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Wirral Programme Club Scottish Premier League Programme of the Year 1998-99 BELLS
Scottish League
Division One

Dunfermline Athletic versus

Clydebank

East End Park, Sat 27th November 1999 Kick-off 3.00pm

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The official matchday magazine of Dunfermline Athletic Football Club



ON THE COVER

STEVIE
CRAWFORD'S
LOAN SPELL
FROM HIBS HAS
BEEN AN
UNQUALIFIED
SUCCESS

IN THIS ISSUE...



5 VISITORS

They might be homeless and penniless, but there's a lot of fighting talk coming from Clydebank these days, and no wonder. They may be cast adrift at the bottom of the First Division, but the fact is that they have only conceded NINE goals in seven away games, and have been desperately unlucky not to record their first win of the season. Dare we say, Dunfermline fans might have to be patient.....

15 STEVE HAMPSHIRE

Bob Storie interviews one of the newest faces at East End Park, the former Chelsea youngster Steve Hampshire. Former Hibs manager Jim Duffy encouraged him to try the club but Steve wasn't too prepared for a debut in which he would find himself playing with only eight team-mates!

JIM MACDONALD'S WORLD OF FOOTBALL

Jim is already planning his holiday in the Algarve for Euro 2004, but

may have to find some old programmes in his attic to pay for the trip. He also gives us the lowdown on the Bolivian version of Dunfermline v Airdrie....

22 PAST HISTORIC

Gordon Baird gives us a potted history of Clydebank and tells us that Dunfermline have won twelve matches on the trot against Clydebank (no mentions please of unlucky 13!). There have also been some interesting connections, not least of which are Bankies current manager lan McCall and Pars striker Owen Coyle.

26 ONE UP...

Our definitive version of what's happening in the First Division is put on hold to allow Bill Kinnear to make an impassioned plea about the Easter Road ballgirl... (we worry about Bill – Ed.)

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

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DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB 1885-1999

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(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**

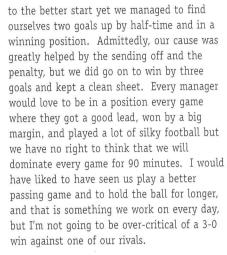
Winners: 1987/88 Scottish Reserve League (**East)** Champions: 1986/87, 1992/93

Jimmy Nicholl.

At the time of going to print, no announcement had been made about the appointment of a new manager so Caretaker Manager Jimmy Nicholl kindly agreed to provide the column for this week's issue of the Pars Programme...

I HAVE BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED by what I have seen in our last couple of performances. Yes, there still areas where I'm not happy, but I think we have seen improvements all round. The test is now to see if we can go on a winning run of four, five or six games, so that by the time Dunfermline face St Mirren again at the end of December we will be playing with the confidence and flair that I would expect from this group of players.

The game against Livingston was a bit strange because I actually thought that they got off



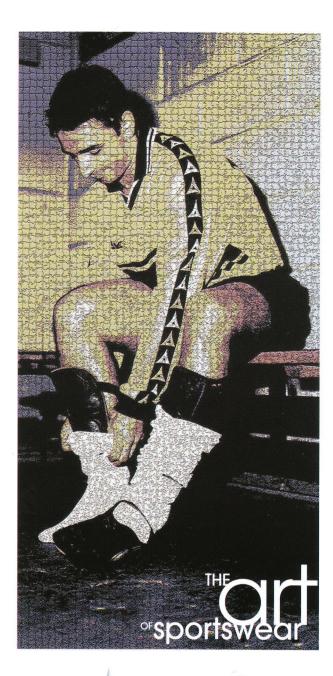
I thought that our performance against Falkirk showed a further improvement, and any win at Brockville has got to be good. There were some good individual performances. For example, Justin Skinner showed a cool head and a lot of assurance at the back, just the thing we need in a game like that. It's too early to say how it is going to work in the future but the signs are encouraging. The two full backs were able to push forward and they had good games, and I thought Andy Tod had one of his best games this season. Stevie Crawford and Owen Coyle showed great movement up front and it was good to see them both scoring.

Over the last couple of years, Clydebank have gone through a very hard time. Ian McCall deserves a lot of credit for what he's achieved - I sometimes feel he deserves more than he's had. They seem to have been playing well without getting any luck. They have a lot of experience at the back and can counter attack with their younger players, so it's important that we don't underestimate them. But we've got take advantage of their situation, particularly at home, and try to build up the confidence that winning ways produces.



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rather be without?....

CLYDEBANK

N STOR

WHEN IAN McCALL WAS A PLAYER at East End Park,

you knew that there was always a chance that something would occur. He was one

of those people who made things happen, and it wasn't always on the football pitch! A larger than life character, Ian's playing career never quite reached the highs that everyone expected – especially the first time he left Dunfermline after his £200,000 move to Rangers in 1987. Since then, a lot of water has passed

Since then, a lot of water has pas under the bridge, and Ian has developed into one of Scotland's

most respected young managers.

His achievements at Clydebank have been nothing less than remarkable. During a period of immense turmoil at the club, he has been the one constant who has kept the ship afloat. Despite having virtually no money whatsoever, he has convinced a succession of seasoned professionals to join the fight. So far this season, it hasn't succeeded because Clydebank are stranded at the foot of the table without a win. A quick look at Clydebank's performances show however, that they have never been very far away from getting a result. Amazingly, they have only conceded nine goals in seven outings away from their adopted

home at Cappielow – Dunfermline, with the best defensive record in the league, have conceded ten goals in a similar number of games away from home! Such statistics alone should convince Pars fans that today's game will not be the foregone conclusion that some might like to think it could be. Ian McCall is likely to select his side from among the following:

COLIN SCOTT (Goalkeeper)

Big 29 year old keeper who signed from Raith Rovers at the start of last season. As a youngster who got into Rangers first team at an early age, Colin appeared to have a great future ahead

appeared to have a great rather disease of him, but it was not to be. While at Ibrox, he had loan spells with Brentford and Airdrie, but moved to Hamilton Accies then on to Starks Park. One of the reasons for Clydebank's great defensive record

FRASER WISHART (Defender)

Vastly experienced 34 year old full back who seems to have been around for a very long time. Came to prominence as a youngster with Motherwell where arguably he played some of his best football before signing for St Mirren in 1989. He moved from Love Street to sign for Falkirk, Rangers (a short but successful spell), Hearts and Motherwell again before joining the Bankies in 1997. These days, Fraser doubles his playing duties with those of being Clydebank's first team coach.

PETER CORMACK (Defender)

Liverpool born 25 year old defender who is the son of the former Scotland midfielder of the same name. Signed in August by Ian McCall from Stirling Albion, Peter is Clydebank's joint top goalscorer this season with three goals to his credit. Previously with Morton and Newcastle

NEIL OLIVER (Defender)

Another of Bankies experienced performers, 32 year old Neil played under Jim Jefferies at Berwick Rangers before signing for Blackburn Rovers in 1989. He moved back to Scotland in 1991 when Jefferies again grabbed his signature – this time for Falkirk. He enjoyed a successful spell with the Bairns, winning promotion to the Premier League and a place in Falkirk's Cup Final team in 1997. He moved to Clydebank from Hamilton in the summer.

KENNY BRANNIGAN (Defender)

34 year old centre half who has only recently returned to

Clydebank after a short spell at Firhill with Partick Thistle as Player/Coach. His lengthy and occasionally controversial playing career includes spells with Queens Park, Kilmarnock, Falkirk, East Stirling, Stranraer and Stenhousemuir. A solid defender who will be welcomed back by Ian McCall.

JAMES McKINSTREY (Midfield)

With the club for two years having signed in October 1997, this versatile player can occupy a number of positions. Originally signed from Irvine Meadow, 20 year old James is trying this season to establish a regular first team place for himself.

IAN CAMERON (Midfield)

Now 33, Ian signed from Raith Rovers during the close season. In recent weeks he has been in good form and his direct running and occasionally spectacular shooting will always pose a threat to opposing defences. He counts St Mirren, Aberdeen and Hibs among his former clubs.

MARTIN O'NEILL (Midfield)

25 year old of whom great things were thought in his early years at Clyde. Signed in the summer from Premier League Kilmarnock. On the bench against St Mirren last week.

for a

SCOTT MURDOCH (Midfield)

Easily Clydebank's longest serving player having joined from St Rochs in October 1992. 30 year old Scott has been a great servant to the club, playing regularly every season, but this season he has struggled to retain a starting place in Ian McCall's line up.

LEE GARDNER (Forward)

29 year old striker with two goals to his credit this season. A fast striker who can cause problems for opposing defenders, Lee has been virtually ever-present for Bankies since signing for them in July last year from Albion Rovers. Previously with Meadowbank Thistle and Arbroath.

MICHAEL GERAGHTY (Forward)

Signed on loan from Ross County at the end of October in an attempt to bolster the Bankies poor showing in front of goal. The 29 year old striker only signed for the Highland club in the summer from Hamilton Accies. A known goalscorer, he is a player who was at one time connected with a move to Dunfermline. Also previously with Stranraer and East Stringshire.

KRIS O'NEILL (Forward)

The second O'Neill in the side, Kris is a recent signing for Bankies. He has teamed up well with Mike Geraghty to try to give Clydebank some threat up front. Scored earlier on in the season against Morton.

DANIEL McKELVIE (Forward)

19 year old forward who made the starting line up against St Mirren last week. Daniel made a number of appearances from the sub's bench last season and has been more prominent this time around. Signed from Ayrshire junior side Beith in September 1998.

GREG MILLER (Forward)

Another of Ian McCall's summer signings, Greg moved to Clydebank from Motherwell. The 23 year old had also previously been with Livingston. Scorer of two league goals so far this season.

And finally, it is worth noting that Ian McCall is himself still a registered player, as is Assistant Manager Steve Morrison. Both players were found in attacking midfield roles as heroes of the Pars teams of the 1980s, although Steve (now 38) was most recently seen keeping goal for Clydebank! Now it would be something if the two of them appeared in the starting line up!

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Headlines

No News Yet - 1

At the time of going to print, no decision had been made about the appointment of a new manager for Dunfermline. Despite the fact that there was a Board Meeting on Monday, no decision was taken on an appointment. Instead, the club have taken the opportunity to carry out further checks on one or two of the candidates.

Despite Chic 'Dunfermline-loving' Young's endeavours to decide on the appointment himself, the situation appears to be a genuinely open one in which a number of quality candidates have come forward. If either of the two names that Chic mentioned get the job, it is likely to be in spite of what Chic said, rather than because of it!

Dunfermline are in the pleasant position of not having to rush. The team have been winning important games, and are strongly placed in second position in the league. Caretaker Manager Jimmy Nicholl has said that he's happy where he is, and although an appointment is undoubtedly imminent (indeed may have been made!), he may well be in charge for today's game against Clydebank.



No News Yet - 2

Again, at the time of writing, there had been no decision taken about the transfer of Craig Ireland to Dundee. The central defender has been on loan at Dens Park, and by all accounts playing out of his skin. Dundee Manager Jocky Scott is keen to make the move permanent, although earlier in

the week he was hinting that there might not now be such a panic since the player that Craig replaced is back in action.

The two clubs were in negotiation at the start of the week, and it is possible that by the time you are reading this he will have moved on. If that is the case, we'll have a breakdown on his Pars career in our next issue.

No News Yet - 3

Stevie Crawford's excellent performances for Dunfermline have certainly got the fans on his side and the player himself seems keen to make the move permanent. His loan spell finishes today, so a decision of some sort is imminent, but as



General
manager Paul
D'Mello said
earlier in the
week, it would
be wrong to
finalise a
transfer without

the new manager being

in post. It therefore seems likely that

Dunfermline will wish to arrange an extension to his loan from Hibernian to perhaps the end of January. This would give the new manager the opportunity to assess the squad and make the necessary arrangements.

Stevie certainly has been in great form, and his linking with Owen Coyle was very good on Saturday. Let's hope that he can do the necessary again today!

Injury Time

Spare a thought for Pars utility player Richard Huxford. Richard has been out injured since early in the season, and this week went to hospital for an operation which is likely to keep him out for the remainder of the season.

Not quite so bad are fellow first team squad members Jason Dair and David Moss. Both are on the mend but will miss today's game against Clydebank.

Sweet Victory!

Whatever happens to Caretaker Manager Jimmy Nicholl, Pars fans will want to thank him and give him credit for a great victory last Saturday at Brockville.

To put Pars 3-1 win into perspective, prior to last Saturday, Dunfermline have only gone to Brockville TWICE on league business in the last THIRTY YEARS and come away with a win. Yes, it has been that bad – Brockville has been the bogey ground to end all bogey grounds!

You have to go back to 20th November 1991, when Davie Moyes scored the solitary goal in a 1-0 Pars win. Curiously enough, it was Dunfermline's first win of the season, home or away, in 19 league games, and Falkirk were one of only two teams defeated in the league in that horrible season!

Before that and you go back to 19th January 1974 when Ian Campbell gave Dunfermline another 1-0 win.

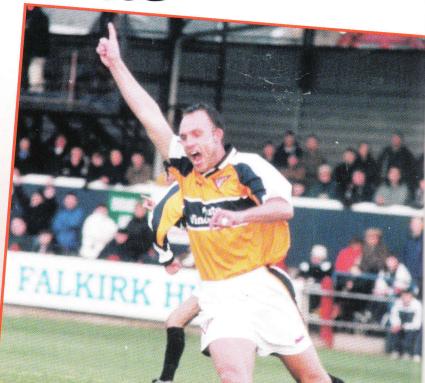
Before that? You're talking about the 'glory days' of the 1960s, season 1968/69, and more than thirty years ago.

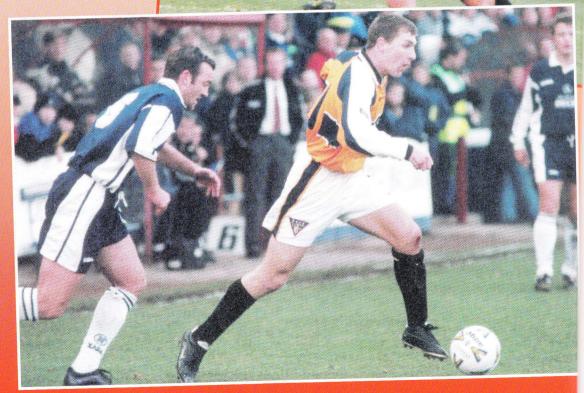
Well done to Jimmy and all the lads for an excellent result!

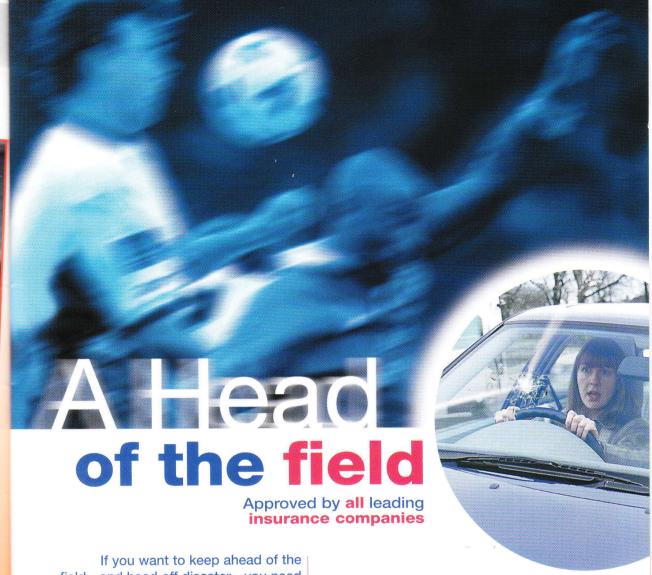


Great win at Brockville

TOP: David Moss was only on the park long enough to celebrate Owen Coyle's opening goal BOTTOM: Stewart Petrie returned straight to the starting line against Falkirk after his suspension







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PARSTATS

1999/2000 APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS

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

Correct at 22nd November, 1999. *Denotes shut-out by goalkeeper.

BELL'S Scottish Football League - Div. 1

HOME										AW/	Y		
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	GD
St Mirren	15	6	2	0	21	10	5	1	1	20	7	36	24
Dunfermline	15	4	4	0	14	5	3	3	1	14	10	28	13
Raith Rovers	15	4	2	1	16	13	3	3	2	12	9	26	6
Falkirk	15	4	0	4	13	15	3	3	1	12	8	24	2
Livingston	15	4	3	1	15	8	2	2	3	8	12	23	3
Airdrie	15	2	3	2	7	10	2	2	4	5	13	17	-11
Inverness CT	14	2	2	2	7	7	2	2	4	11	16	16	-5
Greenock Morton		2	2	3	12	12	2	1	5	13	17	15	-4
Ayr United	14	3	1	3	7	6	1	1	5	8	16	14	-7
Clydebank	15	0	1	7	5	21	0	2	5	4	9	3	-21

KEY TO STATS

Morton

Sat 29

Sat 06

Airdrieonians

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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Thomson	Dair	Tod			Skinner	French	Smith	COYLE 1	Petrie	May (6)	Ireland	Graham (9)
Huxford	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan		Moss	Smith	Coyle	Ireland	French(11)	May	McGroarty(7)
HUXFORD 1	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner		SMITH 1	Coyle	Petrie	French(7)	Huxford	Nish
Dair	McGroaty	Tod	REID 1	Dolan	Thomson	Moss	Smith	COYLE 2	Petrie	Thomson(11)	Ireland	Graham(9)
May	Dair	Potter	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	Moss		COYLE 1	Petrie	FRENCH 1(6)	Graham(9)	Ireland
May	DAIR 1	Potter	REID 1	Dolan	Thomson	Skinner	Smith			Ireland	May(9)	McGroarty(6)
Thomson	Dair	Potter	Reid	Dolan	Graham	French	Smith	Coyle	Petrie		Tod(2)	Graham(7)
May	Dair	Potter	Reid	Dolan	Hampshire	Skinner	Smith	Coyle	Thomson	Moss(6)	1 / .	Nish(10)
	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Thomson	Skinner	HAMPSHIRE 1	French	Petrie	Moss(3)	Potter(5)	
May		Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	MOSS 1	Crawford	Hampshire	Petrie	French(6)	Potter(3)	Smith(10)
Thomson	Dair		Reid	French	Hampshire	MOSS 1	Crawford	Coyle	Skinner	Smith	May	Potter
Thomson	McGroarty	Tod			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)
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Name	Club	Bells League	CIS Cup	Bells Cup	Tenn Sc.Cup	Totals
Owen COYLE Barry LAVETY Mark YARDLEY Paul SHEERIN Craig DARGO Scort CRABBE David BINGHAM Gerry BRITTON Didier AGATHE Colin McDONALD Harry CURRAN Nigel JEMSON Scott McLEAN Brian McPHEE Andy SMITH	Dunfermline St. Mirren St. Mirren Inverness CT Raith Rovers Falkirk Livingston Livingston Raith Rovers Falkirk Morton Ayr United Airdne Inverness CT. Livingston Dunfermline	7 11 11 5 7 6 5 4 6 5 4 6 5 4 6 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	2 0 0 1 1 2 0 2 0 0 1 0 2 2 0 1 0 1 0 1	2 0 0 4 1 0 2 1 0 1 0 0 0 1	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	11 11 11 10 9 8 7 7 6 6 5 5 5 5 5

1999/2000 TOP GOALSCORERS BELL'S 1st DIV. ATTENDANCES 1999/2000

Name	Gms	Total Attnd.	Av. Attnd.	Highest Attendance during Season
Airdrieonians	6	12,331	2,055	2,872 v Dunfermline (14.08.99)
Ayr United	6	13.962	2.,327	3,467 V St Mirren (23.10.99)
Clydebank	7	4,755	679	1,513 V St Mirren (29.08.99)
DUNFERMLINE ATH	7	36,359	5,194	6,889 V Raith Rovers (06.11.99)
Falkirk	7	21,299	3,043	4,505 v St Mirren (25.09.99)
Inverness Cal Th.	6	15,585	2,598	3.022 v Falkirk (14.08.99)
Livingston	7	28,012	4,002	5,798 v Dunfermline (04.09.99)
Morton	6	9,619	1,603	3,733 v St Mirren (06.11.99)
Raith Rovers	6	20,037	3,340	6,087 v Dunfermline (18.09.99)
St Mirren	7	30,909	4,416	6,773 v Morton (18.09.99)

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Auto Windscreek

(The strange world of Sammy the Tammy) Hi Folks, Hi Folks,
I trust everyone enjoyed our result against Livingston a
couple of weeks ago. I'm sure you'll agree
it was great to get the
three points in a game

which I said in a potential banana skin for us Added to that of course

Added to that of course, it may be our new manager's first home game, so I'm sure you will all give him or her a rousing welcome to our of her a rousing wetcome to of famous home! (Sammy is never discriminatory and always politically correct – although I'm not sure if any ladies actually applied for the post). For those of you who don't know, I have to

ladies actually applied for the post).

For those of you who don't know, I have to write my programme copy in advance of fixtures, which is why it always looks like I am behind the times talking about things that happened weeks ago! The statement on our new boss (above) is a prime example of this, however another example was clearly seen in my last column where I spoke of my Guy Fawkes tribute that didn't really happen – thanks to a certain unwilling release mechanism on the balloon race net! I will just have to save my tribute to Guy Fawkes for next year! I will also be taking a gamble with the next advance statement... Thanks to the team for a great victory last week at Falkirk!!! (no problem, Sammy, you really are psychic! – Ed.)

Many thanks to all those who came along to see me at the open day for the "Buy a Brick" Campaign. Your very kind words regarding my performance at the It's a Knockout Final were very much appreciated! I hope all you kids got my autograph and official badge! There were certainly lots of free goodies given away! My own feeling was that I should have had a penalty after I was unceremoniously scythed down in the box at the end of my long mazy run into the Forth FM penalty box during the All-Stars game! Please give the team (and our new manage!) the benefit of your full vocal support by singing today's selected Sammy Song as loud as you can!

Ole ole ole ole, we are the Pars, we are the Pars!

Ole ole ole, we are the Pars, we are the Pars!

Love and cuddles,
Sammy
PS: I heard a great new sonn at a Ps.

Sammy
PS: I heard a great new song at a Pars game recently,
but it's far too rude to use as a Selected Sammy
Song. Perhaps the writers could incorporate some
more "PC" lyrics to allow its use. Here is a
suggested cleaned-up version... (to the tune of The

uggested Cleaned op Great Escape) Because we're loyal, Dunfermline loyal, We dislike other teams and certain players! Oh yes we're loyal... E-Mail = SammyTheTa@aol.com Web-site = http://members.aol.com/SammyTheTa/index.html

Hello Everyone,

First of all, we must send our very best wishes to Dick Campbell and his family for the future and also thank him for all he has done over the years for the Young Pars. From the Young Pars Committee's point of view, our events just won't be the same without that cheeky grin! (mind you, we won't miss the frequent slaggings he used to give us!) One thing that we should all learn from this is that we are here to support the Club, and everyone involved in it. We're certain that our Young Pars will give 100 percent backing to the Management and Players for the rest of the Season, and we would all hope that genuine Pars fans will do likewise (End of lecture!!)

YOUNG PARS BIRTHDAY BOARD

Many Happy Returns to the following Young Pars: Dominic Sherry Jordan Lamb Jeremy Masson **Christopher Curri Richard Pratt Mark Toynton Craig Nicol Adam Claybourne Peter Rumney Ruth Henderson** Scott Curtis **Ross Beattie**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Christmas Events are coming up and the plans are as follows:

Thursday 2nd December: Young Pars aged 7-9 years: Ten Pin Bowling

Thursday 9th December: Young Pars aged 10-16 years: Ten Pin Bowling

Sunday 12th December: Sammy's Gang Members: Bubbles and Burgers with Sammy!

More details will be in your Young Pars Newsletter, which will be coming your way soon, so look out for your Postie, and remember, you MUST send in your replies!

AND FINALLY....

Remember, it's still not too late to join the Young Pars this Season, especially if you want to come to our Christmas Events, so just phone Margo on 01383 736879 for an application form.

Have you all visited the new Club Shop yet? There are plenty of gifts you can buy for your friends and family for Christmas, as well as ideas for your own list! We're busy choosing the design for this year's Christmas card and it's proving to be a difficult task as the drawings are so good. (Mind you, there was an entry from a certain I. Westwater that looks a bit promising, but maybe that would be a bit unfair as we don't know what age group this would fit into!). We've also chosen Sammy's Christmas present already, but he'll just have to wait and see what it is! See you all soon

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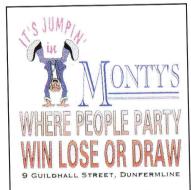
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STEVEN HAMPSHIRE

THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE SQUAD is now much nearer 20 than 30, which is quite a refreshing change for the club. Steven Hampshire, at 19, has joined Dunfermline from Premiership club Chelsea to gain valuable first team experience, and has caught the eye of the support with some pacey front play. He spoke to Bob Storie recently....

Tell us a bit about yourself...

"I was born in Edinburgh, and lived in my home town of Dunbar. I've got two brothers, one older and one younger, and they're both playing the game as well - dare I say it, one is a YTS playing with Raith Rovers! I was a Hearts supporter as a boy, and I don't suppose it would be any surprise to say that my favourite player was John Robertson. It was a strange sensation to see him in the visitors' dugout at the Livingston game, and me sitting just yards away waiting to come on! Away from the game, I'm just an everyday guy who plays a bit of golf, and some snooker when I get the time. I make my own way in to training, and I bring one of the young trialists in with me along the way. That's about it really!"

How did you move to us come about?

"I really needed to get out somewhere to get a regular run of first team games, so Chelsea put the word out to a number of clubs, and Jim Duffy spoke to me about the setup at Dunfermline, speaking quite highly about the structure of the club. A three month deal was arranged, and I was quite happy to come back to Scotland, as I know a bit about Dunfermline myself, and I knew how big a club they are. At the moment, I'm here until 5th January, so we'll have to wait and see what happens after that, especially with a new manager coming in!"

Was Chelsea your first club?

"Yes, I went there straight from school when I was fifteen. Glen Hoddle was still in charge when I first arrived, but I worked directly under Graham Rix's supervision. He's a great guy to work with, a superb coach and a right good laugh, too! I've only actually played one first team game, which was when Ruud Gullit was in charge - I got on against Blackburn at Stamford Bridge, and that's probably one of the biggest highpoints of my time with the club, along with winning a Golden Boot Award for scoring the most goals in a season."

Your debut against Airdrie was quite an experience - how did you cope?

"I only knew an hour before kick-off that I was starting the game, so it all happened very fast after that . It was a difficult game, even more so when Andy and Owen had to go off, but I enjoyed it immensely! I started on the right side of midfield, but the found myself on my own up front! It was hard going, and I was absolutely whacked by the time I

came off, but it was nice to hear the fans give me a good reception."

Scotland's games with England have not gone as we would have wished - is it time to change the management or the players?

"The Press are having a field day with all the disappointment that the fans have had to bear. It's been said before, and it's still valid, that we are only a small nation, and the players we use are the best that are available to us - Craig Brown isn't doing any worse than anyone else! Younger players will be used in time, no doubt, but high pressure games need experienced guys, and we didn't play that badly in the first game - the difference was England took their chances, Scotland didn't - on a better day, we might have got a draw, but that's football, isn't it? We do have a good future in the likes of Barry Ferguson and Mark Burchill, who will be mainstays in later years."

The Livingston game has put us back on a winning way - can we sustain this level?

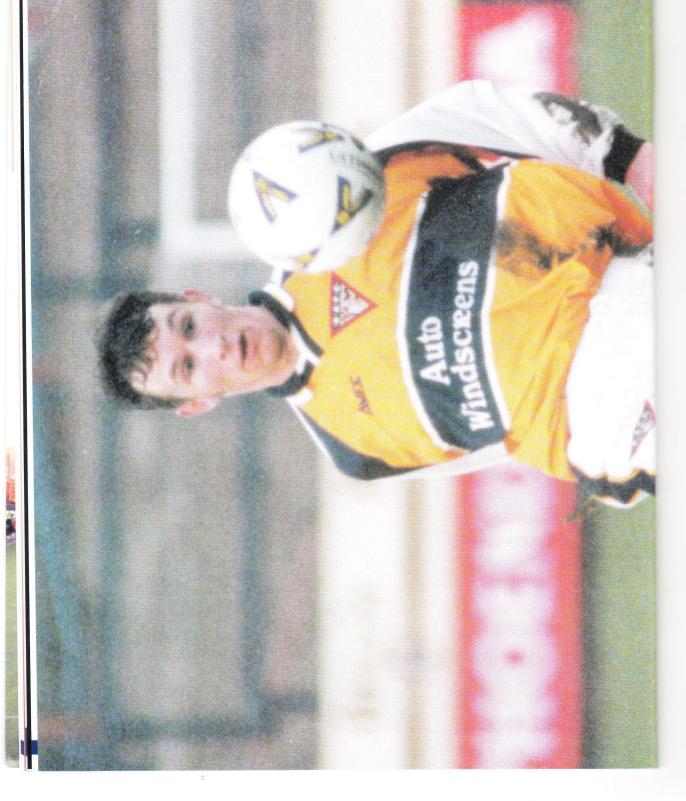
"It was certainly a boost to get a win out of a potentially difficult game, as Livingston are a tough side to get any kind of a result out of. In all honesty, we didn't play all that well, as Livingston played a wee bit better when they went down to ten men, and put us under some pressure. Getting that second goal before the break was important, and at long last, we were able to kill the game with a third goal. Wins are a must now, as we have got to start cutting St Mirren's lead over us. As for myself, I'm reasonably happy with my own form, although I struggled a bit in the away game with St Mirren - I need games to build up my pace and stamina, so hopefully I'll get a few more chances to do my bit for the team."

Clydebank are stuck at the foot of the league - could this be a hazardous game?

"I don't really know that much about the set-up at Clydebank, but we all know the difficulties they have to work under, and that can't be much fun for them, I'm sure. I suppose the game has a touch of top against bottom about it, so we have to concentrate on doing our job to our utmost. They need results badly, so they may well come to attack us rather than "shut up shop" at the back. As always, our emphasis is on attack, especially at home, so this is a good chance for us to get another clear result, if chances open up for us. We won't underestimate their threat, as they'll be up for this game, but if we do the professional thing, and prepare as usual, we'll have something to get the fans shouting about!



PARS 1



en Hampshire

Jim Macdonald's World of Football

AS ONE DOOR CLOSES

Tartan army supporters denied the opportunity to sample Belgium's beers and fit in a bit of window shopping in Amsterdam can console themselves that a holiday in the Algarve beckons in little more than four years' time. From all accounts, FIFA'S decision to award Euro 2004 to Portugal is already the cause of great excitement and anticipation, not least by those who stand to make megabucks from infrastructure construction, including motorways, hotels and stadia construction/ reconstruction.

Euro 2004 will be staged in Oporto, Guimares and Aveiro in the north; Coimbra and Leira in the centre; and Lisbon and Faro-Loule in the south. New 30,000 capacity grounds will be built at Braga, Aveiro and Faro-Loule. Sporting Lisbon has a new 50,000 job planned and another 50,000 capacity stadium is on the stocks for Oporto. Benfica's Stadium of Light (capacity 70,000) – last visited by Scotland in 1993 when Scotia's best were thrashed 5-0 – will host the final of the competition.

Anyway, maybe we're getting a little bit ahead of ourselves, we've still to get World Cup 2002 out of the way first before embarking (probably) on a tour of the Eastern bloc to qualify for a trip to the Algarve!

TOP MEN

What does Stanley Matthews have in common with Denis Law, Bobby Charlton, George Best and Kevin Keegan? Easy ... especially if you dipped into the sports section of "Scotland on Sunday" last weekend ... they've all held the title "European Footballer of the Year", with the Blackpool maestro setting the ball rolling away back in 1956.

As columnist Paul Forsyth sees it, the top ten contenders for Ronaldo's crown area:

nale

Anoraks will wish to note that if the nod goes to Andriy Shevchenko it will be the eighth time that an AC Milan player has earned this honour, Man Utd players have cracked it three times ... and Denis Law is the only Scot to be awarded the European crown in its 43 year history. Staggering, eh?

COLLECTABLES

Usually we try to catch the "Antiques Roadshow" as part of our Sunday evening box watching but the post match analysis following the Livvy game managed to upset the routine. We did, however, notice that a Manchester United match programme autographed by the Busby Babes was given a four-figure valuation – possibly as much as four grand.

This revelation sent us scuttling to the loft to check out the programme collection and blow the dust off the "Hamblyn Guide to Football Collectables" (Duncan Chilcott). Alas, I couldn't find anything likely to set Hugh Scully's pulse racing, but if any of our readers are looking to have a clear-out and earn a bit of cash in the process you could get £40/£50 (possibly more) for pre-war league programmes in good condition – and much more for programmes of clubs no longer with us, such as Third Lanark. Programmes for representative matches, cup finals and the like can fetch attractive prices. Books, photographs, cigarette cards, stamps, badges, records and chinaware can change hands for serious money. Obviously, too, there are many serious collectors willing to pay handsomely for shirts, caps, medals and other ephemera. For example, the 18ct gold medals struck to commemorate Celtic's European Cup victory in 1967 have an estimated market value of up to

£12,000 ... even a 1973/74 Dundee League Cup winner's gong will fetch about £600. I hope that my mate Frank is reading this, because match tickets have a value too (The ticket stub for Man Utd's ill fated European Cup match in Belgrade in 1958 will fetch as much as £100). If anyone out there is interested, Frank has a Falkirk v Dunfermline match ticket in pristine condition, having left it at home last Saturday. Still, he tells us that Falkirk was a cracking place to do his Christmas shopping, while the rest of us shivered on the "crumbling Brockville" terracing.

BLOOMING BOLIVARS ... AND BRAZILIANS

We read it in "World Soccer", so it must be true. Seemingly in a match between Bolivian champions "Blooming" and rivals "The Strongest", the referee sent off four players from each side – leaving them with the minimum seven-a-side – and banished the coaching staff of both sides. We are not told how much stoppage time was allowed but the report states that, "... the fighting between players, club officials and coaching staff lasted almost an hour and left a number of players injured". For the record, Blooming won 2-0.

Meantime, the word from Brazil is that two clubs have turned to witch doctors to help change their luck. Players of 14th placed Gremio were made to run over burning coal to make them run faster (!). Nothing quite as drastic in Internacional, however, although their manager did call on the services of the witch doctor to cleanse their pitch which, supposedly, "... had been invaded by negative forces"...

AND FINALLY...

A true story, of the "pigs might fly" variety. We are reliably informed that good mates Greece and Turkey are serious about hosting Euro 2008, relations – apparently – having improved between the two nations after both suffered earthquakes.

Whatever next? World Cup 2002 co-hosted by Japan and South Korea .. the prospect of a Turkey-Greece alliance for Euro 2008 ... could we have 'Auld Enemies' Scotland and England show togetherness for World Cup 2010 or 2012?

Watch this space for news of any exciting developments on the co-hosting front.





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Second Eleven

In association with the

Reserve League Frustrations

Despite being understandably occupied with his first team responsibilities during the previous couple of weeks, Jimmy Nicholl was still very keen to get the reserve side into action following the postponement of the Arbroath fixture. His plans to cast his eye over the squad in a competitive fixture and try out some new ideas, however, were frustrated by events outwith his control. Trials of a new field cover taking place at East End Park unfortunately forced the postponement of the home fixture against East Fife that was due to be played on 14th November. At the time of writing a new date for this Reserve League East fixture has still to be re-arranged. To compound the problem, the next scheduled fixture was to be the home match against Reserve League leaders Inverness Caley Thistle, due to be played earlier this week on Tuesday. It too was called off when Inverness said they didn't have enough players available after their Challenge Cup Final on Sunday.

Pars Progress In The Reserve League Cup

Dunfermline's second eleven did get one outing recently on Wednesday 17th November when they visited Portland Park. Troon to play Ayr United in the Reserve League Cup. Ayr are top of the Reserve League West so this was always a potentially tricky tie. David Graham got himself on the scoresheets with a 25th minute goal, but the match had to go to penalty kicks after ending 1-1 after extra time. Jamie

Squires, Colin Nish and David Graham slotted home the winning penalties for the Pars Reserves who now progress to a home quarter final match against the winners of the East Fife - Inverness Caley Thistle tie. This match is scheduled to be played before the end of January 2000. The Pars team against Ayr was: Hay, May, Taylor, Squires, Potter, French, Hampshire, Trialist (Anderson, 70 mins), Graham,



David Graham. scorer of the all important goal at

Templeman (Nicol, 60 mins), Nish. Sub not used: Walker

Under 18 Team News

The Under 18's were in action in the Scottish League Youth Division 'C', a home fixture against Forfar Athletic on 6th November. The young Pars were unfortunately on the wrong end of a 1-3 score line. The bright news for Pars supporters is that Dean Walker again found the net and is now beginning to show signs that he may have real potential as a young forward.



Walls (Gayne, 5 mins), Fleming, Wardlaw (Hobbs 70 mins), Vaughan,

Jimmy Nicholl McDonald, McGarty, Walker, Lambie (Lennon, 60 mins), Murray.

The Under 18s dismal run continued with a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Raith Rovers on Thursday 18th November. Craig McCreadie joined the starting line up in place of Graham Walls in what was otherwise an unchanged side from their previous outing against Forfar. Dean Walker was yet again the Pars goalscorer, but the youngsters found themselves 3-1 down at half-time and there was no way

back. Let's hope that they can reverse some of their recent results and give them the success their efforts deserve! DECEDIVE LEACHE EACT

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14 September 28 September 5 October 13 October 19 October 26 October 8 November 17 November Note: Actual I	Opponents FORFAR ATHLETIC RAITH ROVERS ARBROATH	Venue A H A A A H H H H H Jp) A	Result 2-0 0-2 1-2 4-1 3-1 6-0 0-1 4-1 0-1 4-0 1-1 (won on pens)	
Date 2 September 15 September 18 September 3 October 14 October 19 October	Opponents FORFAR ATHLETIC RAITH ROVERS ALLOA ATHLETIC EAST STIRLINGSHIR COWDENBEATH BERWICK RANGERS LIVINGSTON (Youth of STENHOUSEMUIR FORFAR ATHLETIC RAITH ROVERS	Venue A A H E H A	TH DIVISION 'C' Result 2-0 0-3 1-1 1-2 3-0 4-4 1-2 1-3 1-3 1-4	

Note: Actual Dates To Be Confirmed:

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PARS ON A ROLL

Since Clydebank's admission to the Scottish League in 1966 the club has made 16 league appearances at East End Park, the first coming in 1972/73. Since then, all the fixtures have been in the First Division, with the Pars winning eight to Clydebank's four.

The Bankies had a good record here until recent years, but with Dunfermline having won the last five matches the situation has reversed. In fact, Clydebank's last win against the Pars, either home or away, was on August 14th, 1993 -Dunfermline have won all TWELVE of the meetings since. Adrift at the foot of the table, Clydebank will have to overcome massive odds to take three points today.

TOP SCORES AND SCORERS

Dunfermline's biggest home victory over Clydebank came on November 5th, 1994, when two goals from Stewart Petrie helped the Pars to a 4-1 win. With a total of four league goals against the Bankies, Stewart is just two behind the club's leading scorer in this fixture, Sandy

The best result achieved by Clydebank at East End Park was a 6-3 drubbing on November 27th, 1981. This match was also notable for featuring the only hat-trick scored in matches between the two clubs. The Bankies' Blair Miller, joint top scorer in the First Division that season, netting four times and it was perhaps just as well for the Pars that he didn't last the full ninety minutes! Miller scored seven league goals against Dunfermline whilst at Kilbowie Park, closely followed by Ken Eadie on six.

CONNECTIONS

There have been a few playing connections between Dunfermline and Clydebank over the past thirty-odd years. One of the earliest was Pat Delaney, who had spells at Clyde and Airdrie before pitching up at Kilbowie Park. Goalkeeper John Arrol lined up for both clubs, as did Sandy McNaughton, whose record at East End Park was far superior to that which he achieved at Clydebank.

In the 1980's, Eric Ferguson went to Kilbowie on loan from Rangers prior to signing for the Pars while midfielder Dave Houston played for Dunfermline in 1985/86 after a long career at Clydebank, and Alloa. During season 1987/88, the Pars paid out a then club record fee of £80,000 to Clydebank for Davie Irons, who spent three years

More recently, goalkeeper John Hillcoat and Jim McQueen appeared for both clubs. Currently ex-Pars winger Ian McCall is in charge of the Bankies side which contains Derek McWilliams, while the Pars have former Kilbowie favourite Owen Coyle in their ranks.

The most successful connection is undoubtedly Gregor Abel, who played for Cludebank as they rose from the Second to the Premier Division in the '70's and who coached the Pars along the same path

A BRIEF HISTORY

Although league football was played in Clydebank between 1914 and 1931, the club of yesteryear has no connection with the modern-day outfit which Jack and Charles Steedman brought to life back in the sixties. The story began in 1957, when the brothers paid £1,000 for a controlling interest in East Stirlingshire. The club rose to the First Division in 1963 but by that time the Steedmans believed that East Stirling had no future in an area dominated by Falkirk FC. Several sites were looked into for possible relocation but as nobody could guarantee facilities it was decided to merge the club with Clydebank Juniors. The Shire fans were furious and tried to prevent the move but they failed and the strangely named ES Clydebank took to the field in 1964/65.

The East Stirling loyalists took the fight to the Court of Session where the judgement went their way and their club returned to Falkirk, while Clydebank gained admission to the Scottish League off their own back in 1966. The Steedmans were unrelenting in their desire to see their club prosper. Every aspect, from finance to transfers, scouting to team selection, was controlled by the directors. Coaches were employed simply to coach nothing else. Their methods were widely derided but the club became successful and there's no doubt that they attracted some excellent players. Their only trophy came in 1975/76, the Second Division Championship, but they followed that by going straight up to the Premier Division, the first club to do so in consecutive seasons.

With crowds usually fairly low, the Steedmans eye for talent kept the Bankies afloat. The transfer of players such as Davie Cooper, Frank McDougall, Tommy Coyne, Bobby Williamson, Owen Coyle and many others was a financial necessity, albeit frustrating for the fans. However, these names were always replaced and the team continually played good, attractive football. Clydebank returned to the Premier Division in 1985, driven by the midfield skill of Gerry McCabe, the First Division Player of the Year for three consecutive seasons. More recently, the production line provided players like Ken Eadie, John Henry and James Grady but it seems that those days have come to an end! The club hasn't had its troubles to seek in recent years, with the ongoing search for a new ground giving them a nomadic existence and the supporters deserting them in droves. With no money available, the playing squad is down to bare bones and relegation seems to be beckoning. Although they bounced straight back a couple of seasons ago, their plight is much worse now and a further demotion will spell serious danger for Clydebank

THE LAST TIME

Dunfermline began season 1995/96 in fine style, running up three straight league wins which included a superb 3-demolition of Dundee United. Clydeband arrived at East End Park on September 9th with their own unbeaten league record but soon found themselves under pressure Allan Moore and Paul Smith both came close to opening the scoring before the winger did so in the 17th minute, rounding Murdoch before shooting low past Matthews.

Ken Eadie squandered a great chance to equalise and was left ruing this after 25 minutes when Andy Tod headed in a back post McNamara cross. The Pars ther became complacent and it was thanks to keeper Guido Van de Kamp that they held their two goal lead until half-time.

their two goal lead until half-time.

Two minutes after the restart Clydebank scored a goal their play deserved when Gary Bowman, who had a excellent game on the left wing, set up Robertson to fire home. Only Van de Kamp denied them a second but eventually Dunfermline rediscovered their attacking ability and Greg Shaw twice came close, having a header cleared off the line and then shooting against a post.

It wasn't a convincing Pars performance

It wasn't a convincing Pars performance but it was enough to establish a five point lead at the top of the First Division.

Dunfermline: Van de Kamp, Den Bieman (Fenwick), Millar, McCathie, Tod, P Smith (Robertson), Moore, McNamara, Shaw Petrie, Kinnard, (Fleming).

Clydebank: Matthews, Tomlinson (Lovering), Connell, Murdoch, Currie Sutherland, Robertson, (Hamilton Nicholls, Eadie, Grady, Bowman.

Nicrotts, Eadle, Grady, Bowman.

The circumstances were very different when the Bankies returned to East End Fark on January 13th, 1996. Pars legend Norrie McCathie had tragically died just a few days before and although the difficult decision was made for the game to go ahead, few in the crowd of 6,642 were there for any other reason - than to pay their respect to the big man.

their respect to the big man.

The early stages were played in a very sombre atmosphere, with Clydebank, who themselves endured the loss of Davie Cooper during the previous season seemingly as affected as the Pars players. However, after Andy Tod shot home in the 26th minute the Athletic took control, with Andy Smith, starting his first full game after recovering from his broken leg, scoring twice in the next seven minutes. Jim Grady pulled a goal back in the 42nd minute but it looked likely to prove only a consolation until the Pars ran out of steam in the last quarter. Grady hit a superb second in the 83rd minute and two minutes later Grame Connell slotted home the equaliser.

With the crowd still stunned, it took a moment of pure magic from stand-in skipper Craig Robertson to give the Pars the win they so dearly wanted. Chesting the ball down 25 yards out, at the corner of the box, he smashed an unstoppable volley beyond Matthews into the opposite top corner. It was a fitting climax to a very emotional day at East End Park.

Dunfermline: Van de Kamp, Millar, Fleming, Cooper, Tod, French, Den Bieman, Robertson, Smith, Petrie, Bingham, (Hegarty).

Clydebank: Matthews, Sutherland, (Jack), Murdo Nicholls, Robertson, Cond (Teale), Grady, Bowman Murdoch, Currie, Connell, Eadie,



Around East. End Park...

'IN WITH THE BRICKS' COMPLETES THE FIRST WALL

Dunfermline Athletic's 'In With The Bricks' Scheme has completely captured the imagination of Pars supporters the length and breadth of the country – and beyond!

The first wall of the new Supporters Wall along the length of the concourse at the Norrie McCathie Stand will be completed this week. Earlier this week there were only around 30 bricks left for the wall and they were disappearing fast. As soon as the first wall is complete, the second wall will be opening for business. It is likely that this wall too will open with a special event from former players, so watch this space for details. Now is a great time to buy because, quite seriously, when else would you think about giving somebody a brick for Christmas?? For £25, you can purchase a hand-crafted brick for your friend or relative with their own inscription with all of the proceeds from the venture going towards the Pars Youth Development Scheme.

Dunfermline Athletic Supporters Club

Transport: We have two away games after today. On Saturday 4th December against Ayr United, the coach will leave East End Park at 12.00 noon. On Saturday 11th December against Morton, the coach leaves at 1.00pm. Bookings will be taken in the Supporters Club Office after today's game or by telephoning Caron on 01383 515601 as soon as possible. An answering machine may be in use so please leave your contact telephone number. It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent deaths of two of our long term members. John Emslie travelled for many years with the Supporters Club bus and attended all our functions, and Andrew Kerr travelled with his sons from Glasgow to support the Pars. Our deepest sympathies are extended to both families.

Sean Gets His Number One!

Seven year old Sean McIntyre was one delighted young man when he found himself face-to-face with his hero Ian Westwater. Sean, who attends Amisfield School in Dumfries, is a Pars supporter and a fan of Westie in particular. Not only did Sean want a replica jersey the same as Westie's,

but he also wanted it with Westie's name on it. Thanks to his granny Elizabeth Evans, Sean got his wish and was presented with the jersey from his hero. Well done Sean, and keep making those trips to support the Pars!



Club Shop Telephone

The new Buy Direct Club Shop at East End Park has its own telephone number now, just in time for you to phone in those Christmas orders! The number is 01383 626737.

Programme Collector

We've had a letter from John Boyd, 27 South Road, Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, PA14 5TA, who says that he is trying to complete his Dunfermline v Rangers programme collection. The programmes he is interested in are the Pars home programmes against Rangers from 1951/52 (League Cup), 1955/56, 1956/57, 1958/59 and 1964/65. If anyone has these programmes and is interested in parting with them please contact John direct at the above address.

Players Sponsors

If you've already got your brick and are still looking for that unusual present for Christmas, what about **sponsoring a player**? There are still one or two players available and the whole package is quite an interesting and attractive one. If you are interested, please contact Audrey Bastianelli (Tel: 01383 724295) at East End Park who can give you all the details!



A very happy
Mr. McDougall,
the winner of
the £800 50/50
draw at the
Livingston game.
Hamish made
the presentation

Future Perfect with

ALL FOUR OF DUNFERMLINE'S TEAMS involved in the Youth Initiative played on 14th November with all of them turning in indifferent performances despite some good individual play.

The Under 16s travelled to take on Ayr United in what turned out to be a hard, closely fought match with no goals. Neither side created much in the way of scoring chances with the Pars not looking as sharp as usual up front. The coaching staff were concerned about the slow build up play which wasn't good enough to get in behind the Ayr defence.

Defensively, it was a solid performance in which the centre halves were dominant. There were good displays from the likes of John Hynd , Chris Hobbs and Bruce Reekie, which has earned them call-ups to the Under 18 team. If they can reproduce their form in the higher age group it should stand them in good stead as the time is fast approaching when decisions will have to be made regarding their futures and whether they merit a place on the Skillseekers course or not.

The other three teams all had home fixtures, with the Under 15s playing St Johnstone. The game could have gone either way but once the visitors took the lead the Pars found it hard to respond and conceded a couple of soft goals. Although they kept pressing forward and eventually created several chances, it was disappointing that they didn't score more often. Chris Brown had a good game in the forward line with Stephen McPhillips and Steve Maley forming a good partnership in the centre of the defence.

Under 14s Up Against It

Matches against Hearts are always tough at any age group and the Under 14s certainly found themselves up against it a fortnight ago. The pick of the bunch included Ian McClelland, who was tightly marked but always played good football; Fraser Gillon who held the ball well and scored a good goal; Lee Sibanda, for

sheer hard work, and goalkeeper Cameron Grassick, who made some good saves.

made some good saves.

When playing against bigger and stronger teams every week it's sometimes difficult to keep the youngsters motivated. This seems to be particularly affecting the Under 13s, who again found it hard going in their match against Stirling Albion. Nether side played much football with Stirling choosing to loft the ball in to the box whenever they had it. The goals the Pars lost came from set-pieces, which was frustrating for the coaches as the work put in on the training field, concerning marking and concentration was again forgotten on the day. However, the lads are progressing quite well and there's no doubt that things will turn around sooner rather than later.

Visit from Neil Simpson

The club also had a visit from Neil Simpson, the former Aberdeen midfielder who is now the SFA Football Development Coach for the North of Scotland. He has been charged with travelling around the clubs to assess their development programmes. A positive report is likely to earn funding from the SFA so it's fingers crossed that Dunfermline can meet the required criteria.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Nov. 28th

U13's home to Dundee

U14's home to Aberdeen

U15's home to Livingston

Under 13's home to Falkirk

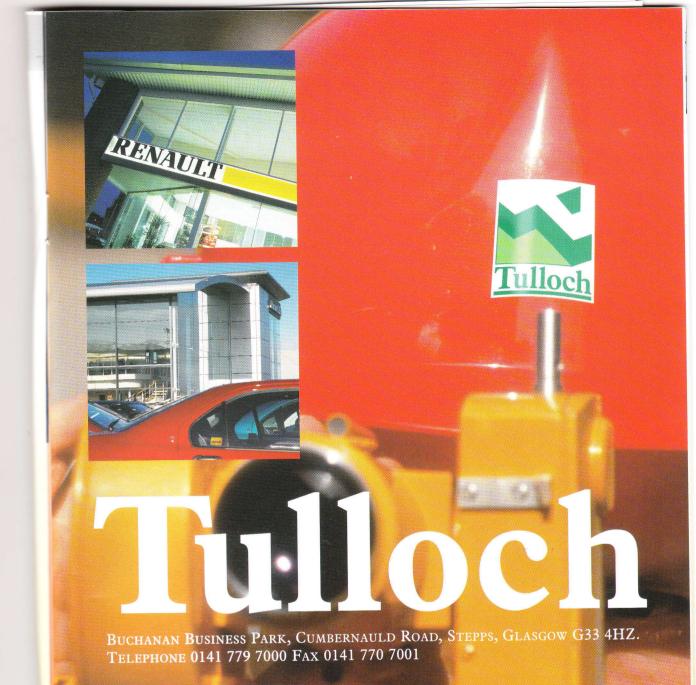
Under 14's away to Livingston

Under 15's home to Hibs

Officer 10's nome to Celtic

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





One Up...

A Review of the First Division

SINCE WE WERE LAST HERE the Pars continued their recent run of good results with a 3-1 demolition of Falkirk at Brockville. There seem to be varying views about Pars performance, but at Brockville, frankly who cares? My Ed tells me it is only the third time in thirty years that Dunfermline have won a league match at the home of the Bairns, so that's good enough for me! I actually felt that we played some quite good fast flowing football at times and the first and third goals were crackers.

St Mirren somewhat jammily maintained an eight point lead at the top with a 2-1 win against Clydebank who, co-incidentally are today's visitors to East End Park. It must seem like a real uphill battle for Ian McCall and his side when you have to face the top two teams in the league in consecutive weeks, and on the road at that. Only a Mark Yardley goal seven minutes from time gave the Paisley Saintees victory over a spirited and stuffy Bankies. With one or two players missing, St Mirren's lack of depth in their squad might just be beginning to show – we can only hope that's the case! Ian McCall will probably laugh hysterically if you talk to him about lack of depth, but if John Hall's reported court action against Clydebank's founders and former owners the Steedman family is successful then there could be dosh coming the managers way. However, with only three points from fourteen of a goal difference between them and second bottom Ayr, things ain't lookin' so clever!

Brian Hetherston, bro of assistant coach, Peter is making a name for himself as a super-sub in Kirkcaldy. At Ayr last week he scored a late winner from the bench and repeated the feat at the Shyberry Excelsior to give Rovers a point against Airdrie after ex-Par Allan Moore had given the home side the lead. That draw coupled with the Pars victory at Brockville opened up a two point gap between us and the wee team.

Another two ex-Pars on last weeks scoreboard were Gerry Britton and David "I like my jersey outside my shorts" Bingham as Livvy overcame a run of recent poor form by dumping Morton 2-1 at Almondvale. There has been some criticism directed toward coach Ray Stewart, not least by his own Board, but he, and indeed Steve Paterson at ICT, must get credit for the success they have achieved in recent seasons.

ICT didn't play a league match last weekend since they were involved in the first senior Cup Final of the season when they played Second Division Alloa Athletic in the Bell's Scottish League Cup Challenge Trophy at Airdrie. And what a thriller it was. End to end stuff, eight goals, extra time and then penalties, of which Alloa converted all of their's to win the Cup.

The crowd of over 4,000 will have pleased the sponsors but what a long trip home to Inverness without the prize.

The Pars have a reasonable opportunity to close the gap on St Mirren today. The other four teams in the top five play each other (Raith v Falkirk and Livvy v Buddies). Opportunity too, to widen the gap on the teams below. Draws all round would suit.

BALLS BOYS!

Those of you who listen to "Off the Ball" will, last week, have heard the intriguing story about the 15 year old ballgirl at Easter Road. In a recent game refereed by Hugh Dallas the young woman, clearly upset by some decision made by the game arbiter, told him he needed glasses. Dallas, concerned at the potential for riot and mass hysteria, reported the comments to a Club Steward and reportedly said "Have a word with her, will you?" Now the over-zealous steward reported the matter to the Board and she was given her P45. Apparently the girl is distraught beyond consolation. Indeed her dad 'phoned "Off the Ball" to confirm all of the above. Tam Cowan has started a campaign which I am 100% behind "Reinstate the Hibs One". Whoever is in charge at Easter Road will rightly be concerned about subversion and revolution. But did they ban the Hibs Casuals of yester year - did they nick - Get a Grip Hibs or we'll encourage another takeover by Wallace Mercer!

EUR OOT!

So, another glorious defeat of our national side, but at least pride has been saved, we won the last ever international of the millennium at the old Wembley. We didn't lose two competitive games in a row. Who cares - call me old-fashioned but the team that scores the most goals wins. The simple fact is England are going to Holland/Belgium for Euro 2000 and we're not. Pride is one thing, success is another. I seem to remember 1-1 against the Faroes (who?), 0-0 against Lithuania (who?), and a 2-0 lead against the Czechs before losing 3-2! Let's not kid ourselves we are a second rate footballing nation, and even an away win against a nation whose hype far exceeds its ability does not get us off the hook. Unless we reduce the number of imports and provide opportunities for Scottish talent to play at the highest level we don't stand a chance. The current best team in Scotland provided two players to the Scotland squad and one of them cannae get a game. The system sucks and we're a footballing joke. Take a look around Europe, where else does that happen. Most countries best players play in their own elite league barring one or two. With Scotland it's the other way round. Time for change.



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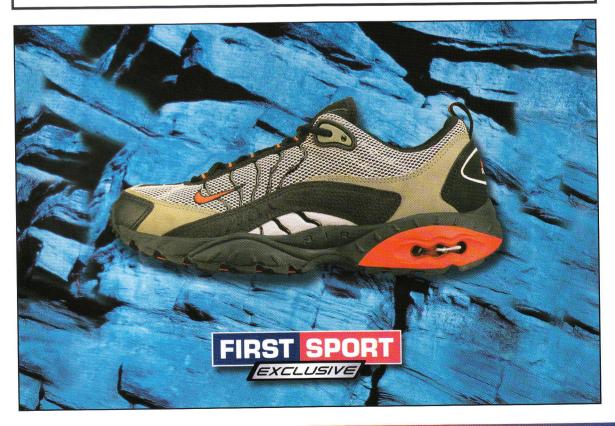
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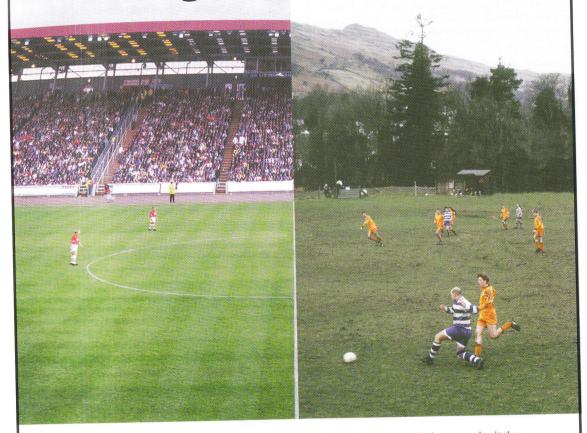
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Pars 3rd win in 30 years at Brockville



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Today's Football

PARS ON LOAN STRIKER Steve Crawford might have an eye to Easter Road today when the club for whom he is signed Hibernian, take on bottom placed Aberdeen.

Last week, Aberdeen lost only one goal (!), and took a draw from their match at McDiarmid Park, so might well approach the match feeling quite upbeat. The irony is that, for all Aberdeen's awful results this season, they only need a couple of decent results to find themselves back in the pack again.

One Premier League club desperate to sign a decent striker is Kilmarnock, and they know that they've had a very poor start to the season. A win against Hearts today becomes imperative if they don't want to slip closer to Aberdeen at the foot.

In the First Division, there's definitely the possibility of a little bonus for Dunfermline today with the other top clubs lined up against each other. Radios will be tuned for news from Falkirk and Livingston.....

In the Second Division, Sunday's winners of the Bells Challenge Cup Final Alloa Athletic take on Stranraer at Recreation Park. They currently share top spot with Clyde and Arbroath and would dearly love to do a double this season.

Paul Smith's Berwick side recorded a brilliant 4-1 win against Queens Park in Glasgow last week. Now he has the task of getting a bit of consistency, while for the Spiders (who now leave Rangers as the only undefeated team in Scottish football), it is a trip top Montrose to get their impressive show back on the rails.

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

Dundee United v St Johnstone Hibernian v Aberdeen Kilmarnock v Hearts

BELLS LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC v Clydebank

Falkirk v Raith Rovers Morton v Ayr United Inverness CT v Airdrie Livingston v St Mirren

BELLS LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

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

BELLS LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION

Albion Rovers v Cowdenbeath Berwick Rangers v East Stirling Dumbarton v Forfar Athletic East Fife v Brechin City Montrose v Queens Park



Player of the Year

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC HAVE FOR A LONG time had a great tradition in full backs and even at a time when fans feel that there are no natural full backs in the line up, they still come to the fore.

Against Livingston, Scott Thomson showed a growing understanding of the role required by him in that position, and capped a good performance by providing the final goal. Scott is very clearly a talented player and Pars management will be hoping to see more of that kind of performance in the weeks to come.

His full back partner was the exciting young talent of Chris McGroarty. At the moment Chris is making it hard for the management to leave him out. Having already won three Man Of The Match Awards this season so far, Chris had to settle for second place on this occasion. The two points put him joint top with Owen Coyle for Player of the Year.

Third place went to the reliable Jamie Dolan who is another who could be in line for the end of year award.



Scott Thomson won his first Man of the Match Award of the year against Livingston,

AUTO WINDSCREENS MAN OF THE MATCH

14.11.99 versus Livingston : sponsors JELD-WEN/FIRSTBASE TIMBER

Position	Player	Points
1	Scott Thomson	3
2	Chris McGroarty	2
3	Jamie Dolan	1





SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 1999 BELLS SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION AYR UNITED AT SOMERSET PARK

SOMERSET PARK IS ANOTHER of those First Division grounds where the Pars fans will be able to sing, "Sit down, if you love the Pars!"

Ayr United seem to be no nearer than Falkirk are to getting the plans for their new stadium off the ground, and judging by their recent performances, their chances of even needing it are even less. Ayr are a team who many thought would provide a challenge near the top this season. They do have some good players but have lacked the consistency thus far to progress up the table. Recently, they gave our visitors Clydebank one of only three points they have collected this season. They

missed out on a game last week because of Inverness's involvement in the Challenge Cup Final, and so remain going into today's matches in second bottom spot in the league.

If their form has been less than impressive, Pars fans must not be complacent. Our previous match showed both their good and bad sides (it did that for Dunfermline too!). In the early stages of the game, it looked as if Dunfermline might steamroller Ayr, such was their dominance. By the time the second half came along however, Dunfermline's self-doubt began to creep in, and with it a growing confidence among Ayr followers that they might pull something from the game. It was not to be, but Dunfermline's 2-1win was too close for comfort.

Ayr is a fair distance away, but like Inverness a few weeks ago, it can be turned into a pleasant trip with some decent cafes and restaurants, and some alternatives for the Christmas shopping!

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Greg MILLER

