

# The East End BOUNCE

November 1996

50p



OF COURSE I'M UPSET, ME  
WE'RE NOT INVITED TO  
THE CLUB WIFE  
SWAPPIN' PARTIES  
ANY MORE.

VICEWANT  
LAGER

## Issue 9

**November 1996**

Later than intended but what the hell, we're here now. This issue has been brought to you by Paul Bundy, Gordon Robertson, Rohan Lightfoot, The Toun Ultra, Alec Hitt and Parson.

We've cut back on outlets due to sheer bloody laziness but will still put copies in Our Price in The Kingsgate, RS McColl in The St James Centre in Edinburgh, Sportspages in London and a couple of mail order folk. Thanks to all the other places that stocked us, if you owe us money we've forgotten about it.

The next issue should be out around February with a final one for the season at the last home game. As ever, we're looking for new material and if too embarrassed to see your name in print, we do accept aliases.

Back copies of issues 1-8 are available at 50p + SAE, any three for a pound or all 8 for £2.50.

## Odds and Ends

### WE ARE FAMILY #1

Did anyone notice the following two things from the club in *The Dunfermline Press* a couple of weeks ago? Bill Nellies, East End's Security Chief saying "We have built up a reputation as a family club..." and on the same page the way the club had decided to sell tickets for the semi-final. "Admission to the family section is restricted to one adult accompanied by a maximum of two children."

### WE ARE FAMILY #2

One half of a conversation overheard at the season ticket gate on the way into the Stoke game, sadly there's no way we can pretend this wasn't a Pars fan.

"What about ma wee boy, what's he supposed to do today?"

"Well, he's got a season ticket as well."

"Aye but he gets in for nothing today, can he no have a free pie or Bovril or something?"

DICK & BERT'S  
**EXCELLENT**  
ADVENTURE

Radio Scotland: Who would you like in the quarter-final Bert?



Oh! Like everyone we'll want to go to Ibrox or Parkhead

Bert's column in the quarter final programme against Partick.

"I'm glad we avoided the likes of Rangers and Celtic in this round, it gives us an excellent opportunity to progress"

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**11 Rowan Grove, Dunfermline, KY11 5QX**

With just over a quarter of the season gone we're sitting in the top half of the league and there's a reasonable amount to be happy about. The defeats we've had have been bad but they've been games we wouldn't have expected to take too much out of anyway. The only luck we've had has been bad and that came in buckets in the games we lost. Aberdeen didn't look up to much and 3-0 really flattered them. If the team can keep the spirit going and continue to bounce back after the set backs we shouldn't have too many worries on the field.

Gerry Britton has been one of Bert's better buys and Lemmy is a definite improvement on recent 'keepers. His clearances can be a bit erratic but Bert seems to have him practising hoofing it as much as possible. In his first couple of games he'd quickly throw the ball out for one of the full backs to start a move with, but that continental eccentricity has been corrected. He can now wait for all the players to assemble in the middle of the park and lump the ball up to them just as well as anyone.

Off the field the crap attendances we've had this year is a bit of a worry. With going up a division and the team doing well and climbing the table you would think some of those extra 5,000 who turn up for the last game of the season each year might make an appearance or two.

There's been a fair bit in the papers about the alleged coin-throwing incident at the Rovers game a few weeks back. It's not the type of thing we'd encourage or blindly think that nobody at East End would do but I would like to hear the linesman's story of what happened. He was standing directly in front of me when he reacted as though he'd just been hit by something. I watched him very closely from then on and was rather surprised when he pulled something out of his pocket to show the referee. Presumably this is what he claims was thrown at him and, if it was, it must have gone straight in there as he certainly didn't pick anything up. Could the reason nothing was picked up by the security cameras be that nothing was thrown?

I see the programme's undergone another huge hike in price and with it a proportional decrease in quality. So, more of the adverts are in colour, brilliant! That makes up for complete lack of accuracy in the rest of it. Why bother with a league table when the spelling of the team's names is the only thing that's likely to be correct?

There's an argument that needs settled. On the cover of our last issue someone's running behind Norrie and looking over his shoulder. Who is it? Stuart Beedie and Milos Drizic were the favourites until it was pointed out that neither of them played in that strip. We need an answer.

Let's all do...

*Paul Bundy*

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# Wagging The Dog

I'm prepared to believe in reincarnation, because if there's any system of cosmic justice in the universe David Murray could well come back as chairman of Berwick Rangers rather than Glasgow Rangers. It's October again, so Scottish clubs have been humiliated in Europe again. The difference is that this time I'll be able to watch Rangers get humped from here to Christmas safe in the knowledge that apparently it's our fault.

Although I'd love the Pars to be able to take the credit for Rangers' basic lack of ability, I'm a wee bit confused by this latest theory being put forward by those intelligent and perceptive gentlemen of the Scottish sporting press.

Here's the logic. See if you can spot the flaw. The Premier League is crap. Two teams beat everyone else, but they can't beat an egg in Europe. Between them they have all the resources, all the best players and play with the intelligence of a primary school kickabout when faced with mediocre European opposition. This is clearly the fault of the other eight teams who have no resources and few good players (Pars excepted) and chairmen who have to spend most of their time with their tongues carefully inserted up the bank managers jacksie just to remain in existence. Gazza likes Rangers because Walter Smith lets them go out together and get bloated, so I suppose this complete lack of professionalism and application must be Alec Totten's fault.

Never fear though, because Fergus McCan't and David 'Ayr Utd' Murray have the solution. It appears to be adopting a deliberate policy to undermine any clubs not based on a century of religious bigotry from a different country. They pretend that changes need to be made to improve Scottish football, but their agenda is solely concerned with lining their own pockets even further.

Fungus is continually harping on about the smaller clubs, not that he knows who any of them are. Walter has embarked on a lobbying campaign on behalf of David Murray to have qualification for Europe taken away from the winners of the Coca Cola Cup. This is a deliberate attempt to devalue the competition as the first stage towards having it abolished altogether.

Rangers don't like the Coca Cola Cup because they lose money on it. They have so many season ticket holders that they can't cover the costs of staging a game, because they get next to no gate money and they have to split the 'attendance' with the opposition. Rangers may try to convince us that the embarrassing humiliation at the hands (should that be feet?) of Grasshoppers was partially due to the exertion require to beat Ayr Utd. This is clearly fucking bollocks. Raith Rovers have arguably been Scotland's most successful team in Europe in recent years. At least they managed to score a goal on German soil. They performed better against Bayern Munich than Rangers have in the easiest Champion's League group possible. Qualifying through the Coca Cola Cup

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gives the outsiders a chance. Lets face it, they couldn't do any worse than the 'big two'.

Fergus Magoo thinks teams should amalgamate or be forced out of existence. Admittedly Cowdenbeath's total attendance for the whole of season 95/96 was only 4,241, which can't really be construed as healthy, but on the other hand Cowdenbeath's budget for a year wouldn't keep Jorge Cadette in home perms for a week. Celtic and Rangers already have most of the supporters, all of the TV coverage money and 99% of the media coverage. Now they want all the influence as well. The existence of the clubs at the 'tail end' of the game doesn't make one iota of difference to the money making machine that poisons the whole of the West of Scotland. If you gave Celtic all the money that Alloa made last year they'd hardly be able to buy everyone at the club a green nose. Fergus' problem is that he can't understand people who work to keep smaller clubs alive as part of their community, because they're not in it for the money.

Fungus and the tin man object to other clubs 'cashing in' on the Old Firm, but they're quite happy to cash in on their own supporters loyalty by playing obscure testimonials and 'glamour' challenge matches at the drop of a hat to the detriment of their sides freshness and fitness. They can gripe away at the irritations caused by the 'minor clubs', but the Old Firm's solutions are only designed to give themselves a bigger share of the cake. This obviously won't improve things for the other teams, but it won't even improve things for Celtic and Rangers. They already have the whole bleedin' cake at the moment and look at the state of them.

So, the basis of the whole problem is why the Premier League is so crap. I genuinely thought the Pars would struggle this year. Although there is still a long way to go, they haven't looked out of their depth at all, which is pretty scary given how long it took to get out of Division One. There are three main reasons that the quality of football in the Premier League cannot improve. We play too many games, we play each other too often and the 'fear of relegation' prevents managers from experimenting or bringing in younger players. Every game is too vital to take risks. All of these factors could be eased considerably by moving to a 16 team Premier League. Fergus won't like it, because it will reduce his influence, but fuck Fergus because the end result will probably do more to enhance Celtic's chances of success on a bigger stage than any of his bald-brained schemes.

Unfortunately the media will continue to reinforce the myth that the only people with opinions that matter are connected to the Old Firm. Celtic and Rangers are quite rightly only concerned with making more and more money for Celtic and Rangers. We all need to remember that fact, whenever the Old Firm talk about making changes for the 'good of Scottish football'. It's easy to spot them telling lies...you can see their lips moving.

*Rohan Lightfoot*

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# **SEASON TICKET HOLDER?**

**YOU COULD HAVE SAVED £££s WITH  
AN EAST END BOUNCE EASY  
PAYMENT PLAN**

***WHY PAY £189 FOR 18 LEAGUE  
GAMES YOU COULD HAVE HAD  
THEM FOR £180?***

**CAN'T AFFORD £180 NOW?**

**DON'T WORRY!**

**PAY BY INSTALMENTS**

THE CLUB WILL CHARGE £189 + A £25 FEE FOR THIS SERVICE, THEY EVEN MAKE YOU OPEN A NEW BANK ACCOUNT. AN EAST END BOUNCE EASY PAYMENT PLAN LET'S YOU PAY AS YOU GO. JUST SHOW ANY COPY OF *THE BOUNCE* AT THE TURNSTILE AND YOU GET IN FOR A TENNER.

**YES, JUST £10**

**On Holiday? In Hospital? Playing  
Motherwell? Unwanted Wedding?**

**Don't Lose Out!**

**With An Easy Payment Plan**

**DON'T GO, DON'T PAY**

# The Pratt Street Poodles

Now we're back in the premier Division we're forced once more to acknowledge the presence of that bunch of mutants from down the road who like to call themselves "the rovers". On 28th September a couple of thousand (if you're lucky) of these twats arrived at East End for the first ever all-Fife Premier league game and generally infested the place with their dodgy haircuts, snide clobber and sheer physical ugliness. In recent years this fixture has assumed a significance it has never had to most Pars fans due to the supposed achievements of the poodles in the last couple of seasons. But let's consider the facts-

-This is a team who were playing in front of less than a thousand at home before their messiah arrived.

-This is a team who won a cup and, to salute their achievement, were followed to Ayr a week later by two hundred fans.

-This is a team whose average attendance last year in the premier league was less than ours in the first division.

So to me, and I think quite a few other Pars fans this derby will only have geographic significance. We might get worked up about Airdrie for being a shower of nazi, soap-dodging scumbags. We all despise the babies from the pseudo-weegie slum on the other side of the Kincardine Bridge. But the Poodles? I don't think so.

They may have been irritating the last couple of seasons. They may have produced a 'hilarious' programme at the game that stopped us going up two seasons ago. But rivalry? Be serious. Real rivalry comes from mutual hatred. With us and them it's all one sided. They hate us because they're jealous, we just feel contempt. They insist our achievements are ancient history and the recent past has seen them overtake us, we just laugh. An inferiority complex never leaves, no matter how many new stands they build or Villa reserves they buy. They're strictly small time, at the limit of their potential, generally crap. Shit town, shit team, shit fans.

They'll always be the same. Always in our shadow. Enjoy the games and the atmosphere - in our end at least. It might not be a real derby but at least it's three points.

*The Toun Ultra*

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# CHAMPIONS

## The Wonder Dross

How many of you out there bought the wonderful new Pars video at the beginning of the season? Got your money's worth there didn't you? Well, no, not really. What can I say about this pathetic offering that isn't immediately obvious? It's just a blatant attempt to rake in some cash by ripping off the fans with a second rate, substandard product.

Let's take a look at some of the advertising which accompanied the release of the video at the beginning of August, then perhaps we should give the Trading Standards people a call, or perhaps even Ann Whatsername on Watchdog!

**"CHAMPIONS** - is the **GREAT NEW PARS VIDEO** charting the highs and lows, on and off the field last season."

This is probably the least contentious of the slogans used to advertise the video, although it obviously depends on your definition of "charting". If by charting you mean "summarise the key points" then yes it probably fulfils that, but if you mean "give a basic outline of the season", then no it doesn't do this at all. Forgive me for being pedantic, but doesn't a season include cup matches. OK, we didn't have a good run in either of the cup competitions, but they still comprised part of the season. I seem to recall being at Tynecastle at the end of August, watching the Pars playing well and losing to Hearts. If you want to accurately chart the story of a season then surely this game merited at least a mention. OK, it wasn't a good result, but it was a good game. It may have been a low point, but according to the description above the video isn't just about the high points and the match should have been mentioned!

**"CHAMPIONS** - is a **MUST** for all Pars Supporters with footage of all the important games, interviews with the Manager and Players and featuring specially chosen music by Stuart Adamson and Big Country."

What does "all the important games" mean to you? Saturday 26th August was an important game. That's when we took on Dundee United, the media favourites for promotion and gubbed them 3 - 0. How much of this game was shown. Bigger all. In actual fact, August lasts for about 5 seconds. Our eloquent narrator tells us we got off to a fine start beating Airdrie and United and that's that. No footage of these important games. September fares slightly better with the goals from the Clydebank and St. Mirren games, however, the other 3 matches we played that month aren't even mentioned, and two of these were against Morton and St. Johnstone, other promotion hope-

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fuls. This sets the tone for the entire video (a mammoth 55 minutes). Whoever was responsible for putting the video together obviously has a very strange interpretation of what constitutes an important game and what doesn't. For instance, the match against Dumbarton in October (3 - 1) is deemed as important and the goals are shown. However, the match against Clydebank in November (4 - 0) is obviously not important and isn't even mentioned! There are numerous other examples along the same lines.

Out of 36 league games the coverage of the season can be broken down as follows: 13 matches (36%) were not even mentioned (these included games against Airdrie, Dundee, Clydebank, as well as Morton and St. Johnstone mentioned above - all obviously unimportant games); 8 matches (22%) were mentioned, but no footage shown; we actually got to see the goals from 13 games; and the last 2 games (approximately 6% of the entire season) against United and Airdrie, we actually got the highlights. All in all not very representative of the season.

Interviews with the players? Well Craig Robertson actually, but I'm sure he was speaking on behalf of the players.

Specially chosen music by Stuart Adamson? Well I'm sure the big man did choose it, but it was something Big Country did around 14 years ago! And it was the same clip from the same song repeated over and over and over and over and over again. I wasn't expecting an original soundtrack but this was a wee bit disappointing.

**"CHAMPIONS** - is the ideal momento from one of the greatest seasons in the Club's history."

Apparently the person who wrote this line now works for Maurice Saatchi and is in charge of the Tory campaign for the next election. Perhaps it is one of our greatest seasons in the nineties, or perhaps the greatest season since we last won promotion, but surely not in the club's history. We only won the First Division for God's sake! Let's get realistic.

All in all, I have to say I was very disappointed with this offering. Not a very good summary of the season at all. Perhaps the best bit of the entire video, in terms of accuracy was the footage and sentiment surrounding Norrie's tragic death. I thought that was reflected quite well and caught the mood and feelings of Pars fans at the time. If only the coverage of the actual matches had been of the same standard.

So there you have it folks, "Champions" we were, but champion this video is not. Basically, it's dross. If you haven't already seen it DON'T buy it, borrow someone else's copy. Oh, and listen out for the commentary. The entire 55 minutes is completely overshadowed by the wonderful, enthusiastic tones of one Mr Alex Horsburgh, our worthy narrator. I don't know if he has a good face for radio but he certainly doesn't have a good voice for video. Nice one Alex, if you don't get picked ahead of the flat-packs as the wardrobe in this year's panto, I'll see you next year for the "Did quite well and finished mid-table" video.

Gordon Robertson

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# Very Ugly Every Morning

Truth is definitely stranger than fiction. If it was on the telly we'd be calling for Mulder and Scully. In the space of one bizarre week in September not only was it revealed that Dave 'face like an industrial accident' Bowman had been caught playing away from home, but we also found out that there are two women on the face of the planet willing to shag Davie 'Elephant Man' Dodds. It was enough of a shock to find out that some woman had married him in the first place, without some other mad bitch compounding the horrible obscenity of it all. However, it shouldn't escape our attention that all of these deranged women have one thing in common. They're all from Dundee. So here a few possible explanations of how this incredible situation may have occurred.

- *Dundee's water supply had been laced with LSD, causing these women to lose all power of rational thought and good taste.*

- *As typical Dundonian women, all four mental cases are totally plug ugly and will shag anything that moves out of a combination of desperation and sexual frustration.*

- *A mad Dundonian scientist is trying to breed a team of super-ugly footballers who will be so repellent that the opposition will be terrified and therefore easily beaten. He has obviously overlooked the fact that there is already a team of super ugly footballers from Lanarkshire.*

- *Dundonian night-clubs can't afford proper lights, so all chatting up is carried out in complete darkness.*

- *By the standards of Dundonian manhood, Dave Bowman and Davie Dodds are both actually quite good looking.*

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## SPORTS TALK FANZINE CHALLENGE

The never ending torrent of shite that comes through The Bounce letterbox from people seeking freebies or publicity, offering wonderful money making schemes or wanting us to buy or sell their crap for them shows no sign of abating. One of the few good unsolicited advances we've had promises the fulfillment of a childhood dream for three of the Bounce staff - representing the Pars.

Granada Talk TV is one of these new satellite channels nobody watches and they've organised a knock-out quiz type thing involving teams from fanzines of the 30 Scottish and English Premier clubs (plus a couple others). Playing one game a week it started last month and the final will be in the week before the Scottish Cup Final. The programme is Sports Talk and goes out live every day between 1 and 2 PM. It gets repeated at 5 PM and 6 AM the following day, the challenge is on Thursdays.

The Pars are playing Leicester City at home on the 21st of the month, none of us know anything about English football so it won't be at all surprising if we disgrace the shirt even more than Sandy Clarke did a few years ago. If, however, we keep up the Pars' great record against English teams and get through to the last 16 we'll play Hearts or Motherwell in March.

On the good omens side, when Jim Fraser, John Cushley and Alec Wright won BBC's Quiz Ball in 1971 they beat Leicester City 3-1 in the final. They had previously knocked out West Ham and Chelsea (getting a bit anorakie here, no? -ed). John Cushley seems to have been the star of the team scoring 8 of our 10 goals in the competition.

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# Scotland's Shame

## A Simple Solution

Ally McCoist, John Brown, Ian Durrant and some Fergusons. Not just has-been Rangers stars but also all convicted in a court of law of either driving or violent misconduct whilst under the influence of alcohol.

If not in performing particularly well in European competitions the Scottish footballer in general, and Rangers' in particular, is second to none when it comes to letting the drink and the law get the better of them.

The standard punishment as handed down by the courts to these miscreants is usually in the form of a driving ban and/or a fine, this isn't enough. True, Duncan Ferguson did spend time in jail. This, though, had more to

do with Glasgow's over zealous procurator fiscal getting involved in football than Ferguson's lengthy repertoire of drunken assaults. He wouldn't have gone to jail for the footballing offence if he hadn't been on parole for one of his extracurricular buckie-fuelled ones.

Fame should not provide a means of avoiding prison for anyone and fines are totally inappropriate in these cases as they're so easily afforded by the criminals in question. For drunk driving offences, instead of driving bans, there's a far better solution: ban them from drinking.

When earning thousands of pounds a week, a £500 fine is as easily affordable as getting taxis everywhere or hiring a driver. Deprive them of their drink and their entire social life goes with it. As effective a deterrent as it would be as punishment, it would be used most successfully on high profile celebrities as people would be on the look out for them. In addition to the sharp eyes of the public it could also be enforced by frequent and irregular tests.

On the personal development side the players' health would improve and with that their potential as players. Also removed is the possibility of other drink related crimes, assaulting people on crutches, in taxi ranks, kebab shops and beating the wife up.



**Ally McCoist : Earns over £1000 a week but risked the lives of children to save on £5 taxi fare**

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## The PARS on the World Wide Web



For those of you with no particular interest in computers, the internet or the world wide web, TURN THE PAGE NOW. You may find this a trifle boring. To be perfectly honest, I'm writing this article having not really made my own mind up about the internet and all things webbish. Is it a useful tool and a natural progression of the way we communicate and transfer information, or is it simply a toy for computer anoraks the world over - spotty, bespectacled types hunched over their keyboards sending inane e-mail messages to each other, when we already know (cos Bob Hoskins has told us) that it's good to talk!

Having been hooked up to Compuserve (one of the many "service providers" operating in this sector) for several months now, I find it really difficult to muster much enthusiasm for this communication medium. It has its uses, there's no doubt about that and there is a vast amount of information, on virtually any subject under the sun, fairly easily accessible via a few mouse clicks. However, there is also a vast amount of crap, and it can be quite frustrating trying to sift out all this unwanted garbage before you find what you're really after. However, it's often the case that when you actually arrive at the web page where you think you're going to find that useful or interesting piece of news or information, it's actually not very useful or interesting at all.

The Pars web sites (listed below) are no exception. These seem to consist of "interesting" bits of information about the club (which all Pars fans would know anyway), fixture lists (which all Pars fans would know anyway), match reports (which all Pars fans would know anyway), latest news (which all Pars fans would know anyway) and pictures of our heroes (yawn, which all Pars fans will have seen anyway). Get the idea? What's the point? Admittedly, there are Pars fans scattered across the globe who can access news and information they might not otherwise get, but for the rest of us it's just a complete waste of time. And for those who go for a random stroll through the myriad of web pages (surfing - the web equivalent of flicking through the Encyclopaedia Britannica, opening a page at random, and being confronted with a load of information you have no interest in whatsoever!) and end up at a Pars web site, it's not really going to mean very much, is it? Would you be interesting in a web site dedicated to the Philadelphia Women's Volleyball Club? I think not.

One of the really annoying features of web sites, or home pages as they are otherwise known, is when they have what is termed a "per-



sonal home page" attached to it. This is where our anoraks tell us about themselves, all those interesting personal details such as, how old they are, what their hobbies are and what jobs they do. This is usually accompanied by a CV of some description and a plea to anyone out there who is in a position to do so, to offer them a job. Is it just me, or do most of the people designing and posting this sort of web page have an ego bigger than their hard drive? Do I really want to know this? No I do not! One of the Pars sites in particular is guilty of this (I won't mention which one, but I went to school with the person responsible).

There is also a Pars "forum" accessible via e-mail. This pretty much deals with the same sort of useful information as the web sites, only it's a lot more up-to-date. Basically, what you do is rush home after the match and type in the score and your match report and any other views you had on the game and read all the corresponding opinions of your forum colleagues. Alternatively, you could go down the pub with your mates and talk about the game there. I know which I prefer!

Virtually every senior club in the UK has a web site dedicated to it, operated by enthusiastic fans / anoraks. There are also a number of "on-line" (more technical jargon to impress you) fanzines, including one for the Pars, although it's really just a bit sad, and not really a fanzine at all. There was talk of the Bounce doing a web-site at some stage in the future, but don't worry, we've seen the light. We'd rather kill some more trees.

Anyway, that's enough of all that. There are probably many of you out there who don't agree with what I've said. Tough shit. Start up your own fanzine and you can print what you want. Believe it or not, I am a fair minded bloke though, and for those of you who want to make up your own mind and have access to a PC and modem you can check out the Pars web sites for yourselves. Here are the addresses:-

<http://www.aiai.ed.ac.uk/~wth/dunfermline/>

<http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/4271/>

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/sblance/>

[http://www.geocities.com/siliconvalley/9549/pars\\_main.html](http://www.geocities.com/siliconvalley/9549/pars_main.html)

The e-mail address for the Pars Forum is:-

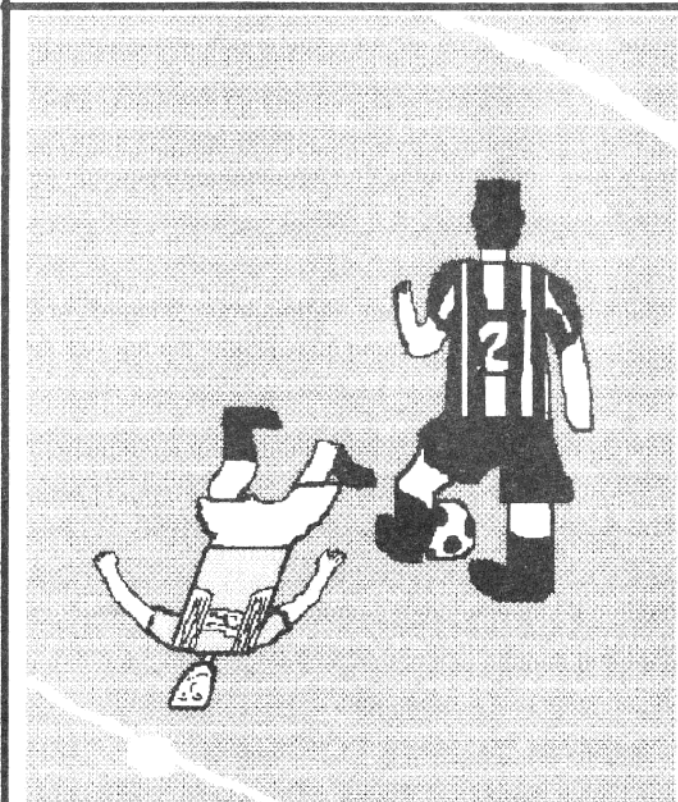
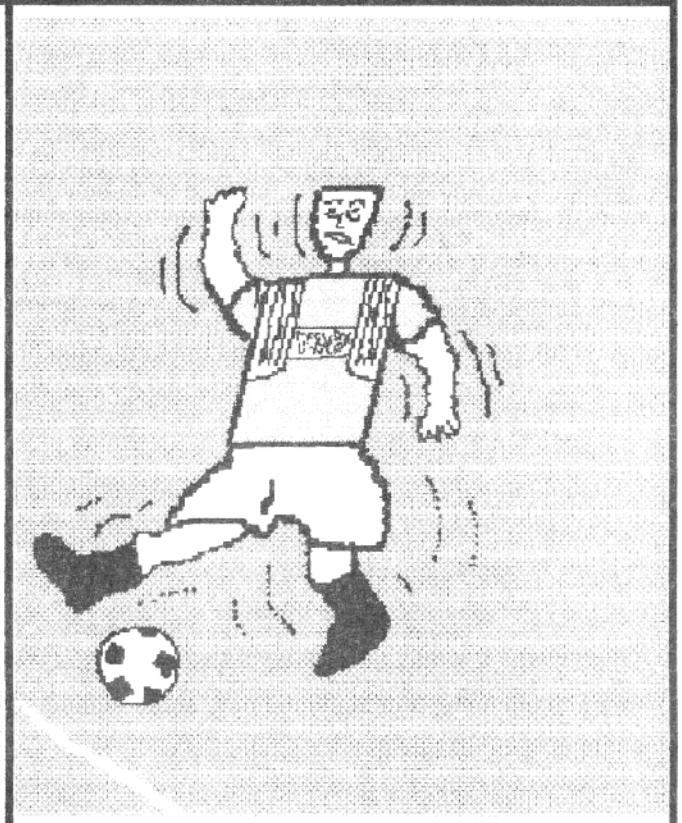
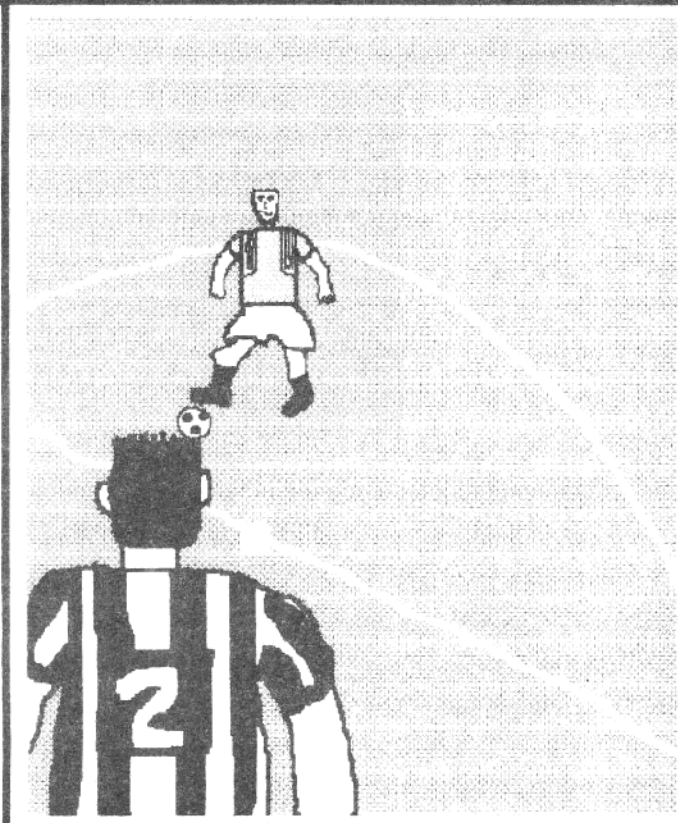
Internet:Dunfermline-Discuss@aiai.ed.ac.uk

Yours, with mouse tucked firmly in cheek, GR.

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# The State Of Scottish Football #1

With Scottish football in a terminal state of decline, Rangers have the answer. By bringing in cultured foreign players who can put their foot on the ball in the middle of the park they will soon reach the heights of European success. Here Peter van Vossen demonstrates this skill against Dunfermline and the cloven hooved Ivo den Bieman, at East End Park.



Alan - ©Crimmer 2005 one/fifa

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## BETTER SUPPORT THAN A WONDERBRA - OFFICIAL

Now we all know that the Pars have a fairly healthy support, and I don't mean that we never go to the doctor. No, we're talking bums on seats here, or more appropriately, feet on terrace. But just how does the East End faithful compare to that of some of our rivals? What follows is a brief analysis of last season's first division, looking at league attendances and the populations of the towns and cities involved. This is something you never see when people compare crowds. The usual comparison is average gate alone.

Dundee United fan: "My team averages 1,500 more than your team, therefore my team is better supported."

Pars fan: "Ah, but your town has a population one and a half times that of my town, therefore you're talking crap."

It's quite simple really. By dividing a town's population (ie. the possible support) by the average home gate for the season (ie. the actual support) and multiplying by 100, as we all learned to do all those years ago, we come up with a percentage figure denoting that teams level of support. We can then compare the figures of different teams, confident that we are in fact making a useful and accurate comparison.

The table below shows the figures from last season. Teams are listed in order of their level of support.

	CLUB	AVERAGE GATE	POPULATION	GATE AS A % OF POPULATION
1	D.A.F.C.	5,899	52,105	11.3 %
2	St. Johnstone	3,777	41,916	9.0 %
3	Dundee United	7,265	86,147*	8.4 %
4	Greenock Morton	4,133	58,436	7.1 %
5	Dumbarton	1,351	23,345	5.8 %
6	Dundee	3,607	86,147*	4.2 %
7	Airdrie	1,707	45,320	3.8 %
8	St. Mirren	2,834	84,330	3.4 %
9	Clydebank	1,362	51,832	2.6 %
10	Hamilton Accies	1,297	51,666	2.5 %

\* The population of Dundee is 172,294. I have assumed that the city is divided 50:50 between the two clubs.

The population figures are slightly out of date as I could only get hold of 1984 census data. However, the comparison is still valid.

From the table we see that the Pars were by far and away the best supported team in the division. Although Dundee Utd. did have an average gate larger than ours, they also had a much larger fan base to draw upon. The fact that they couldn't attract these potential fans to Tannadice says it all really! A lot of the clubs in the west probably suffer due to fans watching the Tims and Huns. Mind you every other club in the country undoubtedly loses many potential fans, attracted by the promise of rampant sectarian bigotry.

I haven't managed to get figures for this seasons Premier League, but will do so for the next issue of the Bounce. The Pars support so far this season has seemed a bit lethargic really. I guess that's only natural when you go from gubbing everyone in the division, to only gubbing half the division.

*Alec Hitt*

# The East End Bounce

# GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT

As we make our way around Scotland watching the Pars this season, every ground we visit will have had some changes to it since we were last there on league business. The Bounce's position on the idea of all-seaters has been stated many times so we'll not go into it again, instead we'll take a look at what we have in store at the various venues. Some may say we're in no position to criticise, but what the hell, you don't have to be gorgeous yourself to recognise an ugly bastard when you see one.

## Easter Road

In keeping with Edinburgh's "You'll have had your tea then" image of hospitality, Hibs and Hearts always treated away fans with a similar attitude, "You'll have been dry when you left house", presumably. Now that Hibs have finally covered their away end it's amusing to hear them moan about having to sit in the rain at Tynie, if not actually having to do so yourself.

It has to be admitted, going from published pictures, artists' impressions and models, when it's finished Easter Road *will* look pretty green.

They have done better than most in retaining a degree of continuity, some people even suggest that they deliberately build the away stand with most of it lower than the pitch in preparation for the day when they level field. It would be better if they didn't as it gives the ground a degree of character sadly lacking in most identi-kit stadia these days. It would be a shame if future generations don't get to experience that bizarre feeling you get going down the steps and finding yourself under the pitch.

## Fir Park

The old Fir Park was very much like East End would have been like if the club had run out of money earlier than it did. The new Fir Park looks like something a travelling salesman might carry round the country with him to demonstrate the full range of possibilities in ground improvements on any budget. As ridiculous and mis-matched as Motherwell's ground looks, it's a hopeless optimist who thinks anyone will make a better job of East End.

## Ibrox

If there's a Brazilian version of They Think It's All Over, but with a Match The Team To The Ground round in it, even the lucky bugger who'd never heard of Scotland would get Ibrox and Rangers right. On a domestic level they're as ruthlessly ergonomic as it's possible to get, and like Ibrox completely devoid of any imagination or style. Rangers started the reconstruction ball rolling in the 70's after their second disaster, safety and comfort were their only objectives and consequently they now play their home games in the equivalent of a giant

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Volvo estate.

Not much has changed since the last time we were there, they've made all the seats the same colour as the average Hun's clothes so now it's not so obvious when the place is half-empty during the last 40 minutes of European games. They've also filled-in the corners in such a way so that nobody could possibly think it wasn't an afterthought. It can't be long before St Johnstone follow suit so they can keep prattling on about having their own mini-Ibrox.

## **Parkhead**

Sorry, Celtic Park as we're all now obliged to call it. Unless of course you are a Celtic fan in which case it's presumably Shelt-ick Park. When it's finished it'll be easily the most impressive ground in Scottish football. Like Ibrox benefits from having a fairly constant design, but on the down side if I was a Tim who had a season ticket there I'd be mighty pissed off if mine was one of the seats behind the pillars at the back of stand where the jungle was. As enormous as the structure is, did it really need pillars to keep the roof up? Could they not have spent a couple quid more on stronger steel for the cantilevers? Or had an extra one and had them closer together? It strikes me as rather pointless of going all that way, spending all that money and still having obstructions for the people watching.

Similarly I hope they eventually do something with the old main stand, if only so they can get rid of the pillar keeping it up. Presumably there'll be one at the other end when they've built behind the other goal as well. You don't notice it on TV but if you're in the corner stand where we were for the league game you can have a pillar wider than John Clark obscuring the entire 18 yard box. Instead of losing weight it's a tactic he might wish to consider.

## **Pittodrie**

A touch of the Fir Park syndrome with Pittodrie. A huge new stand, basically just a monument to one of the Donald clan, which looks totally out of place and shows up just how crap the main stand and the paddock look. It's one of the disappointing things about the way most Scottish grounds are going in that improvements are usually done stand-by-stand manner in total isolation rather than the ground as a whole. It's all down to there not being enough money but it does seem like a waste when so much money is spent and so little consideration is given to how it will look when it's finished.

The acoustics in the old Beach End were brilliant for making a huge amount of noise even when there was only a few hundred of us. Knocking it down and building a white elephant in its place was one of the least necessary projects undertaken by a Scottish club.

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## **Rugby Park**

It's hard to see why so many clubs make so much fuss about rebuilding their grounds, Killie knocked up three new stands in a little over a bank holiday weekend. As a whole it's probably the best looking medium sized ground in Scotland, its main drawback is that every now and again people have to sit in the place to watch football. The crowd being tightly packed-in is a good feeling when you're standing up but the Rugby Park designers seem to have forgotten that your legs still have to go somewhere when you sit down. It was bloody uncomfortable in those seats for average sized people, but bear in mind there's some Pars fans who can't even fit through the turnstiles at Stranraer.

## **Starks Park**

Crickey! Even little Raith Rovers have started doing some ground improvements, not sure why though. There can't be any club in the country more in need of relocation than the Rovers, staying where they are with the severely limited space shows how ambitious they are, as does the signing of this year's first three managers.

Ultimately it makes not much difference to the Pars as we'll only ever go there twice and we'd happily gub them anywhere under any conditions, at least now it won't be mistaken for the train station as often.

## **Tannadice**

It may only three quarters of a ground but what a place. For the first two visits there last season parts of the old stupid looking elbow stand were taped off, presumably for safety reasons. For the third visit they put us up there and we had the one view where you could be forgiven for thinking they'd finished building it. After that day, though, we'll accept no criticism of the place.

## **Tynecastle**

While The Taylor Report emphasised the putting in of seats, some consideration to aesthetics should also have been obligatory. Tynie has the cheapest and nastiest looking new stands in the country by a mile. From behind they could easily be mistaken for giant, pink, Second World War airfield buildings. Inside there's a line of single seats between the wall and first aisle for Jambos who can't put up with the constant whining of their brethren about how shite they are. These are the most sought after seats in the ground.

Having housed the home fans Hearts are busy doing absolutely nothing about leaving the away fans out in the rain, so the only discernible difference from the last time we were there on league business is the fact we'll have to sit down in it. Early in the season the council weren't letting them use that part of the ground until they had signed a contract to cover it. So now Hearts are in the awkward situation of not being able to open it, unless they ask.

*Paul Bundy*

# LETTERS

Dear Bounce,

I would just like to say a special thank you to the culture-laden blue-noses visiting Easter Road the other week who stopped off in my close to have a pish. The sight and smell when I returned home from the Aberdeen game of several gallons of urinated Buckfast was most appealing.

These are the people who are Scotland's ambassadors in Europe, yet they have no respect for the homes of their fellow countrymen, let alone anyone else. "We are the people" they chanted at the Parkhead semi. No, Weegie scum, you haven't reached that step of the evolutionary ladder yet!

Gogs

Dear Bounce,

I was talking with a Dunfermline fan recently and as a professional etymologist was intrigued by the derivation of the club's nickname. I've listened to the various theories but, while all possible, I'd say the answer comes from the BBC. For many years all presenters on the BBC were well educated men and spoke with a refined accent. In these plummy tones the word "power" would sound like "pahr".

In the early 1920s when Dunfermline were involved in the breakaway Central League, they were mentioned on a weekly sports news programme when they signed Andy Wilson for no fee.

As far as I know no recording of this broadcast remains but the script still does. This refers to the possibility of Dunfermline becoming a "power in Scottish football"

Such a mention would have been rare and with few people having wireless sets themselves news travelled by word of mouth. It was only a few short steps from "power" to "pahr" to Pars.

Susie Dent, Oxford English Dictionary.

**From an un-named source**  
Dear Ref,

I just thought I'd drop you a note of apology in advance of our game at East End against Dunfermline.

You see, the thing is, the game's on boxing day and it's not really very convenient for some of the lads who've made arrangements for Christmas. John Robertson promised to go and see his mum, and once he's been stuffed (with turkey) and had his fifth helping of trifle he's not going to be very fit for the match. Then again, who'll notice?

This boxing day fixture is particularly unfair on the Tynecastle Italian boys. I don't mean Bruno, Salvatori and that lot, it's the boys who run the pizza shop on the corner I'm worried about. They're going to be open that day and will miss the match. It's just not fair.

And what about me. I've been invited out for a huge pish-up with all my mates at Scotland On Sunday. Why should I have to miss that just because we're meant to play the Pars?

It's time that Scottish football got its priorities right. When will people begin to realise they have to support big teams like Hearts and completely flaunt the league's rules when it suits us. I see absolutely no reason why Hearts should be expected to turn up for this fixture. Besides which, Dunfermline are better than us, and we don't want to get gubbed again!

Signed, John Colquhoun

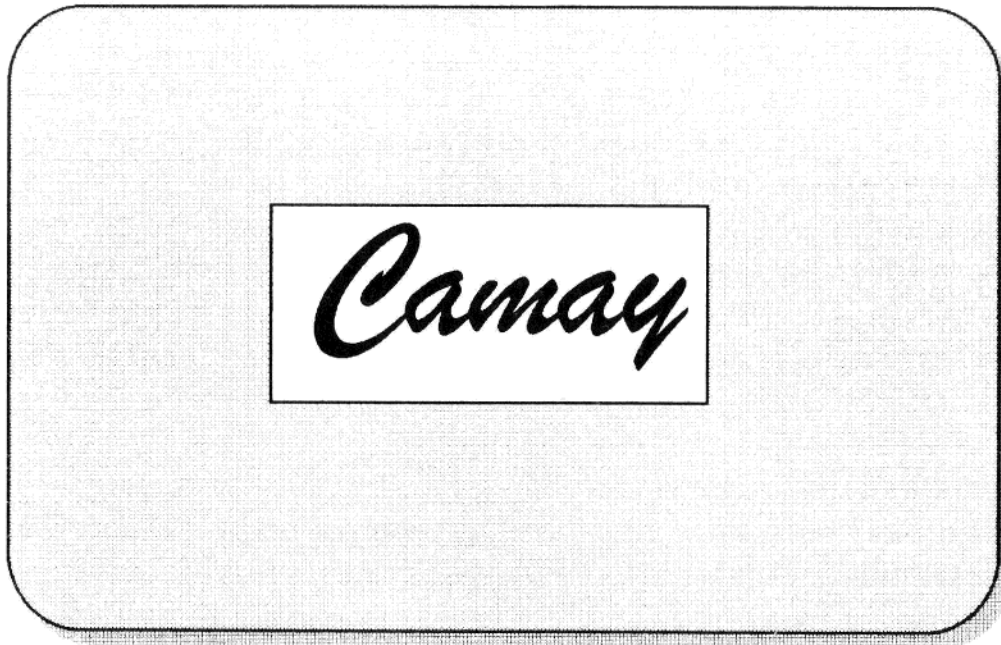
## Supporters' Clubs

**Edinburgh.** There's a bus running to away games from Edinburgh again. It leaves from the centre and can pick folk up on the way out of town, Barnton/Newburgh/Queensferry etc depending on destination. Anyone interested contact Davey on 332-7723 for further info.

**Inverness/Highland.** We've heard from Liam Shand and Bryan Bell who've started up a supporters' club in the Highlands. For further info contact them through Finlay's, 18 Tomnahurich St, Inverness.

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