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**Homecoming Scottish Cup Quarter Final**  
**St Mirren v Celtic**  
**Saturday 7th March 2009**  
**Kick off 12.15pm**  
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# Gus MacPherson



Today we take part in one of the oldest football tournaments on the planet - the Scottish Cup. It is a tournament that is steeped in history with St Mirren more than making their mark in it over the last 120 years or so.

The Scottish Cup captures the imagination of players, managers and fans alike and is one of the most anticipated events on the Scottish football calendar. Today we host Celtic in the quarter-finals but before we get around to mulling that prospect over let me bring you up to date with recent events first.

After our 7-0 defeat last Saturday at the hands of today's opponents, we were more than pleased that we only had to wait three days before having a chance to get that game out of our system. And while our SPL match against Aberdeen on Tuesday evening certainly did that it also threw up a reversal of fortunes from our recent game away to Hearts.

It was very disappointing to take a late lead then end up dropping two points by losing an equaliser three minutes into injury-time but the reaction we got from the players over the 90 minutes and added time was what we expected after the manner of the defeat at Celtic Park last week. Our side never lost their confidence, sure their pride was dented but that was restored on Tuesday night.

One achievement of note from our game against Celtic last week was Hugh Murray striking up his 350th

starting appearances for the Club. Hugh, quite rightly, receives a lot of plaudits for the way he plays the game, he is a fantastic example and inspiration to any player. He has come through the ranks here at St Mirren and through his dedication and hard work he has shown just what can be achieved.

For me our experience thus far in this season's Scottish Cup is what the tournament is all about. In the 4th Round we got the traditional banana skin away tie against the lower League side in the shape of Brechin City and we also harked back to the old days of terrible winters when the original tie was called off. The tie was re-arranged for a bitterly cold Tuesday night when everybody in the media thought it was a foregone conclusion, which it wasn't.

At the end up we did progress to the next round and were drawn against fellow SPL side Motherwell, once again in an away tie. A lot was said about the Fir Park pitch and the game itself which turned out, as expected, to be a very tight tie between two evenly matched teams, so much so that a replay was required to be played here at St Mirren Park.

The replay was another tight game



Gordon Strachan

but to get that goal with five minutes of the game left is what cup football is all about. Emotions were high and we had booked our passage to the quarter-finals where we find ourselves today facing Celtic.

I think this year we have experienced the tradition of the Scottish Cup and the excitement of progressing as far as we have. This is the fourth time in five seasons that we have got to the quarter-final stage, and with the greatest respect to our previous opponents, today's game is undoubtedly the biggest challenge.

We have let ourselves down in some of the prior quarter-final ties and these are the ones that people will centre in on, which I suppose is only natural, but in my time here I think we have had some great experiences and results in this tournament. I hope today proves to be another one.

Today we welcome Gordon Strachan and his Celtic squad to St Mirren Park. Gordon has done a fantastic job in his four years at Celtic and when you consider the financial climate it is a testament to him that he can still bring in the right players to continue bringing success to his club.

I know last week's result has upset our fans and there is no doubt that we let them and the Club down. But that is now consigned to history and it will have no bearing on today's game as we are assured, we are coming into today's cup tie in a positive frame of mind.

Sure, we all know that this will be a tough tie today but so do Celtic. This isn't last week, this is a different game and we are at home - make no mistake about it, we want to show this afternoon what we are capable of and hopefully in doing that we can achieve what is needed to progress in the tournament.

Enjoy the game.

## Gus MacPherson

St Mirren Team Manager

## Club Directory

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## ST MIRREN MATCH MAGAZINE

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# On This Day

by Jim Hamilton

**Saints and Celtic have met in Scottish Cup matches on numerous occasions over the years with Celtic coming out on top on most occasions. I have however today managed to find 3 matches which they did not triumph in. The first one was the final of 1926 which I hasten to add I do not have personal recollection of, it was just a little bit before my time, however it is well documented in Saint's history and the following eleven lined up at Hampden Park for the Buddies: Bradford, Findlay and Newbiggin, Morrison, Summers, McDonald, Morgan, Gebbie, McCrae, Howieson and Thomson in front of a crowd of 98,620, which was a record for Hampden Park at the time.**

Most of the Paisley fans made their way to the ground by special train from Paisley but several of the trains were snarled up on the Cathcart Circle on their way and a large number of the fans did not see the kick-off. When they did reach the ground the good news was that Saints were 1-0 up when Davie McCrae headed home from a corner kick in the first minute. Celtic could just not get back into the game and number 2 came for St Mirren after 25 minutes when Howieson hit the ball home first time after McCrae, Thomson and Morgan were involved in the build-up. There were no further goals in the game but Saints were never in danger of losing their early lead and the Cup came to Paisley for the first time.

Thirty-three years later on Saturday 4th April 1959 the two Clubs met again at Hampden Park, this time in the semi-final of the Cup in front of a crowd of 73,858. The match finished St Mirren 4 Celtic 0 and the line-ups were as follows:

St Mirren: Walker, Lapsley and Wilson, Neilson, McGugan and

Leishman, Rodger, Bryceland, Baker, Gemmell and Miller.

Celtic: Haffey, McKay and Mochan, Smith, Evans and Peacock, McVitie, Jackson, Lochhead, Wilson and Divers.

Hampden Park had never seen a day like this and in my opinion has never seen another like it since. The Press ran out of adjectives to describe the absolute brilliance of this Saints' show. Every single player was absolutely superb, never have I seen all members of a team perform to such a high standard in the same game. Celtic were red hot favourites to reach the final but Saints just blew them away with this magnificent display. The build-up to the game had started weeks earlier and had reached a crescendo during the week leading up to the game. Five special trains and over 100 buses took Paisley people to Hampden, many of whom had never seen a game of football in their lives before. Rosette sellers converged on the town early in the week and sales were brisk with most of the locals sporting the black and white colours. On the Wednesday prior to the game, to give his front 5 some shooting practice, manager Willie Reid selected a strong team to play India of Inchinnan in the Renfrewshire Cup Semi-Final with all 5 of his star forwards playing against the Tyre workers and contrary to recent publications and memoirs the final score was St Mirren 10 India of Inchinnan 0. Six goals from Gerry Baker, 2 from Tommy Bryceland and 2 from Alistair Miller completed the rout. The goal feast had whetted the appetite of Saints fans who just couldn't wait for Saturday's trip to Hampden. The Saints kicked off playing against a stiff breeze but it did not prevent them from slicing open the Celtic defence with ease

Gerry Baker



and in 15 minutes they went ahead with a beautiful goal from Alistair Miller who started the move with a pass to Rodger on the wing and moved inside to take the return and smash an unsaveable shot into the far corner of the net. The same player scored number 2 in 32 minutes, this time taking a pass from Tommy Gemmell to round Haffey and roll the ball ever so slowly over the line, so slowly that Saints fans held their breaths thinking that it was not going to make it. Baker whose speed was causing Celtic's veteran centre half Bobby Evans all sorts of problems got number 3 in 38 minutes when he ran past Evans to pick up Jackie Neilson's pass and stroke the ball past Haffey. Half time arrived with Saints 3 up, who could have dreamed of such a scenario? The second half never reached the heights of the first 45 minutes as Saints comfortably held on to their lead and finally added a 4th in the 89th minute when Tommy Bryceland booted the ball home from close in after it had rebounded from Frank Haffey's body. This brought the proceedings to a close and signalled the start of the celebrations as the town went absolutely mad. You would have thought Saints had already won the Cup. The confidence of players and fans was so high that few doubted that the trophy was on its

way to Paisley again after 33 years. That day was my finest and dearest memory as a Saints fan. Local dance halls were packed with the bands having to repeatedly play "When the Saints go Marching in" and the events of the evening were verging on hysteria. Every available bus company in Renfrewshire and Ayrshire had hired out every bus they had for the 25th April. At this stage Saints did not know who their final opponents would be as Third Lanark and Aberdeen had played out a draw at Ibrox. The replay saw Aberdeen go through to the final and the scene was set for 25th April, 1959, Paisley couldn't wait.

Three years later on Saturday 31st March 1962 the two met again in the semi-final, this time at Ibrox Stadium in front of a crowd of 59,278 and the line-ups were as follows:

St Mirren: Williamson, Campbell and Wilson, Stewart, Clunie and McLean, Henderson, Bryceland, Kerrigan, Fernie and Beck.

Celtic: Haffey, McKay and Kennedy, Crerand, McNeill and Clark, Brogan, Chalmers, Hughes, Divers and Byrne.

Saints had 2 survivors from the 1959 semi, John Cockles Wilson and Tommy Bryceland and Celtic had 3 survivors from the same game, Haffey, McKay and Divers. This match, which finished St Mirren 3 Celtic 1, was an even bigger shock to the Parkhead team who only 5 days earlier had played a league game at Love Street and won by 5 goals to nil. After the mauling Saints had taken at St Mirren Park no-one thought they had a chance in the semi-final of the Cup

but with several changes in their team and the return of their talisman Tommy Bryceland after a long absence with a broken leg, inspired the Saints to a new level. Saints went ahead in 8 minutes when ex Celt Willie Fernie prodded home from close range. Goals number 2 and 3 came in the 32nd and 33rd minute when Kerrigan and Beck scored to take it to 3 goals to nil at half time for the Buddies. Talk about déjà vu. There was no 4th goal this time but there was a massive pitch invasion in 75 minutes and with bottles flying through the air thousands spilled on to the park. The players were taken from the pitch by the referee but order was soon restored and the players returned to complete the game. Celtic never looked like saving the match and their consolation goal, which was scored by Byrne 3 minutes from the end, was too little too late. Saints were in the final once again but there was to be no happy ending this time as 3 weeks later they lost by 2 goals to 0 to Rangers.



Tommy Bryceland

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Christopher

## Today's Mascot

The Saints will be lead out today by seven year old Christopher Gilmartin from Dumbarton, he attends local primary school St Patricks.

In his spare time Christopher is keen on sport and loves playing football and going swimming as well as cheering on the Saints.

Christopher has two favourite players Andy Dorman and Craig Dargo.

## Limited Edition Painting

The club commissioned a special aerial oil painting to commemorate 115 years at Love Street by local artist Eric Johnstone. There were a limited edition fifty prints of the painting produced and signed by the artist and Chairman Stewart Gilmour and are all individually numbered.

The framed print is now on sale from the commercial department priced £100, to purchase this collectable.



Contact Commercial Manager, Campbell Kennedy on 0141 840 1337 or email [commercial@saintmirren.net](mailto:commercial@saintmirren.net)

The Personalised Scotch Whisky Co. who supply all the clubs wines produced a special 17 year old Malt Whisky "End of an Era". The personalised bottle is presented in a mahogany box with the club crest embossed onto the wood in gold along with

Love Street "End of an Era" January 2009.

There were 100 bottles and special boxes produced with the first bottle being presented to Jimmy McIntosh at our recent dinner. The bottles priced £69.99 are available from the commercial department or can be purchased on-line @ [www.personalised-whisky.com](http://www.personalised-whisky.com).



George James Needham, match mascot at the Falkirk game on the 14th February

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