as there is no point going into games trying not to get beaten as we are the home side.

"It's a big task of course but all the lads here have confidence in their own ability." Asked about the arrival on the international scene of midfielder James McCarthy, Elebert was keen to point out he fitted into the Republic set up well and was looked after by all his colleagues, and hoped that a return to regular first team action could see him winning another cap, possibly for the B' squad in the first instance.

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Club Chatter

NEWSDESK

Welcome to this afternoon's league match with Celtic. Accies fans will not need reminding that on the occasion of Celtic's last league visit to ourselves, we duly and deservedly won 2-0 with Stuart Gordon netting both goals! That was back in April 1989. That game came just a week after Celtic had defeated Liverpool in Dubai to win the Dubai Super Cup, which was then regarded as an unofficial British championship. And with our victory over Celtic the title duly passed to us... Nice memories!... Our congratulations go firstly this week to Brian Easton for a thoroughly deserved inclusion in the Scotland u21 squad for this Tuesday's match v Northern Ireland which will take place here, and where Eastie is likely to face fellow Accies defender Chris Casement who has been included in the Northern Ireland squad. Chris has already met up with his squad earlier today, they are staying locally, while Eastie will meet up with the Scotland squad in Cumbernauld this evening. Scotland u21 boss Billy Stark, a former Accie, has been at many of our matches recently... Next up for the plaudits is the now not so young James McCarthy. For a superb strike against Falkirk last Saturday, a real gem, and for finally turning 18 in midweek. This is his third season of first team football and he has gathered so many man of the match champagne bottles that he has been unable to drink them. However the teetotaler has no plans to start consuming them either! And when ever has an 18 year old already amassed 82 top team appearances in this country? That record must surely have been smashed and may well be unlikely to get broken... The final congrats go to u19 players Gavin McLachlan and Ali Crawford who both passed their driving tests recently. Avoid the roads in Carlisle!... Marko McLaughlin made his re-appearance in the first team last Saturday having been out since game 3 at Killie... Our reserves drew 2-2 with Hearts here on Monday, Michael Videira and Stephen Ettien netting for us, but the jambos equalised two minutes into injury time... Our reserves will face their Motherwell counterparts this Tuesday at Bathgate Thistle's Creamery Park with a 1.30pm kick off and their next fixture will be the following Tuesday against Falkirk at Glencairn with a 2pm start... Our u19s recorded a convincing 5-0 win over Highland League side Clachnacuddin last Sunday to reach the 4th round of the SFA Youth Cup (and therefore have also secured a bye into round 3 next season). Ali Crawford, Grant Gillespie, Fraser Team 2 and young Euan Lindsay were our scorers. Euan had come on as sub for Scotland u16s in their 2-2 draw with Northern Ireland just two days earlier. The draw for the next round was scheduled to take place at Hampden in midweek... The 19s faced Motherwell in a league fixture yesterday and face Falkirk at Glencairn next Friday at 2pm... Player / Coach Stuart Taylor has his birthday coming up, he will turn 34 on the 26th... With a free Saturday yesterday both Billy and Stuart and our other managerial and scouting staff were able to check out some other games... Michael Videira has family flying in from the USA for today's game, welcome to them... Derek Lyle skippered the reserves in midweek... Brian Carrigan went off early with a groin problem... Today's match also sees the return of Paul Hartley who remains Accies record sale when we sold him to Millwall for £380,000 back in July 1996... CBBC and BBC Newsround were at our ground last Saturday filming a feature on radio commentators at work... Radio Scotland and Radio 5 Live are both likely to have their top teams here this afternoon, welcome to them, and also to our friends at Setanta who are covering today's match live... Our next live Setanta fixture will be the home match with Motherwell on the Saturday before Christmas and it has the earlier kick off of 12.30pm... Tony Stevenson, normally so deadly from the spot, missed a first minute penalty in the recent reserve game against Rangers... Today's referee is Steve Conroy who, coincidentally, took charge of our visit to Celtic Park just six weeks ago... The SPL Delegate today is former SFA Security Chief Willie McDougall, welcome also to him... Tomas Cerny has been brushing up on his English language skills recently with a further exam and night study course that he has been doing... Billy Reid and deputy skipper James McArthur took in last week's Killie v Rangers encounter... The u19s recently drew 1-1 with Ayr United in a closed doors bounce match... Our u17s, under coach Andy Smith, took on Queen's Park in a midweek friendly at Lesser Hampden... Both Alex Neil and David Graham are just three points away from a suspension... Next up is a visit to Tannadice this coming Saturday and then our next home game is against Kilmarnock on Saturday 29th November, cash at the turnstiles for that one... see you then folks!



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Favourites

Biggest moan: Danny Cunning the kit man by far, player wise - probably Martin Canning

Worst Dresser: I am going to say Tomas Cerny because he just dresses like he is going hiking all the time.

Favourite Car: Aston Martin Vanquish or a Lamborghini

Aftershave: Armani Aphrodisia

Blondes or Brunettes: Brunettes, because my partner is brunette

Film: Usual Suspects

TV: Bear Grylls - Born Survivor

Best Ever Goal: Against Dunfermline 5-0 clipped over the defenders head and then volleyed it in off the cross bar

In conversation with **Richard Offiong**

It's been a difficult season for you so far, being left out the team, getting injured etc, how are you coping? All I'm doing right now is trying to keep my head down and work hard. Trying to get back in the team and get the goals as well.

Are you missing scoring? Yes all strikers strive for goals, obviously they miss not scoring so hopefully I'll be able to put it away on Sunday if selected.

How are you coping with the one up front system? All my life I have been playing with a strike partner and that is what I do prefer, but I am asked to do a job up there so I'll do it. To be honest I would prefer there to be 2 upfront, but if I am in the team with just one up then I am happy with it.

Are defenders tougher in the SPL? Yes they are stronger, quicker, more street wise and more switched on. So it is tougher but I feel I am up for the challenge.

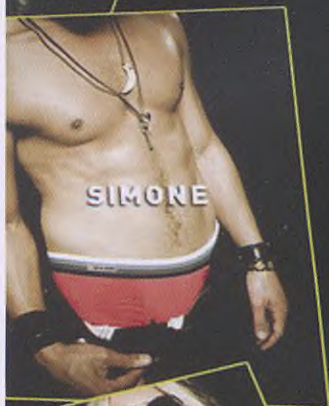
Celtic are a huge team, how do you and your teammates put that into words when you prepare to face a club like this? Work hard, being disciplined, organised and you know that they will have a lot of the ball because they have top quality players that they pay a lot of money for. We need to be patient, solid, switched on for the whole 90 minutes and try and play our game when we can.

Are you intimidated by them? Not at all and I don't think the others are either! I thrive on playing against the big teams because we get a lot more people coming to watch and it is a big occasion getting to play against a side like that.

You have not had a chance to take a penalty this season, if the opportunity arose would you take a spot kick? Definitely, I want to bang all the penalties in, if I get one this afternoon I will be more than happy to put it away.

What do you think we can do in the league? As I've said, we have got to be disciplined and organised, we need to be more resilient and harder to break down. But I think we can survive it. The league is so tight this year, last year there was Gretna and they were doomed from day one but the league is so tight we could get 2 wins and then be right back up the league again. We know that it is a long season, we need to be disciplined and we will get back up the table.

Are you happy in Scotland? Yes, I'd be even happier if I was banging in the goals, but I can't complain. I am really happy here.



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10/11/08	Home Club	Away Club
New Douglas Park	Hamilton Accies	Hearts
Result	2	2
Scorers	Michael Vidale (30) Stephen Effen (85)	Denis McLaughlin (36) Ryan Wallace (90)

SPL Reserve League Table as at 10.11.08

Club	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Total Points	Goal Difference
Celtic	9	8	2	1	21	9	20	12
Rangers	10	5	3	2	21	10	18	11
St Mirren	10	5	1	4	19	14	16	2
Hearts	10	3	5	1	14	10	15	4
Hibernian	10	4	3	3	15	17	15	-2
Motherwell	9	3	4	2	15	16	13	-1
Kilmarnock	8	3	3	2	7	7	12	0
Dundee United	9	3	2	4	10	11	11	-1
Falkirk	10	3	2	5	10	20	11	-10
Inverness CT	9	2	3	4	14	16	9	-2
Aberdeen	10	2	2	6	12	17	8	-5
Hamilton Accies	10	1	3	6	19	23	6	-8
	114	40	34	40	170	170		



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This afternoon's mascot is 8 year old Leon Donaldson. His favourite player is James McCarthy.



Next Saturday we visit Tannadice to play Dundee United. Kick off 3pm.



Tickets for the trip to Ibrox on Saturday, December 6, go on sale to all supporters on Monday, 25th November at our ticket office from 10am - 6pm, Monday - Friday. Tickets are priced at £23 for adults, with concessions £7. Concessions for Ibrox are under 18 and over 65.



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Our next home match is v Kilmarnock on Saturday, November 29, 2008. Kick off 3pm.

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FAVOURITES

Biggest moan: Gunter (Simon Mensing), always moaning

Worst dresser: Has to be Gunter again, really bad

Car: Bentley

Film: Donkey Punch

Blondes or Brunettes? Brunettes

After shave: 2-1-2

Best ever goal: Against Falkirk in the first division for Queen of the South against Big Yogi (John Hughes, now Falkirk boss).

He claimed I shoved him off the ball before I volleyed it in from 25 yards to the top corner. I hear he kicked a hole in the wall afterwards. But I never touched him because he couldn't get near me.

TV Prog: Eastenders

Derek Lyle

They say football is all about taking the opportunities that come your way – so striker Derek Lyle certainly made the right choice when he decided to join The Accies before they won the title last season.

Considering his previous club Dundee were going so well and had a genuine chance of promotion under now sacked boss Alex Rae, Lyle was prepared to suffer the wrath of his own Den Park fans by announcing he had signed for Billy Reid under a pre-contract deal last January.

Derek's career started off at Partick Thistle in 1999 but after struggling to hold down a first team spot he went out on loan to East Stirling and then Queen of the South.

A six goal tally in only thirteen games sealed a permanent move to Dumfries where he went on to make a further 113 appearances netting 23 goals.

The striker was not always a regular in the side and had loan spells at Stirling Albion and Dunfermline Athletic, but after being told by then Queen of the South boss Ian McCall that he wasn't first choice at Palmerston, he decided to move on. Lyle made an instant impact after joining Dundee in August 2006 scoring on his debut in a 3-0 win over Clyde, and in his first season at Dens, he finished the clubs top goal scorer with 12 goals in 28 games.

So why choose Hamilton at the time he did? "I felt at the time Accies had the better chance to win promotion, they had a better set up with the youth, and I took the decision that I wanted SPL football and it paid off.

"I also came because there are good players and despite not starting as many games as I would like, I'm hoping I get a chance soon," he said.

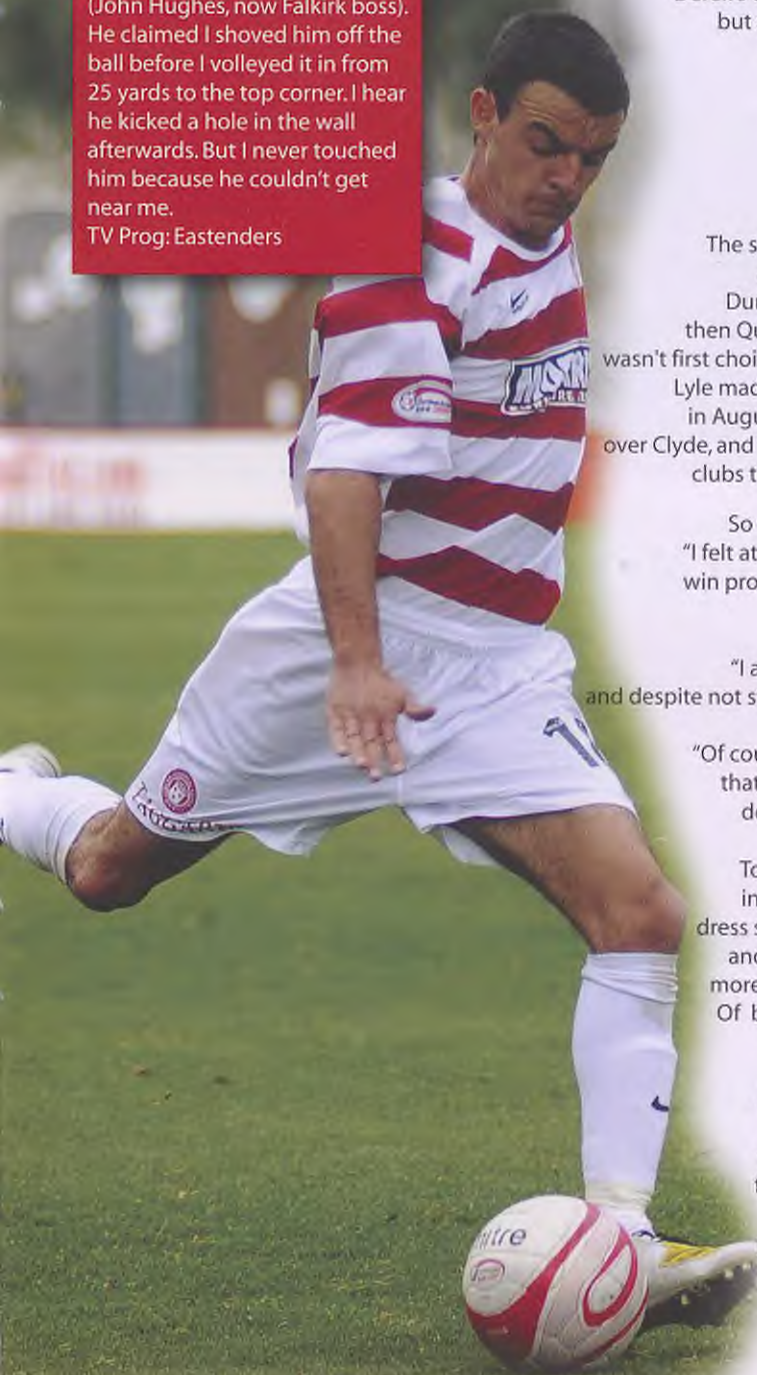
"Of course it's hard to come straight into a team that has just won the league as those players deserve their chance, and I have no regrets despite not getting many chances."

To be fair to the player, he takes everything in his stride, including banter regarding his dress sense which is interesting to say the least, and of course, his permanent tan in weather more appropriate for thermals and balaclavas.

Of both he claimed: "The lads are just jealous of my clothes and I've not had any work on my skin colour – that's natural!"

As to his preferred position, Derek claims he would rather play in the hole behind the front two, but that's not an option he foresees with the system we play, adding:

"I'm not a target man and I prefer playing up front alongside someone else, but if I'm in the midfield going forward, I'm happy with that as well."



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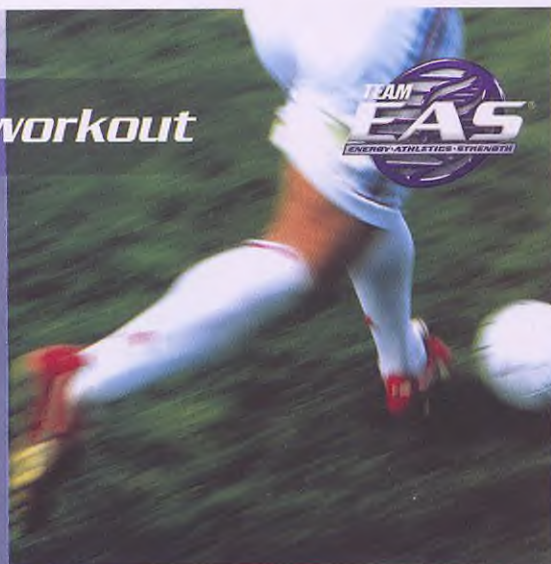
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Quiz Answers

Anagrams

Brian Easton

Tomas Cerny

James McArthur

James McCarthy

Simon Mensing

- 1: Scott McDonald
- 2: Celtic were formed in 1888, a full fourteen years after Accies.
- 3: Jim Kerr
- 4: Roy Keane
- 5: Super Caley go ballistic, Celtic are atrocious!

Man of the Match v Falkirk



James McCarthy collects the champagne from match sponsors Noel Kegg for his stuning strike against Falkirk last weekend

Unacceptable Conduct

Under SPL rules in respect of Ground Safety. Behaviour at Matches and Damage to Stadia, each club must ensure that its players, officials, supporters and any other person exercising a function for, or connected with, the club do not engage in unacceptable conduct at a stadium on the occasion of an official match.

For the avoidance of doubt, this includes all home and away matches played by the club.

For this purpose unacceptable conduct covers conduct which is violent and/or disorderly.

Violent conduct includes:

- 1) actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against a person or persons
- 2) intentional damage to property

Disorderly conduct includes:

- 1) Conduct which stirs up or sustains or is likely to or designed to stir up or sustain hatred or ill will against a group of persons, based on their membership or presumed membership of the following categories of defined groups, or against an individual presumed to be a member of such group.
 - female or male gender
 - colour, race nationality or ethnic or national origin
 - membership or a religious group or a group with a perceived religious affiliation
 - sexual orientation
 - transgender identity
 - disability
- 2) the use of threatening, abusive or insulting words.
- 3) the display of writing or other visual display which is threatening, abusive or insulting.

Hamilton Academical FC accepts its responsibility under these rules and will not tolerate any form of unacceptable conduct detailed above. Any official, employee or any other person connected with the Club who Engages in such activity will be subject to the Club's internal disciplinary procedures. Any supporter who engages in such activity will be liable for sanction imposed by the Club which may include withdrawal of season ticket, exclusion from future matches involving the Club or, in the event of persistent offending, an application being made towards obtaining a football banning order



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James McCarthy



Brian Easton

– on opposite sides

Youngsters James McCarthy and Brian Easton have deservedly taken the plaudits for their outstanding start to their SPL careers, and it's easy to forget their age at times as they handle the media and match pressures like seasoned professionals.

The two are great pals off the pitch as well and with Easty making the Scotland under 21 squad, there's always the outside possibility the two may in the future face each other for their respective countries.

We caught up with them as James celebrated his 18th birthday a couple of days after Brian received his call up from Billy Stark.

How did you feel the first time you went out to play Celtic:

JM: It was brilliant playing in front of that type of crowd and just a really good buzz.

BE: Good being in Parkhead in front of such a big crowd, but disappointed in the way we played.

Were you intimidated?

BE: Maybe subconsciously being a bit overawed. We just try to get out there and get on with your job as once you cross the line it is pretty much down to business. It was just a disappointing day, a bad day at the office if you like, but hopefully we'll get a chance to rectify it.

Do you go out against Celtic expecting a result?

JM: Yes! Who knows, maybe they don't like playing in front of wee crowds and hopefully that will affect them this afternoon but I am sure we can cause an upset. We went 1-0 up against Rangers but we lost three goals. You never know with the Old Firm, hopefully we can turn that around and have a good day.

Did you hear them chanting your name when they played Kilmarnock?

JM: It's good stuff. I didn't hear it myself but a few of my friends phoned me on the night to say it was happening

Was it weird?

JM: Yes another team singing your own name, even against Rangers as well. But it doesn't bother me them booing and singing songs. It was a good buzz, I don't care.

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James McCarthy

Brian Easton

– on opposite sides (cont)

Is he getting stick in the dressing room?

BE: No! All the boys are one hundred per cent behind him and respect his decision to play for The Republic. We just want him to play well.

Have you ever been asked to play for Scotland?

JM: George Burley asked for a meeting just recently but it has gone to far now with Ireland and they have been brilliant with me. I am happy with my decision.

Have you met Ray Houghton – another Castlemilk lad who played for Ireland?

JM: He used to stay along the road from me but I have never met him.

Ambition to play for Scotland?

BE: I'm absolutely delighted to get my chance at under 21 level for the match against Northern Ireland next week - especially in front of our own supporters who really have got behind me this season. Maybe James McArthur and myself will get the chance to

play against James at international level which would be brilliant, although I hope I get picked and Chris Casement gets a chance for Northern Ireland next week.

How did you feel scoring against Rangers?

BE: It was unbelievable, I had quite a few people watching me that day. It was just a great feeling. It was better when we were 1-0 up, just a great feeling.

Is it good to be known as James McCarthy's chauffer?

BE: He slips me some petrol money now and then too.

So he is not tight, as rumour has it?

BE: No, he's not tight

Who is the tightest guy in the dressing room? BOTH: James McArthur!

Would you let him take a penalty against Celtic?

BOTH: No

James McCarthy

Biggest Moan: Alex Neil

Worst Dresser: Joel Thomas

Favourite Car: Range Rover Sports

Blondes or Brunettes: Anything

Best Goal: Aberdeen Away or Livingston at home, every goal is the best at the time

Aftershave: Hugo Boss



Brian Easton

Biggest Moan: Danny Kit man moans about everything

Worst dresser: Alex Neil or Joel Thomas

Aftershave: Channel Allure

Best Goal: That magnificent header against Rangers recently

Car: Fiat Punto or Bentley Sports

Blondes or Brunettes: Anything, I don't care

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Foot in both Camps

by Peter McLeish

The link between today's clubs runs deep with several quality players having graced both sets of hoops. Was there ever a better full back than Danny McGrain? And hasn't Davie Moyes developed into a fine manager following an impressive playing career. George 'Toby' McCluskey and Brian 'Jinky' McLaughlin carried famous nicknames, and in Tom McAdam, both clubs enjoyed the services of a true gentleman. An eleven that played for Celtic and The Accies could be; Andy Murdoch; Danny McGrain and Bobby Quinn; Raymond McStay; Davie Moyes and Tom McAdam; Frank Quinn and Brian McLaughlin; George McCluskey; Dugald McCarrison and Mark Smith.

On their last Premier League visit to Hamilton, Celtic lost 2-0 to Accies at Douglas Park on 8th April 1989.

Tom McADAM, After a long career with Clydebank Colts, Weir's Recreation, Dumbarton, Dundee United and Celtic, where he won a League Cup medal in 1982 and a Scottish Cup medal in 1985, as well as League honours, he was allowed to leave Parkhead and went to Stockport County. In 1986 he joined Accies on a month's trial and when the period was up he then signed for Motherwell, there to form a fine defensive partnership with Craig Paterson for the next three years. He left Fir Park to become player/coach at Airdrie. In 1993 he returned to Parkhead to become involved in the development of the younger members of the playing staff. At Boghead he had played up front and he also filled that role in his early days at Tannadice, however Jim McLean played him in the central defensive position just as he had done with Paul Hegarty, and there Tom remained for the rest of his playing career. He had over 500 league outings to his name. Born in Glasgow on 9th April 1954.

George McCLUSKEY, One of the most talented players never to have received a full Scotland cap. George was a wonderful schoolboy player, he scored for Scotland at Wembley in a 4-2 win in 1973. Receiving 4 caps in total while attending school in Viewpark. He who was farmed out to Thorniewood United by Celtic before he claimed a permanent peg in the Parkhead dressing room. His golden years were spent there and it came as a surprise when he moved to Leeds United in 1985. His return to Scotland was brought about by Hibs following a short career at Elland Road. In 1989, after three years at Easter Road, Accies forked out £35,000 to bring him to Douglas Park. He was one of the main reasons why Accies won the B and Q Cup in 1991. A striker who was very tricky with the ball at his feet, he created chances for those around him as well as being a threat around goal. Surprisingly dismissed by the club in 1992, he struck a deal with Tommy Burns' Kilmarnock, where he finished the season as their top scorer. He then moved to Clyde where at the age of thirty eight he was still showing his paces. Freed by them in May 1996, he joined Accies on a pre season tour in the Highlands. In August 1997 he was acting as Player/Coach to Baillieston Juniors. Born in Hamilton on 19th September 1957.


Danny McGRAIN, With sixty two caps to his name, Danny was easily the most capped player ever to turn out for Accies. He was a brilliant full back, able to play on either side of the defence, his place in the international side generally depended on who the other full back was whether he played right or left back. He had to battle against illness and injury, this he was successful in doing and he continued to provide all who were fortunate enough to see him play, with tremendous entertainment. One of the finest full backs in Britain, if not the world, in his heyday. He had gone to Celtic in 1968 from Maryhill Juniors. Twenty years later he left Parkhead to join Accies in their second title winning season. Due to injury he had to retire, although he continued as coach for a while. In the early eighties he had a loan spell with Blackpool. He left Hamilton on 1st November 1988 to assist at Clydebank. He also had a hand in management with Arbroath. A return came to Parkhead in 1998 when he joined the coaching staff there. In addition to the caps already mentioned, he was capped as a Schoolboy twice in 1967 while at Kingsridge Secondary in Drumchapel, had two Under 23 caps, one League honour. He received six Premier League medals, five in the Scottish Cup and two League Cup. The Queen awarded him his MBE on February 28th 1983. He was also awarded a civic medal by Glasgow for Services to Sport in September 1987. Born in Glasgow on 1st May 1950.

Davie MOYES, He had been with Drumchapel Amateurs as a youth before signing for Celtic in 1980. He did enough at Parkhead in season 1981-82 to qualify to collect a League Winners medal. With that experience behind him he then moved to Cambridge United, Bristol City and Shrewsbury Town before Dunfermline brought him back north. While with them he played at centre half when they contested the 1992 League Cup Final with Hibernian, which they lost. When Jim Weir was transferred to Heart of Midlothian in 1993, Iain Munro brought big red headed Davie to Hamilton, the transfer fee was £10,000. He lasted only five games before Preston North End took him to Deepdale, this time his value had risen to £25,000 and with a reasonable profit from the deal, Accies were happy to transfer him. He soon became an established member in the Preston line-up. He later became Manager at Deepdale and was so successful there that he was on the move to the Premiership with Everton. Davie attended Bearsden Academy in 1980 and was capped 3 times for Scotland as a schoolboy at that time. Born in Glasgow on 25th April 1963.

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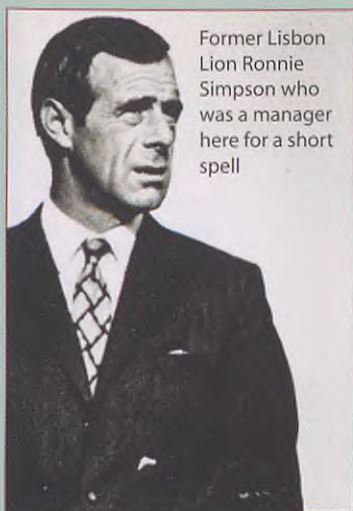
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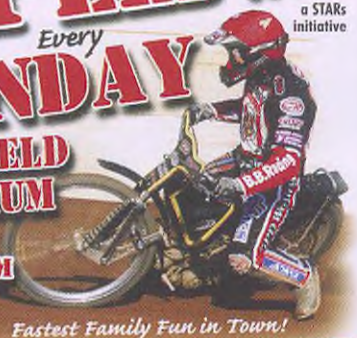
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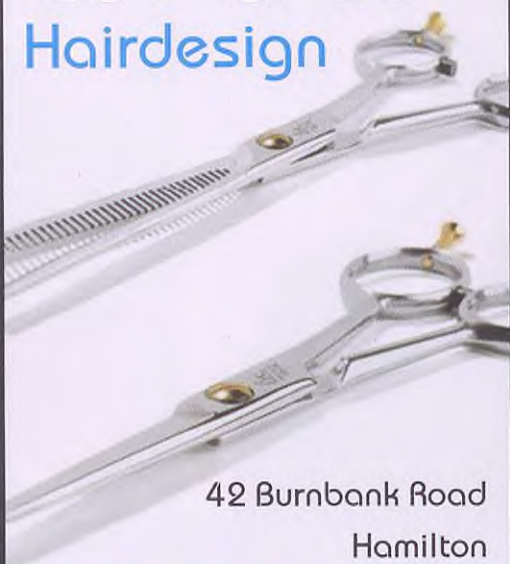


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Reserve Fixtures 2008-09

DATE	TEAM	K.O	RESULT
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AUGUST 2008

Wed 13	DUNDEE UNITED	2.30pm	2-2
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SEPTEMBER 2008

Tue 2	Inverness CT	2.00pm	3-0
Tue 16	Kilmarnock	7.00pm	1-1
Tue 30	Aberdeen	2.00pm	2-5

OCTOBER 2008

Tue 7	HIBERNIAN	7.00pm	1-2
Mon 13	Falkirk	1.00pm	1-2
Mon 20	Celtic	7.00pm	2-4
Wed 29	ST MIRREN	2.00pm	1-4

NOVEMBER 2008

Mon 3	RANGERS	7.00pm	0-1
Mon 10	HEARTS	2.00pm	2-2
Tue 18	Motherwell	1.30pm	
Tue 25	FALKIRK	2.00pm	

DECEMBER 2008

Tue 2	Hearts (TBA)	7.00pm	
Tue 9	CELTIC	7.00pm	

FEBRUARY 2009

Tue 3	Dundee United (TBA)	7.00pm	
Tue 10	KILMARNOCK	2.30pm	
Tue 17	Rangers (TBA)	2.00pm	
Tue 24	Hibernian (TBA)	7.00pm	

MARCH 2009

Tue 10	MOTHERWELL	7.00pm	
Tue 17	St Mirren (TBA)	7.00pm	
Tue 24	ABERDEEN	2.30pm	
Tue 31	INVERNESS CT	2.30pm	

U19 League Fixtures 2008-09

DATE	TEAM	K.O	RESULT
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AUGUST 2008

Fri 15	DUNDEE UNITED	2.30pm	2-0
Fri 22	Inverness CT	1.30pm	0-4
Sat 30	Kilmarnock	11.00am	0-2

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sat 13	HEARTS	11.00am	1-5
Fri 19	ABERDEEN	1.00pm	0-2
Fri 26	HIBERNIAN	2.30pm	0-3

OCTOBER 2008

Sat 4	Falkirk	11.00am	0-2
Sat 11	Celtic	11.00am	1-4
Fri 17	ST MIRREN	1.30pm	0-1

NOVEMBER 2008

Sat 1	Rangers	11.00am	0-4
Sun 9	CLACHNACUDDIN SFA YOUTH CUP R3	2.00pm	5-0
Fri 14	Motherwell	1.00pm	
FRI 21	FALKIRK	2.00pm	
Sat 29	Hearts (TBA)	11.00am	

DECEMBER 2008

Sun 9	SFA YOUTH CUP R4		
Fri 12	CELTIC	2.00pm	

FEBRUARY 2009

Sat 7	Dundee United (TBA)	11.00am	
Sun 15	SFA YOUTH CUP R5		
Fri 20	KILMARNOCK (TBA)	2.30pm	
Sat 28	Rangers (TBA)	11.00am	

MARCH 2009

Sat 7	Hibernian (TBA)	11.00am	
Fri 13	MOTHERWELL (TBA)	2.30pm	
Sat 21	St Mirren (TBA)	11.00am	
Fri 27	ABERDEEN (TBA)	2.30pm	

APRIL 2009

Fri 3	INVERNESS CT (TBA)	2.30pm	
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Football greats - Andy Ritchie

It's an absolute delight to welcome Andy Ritchie as our guest to New Douglas Park this afternoon a scots born players of his calibre have been a rare breed.



The big midfielder was here just recently in his capacity as the SPL delegate, a role he is relishing as it keeps him involved with the game he loves.

Always a bit of a rebel, he left Celtic Park 'too early' in his own words before injury forced his retirement at the all too young age of just 27 years. He was at our club as a coach for a short spell under the watchful eye of Jim Dempsey, and helped develop the talent of the likes of Jim Weir, Colin 'Bomber' Harris, Stuart Gordon and Paul McDonald to name but a few.

"My earliest memories of The Accies were watching them with my

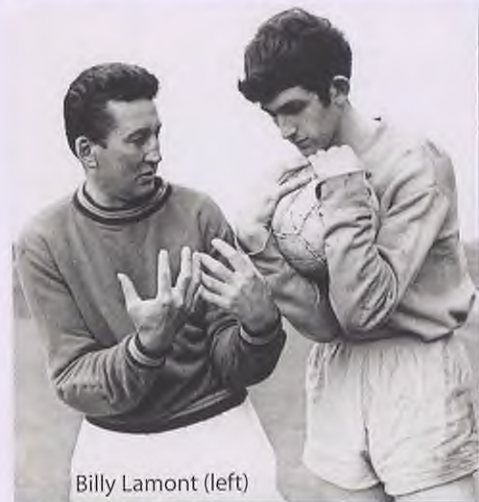
dad although I am prepared to admit we were both Motherwell supporters," he said. "I vividly remember seeing Billy Lamont in goal keeping our forwards at bay. Great times and great days."

Ritchie's career started with Celtic under the legendary Jock Stein, but the two failed to see eye to eye when he decided to leave for Morton age just 20. "I reckoned I was due a better position in the queue for a start and Mr Stein disagreed. He said he knew more about the game than me. He was right of course, but I went on to win player of the year 18 months later!"

A bad back forced him out of the game following spells with Celtic, Morton, Motherwell, QPR and Blackpool, but his back injury "playing on Astro turf at QPR hurt me" ended one of the potentially greatest careers in the game. "I had a spell with Albion Rovers too but my back was away."

Never a great trainer, one wonders how he would have managed in today's environment with sports scientists, nutritionists and the likes, as the pie and pint days were in their heydays then. But that aside, he was a dead ball specialist who had incredible ball control, as he remembers vividly when reminded of his greatest ever goal, scored for Morton against Aberdeen in a 1-0 cup win. "I beat Willie Miller then Alex McLeish – then beat them both again before I curled one into Jim Leighton's top corner with the outside of my boot." Magic memories from a great talent.

If any young player needs advice on how to manage their career, he sums it up, saying: "My biggest regret was leaving Celtic far too early. That's the arrogance of youth I'm afraid. As far as The Accies are doing – they have brought a breath of fresh air into the SPL. These guys are what this league needs. I know they have been struggling as the big boys come along, but as long as they don't get too far adrift, they will stay up! I have no doubts about that whatsoever."

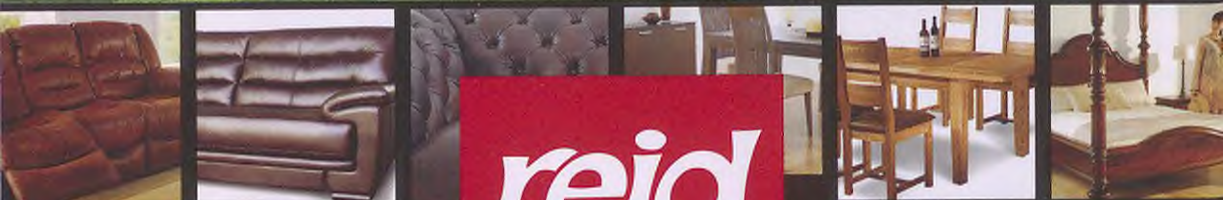


Billy Lamont (left)

Watch out for Andy's sensational biography coming shortly.

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Hamilton Academical FC Squad

1	Tomas Cerny (GK)	○	○
2	Chris Casement	○	○
3	Brian Easton	○	○
4	James McCarthy	○	○
5	David Elebert	○	○
6	Mark McLaughlin	○	○
7	David Graham	○	○
8	James McArthur	○	○
9	Richard Offiong	○	○
10	Alex Neil	○	○
11	Mark Corcoran	○	○
12	Joel Thomas	○	○
13	Lucas Akins	○	○
14	Tony Stevenson	○	○
15	Chris Swailes	○	○
16	James Gibson	○	○
17	Sebastian Sorsa	○	○
18	Derek Lyle	○	○
19	Sean Murdoch (GK)	○	○
20	Martin Canning	○	○
21	Stuart Taylor	○	○
22	Trent McClenahan	○	○
24	Michael Videira	○	○
25	Stephen Ettien	○	○
26	Brian Carrigan	○	○
27	Simon Mensing	○	○
28	Grant Gillespie	○	○
29	Stephen Hall (GK)	○	○
30	Jordan Kirkpatrick	○	○
31	Gary Gow	○	○
32	Grant Evans	○	○

Referee: Steven Conroy
 Assistants: Graham Chambers & Chris Young
 Fourth Official: Chris Boyle



Celtic FC Squad

1	Artur Boruc	○	○
2	Andreas Hinkel	○	○
3	Lee Naylor	○	○
4	Stephen McManus	○	○
5	Gary Caldwell	○	○
6	Bobo Balde	○	○
7	Scott McDonald	○	○
8	Scott Brown	○	○
9	Georgios Samaras	○	○
10	Jan Ven of Hesselink	○	○
11	Paul Hartley	○	○
12	Mark Wilson	○	○
13	Shaun Maloney	○	○
17	Marc Crosas	○	○
18	Massimo Donati	○	○
19	Barry Robson	○	○
20	Paddy McCourt	○	○
21	Mark Brown	○	○
22	Glen Loovensl	○	○
23	Ben Hutchinson	○	○
24	Jean-Joel Doumbe	○	○
25	Shunsuke Nakamura	○	○
26	Cillian Sheridan	○	○
29	Koki Mizuno	○	○
33	Chris Killen	○	○
41	John Kennedy	○	○
42	Michael McGlinchey	○	○
46	Aiden McGeady	○	○
48	Darren O'Dea	○	○
49	Scott Cuthbert	○	○

Next Away Match:
 v Dundee United Sat 22 Nov 3.00 pm

Next Home Match:
 v Kilmarnock Sat 29 Nov 3.00 pm