

# THE EAST END BOUNCE



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO FALKIRK  
IN WINNING  
THE B+Q CUP



WE'D LIKE TO WISH  
THEM GOOD LUCK IN  
THEIR BID TO RETAIN  
THE TROPHY NEXT  
SEASON

50p

ISSUE 1  
MAR 94

# THE EAST END BOUNCE

Brought to you by: Paul Bundy and Rohan Lightbody with help from Parson, Stuart Robertson, Eli Cohen and Name and address supplied. Special thanks to Lynn without whom references to away games would not have been possible.

16 Comiston Road,  
Edinburgh,  
EH10 5QE

Thank-you for buying, or at least reading, this first issue of 'The Bounce'. It is intended first and foremost as an independant voice for Dunfermline fans, an outlet for views opinions and pure vitriole not offered by *The Press* or programme. Any articles, jokes, cartoons, gossip, criticism or suggestions gladly accepted and encouraged. Issue 2 should be out at the end of the season, be bigger and, hopefully, better, but that all depends on you.

## THE PARS TRUST

The directors selling East End to themselves was presented to us as being of benefit to the club and community and, with the promise of new low-cost housing with profits channelled into the club, who can say otherwise? One or two things from the 'Plans for the Future' leaflet, however, do cause a bit of concern, not for what they say but for what they don't say.

Question 1: *'...won't it pay more in rent in years to come?'* gets the answer *'No ...annual rental is less than club paying in interest charges for overdraft. The overdraft would be drastically reduced'*. There will still be interest to be paid on what's left of the overdraft though. Is the new interest *plus* the rent going be less than the original interest payments? That's the question we were supposed to believe was being asked.

Question 5: *'If the Trust goes bust, who gets East End Park?'* Answer: *'The club will always have the right to buy the ground back at a pre-agreed sum.'* A sum pre-agreed between the buyers and sellers, ie the same people. How does this sum compare with that paid for the ground by the Trust? What if the Trust goes into receivership and the club can't afford the ground? Will it have been sold for less than it's market value?

These are just a couple of points that sprung out at me in my new, hyper cynical role as a fanzine editor. Roy Woodrow wants us to believe that he's making the most of a bad situation, I want to believe him, the alternative's too grim to do otherwise.

## FALKIRK

This weekend we play Falkirk in a fairly crucial game which will go a long way to deciding who'll be playing Stranraer next season. Being 1 point behind with 10 games left, it's not one we can afford to lose as it would leave us dependent on them dropping three points. Given the way the team is playing at the moment, and the circumstances that we lost the last game at Brockville, the players are going to go into the game with confidence and the desire to set the record straight. It may be worth realising that the Babies haven't managed promotion from any division with us in it for over 40 years.

The game will likely see the return of Ian McCall, we all know he's capable of some quite remarkable skills on his day, let's just hope he's his usual selfish bastard self and loses the ball before his team can make any use of it. The question I think the world needs an answer to is 'Did Simon find out by putting the boot on?' Judging by his

performance when he came on at Somerset Park the other week he was wearing it that then.

Also making a return will be Richard Cadette, if you're one of the people who shower racial abuse on him could you please stop it. There's plenty of good reasons not to, the good name of the club and the majority of the fans to start with, but, if for no other reason, you shouldn't do it because it doesn't work, it improves his game. Calling someone fat, bald, 'cheat' or 'scab' can work because they're not things people are particularly proud of being. The same is not true of 'you black bastard' any more than abuse about being a Fifer would have an adverse affect on you.

### GOING UP

Next season, playing in the Premier League, admission prices for the terracing will be £8 per game. The previous 2 times we achieved promotion the club did away with the unemployed gate offering half price to claimants. If they do so again this time it will mean a price increase of 320% for those least able to afford it, similiarly the question of juvenile prices etc for all ticket games. An increase is inevitable, the price of success, but the club should keep the gate, Dundee always did, or lose the support of people coming through the turnstiles and possibly alienate them from coming back when they can afford it.

### BLACK AND WHITE AND WALKING ALL OVER

Special thanks and congratulations to Bert, Dick and all the players. You've brought the joy back into supporting the Pars, the times we've lost it's usually the result of inept refereeing or sheer bad luck. These things should even themselves out so maybe next season they'll go our way at Ibrox and the rest.

## The Par Side



MATING SEASON IN FALKIRK

There's no team in the First, and few in the Premier, that are better than the side Bert's has playing for him. More than the team though, his arrival has breathed fresh life into the club. I still can't believe the job was offered to Murdo, Liam Brady proved that copying your rival's succesful formula doesn't guarantee success, going for him was a reflex reaction to the success of Rovers and Killie and a mistake, the consequences of which we won't have to deal with. Murdo turning us down for Dumbarton was a bit of a slap in the pus, but, given the alternative, one we can live with and thank him for.

Enough, time to stuff the Babies.  
Let's all do....

## FABLES OF THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TABLES

There are currently 38 teams in the Scottish League. At the end of the season an astonishing 16 will be relegated. Only 2 will be promoted in any meaningful sense. Half of the Premier Division will play relegation games from now until the end of the season. One look at the Premier table will confirm the entertainment value of 93/4. 5 teams have failed to average 1 goal per game. Dundee United have drawn half of their games and others are as bad. Compiling highlights of their games must be the hardest job in Scottish football. Apart from the Pars, the First Division isn't much better, and it's all going to get worse. So, is it all worth it to construct four divisions of ten? I think not.

There is little point travelling to Ibrox twice a year on league business. Smaller clubs who do well will always lose out over 4 fixtures. Making Albion Rovers travel to Dumfries or Berwick more often is only going to put more strain on their non-existent finances. Familiarity breeds contempt. Many fixtures lose their appeal and fans stop travelling. We need divisions large enough to play each other home and away once each season. We need 6 divisions of 16.

### ODDFELLOWS LOCAL

We have a twelve team premier division, but top First division teams could compete with most of them, especially given the extra dosh available. My proposal is to have 2 divisions with 16 teams in each. Below them would be four regional leagues, again of 16. There would be promotion and relegation on 2-up2-down basis, with the four regional

winner playing-off for the two spots in the second division. The regions would probably be Highland, Eastern, Western and South Western.

All clubs would play 30 league fixtures a year. This would leave ample time for cup-games, international Saturdays, a winter shut-down and easily arranged postponements and replays. Midweek fixtures would be reduced.

Well that's the plan. I am sure there are numerous problems. I'll try to address the ones which have occurred to me so far. Firstly, which teams would make up the regional divisions. I would basically allow any club to apply for admission. Highland league teams, Junior sides and anyone else who fancied it. There would be no relegation from the regional structure, but a team with ambition would be able to progress with some minimum criteria for facilities. The regional set-up would reduce travel costs and inconvenience as well as creating more local interest games. All of these aspects ought to be attractive to potential entrants.

### PILGRIMAGE

Secondly, clubs may worry that a reduced fixture list would lessen income. The reduction of midweek games allied with visiting other grounds once a season only ought to boost average attendances due to the games being more of an occasion. A reduction in fixtures also means more recovery time allowing clubs to operate with smaller pools of players whilst still remaining competitive.

Thirdly, there may be too many meaningless games. Personally I can't see the distinction between a mid-table game in a 10 team league and a 16 team one. It is also worth thinking for a moment how many of the 'important' games you have seen this year have been entertaining.

The major problem I can see is that Premier clubs rely on Old Firm income too much to give any of it up. I can only say that less high pressure football, more attractive games, an increase in travelling support and less repetitive matches should counterbalance the loss of this revenue. Having said that I wouldn't like to have to sell it to a club's bank manager. One possible income generator could be an expanded sixes competition during a winter break of some sort. The competition could be staged over 2 or 3 weekends with rulings to encourage clubs to field more youngsters while the regulars get a bit of festive R&R. A festive format for all the family with the emphasis on skill and youth.

### ENDGAME

Well thats the lot. Reduced fixture lists, home and away once a year only, a winter break of sorts, less travel for smaller clubs, less pressure, higher attendances. It makes sense to me, anyone else? RL

### 'EUROPEAN' STYLE GOALS

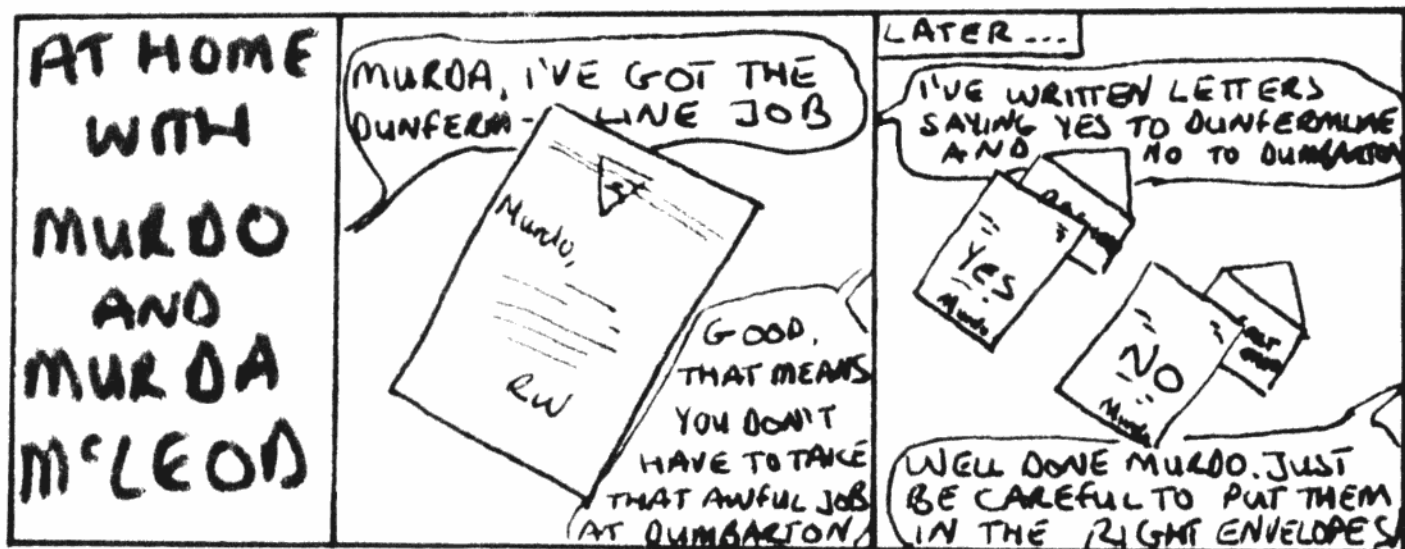
We've all seen them, big rectangular things with the nets held back with bits of string tied to poles. This is so there's nothing solid in the goal for the ball to bounce off of and back into play without the referee seeing. The string and poles are there, obviously, to hold the net up and away from the goal line. Everyone realises this, it's so simple. Everyone, that is, except our clever friends at Broomfield, who've left the metal struts in and tied the nets back. Fashion statement obviously.

### THANKS

I'd like to express thanks and appreciation to the wee boy at the first Hamilton away game. I wouldn't normally condone that sort of thing but it was the funniest thing I've seen at a football match since an Airdrie fan was arrested for barking at a polis dug at East End a few years ago. A special mention must also go to the Hamilton player in question who managed to resist the temptation of ripping your head off.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Raith Rovers in becoming the first newly promoted club to the Premier League to achieve relegation at first attempt for 5 years. A fitting reward to the club who're responsible for next season's 4 leagues of 10 debacle.



# THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

On the assumption that, after this season, we won't be back again, here's a few thoughts about our hosts for the last couple of years...

**Glebe Park, Brechin**- Great stand, nice hedge. Brechin fans singing "we've got two points, you've got none". Met Archie Knox's brother working in a bar in the town. So few fans that the pie stand went bankrupt. Could still take 1 point off Falkirk (and us).

**Cappielow, Greenock**- Won't miss it, or parking in a pond across the road. A charming wee laddie spat on my girlfriend's head, the mascot's favorite player was Ally McCoist. Say no more.

**Broadwood, Cumbernauld**- Well done. Make the car park bigger, get enough pies to last at least 'til half-time. Sharing with Airdrie could be a mistake.

**Boghead, Dumbarton**- "Hat-trick for hot-shot Hamish", "French Polish", "French Lesson" etc. Liked the crowd segregation- 2 polis in fluorescent yellow jackets. Thank God we never ended up with Murdo, Murdo what's the score.

**Forthbank, Stirling**- Didn't realise it was all ticket. They should have hired Clyde's architect, proves the point that you can build a twee-er ground than McDiarmid. Some fat bastard seems to keep beating us single-handed.

**Somerset Park, Ayr**- Sunny day, saw Ross Jack. Second game pissing with rain as we pissed on them. Should manage to stay up and give the Rovers a ten hour trip to the seaside. Best music selection ever heard at a football ground. Stainrod came on at half-time where his wealth of experience really saved the day.

**Kilbowie, Clydebank**- How did they manage to top the division? Great goal from a cross taken 1 foot behind the byeline, I bet Lindsey still has nightmares from last season. A ground for the train spotter rather than the football fan.

**Love Street, Paisley**- Black & white shite. Four easy points, pity Money couldn't have been sent-off before the final whistle. Alfresco toilets so can't tell whether it's pish or rain on the ground. The only pub in the area that hasn't been burned down had run out of Guinness.

**Douglas Park, Hamilton**- No stand, no fans, no cash. Did take Chalmers and Moyes off our hands so Munro obviously has some remorse. Pioneers of a novel form of ground sharing with the ladies' toilet situated in Fir Park.

**Broomfield, Airdrie**- Dive, dive, dive. Was Alex McDonald a submarine captain in a former life? Don't they know E,I,O,E,I,O, doesn't spell Airdrie? Won't get promoted this century, unless relegated first. Our game there in May should be Broomfield's last ever.

**Brockville, Falkirk**- Difficult place to win when the officials send off a player and disallow the goal everytime you score. 'Pass back' and 'red card for a professional foul' rules don't apply here. Davie Moyes started playing basketball in, thankfully, the last thing he'll ever do for us. Sharpie scored his first ever thinking that the Mickey Mouse B&Q Cup was 'last goal the winner'.

## PAYING THE PENALTY

Taking our games with Airdrie as a fair representation of our play, you could be forgiven for thinking that we're a bunch of dirty bastards. Six penalties awarded against us in 5 games would certainly make the outside observer think so. The same observer may then be surprised to find out we've conceded only 1 other in the 35 games not involving Airdrie.

These figures don't come as a surprise to me, from the very first meeting it was quite obvious that the refereeing fraternity were going to make us pay for the mistake of one of their own 2 years previously. The scene was set before relegation, two really soft penalties at the end of '91-2 season in a pretty meaningless fixture we were on our way to winning, 2 even softer ones in that first game at East End and the Neale Cooper one at Broomfield gave the impression that every referee in the country was out to atone for the David Syme incident. It's funny how the Glasgow media, even now, go on about the Sandison penalty and how it denied Airdrie a place in the final. They never mention that it was an equally atrocious refereeing decision that chalked a Hearts goal off in the Scottish Cup semi that, later on that season, got them into the final AND Europe.

Airdrie have been playing to this collective guilt at every available opportunity. At the second game at East End if they had actually tried to score with any of their attacks, instead of falling at the mere sight of the penalty box, they may have left with more than a draw. Full marks to the ref in that game for working to rule.

### The Par Side



I'll be sporting enough to say that the Scottish Cup ones were probably justified. Sharpies is the only one with any doubt over it, I was watching the ball (why wasn't the ref?) and neither of the cameras caught the start of the incident. Given their record for diving, and the improbability of the incident, I'd like to think it was a dive but, if it was, why did Sharp go down too?

The point is, had that the Syme incident not occurred, they would have been given only 2 or 3 of those 8 penalties awarded against us.

Several parts of the media implied there was a form of justice in us being knocked out with the aid of penalties in a game we dominated for the last 80 minutes. I don't agree, but if it does mean that referees can take a Dunfermline-Airdrie game without Syme at the back of their minds, and start booking players for diving at every chance, then we can look forward to 2 points in every game.

Though they usually got on really well, Salman could not take a beating at Musical Chairs.

## FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT...

The first in an occasional series of reports from around the world about the Pars. Eli Cohen is an advisor to the Israeli Labour Party on European Affairs.

Greetings from Jerusalem, I was greatly honoured to be invited to do this article as I have long been a fan of your football club. It is indeed a privilege to have a contribution in the official journal of Dunfermline Athletic.

My connection with 'The Pars' goes back for over 20 years (you may be interested to know that, in Hebrew, the word 'Pars' means 'worthy in the extreme' and is from where you get your word 'paragon'). In 1973 I was living for a while with my aunt, the Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir. She was a great woman and followed the fortunes of Dunfermline avidly. I was 24 and had just travelled round the world and had come home in time for Yom Kippur.

On the 6th of October, Yom Kippur, Dunfermline were away to Hearts and Israel were playing Egypt in a hurriedly re-arranged replay at a neutral ground in the Sinai. The Egyptians had sprung our off-side trap and things were looking pretty desperate, Golda gathered her closest confidants from the government around her at home in what became known as the 'Kitchen Cabinet'. I was keen to go off to the front and join the fight, Golda had other plans for me. "Moishe," she said, "your place is here for now, listen to the BBC, the sports programme starts in 20 minutes. Come to me and tell me anything you hear of the game between Hearts and Dunfermline."

I had long known Golda followed a Scottish team but I did not know which one. She mentioned Hearts first so I assumed it was them I was to look out for, at the end of the game I ran through to tell her they won 3-0, she was delighted, Israel was on the edge of extinction but this brought a smile to her face. Answering her question about who scored the goals brought back her grim end-of-the-world expression. She was desolate, turning to the poster from 'Shoot', of Geir Karlsen, hanging on the wall she muttered something in Yiddish and returned her attentions to the war.

The war raged on and I felt pretty helpless. The next Saturday I was assigned the same task. This time a 4-0 defeat at home by Ayr United brought back the old adage of 'shoot the messenger' and I was sent north to fight the Syrians. History tells the rest of the story, Israel survived the war, with a few casualties, and Dunfermline survived the league, on goal difference.

That's the story of my involvement with Dunfermline. I've not seen them very often, losing at Ayr whilst covering the European summit in Edinburgh was the last time, the time before that, the Hibs final at Hampden.



The only time I've seen us win was against Berwick Rangers at the end of 84-85 season when the promotion celebrations were a bit premature. I've come to consider myself a Jonah when it comes to Dunfermline games and, for the good of the club, I promise never to go again. That's not to say I won't be following them in the press and the radio. Not so much now but, your world service from the BBC used to give regular commentaries of the second half of Dunfermline games, I was in heaven, even when losing. The cutting I'm sending with this is from an Israeli paper dated 21st February 1988, it's a report from a certain game against Rangers in the Scottish Cup.

*SCOTLAND: RANGERS OUT* or, if you prefer, *TUO SREGNAR* :*DNALTOCS* reads the headline. It goes on to say- "*Glasgow Rangers, the*

## סקוטלנד: ריינג'רס עפה

גלזגו ריינג'רס, הקבוצה של המיליונרים, הודחה אתמול בשמינית גמר הגביע הסקוטי בדנפרמלין (2:0), שמועמדת לירידה ומדורגת 11 מ-12 בליגה. ברקה ה-44 הפסידה ריינג'רס גם את שחקנה, ג'ון בראון, שהוחק. היא פיגרה כבר מהרקה השישית. ברקה ה-49 עלתה דנפרמלין ל-2:0, כשג'ון ווטסון הכניע את כריס וודס, שנרשם ע"י השופט יחד עם גרהאם רוברטס. בין התוצאות: אברדין - המילטון 2:0; דנדי - מאדרוול 2:0; דנדי יונייטד - ארדרי 2:0; הארטס - מורטון 2:0. סלטיק תשחק חו"ם.

*team that cost millions to build, have suffered a humiliating defeat in being knocked out of the Scottish Cup by Dunfermline (2-0), the home side who are lying 11th out of 12 in the league. Already a goal down, in the 44th*

*minute things were to get much worse for Rangers when John Brown was sent-off for a second brutal foul. The so-called underdogs in this game were having a riot, an injustice to be only one goal up at half-time. They didn't have to wait much longer, in the 49th minute a glorious goal from Watson put Dunfermline further ahead to 2-0, that was the end of the scoring and the mighty Rangers. Graham Roberts toiled hard but to no effect. Other scores from the competition: Aberdeen-Hamilton 2:0, Dundee-Motherwell 2:0, Dundee United-Airdrie 2:0, Hearts-Morton 2:0, Celtic play today."*

That was a game that gave particular pleasure to me, in presenting this article to you I hope you realise that your accomplishments are watched and appreciated from well beyond the frontiers of the Kingdom. Now that Israeli sides compete in European competitions I look forward to Dunfermline regaining that stage and playing here in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. EC

## SPECIAL AWARD

We're taking nominations and votes for a special award of "Cheating Bastard of the Year". So far there's not much in it between the 3 main front runners: the ref from the first Airdrie game; the stand side linesman and Sandy Roy from the last game at Brockville; and the entire Airdrie team and management. Feel free to vote for anyone you think deserves it.

# GOING UP, GOING DOWN, GOING BROKE

A look at what we have in prospect next season in the Premier. There's more to it than beating Celtic home and away you know.

At the time of writing the Pars are one point behind Falkirk at the top of the league with 10 games to go. With the huge advantage of the goal-difference from hell, we need only draw level with the spawn of the devil to ensure that next season will begin with flag unfurling at East End. Obviously we want to get promoted, if only to prevent Falkirk getting all the media attention. Derby games next season against the Rovers would not be sufficient consolation for missing out on two epic road trips to Pittodrie. We want to go up. Of course we do. Don't we?

## RELISH

There are many benefits to playing in the Premier Division. Bigger crowds, better atmosphere and increased cash-flow to name a few. I would certainly relish the chance to see the current team, plus a close season signing or two, eg 'the Falcon' in goal, take on the top teams. Better and more frequent coverage would certainly not go amiss, although it should not be taken for granted. There is no guarantee that a 'lesser' Premier league team will be more noticeable than a team at the top of the First (especially without an ex Old Firm player managing us - Ed). We've been there recently and have come close to proving that we can still win things, there's an appetite in the club and town for a Premier league team, we need to be there, but there are

some things to be considered.

## STUPID - FARRY

If we were in the Premier league at the moment we would have to be pretty much all-seated for next season. Going up this year, if we stay up, we'll get a couple of years' grace but we are going to have to become all-seated sooner or later. Quite apart from the fact that I'd rather stand, along with every other person I know who goes to football anywhere, how do the club propose to go about doing this? I imagine the terracing opposite the main stand will be the first to go, but do they knock it down and steal the plans for Clyde's stand? Do they just put seats on the current steps? Do they have to move the floodlights? Is there a contingency plan in mind? Will we be consulted? (no, yes, maybe, unlikely, don't be so naive- Ed). Jim Farry's quite adamant that the recommendations of the Taylor Report will be implemented by the deadlines or clubs play to empty stadia. Is he going to be equally adamant that the fans aren't going to have to pay more for the privilege of being forced to sit, as mentioned in the report?

Looking back over the season so far it would not be difficult to argue that the most important games played were the least enjoyable. In particular our 1-0 victory over Falkirk at East End, although satisfying, could never be described as an attractive one. Score lines of 5-1 and 6-1 do not emerge with much regularity from the Premier. There is, also, the unlikely prospect that we may not win quite as many games as we've become used to,

although we can always look forward to 4 points from Tynecastle. Gate prices will go up, £3 doesn't seem unrealistic given Premier prices this season, and, simply put, the more at stake the less we'll be entertained and the less we'll get for our money.

Getting promoted can cost money too. It's not cheap to sign players on big wages and keep them in the reserves (Drizic). Look around at other clubs, Raith Rovers have completely changed their set-up and now are in trouble. If the rewards are greater then so are the risks. I hope I can look back in a couple of years time, having just knocked Barcelona out of Europe, and laugh at my mis-givings, but the club can't afford to lose the supporters again and will have to tread warily.

#### ENTERTAINING

Doom, gloom, pessimism, blah, blah, blah. On a brighter note we have a team that has come back to life. We are playing the best, most entertaining football in the division. We can go up fearing no-one, especially at home. We have a management team who have proved their ability in a very short space of time and will be desperate to pit their wits against the best in the land. We have a town which is gradually getting behind the club again. We have the prospect of another kit change (I wonder if Jocky Scott will claim to have helped to design this one too?). We have everything to be optimistic about, all we have to do is beat Falkirk and carry on from there. We will beat Falkirk, it's God's will.

RL

## A WORD FROM ANDY



"Some of the press and media have been likening me to Duncan Fergusson because I'm tall, play a skillful game of football and score a lot of goals. I think there are several differences between us though. Firstly, I play a skillful game of football and I score a lot of goals. Second, success hasn't gone to my head and I haven't been arrested. Third, and most importantly, not having 1 of those naf, pretentious chin beards I don't look like a complete wank."

# TAYLOR MADE

The Taylor report, just what I've always wanted. At last, the chance to go to a football match and be offered the opportunity to sit in comfort, warmth, with a clear view of the play, have to pay no more for the privilege and, most important of all, to do so in complete safety. Safety is the most important factor, since they banned drink and drunks from grounds I've not been to East End. I'm not a rich man and can't afford to sit in the stand. It's that dangerous standing at a football match, I always had to have a good bucket-full before and during, when they banned the drink I just couldn't handle it, I'm not an adrenalin junky so the thrill some get from the danger of standing completely evades me. If I had a good bit of Dutch courage in me I could forget the perils.

I remember one time in particular, the Pars were playing East Stirling, I arrived at the ground bang on 3 PM. The timely arrival left no time for a pint or two before the game, or the acquisition of a carry-oot. I entered the ground stone cold sober and, despite trying my hardest to control the fear (I took part in the D-Day landings and I know how to control fear), I left after barely 15 minutes and headed for the Paragon. There was a crowd of over 1200 there that day, I bet at least a third of them never saw a thing and most of the remainder only the occasional fleeting glimpse of play in the far corner. It was ridiculous letting that many people into a standing area, I've not heard that there was any fatalities that day, but I suspect there must have been, and the lack of publicity demonstrates just how un-newsworthy casualties, due to their frequency, were in those days. I clearly saw people on the terracing craning their necks, jumping up and down and, most dangerous of all, moving in the mass of people to speak to someone not directly beside them. That sort of reckless disregard of safety is what has driven the families away from going to football.

My fondest memories of football games are being taken to the them by my father, with my mother and younger sister bringing along a picnic hamper, no 'American style burger bars' in those days. Not even 'Traditional Pie Stands', those were the days of all seater stadia and families having a great day out together. It was a real community occasion, all the other families were there, we'd mingle with cousins, in-laws and peers, most courting was done at football matches then, everything was lovely and wonderful, both teams won and the harshest language you would hear was the occasional "bother". It was more like the Hollywood portrayal of a family church outing in the American west than the grim picture of the workingman coming out of the factory or pit at lunch time, having a bath, a few pints then walking to the football.

Then came the war and Hitler bombed all our beautiful stadia, or they were dismantled to provide raw materials for the war effort. Afterwards we assembled, as a temporary measure, the grounds we still have today. The fighting man had grown used to the company of his peers, the thrill of battle and so post-war football crowds became all male bastions with the occasional skirmish with opposing fans to re-live the days of past-glories.

The Taylor report aims to bring back the traditional pre-war values to the game. Some people object to the recommendations. Given that these recommendations are not legally binding in Scotland, I'm glad that the recalcitrant band of Scottish clubs who aren't doing anything about their grounds don't get together and force Jim Farry to change his mind about everyone being all-seated. He's a true visionary whose

legendary exploits in a Scottish jersey at the highest level demand our respect.

Justice Taylor can only be commended for his vision of British football. After investigating all the facts of the Hillsborough disaster, he had tough decisions to make to ensure safety at all further football matches. Two options- make every club in the land spend millions of pounds to have all-seated stadia, or ask the police to do their job properly and not to open the gates and let in an extra 5,000 people without tickets. It was a tough decision but he made the right one. Being of my generation he saw the opportunity of bringing clubs back to the pre-war football idyll.

Of course some responsible clubs were already all-seated with the fans safety in mind. Leaving Pittodrie after mid-week games and being herded by the police across the sodden sand dunes in pitch blackness as part of a massive crowd, not knowing where we were going or what was under-foot really endeared me to the forward thinking Donald family. Rangers, and even little Clydebank, had the foresight to seat their grounds. There's never trouble at these ground and all fans watch together in perfect harmony.

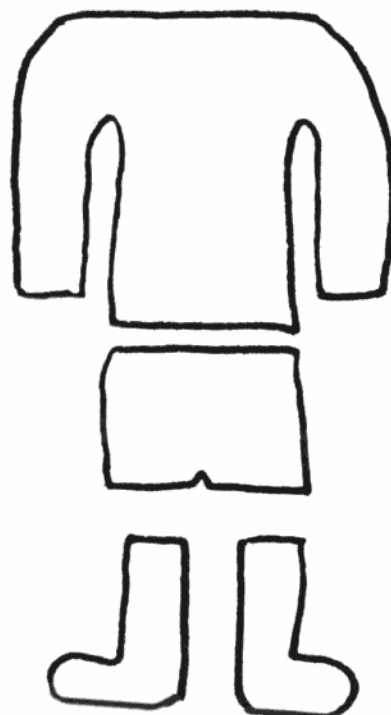
The sooner everyone is seated at all football matches the sooner we'll do away with all the horrible shouting and singing. It upsets the new-born babies, and they're the future of football so let's not alienate them. Bring back the families, it's not as good as it used to be in my day, you could leave your door open... Let the Luddites stand when they watch it on TV and leave the live game to those of us who care and know what we're talking about.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

## NEW STRIP COMPETITION

As you probably know, Humble have pulled out of Scotland and the Pars are in search of a new and un-tried variation on the black and white stripes theme.

Do you fancy yourself as a bit of a Jocky Scott when it comes to designing the latest in fashion wear? (Take it for granted you know more about football management than him). Can you do better than the current abortion? Here's your chance, just colour in the strip in the way you think may make Broocey look attractive, send it off to East End and Bert promises the winning designer will get a free replica and a night out with the player of their choice. Good luck.



# BLACK DIAMONDS and the BLUE BRAZIL by RONALD FERGUSON

A book about Cowdenbeath, or 'A Chronicle of Coal, Cowdenbeath and Football' even, may be thought of having an appeal limited to their hard-core following and the ever-growing number of zany English let's-support-a-crap-Scottish-team-with-a-funny-name type who pledge some sort of allegiance to them. Most football books do have that sort of limited appeal because most football books are exactly the same book with only the names, dates and team colours on the cover differing.

Black Diamonds, however, is something else. It tells several stories, part autobiography of the Reverend Ronald Ferguson (at first glance I had this dreadful vision of the Royal tart's dad, Major, writing in his capacity as honorary president of Lower Middlebottom Young Conservatives Cowdenbeath Supporters' Club). Part history of Cowdenbeath, the mines, socialism, communism, miners' strikes, solidarity (not a book for John Martin), pit disasters, pit closures and the people of the town. Part history of the club, the highs and lows, the characters, run-ins with League and the uncanny knack of beating the Pars. Part month-by-month analysis of last season and events surrounding the club.

All of this he brings together in the most readable and enjoyable football book you're likely to find. Given Cowden's performance last season it's not surprising he views the happenings on the park with dry humour, always hoping for more but fatalism never far away.

After being promoted for the first time in 20 years Cowden sacked a popular manager, appointed an unpopular one and got relegated at the first available opportunity. You would have thought they could learn from, not just laugh at, our recent experiences. No.

The Rev wonders how the thousands who went through to Alloa to see them promoted in May '92 became hundreds just 3 months later. He favours the idea that managerial changes put them off. Possibly the case for the Cowden fans but, for the most part, those fans were going back to East End. At the end of a long

miserable season the Pars fans wanted to see some local success and have a spy on some of the next year's opposition.

Events that day, and reading this book (we're the Auld Enemy), made me think of parallels with football at a national level. We've so often heard the English, and parts of the Scottish, media and public say things like 'The English support all the home countries alike and really get behind Scotland. Why can't you do the same with England instead of gloating and treating their failures as your own personal victories?' It's quite simple really, the England-Scotland relationship, just like Dunfermline-Cowden, is not an equal one. We patronisingly look down at Cowden and wish them all the best, witness the cheer at half-time on the occasions they're winning, but really we couldn't care less. We can take some satisfaction from their successes but their failures don't hurt us, from our position of safe superiority we can afford to lend them some condescending support but it's no more than that. They hate us for it and we hate England for the same reason.

Cowden did us a huge favour at the end of last season, if not for them the Scott-Wallace monument to spiritless, journeyman, crap football would still be rolling on, at the bottom of the Premier League. Willie Callaghan knew where his loyalties lay, and what he was doing, when he scored those 2 goals.

Back to Black Diamonds, if you're interested in a good read and a few gentle slagging with a good bit of local history thrown in, this is well worth the money. Perhaps not as good as reading about the Pars for a couple of hundred pages, but better than anything that has offered that opportunity so far.

*Priced £5.95, 'BLACK DIAMONDS and the BLUE BRAZIL' is available from good book shops and possibly Menzies. Alternatively, you can borrow it from the library.*

## **COWDEN AMBTIONS SHOCKI**

**League reconstruction is here again. With it comes the chance for the ambitious to achieve a higher status. Or not as the case may be, this comes from October's 'Blue Brazillian'. "On the playing side...at the least a place in the new 3rd Division secured."**

# Where were you?

People are all supposed to remember where they were on hearing the news that President Kennedy had been shot. I wasn't born then and, besides, I don't really see the relevance of it, over 30 years ago and half a world away. Equally momentous things have happened to affect the course of world history since then, none more-so than the departure of Jim Leishman from East End. For a regular feature in 'The Bounce' we've asked some of the good, great and infamous what they were doing when they heard the news and to get their reflections of that sad day. To kick off the series, a woman who needs no introduction, someone always ready to listen to advice, admit her mistakes and, in true Thatcherite tradition, sell her autograph for a tenner a throw...

Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister 1979-90

"I remember it quite clearly, it was mid-morning, I was standing in front of my bedroom mirror practising my compassionate face and voice, for those unfortunate occasions when I have to deal with people whose lives I'd ruined. Dennis walked in and, putting his glass down, told me the bad news. I was aghast, I saw the ominous potential in the news, if one could be fired for outstanding achievements and overwhelming popularity what chance did I have? Sure enough, I was out on my arse 4 months later.

"Mind you I didn't have Jim's pride and principles to stand on. I took the move upstairs, the powerless position just for show, endlessly pontificating to the media and courting publicity, moaning about the people who I felt stabbed me in the back and seeking a fast buck instead of living up to the standards I would ask others to keep. If only I could have conducted myself with half as much dignity as Jim, perhaps people might like me a bit more."

**STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS**

Following the appearance of TV cameras chez Paton revealing a host of farm animals in Bert's backyard, Falkirk have denied trying to set up a swap deal involving John Hughes and Ian McCall for Bert's donkey and a goat.