

# TODAY'S TEAMS

## AIRDRIEONIANS DUNFERMLINE ATH.

Scott Thompson	Kris Mampaey
Sandy Stewart	Jason Dair
Paul Jack	Scott Thompson
David Farrell	John Potter
Gerry Farrell	David Moss
Forbes Johnston	Steven Hampshire
Jimmy Sandison	Owen Coyle
Jim Dick	Ian Ferguson
Stewart Easton	Steve Crawford
Stewart Taylor	Lee Bullen
Allan Moore	Stewart Petrie
Niall Thompson	Chris McGroarty
Gareth Evans	Brian Reid
David McGuire	David Graham



### MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: G.T. CLYDE Asst. Referees: R. JOHNSTON, GAULT



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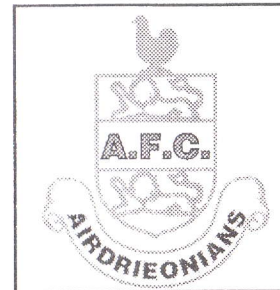
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# AIRDRIEONIANS



MATCH  
PROGRAMME



BELL'S

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
FIRST DIVISION

## AIRDRIEONIANS

V

## DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26th 2000

KICK OFF 3.00PM



### COMMEMORATIVE

ISSUE:

## A TRIBUTE TO JOEY ROWAN

by James Traynor.  
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# GARY MACKAY



I would just like to extend my personal sadness at the sudden passing of Joey Rowan.

I have to say that he was instrumental in helping me through

the spell when I was caretaker and his enthusiasm rubbed off on me, as it did with everyone he came into contact with throughout the week. I also felt that he played an important part in my selection as manager, so I have a lot to be grateful to him for.

We shared the same degree of fervour in the Youth Development at the Club and it is really such a terrible tragedy that he

won't be with us to enjoy the reality of what happens in the future for so many of our young lads. It really puts things into perspective when we take stock of everything that has happened recently. It has been a trying and testing time for us all, during which Joey stood firm and was a tremendous source of encouragement throughout. He will be very sadly missed.

My thoughts and condolences are extended to his wife and family. We have to be professional as we face Dunfermline today in an effort to continue our good results against them.

*Gary Mackay*

## EDITORIAL 1942 - 2000

There are some people who, after having met them, leave an indelible mark on you. It can be their wit, charm, sincerity or simply their good nature that wins you over. Joey had all these qualities and because they remained to the forefront of his personality, there are many people deeply moved by his passing, last Saturday.

From the time he was first elected to the Board of Airdrieonians and subsequently to Vice Chairman, he remained true to his principles. There were no airs and graces, no rush to seek attention, he was always a man of the people. He often would put himself in their shoes. In such instances as taking the trouble to arrange an additional flight for supporters in '92 to Prague for the Diamonds only European trip, at a more reasonable cost than the main flight and when he took on board the arrangements for the Farewell Day at Broomfield in '94 creating a memorable occasion in all respects, for every supporter. When the Club returned to Airdrie and opened the new Stadium against York City over 18 months ago, the smile on Joey's face as the Board took to the field, portrayed the image of happiness that the problems had ended. I had asked him previously if he had not hankered after the position of Chairman, but he always replied that he had been more than content to take a back seat.

It was always going to take extreme

circumstances therefore for him to fill an equivalent role and the events of the ACM last December resulted in catapulting Joey there. It was a difficult and frustrating time during which his tireless work often would be met with apathy and when insufficient Shareholders gave the go ahead for an early EGM to change the share ownership rules, Joey just could not understand their reasoning. He was distraught when the Liquidators were called in, questioning if there was more he could have done, instead of accepting that he had done so much more than others. Never the less his sense of responsibility and commitment to the Club remained in the hope that matters would be turned around, such were his principles.

It is perhaps some comfort to Sharelle, John, Joseph and all of Joey's family to find out just how highly so many thought of Joey, but that will be no great surprise. Our thoughts go out to them all as they try to come to terms with their loss.

The late Bill Shankly rarely got things wrong in his time, but when he coined the phrase that "football is more important than life and death", he couldn't have meant it because it most certainly is not. At times like this, you realise football is only a game. I feel privileged to have known Joey and am sure we will never see his like again.

**John O'Brien**

# TODAY'S VISITORS



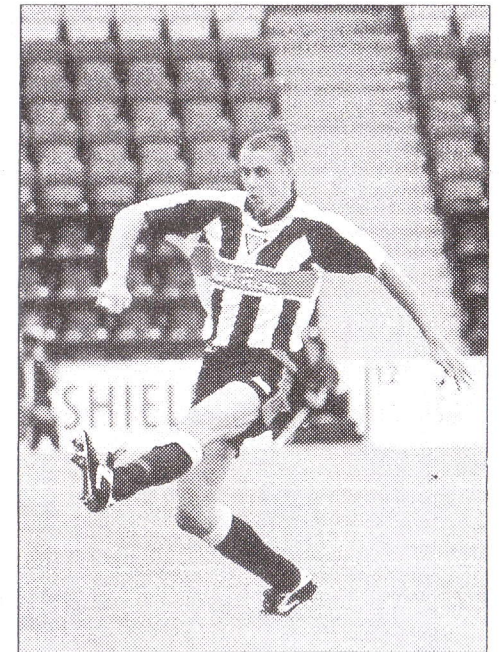
A warm welcome to Dunfermline who have come to the Shyberry

Excelsior Stadium with a change of Manager from their last visit way back at the beginning of the season. Jimmy Calderwood has slowly been restructuring the Pars with a view to having them make an immediate return to the Premier Division and make them prepared to stay there. The two meetings between the Clubs this season ended in draws but both matches were only similar in that respect.

While the game in Airdrie was very exciting with four goals shared, the



East End Park fixture was a tousy affair with red cards featuring more than any netbound efforts. Dunfermline's playing staff has not altered too much from their previous visit, however certain additions include goalkeeper Kris Mampaey who played under the new boss at Dutch side Willem 11 and Steve Crawford whose loan deal from Hibernian continues. The former Raith Rovers striker is now into double figures with his strike rate this season. The most important arrival is that of former Rangers midfielder Ian Ferguson to give the side some added dig in the midfield area.





# JOEY ROWAN'S HEART FAILED HIM BUT HE FAILED NO ONE

**T**here are some people in this life who are destined to carry more than their fair share of the load. They tend to operate in the background, avoiding the spotlight and attention. They rarely complain no matter how heavy their burden may become. Mostly they are decent people and, because they are willing to step forward when the going gets tough, the more cynical among us tend to take unfair advantage. We see these people as soft touches who are there to be used and then pushed aside after they have done all the hard work, the dirty jobs the rest of us don't want to know. Joey Rowan fell into that category.

## STRIVING

An Airdrie fan who became the Diamond's Vice-Chairman, he had been striving for months to prevent his club from going under and latterly he found himself on his own because the other directors had walked away one by one. As the storm clouds gathered over the club Joey Rowan also could have galloped for cover. But he didn't. Having already survived one heart attack Joey shouldn't have been left alone to champion the club's cause when creditors were closing in but he felt he had no alternative because had he disappeared Airdrie's gates would have been chained and padlocked a long time ago. Ignoring advice from family and friends, Joey took it upon himself to keep the ailing First Division club alive as long as possible even though the pressures were weighing heavily upon him.

## INEVITABLE

Pleading with creditors for more time became a daily routine and although he had success on that front he was merely delaying the inevitable. Airdrie were sliding closer to the abyss and the desire of one man, no matter how powerful or passionate, was never going to be enough. Airdrie's descent towards financial ruin was inexorable and eventually the liquidator arrived on the doorstep. Even then Joey considered himself responsible in some way when for more than a decade he had worked for the Diamonds. Unlike many of the people who become football directors, he didn't have an ego and if the truth be known he took a seat on Airdrie's board to help his father-in-law Jake Dalziel, who for more than 25 years was the club's major benefactor. That was away back in the days when Airdrie played out of that dusty, rickety old structure we called Broomfield and when Jake died eight years ago Joey remained on the board because he believed in what he was doing, even if there were those who frowned upon his presence. With his greying hair pulled back in a ponytail, Joey was hardly the archetypal football director and there was always the suspicion that some of his peers regarded him as unsuitable. When you think about that they might have been correct because Joey was never one for boardroom machinations or pretending to be somebody other than himself. He called it the way he saw it and that, too, would have made him unsuitable in an environment populated by double dealers and empire builders.

## RECOGNITION

Joey, who was part of a successful family business, didn't need local recognition nor did he regard his club blazer as some kind of magical cloak which afforded him special status in the town. He sought nothing other than to serve his club. He was an Airdrie fan who kicked every ball during matches and who would scream out in the directors box when he felt a decision had gone against his team as he did several times recently when we watched a couple of Airdrie's games together. Even though he was in constant radio contact with stadium staff he was still more passionate than most directors I've known. After the last game we took in together, against Inverness Caley Thistle, I reminded him that he wouldn't get my thanks for his efforts and that maybe he should take a step back. He said he had to see the club through the current crisis although he badly needed a full night's sleep. Last time I saw him was at a wedding less than two weeks ago. As usual, he spent much of the time fretting about the club's problems. Eventually he was jajoled into singing and even then he couldn't be separated from the Diamonds.

## LOYALTY

His choice of song? "Only the Lonely", which is of course, Airdrie's anthem. That night he said he was aware that as soon as someone lodged an acceptable offer for the club he would be shown the door. The new owners wouldn't want him around. That's usually the thanks football



people like Joey receive for their loyalty but no one will ever have the chance to tell him to leave. Around kick-off time on Saturday Joey Rowan died.

He had been the only one with enough heart to stand on his own and try to save Airdrie but at 2.30pm on Saturday that heart failed him, Joey Rowan, however, failed no one. A good family have lost a husband and father and many of us have lost a genuine friend, who just didn't know how to stop giving to his club. So now two men, Jake Dalziel and Joey Rowan, who did all they could to help Airdrie survive, are dead while their club still clings to life. Someone else will have to find the sense in all of this because I just can't see it.

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# ONE AND ONLY

Last Saturday saw only one League fixture in the Division played, on account of Scottish Cup involvement of a number of Clubs.

St. Mirren, had been faltering of late, and a trip to Fife to face Dunfermline meant they could have been displaced by the Pars at the top of the table. Saints showed they were prepared to battle and despite being reduced to 10 men and a goal down, bagged an equaliser with less than 10 minutes remaining to hold onto pole position.

Inverness Caley Thistle had created the biggest Cup shock by knocking out Celtic. On Sunday against Aberdeen they almost did it again but settled for a replay. Ayr United has disposed of Dundee in Round 3 but they were awaiting the winners of the Motherwell/Arbroath match and may take another Premier scalp in Round 4, as the 'Well face United today. Morton did well against Rangers before losing to a single second half goal, while Clydebank earned a replay with Hibernian,

having been in front at one stage. Falkirk were held to a goalless draw by Berwick Rangers and also face a replay but there was a surprise at Firhill when Partick Thistle sent Livingston, one of the main challengers for promotion, tumbling out of the competition. The Lion's can now concentrate on League matters, which perhaps is just as well as their match today with Ayr United is off because of the Somerset Park sides Cup Tie, and they have already a backlog of fixtures to catch up on.

## DIVISION ONE TABLE:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
ST. MIRREN	25	15	6	4	54	29	51
DUNFERMLINE	26	13	10	3	46	25	49
FALKIRK	26	14	5	7	45	33	47
LIVINGSTON	23	12	6	5	42	28	42
RAITH ROVERS	24	12	6	6	42	29	42
INVERNESS CT	25	8	8	9	40	38	32
AYR UNITED	25	8	5	12	29	35	29
MORTON	25	6	6	13	37	46	24
AIRDRIE	25	5	6	14	18	49	21
CLYDEBANK	24	0	4	20	14	55	4

CORRECT AT 26.2.00

# CAPTAIN'S COLUMN



The last few weeks have been very difficult to say the least. The players have shown their commitment to the Club in the current situation and everyone acknowledges the fact that there are so many people making sacrifices and working tirelessly behind the scenes for the cause. The Save the Diamonds team have to be commended on all the projects for fundraising and the Quiz Night a week ago proved to be a tremendous success. I hope they all are just as successful.

I was shocked to hear of Joey's death last weekend. It was a stunning blow. Football really takes a back seat when you get such terrible news. There is no doubt that he will be sadly missed by everyone connected with the Club because he played such an important part for the Club in the last few months.

On behalf of all the playing staff I would like to pass on their condolences to his wife and family on their loss.

**Jimmy Sandison.**

# MATCH REPORT

## DIVISION ONE

5/2/00

### AIRDRIEONIANS 1

### INVERNESS CALEY THISTLE 4

The scoreline was more than a little flattering for the visitors but some of their goals showed that Caley Thistle had come a long way since their early season disappointments.

Prior to kick off Jimmy Sandison took to the pitch with microphone in hand to let the fans know the players were right behind all efforts to save the Club. When the action got underway

Inverness showed their quality.

Wyness tucked a Tokely cross past Thomson for their first goal in 14 minutes and added a second in 36 minutes from a Sheerin penalty after Eddie manhandled Xausa inside the area. The Diamonds missed out on a clear penalty just before the break, while Teasdale avoided a certain red card for handling the ball on the line after good play from Gareth Evans and Jim Dick. The introduction of Stephen McKeown saw the little striker score with his first touch on the hour mark, when he headed home a fine cross from Allan Moore. As Airdrie chased an equaliser they showed some fine spirit but were set back again after Xausa restored the visitors two-goal lead in 72 minutes. With ten minutes remaining Wilson rounded off the scoring with a terrific strike after cutting in from the right.

# MASCOT



**Name:**

Lyle Barton

**From:**

Greengairs

**Fav Player:**

Jim Dick

**Hobbies:**

Football and  
Tae-KwonDo

## YOUTH DIVISION "B" FEBRUARY 2000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
AIRDRIEONIANS	10	9	1	0	29	12	27
MORTON	11	8	1	2	47	19	26
PARTICK THISTLE	12	8	2	2	34	18	26
ROSS COUNTY	13	6	4	3	25	21	21
ALBION ROVERS	15	5	6	4	29	35	19
Q. OF T. SOUTH	11	5	6	0	22	27	15
ST. MIRREN	10	4	5	1	18	22	13
CLYDE	11	3	5	3	20	23	12
DUMBARTON	13	2	9	2	14	37	8
STIRLING ALBION	14	1	12	1	15	39	4

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