

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME

15p

Vol. 1 — No. 12



AYR UNITED

V

CELTIC



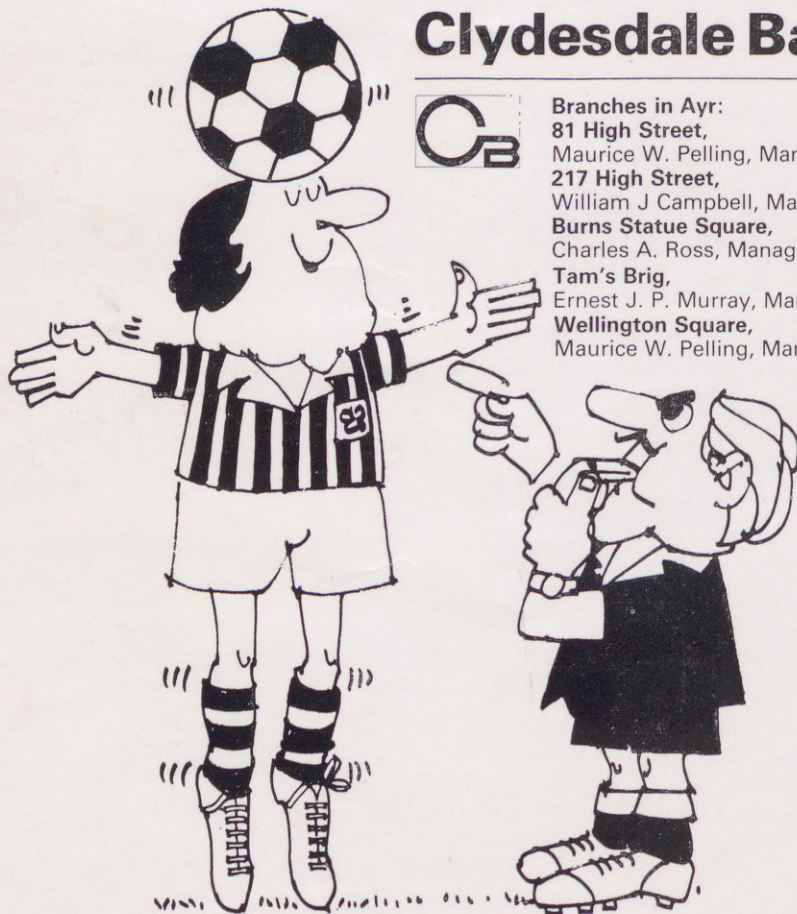
Saturday, 31st December, 1977

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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2nd XI Coach: JIM McFADZEAN

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Club Doctor: Dr. R. PATERSON

Groundsman: ALEX. MURDOCH

Programme Editor—DOUGLAS M. SYMINGTON

As I see it



I am very disappointed with the result at Firhill when the team had a terrible day with, in my opinion, only 3 players gaining pass marks. The defence, in particular last Saturday, had players who have been so reliable in the past, but could do nothing right. However, it is my belief that a manager should never look back and we now must look forward to the New Year programme and a very exciting game today against Celtic.

We had a great result in our first game against Celtic at Somerset Park and even at Parkhead, we were 2-1 ahead with 10 minutes to go, only to loose narrowly that day.

The players always manage to raise their game against the Old Firm and if they can do the same today I can see no reason to fear Celtic.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all supporters a Happy New Year.

ALEX STUART (Manager).

Meet the Honest Men

Name—DANNY MASTERTON

Birthplace—Kilwinning, on 5th September, 1954.

Married—Yes, to Christine.

Children—None.

Previous clubs—Kello Rovers, Douglas Amateurs, Muirkirk Juniors.

Favourite players—Ray Kennedy, George Best, Danny McGrain.

Favourite team—Scotland.

Most memorable match—Playing in a Scottish Schoolboys trial and scoring seven goals in the game.

Biggest disappointment—Not being signed professional when I was younger. (Signed for Ayr when I was 20).

Biggest football thrill—Scoring in my debut for the first team against Kilmarnock.

Favourite food—Steak.

Favourite T.V. Shows—Morecambe and Wise and a good film.

Favourite actor—Lee Marvin and Peter Haskell.

Favourite actress—Shirley McLaine.

Favourite singer—Rod Stewart.

Pet likes—Finishing work on a Friday and going out with friends at the weekend.

Pet dislikes—Getting up for work on cold mornings and goalkeepers.

Which person would you most like to meet—Muhammed Ali.

Professional ambition—To win a medal with Ayr United.

Personal ambition—To have a family and lead a happy life.

Hobbies—Fishing, reading.

Car—Cortina 1600 GXL.

Favourite colour—Black.

Danny Masterton



Picture by Courtesy of Ayrshire Post

RESERVE NEWS

RESERVE GAME scheduled for Somerset Park on Monday 2nd January, has been postponed. The new date has not yet been arranged.

Supporters buses will be going to Love Street on Monday, leaving John Street at 1.00 p.m. Please book your seat at the Black and White shop today.

Ayrshire Football Pool

Lottery Number 17

3 Bingo Winners each receive £25

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Lottery Number 18

£100 Lucky Number—Mr. R. Lee, 7 Fernbrae, Ayr.

Lottery Number 19

£100 Lucky Number—T. McBride, 39 Outdale Avenue, Prestwick.



YOUR RACING CHECK



The following race results will be announced at half-time.

CATTERICK

2.45 — 1st..... 2nd..... 3rd.....
3.15 — 1st..... 2nd..... 3rd.....

NEWBURY

2.30 — 1st..... 2nd..... 3rd.....
3.00 — 1st..... 2nd..... 3rd.....

WORCHESTER

2.30 — 1st..... 2nd..... 3rd.....
3.00 — 1st..... 2nd..... 3rd.....
3.30 — 1st..... 2nd..... 3rd.....

Results by courtesy of Ross Bookmakers, Prestwick Toll.

PLAYER POOL STATISTICS

NAME	Premier League	Anglo/Scottish Cup	League Cup	Scottish Cup	Reserve League	Reserve League Cup	2nd XI Cup
CHRISTIE	8+2s		2+2s		5		1
CONNOR					16	2	2
CRAMOND	18	2	4				
FLEMING	17	2	3+1s				
HANNAH	7+4s	2	2		4+1s	1	1
HYSLOP	8				10+1s	1	1
KELLY	14	2	4		1		
McALLISTER	2+2s				14	2	2
McANESPIE	15	2	4		1		
McCALL	18	2	4				
McCULLOCH	8+3s	2	3+1s		2+1s		1
McCUTCHEON	3				11+2s	1+1s	2
McDONALD	3				4	1	1
McGIFFEN					12	2	2
McLAUGHLIN	7						
McLELLAND	1+2s				10+1s	2	1
McSHERRY	5+4s	2	3+1s		5	1	2
MASTERTON	15+1s	2	3		1	1	
MURPHY	3		1		9	2	1
PHILLIPS	1+3s	1s	1		8+1s	1	1
RODGERS					6+1s	1	1s
RODMAN	13	2	3		2		1
SIM					13+2s	1+1s	2
SPROAT	17	2	4				
TAIT	5				9	2	
WALKER					9+2s	1	1+1s
WELLS					5		
BROGAN	3		1		2		
CONNAGHAN					2		
FILIPPI	6+3s	1s	2		2		
GEOGHEGAN	1				2		

SCORERS: (Premier League)—8 McCall (7+1p); 3 Cramond, Masterton; 2 McLaughlin; 1 Christie, McCutcheon.

League Cup:—3 Cramond; 1 Masterton

Scottish Cup:—

Anglo/Scottish Cup: 2 McCall; 1 McCulloch

Reserve League:—8 McLelland; McAllister, McCutcheon, Trialist; 1 Connor, Masterton, Phillips, Sim

Reserve League Cup:—1 McCutcheon, Rodgers, McDonald (p)

2nd XI Cup:—2 Walker, McSherry; 1 Christie, McCutcheon



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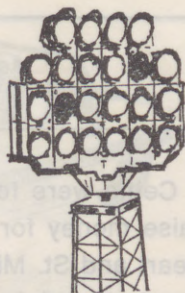
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Spotlight on Celtic



After a disastrous start to the season Celtic are right back in form and steadily climbing up the league. That poor start included a 2-1 defeat here at Somerset in August and the Celtic side this afternoon will be out for revenge.

The departure of Kenny Dalglish is now almost forgotten as the present side turn in good performances every week. The next Old Firm match should be a very interesting affair.

PETER LATCHFORD in goal continues to prove his outstanding ability and takes a lot of beating.

Full-backs include "our own" **JOE FILIPPI** and **ANDY LYNCH**. Joe always gives 100 per cent and everyone at Somerset was pleased to see him get his big chance after giving great service to Ayr for seven years. Andy was signed from Hearts as a winger but proved to be an excellent full-back.

Central defenders are **JOHANNES EDVALDSSON** and **RODDY McDONALD**, both big men who are extremely difficult to outjump, so that Walker McCall will have to be sharp up front.

There is a lot of experience in midfield with **ALFIE CONN**, ex-Spurs and Rangers, and **RONNIE GLAVIN**, ex-Partick, along with the fast progressing **ROY AITKEN**.

JOHN DOYLE has been in top form since the renewal of his partnership with Joe Filippi. **TOM McADAM** has now settled after his transfer from Dundee United and can be lethal when the opportunity arises. **JOE CRAIG** has regained the sharpness which made him so dangerous after his transfer from Partick Thistle.

PAUL WILSON and **JOHN DOWIE**, recent signing from Fulham, are two players ready to step in should they be needed.

PAST RESULTS

	Home	Away		Home	Away
1971 - 72	0 - 1	0 - 2	1976 - 77	0 - 2	0 - 3
1972 - 73	1 - 3	0 - 1		2 - 4	0 - 2
1973 - 74	0 - 1	0 - 4	1977 - 78	2 - 1	2 - 3
1974 - 75	1 - 5	3 - 5			
1975 - 76	2 - 7	3 - 5			
	2 - 1	1 - 3			

CELTIC F.C.

Celtic were formed in 1888 by a religious teaching order principally to raise money for the needy children in the missions of St. Mary's Sacred Heart and St. Michael's in the east end of the city. The club has remained true to its original commitment and, indeed, is one of the most generous in football. On the playing side success came quickly, in 1889 they were runners up in the Scottish Cup and in 1892 they beat Queens Park 5 - 1 to take the cup for the first time.

Founder members of the league they were third in the first season, second next season and third time lucky, they were champions in 1893.

Celtic created their long standing record of six league championship victories between 1905 - 1910. A feat which it was assumed would stand for all time—the game had become too competitive for 'freaks' of this kind. Someone forgot to tell Jock Stein and the rest is now history. Their 'nine-in-a-row' sequence from 1966 to 1974, equaling the world record, will stand for all time—or will it?

The club's greatest moment was in the 1967 European Cup Final in Lisbon when the mighty Inter Milan fell to the 'Lisbon Lions'! It is one of the most memorable matches in football history and everything good in football was displayed by the Celtic team that night.

Jock Stein is rebuilding at present and the signs are that things are starting to happen at Celtic Park.

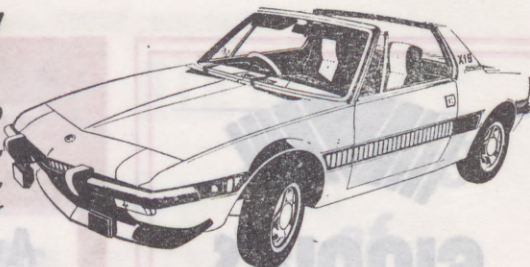
How good will the next Celtic team be?

CELTIC LEAGUE RECORD

Season	Division	Pos'n.	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1971 - 72	First	1	28	2	4	96	28	60
1972 - 73	First	1	26	3	5	93	28	57
1973 - 74	First	1	23	4	7	82	27	53
1974 - 75	First	3	20	9	5	81	41	45
1975 - 76	Premier	2	21	9	6	71	42	48
1976 - 77	Premier	1	23	9	4	79	39	55

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TODAY'S TEAMS

Ayr United

HUGH SPROAT	1
DANNY McDONALD	2
JOHN MURPHY	3
RIKKI FLEMING	4
JOHN HYSLOP	5
ALEX McANESPIE	6
IAN McALLISTER	7
WALKER McCALL	8
DEREK McCUTCHEON	9
BRIAN McLAUGHLIN	10
GORDON CRAMOND	11
Subs:	
	12
	14

Referee:
G. B. Smith
(Edinburgh)

Linesmen:
D. Miller
(Garrowhill)
H. McGunnigle
(Barrhead)

Celtic

1 PETER LATCHFORD	
2 JOE FILIPPI	
3 ANDY LYNCH	
4 ROY AITKEN	
5 RODDY McDONALD	
6 JOHN DOWIE	
7 JOHN DOYLE	
8 J. EDVALDSSON	
9 TOM McADAM	
10 JOE CRAIG	
11 ALFIE CONN	
Subs:	
	12
	14

Today's Match Ball was Donated by JIM BEAM'S of High Street, Ayr

SCORE CHECK

A Clydebank v Aberdeen	.....	G Dumbarton v Q. O. S.	.....
B Dundee United v St. Mirren	.....	H Morton v Montrose	.....
C Motherwell v Partick Thistle	.....	J St. Johnstone v Alloa	.....
D Rangers v Hibernian	.....	K Stirling Albion v Dundee	.....
E Airdrie v East Fife	L Clyde v Albion Rovers
F Arbroath v Hamilton	M Brechin C. v Cowdenbeath

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2. Name Carlisle United's Manager?

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The Winner of our last two Stand Tickets was:—

CHERYL MEREDITH, 39 HAYHILL, AYR.

The correct answers were:—1. Gordon Cramond, Gerry Christie.
2. St. Johnstone.

QUICK QUIZ

1. Who scored Celtic's goals in the 1965 Scottish Cup Final against Dunfermline?
2. Name the clubs that Stanley Matthews played for?
3. Which club play at St. Andrew's?
4. Name the only two clubs to win the English First Division 3 years running?
5. When did Bolton Wanderers last win the F.A. Cup?
6. Which player scored Inter Milan's goal in the 1967 European Cup Final?
7. What is the minimum height for a corner flag?
8. Name Sheffield United's ground?
9. Name the only founder member of the Football League to go out of the game?
10. Name the 3 First Division clubs to suffer under the new promotion/relegation set up in England in 1976?

(Answers on page 21)

IAN ARCHER

Scottish Daily Express



It is the time of the year when every sports fan munches on a mince pie, sips at a crafty dram, looks back over the year and remembers.

The nostalgia season was officially declared open when the BBC handed out their annual award to the Sports Personality of the Year and Virginia Wade trotted up to collect the trophy. This was not easy to see at the time on our own TV set.

I had been angered by the small amount of time given to showing the Scottish football highlights (which consisted mainly of fans dancing across the Wembley pitch) and the statement that it was Liverpool's European Cup win which gave British football its "night of the year."

In no way would I begrudge Liverpool their moment for winning the hardest football competition of all but that remark led to me aiming my supper at the set and the rest of the programme was watched somewhat messily.

In any case Lester Piggott should have won that trophy because he has been the supreme British sportsman not of the year but of the last two decades. Familiarity, I suppose, has bred indifference.

My own year stretches over 12 months and some 50,000 miles, taking in Chile, Argentina and Brazil, East Germany, Austria and Luxemburg. But in the end it all boils down to one incredibly noisy, insufferably tense evening at Anfield Stadium Liverpool.

I watched Miss Wade win that Wimbledon Final, I watched Tom Watson play with nerves of steel to ease out Jack Nicklaus in Turnberry's sunshine Open but still it all comes back to the night of Wednesday October 12.

How those minutes ticked away with still a goal to come. How we shut our eyes when Don Masson came up to take the penalty. How we all relaxed when Kenny Dalglish scored the second. How we celebrated back in the team's hotel until the early hours.

How, the next day, the office phone never stopped ringing as from all ends of Scotland people rang up to ask the one important question—"What's the cheapest way to Argentina."

In many ways this has been a gloomy year for Scottish football, still unable to solve all its problems at home, still slipping further and further behind the standards set by the leading European nations. But all was made bearable on that Anfield night. By the time our own Scottish TV programmes have finished over the festive season, you will have been able to watch those goals at least another dozen times.

And, if you are like me, you'll never get tired of doing so. I have suggested to STV that instead of interludes, they should just put out those film snatches night after night. They have given me a funny look in reply.

My New Year's resolution for 1978 is that I at last learn the words to the supporters anthem "O Flower of Scotland." I want to be singing when we pick up that World Cup.

What The Papers Said . . .

Ayr Advertiser

AYR UNITED 0 — HIBERNIAN 1

Ayr United—Sproat; McDonald, Kelly; Fleming, Hyslop, McAnespie; McLaughlin, (Hannah s 69), McCall, Masterton, Cramond, Christie (Rodgers s 69).

. Any post mortem on this latest Ayr failure might prove to be inconclusive, or at least useless.

It was difficult to pinpoint any one shortcoming—mind you, missing chances would be high on the list—for a variety of small deficiencies contributed to what went wrong on Saturday.

Little things like an uncharacteristic indiscretion by Hugh Sproat, spasmodic lapses in understanding at the back, Brian McLaughlin's inability to get things moving in midfield and the new forwards' lack of finishing touches all added up to a very disappointing performance.

Sunday Mail

. Ayr can blame no one but themselves as Hibs leapfrogged over them in the relegation area of the league.

There was a lack of urgency in Ayr's play that was amazing considering their dangerous league position, but what really beat them was the number of chances they threw away.

Little Gordon Cramond, despite being one of United's top men, will have nightmares about two great opportunities he missed.

TOMMY MACK.

Sunday Express

CLYDEBANK 0 — AYR UNITED 2 (McCutcheon, McCall)

Ayr United:—Sproat; McDonald, Murphy; McAllister, Hyslop, McAnespie; Hannah, McCall, McCutcheon, McLaughlin, Cramond. subs. (not used) Christie, McSherry.

. This was the one Clydebank had to win—but they simply were not good enough. Now their hopes of escaping relegation must be dim—certainly dimmer than the brilliant floodlights switched on for the first time for a league game. One smashing goal by Walker McCall and another simple one by young Derek McCutcheon were too much for Clydebank.

Hugh Sproat had several useful saves and John Hyslop was the strong man in the middle of the park.

JAMES BUCHAN.

Sunday Post

. Get out your handkerchiefs and weep for the Bankies. Cuffed by injury-hit Ayr United their survival hopes must now be slimmer than Twiggy.

Mind you, maybe Ayr's injury plague was a blessing in disguise. For one thing it meant a return to first-team duty for old war-horse John Murphy—as skipper no less!

A staunch cog John was in a solid Ayr side.

Sunday Post

PARTICK THISTLE 4 — AYR UNITED 1 (McLaughlin)

Ayr United—Sproat; McDonald, Murphy; Fleming, McAnespie, McAllister (Hannah); Hyslop, McCall, McCutcheon, McLaughlin, Cramond (Christie).

. In the end a simple enough win for Thistle with Whittaker, Gibson and Marr giving man of the match O'Hara some splendid support.

Ayr tried hard enough, but with the exception of veteran John Murphy and ex-Celt Brian McLaughlin, they seemed to me to lack a bit of class.

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Five Years Ago This Week

30th DECEMBER, 1972

AYR UNITED 3 — AIRDRIE 2

Our early pressure was rewarded when Johnny Graham scored in nine minutes after McKenzie had failed to hold a shot from George McLean. Airdrie forced a series of corners and from one of them Fraser headed home after 16 minutes. Despite a lot of pressure and being denied what looked an obvious penalty there was no further scoring in the first half.

We started the second half by bombarding the visitor's goal but were denied by McKenzie. To make matters worse Airdrie took the lead, through Whiteford on the hour.

After 72 minutes Fleming headed home a Doyle cross to level matters and in a late burst George McLean waltzed through to score the winner with 5 minutes left.

Ayr United—Stewart; Wells, Murphy; Fleming, McAnespie, Ingram; Doyle, Graham, Lennon, Flynn, McLean.

Crowd—4,000.

By virtue of this win, and East Fife's home defeat by Rangers, we moved into eighth position. Goals from Derek Johnstone (2), Young and Parlane before the interval gave the Light Blues an unassailable lead but they were unable to add to their total in the second half.

Celtic and Hibs shared the honours in a great game watched by a 45,000 crowd. Gordon gave Hibs an interval lead but Kenny Dalglish evened the score with 12 minutes left. Celtic stayed top with a four point lead over Hibs.

Partick were held at Firhill by St. Johnstone. Johnny Gibson gave Thistle the lead in the first half but Jim Pearson (now with Everton) equalised in the 63rd minute.

Aberdeen beat Morton 3-0 at Pittodrie in a game that belonged to Zoltan Varga. He stamped his mastery all over the match in addition to scoring two goals in sixty seconds.

Hearts led Dundee at the interval through a Tommy Murray goal. Goals from George Stewart and John Duncan gave Dundee a lucky win which also gave Hearts their first home defeat of the season.

Kilmarnock were beaten by the odd goal in five at Brockville and this defeat kept them in 17th place, four points behind Arbroath. The Gayfielders were beaten reasonably comfortably by Motherwell at Fir Park by two goals to nil.

A Doug Smith penalty five minutes from time gave Dundee United a narrow win over Dumbarton. The Sons, despite being under almost constant pressure lead 2-1 at the interval but the home side eventually wore the visitors down to take both points.

Stirling Albion still led the way in the second division, even after their defeat at Hampden by Queen's Park. They lost 2-1 and this was only their second blank of the season. Clyde took full advantage to close the gap at the top to one point by winning 1-0 at Love Street.

Cowdenbeath moved into third place after a 4-1 home win over Stranraer, whilst Dunfermline and Raith were next in the table. Both of these sides drew 1-1 away from home against Alloa and Queen of the South respectively. This was Alloa's fourth home draw in succession.

Montrose beat Hamilton 2-0 whilst Albion Rovers lost at home to Stenhousemuir by the same score.

There was one Scottish Cup tie played. A first round replay in which bottom club Brechin beat Clydebank at Kilbowie Park.

Quiz Answers

1. Auld 2, McNeill 1; 2. Stoke City and Blackpool; 3. Birmingham City; 4. Huddersfield—1924, '25, '26 and Arsenal 1933, '34, '35; 5. 1958—Bolton 2-Manchester United 0; 6. Mazzola (penalty); 7. Five feet; 8. Bramall Lane; 9. Accrington; 10. Southampton, Manchester United, Norwich.

UNITED DATA



ANGLO/SCOTTISH CUP

	F	A	Pts.
August			
10—Hibernian (a)	1	2	
22—Hibernian (h)	2	2	

LEAGUE CUP 1977

August			
30—Queen's Park... (h)	1	0	
September			(4-3 on pens)
3—Queen's Park... (a)	0	1	
October			
5—Forfar (h)	2	1	.....
26—Forfar (a)	1	3	.....

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

August			
13—Partick Thistle (a)	2	2	1
20—Celtic (h)	2	1	3
27—St. Mirren (a)	0	2	3

September			
10—Aberdeen (h)	0	1	3
17—Motherwell ... (a)	0	5	3
24—Rangers (a)	0	2	3

October			
1—Dundee United (h)	0	2	3
8—Hibernian (a)	2	1	5
15—Clydebank (h)	2	0	7
22—Partick Thistle (h)	1	2	7
29—Celtic (a)	2	3	7

November			
5—St. Mirren (h)	3	2	9
12—Aberdeen (a)	0	0	10
19—Motherwell ... (h)	1	1	11
26—Rangers (h)	0	5	11

December			
3—Dundee United (a)	P	P	11
10—Hibernian (h)	0	1	11
17—Clydebank (a)	0	2	13
24—Partick Thistle (a)	1	4	13
31—Celtic (h)	.....	.....	.....

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	F	A	Pts.
January			
2—St. Mirren (a)
7—Aberdeen (h)
14—Motherwell ... (a)
21—Rangers (a)
28—SCOTTISH CUP 3rd ROUND			

February			
4—Dundee United (h)	.....	.....	.....
11—Hibernian (a)	.....	.....	.....
18—SCOTTISH CUP 4th ROUND			
25—Clydebank (h)	.....	.....	.....

March			
4—Partick Thistle (h)	.....	.....	.....
11—Celtic (a)	.....	.....	.....
18—St. Mirren (h)	.....	.....	.....
25—Aberdeen (a)	.....	.....	.....

April			
1—Motherwell ... (h)	.....	.....	.....
8—Rangers (h)	.....	.....	.....
15—Dundee United (a)	.....	.....	.....
22—Hibernian (h)	.....	.....	.....
29—Clydebank (a)	.....	.....	.....

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	18	12	3	3	42	23	27
Aberdeen	19	10	4	5	33	19	24
Partick Thistle	18	10	3	5	29	26	23
Dundee United	18	7	5	6	21	14	19
Celtic	17	8	3	6	28	23	19
St. Mirren	18	7	4	7	29	28	18
Hibernian	18	7	2	9	17	19	16
Motherwell	19	5	4	10	23	29	14
Ayr United	18	5	3	10	18	34	13
Clydebank	17	2	3	12	10	35	7

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