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ON THE COVER

JUSTIN SKINNER
ENJOYING HIS
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IN THIS ISSUE...



5 VISITORS

The saga about Falkirk's new stadium rumbles, but manager Alex Totten has kept his eye on the ball with one aim for Falkirk to be top of the league. They haven't made a bad start to the new millennium in that department either with two consecutive wins. We eye up the opposition for today's derby match...

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East End Park has been a hive of activity over the past couple of weeks. We keep you up to date on all the news....

15 DAVID MOSS

The former Falkirk skipper hasn't had the easiest induction to East End Park, but he has continued to score goals. David tells us how he's

been doing, including partying at New Year with his neighbour Lubo
Moravic!

18 JIM MACDONALD'S WORLD OF FOOTBALL

Typical Jim - he's gone all Dutch this week, no doubt to impress the new boss...

24 PROGRAMME REVIEW

In the absence of anything happening with the Youth Initiative, Gordon Baird gives you a run down of who he sees as the candidates for the Programme of the Year...

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

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DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB 1885-1999

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HONOURS

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 Calderwood

IN WISHING A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Dunfermline fans, I am very conscious that we have a lot of good will to make up with the fans for the results and performances in our recent games.

Having won the three games, I was disappointed that the game with St Mirren was put off. I don't think the break did us any favours at all and we had a very bad start against Raith Rovers. Losing two silly goals and Owen's sending off into the bargain didn't help us. I thought we played some good stuff with ten men for a spell in the second half, and with a bit of luck might have got something in return, but you can't give away goals like that at this level and expect to win games.

We tried to sort it out in time for the game against Livingston, but that turned out to be a very scrappy game. One goal was always going to decide it, and this time we were on the receiving end.

I know that we can play a lot better, and we've got a very hard game today. I know that there's a lot of rivalry between the fans of both clubs and I was at the game at Brockville before I was appointed. Dunfermline looked as if they were strolling it but once Falkirk equalised there was a period when we could have lost it. As it was we got a second and in the end I think ran out comfortable winners. I watched Falkirk play Clydebank last Saturday and they were impressive. They are a good passing team but I think that will suit us, and I hope to get back to the winning habit today.

We've been busy on the signing front and we now have a tremendous pool to choose from. Ian Ferguson will not need much of an introduction, but he will be a really important player for us. When a player of his quality comes around you can't hang about, and I'm delighted with the support the club have given me. Ian will be a great asset, not just because of his ability but also because of his will to win and his professionalism.

I'm also linking up with goalkeeper Kris Mampaey again. His signing has nothing to do with what has happened in the past couple of games - a team like Dunfermline need more competition for places and a goalkeeper was always going to be on my shopping list. He has two good hands and feet because he's a good footballer anyway. He's also a good professional.

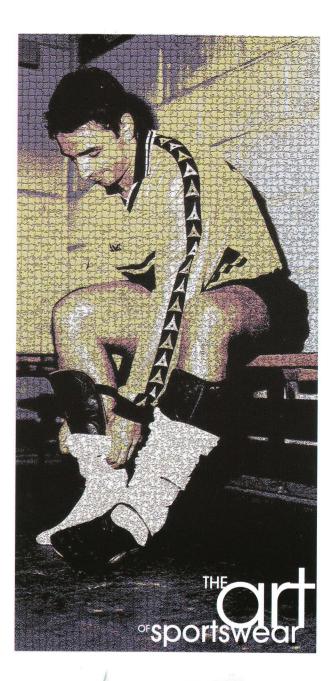
We've also signed Steven Hampshire and are at present in discussion with Chris McGroarty about extending his contract.

At the time of writing I'm not at all sure about who will feature in the team today. Scott Thomson is getting back from injury and Owen Coyle is available despite his suspension for the next two games. Much will depend on how the rest of the week goes, but it is nice to be spoiled for choice.



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rather be without?....

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FALKIRK



FALKIRK HAVE BEGUN THE NEW MILLENNIUM with quite a bang, having disposed of both Airdrie and Clydebank and scoring six goals with none against. Their opponents may not have been the strongest teams in the Division at the present time but that doesn't matter the important thing was that it re-affirmed Falkirk's ambitions after a period in which the club received a lot of negative

publicity about it's ability to have a stadium ready for possible promotion

to the Premier League

Talkirk's visits to East End Park are always looked forward to with the relish of a local derby, and there have been some classic games over the years. The earlier match here this season resulted in a share of the points, but Dunfermline hold the advantage this term, thanks to a 3-1 win at Brockville in

Despite the fact that David Sinclair is suspended, Alex Totten is not expected to make too many changes to the side which has served him well in recent weeks, and could include the following players:

MYLES HOGARTH (GOALKEEPER)
The highly rated keeper made the switch to Brockville as part of the deal which took Kevin James to Hearts. He made a few on loan appearances at Airdrie last season. At that time Myles decided to stay and fight for his place at Hearts but the fact that he is a self-confessed Falkirk supporter had a bearing on his decision to return to his home town team.

ANDY LAWRIE (DEFENDER)
Andy has been with the club since 1996 and has featured on several occasions in the first team. The stylish defender was allowed to go to East Fife on a loan deal at the end of last season. However, the offer of another year's contract at Brockville would appear to indicate that he is still in the manager's long term plans.

JAMIE McQUILKEN (FULL BACK)
Former Celtic starlet who moved to Dundee United in 1996 after failing to breakthrough to the Parkhead first-team. After limited appearances at Tannadice he decided to head for Easter Road in a bid to resurrect his career. Again the move was less than successful, but Alex Totten moved quickly to secure the full back's signature at the start of last season.

ANDY SEATON (FULL BACK)

Signed in 1996 after moving through the youth ranks. Spotted by former manager Jim Jeffries following an impressive spell at Stoneyburn Juniors, the left-sided player has to battle it out for the No.3 jersey

with Jamie McQuilken.



Stevie Crawford scores **Pars se**cond goal at ockville in November

IVO DEN BIEMAN (DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER)

The former Montrose and Dundee midfielder achieved cult status at East End Park where he played for five years from 1993 in a variety of positions and was a key player in the Pars promotion to the Premier League. Tall, skilful, and completely unpredictable, Ivo left Dunfermline to play for Falkirk last season. Having returned to his native r, Ivo re-signed for Falkirk on a short

contract a couple of weeks ago. It will be interesting to see the reception he gets!

KEVIN CHRISTIE (DEFENDER)

23 year old defender signed from Motherwell at the end of last season. Aberdeen born, Kevin was originally with East Fife before being snapped up by Motherwell in March 1997. Unable to retain a regular place at Fir Park, Kevin transferred to Falkirk but injuries meant that he didn't make his first team debut until a fortnight ago.

SCOTT McKENZIE (MIDFIELD)

One of the longest serving players at Brockville with almost ten years under his belt. A very consistent ball-winning midfielder who has also had to fill in at right full back on occasions due to injuries. Held in high regard by his fellow professionals, Scott has been a great servant to the Brockville

JOHN HENRY (MIDFIELD)

28 year old experienced midfielder who was signed by Alex Totten in September from Kilmarnock after David Moss had moved to Dunfermline. He is another of the growing colony of ex-Clydebank players on the books at Brockville, having been with the Bankies before signing for Killie in 1994.

DAVID HAGEN (MIDFIELD)

Originally one of the many young stars uncovered by Walter Smith at Ibrox. David found it hard to hold down a first team slot at Rangers and took the chance to move to Hearts. The arrival of Jim Jeffries at Tynecastle saw the midfielder offloaded in a swap deal with Stevie Fulton and he has settled in well at Falkirk. Injury forced him on to the sidelines last season but he is now back to full fitness and scored last week against Clydebank.

DAVID NICHOLLS (MIDFIELD)

Former Bankie who was in great demand in the close season.

Despite interest from Premier League teams he settled on a move to Brockville where he is confident that the Bairns will be challenging for Premier status at the end of the season. A real playmaker in midfield, he has also weighed in with a lot of goals this season - particularly in recent weeks.

GARETH HUTCHINSON (MIDFIELD/FORWARD)

The Bairns splashed out for the midfielder from local rivals Stenhousemuir in August of last year. Although predominantly a midfielder he is also comfortable in a striker's role where he can use his speed to great effect. Still adjusting to the pace of the First Division but with pre-season training under his belt Gareth is hoping to get off to a flyer.

SCOTT CRABBE (FORWARD)

Came through the ranks at Tynecastle as a youngster before a big money offer from Dundee United secured his services.

Injuries curtailed his first team appearances at Tannadice and he moved to Falkirk for a nominal fee in January 1997. Has natural enthusiasm and was captain of the side in the early part of last season. Is Falkirk's top goalscorer this term with ten goals to date.

COLIN McDONALD (FORWARD)

25 year old striker who signed from Clydebank in the summer. Small but powerful and with a good turn of pace, Colin is a handful for most defences. He has seven goals to his credit this season, including one last week against his old club.

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Headlines

New Coach Makes First Signings

Dunfermline's recent results may have been disappointing for Pars fans, but they have not dented the club's ambitions in the slightest. On the contrary, Pars Coach Jim Calderwood has shown that he means business with his first signings since taking on the job at the start of December.

Last weekend, he got on loan midfielder Steve Hampshire to sign up for a two and a half year contract. The 20 year old former Chelsea youth has fared well since arriving at East End Park and the Coach was keen to tie him up longer term. The story is similar with another of Dunfermline's young prospects, 18 year old Chris McGroarty. The youngster has already established a regular place in Calderwood's selections and a long term contract is now in prospect.

While the club see these signings as important for the longer term, the most significant signing may well be that of former Rangers midfielder Ian Ferguson. After weeks of speculation, Dunfermline finally got their man after a medical on Monday. The 32 year old has been a mainstay of Rangers midfield for over a decade after signing for Rangers in 1988. A hugely popular player with the Ibrox fans, Ian enjoyed a highly successful Testimonial with the



The Dunfermline Press Grou

club last summer. Ian started his professional career with Clyde before becoming a hero of Love Street with his winning goal for St Mirren in the 1987 Cup Final.

After moving to Ibrox, Ian made nearly 250 league and countless other appearances, winning 23 medals in the process. He was capped six times for Scotland at Under 21 level and won nine full international caps.

Pars Coach Jim Calderwood saw

Ian's commanding presence in the centre of midfield as one of the keys to Dunfermline's future success:

"Quite a few clubs seem to have been interested in getting Ian's signature, so I'm delighted that he's decided to come with us. He will be an excellent acquisition for us and will bring the kind of quality that comes from playing at that level for a long time. The fact that he's signed for two and a half years shows that we're not only trying to get to the Premier League, but that we're building a team with a blend of youth and experience which I hope will keep us there."

Not content even with the Ferguson signing, Calderwood has used his knowledge of the continental game to bring in experienced 29 year old Belgian goalkeeper Kris Mampaey for the rest of the season. Mampaey was signed from Dutch Premier League club Willem II who have been runners up in Holland for the past two seasons. Earlier on this season he played four matches in the European Champions League - against Spartak Moscow, Bordeaux, and twice against Sparta Prague. He lost his first team place

following an
injury and
having failed
to win it back
will now give
Scottish
football a try.
Before signing for
Willem II in 1996, he

played with Belgian club Lierse.

Dunfermline's current goalkeeper, long serving Ian Westwater has come in for some criticism during the Pars two recent defeats and Calderwood has moved promptly to bring in competition for the number one jersey.

All of Dunfermline's new signings are expected to be in contention for a place in today's game.

Pars Draw Hibs In Scottish Cup

Coach Jim Calderwood is going to get an early opportunity to pit his wits against a Premier League side following last week's draw for the third round of the Tennents Scottish Cup. The draw paired Dunfermline with a trip to Easter Road, and while it will not be the easiest of games for the Pars, it is one of the best ties of the round and should create a lot of interest.

Dunfermline have met Hibs on a number of occasions in the Scottish Cup, but the most recent happened thirteen years ago at the same stage in January 1987 when Hibs ran out 2-0 winners at Easter Road. The teams had also played each other the year before when Hibs won by the same margin. Our own Eddie May played in both of these games for Hibs, and indeed got on the scoresheets in the 1986 version!

The clubs had two close encounters in 1979 and 1981 when replays were required before Hibs won through, and there was also a close match in 1976 when Hibs won 3-2 at East End Park.

Scottish Cup matches against Dunfermline can be traced back as far as 1878 when the first Dunfermline Football Club played Hibs in the competition for three consecutive years. Athletic's first venture into the competition against Hibs turned into a complete disaster. In 1889, Athletic suffered their worst ever Scottish Cup defeat at the hands of Hibs in an 11-1 thrashing. The clubs also met in the quarter final in 1927, but again it was Hibs who ran out easy winners by four goals to nil.

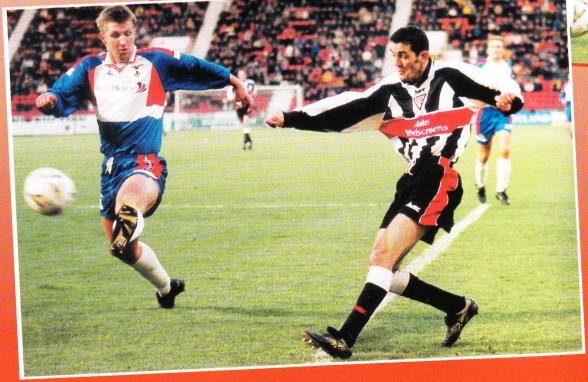
Indeed, Dunfermline's only win against Hibs in the competition came in the biggest meeting between the two to date - the 1965 semi final. The Pars went on to win 2-0.

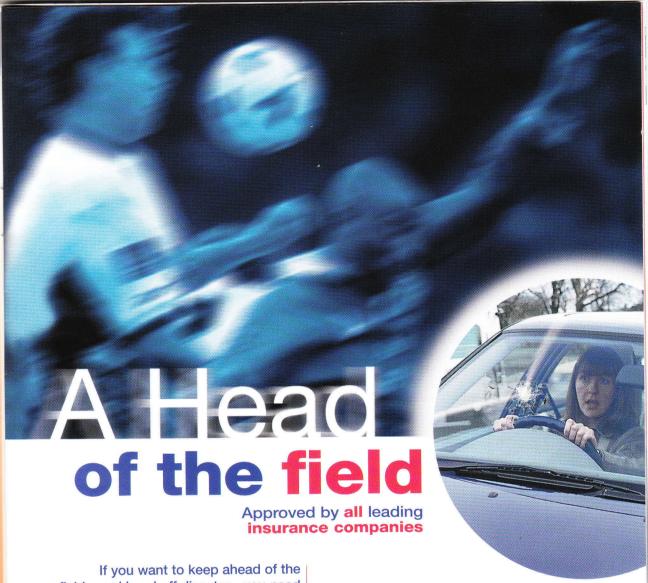
Dunfermline's Scottish Cup successes in recent seasons have been few and far between which is disappointing for a club with such a good record in the competition. Perhaps Jim Calderwood can change all of that....

Christmas present from Inverness

TOP: Stewart Petrie involved in a midfield battle BOTTOM: Owen Coyle fires over a dangerous cross from the left







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PARSTATS

1999/2000 APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS

ue		D	Cup		TOTAL	.5	
ioals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps G	oals	
8	2(0)	2	1(0)	2	21(0)	12	
7	0(0)	0	0(0)	0			
1	2(0)	0	0(0)	0	12(1)		
0	2(0)	0	1(0)	0			
3	2(0)	0	0(1)	0			
1	1(0)	0	0(1)	0			
1	0(0)	0	0(0)	0			
1	0(0)	0	0(0)	0			
0	0(1)	0	0(0)	0			
0	1(1)	0	1(0)	0	14(4)		
0	0(2)	0		0			
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Correct at 11th January, 2000. Brackets indicate appearances as substitute.
*Denotes shut-out by goalkeeper.

BELL'S Scottish Football League - Div. 1

HOME									AW/	44			
	P	W	D	L	F	Α	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	GD
St Mirren	21	8	3	1	28	15	6	2	1	23	9	47	27
Dunfermline	21	6	4	0	17	6	5	3	3	20	14	40	17
Falkirk	22	7	0	5	23	20	4	4	2	16	11	37	8
Livingston	21	5	4	2	18	11	5	2	3	19	17	36	9
Raith Rovers	20	75	2	1	25	15	3	3	4	13	12	35	11
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	22	3	3	4	10	15	2	3	7	7	24	21	-22
Greenock Morton	22	3	3	4	13	15	2	2	8	17	27	20	-12
Clydebank	21	0	2	9	7	29	0	2	8	6	19	4	-35

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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(postponed)

DATE

Sat 07

Tue 10

Wed 18

Sat 21

Sat 28

Sat 04

Sat 11

Sat 18

Sat 25

Sat 09

Wed 12

Sat 16

Sat 23

Sat 30

Sat 06

Sun 14

Sat 20

Sat 27

Sat 04

Sat 11

Sat 18

Mon 27

Mon 03

Sat 08

Sat 15 Sat 22

Sat 29

Sat 05

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May Sat 06

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Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Inverness Cal. Thistle

Airdrieonians

Morton Falkirk

Livingston

St. Mirren

Raith Rovers

Avr United

Morton Bells Cup 1

Queens Park CIS Cup 2

Clydebank at Cappielow

Rangers (CIS Cup 3)

Inverness Cal. Thistle

Airdrieonians

St. Mirren

Raith Rovers

Livingston

Clydebank

Avr United

St. Mirren

Raith Rovers

Livingston

Ayr United Hibernian (SC Rd 3)

Falkirk

Morton

Inverness Cal. Thistle

Clydebank at Cappielow

SFA Cup Round 4

SFA Cup Round 5

Raith Rovers

Livingston

Clydebank

Morton

Airdrieonians

Avr United/SFA Cup Semi F.

Inverness Cal. Thistle

Falkirk

Airdrieonians St. Mirren

Morton

Falkirk



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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15
Service and a se	H.C. LL	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	McGroarty	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)
Shields	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	French	May	Smith	Coyle	Petrie	Ireland	McGroarty	GRAHAM 1 (7)
Thomson	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	French	Smith	COYLE 1	Petrie	May (6)	Ireland	Graham (9)
Huxford	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	Moss	Smith	Coyle	Ireland	French(11)	May	McGroarty(7)
HUXFORD 1	Dair	Tod	REID 1	Dolan	Thomson	Moss	SMITH 1	Coyle	Petrie	French (7)	Huxford	Nish
Dair	McGroaty		Reid	Dolan	Skinner	Moss	Smith	COYLE 2	Petrie	Thomson (11)	Ireland	Graham (9)
May	Dair	Potter	REID 1	Dolan	Thomson	Skinner	Smith	COYLE 1	Petrie	FRENCH 1(6)	Graham (9)	Ireland
May	DAIR 1	Potter	Reid	Dolan	Graham	French	Smith	Coyle	Petrie	Ireland '	May (9)	McGroarty (6)
Thomson	Dair	Potter		Dolan	Hampshire	Skinner	Smith	Coyle	Thomson	Moss (6)	Tod (2)	Graham (7)
May	Dair	Potter	Reid	Dolan	Thomson	Skinner	HAMPSHIRE 1	French	Petrie	Moss (3)	Potter (5)	Nish (10)
May	Dair	Tod	Reid		Skinner	MOSS 1	Crawford	Hampshire	Petrie	French (6)	Potter (3)	Smith (10)
Thomson	Dair	Tod	Reid	Dolan	Hampshire	MOSS 1	Crawford	Coyle	Skinner	Smith	May	Potter
Thomson	McGroarty	Tod	Reid	French 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)
Thomson	McGroarty	Tod	Reid		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	Dolan	Skinner	MOSS 1	CRAWFORD 1	COYLE 1	Petrie	Potter (5)	Hampshire(10)	
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		т. Ј	Reid	Dolan	Skinner	Moss	Crawford	Coyle	Petrie	May (6)	Potter	Hampshire (5
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French	McGroarty	Tod	Skinner	DOIGH	ridy	1,1022	Clumiold	. rumpsiine		. (7		

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000000000000000000000000000000000000000	BELL'S	15	t DIV.	ATTEN	DANCES 1999/2000
Commences	Name	Gms	Total Attnd.	Ay. Attnd.	Highest Attendance during Season
-	Airdrieonians	10	19,885	1,989	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	10	48,521	4,852	6,889 V Raith Rovers (06.11.99)
	Falkirk	12	35,382	2,949	4,505 v St Mirren (25.09.99)
	Inverness Cal This	tle11	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	10	34,413	3,441	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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YOUNG PARS NEWS

Hi Everyone,

time at Year and are all enjoying

being back at any New Year resolutions? Write in to us to tell us about them

and we'll print the best one

Or, if any of you celebrated the ew Millennium in an unusual or funny way, tell us about it! We'll give a prize for the best story! (Only true ones

COMPETITION TIME!

Win two tickets for next week's fixture against Ayr United.

at is Ayr's nickname?

Send your answers to Jean Nelson, 54 Moncur Street, Townhill,

We've been delighted by the super response to our programme competitions lately, so keep up the good work!

YOUNG PARS BIRTHDAY BOARD

Many Happy Returns to the following Young

Gordon Ritchie Debbie Paterson Barrie Duffy Michael Avery Robbie Mitchell **Steven Westwater Alistair Low Daryl Morrison** Calum McDougal

Young Pars who had birthdays in December:

Daniel Morrison Graham Morris

Hamish Anderson Ryan Thomson **Blair Stewart**

Sean McCormack

Ross Fraser

Zoe Johnstone **Rebecca Sands**

Abigail Fairgrieve

WATCH THIS SPACE!!

We're busy planning our next Club Nights so look out for details in all of the usual places - in this programme page, in the Dunfermline Press, in the Kingsgate Centre and in the Centenary Club window.

Also, it looks as if we might be having our exchange visit with Airdrie this season, so keep looking for details!

For any young fans who would still like to join the Young Pars this Season, look out for news of a superb discount deal! You really would be mad to miss out!

Especially for our "Sammy's Gang" members -Sammy is busy writing his very own Newsletter for you all (He's a bit slow with his writing so it could take some time!) He'll be telling you all about his latest adventures and there will be special puzzles and competitions for you all! See you all soon

YOUNG PARS COMMITTEE SPONSORED BY THE BANK OF SCOTLAND

There are lots of Pars goodies on sale in the Club Shop for all our Junior Supporters. (See below)



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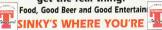
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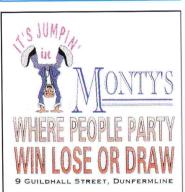
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DAVID

Sometimes, if you make a big enough impression on an opposing team, they'll go out and buy you! Durfermline, over the years, have a habit of doing just that, and after his stunning opening goal here for Falkirk eartier this season the Pars wasted no time in signing powerful midfielder David Moss from the Bairns. David himself wasted no time in making an impression at his new club, and has continued with his scoring touch, his seven goals making him one of the higher scoring midfielders in Scotland. Bob Storie asked him in a recent interview how he was settling in at East End Park....
How are you enjoying life with the club?

"I'm enjoying it very much! It's a new experience for me to be at such a large club. Falkirk was a very happy and successful period for me, as I had 3 good years there, but when I heard Dunfermline was interested in signing me, I had no hesitation in saying yes - it was just too good an opportunity to miss out on. It was obvious that Falkirk were having problems getting a new stadium sorted out, and it was going to hamper their chances of getting promoted to the top league - coming here gives me the chance to play Premier League football a bit quicker. The move came right out of the blue, a Sunday afternoon actually, but Alex Totten phoned me to advise me of the interest, and, I was on my way pretty quickly after that!"

A lot of managers for you in a very short time - how have you adapted to it all?

"Well, it's a first time for me to be in a situation like that, but in all honesty, there hasn't been that much upheaval or disruption along the way. Continuity is always the watchword at times like that, and there were no big changes under Jimmy Nicholl or the new boss. Subtle differences in the approach to training have been more obvious under Jimmy Calderwood, and it's now more based on keeping good possession of the ball - it's made enjoyable for us, and we'd had some good results so far, until the last couple of games!"

What have been the best moments of your career so far?

"I've enjoyed my football wherever I've played, but I suppose one of the special moments was scoring the equalising goal against Rangers in the Cup quarter-final last season at Ibrox. We played very well on the day, and although we eventually lost, we ran them very close for most of the game. My time with Partick Thistle was a good spell too - the fans have very high expectations of the side, much like they do here at Dunfermline. Murdo McLeod was the manager, and we got on very well. I also had a happy spell at Chesterfield under John Duncan, and it was nice to see them do so well in the F.A. Cup a couple of years ago - definitely a lot of happy memories along the way."

We had a real set-back against Raith - what went wrong?

"Just about everything, really! We got off to the worst possible start by losing a goal straight away, which knocked

us out of our stride. Just as we were starting to get to grips with

things, we lost another bad goal from a corner kick. When Owen (Coyle) got ordered off, that just put the tin lid right on top! It seemed an over the top decision, because Owen's just not like that, and the Rovers lads backed him up too. At half time the boss changed things around, putting an extra attacker on for a defender. We were better in the second half, but couldn't get the breaks, and then we lost another goal right at the death - very disappointing, but we're looking at it as a one-off - just a bad day at the office!"

What are your opinions on a winter shut-down for all clubs?

"To be honest, I find it difficult to give a strong answer on it either way. I grant you that, in theory, it has its advantages, and it gets time to get all the players fit again for a restart. But it's not everyone that can afford to go to sunny climates to recharge the batteries, so to speak! My own preference is to play on, because it's what I'm used to, and also because I enjoy it. We were on a good run of results going into Christmas, and with missing out on the St Mirren match, we had the worst possible start to the New Year, so for us, the unintentional break backfired badly!"

Your old club today as visitors - how do you rate them this season?

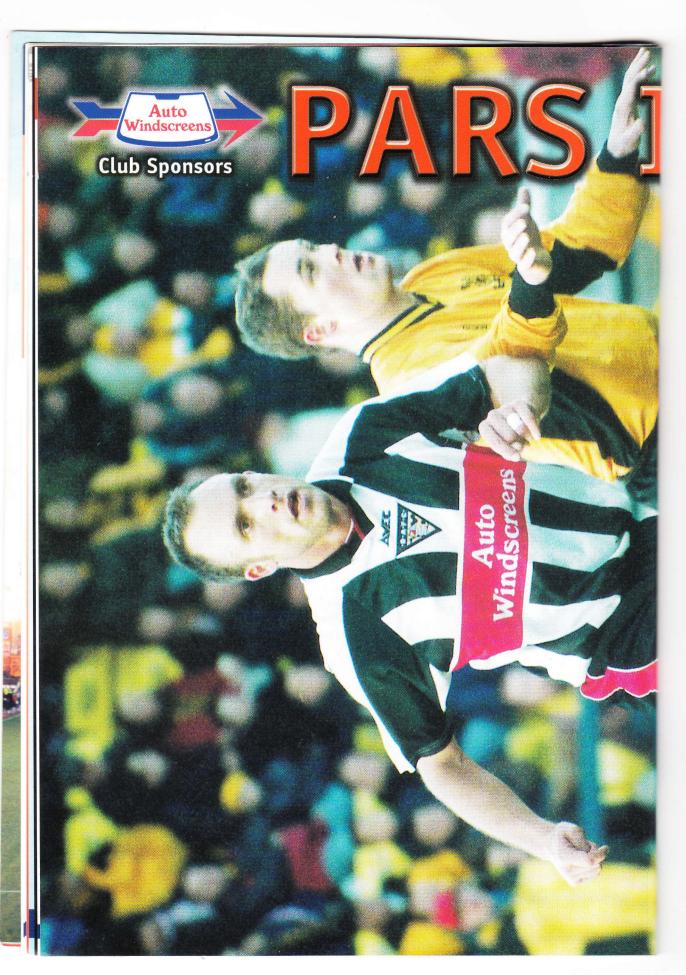
"Just the same as when I was till with them - always a threat! They've done really well so far, considering they're operating with a relatively small squad. That apart, they've got a great bunch of lads down there, and the key players will include the likes of Scott Crabbe, Davie Nicholls, who's starting to put a scoring run together. John Henry, who's taking my place since I left, and of course Ivo Den Bieman is coming back. They always put on a strong show, especially against stronger opposition, and the team spirit is always good, as you'd expect with a small-knit club - they don't fear anyone, so we need to be right on top of our game to get a result. We'll be ready!"

How did you spend Christmas and New Year?

"Christmas was spent quietly at home with my wife and two children, and Lubo Moravcic, the Celtic player - he lives next door to me, so as he was pretty much on his own, we invited him round, and a good time was had by all. New Year was much the same again, with all the neighbours round, but moderation was the motto in all things, as we trained on the Friday and again on the Sunday prior to the Derby game. A pity about the result, but we did honestly prepare in our usual manner as always!"







NPERSON



Jim Macdonald's World of Football

GOING DUTCH: HAARLEM

Far travelled friend, Findlay, who takes in more fitba' matches in a season than many top-level team managers, presented me with a Dutch programme recently – just in case I was short of materials for this column. The match in question was a 1994/95 First Division fixture between hosts FC Haarlem and recently relegated Cambuur Leewarden. Anoraks will be delighted to note that both clubs had recorded convincing victories in their opening fixtures, Haarlem beating Eindhoven 4-1 and Cambuur hitting the right note by dumping Telstar 4-1.

So what? Well, the Camburr Assistant Coach at the time was none other than Jimmy Calderwood and the squad included former Don, William van der Ark and current Man Utd Superstar Jaap Stam. Fascinating, eh?

GOING DUTCH: "THE PHILOSOPHY"

Being at something of a loose end on Bank Holiday Monday because of the Paisley 'flu epidemic we whiled away the time by doing justice to the current issue of "FFT", line by line, cover to cover, even.

One feature in particular caught the eye, a comparison of the youth development systems in place at West Ham and Ajax. So far as the Ajax set up is concerned, the Dutch club has five full-time scouts, twenty five partimers and in a series of open days at the club can often see up to 4,000 youngsters throughout the year, all vying for a place in the Ajax soccer

In choosing boys for the youth academy the focus is on technical skills and speed. Small children train for only an hour each week, taken up solely on the development of ball skills. The club operates ten teams starting at undereight level. Every team (except the under sixteens) has sixteen players and its own trainer, training pitch and team leader. From the age of fifteen the boys train four days a week, usually play two matches each week and combine football activities with formal education provided by a group of fourteen teachers.

All the teams from eighth year olds to first and second teams play the same way, called "The Philosophy" and seemingly every club in Holland operates on the basis of an agreed philosophy. As head of youth development, Hans Westerhof states, "Everything is taught with the Philosophy and we teach the boys technical skills through the Philosophy... through the Philosophy comes the system"

Sounds good, full steam ahead for the "East End Philosophy".

SAMBA TIME I

It was no surprise that the "Millennium factor" led to a surfeit of polls last month, the usual crop of "Player of the Year" awards being added to by "Player of the Decade", "Player of the Century" etc ... so much so that we lost track of many of the winners, runners and riders.

We did note, however, that Pele was voted "Athlete of the Century" by the world's National Olympic Committee, despite the fact that the Brazilian maestro never took part in the Olympics. Closer to home, interest focused on the "France Football" European Footballer of the Year award. South of the border as everyone knows, the clever money was on David Beckham to lift the "Golden Ball" award. Not so, though, with the vote given to Barcelona's Rivaldo - adding to his Copa America gong in Brazil's colours – ahead of the Manchester United midfielder in second place, followed by AC Milan's Andy Scevchenko in the third best spot.

The poll was something of a triumph for Sir Alex Ferguson's squad with Roy Keane, former goalkeeper Peter Shmeichel, Ryan Giggs and Andy Cole featuring in the top fifty, with Arsenal's Kanu and Tottenham's David Ginola being the only other Premiership players listed.

SAMBA TIME II

As we write, only two matches have been played in the World Club Championship but by the time you read this the tournament will be just another page in history. Already the SPL starved media has given the non-event wall-to-wall preview coverage. As events unfold we can be sure that not one iota will be missed by television and the press, leaving part-time amateur pundits like yours truly without a story – other than to predict that the trophy will find its way to Europe or South America. There will be no Mexican hat-dance by Necaxa; South Melbourne ain't going to add to the pile of World Cup trophies presently located in Oz; the Saudi Arabian sultans of Al Nassr will emulate Scotland by going home early from a "major" championship and Raza Casablanca will be back in Morocco in time for dessert – or should that be "desert"?

Can't understand why FIFA should be claiming the Brazillian event as a "first" – as every regular reader of this page knows, the first ever World Cup champions were the "Sons of Scotia", Renton, who beat West Bromwich Albion 4-1 in a "World Championship Decider" way back in 1888. You know the story ... that is its third airing in two years, so we'll skip the twiddly bits.

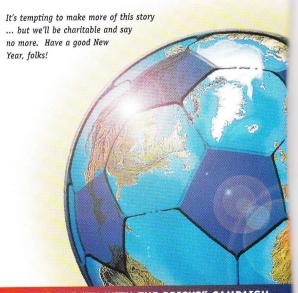
FOREIGN LEGION

Inevitably Chelsea has become the first British Club to field a side containing not a single home-bred player but elsewhere in Europe the same situation might well arise. Latest stats reveal more than 30% of the starts turning out in Italy, Holland and Portugal are non-nationals, while in Germany and Spain foreigners account for almost 40% of registered players. Bucking the trend – for those who need to know such things – are Atletico Bilbao, with a 100% Basque squad and Spain's "Primera Liga", while Serie A side Piacenza is also free of imports.

Not many people know that.

AND FINALLY...

We notice that a Caernarfon and District League tie between Waunfawr and Llanrug was called off recently because there was too much sheep dung on the field. According to the report "....I had no choice" bleated the ref, "there were dangers to the players' health"





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Second E leven

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Reserve League East

While we usually look forward to reporting the action and updating Pars fans on developments that have taken place, we have to report that, for once, there hasn't been a lot of action. The last Reserve game reported on in the Pars Programme was the side's impressive 5-0 win over Montrose on the 30th November. Over six weeks has elapsed since then, a combination of circumstances has conspired to curtail the Reserves' activities and create a great deal of frustration for the players, coaching staff and the management at East End Park.

On a positive note, most of the players who were carrying knocks are now well on the way to recovery. Ironically, however, they are now all kicking their heels, waiting for a game. The next scheduled Reserve League fixture is a home game against Arbroath on the 25th January.

Reserve League Cup

A provisional date has been agreed for the next round of the Reserve League Cup. The match against East Fife has been arranged for Friday 25th February, although this may still be subject to change so read Second Eleven for further information.

Under 18 Team News

In the meantime, there has been a similar dearth of games for the Under 18's. The young Pars have only played one competitive League fixture since their 4-1 win over Alloa Athletic at Recreation Park on the 20th November. The side's only game since then was against Stenhousemuir on Sunday 9th January. The young Pars won 2-0 with a goal coming in each half from John Hynd and Dean Walker respectively. John Ritchie said that he was pleased with the overall performance of the side given the long lay off and the way that the 'flu outbreak had further disrupted the squad's training programme. While Ross Harrower did not have a lot of direct shots at goal to deal with, he did cope well with a succession of cross balls and commanded his area well. John Hynd also did well, attacking the ball and demonstrating good distribution of the ball from the back to his midfield and forwards. Although John felt that the first-half performance was better than that of the second half, he was satisfied with the all round performance of the team and that the result had been built from a solid defensive display. The Pars side basically adopted a four, three, three formation for the game with Ross Harrower in goal and a back four of Keir Nicol, Steven Gayne, Paul Wardlaw and Gordon Findlay. The midfield comprised Greg McDonald, Craig McCreadie, Graeme Walls and



with Brian Vaughan playing wide on the right in support of a front two of John Hynd and Dean Walker.

Jimmy Nicholl Unfortunately, Stuart Anderson had to call off, a late victim of the 'flu bug. His place being taken by G Findlay who stepped up from the Under 16s and who, by all accounts, did well in the full-back berth. Mark McGarty suffered a neck injury after 10 minutes unfortunately and had to be substituted. John Hynd and Gordon Findlay also suffered ankle knocks and were also substituted as precautionary measures.

The result gives the Under 18 team a boost after some difficult games in the first half of the season, and should set them up well for the competition

RESERVE LEAGUE EAST

ı					
	Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	
	31 August	FORFAR ATHLETIC	A	2-0	Nish, Squires
	7 September	RAITH ROVERS	Н	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	Н	6-0	Hampshire, Ireland,
					McGroarty, Nish, Tod, Walker
	19 October	FORFAR ATHLETIC	Н	4-1	French, Moss, Nish, Petrie
	26 October	RAITH ROVERS	A	0-1	
	8 November	BRECHIN CITY	Н	4-0	Smith 4
	17 November	AYR UNITED			
		(Res Lge Cup)	A	1-1	(won on pens)Graham
	30 November	MONTROSE	Н	5-0	Graham 3, Hampshire, Nish
	77.7				

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	Н	1-1	McGarty
3 October	EAST STIRLING	Н	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)	Н	1-2	Walker
28 October	STENHOUSEMUIR	Н	1-3	McGarty
6 November	FORFAR ATHLETIC	Н	1-3	Walker
18 November	RAITH ROVERS	Н	1-4	Walker
20 November	ALLOA ATHLETIC	A	4-1	Walker 2, McGarty, Nicol
9 January	STENHOUSEMUIR	A	2-0	Walker, Hynd



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Past Historic ...

PARS WELL BEHIND

Today's fixture will be the 73rd time that Dunfermline and Falkirk have met in the Scottish League. Since league reconstruction in 1975, Falkirk have held the upper hand, with the Pars recording only six wins from 34 matches. The series currently stands at 32 victories to 26 in Falkirk's favour.

There's little doubt that Brockville is one of the Pars real bogey grounds, with only three wins there in twenty games going back to 1970. In fact, the win there earlier this season was the first time that Dunfermline had tasted success at Brockville outside the top flight.

BETTER DAYS

Results from Brockville haven't always provided such grim reading – between 1955 and 1969 the Pars won seven and lost only two of eleven matches there. Dunfermline's 1-0 win on April 21st, 1956 was their first ever on the Bairns' patch and kicked off a run of four straight victories at Brockville.

The Pars biggest win there was the 4-0 result recorded on January 1st, 1965, with the goals scored by Jackie Sinclair (2), Alex Edwards and Alex Smith. This came in the middle of a five match winning streak against Falkirk in which the Athletic scored 19 and conceded two.

Alex Ferguson is the Pars all-time top scorer against Falkirk with eight goals in his three seasons at East End Park.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

On March 9th, 1935, Falkirk visited Ayr for a crucial relegation match from which they emerged victorious, winning 3-2. However, an Ayr United player, Robert Russell, admitted afterwards that he had been blackmailed into missing the game. He had been told by the Falkirk Manager, Robert Orr, that if he turned out for Ayr he would lose his job with Alexander's Coachbuilders, in Falkirk. He accepted a payment of £3.00 from Orr and declared himself unfit.

Russell was suspended until the end of the season and fined £10.00 while the Falkirk Manager was banned from any further participation in the game

The match was replayed with Ayr winning 3-1. Falkirk finished bottom and were relegated while Ayr survived – by just two points.

A GRAND FINALE

Dunfermline and Falkirk have been involved in many exciting matches over the years and have frequently found themselves battling it out over promotion or relegation. 1978/79, 1988/89 and 1993/94 spring to mind when recalling end of season fireworks, but perhaps the most dramatic last day of any season came on April 18th, 1959.

Not only were Rangers and Hearts still slugging it out for the title but no fewer than three clubs – Aberdeen, Falkirk and Dunfermline – were desperately trying to avoid joining Queen of the South in taking the dreaded drop.

With four games remaining, the Pars and Falkirk were level on points but when Dunfermline suffered a 7-1 thrashing by Third Lanark they became favourites to go down. Away draws at Stirling and Dundee brought them a ray of hope and they went into the final match once again tied with Falkirk, on 26 points. Meanwhile, Aberdeen had endured a torrid run of five successive defeats and sat only one point ahead, but with the knowledge that their last game was against champions elect Rangers – at Ibrox.

With Partick Thistle the visitors, East End Park was about to witness one of the most incredible first half performances ever. Knowing that they had an inferior goal average, the Pars had to record a big victory to stand any chance. Inspired by centre forward Charlie Dickson, Dunfermline rose to the occasion magnificently and by half time were 7-0 ahead. Thistle were totally demoralised and the final score was an amazing 10-1, with winger Harry Melrose setting a record with six goals.

At Brockville, the Falkirk strikers squandered chances galore as they trailed Raith Rovers 2-1. Their fans jeered as a penalty was missed with five minutes left although they finally equalised in the last minute.

There were more unbelievable scenes at Ibrox, where Aberdeen pulled off a stunning 2-1 win. Thousands of Rangers fans stayed behind to boo their team and throw insults at the directors. Then suddenly, the catcalls turned to cheers as news came through that Hearts had lost 2-1 ... to Celtic! Rangers had won the title thanks to their oldest rivals.

Falkirk left the field to boos and a slow handclap as their supporters realised that they were down. Even a victory wouldn't have saved them as they'd still have been below the Pars on goal average.

PAST MASTERS

The Falkirk player who missed the penalty in that crucial match was none other than John White, one of the finest inside forwards Scottish football has ever seen.

Born in Musselbugh in April 1937, White played for Bonnyrigg Rose before becoming a professional with Alloa in November 1956. Less than two years later he moved on to Falkirk for a fee of £3,000 and quickly established himself in the Scotland team, making his debut - and scoring - in a 3-2 win over West Germany on May 6th, 1959.

After earning four caps as a Falkirk player White was signed by Spurs in October 1959 for £20,000. His transfer to a big club was inevitable - he was far too talented to be playing in the Scottish Second Division. Rangers had watched White no fewer than 13 times before deciding he was too light and frail, but with Spurs he quickly developed into a graceful, precise player who flitted unobtrusively around the pitch conducting the play. It was this style that earned him the nickname of "The Ghost".

An integral part of the Spurs side that lifted the double in 1961, the FA Cup the following year and the Cup Winners Cup in 1963. White, also gained a total of 22 Scotland caps, scoring three goals. Between 1962 and 1964 he played in all three matches against England, each time on the winning side, and although he had missed some internationals thorough club commitments, there was little doubt that White would be a first choice Scotland cap for the foreseeable future.

Tragically, it wasn't to be. On July 21st, 1964 John White was cut down in his prime, struck by lightning on a London Golf Course, aged only 27. The whole of Scotland mourned his untimely death.

Around East. End Park...

PLANNING BLIGHT

One of the most disappointing decisions to hit Dunfermline Athletic in a very long time came at the end of December when the Planning Committee of Fife Council decided to reject the club's proposals for the future development of East End Park. The decision is a massive blow, not just for the Football Club, but also for the local community who would have benefited from both the enhanced facilities and the environmental improvements which would have resulted.

The Football Club have been very forward thinking and have already shown the improvements that can be made with support. The old ugly face of the Main Stand has gone to be replaced with a brighter and more aesthetically pleasing façade. The old crumbling and dangerous corrugated iron which used to ring the perimeter has also gone. But just when it looks as if some serious progress is about to be made with the remaining parts of the area, the Planning Committee's decision has come as a body blow.

The Football Club has tried to compromise - in fact it has gone back to the drawing board on several occasions, and has met with local residents to try to allay their fears. It did appear as if the matter had been resolved when Planning Officials gave the latest plan the green light and recommended approval.

Opposition to the development of facilities at East End Park has been lead by local Liberal Councillor Jim Tolson who has made it a particular cause of his in the past few months. Anyone has the right to state their views, but most of Councillor Tolson's appear to be based on a serious misunderstanding of what Dunfermline Athletic were trying to achieve. Councillor Tolson's "in-depth knowledge" about Dunfermline Athletic includes his own unique suggestion about what to do with the corners at East End Park we should fill them with seats! That level of ignorance is bad enough, but he has also tried to put local people against the Football Club. If you don't believe that, just look at the banner headlines on his local newsletter - "THE PARS V THE PEOPLE". What arrogance - more people from Dunfermline come to East End Park every Saturday than have ever voted for Mr Tolson in an election! Yes, he is the elected representative of the people (and let's hope people don't forget that), but that does not give him the right to believe that he is the only person who can talk on behalf of people in the area. The supporters of Dunfermline Athletic, their families and many other people in the area have shown a great deal of goodwill to the Football Club over the years - they want us to succeed. The club does recognise the difficulties that local residents do face with the Football Club being situated nearby, and we do want to work with local people to minimise the problems.

One final point - Dunfermline Athletic have been playing football matches at East End Park for 115 years. Unfortunately, the impact that this decision will have is likely to have a far greater effect on the club than anything that could have happened on the football field.

Councillor Tolson says in his newsletter that he would like to hear from "The People" - perhaps Dunfermline supporters might like to take this opportunity now. Councillor Tolson can be contacted at 30 Whinhill, Dunfermline, KY11 4YZ. Telephone 01383 733686 or e-mail jimtolson@clara.net.

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 handcrafted 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.

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS CLUB 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.

50/50 WINNER



Jamie Dolan congratulates George Scott of Dunfermline for winning £850 in the 50/50 draw at the Inverness game.

AND FINALLY...

Within half an hour of Ian Ferguson agreeing to sign terms with Dunfermline, John Duncan of CARTMORE BUILDING SUPPLIES was in touch with the club to say that he would sponsor Ian's home and away jersey for the rest of the season. Thank you John - that's what we call quick!

First Division Programme Review

With the Youth Development Initiative still in winter hibernation it gave GORDON BAIRD the chance to cast a critical eye over the programmes of our divisional rivals and see if we can pick out the contenders for honours at the end of the season.

The only real disappointing aspect for collectors has been the absence of a CLYDEBANK issue. While never the best looking programme it was always the one guaranteed to be packed with information. Obviously the situation at the club, with supporters boycotts etc, has led to this but it is puzzling that such a dedicated group of contributors decided to call it a day. Hopefully, they will start reissuing soon.

Still, that leaves eight to review and we'll begin with AIRDRIE. Printed by Garthland RGS, their 32 page B5 issue is full colour but contains little in the way of content. Having long suspected the eyesight of Airdie supporters, their own programme confirms this with some very large print. A double page spread on players' sponsors is nothing but space filling. With around half of it consisting of adverts, there's little value for money at £1.50. A disappointing programme but our game was right at the start of the season so perhaps things have improved.

Onto AYR UNITED, whose 32 page A5 programme, also at £1.50, contains 13 pages of adverts. The first half of this issue has nothing other than the Chairman and Manager's messages and the opposition pen pics. It picks up well after that, however, and could be a good little programme if more features were included early on. Printed by Contour Press, Ayr.

FALKIRK's programme has a strange bright red cover but once you've adjusted your vision there's quite a decent issue lurking inside. For a club that used to produce a programme as drab as Brockville itself, there's been quite an improvement in recent years, helped by the move to Garthland RGS. There are 15 pages of adverts in this 32 page B5 effort which is slightly excessive. Although it contains some good, well-written and well set out features there's just too much space filling elsewhere.

Their middle page action spread would have been unusual and impressive if not for the fact that Morton's is very similar – ditto the back page with Dunfermline's. Still, one of the better First Division programmes.

At 18 advertising pages out of a total of 32, INVERNESS C.T.'s A5 issue proves disappointing at £1.50. Every aspect of the current season is covered in depth but the lack of a club history ensures little variation. The only colour to be seen is in the adverts – having no colour action shots certainly keeps costs down but does nothing for the quality of the programme. The last seven pages features five adverts, the visitors pen pics and this season's fixture list. Printed by the Inverness Courier.

LIVINGSTON'S programme is very like their stadium – bright, shiny, outwardly impressive, but with little inside it. Full colour, with a nice amber shading throughout, this to is a real let down for such a supposed progressive club. There's very little content but that's hardly surprising

when they've successfully ambushed Meadowbank Thistle out of their history. The entire second half of this issue

contains a staggering 3 pages of content! Another from Garthland RGS, it costs £1.50 for 32 B5 pages, 17 of which are adverts.

The same company is also behind the MORTON issue, which follows up an attractive cover with a bright, colourful programme – except for the visitors' pages, which are on a gloomy black setting. Good on current season features but only half a page

given over the historical aspects. The editor was probably happy with the middle page action shots until he realised it wasn't unique. At £1.50 for 32 B5 pages (14 adverts) it's one of the better issues despite being yet another which includes one of these horrible player sponsorship players. As every collector knows, the worst thing about buying a programme at Cappielow, is keeping it in good condition through the pouring rain. To the wee club down the coast now, who produce a 32 page A5 issue with 13 of them adverts. Being RAITH ROVERS colours, it's perhaps not surprising that it should include a fair smattering of blue and white ... but surely

not to the exclusion of everything else. The outcome, which includes a large dollop of grey, is extremely dull. This is a shame because its packed full of reading with a good block of features and photos, with knowledgeable contributors who can even write accurately about the Pars. The only real space filler is the "Personnel Profile" which is basically a photocopy of a questionnaire filled in by a player.

A good example of how to utilise colour properly comes in the ST MIRREN programme. New Design Print obviously influences aspects such as this although the five man team of contributors do their bit to ensure an issue with a good blend of articles, both topical and historical. At £1.50 for 32 A5 pages it's a small but well-informed programme which keeps adverts to a 13 page minimum. Like the team, it will be up there at the end of the season. On a personal note and as a collector, it's alarming to see advertising levels growing season by season while features are cut back. Obviously clubs need to maximise revenue but it's a delicate balancing act - after all, if nobody buys the programme then nobody sees the adverts. Judging by the lack of good historical articles around, it already seems that some programmes are seen as advertising brochures with some topical features thrown in. How some clubs can justify a £1.50 price tag is beyond a growing number of supporters but thankfully, it's not something affecting Dunfermline Athletic.

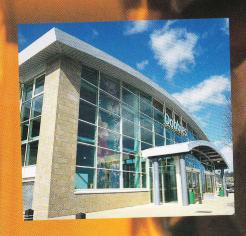






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One Up...

A Review of the First Division

FIRST OF ALL, MY BEST WISHES for a very Happy and prosperous New Year. That of course goes especially to the Pars team who haven't won a point this Millennium!

I'm not one to whinge on and make excuses, but the circumstances surrounding the Pars last few games certainly leaves a lot to be desired. Firstly, St Mirren get a severe bout of the 'flu which knocks out 20 of their 24 players and gets the game at East End - which we were all seriously up for - cancelled. It's ironic in the one season when East End is virtually un-postponable with the new fangled hot air balloon, that an important match gets cancelled for that reason. The fact that a completely 'fluless St Mirren turned out seven days later to play a lucrative home derby against Morton will not be commented upon!

So it was bad enough not playing our last game of the Millennium, but the following week a rusty looking Pars go two down in 20 minutes at Starks Park with two bad defensive errors. But then we get a dead-cert penalty to make it 2-1 when Owen Coyle gets flattened. We do don't we? Nope. Not only do we not get the pen, but Owen gets sent off for what has become known as the biggest travesty since that other guy got his marching orders two thousand years ago!

And then, just to compound everything, we are forced to play Livvy at the unearthly hour of 12.30, and the game is made all ticket at the last minute. Most of us don't surface till that time on a Saturday let alone play football.

Still, Jimmy Calderwood seems to be staying relaxed through all these troubles, and now he's got a couple of new players in Ian Ferguson and Kris Mampaey. Good luck to them today!

ELSEWHERE IN THE FIRST

While both St Mirren and Dunfermline have been stuttering a little over the last few weeks, the other clubs in the title race have taken the opportunity to do a bit of catching up. Just when it looked as if the two might run away with it, everything is all to play for again.

For a wee while today's visitors Falkirk looked to be struggling, especially after they were told that they couldn't ground share if they made it to the Premier League. But they've fought back and will be right up for this match today. Having lost to Morton just before New Year, the wee team have come back with a bang, as have Livingston, making it look like a five team fight to the finish.

For a while, it looked as if Ayr might join them. Following Dunfermline's comfortable victory at Somerset Park at the beginning of December, Ayr went on a great run courtesy of another host of new signings, but that came to a halt at Kirkcaldy last week. Another team which might fancy their outside chances are Inverness who are really moving now after a slow start. Their 6-2 win last week put paid to Billy Stark's managerial career for the time being at least. Hugh Scott - he of the huffs at East End Park when his family were not allowed into

the Boardroom - seems to be a very unpopular figure down Cappielow way, so there may be a few episodes to that story yet.

Morton will be grateful for the very poor form of Airdrie, one of the few teams with a ground equipped for Premier league football. Airdrie appear to be slipping relentlessly down the table and would appear to be about to enter a fight with Morton about who will fall further into the Second Division. There's no doubt about who's going to take bottom spot, however. Clydebank are the only team in Britain still without a win all season, and despite Ian McCall's valiant efforts, it's hard to see where such a result might come from. Worse still, they are without an owner after John Hall more or less disowned them.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Talking of clubs struggling, it was sad to see that Queens Park have been put in the hands of provisional liquidators. Between that and the plight of clubs like Clydebank, some of Scotland's traditional clubs are facing hard times ahead. On the other hand, this week saw the decision to introduce two new clubs into the Scottish League and if they are half as successful as Inverness and Ross County, they will be doing well.

The news (again!) that Rangers and Celtic might be considering joining a new European League will be treated with dismay by sychophantic journalists but with great glee by the vast majority of the Scottish football watching public. Imagine a Premier League which could be won by more than two clubs - sounds good to me....

HACKED OFF

The battle for Premier places is just about the most interesting aspect of Scottish football at the present time, not that you'd think that if you were reading the papers. While the column inches have remained virtually the same for matches outside the Premier League, you can read till your hearts content about what Rangers, Celtic, Dundee United or anyone else are doing on their holidays. And if that's not bad enough, you can get minute-by-minute blows about what Man United are doing in their 'friendly' tournament in Rio. Do journalists really believe that's what fans want to read??

Still, the good old SPL will be back shortly and that'll keep hacks like Ewing Grahame of the Daily Ranger happy. According to Ewing, after watching the Livvy v Pars match he reckons that neutrals will be pining for Dens Park and Pittodrie. He's got to be joking! Most of us have had the chance to sample the Premier League fare this season courtesy of Sky, and it has been unbelievably dire! You have a choice of watching a ten man defence trying to keep either one of the 'Old Firm' at bay, or on the rare occasions when neither Celtic or Rangers are involved of watching a match without any atmosphere whatsoever. He's right about one thing - the match at Almondvale was not a great game, but maybe he should lower himself to watch the First Division more than once a season.





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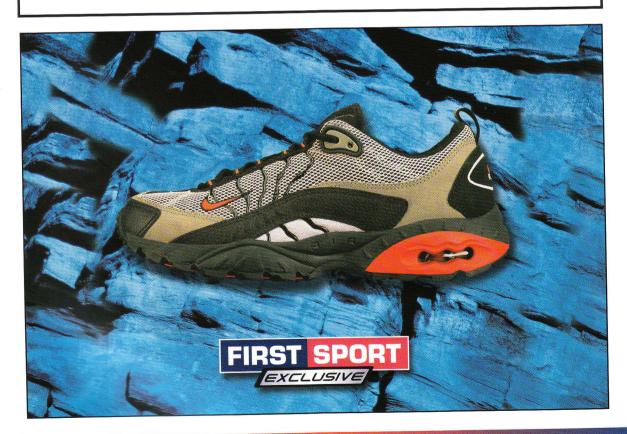
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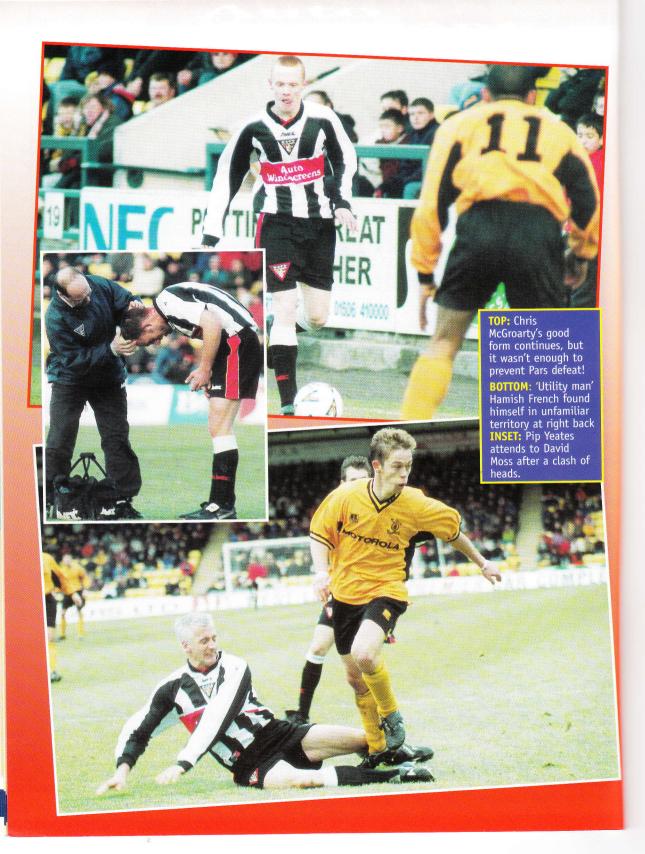


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Today's Football

SHOCK, HORROR! THE MEDIA are yet again going to have to busy themselves on a Saturday afternoon reporting on Scottish League football (except for the lucky ones who will provide the back page headlines on Rangers and Celtic's successes in the Beach Volleyball competitions).

There is absolutely no question where the game of the day is in Scotland, and cynics might even suggest that now that Ian Ferguson has arrived at East End Park there will be more interest because it will allow a nice little angle on Rangers to be written! We do hope however, that Ian will make the headlines for what he is doing for Dunfermline.

Elsewhere in the First, top plays bottom with St Mirren generously suggesting that the fixture with Clydebank be moved to Love Street to allow it to go ahead since Morton will be using Cappielow for their own purposes. Clydebank do have to get a win sometime, don't they... The divisions other strugglers Airdrie and managerless Morton take on promotion hopefuls Raith Rovers and Livingston respectively.

The Second and Third Division cards have been curtailed because of the fighting performances of non-league clubs in the Tennents Scottish Cup. A few League sides will have had sleepless nights at the thought of being eliminated. The one we're most interested in is the replay between Annan Athletic and Brechin City, because our old pal Davie Irons, now manager of Annan, masterminded the South of Scotland club's excellent result last week.

BELL'S LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Airdrie v Raith Rovers
Ayr United v Inverness CT
DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC V Falkirk
Morton v Livingston
St Mirren v Clydebank

BELL'S LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

Clyde v Partick Thistle Hamilton Accies v Stranraer Queen of the South v Stenhousemuir

BELL'S LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION

Berwick Rangers v Cowdenbeath Dumbarton v Queens Park East Fife v Forfar Athletic

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP SECOND ROUND REPLAYS

Alloa Athletic v Whitehill Welfare Dalbeattie Star v Albion Rovers Fraserburgh v Arbroath Annan Athletic v Brechin City



Player of the Year

YOUNG PARS FULL BACK CHRIS MCGROARTY has shown this season why Coach Jim Calderwood is keen to tie him up on a longer term contract. Still only 18, he now looks as if he has established a regular place in the Pars team. He may not be playing where he most expected to be, but there's no doubt he's got the attributes to become a very fine left back. He can tackle and he is getting stronger, but he can also distribute the ball from the back, and that would seem to be one of the main criteria for inclusion in Jim Calderwood's team! Chris's Man of the Match Award against Livingston was his fourth of the season so far, and he now replaces Owen Coyle in top spot.

Second place went to Stewart Petrie for his foraging runs and his ability to defend from the middle of the park. Third place went deservedly to Hamish French who came through the awkward task of playing at right back with flying colours. Not only did he defend well, but through his non-stop running supported the front men too.



Chris McGroarty wins Man of the Match Award

AUTO WINDSCREENS MAN OF THE MATCH 18.12.99 versus Inverness CT: sponsors TULLOCH HOMES

Position	Player	Points
1	CHRIS McGROARTY	3
2	Stewart Petrie	2
3	Hamish French	1



SATURDAY 22ND JANUARY 2000 BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION AYR UNITED AT EAST END PARK

ANOTHER FASCINATING MATCH LINED UP for next week, if for no other reason than you never quite know who you're going to be playing when you play Ayr!

After a run of very poor results including a severe thrashing at Dunfermline's hands at Somerset Park, manager Gordon Dalziel rang the changes and for a while it seemed to be working superbly. Ayr did come unstuck at Kirkcaldy last week, but that was their first set back since the last time they played the Pars so they will have

to be watched very carefully.

Among the new faces in the Ayr line up is the current captain of the Faroes national squad, so the team certainly has a cosmopolitan look about it! Many reckon that Ayr are in a false position in the table and should probably be up among the top three or four as they were last season. Only time will tell if that should be the case, but Ayr will certainly have to pull some results together if they don't want a disappointing season to end too quickly.

Pars fans will be able to give their usual welcome to former boss Iain Munro who is now assistant to Gordon Dalziel at Ayr. Dunfermline have a generally very good record against Ayr and they will wish to continue that next week....

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14 Gareth HUTCHISON

15 Gary McSTAY

