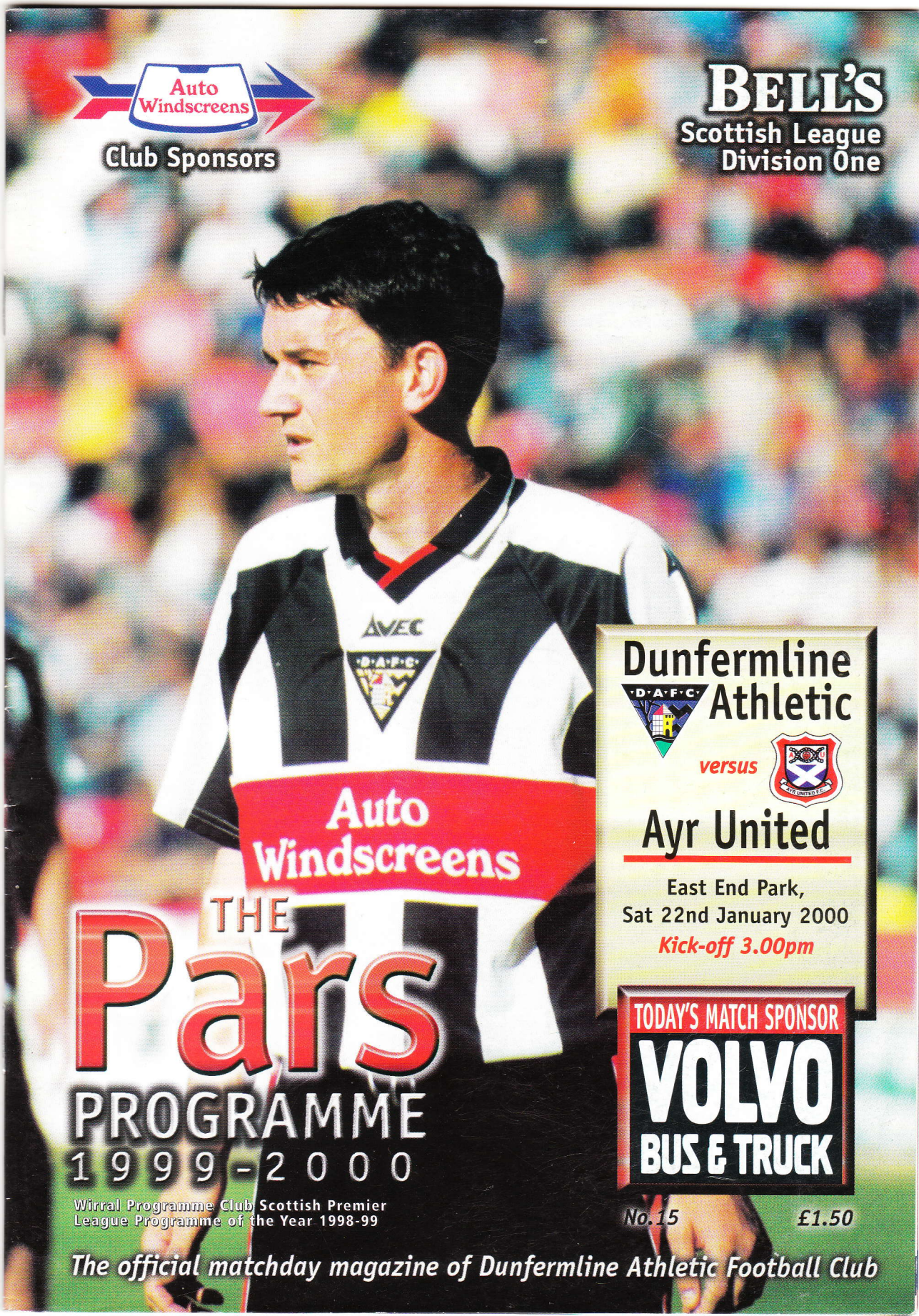




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versus



Ayr United

East End Park,
Sat 22nd January 2000

Kick-off 3.00pm

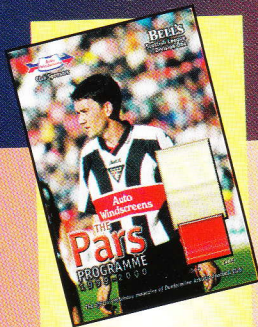
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ON THE COVER

**JASON DAIR,
BACK FROM
INJURY AND IN
CONTENTION
FOR A REGULAR
PLACE**

IN THIS ISSUE...



5 VISITORS

Dunfermline have beaten Ayr United twice this season, but the last match here wasn't without a few nerves before the Pars won narrowly. Since then, Ayr have brought in new players, recovered from a poor start and have put together an impressive run recently. We assess their chances today....

15 JUSTIN SKINNER

It must have come as quite a shock for a player who exudes the "cultured midfielder" bit to find himself playing in the centre of defence! Justin Skinner talks to Bob Storie about his new role in life...

18 JIM MACDONALD'S WORLD OF FOOTBALL

Well what do you expect from Jim in a week in which two

Highland clubs have joined the Scottish League? Tales of how Andrew Carnegie helped form Peterhead FC, why Elgin are the Black and White Minstrels, and other ditties...

24 FUTURE PERFECT

An interesting account of John Ritchie and Jimmy Nicholl's trip to Liverpool as part of their European Coaching Licence training...

PLUS all the info you need about supporters stuff, club news, and enough statistics to keep the keenest anorak engrossed...

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European Competitions

Cup Winners Cup:

1961/62 (quarter final),
1968/69 (semi-final)

Fairs (now UEFA) Cup:
1962/63, 1964/65, 1965/66
(quarter final), 1966/67,
1969/70

**Scottish League
Highest Position**

3rd : 1964/65, 1968/69

Scottish League 1st Division

Champions: 1988/89, 1995/96

Runners up: 1912/13,
1993/94, 1994/95

Scottish League Division 2

(pre-reconstruction)

Champions: 1925/26

Runners-Up: 1912/13,
1933/34, 1954/55, 1957/58,
1972/73

Scottish League 2nd Division

Champions: 1985/86

Runners-Up: 1978/79

Scottish Cup

Winners: 1961, 1968

Runners-Up: 1965

Semi-Finalists: 1964, 1966

Scottish League Cup

Runners-Up: 1949/50, 1991/92

Semi-Finalists: 1989/90,
1996/97, 1997/98

Scottish Qualifying Cup

Winners: 1911/12

Central League

Champions: 1910/11, 1911/12

BP Scottish Youth Cup

Winners: 1987/88

Scottish Reserve League

(East)

Champions: 1986/87, 1992/93

Jim Calderwood...

THE FALKIRK RESULT WAS VERY DISAPPOINTING for everybody. We started well and I thought surprised them when we played with four men up front from the start. We got an early goal and for twenty minutes played some very good football without getting another breakthrough.

The doubts started to appear before half time, but at half time the players were told to push forward. They didn't do that and when Falkirk started to get more of the ball it was as if they were fearful of not getting a result. We did get a break to make it 2-0 but just when we should have been closing them out, they scored a great goal, then scored again with virtually the last kick. I'm so disappointed for the public because we did want to go out and win this one in front of a decent crowd.

I thought that Kris Mampaey settled in well. He didn't have a lot to do but he did well. He made one mistake when he tried to dribble it out but he was quick enough to rectify his mistake. It will obviously take him time to get used to the players around him, but he coped well.

Ian Ferguson had a good first half, and in fact you could probably see our problems starting to come in as he got tired. He lacks match practice and the only thing to cure that is for him to be on the park. The more games he has the better he'll get and he'll be a big, big asset for us.

Our main problem last week was the way we defended - and I'm not just talking about the defence. You must defend as a unit, and I don't think we did that. Even the front players need to hold the ball to take the pressure off the defence, and that didn't happen. Stevie and Owen just didn't hold the ball enough.

Eddie May has lost weight and has some kind of virus, so he might be out for a couple of weeks, and of course we are without Owen this week, so we'll have to make changes. On a more positive note, Scott Thomson came through a Reserve match with Dundee United in midweek and will come into contention. We will continue to search for the best combination, but I know that what I'm looking for are players who can play from defence and players who have pace.

We had a good result against Ayr at Somerset Park the last time, and could have won by six or seven goals in the end. Having said that, we were lucky because Gordon had so many injuries at the time. I thought the first 20 minutes there were among the best football we've played since I came here. Gordon has made some changes since then and they've had a good run, but for all that, we've got to get our act together and start getting the results that this pool of players are capable of

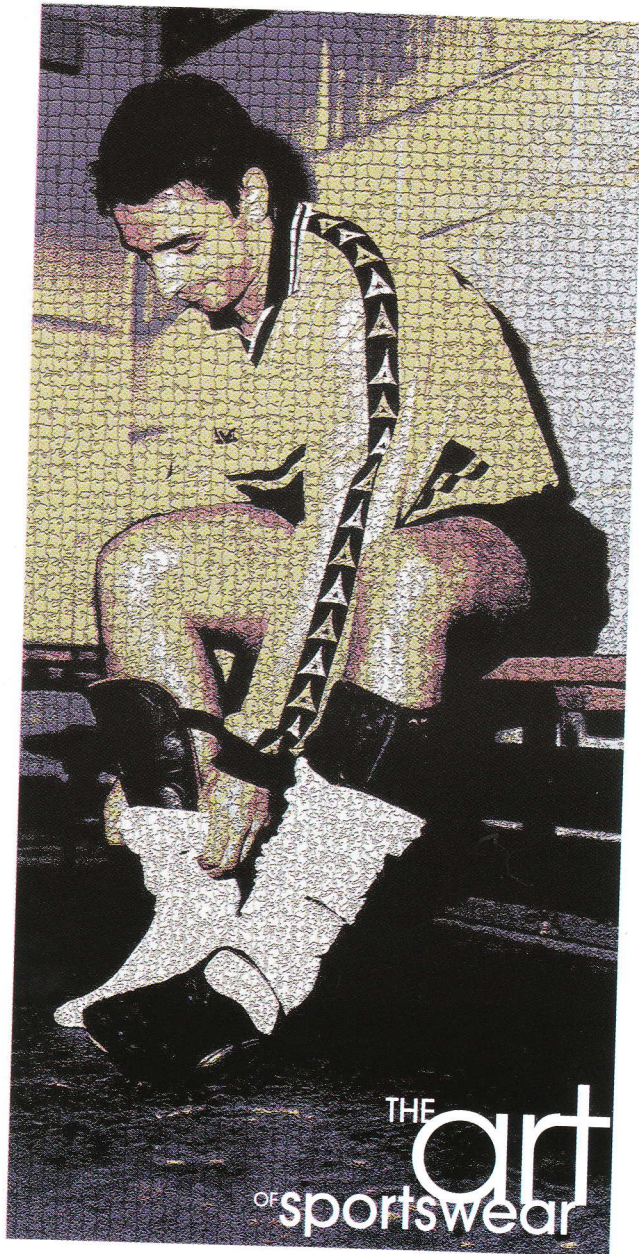
- let's hope that starts today.



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3



AMEC
rather be without?....

AYR UNITED



AYR UNITED'S UP AND DOWN SEASON

continues, with the Somerset Park club having to settle - for the time being at least - for a mid table position. While they may not be in any danger of relegation, Ayr must have had loftier ambitions at the start of the season. They may yet move up the table - and the signs have been there recently that such a move is possible - but time is running out if they wish to make a challenge for a top three place. Gordon Dalziel has freshened up his squad since

Dunfermline won convincingly at Ayr and they will come here today with a much more positive outlook...

CRAIG NELSON (28/5/71)

28 year old goalkeeper who earned rave reviews as a young keeper with Partick Thistle. Since then, he has experienced life with a number of clubs including Hearts and Falkirk, and was transferred to Ayr in July 1998. Despite others, including Faroes keeper Jens Martin Knudsen coming in, Craig is likely to hold the first team jersey today.

DAVE ROGERS (25/8/75)

24 year old left back or left centre back who knocked back an extended contract with Premier League Dundee to sign for Ayr United during the close season. Tasted success with Dundee playing an important role in their First Division Championship winning team.

DAVID CRAIG (11/6/69)

30 year old centre back who signed for Ayr from Hamilton Accies and was the first player to sign under the over 24 Bosman ruling. David missed a number of games through injury last season but despite this was outstanding in the heart of the United defence. Previously served Dundee United and Raith Rovers.

JOHN ROBERTSON (28/3/76)

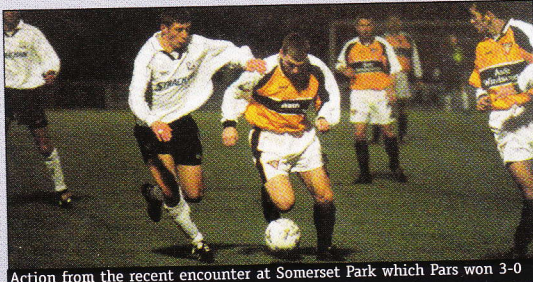
23 year old defender who signed for Ayr from Stranraer for £20,000 two seasons ago and has been a regular starter either in his preferred right full back position or at sweeper. A defender with good pace and with two good feet.

NEIL DUFFY (5/6/67)

32 year old defender/midfielder who signed for Ayr from Dundee United in the close season having spent 2 seasons at Tannadice. Started his career initially at Dundee United before moving to Falkirk and then Dundee.

ANDY McMILLAN (22/6/68)

South African born 31 year old right back who signed for Ayr



Action from the recent encounter at Somerset Park which Pars won 3-0

United from York City where he was freed after making around 500 first team appearances. Cool and authoritative at the back, Andy is an experienced pro who will be a useful addition to the Ayr squad.

JENS CHRISTIAN HANSEN

Left sided midfielder who is currently captain of the Faroes national team. He has moved to Scotland to try to build a career and his considerable experience should help the Ayr cause. Included among his achievements is a record of having played three international matches against Scotland (and we know how close they were!)

PAUL SHEPHERD (17/11/77)

22 year old former Leeds midfielder who has signed for Ayr until the end of the season. A former England Under 18 youth internationalist, Paul had a previous spell on loan to Ayr. When he was released by the Elland Road club in October, he was happy to move to Somerset Park again.

MARVYN WILSON (1/12/73)

26 year old midfielder joined Ayr under the Bosman ruling in July having turned down a further contract at Airdrie and also the chance to play in Germany. A skilful central midfielder he is an excellent addition to last season's successful squad.

GARY TEALE (21/7/78)

21 year old midfielder who signed from Clydebank last October and is currently playing for the Scottish Under 21 team. Gary is a fantastic prospect who can also play as a striker but prefers to play on the right side of midfield.

GLYNN HURST (17/1/76)

23 year old striker who was the First Division's top scorer last term with 20 goals. Signed from English non league team Emley for £30,000, he is equally at home in midfield or up front, his lightening pace causing defences major problems.

NIGEL JEMSON (10/8/69)

English striker who signed on a short term contract in time to score two goals on his debut against Airdrie. Formerly with Nottingham Forest, Notts County and Bury the striker has impressed the fans with great touches and skill since his arrival.

MICKEY REYNOLDS (19/6/74)

25 year old winger who like Glynn Hurst signed on a recommendation from his Manager at Emley, Ronnie Glavin. He also has great pace and excellent skill makes him a very difficult player to dispossess or sometimes catch!

RODDY GRANT (16/9/66)

Bustling 33 year old striker who needs no introduction to East End Park. Played for Dunfermline as a youth and came back to East End in the early 1990s. As well as spells here, Roddy has had two very successful periods with St Johnstone from whom Ayr have him on loan at present.

NEIL TARRANT (24/6/79)

Young striker who is currently on loan to Ayr from Aston Villa. Darlington born, Neil came to prominence with Ross County where he very quickly developed into a scoring sensation - so much so that Aston Villa paid £250,000 for his services about a year ago.

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Headlines...

NEED TO STOP THE ROT

Falkirk's late equaliser last week has meant that Dunfermline have taken only one point from the last nine. While this is not in itself a disaster, it does show just how quickly with three points for a win that the table can change.

Just before Christmas, Dunfermline were breathing down first place St Mirren's neck (with we thought the opportunity to overtake them on 27th December). The Pars were clear in second place, a full nine points ahead of third placed Falkirk. Since then, the combination of various results has meant that only five points separate the clubs placed second to fifth, with the fifth club Livingston with a game in hand.

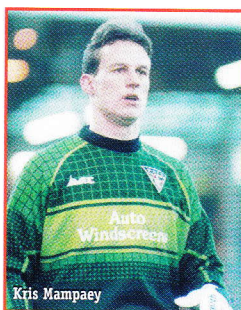
It all adds up to what we thought was going to be the scenario in the First Division in any case - that there would be a number of clubs fighting in a very tight league for the places available. Over the next few games, Dunfermline should have the opportunity to re-assert themselves again. After today's match, the Pars are due to play Clydebank (A), Morton (H), and Airdrie (A) while the other clubs at the top are all due to play each other.

After that Dunfermline are due back at Love Street for the first game in the last quarter of the season - who said that the First Division was easy?

POSTPONED MATCH AGAINST ST MIRREN

Talking of matches against St Mirren, there is still no news as to when Dunfermline's home match against St Mirren is due to be played.

It is a fair guess that both clubs will be waiting for the outcome of next week's Cup ties and the subsequent draw for the following round before agreeing a new date. Both Dunfermline and St Mirren play Premier League opposition in the Cup next week. If neither get through, there will be a free Saturday on Saturday 19th February, and another on Saturday 11th March. While there's no doubting that Dunfermline will want to get through in the Cup, the club will also want to make the best out of their lost earnings from the December postponement.



Kris Mampaey

NEW SIGNINGS SETTLING IN

It was good to see Dunfermline's new signings get a nice reception last Saturday - long may that continue. Both players made reasonable starts after quite long periods out of action, and the potential was there for all to see. Kris Mampaey's excellent command of the English language, together with his declaration that the move

was "a dream come true" will have done his cause no harm. He

joins a succession of non-Scottish goalkeepers who have donned Dunfermline's number one jersey in the past decade, the others being Andy Rhodes (England), Guido Van De Kamp (Holland), Zoran Lemajic (Yugoslavia), and Lee Butler (England). We also believe that he is the first Belgian born player to play for the Pars - but then again we might be wrong about that...

ALEX WRIGHT

It was with great sadness that the club learned earlier this week of the death of its former manager Mr Alex Wright.

When Dunfermline went into freefall in 1970 following the most successful period in the club's history in the 1960s, the Board sacked the then manager George Farm. On 22nd October 1970, 39 year old Alex Wright replaced Farm after seeing off the aspirations of 38 other candidates for the job.

A former half back with Partick Thistle and East Fife, Alex took up coaching posts with Clyde and Partick Thistle before becoming full time manager of St Mirren. At that time, St Mirren were a part time club in the Second Division, but Alex had early success taking the Buddies to promotion in 1968.

It was these credentials that made him attractive to Dunfermline, and in the beginning he did not disappoint. Despite acrimony in the dressing room and the club in very serious financial difficulty, he managed to keep the Pars in the First Division. The next season unfortunately saw no improvement and by the end of February 1972, with the club staring relegation in the face, the Board decided to relieve Alex Wright of his duties and replace him with George Miller.

Alex Wright had a very difficult task taking over the helm at the time he did. He was a popular and intelligent man, and ironically his biggest claim to fame while with Dunfermline was when he, John Cushley and Jim Fraser won the hugely popular TV show Quizball in 1971. Quizball was a national institution at the time and was compulsive peak time viewing for millions of people. The Dunfermline team were unbeatable, and after defeating Leicester City in the Final, brought a huge national spotlight to the town of Dunfermline.

After he left the club, Alex Wright went on to play a very important role with Dumbarton both as manager and as Director. He still maintained a regular contact with the Dunfermline and is fondly remembered by many at East End Park.

Alex's funeral took place on Thursday. Our very sincere sympathies go to his family and friends at this time.

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7

All square against Falkirk

TOP: New keeper Kris Mampaey punches clear to thwart this Falkirk attack

BOTTOM: Steve Crawford and Chris McGroaty celebrate Pars second goal





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PARSTATS



1999/2000 APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS

	League		League Cup		Challenge Cup		TOTALS	
	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Owen Coyle	19(0)	8	2(0)	2	1(0)	2	22(0)	12
Stephen Crawford	11(0)	8	0(0)	0	0(0)	0	11(0)	8
Jason Dair	11(1)	1	2(0)	0	0(0)	0	13(1)	1
Jamie Dolan	18(0)	0	2(0)	0	1(0)	0	21(0)	0
Ian Ferguson	1(0)	0	0(0)	0	0(0)	0	1(0)	0
Hamish French	11(5)	3	2(0)	0	0(1)	0	13(6)	3
David Graham	0(9)	1	1(0)	0	0(1)	0	1(10)	1
Steve Hampshire	6(6)	2	0(0)	0	0(0)	0	6(6)	2
Richard Huxford	2(0)	1	0(0)	0	0(0)	0	2(0)	1
Craig Ireland	1(2)	0	0(1)	0	0(0)	0	1(3)	0
Kris Mampaey	1(0)	0	0(0)	0	0(0)	0	1(0)	0
Eddie May	13(3)	0	1(1)	0	1(0)	0	15(4)	0
Chris McGroarty	10(5)	0	0(2)	0	1(0)	0	11(7)	0
David Moss	11(4)	4	0(0)	0	0(0)	0	11(4)	4
Colin Nish	0(2)	0	0(1)	0	0(0)	0	0(3)	0
Stewart Petrie	18(0)	2	2(0)	1	0(0)	0	20(0)	3
John Potter	4(4)	0	1(0)	0	0(0)	0	5(4)	0
Brian Reid	20(0)	3	2(0)	0	1(0)	0	23(0)	3
Greg Shields	3(0)	0	1(0)	0	1(0)	0	5(0)	0
Justin Skinner	17(0)	0	0(0)	0	0(0)	0	17(0)	0
Andy Smith	11(1)	4	2(0)	1	1(0)	0	14(1)	5
Scott Thomson	14(1)	1	1(0)	0	1(0)	0	16(1)	1
Andy Tod	19(1)	1	1(0)	0	1(0)	0	21(1)	1
Ian Westwater	21(0)	7*	2(0)	1*	1(0)	0	24(0)	8*

Correct at 19th January, 2000. Brackets indicate appearances as substitute.
*Denotes shut-out by goalkeeper.

	DATE	VERSUS	VENUE	RES.	ATTND.	1
Aug	Sat 07	Inverness Cal. Thistle	H	4-0	4,685	Westwater
	Tue 10	Morton	H	2-2	2,893	Westwater
	Sat 14	Airdrieonians	A	2-2	2,872	Westwater
	Wed 18	Queens Park	H	4-0	2,596	Westwater
	Sat 21	Morton	H	2-1	4,036	Westwater
	Sat 28	Falkirk	H	1-1	6,520	Westwater
Sep	Sat 04	Livingston	A	1-0	5,798	Westwater
	Sat 11	St. Mirren	H	1-1	6,220	Westwater
	Sat 18	Raith Rovers	A	2-2	6,087	Westwater
	Sat 25	Ayr United	H	2-1	4,051	Westwater
Oct	Sat 09	Clydebank at Cappielow	A	4-1	560	Westwater
	Wed 12	Rangers (CIS Cup 3)	A	0-1	30,024	Westwater
	Sat 16	Airdrieonians	H	0-0	3,964	Westwater
	Sat 23	Inverness Cal. Thistle	A	1-1	3,016	Westwater
	Sat 30	St. Mirren	A	1-3	6,130	Westwater
Nov	Sat 06	Raith Rovers	H	1-1	6,889	Westwater
	Sun 14	Livingston	H	3-0	4,163	Westwater
	Sat 20	Falkirk	A	3-1	4,229	Westwater
	Sat 27	Clydebank	H	2-1	4,224	Westwater
Dec	Sat 04	Ayr United	A	3-0	2,113	Westwater
	Sat 11	Morton	A	3-0	2,200	Westwater
	Sat 18	Inverness Cal. Thistle	H	1-0	3,775	Westwater
Jan	Mon 03	Raith Rovers	A	0-3	7,463	Westwater
	Sat 08	Livingston	A	0-1	4,418	Westwater
	Sat 15	Falkirk	H	2-2	7,233	Mampaey
	Sat 22	Ayr United	H			
	Sat 29	Hibernian (SC Rd 3)	H			
Feb	Sat 05	Clydebank at Cappielow	A			
	Sat 12	Morton	H			
	Sat 19	SFA Cup Round 4				
	Sat 26	Airdrieonians	A			
	Tue 29	St. Mirren	H			
Mar	Sat 04	St. Mirren	A			
	Sat 11	SFA Cup Round 5				
	Sat 18	Raith Rovers	H			
	Sat 25	Falkirk	A			
Apr	Sat 01	Livingston	H			
	Sat 08	Ayr United/SFA Cup Semi F.	A			
	Sat 15	Clydebank	H			
	Sat 22	Inverness Cal. Thistle	A			
	Sat 29	Airdrieonians	H			
May	Sat 06	Morton	A			

Scottish Football League - Div. 1

	P	HOME					AWAY					Pts	GD
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
St Mirren	21	8	3	1	28	15	6	2	1	23	9	47	27
Dunfermline	22	6	5	0	19	8	5	3	3	20	14	41	17
Raith Rovers	22	8	2	1	26	15	4	3	4	15	12	41	14
Falkirk	23	7	0	5	23	20	4	5	2	18	13	38	8
Livingston	21	5	4	2	18	11	5	2	3	19	17	36	9
Inverness CT	22	5	4	2	21	12	2	3	6	14	22	28	1
Ayr United	22	4	2	4	13	10	3	3	6	13	20	26	-4
Airdrie	23	3	3	5	10	17	2	3	7	7	24	21	-24
Greenock Morton	22	3	3	4	13	15	2	2	8	17	27	20	-12
Clydebank	22	0	2	9	7	29	0	2	9	6	20	4	-36

KEY TO STATS

Goalscorers (and the number of goals scored) are noted in capitals. The first named substitute is No.12, the second named No.14 and third is named No.15. If a substitute is brought on, the number of the player he has replaced appears in brackets after his name. If no such number appears, the player has remained on the bench, and this does not constitute a substitute appearance.

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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15
Shields	McGroarty	Tod	REID 1	Dolan	THOMSON 1	May	SMITH 1 PEN	Coyle	PETRIE 1	Graham (9)	French	Ireland (5)	
Shields	McGroarty	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Thomson	May	Smith	COYLE 2	Petrie	Graham (11)	French (8)	Ireland	
Shields	McGroarty	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Thomson	May	Smith	COYLE 2	Petrie	French (8)	Ireland	Nish (9)	
Shields	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	French	May	SMITH 1	COYLE 2	PETRIE 1	Ireland (5)	Nish (15)	McGroarty (7)	
Shields	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	French	May	SMITH 2	Coyle	Petrie	Templeman	Ireland (8)	McGroarty (11)	
Thomson	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	French	May	Smith	Coyle	Petrie	Ireland	McGroarty	GRAHAM 1 (7)	
Huxford	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	French	Smith	COYLE 1	Petrie	May (6)	Ireland	Graham (9)	
HUXFORD 1	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	Moss	Smith	COYLE 1	Petrie	French(11)	May	McGroarty(7)	
Dair	McGroarty	Tod	REID 1	Dolan	Thomson	Moss	SMITH 1	Coyle	Petrie	French (7)	Huxford	Nish	
May	Dair	Potter	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	Moss	Smith	COYLE 2	Petrie	Thomson (11)	Ireland	Graham (9)	
May	DAIR 1	Potter	REID 1	Dolan	Thomson	Skinner	Smith	COYLE 1	Petrie	FRENCH 1(6)	Graham (9)	Ireland	
Thomson	Dair	Potter	Reid	Dolan	Graham	French	Smith	COYLE 1	Petrie	Ireland	May (9)	McGroarty (6)	
May	Dair	Potter	Reid	Dolan	Hampshire	Skinner	Smith	Coyle	Thomson	Moss (6)	Tod (2)	Graham (7)	
May	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Thomson	Skinner	HAMPSHIRE 1	French	Petrie	Moss (3)	Potter (5)	Nish (10)	
Thomson	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	MOSS 1	Crawford	Hampshire	Petrie	French (6)	Potter (3)	Smith (10)	
Thomson	McGroarty	Tod	Reid	French	Hampshire	MOSS 1	Crawford	Coyle	Skinner	May	Potter		
Thomson	McGroarty	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	MOSS 1	Smith	Coyle	CRAWFORD 2	May (3)	Potter	Hampshire (9)	
Thomson	McGroarty	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	Moss	CRAWFORD 2	COYLE 1	Petrie	Smith	Potter	Hampshire (8)	
May	Thomson	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	French	CRAWFORD 1	Coyle	PETRIE 1	Hampshire (11)	Potter	Graham	
May	Thomson	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	FRENCH 2	CRAWFORD 1	Coyle	Petrie	Moss (8)	Hampshire(10)	McGroarty (2)	
May	Thomson	Tod	Reid	French	Skinner	MOSS 1	CRAWFORD 1	COYLE 1	Petrie	Potter (5)	Hampshire(10)	McGroarty (2)	
French	McGroarty	TOD 1	Reid	Potter	Skinner	Moss	Crawford	Coyle	Petrie	Graham (5)	Squires	Nish	
French	McGroarty	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	Moss	Crawford	Hampshire	Petrie	May (6)	Potter	Hampshire (5)	
French	McGroarty	Tod	Skinner	Dolan	May	Moss	Crawford	Hampshire	Petrie	Dair (2)	Reid	Graham (8)	
May	Dair	Tod	Skinner	McGroarty	HAMPSHIRE 1	Ferguson	CRAWFORD 1	Coyle	Petrie	Moss (2)	Potter (10)	Graham (11)	



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1999/2000 TOP GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Bells League	CIS Cup	Bells Cup	Tegn Sc.Cup	Totals
Paul SHEERIN	Inverness CT	9	1	4	0	14
Mark YARDLEY	St. Mirren	14	0	0	0	14
Barry LAVETY	St. Mirren	13	0	0	0	13
David BINGHAM	Livingston	10	0	2	0	12
Owen COYLE	Dunfermline	8	2	2	0	12
Scott CRABBE	Falkirk	8	2	0	0	10
Craig DARGO	Raith Rovers	8	1	1	0	10
Barry WILSON	Inverness CT	7	1	1	0	9
Steve CRAWFORD	Dunfermline	8	0	0	0	8
Brian McPHEE	Livingston	7	0	1	0	8
Didier AGATHE	Raith Rovers	7	0	0	0	7
Gerry BRITTON	Livingston	4	2	1	0	7
Alex BURNS	Raith Rovers	6	1	0	0	7
Harry CURRAN	Morton	6	1	0	0	7
Glynn HURST	Ayr United	7	0	0	0	7
Colin McDONALD	Falkirk	6	0	1	0	7
David MOSS	Falkirk/D.A.F.C.	7	0	0	0	7
Dave NICHOLLS	Falkirk	7	0	0	0	7

BELL'S 1st DIV. ATTENDANCES 1999/2000

Name	Gms	Total Attn.	Ay. Attn.	Highest Attendance during Season
Airdrieonians	11	21,820	1,984	3,209 V St Mirren (12.11.99)
Ayr United	10	21,577	2,158	3,467 V St Mirren (23.10.99)
Clydebank	11	6,780	616	1,513 V St Mirren (29.08.99)
DUNFERMLINE ATH.	11	55,754	5,069	7,233 V Falkirk (15.01.00)
Falkirk	12	35,382	2,949	4,505 v St Mirren (25.09.99)
Inverness Cal Th.	11	24,802	2,255	3,022 v Falkirk (14.08.99)
Livingston	11	43,857	3,987	5,798 v Dunfermline (04.09.99)
Morton	10	15,369	1,537	3,733 v St Mirren (06.11.99)
Raith Rovers	11	37,167	3,379	7,463 v Dunfermline (03.01.00)
St Mirren	12	54,790	4,566	7,224 v Morton (03.01.99)

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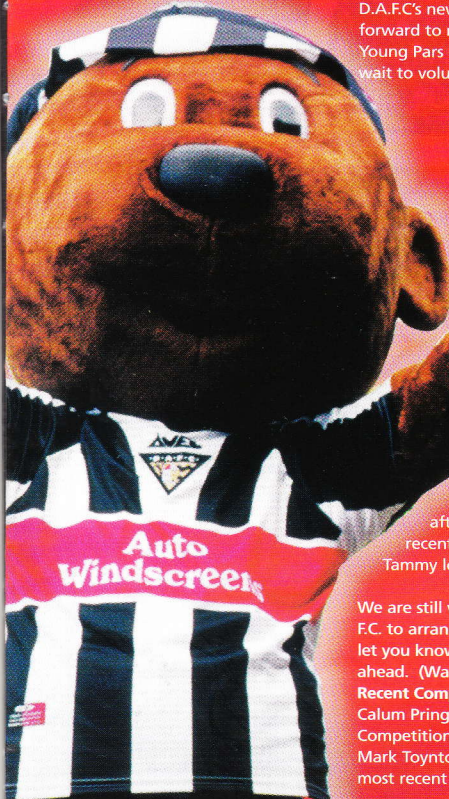


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Young Pars

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Hi Everyone,

First of all, a big Young Pars welcome goes to D.A.F.C.'s new signings, and we are all looking forward to meeting the new Players at our next Young Pars Events (We're sure that they just can't wait to volunteer (!) to attend!)

A special mention must go to our first new Young Pars Members of the Millennium - Ruth Findlay Harvey, from Dunfermline, and Tracy Heggie from Dunfermline. We're looking forward to meeting both of the girls soon.

A big Thank You goes to Zoe Johnstone and her parents, who sent us a lovely letter thanking the Club after her day as a Match Mascot at a recent game. Your photo with Sammy the Tammy looked great, Zoe!

We are still waiting for confirmation from Airdrie F.C. to arrange an exchange visit with them so we'll let you know as soon as possible if this is going ahead. (Watch this space!)

Recent Competition winners are as follows:

Calum Pringle - Winner of the latest newsletter Competition.
Mark Toynton and Stuart Foster - Winners of our most recent programme Competitions.

Well done to all of you!

YOUNG PARS BIRTHDAY BOARD

Many Happy Returns to the following Young Pars:

Lauren Mercer	Rebecca Mellon
Stuart Smith	Richard Lord
Connie Hay	Robbie Hamilton
Lewis Deacon	Greg Alexander
Rory Hamilton	Christopher Campbell
Michael Maxwell	Craig Barras
Matthew Curtis	Gavin Fotheringham
Michael Russell	Samuel Calderwood

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

You've all heard of the Millennium Dome? Well, the Young Pars are going to have their very own "Zones" at our next Events!

Take a note of the following dates:

For Young Pars aged 7-9 years - Thursday 3 February, 7pm-8.30 pm

For Young Pars aged 10 years and over - Thursday 17 February, 7pm-8.30pm

Both Events are in the Jock Stein Suite at East End Park, so come along and take part in your Young Pars Millennium Experience!

Be prepared for an evening of fun and games, bring along some pocket money and take a break in our "Café Zone" while you catch your breath before taking up your challenges! Interested? Come along and join in, you just may be a winner!

If (for some strange reason!) you haven't joined the Young Pars this Season yet, Phone Margo, on 01383 736879, for details about how to enrol.

We are offering a special "January Sale" bargain to anyone who would like to join the Young Pars until the end of the Season. Just phone Margo to find out all about it!

Hope we see you all soon

YOUNG PARS COMMITTEE

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HOME & AWAY JERSEYS	£39.99

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JOG PANT BLACK/GREY (PRINTED)	£13.99
HOME & AWAY JERSEYS	£33.99
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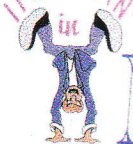
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JUSTIN SKINNER

Dunfermline's need for a versatile central midfielder saw Justin Skinner arrive from newly promoted Hibernian early this season, and he has adapted to a number of differing moves within the team with apparent ease, winning much praise for his performances. Justin spoke to Bob Storie recently, to say how he was adapting to his new surroundings....

Firstly, can you tell us a bit about yourself?

"I'm a London lad, born and brought up in the Chiswick area of London. Queens Park Rangers were more or less my local team, so I went to watch them whenever I could as a young lad. The top players I liked to see were Glen Hoddle and Kevin Keegan. Hoddle for the way he could direct a game, and Keegan for his finishing! I played at Fulham, under Ray Harford, then went to Bristol Rovers, who were managed by John Ward, who's now with Wolves. My time with Rovers gave me my biggest game so far, a play-off final at Wembley against Huddersfield - unfortunately, we lost 2-1! After that, it was up here to Hibs - I got a First Division Medal last year, and I'm hoping to make it a double this year at East End Park"

How did you move here come about?

"Over last summer, Alex McLeish brought in one or two new players to beef up his squad, guys like Frank Sauzee and Russell Latapy were going to feature much more as well, and that left me more or less on the fringes of the first team. I went to see Alex, and although he said he didn't want to let me go, he told me of Dunfermline's interest, and suggested I talk to them. I remembered playing against them before they were relegated and I recalled how impressive a stadium it had been. The new stands made it look even more impressive, and that potential, persuaded me to sign. Other people I spoke to also praised the club, so I knew it was the right move to make."

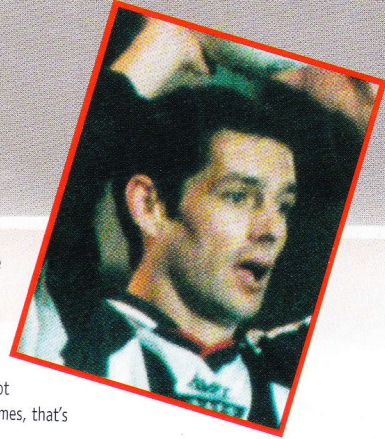
Is this year's First Division as tough as last season?

"At the moment, I see it as about the same as before. Obviously most of the teams and players are as they were. But I think the league as a whole is stronger with the addition of Inverness and Livingston, who are both very ambitious. Hamilton and Stranraer have gone, and they were the weakest sides last year. What it boils down to is that there are absolutely no easy games, we are a target for the others as we were promotion favourites, and that can lead to an awful lot of pressure early on - it can be hard to live with, but it goes with the territory - we have to play above all that."

How are you enjoying life with the Pars?

"I think I've settled in ok now, although it took a little while right at the start, and although the lads made me most welcome, and living in Edinburgh I travel back and forth with guys like Westy, Jamie Squires, Eddie May and recently Richard Huxford, who's on the road back to recovery after his operation. It's a good squad here, the potential is very strong and top spot is well within our power. Most of my career has been spent as a central

midfielder, but I've played some new roles since I came here, and I've enjoyed them very much - I've got to play a run of games, that's what's important!"



How are you enjoying working with the new boss?

He's a very fair man, which is an important starting point. He's still finding his feet, but he's made some immediate little changes to certain areas in the team, and also at training, and you can see that he's thinking ahead all the time. He thinks games over, and asks us for our reactions. It's fair to say that it helps to have a full and frank exchange of views, thrash a few things out, then get out on to the training ground, and put it all to good use!"

Two bad results on the trot at the New Year - How are the lads reacting to this?

"We're treating it in probably the most positive way we can - it's been a bit of a kick up the backside we perhaps needed! It's the first time in a long time that we've lost two games back to back, and it's not a nice feeling to have! We have to put it all behind us, and look to the very next game and resolve to win it, and win it well. We were all very angry at these defeats so it's down to us to start another run of results to show we haven't shot our bolt - we still have belief in ourselves!"

Ian Ferguson's arrival is a major signing - can this be a turning point in our season?

"It may very well be, yes! Ian's a high profile player with a wealth of experience at the very top of the game. I'm sure he'll bring a lot of character to the team, and he has shown he can be a leader out on the park. He hates to lose, and that's a good asset to have then you're fighting for promotion. It means that the competition for team places will hot up even more, and make it tighter for all of us, but no-one has a divine right to a regular place. Clearly, this is an ambitious signing, but this is a very ambitious club and this could lift all of us at just the right time."

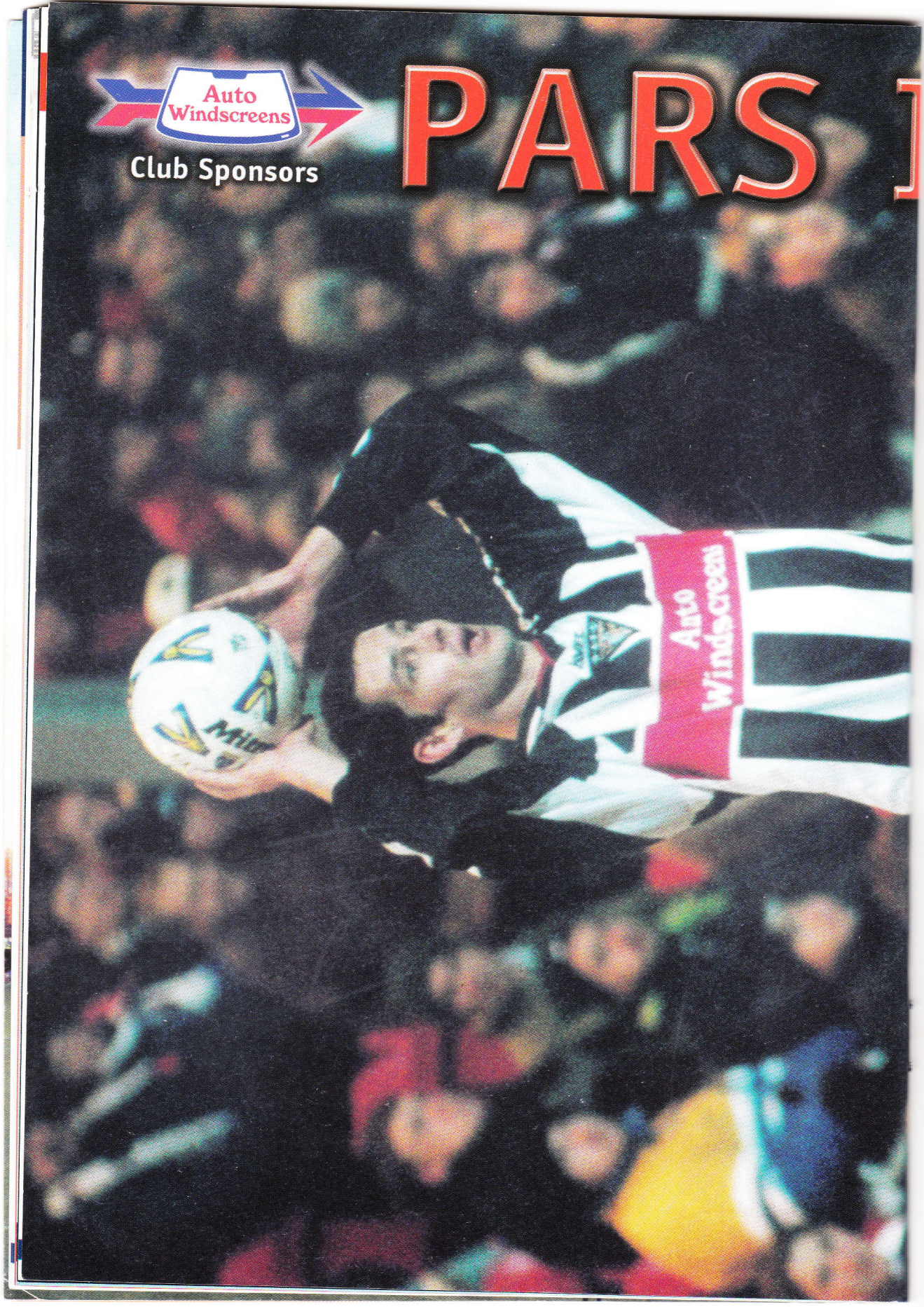
Ayr gave us a very tough game the last time they were here - will they be more dangerous today?

"The last game here was a hard game. They came back at us very strongly in the second half, and we just hung on for the win. They didn't seem to get any breaks in their other games, and we had a surprisingly easier time of it at Somerset Park with a 3-0 win. However, their results have picked up quite well in recent games, and they'll be playing with a lot more confidence. They'll raise their game a bit more again in coming here, but we're getting used to that now with the other clubs - it's not an unknown threat now. It's up to us to control the game on our own ground, and deny them the ball and room to move around. It's now vital to maintain a run of good results to put pressure on St Mirren all the way - we want that top spot for ourselves!"



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PARS I



IN PERSON



Justin Skinner

Jim Macdonald's World of Football

EURO 2000

The word on the street is that Euro 2000 isn't going to be the goldmine that many economists thought it would be. Maybe the story will be different in Belgium, but researchers reckon that the benefit to the Dutch economy will be around 93 million dollars, a far cry from the 280 million dollars estimated by the boffins of the Netherlands Economic Institute not many moons ago. Host cities Arnhem, Amsterdam, Eindhoven and Rotterdam are expected to be in amongst the guilders but elsewhere in Holland the picture doesn't look too rosy. Understandable, I suppose, when the Tartan Army won't be there to give the Dutch a treat!

More Euro news is that an association representing English supporters is planning to check out Amsterdam, Eindhoven and Charleroi in Belgium to see what sort of accommodation has been arranged for England fans and whether any provision has been made for big screens and the like. The association (Football Supporters' Association) seemingly expects many ticketless fans to make the trip - and has real concerns over the meeting with old adversaries Germany in Charleroi on June 17th.

For those of you who may have forgotten - or lost interest immediately Scotland's best exited the competition - the Championship will run from June 10th to July 2nd. First of all will be co-hosts Belgium in a loosener against Sweden; Holland spring into action against the Czech Republic on day two; the semi finals will be held on June 28th and 29th; and the Feyenoord Stadium, Rotterdam, will be the venue for the final on July 2nd.

Feel a lot better getting that off my chest!

PREMIER FARE

Pars fans who may have developed an interest in things Dutch - given the events of the past month or two - may find it fascinating to learn that Jimmy C's former charges, NEC Nijmegen, presently sit in 13th position in the 18-club Netherlands Premier League - five places below Kris Mampaey's old outfit, Willem II. Top four, for those who can't sleep without knowing such things are PSV Eindhoven, Heerenveen, Ajax and Feyenoord.

Watch this space for all the hot news from Holland.

QUANTUM LEAP

From the Low Countries to the Highlands, just like that. Why they should want to do it defeats those of us who believe that Scotland is overloaded with League clubs, but congratulations anyway to the latest recruits, Peterhead and Elgin City, although some may reckon that Huntly and Gala Fairydean can rightly feel aggrieved that they have missed out.

Cup success against Forfar a fortnight ago may have helped the current Highland League champions' case but almost certainly Peterhead's entry was down to the brand spanking-new stadium the Blue Toon side brought to the table. Maybes aye... maybes naw ... What many people will not know - unless they've dipped into Bill McAllister's "Highland Hundred" is that the Club's old stadium - Recreation Park - was provided with the help of a leg-up by Andrew Carnegie away back in 1891, the man himself attending the official opening of the Park, being in town anyway to lay the foundation stone of the new library he had endowed.

Success did not come readily to the "Blue Toon", three titles in the first four post-war seasons being followed by a long drought, with the club close to going to the wall in 1955. After a 39 year wait the championship was secured in 1988-99 - again last year - for a club regarded as a major force in the North, justified by its consistent Cup record.

Arguably many fans will be happier making the trip to Elgin rather than the hike to fishing port Peterhead, not least because they can follow the whisky trail to the Borough Briggs ground ... enjoying a dram or two on the way ... and unlike the Blue Toon, Elgin (thankfully) does not boast a prison. Elgin - the "Black and White Minstrels" (because of their Pars-style shirts) aka the "Mighty Men" or "Moray and City Slickers" could have been a League Club five years ago but for an ill-timed (alleged) indiscretion which resulted in their championship title being forfeited. No matter, they are there now, and still have the proud claim of being the only Highland League Club to reach the last eight of the Scottish Cup, losing narrowly to Morton (2-1) after seeing off Albion Rovers, Tarrif Rovers, Forfar and Arbroath to march into the 1967/68 quarter finals. Mind you, Pars fans will remember that our East End favourites thumped the Borough Briggs men 5-0 on our own patch in the third round of the Scottish in 1982/83 - a profitable day all round with a £5,000 pay-off from the Cup sponsors, including £500 for each goal scored.

I enjoyed getting in that bit about the Pars' victory. As I recall makeshift striker Gavin Tait bagged a hat-trick ... but I could be wrong.

AND FINALLY...

It's a far cry from the Maracana millions thrown at Man Utd and other World Club Championship contenders, but it was interesting to learn that a struggling Rio-based second division football team with links to the Communist Party has been bought by Brazil's fastest growing evangelical church - the Universal Church.

A change of name - from "Internacional" to Universal Football Club of the Kingdom of God" was reckoned by those in the know to be a small price to pay for an initial injection of £200,000 cash and a pledge to take the club back into the top flight by next year.

Divine intervention's great, isn't it?



18



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Second Eleven

In association with the



Jimmy Nicholl

Reserve League East

With no second eleven fixtures arranged, the club were keen to keep players match fit during a period when there have not been many competitive fixtures. Some of the recognised first team squad and some of the fringe players have not had a competitive match for between four to five weeks. Dundee United, having just returned from their mid-winter break during the Scottish Premier Division's four-week shut down, were also keen to get some of their players back into the swing of things. Accordingly, the clubs arranged a game at the ground of North End Juniors in Dundee for the afternoon of Tuesday 18th January.

David Graham, Lee Bullion and David Moss. The substitutes were Colin Nish, Russell Taylor, Kevin McLeish and Keir Nicol.

The next scheduled fixture is a Reserve Cup game against East Fife next Tuesday 25th January, kick off 7.30pm at East End Park. The same club will provide the opposition for the first Reserve League East match of the year when Dunfermline travel to Bayview. The match has been arranged for Monday 7th February with a 7.30pm kick off.

Under 18 Team News

On the basis that no news is good news then the Under 18's news must be absolutely brilliant! I jest, because the young Pars, in common with several of their senior colleagues, have also not had any competitive games to play in the last few weeks. This situation will change fairly rapidly during the next few weeks, however, so we will endeavour to keep you abreast of these developments.

Dundee United XI v Dunfermline XI

Pars fans may be aware of the media's interest in Lee Bullion who has been training with Dunfermline recently following his return to this country from Hong Kong. Lee made his "debut" for the Pars in the game against United and to his credit scored the Dunfermline goal in a 2-1 defeat for the Pars. At the time of writing no decision has yet been made about whether Lee will be offered terms by the club, but as they say, we will keep you posted. Lee certainly did not do his chances any harm by scoring while both the Pars Coach Jimmy Calderwood and Assistant Jimmy Nicholl were on hand to witness his exploits.

Like all professionals involved in the game Jimmy Nicholl does not like being on the wrong end of a score line. He did, though, think that the match had been a worthwhile exercise. On the positive side, Scott Thomson, who has been one of Dunfermline's influential players of late, returned from injury and came through the game without any problems. By the same token, young Keir Nicol came on as a substitute and performed well against a strong United side and demonstrating that he continues to progress.

For the record, the Pars side was: David Hay, Jamie Squires, John Potter, Brian Reid, Scott Thomson, Hamish French, Jamie Dolan, Chris Templeman,

RESERVE LEAGUE EAST

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
31 August	FORFAR ATHLETIC	A	2-0 Nish, Squires
7 September	RAITH ROVERS	H	0-2
14 September	ARBROATH	A	1-2 Nish
28 September	EAST FIFE	A	4-1 Graham 2, Ireland, Miller
5 October	INVERNESS CT	A	3-1 Graham 3
13 October	MONTROSE	H	6-0 Hampshire, Ireland, McGroarty, Nish, Tod, Walker
19 October	FORFAR ATHLETIC	H	4-1 French, Moss, Nish, Petrie
26 October	RAITH ROVERS	A	0-1
8 November	BRECHIN CITY	H	4-0 Smith 4
17 November	AYR UNITED (Res Lge Cup)	A	1-1 (won on pens) Graham
30 November	MONTROSE	H	5-0 Graham 3, Hampshire, Nish
25 January	EAST FIFE (Res Lge Cup)	H	
7 February	EAST FIFE	A	

SCOTTISH LEAGUE YOUTH DIVISION 'C'

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
2 September	FORFAR ATHLETIC	A	2-0 McGarty, Walker
15 September	RAITH ROVERS	A	0-3
18 September	ALLOA ATHLETIC	H	1-1 McGarty
3 October	EAST STIRLING	H	1-2 McGarty
14 October	COWDENBEATH	A	3-0 McDonald, Walker 2
19 October	BERWICK RANGERS	A	4-4 McGarty 2, Walker 2
26 October	LIVINGSTON (Yth Cp)	H	1-2 Walker
28 October	STENHOUSEUIR	H	1-3 McGarty
6 November	FORFAR ATHLETIC	H	1-3 Walker
18 November	RAITH ROVERS	H	1-4 Walker
20 November	ALLOA ATHLETIC	A	4-1 Walker 2, McGarty, Nicol
9 January	STENHOUSEUIR	A	2-0 Walker, Hynd



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Past Historic...

UNBEATEN IN ELEVEN

This afternoon sees the 78th Scottish League fixture between Dunfermline and Ayr United with the Pars ahead in the series by 30 wins to 26. Ayr have traditionally proved difficult opponents although that has changed in recent years with the Athletic now undefeated in eleven league matches going back to December 1992.

Neither side has a great record away from their own patch but the Pars have improved theirs with three victories from their last four Somerset Park visits. In fact, if Dunfermline are successful today they will establish an unprecedented run of six consecutive wins against "The Honest Men."

A DAY TO FORGET

Only three times in Dunfermline's history has the team suffered league defeats of eight goals or more. The worst of the lot was a 10-0 thrashing by Dundee at Dens Park in March 1947, closely followed by a 9-0 gubbing at Parkhead in January 1929.

Both of these are fairly well known but how many people are aware that it was Ayr United who inflicted the third heaviest defeat? On April 7th, 1951 the Pars travelled to Somerset Park for a meaningless penultimate match of the season. Although Ayr were to finish seven places higher, Dunfermline had previously beaten them 3-1 at East End Park. On a miserable afternoon for goalkeeper John Smith, Ayr scored eight without reply with Ian Crawford scoring a hat-trick.

In nearly fifty years since, Dunfermline has not suffered such a bad result although Rangers came close a couple of seasons ago.

AYR'S INTERNATIONALS

Ayr United have had seven of their players capped by Scotland, six of them in the years between the wars. Their most capped player is James Nisbet, who earned three caps in 1929, against Norway, Germany and Holland, all away from home.

Their famous full-back partnership of Philip McCloy and "Ferner Jock" Smith had the distinction of being chosen together to face England at Wembley in 1924. The 1-1 draw was Smith's only Scotland appearance but McCloy played once more, against England the following year.

The first Ayr player to line up for Scotland was John Crosbie, an inside-right who appeared against Wales in 1920. After a transfer to Birmingham, he picked up one more cap, against England in 1922. On both occasions he played alongside the legendary striker Andy Wilson, who was a Pars player at the time of the Wales match.

James Hogg (1922) and Robert Hepburn (1931) were also capped in that era but the last Ayr man to play for Scotland was Johnny Doyle, whose only appearance was against Romania in 1975. Shortly after that Celtic paid a club record £90,000 for him but tragically John was killed in 1981, electrocuted while working in his house.

THE FIRST TIME

Dunfermline met Ayr United for the first time on league duty on November 30th, 1912 in what was the Pars inaugural season in the Scottish League. Ayr on the other hand, were experienced campaigners, having finished second and then first in the Second Division in the previous two seasons.

At the time there was no automatic promotion or relegation - applications for membership of the First Division were considered each season - so Ayr missed out on both occasions.

The first match between the pair ended goal-less so Ayr became the first opponents to claim a Scottish League point at East End Park. Making his Ayr debut at left back that day was Willie McStay, who stayed on loan from Celtic for a remarkable four years. A Scottish international during the Twenties, Willie was also the great uncle of Paul McStay.

The return fixture took place on March 29th, 1913, with "The Honest Men" coming out on top by the only goal. This was actually Ayr's second last match while the Pars still had six to play, a situation caused by Dunfermline's progress in the Qualifying Cup earlier in the season. By the end of November they had played only four league matches whereas some of their rivals had played as many as nineteen!

The team coped well with the backlog although the loss at Ayr meant that to win the Second Division title Dunfermline had to win all six remaining games and hugely improve their goal average. They came very close winning five and drawing one, to finish only one point behind Ayr in second place - a great achievement in their very first season.

However, the drama didn't end there. The Pars applied for membership of the First Division, as did Cowdenbeath who had finished 5th. With the league being expanded by two teams, hopes were high but the club had failed to account for the west coast bias which was rife in the First Division at the time.

The decision was considered so important that when it was announced it was flashed onto the screen of the Opera House in the town. For Dunfermline, it was a bitter disappointment - the two clubs at the bottom of the First Division, Partick Thistle and Queen's Park, retained their places, while Ayr - rightly so, as champions - were elected along with Dumbarton, who had finished sixth!

CONNECTIONS

Signed in February 1924, Bobby Skinner scored goals during the remainder of that season but fell into dispute with Dunfermline over money and was allowed to join Ayr in May. With goalscoring proving a problem in 1924/25, the Pars paid £100 to regain his services in November.

This proved to be a fantastic deal for the Pars as Skinner rattled in no fewer than 25 goals during the second half of that season. However, it was in 1925/26 that he really made his name, scoring 53 goals as Dunfermline lifted the Second Division title. Just to rub it in, it was actually against Ayr at East End Park on March 20th, 1926 that the club gained promotion, winning 2-1. Emotions were running so high that a heavy challenge by Ayr full back Jock Smith on winger Ritchie caused a mini pitch invasion! This defeat cost Ayr dear as Clyde pipped them to the second promotion place by only a point.

Two seasons later Ayr became champions themselves and in doing so broke two of the Pars goalscoring records. Their total of 117 league goals was eight better than Dunfermline's and Skinner's individual total was eclipsed by Jimmy Smith, who netted a staggering 66 goals, a record which, not surprisingly, remains unbroken.

Another striker to play for both clubs was Sandy McNaughton, who, like Bobby Skinner, was more impressive at East End Park than Somerset Park. Signed from Stenhousemuir for £6,000 in 1979, Sandy was an ever present in the league over the next two seasons as well as being the Pars top scorer for three consecutive seasons. In 1980/81 he scored half of the clubs total of 44 goals, twenty of them in the league.

The Board turned down an offer of £25,000 for McNaughton from Airdrie but things quickly turned sour for him and he submitted a transfer request. One of Pat Stanton's last acts as Dunfermline manager was to arrange Sandy's transfer to Ayr early in September 1982 for £16,000.

After scoring 56 goals in 126 matches, the Pars found him impossible to replace and slumped to relegation, finishing one point behind Ayr United. McNaughton didn't find the same success at Somerset Park, scoring only a couple of goals during his first season there. If he'd stayed with Dunfermline their league positions would probably have been reversed.

22



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Around East End Park...

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIBS MATCH

Contrary to what you might have heard, Dunfermline's Tennents Scottish Cup tie with Hibernian next Saturday 29th January is NOT going to be all ticket. Dunfermline have been allocated both the upper and lower areas of the South Stand at Easter Road, which is good since Motherwell were recently confined to a small area of the Main Stand.

Admission prices for the match will be as follows:

Adults £16-00
Juveniles/OAPs £8-00

It is also worth noting that in the event of a replay, the tie will take place at East End Park on Wednesday 9th February 2000, kick off 7.45pm.

CENTENARY CLUB

Things gone a bit flat since the Hogmanay high jinks? Ready for a bit of socialising?

The Centenary Club has the answer to your prayers ... starting with a Sport Forum at East End Park on Friday 18th February 2000 at 7.30 pm. A line-up of top quality speakers will be there - including Jimmy Calderwood - who will be on the podium ... a buffet is on the agenda ... and its only £6.00.

Next on the social calendar is a Dinner Dance at Lauder Conference Centre on Saturday 18th March. Following our derby game with the "wee team". Have fun from 7.00 pm through to 1.00 am ... dancing to Cloud Nine ... A mere £15 a head.

Tickets available from the Centenary Club office at East End Park ... or from Committee Members. Why not join us?

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS CLUB

Transport:

Coaches will be leaving East End Park at 1.00pm for the Tennents Scottish Cup game against Hibernian on Saturday 29th January. Supporters wishing to travel can book by either contacting the Supporters Club after today's game or by telephoning 01383 515601.

Player Of The Year Dinner Dance:

Tickets are now available for the Player of the Year Dinner Dance which will be held in the Keavil House Hotel, Crossford, on Saturday 15th April. Voting between the players for the top three places is very close so it will prove

to be a very interesting few weeks leading up to the close of voting.

Tickets priced £20 are available from the Supporters Club Office. Music will be provided by Apollo Disco. Make sure you get your tickets early for what is sure to be a great evening.

PARKGATE TRAVEL CLUB

The bus for the game against Clydebank on Saturday 5th February in Greenock will leave from Dunfermline Fire Station at 12.30, and Rosyth Parkgate at 12.45. Anyone wishing to book a seat on the bus or to make enquiries about the Scottish Cup tie at Hibernian should phone Niall Shaw on 07932 035755.

ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Orders for bricks in the second Supporters Wall in the Norrie McCathie Stand Concourse continue to be sent in to East End Park. More than 200 orders for the second wall have now come in and with a further push it should be complete before too long. The interesting thing is that orders have come from far and wide, showing the appeal that the idea has to Pars supporters who are now living some distance away and are unable to be there on matchdays - sort of like being there in spirit!

If you want to be a part of it for £25, you can purchase a hand-crafted brick for yourself, your friend or relative with their own inscription with all of the proceeds from the venture going towards the Pars Youth Development Scheme.



50/50 winner receiving his cheque for £960 from Hamish French was JOHN CARSTAIRS from Dunfermline

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Future Perfect with



John Ritchie

SINCE THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE closed down for the winter early in December, the players have continued to train, but any hopes for friendly matches have largely fallen foul of the weather. The same was true of a programme set up for the lads during the holidays although they did manage to enjoy some training sessions indoors at Queen Anne High School.

Liverpool boss on how to manage teams at the top level.

Later it was off to visit the Liverpool Youth Academy, which includes in its excellent facilities eleven first class pitches, two top of the range astroturf pitches, (one of which is indoors), fourteen changing rooms, café, computer rooms, a laundry and a medical centre. To attract the cream of the best young players Liverpool start running teams at nine years old with the most talented entering the academy at sixteen. There are no fewer than 40 scouts operating in Liverpool alone!

Also held at Queen Anne was a coaching education course on Sunday, December 19th, attended by all the coaches involved in the youth set-up at East End Park as part of the S.F.A. Youth Programme. The course was also opened up to coaches from local youth and juvenile teams to pick up their "D" certificate, the first step in the youth coaching programme.

The youth system at East End Park may be a million miles away in terms of facilities (for example, Liverpool's academy cost over £10 million to build and has annual operating costs of around £1 million), but the Pars coaches were pleased to see that they employ many of the same ideas and programmes as Liverpool.

The S.F.A. is also looking to promote their youth licence, which is the top certificate, so that every club has at least one holder on their staff. John Ritchie has been attending the course at Largs which has attracted the top youth coaches from most of the senior clubs. In the last week he has participated in the final part of the course and sat the exam so fingers crossed that everything has gone well.

The UEFA pro-licence ends with all the trainees taking in three matches each at Euro 2000, but the catch is that they have to submit an in-depth report on them afterwards.

LESSONS FROM LIVERPOOL

Earlier this month John and Jimmy Nicholl visited the city of Liverpool as part of the UEFA pro-licence, the highest certificate in European football. They've already spent around 18 months on the course and were in the company of such coaches as Sandy Clark, Maurice Malpas, Billy Kirkwood, Tom Hendry, Jim Duffy and Davie Moyes.

Back on a more mundane level, two of the Pars youth coaches, Kenny Black and Bobby Drummond, attended a one day training course at Largs in the last week. These courses usually consist of a talk and a practical session by a top coach, such as Newcastle's Alan Irvine, who took the course at Hampden Park in December.

A day was spent at Everton's training ground where they worked with the youth players in the morning and later listened to Walter Smith give a 2 hour talk on team management.

Tomorrow sees the resumption of the Youth Initiative after its winter break, weather permitting. The fixtures for the next couple of weekends are as follows:

The following day it was Liverpool's turn to be put under the microscope. At their first class training centre they were met by Gerard Houllier and Alex Miller and watched the first team going through a light training session. Later they met the players, listened to coach Sammy Lee outline the week's training schedule and attended a talk by the

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

January 23rd		January 30th	
U13's	Away to Hibs	Under 13's	Home to Motherwell
U14's	Home to Cowdenbeath	Under 14's	Away to St Johnstone
U15's	Away to Motherwell	Under 15's	Home to Celtic
U16's	Away to Clyde	Under 16's	Home to Dundee

Please check with the club for venues, kick-off times etc.





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One Up...

A Review of the First Division

Whilst this column is substantially intended to review the First Division, given that only two games were played last weekend due to the weather, there's not much to be said.

No comment needs to be made about the circumstances surrounding the loss of a 2-0 lead against Falkirk other than the boss knows where the problem lies. A 93rd minute equaliser (where did the ref get that extra time from?) for Falkirk was a blow, but in truth, no more than we deserved. Still without a win this year, the gap between the Pars and St Mirren has widened whilst recent form means that third, fourth placed Raith and Falkirk have caught up. Raith and Airdrie were the only other two teams to play last weekend with wee team recording a 2-0 victory. Raith went on to record their fourth win out of four in midweek with a 93rd minute winner (yes, that time again!) over a plucky Clydebank side. Rovers were confident that they were going to overhaul Dunfermline and move into second place, but its amazing what the burden of expectation does for your nerves, and in the end Rovers would be grateful for their late, late winner which puts them level with the Pars on points. The next few weeks are going to be interesting...

Dark days at the Excelsior, and with no money to spend Gary Mackay has his work cut out. The saving grace for teams like Airdrie and Morton is that only one team goes down to Division Two. Clydebank, still without a win and without a manager after Ian McCall's move to the Morton office at Cappielow are doomed ye ken and have no chance of making up what is now a sixteen point gap between them and their landlords.

NEW FACES

In order to facilitate the expansion of the SPL, two teams from the Highland League were admitted to the SPL recently. Elgin City and Peterhead follow in the footsteps of their northern neighbours Inverness CT and Ross County who have set the standard both must follow.

Just five years since their admission to the SPL Ross County and particularly Inverness have left other much more established Scottish Football clubs in their wake. Currently fourth in Division Two, Neale Cooper's side have games in hand on all the sides above them and must be confident of challenging for a place in the First Division. Indeed with three promotion places up for grabs they must have a great chance.

When two of the three Inverness teams merged to create ICT many thought the political machinations in the Highland capital might hinder progress. But not a bit at all. Although mid table in Division One, ICT must qualify as the most improved football side in Scotland. From almost nothing to the heights of Scottish Senior Soccer they and Ross are to be commended.

Some may feel sorry for teams from the Borders like Whitehill Welfare and Annan Athletic but I'm sure their turn will come. While, best wishes go to Elgin and 'Head I wonder if the SFL, or whoever holds power, will ever consider a pyramid system that allows teams to enter the league on merit rather than popularity. It happens in England where the winners of the Nationwide Conference gain promotion to the Nationwide Third Division. This way gives non-league sides incentive and motivation to attain league status other than when the senior ranks decide to expand. Of course the corollary of all this is that it threatens the existence of teams like Albion Rovers who sit bottom of Division Three, but with no threat of relegation - where is the motivation to improve.

SUNSHINE BOYS

Finally, a dig at our pals in the media. With the winter break favouring our friends in the SPL you would have thought it an ideal opportunity for TV, Radio and Papers to spotlight the First, Second and Third Divisions.

While Radio Scotland are exempt, from criticism, because they provided coverage of a First Division game each Saturday, the other parts of the media are not so fortunate. Overpaid (and some over-weight!) hacks have been dispatched to sunnier climes to follow and report upon meaningless games of beach volleyball in Florida, Spain and the Algarve.

Are we really all so sad and desperate that we want to read about SPL teams who spend their winter break playing meaningless matches against mediocre opposition? Are we really interested in learning about what the hotels are like, what the food is like and whether Rafael Felipe Scheidt really is Rafael or plain Scheidt? I don't think we are.

And what about the World Club Championship? What was the criteria for entry? Why were Palmeiras, the Brazilian Champions excluded? Why were Real Madrid there? Was it all cross commercialism and an opportunity to make money? Who are Al Nassr?

Finally, a dig at the sycophantic Andy Gray. In a recent SKY game he commented on the quality of Aussie and Leeds striker Harry Kewell. He commented that Australia could be a force in world football if they had more than one good striker and a decent goalie (Bosnian). Does the numpty not know of Moore, Vidmar (Rangers), Corica + Muscat (Wolves), Viduka (Celtic) etc to name but three or four. Australians are currently world champs at Rugby, Cricket and Field Hockey. They currently hold the Davis Cup of Tennis - Andy - it's only a matter of time before you eat your words - again!

Rennies

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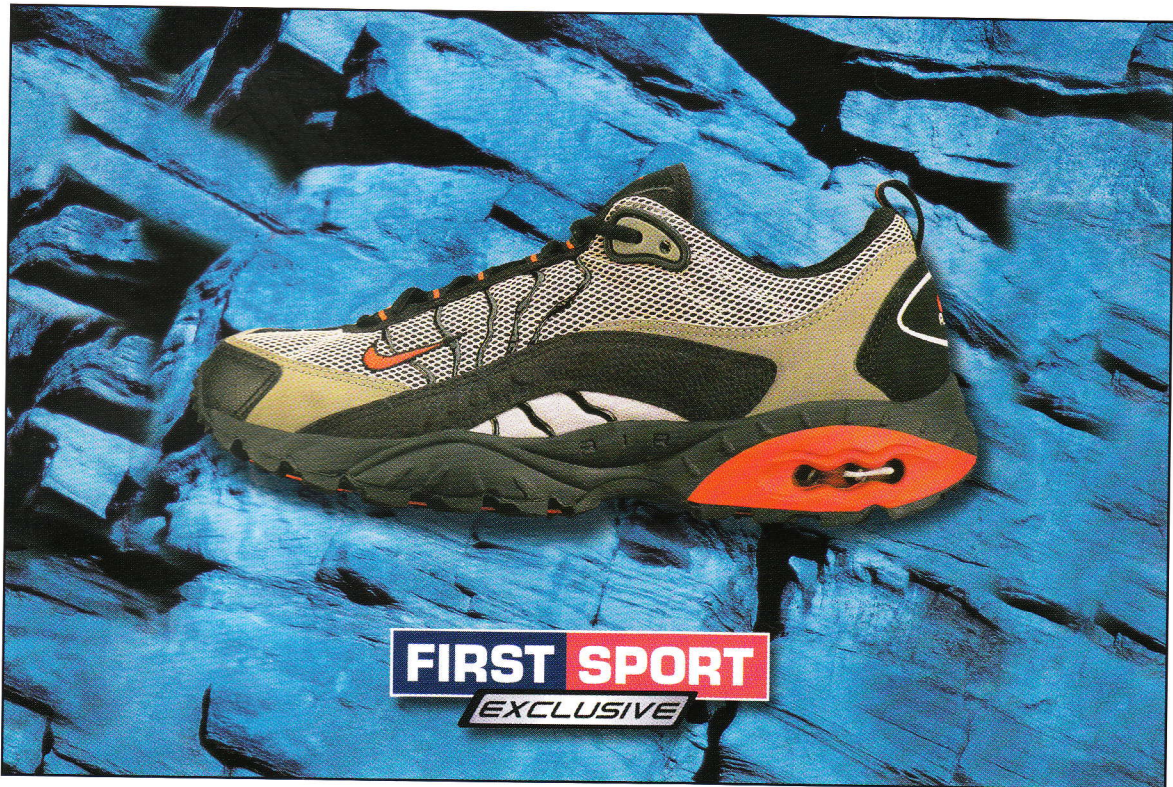
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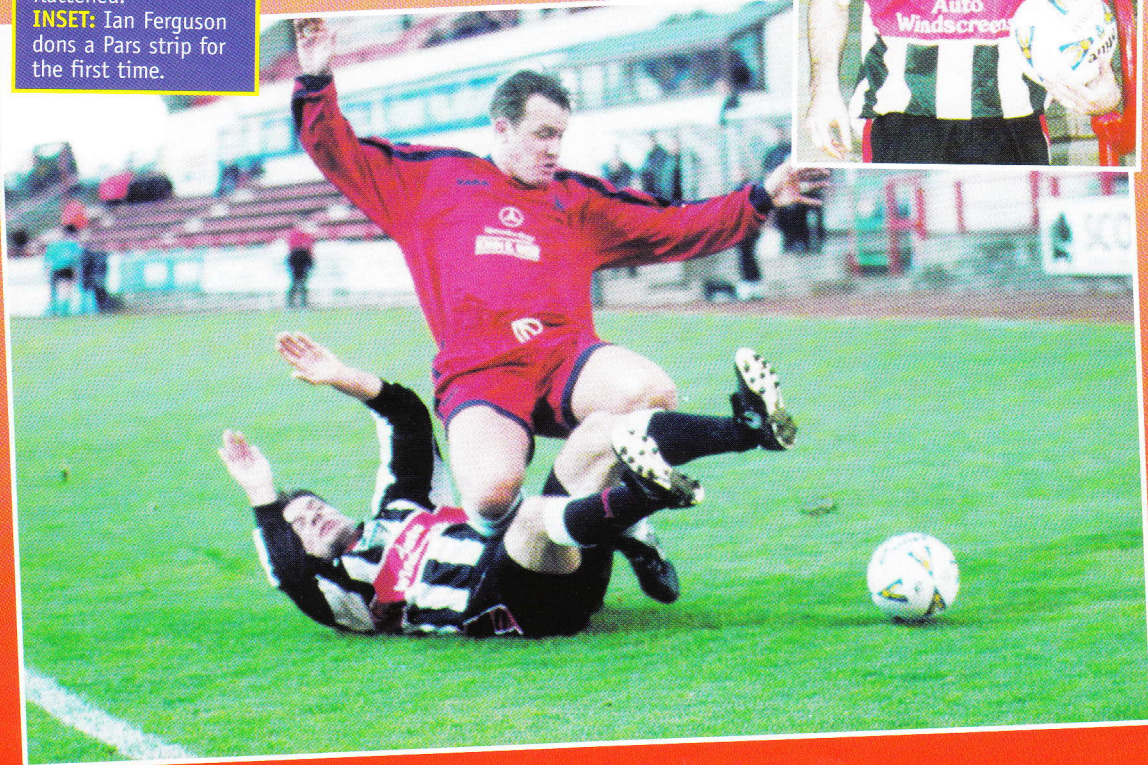
All square against Falkirk



TOP: Owen Coyle and Eddie May back in the fray against Falkirk.

BOTTOM: OUCH! Looks more like a wrestling move as Eddie May is flattened.

INSET: Ian Ferguson dons a Pars strip for the first time.



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Today's Football

IT'S BACK TO BUSINESS for the Scottish Premier League today, which roughly translated means that the rest of Scottish football will go back to 'Round Up' status in the weekend papers!

It's Edinburgh v Dundee in two of today's Premier League ties, and Pars fans might be most interested in how Hibs fare against the lot from Tannadice given that we are playing the Easter Road side next week.

A couple of good games are in prospect in the First Division with last week's opponents Falkirk taking on St Mirren. The improving news on Falkirk's ground options will undoubtedly encourage them to greater things today. Raith Rovers travel north to play a much improved Inverness CT to try to maintain their improved record of late. The results of these two games and the one at East End Park will determine how the top of the league looks like tonight.

Elsewhere, the Second Division looks even tighter than the First with virtually every team in with a shout of going up - or down! Improving Queen of the South take on Stirling at Palmerston and a win today will see them right back in the pack again.

In the Third Division, the top two meet at New Bayview, and with Queens Park continuing their amazing fall, East Fife will be favourites to close the gap.

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

Dundee United v Hibernian
Hearts v Dundee
Rangers v Aberdeen
St Johnstone v Motherwell

BELL'S LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC V Ayr United

Falkirk v St Mirren
Inverness CT v Raith Rovers
Livingston v Clydebank
Morton v Airdrie

BELL'S LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

Alloa Athletic v Stenhousemuir
Arbroath v Stranraer
Clyde v Hamilton Accies
Partick Thistle v Ross County
Queen of the South v Stirling Albion

BELL'S LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION

Albion Rovers v East Stirlingshire
Berwick Rangers v Brechin City
Dunbarton v Cowdenbeath
East Fife v Queens Park
Montrose v Forfar Athletic



Player of the Year

IN THE END THE RESULT against Falkirk proved to be hugely disappointing, but even if the final product was not what the fans were hoping for, it did show the value to the team of one man. Steve Crawford's long term future at the club is still in doubt, but his ability and contribution is there for all to see. Not for the first time, he saw an early opportunity and with a superb pass picked out Steve Hampshire who opened the scoring in two minutes. Later on in the game he showed his striker's instincts by being in the right place at the right time to notch Pars second goal, and then later still he might have secured all of the points for Dunfermline with a rasping free kick which went just wide. Not surprisingly therefore, he was made sponsors Man of the Match!

New man Ian Ferguson did tire the longer the game went on but there is no doubting the man's skill and class - and the sponsors thought so too by awarding him second place points for his good showing in the early part of the game.

It was youngster Chris McGroarty who yet again took the eye for third place. Operating in a midfield role, Chris worked well alongside Ian Ferguson - could it be the shape of things to come?



Steve Crawford
Man of the Match

AUTO WINDSCREENS MAN OF THE MATCH

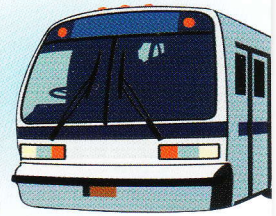
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2	IAN FERGUSON	2
3	CHRIS MCGROARTY	1



Next Please!



**SATURDAY 29TH JANUARY 2000
TENNETTS SCOTTISH CUP, 3RD ROUND
HIBERNIAN AT EASTER ROAD STADIUM**

THE FIRST FULL CUP SATURDAY of the year is always one of the most exciting weekends in the footballing year. The Cup may not have the same glamour attached to it that it used to, but it is still the oldest domestic competition in Scotland and it does still end with one of the highlights of the year - Cup Final Saturday.

In one sense the draw has been kind to Dunfermline. They have been drawn against Premier League opposition which means that for once this season they won't have the burden of being favourites, and secondly they can enjoy pitting their skills against a team from a higher league.

Easter Road has never been a favourite venue for Dunfermline, although over the years there have been some great battles fought down the famous

slope. The Pars have been there relatively recently to win a Cup match, albeit a League Cup match, when in 1989 Dunfermline saw off Hibs in extra time. The Hibs revival continues under Alex McLeish and they are undoubtedly a far better team these days than the one which seemed to perpetually employ negative tactics to hold on to their Premier League place a few years earlier. But Dunfermline have one or two players with something to prove. Eddie May, Justin Skinner and Steve Crawford are all former Hibeers, although of course Stevie's status remains uncertain. Even if he is transferred to Dunfermline, it seems highly unlikely that Hibs would allow this through in time for him to play against his old club. One final point - when Dunfermline played at Easter Road in the Cup in 1986 (as a Second Division club), they surprised people in Edinburgh with the size of their support. They did the same the following year when they were in the First Division. Let's hope the 'new millennium' Pars support will do the same this time around!

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