

Season's 2014/15 Start



INSIDE
Match Reports
Player Interview
The Opposition



Ross County v Celtic
SPFL SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP
Saturday 24th January 2015 | Kick Off 12.45pm

Celebrating excellence on the field and offshore.

CRC-EVANS PROVIDES THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY,
INNOVATIVE EQUIPMENT, AND DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE
TO BUILD TODAY'S MOST STATE-OF-THE-ART OFFSHORE
PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT.



OFFSHORE

Alness, Ross-shire +44 1349 887 200
Aberdeen +44 1224 766 660

CROffshore.com

PROUD SPONSOR
OF THE SPFL
ROSS COUNTY STAGS
FOOTBALL CLUB





Action Replay **8-11**



Opposition **35-37**

Club **officials**

Chairman: Roy J. MacGregor OBE
 Vice President: Gordon MacRae
 Vice Chairman: Mike Kydd

Directors:
 Alastair Kennedy, John MacGregor,
 Ronnie Fraser, Gavin Ryder,
 Leo Daly, James MacDonald,
 Duncan MacKenzie

Manager - Jim McIntyre
 Assistant Manager - Billy Dodds
 Sports Scientist - Ross Hughes
 Club Physiotherapist - Crawford Quinn
 Video Analysis - Fraser Gorman
 Goalkeeping Coach - Scott Thomson
 Development Squad Coach - Stuart Kettlewell
 Head of Youth and Community - Steven Ferguson
 Club Doctor - Mike Hunter MBE
 Club Ambassador - Donnie MacBean
 Kit Controller - Susan Wilson

What's **inside...**

5	Manager	22-23	Player Interview
7	Chairman	24-25	Player Poster
8-9	Action Replay	27	Commercial
10-11	Club Connection	33	Match Stats
12-13	Staggie Archive	35-37	The Opposition
15	60 Seconds with...	42 - 43	Stats
18-19	Scrapbook	47	Today's Squads
21	In The Frame		

Club **honours**

First Division Championship: 2011/12
Scottish Cup: Runners Up 2009/10
Challenge Cup: 2006/07, 2010/11
Second Division Championship: 2007/08
Third Division Championship: 1998/99
Highland League Championship: 1966/67,
 1990/91, 1991/92
Highland League Cup: 1949/50, 1968/69,
 1978/79, 1991/92
North of Scotland Cup: 1929/30, 1969/70,
 1971/72, 1991/92, 2006/07
Scottish Qualifying Cup: 1973/74, 1993/94
Inverness Cup: 1930/31, 1959/60, 1964/65,
 1966/67, 1978/79, 1979/80, 1991/92,
 1992/93, 2000/01, 2002/03, 2003/04

Matchday **programme**

Editor: Ian Davidson
 Programme Contributor: Andrew Ross,
 Alasdair MacNeill
 Photography: Ken McPherson, Roy Bremner
 Designer: Darren Macleod
 Advertising sales: Robbie Siegel
 Telephone: 01463 732223

Supported by

SAFETY WELDING & LIFTING
 Site 4, Inverbreckie Ind Est,
 Invergordon, IV18 0QR
 Tel: 01349 852187



printed by J. Thomson
 Colour Printers

published by Scottish
 Provincial
 Press Ltd

Match Sponsor
 Sureclean

Man of the Match
 SWL

Match Ball
 RJ McLeod

Programme Sponsor
 Mitsui & Co (Europe) Plc

GET READY FOR
**XTRA
TIME**



**OFFICIAL COLA
OF THE SPFL**



@barr_flavours



@barr_flavours



Jim McIntyre

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the Global Energy Stadium for today's Scottish Premiership fixture against Celtic Football Club. On the back of last week's result we will be looking for a good reaction and a big performance today against our visitors.

I just want to say that last weekend's result against St Mirren was not good enough and I take full responsibility as the Manager. We all know as a group that we were not good enough and we will work hard and move forward together.

It was disappointing that we gifted St Mirren the first goal last weekend, which is a thing that we have been culpable of too often this season. It was quite an even game until we conceded but after that we could have gone in at the break two or three goals down so the first half performance was totally unacceptable.

We've been guilty at some points this season of not making teams earn the goals they score against us and it was the same last Saturday. So we need to start making better decisions and improve our consistency levels because as long as we concede like that we are making life difficult for ourselves.

We knew as soon as St Mirren had a player sent off last week that it wouldn't be easy to play against ten men because – as we showed ourselves at Dundee – it can be difficult to break ten men down. But when you have such a big game and you have the extra man it is unacceptable what happened.

In the second half on Saturday we had a lot more possession but we did not work the ball to the wide areas quick enough to use the extra man to create 2-v-1s. We made it too easy for St Mirren. But, saying that, there were golden opportunities in the second period when we had the chance to get our noses in front.

We had a great chance to equalise nine minutes into the second half and if that went in it would have been a different game and St Mirren would have been really up against it for

To lose the game late on after equalising was a real blow and as a squad we have to bounce back now and not dwell on last Saturday and show a reaction because starting today we have three tough games against teams in the top half of the table coming up.

the rest of the match with the possession we had. Later in the half – after we'd equalised – the St Mirren keeper made an unbelievable save to prevent us going 2-1 up but, by the same token, we know that as the team with the extra man we should have been working their goal more than we did and I don't think we deserved to win the match.

To lose the game so late on after equalising was a real blow and as a squad we have to bounce back now and not dwell on last Saturday and show a reaction because starting today we have three tough games against teams in the top half of the table coming up.

We have to keep working hard and all pull together now because we know we let everyone down last Saturday. We will all be striving to improve and pull in the one direction and make sure we are resolute and put in big performances – as we have shown we can at Dundee and Celtic – every week in order to start picking up the points we need.

Jim



Ross County Football Club have a strict behavioural policy. Racial or sectarian abuse will not be tolerated at any time. Repeated use of foul or abusive language will be regarded as verbal assault and offenders will be ejected from the Stadium. Ross County Football Club would like to thank fans of both teams for their co-operation in this regard.





Travis Perkins

Everything you need and more



To find your nearest branch please visit www.travisperkins.co.uk or text "Travis" and the town you are in (e.g. Travis Derby) to 81222*

*You will be charged at your standard network rate. You will not be charged for receiving texts from Travis Perkins.

Your local **Timber & Builders Merchant**



Roy MacGregor

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the Global Energy Stadium this afternoon for our Scottish Premiership fixture with Celtic Football Club. After sharing the points at Celtic Park in late December – and taking into account the clubs' shared recent history in the league and cup – I am sure that a good game will be in prospect today.

Like the Manager, the players and you – the supporters – I'm sure we would all have preferred to approach this fixture on the back of a home win last weekend. But, as our good away form this season has shown, when you are in our position often things do not follow a script and you don't always take points from the games you think you will.

Jim was the first person to admit that last week's performance was not good enough and to acknowledge how disappointed everyone associated with the Club must have felt last Saturday evening. I'm sure we all appreciate the Manager's honesty and I know that despite last week's disappointment he and his squad remain very positive and will be doing everything in their powers to improve and bounce back like they have shown they can this season.

“ We all know that it will be a tough game today but putting in a performance we can be proud of – and hopefully some points on the board at home too – would be a fantastic response from the team and I hope we can all pull together and get behind the boys and give them our full support.

We all know that it will be a tough game today but putting in a performance we can be proud of – and hopefully some points on the board at home too – would be a fantastic response and I hope we can all

pull together and get behind the boys and give them our full support.

When you pay for your ticket and come through the turnstiles you may not always get an immaculate footballing display but you can hope for a passionate and committed performance. I am confident that is exactly what we will see today from a squad of players who have proven they can go toe-to-toe with the best teams in the league and triumph over adversity like they did at Dens Park recently.

It is experiences like that the squad can draw upon today and it is important for everyone to remember that things are still very tight at the foot of the table and there are still 51 points to play for in this season's Scottish Premiership. I am sure there will be many twists and turns along the way and it will be an interesting second half to the season.

Today will be our last home game until Motherwell visit Dingwall on February 14th for what looks like another big game. Before that we visit Inverness Caledonian Thistle and Aberdeen so hopefully as many of you as possible will travel across the Kessock Bridge and along the A96 to get behind the team.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to welcome players, officials and fans of Celtic Football Club to the Global Energy Stadium today. Our visitors always take an impressive traveling support with them, which really plays its part in adding to the atmosphere at the game, so your effort in making the trip up the A9 today is appreciated.

Enjoy the game!

Roy



Ross County 1 St Mirren 2

GLOBAL ENERGY STADIUM

17/01/15



ACTION REPLAY

Ross County went into the match with St Mirren in the knowledge that a victory would give them some distance between themselves and the Paisley side, in the battle to move of the bottom of the Premiership table. However, following a disappointing ninety minutes, and against ten men, the Staggies went down to a late winner from the visitors.

Sean Kelly fired the Buddies in front after just fifteen minutes, before latest signing Yoann Arquin was sent off, eight minutes from the interval, following a challenge on full back Lewis Toshney.

The visitors came close to increasing their advantage, when a strike from Kenny McLean beat Antonio Reguero, but came crashing back of the face of the crossbar.

Midway through the second period the home side should have levelled. New boy Craig Curran found space and time, but with only Mark Ridgers to beat – the striker failed to find the net.

Eight minutes from time Liam Boyce levelled to give the home fans something to shout about with a deft header, before Stephen Mallan netted a late late winner for St Mirren to lift them off the foot of the table.



"I'm really disappointed. We gave away terrible goals today, shocking on our part," he told BBC Scotland. "There seems to be a real fear factor in playing at Dingwall just now and we need to overcome that if we're going to get ourselves out of the situation we are in. We need to show better character than we did today.

Jim McINTYRE

ROSS COUNTY

Antonio REGUERO
Richard BRITTAIN
Lewis TOSHNEY (Liam BOYCE 46)
Steven SAUNDERS
Paul QUINN
Jamie RECKORD
Graham CAREY
Jackson IRVINE
Martin WOODS
Craig CURRAN (Jake JERVIS 76)
Joe CARDLE (Darren MAATSEN 58)

SUBSTITUTES NOT USED

Mark BROWN (gk)
Scott BOYD
Cameron BURGESS
Steven ROSS

GOALSCORER

Liam BOYCE (82)

ST MIRREN

Mark RIDGERS
Marc McAUSLAND
Jim GOODWIN
Jeroen TESSELAAR
Sean KELLY
John McGINN
Jason NAISMITH
Isaac OSBOURNE
Stephen MALLAN
Kenny McLEAN
Yoann ARQUIN

SUBSTITUTES NOT USED

Marian KELLO (gk)
Callum BALL
Lewis McLEAR
Thomas REILLY
Lewis MORGAN
Jack BAIRD
Greg WYLDE

RED CARD

Yoann ARQUIN (37)

GOALSCORERS

Sean KELLY
Stephen MALLAN

REFEREE: Brian COLVIN

ATTENDANCE: 3,005

Club Connections

A former Celtic & Ross County player, Michael McGovern has been one of the top goalkeepers in Scotland for a number of years. The keeper began his senior career with Celtic, where he spent seven years, including loan spells at both Stranraer and St Johnstone. In June 2008 the player agreed a pre-contract with Dundee United, before subsequently joining Ross County in 2009. In his two years with the Staggies, the keeper helped the club win the League Challenge Cup, First Division title, and secure a place in history by reaching the Scottish Cup Final. His career has since seen the Enniskillen born keeper move to Falkirk, where he made over 100 appearances for the Brockville side. McGovern secured a second League Challenge Cup Winners Medal, after defeating Hamilton in the final. The custodian moved to Hamilton Academical during the close season.

A number of players have turned out for both Celtic and Ross County over the last two decades. Mark Brown, Michael Gardyne, Paul Lawson, John Hewitt, Mark Fotheringham, Graham Carey, Jackson Irvine, Jason Marr, Rocco Quinn and Lewis Toshney have all seen experience with the respective clubs.

