

**no.1**  
**“WALKING DOWN THE  
HALBEATH ROAD”**



***A Dunfermline Ath.  
Fanzine***

***inside:***



**Pars Irish Links  
Bordeaux, Ayr Utd  
Soviet Soccer  
Referees  
Shine-LIVE**

**And much more!**

**35p**

# Editorial

FROM THE TOON END:

Scottish football has blossomed recently. In fact we've never been in such good shape since the 60s when Scottish teams regularly got past the second round of the almost cup winners, but the winners, also won the League Cup. I'm sure every true fan of the game will agree when I say that football is suddenly exciting again, unless you support either Motherwell or Falkirk.

However whilst the game has opened out and encouraged increased crowds, after the decline in the 70s the press has sadly remained firmly locked in its antiseptic mentality. In that a two page special on what brand of condom Graeme Souness uses sells more copies of the Daily Record than an expose on East Stirling or even another Premier team.

From the Pars fans point of view we have The Daily Record, The Edinburgh Evening news (without a doubt the most biased paper around - If it aint Green or Maroon then its not worth a XXXX ) and lastly the safe Dunfermline Press.

Therefore this fanzine has come to be the truth behind the truth and the opinions from the terraces, and not from the boardroom. I can state that the views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the club.

The current Pars Programme is a vast improvement on previous editions and is just about worth the money. Where it fails is that it represents the official Club's view, which even after such awful games as the recent Morton and Motherwell fiascos went on in the old "crisis - what crisis" fashion. If a slagging or praise is due this fanzine will not be frightened to speak out.

Supporters very rarely get the opportunity to have their opinions published, expecting of course 'Letters to the Press'. Well here's your chance to put pen to paper - any letters, articles will be published in Issue No.2. A copy of this Fanzine is being sent to Mr. Rennie, Big Leish and Norrie McCathie. If you wish to reply to anything Gentlemen, I will certainly include in it No.2.

Issues will probably be monthly depending on material and time. You can subscribe for 50p per issue or buy from football crazy in Edinburgh.

NEXT ISSUE MARCH # APRIL

Here's looking forward to another Premier Season (I Hope!)

**Sandy.**

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ANGRY AL  
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THANKS TO; LIZBETH LINDASY (TYPING), GRANT COLLIE, SILK CUT (CIGS), HOLSTEIN PILS (INSPIRATION)

SUBSCRIPTIONS; 50P PER ISSUE FROM 57 CIRCUS LANE EDINBURGH EH3 6SU OR FROM FOOTBALL CRAZY, VIRGIN RECORDS OR FROM ME OUTSIDE HOME AND AWAY MATCHES.

# On The Touchline !

## THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY!

In the run up to the season a statement was issued from East End, which more or less stated that the Pars would not "Do a Hamilton" and buy a whole team ! At the time of writing we have used 28 players, and the present team consists of only five players who started against Hibs on the 8th of August.

Albeit Hamilton spent a small fortune on a job lot of ex-Hibee duffers, and paid the price dearly by being one of the worst teams to grace the Premier League since St. Johnstone! So how do these 28 young (and not so young) men rate?

WDHB has given each a rating out of 10, which was complied at great expense to the author (well a new Biro at any rate !) If you don't agree send in your ratings - who knows a poll should be in the offing here.

IAN WESTWATER - RATING 8 - One of our finest goalies ever, lacked a little competition for his place, but some fans, and you know who you are, slag him purely for the sake of it and forget how his astute keeping has kept us alive over three seasons. Keep at it Westie - but practice the goal kicks - huh ?

TOM CARSON - RATING 7 - Played only a few games, but showed real, real class, was £75,000 - really too much Mr. Rennie? McKellar can hardly compare at £15,000 but that's showbiz!.

NICKY WALKER - RATING 7 - A very good keeper who made a brief appearance on New Years Day. Shouts louder than Westie.

BOBBY ROBERTSON - RATING 5 - Premier League status came a little late for Dr. Bob, who was one of our best fullbacks, but a little too slow in the Top League. Good Luck at Alloa, and I'll remember you at your best!



Graeme Robertson

GRAEME ROBERTSON - RATING 8 - A future in International Football could come to Graeme if he continues his current form; seems to do a " Terry Waite " now and again ( disappears without trace ) and re-appears with Blonder hair. The question every Pars fans asks is " Why isn't he a regular 1st team player ? " and the answer is .....? If you know please let WDHB know.

BOBBY FORREST - RATING 5 - Another who has left for Div II. In his few games Bobby looked good, but not to be honest, perhaps not enough!. A great 1st/2nd Div player for us and I'll always remember that brilliant last winner at Kilmarnock last year - A Beauty!.

JOHN HOLT - RATING 9 - What can I say? After a shaky start and a few nightmares for us at Centre-Half, John is back to his best Dundee United form, and helped to get in the vital tackle on more than one occasion. Full-Back is where he's the best and barring injuries to Gary - that's where he should stay!.



# On The Touchline !

ANDY WILLIAMSON - RATING 3 - Which is how many minutes of first-team football he has played! A real talent who was brilliant in the reserves but lacks a little in experience, one for next season.

BOBBY SMITH - RATING 6 - Duracell man - gives 100% every game and is a lot fitter than some of the younger players, and wins the Kevin Keegan ( circa 1974 ) haircut award for this season.

NORRIE McCATHIE - RATING 7 - Big Norrie has had an excellent season so far and certain Celtic forwards will remember the 2-1 game where Norrie's tackling was awesome.

DAVIE YOUNG - RATING 5 - Unbeatable in the air, but a lot like Herman Munster on the ground. Davie's two goals ( against Hibs on the opening day of the season ) were good'uns, but he didn't really have the skill for the Premier League. Now sadly languishing at Cowdenbeath, he deserves better.

STUART BEEDIE - RATING 8 - Fresh from the train between Edinburgh and Dundee his early form hinted at £50,000 down the bog. But he has had some absolutely brilliant games and scored a couple of good goals. One of the best midfielders I've seen at East End.



GARY RIDDLE - RATING 5 - Looks good until he gets near the ball. Has yet to prove that he's a centre-half although injuries haven't helped his consistency. There are signs that John Holt and Norrie McCathie are forming a formidable back-line and I can't really see us losing by 3 or 4 goals gain this season. If the Aberdeen match (16 Jan 1988) is an example.

GEORGE COWIE - RATING 3 - Has never impressed me, but was good for Hearts - Still we only spent £20,000 - a mere trifle!

MARK SMITH - RATING 8 - Mark's career will come to an end one Saturday unless referees give him protection, and soon. At times I've see fans closing their eyes as a Falkirk tank or Brian Whittaker has a go at cleaving his legs at the knee. A brilliant winger, which is what we've wanted for ages, but can be a bit of a Vampire ate times (can't handle crosses).

GARY THOMSON - RATING 2 - An " Optical Illusion" someone said. Well Gary's conjuring skill did little for him when he head-butted a certain Motherwell player in from of the Ref. Now at St. Johnstone, heading for Berwick.

ROSS JACK - RATING 6 - On a good day Ross is brilliant - on a bad day he's the invisible man. Recently he's been a lot more consistent and should have scored on a few occasions, works well with Mark Smith.

STEVEN MORRISON - RATING 6 - In the few games he has played Stevie has been good and has Premier class without doubt. Another one prone to Terry Waites - maybe its something to do with his dyed Blonde hair.



BILLY KIRKWOOD - RATING 3 - Another with a season ticket for the Edinburgh - Dundee train. Many fans wish he'd stayed on the train as his erratic play continued, however he's started to play now. The question remains as to why other players were dropped, and yet Kirkwood played on ?

# On The Touchline !

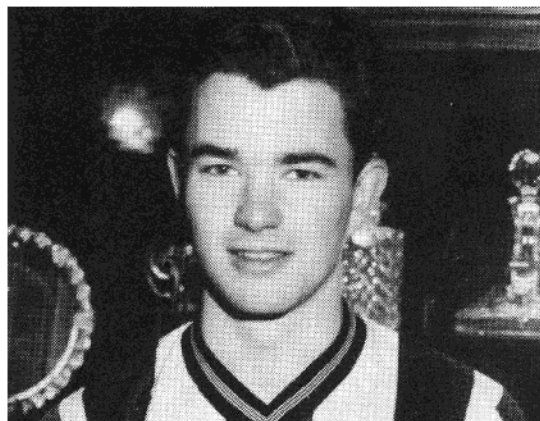
ERIC FERGUSON - RATING 5 - Farmed out to Clydebank (see neutral match report), which I don't think was right. At least Eric never stopped trying and did score my "most watched" video goals against Celtic.

JOHN WATSON - RATING 6 - Has been brilliant, if not successful in his last few games. Badly needs some support to pickup the balls he deftly flicks onto no-one. Once one of the Franks signs we'll see a difference. Once again some fans have short memories, or is it that the 'supporters' who slag him are ones who come out of the woodwork this season? (John features elsewhere in this issue).

CRAIG ROBERTSON - RATING 8 - Robbo always used to score against the Pars and is one of our best ever buys. The equaliser against England at Ibrox and the winner against Hibs stick in my mind, and if selection for International duty was based on performance rather than Club, Craig would surely be due at least some recognition.

IAN McCALL - RATING 8 - Mark Smith is worth ten Ian McCalls, who should have stayed at East End. Still reserve football must be exciting stuff at Ibrox.

GRANT JENKINS - RATING 5 - ' Shaggy ' always looked tired before the game started, but always surprised everyone now and again with some dazzling control. Seems to have vanished from 1st Team duty! Are they re-making "Scooby Doo"? Has now joined Gary Thomson and Ian Heddle at St, Johnstone.



VETLE ANDERSEN - RATING 7 - Hagar will be on form from now till May. Showed some wonderful skills at Aberdeen, and now with the Viking Locks snipped looks more like a footballer. W.D.H.B's Tip for the Top.

TREVOR SMITH - RATING 6 - Trevor has astounded me this season. The goals will come from him soon. Good control and a lot more strength than last season. Deserves a full game more often.

WILLIE IRVINE - RATING 1 - Best remembered for the promotion goal, and best forgotten for the rest. Another player who used to always play a blinder against us - for Stirling this time. Willie is now playing at Slartibartfast 1904 in some obscure Scandinavian league.

JOHN DONNELLY - RATING 4 - I thought our John had transferred East Fife - when out of the blue he appears in the Tennents Sixes and scored a cracking goal. If John can solve his "refreshment" problem he could be an even better player for the Pars.

## W.D.H.B's PREMIER TEAM SELECTION

- |                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Ian Westwater    | 7. Mark Smith                   |
| 2. Graeme Robertson | 8. Frank Stapleton/<br>McGarvey |
| 3. John Holt        | 9. John Watson                  |
| 4. Norrie McCathie  | 10. Craig Robertson             |
| 5. Grant Tierney    | 11. Stuart Beedie               |
| 6. Hagar            | 12. Stevie Morrison             |
|                     | 13. Trevor Smith                |

Text - Nearside Linesman.

# Sin~Bin Stevie

TENNENT'S SIXES - 'A TOURNAMENT OR A CARRY-OUT'

Any game with less than eleven players on each side, is to me, not a real game, and this is just about my opinion of the Tennent's Tournament. These sort of games are known for their strange team selections and even stranger results.

Rather than trek all the way through to the S.E.C.C. and have to sit next to a bunch of Celtic supporters I opted to watch from the armchair. At least you can take a bovy to your own living room!

After the first afternoon sessions the only moments I enjoyed were the 9-3 drubbing of Morton, and what looked like Charlie Nicholas sporting a pony-tail. Hearts made an early exit, much to my flatmate's horror and my absolute joy, losing to a St. Mirren team who promised absolutely nothing, and yet progressed into the next round.



Thus I watched as the Pars pool flashed up on the screen. 'Why only Ten players?', I thought to myself. Then it dawned on me. 'They're off playing Golf with Ian Munro'. With the average age of the Pars team being 65, visions of a worse defeat than Morton sprang to mind. The last name did not register for a while until I realised it was indeed John Donnelly fresh from exile in Methil, well at least he had chosen the right sponsors.



After the first five minutes we were 0-2 down, and it looked like a drubbing as the Pars fumbled and Hagar looked like an elephant trying to control a marble.

However things were quickly on the up, as Stuart Beedie whopped a Brill! shot past McKnight, then equalised, which the cameras missed as they were focussed on Andy Walker picking his pimples. A few mistakes in the second half saw us 4-2 down, including a moment when we forgot the rules and tried out a Motherwell tactic (six across the back) only to give away a penalty.

Then came the strangest incident of the evening. Mr Superfit Morrison gave old Roy Aitken a playful nudge, which soured the said Mr Aitken to audition for Robert Bros Circus Trapeze act. Stevie was promptly despatched to the 'sin-bin', the only player to do so in the whole competition.

Mr Aitken himself was fortunate to avoid the 'sin-bin' when he flattened Ross Jack prior to our second goal. The answer to this is simple, as Celtic did not qualify we must assume that only a tackle on Roy Aitken merits the 'sin-bin'.

A late goal by Stevie gave us hope, but we lost a match we should have won hands down!

# Sixes

# Racist?

YES! WE HAVE NO BANANAS

What a joy it is beating Hibs, and in this game we never looked like losing after Jack scored. This was followed by the totally awesome strike by John Donnelly, which had Arthur Montford mumbling words of approval. It was perhaps fortunate that we met Hibs at this stage and not later as they destroyed Celtic 5-2.

The other game we played is best not mentioned. Around four minutes was shown, and we were cuffed 4-0 by the 'Well - Oh! To have met Nottingham Forest. I think Dundee deserved to win and it was a fair final. However I have a few tips for next year - ditch Arthur Montford and get Max Headroom to present it - at least he's got better colour sense than our Arthur. Leishman to do the match commentary with Bertie Auld; who can forget the immortal line - "Jim if you were the St. Mirren Boss what would you do now?". "Put Jimmy Bone on " quipped our James - A Beauty.



The popular press, even the House of Commons have raised the issue of the banana thrown at Mark Walters of Rangers. Hopefully that will be the end of the affair. Sadly I doubt it!. There are always bigots at every club and I'm afraid we have them as well.

Smith is a very good player and he can be shouted at because he plays for Rangers, but not because of his skin-tone. This is without doubt racism and we can do without that at East End Park, or anywhere else. Rangers are due at East End on March 5th, so let's show the press that we support football and not racism!. The carrying and throwing of fruit at a match could come under the Criminal Justice Act which concerns Projectiles and Missiles. It could lead to us being banned from attending matches - so Keep The Heid.

Just in case you think that the Pars Fans are all well behaved, cast your mind back to the abuse that Victor Kasule of Albion Rovers took two years ago.

Also last year when a certain black goalie guested for Queen of the South against the Pars at Dumfries. A gang of very drunken idiots treated us to the Banana throwing and Monkey impersonations behind the Queens goal.

That was sickening, and if you looked from the goalie's point-of-view through the goal nets, you would have seen a bunch of fans jumping up and down going " OOO, OOO, OOO " and waving Bananas.

Who were the monkey's then ?. I rest my case!

MATCH COMMENTATOR.

# Hall of Shame no.1

A topical series featuring players and managers who have been signed at great expense, done wonderful things for a few games and then become absolute duffers and disgraced the club.

## No.1 DOUG CONSINDINE:

PAUL STANTON - who incidentally could be No.2 in the series joined Dunfermline from Cowdenbeath in early 1981 replacing the unfortunate Harry Melrose, who managed the Pars at the wrong time. Initially things were 'Hunky Dory' with the signings of Sandy McNaughton, Grant Jenkins and Bobby Forrest, but as usual it took a point in the second last game of the season v Motherwell to ensure 1st Division survival.

In season 1981-82 Stanton opened the cheque book and proceeded to spend around £15,000 on a brand new team of ex-Hibs and Hearts duffers - Surprise!, Surprise! However this was by far surpassed after another failure in the League Cup when the Club paid out their biggest ever fee of £43,000 to Aberdeen for Mr. Consindine. This had nothing whatsoever to do with the fact the Mr. Stanton had prior to managing Cowden been at Aberdeen, or so the fans were told.

Signed from Highland League outfit Huntly, Consindine was unable to command a place in the Aberdeen First Team, which at the time was peaking towards their Cup and League wins under Alex Ferguson. Therefore a record fee was paid for a reserve Centre-Half; interesting to note that in 1987 we once again paid a large fee, £35,000 for Gary Riddell, another Aberdeen reserve.

The first league match was at home to relegated Hearts at East End Park. A then huge crowd of 4,300 turned up to see what the new signings could come up with against what was probably one of the worst Hearts sides for a long time. Incidentally if each person had paid £10 it would have repaid the transfer fee!

The Pars started well which cumulated in a rather good headed goal from Mr. Consindine. We led 1-0 at half-time, and were treated to the ugly side of football as the Hearts supporters attempted to move the crush barriers from their own end to ours by throwing them over the fence.

' WHAT A WASTE OF MONEY '



Above: Doug Considine. (Dunfermline Press)

Hearts scored in the second half to earn a draw, but we all went home happy that the £43,000 had been well spent. The rest of the season progressed with the Pars hardly setting the 'Heather On Fire', but notable incidents included the crippling of Jim Brown by John Pelosi, who should have been banned 'Sine Die', and two consecutive 6-1 defeats by Clydebank and Motherwell. Doug finished the season with three goals and the fans waited for the next season's campaign.

Rumours of a dispute at the club between Management and Consindine, reputed to be over money and Consindine's refusal to move from Aberdeen were widespread. These were later confirmed when the player walked out on the club and refused to even come to the ground.

At the start of the 83-84 season Mr. Consindine was placed on the transfer list, but not surprisingly no offers were made and he was eventually given a 'Free'.



Another dreadful start to the season saw Mr Stanton depart for Easter Road, rather abruptly as it happened and after coach Jim Thomson could do little better, Tam Forsyth was appointed Manager, much to everyone's surprise. Considine was appointed Captain and played rather well in what was a rather mediocre pars outfit.

Doug is now playing for Banff, where he opened a Launderette with his share of the transfer fee. At least he found his true level. " Au Revoir Mr. Considine".

SAM SPADE

(The Man Who Can't be Gagged).

## MEMBERSHIP SCHEMES IN MANCHESTER

(WHAT YOU'RE MISSING SOUTH OF THE BORDER)

Both Manchester teams have membership schemes UTD more than rivals CITY. At Old Trafford the Stretford End is Membership only, as according to 'Ayatollah Edwards' Old Trafford in all has 40,000 members.

When I first applied for the membership in July (1988), I got sent back a form stating how much it would cost (£5) and what the entitlements are when one enrolls

These are:-

1. Discount at the Club Shop
2. One Free visit to the Club Museum
3. Free Entry - to the Central League Games ( Big Deal!)
4. Priority over match tickets
5. Free Club Handbook, which I received with my Membership Card

Much has been said about other membership schemes, especially the disadvantages of them, but to be fair they should be looked at in a wider perspective.

Being a member in the Stretford End at Old Trafford I can say that I personally can't find any fault with the membership scheme. Especially at Home games when every second Saturday I work till 1.30pm. I rush to the ground to be there at 3 o'clock.

In two instances at the Newcastle and Nottingham Forest games I have found the

non-members gates packed out and the members gate free for quick entry.

Though I do not totally agree with membership at Old Trafford and any other club in some instances it is helping to drive fans away. For example Colchester United which like Luton Town FC, has banned away fans and has a membership scheme in operation, or the other example of four Leyton Orient fans who travelled to Torquay with Guest tickets for the Plainmuir ground and were herded back onto the train for Luton.

Anyway! - back to the Away supporters at Old Trafford. The cost at the away end is £3.20 as compared to £2.80 at the Stretford End. I nearly always feel sorry for the Away supporters as they always seem to be herded in like cattle in one small area 'Pars Fans Beware'.

At Maine Road which is just about on my doorstep presents entirely different problems when I decide to take in a match. The Kippax End, the huge covered enclosure is Members Only at £1.00. This in some ways is a farce. Actually as I have gathered from other people the membership card is really only a piece of paper with Name, Address and Date of Birth. No photograph is attached to it, meaning that anyone can use it - within reason.

Entry into any other parts of the ground and the section for the away supporters at Platt Lane presents problems. The Main Stand and Cantilever are either ticket or season ticket only.

The only other section for entry is an enclosed area between both of the stands. I was in that area for the match against Aston Villa and for most of the game I found it near impossible to get a decent view of the match as pillar struts stick out on both sides. The price is steep at £3.50 to £4.00.

All is forgiven East Stirling.

David MacCallum.

# Down Memory Lane

A Regular feature in W.D.H.B in which each issue a fan (It could be you!) gets the opportunity to write about the game they most remember. It doesn't have to be a Cup-Final (Check out my one), just a game that you enjoyed/hated. Nightmares are also allowed providing it isn't the New Years Day 6-0 thrashing at Raith.

Anyway! - Cast your minds back two seasons to December 21st 1985:

" MAD OLD MEN AND ENGLISHMEN " OR  
" I WENT TO BERWICK AND LIVED "

The day started with a taxi to Portobello to catch the Pitbauchlie supporters bus at 9.30am. Clutching my copy of 2000 A.D and trying to desperately trying to ignore last night's hangover, we set off to play the English at Berwick and a good session in the Social Club. Dunfermline supporters have always liked a few pints before the game and the Pitbauchlie lads are no exception - We duly arrived in Berwick for opening time.

After a brief tour of Berwick and a rather good lunch in town, we set out for the ground via a short cut suggested by a local. Half an hour later we were wandering around an industrial estate with a 12 foot fence between us and the park. One detour later we made it to the social club where Pars Fans were eagerly playing 'Spot the Berwick Fan' between pints and games of pool. Berwick's Social Club is one of the best I've been to, with cheap drinks, friendly locals and easy staggering distance to the ground.

We sat in the stand for a change and around 1,000 people, mostly from Fife cheered as the teams came out on a very blustery day indeed. A minor setback occurred when Stuart Romaines opened the score for Berwick with a deft header. All was right with the world when John Watson equalised with a nod from a corner kick.

With the wind behind them Berwick flighting long balls towards goal, which



Ian Campbell

Photo: Dunfermline Press

caused abstract panic in a normally sound defence.

Just as I regained vision with both eyes, the game switched to a nightmare as first Soloko, then Conroy scored for Berwick with toe-points, which if there had been no wind would have barely made the penalty area. Instead they soared over Westie and dipped into the net. The two old Berwick fans in front of me suddenly flipped and took their pipes out to shout derision at the Pars.

The Pars came out fighting in the second half, but in 47 minutes a long ball from defence found Cavanagh onside with only Westie to beat. He went round Westie and when almost at the corner flag hit an impossible shot that rolled along the goal-line, off the post and into the net.

The old guys now went absolutely berserk, throwing their bunnets in the air, etc.

# BERWICK

# charts

Finally at 1-4 down the Pars got their act together, and in a goal-mouth scramble on 51 mins, Shaggy prodded the ball home (2-4), only to be punched by a pissed-off Davidson. The normally mild-mannered Shaggy retaliated by trying to get off his back where the said Davidson was holding him down. Referee Hope, who was having a quiet game decided to up his Red Card quota and duly dispatched poor Shaggy and Davidson.

What followed was perhaps our best away performance for a very long time as we tormented the Berwick defence. Bobby Forrest scored a rare goal in 60 mins (3-4), and Scunner Campbell came on to replace Stevie Morrison.

If I had a bunnet it would have been in orbit in 80 mins when Scunner placed the spot kick away from Watson (4-4). It looked as though we could go on to win as the chorus of "Scotland the Brave" rose from the terracing, the whistle went. The Pars got their ovation and Berwick trooped off greetin'.

One of the two old guys turned round and said "Hey son, why are you so pleased? You got beat 4-3". When I informed him that we had actually scored before Shaggy got sent off. He quipped "What sending off?".

At that I departed for home with the memory of the second half burning in my mind. The old guy is now Centre-Half for Berwick.

## TEAMS:

### BERWICK RANGERS

Watson	Davidson
Fraser	Romaines
McCann	Conroy
McGovern	Sokolouk
Marshall	Cavanagh
Muir	Tait

### PARS:

Westwater	Smith
Robertson	Hamilton
Forrest	Watson
McCathie	Morrison
Young	Jenkins
Houston	Campbell
	Moyes

If you have no sense of humour then read no further, otherwise the phone lines to the Sunday Post will be jammed. WDHB proudly presents Number One in an occasional series of Top Ten Charts, awarded to players for service above and beyond the call of duty. The person who sends in the most original and humorous Top Ten will receive the very jersey that Andy Rolland wore when he scored the promotion winning penalty against Falkirk in 1979. Anyway on with the Trivia:

## 'THE TOP TEN - BEER BELLIES TO APPEAR AT EAST END PARK'

1. JIM LEISHMAN - Last seen versus The Old Crocks select in the Centenary Match v Aberdeen - afterwards called 'The Battle of the Bulge'
2. GARY THOMSON - Mr Pear-Drop himself, definite proof that the Alloa diet does not work - An Optic(al) illusion.
3. ANDY ROLLAND - The prize that I possess has peculiar stretch marks around the midrift, enough for two Mark Smiths.
4. LES WOOD - Waddled around East End playing a trumpet at half-time - Once Provost, now stand-in for the Michelin Man.
5. JIM SCOTT - Scottie was always unpredictable, and always wore his strip hanging out - we wonder why?
6. JOCK STEIN - Oh! How could he, shock horror - A great man but his spare pounds weren't always in his wallet.
7. IAN McCALL - All those pints in the Kings Bar left Ian with a few pounds to sweat off modelling clothes for the Sunday Mail.

# Going Awol

1ST DIVISION MATCH REPORT

MEADOWBANK THISTLE v CLYDEBANK - SAT 16TH JANUARY 1988

Meadowbank Thistle will long be remembered by Pars fans as that horrid nightmare of a game when we lost 4-0, with Hamish McAlpine playing outside right for most of the game. However as I couldn't make it up to Aberdeen I decided to face my phobia and see how Thistle would fare against the might of Davie Irons and our own Eric Ferguson. My hosts for the game were those erstwhile rebels from the Brake Club and A.W.O.L, who were furiously selling half-time draw tickets and anything else you can mention.

Meadowbank have a great setup, Women are allowed in Free and the whole atmosphere is of a very friendly family club. A crowd of around 500-600 turned up - containing a mixture of students, trendies and of course the real supporters.

The game had hardly begun when Steve Logan prodded the ball past Clydebank Keeper Jim Gallacher and in off the post. Meadowbank then proceeded to tear Clydebank apart with Alan Prentice and Mike Lawson in superb form.

A penalty in 12 mins was duly despatched by Mike Lawsoon and it looked at that point that double figures were on the cards as Thistle piled on the pressure. McGachie hit the bar with a header, and then went one better in the 39th minute when he nodded the ball home at the corner.

At this point the Clydebank fans were suffering severe emotional trauma, not least the fans who arrived late and asked the steward " Who scored? ". When he found out the score he mouthed a few words of exclamation and left to go back to the pub presumably!.

Unfortunately he missed a great second-half where Clydebank appeared to be on certain illegal pharmaceutical powders as they proceeded to play Meadowbank off the park. David Shanks was brilliant and ably assisted by Chic Charnley, who appeared to bear the brunt of the Brake Club's derision for some reason unknown to me.

After constant pressure it was inevitable that Clydebank would score, and score they did with a 20 yard screamer from Mark Treanor.

As always happens the unfortunate Chic Charnley scored a well taken second goal and gave the Brake Club a friendly wave. Despite the barracking he played rather well.

From then on it was all Clydebank with many home fans feverishly calling for time with 10 mins to go. Clydebank should have equalised when a shot from Charnley beat everyone and rolled along the goal-line, requiring a mere touch to tie the game. However Meadowbank held on to win, much to the fury of the Clydebank posse, who came out with the Legendary "Cheats, Cheats, Cheats" at full-time.

As for Our Eric, he hasn't changed much - running all over the place, generally where the ball wasn't and leaping majestically to miss the ball completely at headers. Perhaps he simply had an off-day, but I can't see him making a return to the Pars First Team folks!, not if one of the Franks comes (Frank MacAvennie, St. Mirren or Frank Stapelton, Ajax).

Davie Irons is as talented as Graeme Souness is Gay! At times he was downright dirty, but raised his play to carthorse level later in the game. The best thing Rangers can do is sign him for £500,000 and then farm him out to Auchtenshuggle Rovers.

The excitement of the game turned to misery in the pub afterwards, as the Pars had lost to Aberdeen, but after a few pints the magic of alcohol did its wonderful thing and all was forgotten.

I really enjoyed the match even though at times the football was not of an exceptional quality. If it had been a Premier League game the score would probably have been 0-0, but five goals and a good laugh were all had for £2.00.

So all you Par Fans out there get along to another match if our match is off, even though its Cowdenbeath or East Stirling, it's whole lot better than shopping at ASDA or watching the Saturday afternoon Telly.

Be a supporter of Football, and not just the MIGHTY PARS!.

MATCH COMMENTATOR.

# Valium Alcohol and an Overdraft

To be a Pars fan in the Premier League these three items are essential. In previous years all you needed was a "sense of humour". Now things are a lot more serious and W.D.H.B. will attempt to put the season so far into its proper perspective, and try to analyse our failures and perhaps even praise those brief moments of ecstasy when we collected one or even both points.

Some fans may say that we went up too soon and that perhaps another year in Div 1. might have helped. That is absolute rubbish!. Even if we do go down this year all the players are on two year contracts and we would hopefully remain full-time. A return to the top league would be quick as no other team could afford to go up. If by some miracle we stay up then we're there for ever really. As in the "one-up one-down" situation, the old saying "What goes up must come down!" comes into play, with apologies to fans of Hamilton, Airdrie and Raith Rovers.

The present first team squad is the most talented I've seen at East End Park in nearly twenty years of watching the Pars. An awful lot of money has been invested in players and ground improvements. The supporters with the exception of the "Boo! Boys" behind the town end goals have been marvellous. Who else outside the Old Firm would take over 3000 fans to Aberdeen twice? What has been lacking is confidence and time to blend the undoubted good mixture of experience and youthful exuberance.

How many times have Dunfermline gone for all-out attack home and away, played the opposition off the park in either the first or second half, then lost an odd goal or four to come away with nothing? Motherwell and Falkirk on the other hand go for safety first. Five across the back line-ups which get results.

Obviously our first aim is Premier survival, but to entertain at the same time. Perhaps with less than a quarter of the season remaining its time to change tactics by going for a draw away and playing a little more cautious at home.

If we look at the seven games below all have been 0-0 at half-time, with the Pars outstanding, then came the break - Well I suppose it's a game of two halves Jimmy!.

MOTHERWELL	(H)	0-1
HEARTS	(H)	0-1
DUNDEE FC	(H)	0-1
RANGERS	(H)	0-4

ABERDEEN	(H)	0-3
ABERDEEN	(A)	0-3
DUNDEE UTD	(H)	0-1

'Something Is Rotten In The State Of Denmark' to quote Shakespeare and this could be applied to East End at times. Players whose face is obviously not In Vogue have spent their time in the reserves - Graeme Robertson and Stevie Morrison to name but two, while Dr Bob and Billy Kirkwood have played on and on , even when they've been useless. Also why have Graeme Robertson on the bench? Surely a midfield player and a striker (Ha Ha!) would be more useful - That is unless we want to hold onto a 0-1 defeat.

It is interesting to note that all of the above Leams are in the 'so-called' Top Six of the league, and Dunfermline's inability to notch success against these teams is hwy we only have 18 points after 30 odd games.

Even a few draws at home v Hearts or Dundee or an away point at Tannadice would have made all the difference. Its all very well only losing 1-0 to Hearts but when Motherwell and even Morton can take points off them, the situation becomes even more serious.

On the rare occasions when we do take points off the top eight, i.e. the 2-2 draw at Ibrox, along go Motherwell the next night and take a point at Tynecastle.

What is a lot more distressing is our record against Leams in the 'Gang of Four' - Motherwell, Falkirk and Morton and against the 'mini-league' of two Hibs and St. Mirren.

# Valium Days

## GANG OF FOUR (Up To Jan 16th)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Motherwell	9	4	3	2	11	9	11
Falkirk	7	3	3	1	8	5	9
Dunfermline	8	2	4	2	10	8	8
Morton	8	1	2	5	8	14	4

## MINI-LEAGUE (Up to Jan 16th)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hibs	6	2	3	1	9	5	7
Dunfermline	6	2	2	2	8	13	6
St. Mirren	6	1	3	2	6	5	5

## TOP SIX (Up to Jan 16th)

### DUNFERMLINE:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Celtic	3	1	0	2	3	5	2
Dundee Utd	3	0	1	1	1	1	1
Rangers	3	0	1	2	2	10	1
Hearts	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
Aberdeen	3	0	0	3	0	7	0
Dundee	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

Another vital factor in our inability to pick up points lies in the goals For column 23, and the goals Against column 61. We're used to these being the other way around. If at the end of the season ourselves and Motherwell are on the same points we would have to beat Celtic 7-0 or more to stay up.

As has been stated elsewhere in this Fanzine the defensive problems have to all intents and purposes been resolved and I cannot see us losing any other games as in the past.

This is due to John Holt playing in his best position (Left Full-Back), Graeme Robertson back in the team, and at last an understanding between Riddle and McCathie, and of course, Westie between the white things.

Our Midfield must rate as one of the best in the league - B. Smith, Beedie, Jack and Morrision, with Mark Smith taking the 'mickey' out of every opposing full-back we have -

What is a very good team, which is beginning to look like a competent and successful one.

Our major problem, as everyone knows is we need a striker badly, not a brilliant ball-player, but someone with 'poaching' ability, and the guile to stick the ball in the net. Over the season we've been linked with several names. FRANK MCGARVEY who fills the above criteria, but wouldn't fit his head through the dressing-room door, and wouldn't it be embarrassing for those of us who took great delight in chanting 'McGarvey is a Wanker!' at Paisley if he appeared for the Pars ( Ed's Note - I would still sing it! ).

FRANK STAPLETON - A great player in his day. I'd be a little wary of him for several reasons:

1. He hasn't played for months
2. He has a recurrent injury
3. Ajax may set too high a fee

Although if I had a choice I think I would take a gamble on Frank No.2, as the other name John O'Neill is a Mystery Man, but see Alan Bairner's article on Irish Links for a profile on John. The message from this pen is - either we buy a proven goal scorer now, or we can kiss our Premier League status goodbye for a few years.

Another thing that has to be said is 'What is Ian Munro doing at Eagle Glen?'. Our sources tell us that the average training day lasts 3-4 hours then its off to play golf. It may well improve the players' handicaps but the fans deserve a team that is at least competitive for 90 minutes. Perhaps this is the reason for the second-half collapses this season/

The departure of Gregor Abel was a mistake. He left the club in a cloud, where even a few hours of his football coaching would have been worth a dozen rounds of Ian Munro's golf tuition.

Leishman's quite correct policy of not 'Blooding' young players in the first season upstairs

# Valium Days

season upstairs seems not to apply to coaches who have had no experience either. Some people will not like what has been said in this article, but it had to be said!

Certainly Pars News (The Club's Official Programme) would never have been so open in expressing the views of the fans, and not excuses. If we're relegated I'll still be at every game next year, along with thousands of others. We have the potential to become one of the top six clubs in the country. We already have the support so lets go for the double chaps! -

BILLY BOVRIL.

## charts

TOP TEN cont ...

8. JIM BROWN - Weebils wobble but they won't fall down. Not unless John Pelosi tackles them!
9. DAVIE MOYES - A Cult Hero at East End - famed orator of 70s disco singles, and account holder at the Paragon bar.
10. GIER KARLSON - as Gier's career progressed at East End so did his belly! Thankfully he's now in Norway and unlikely to read this.

DID YOU KNOW This conversation actually took place

Scene Players' tunnel at P\*\*\*head

Cast A Referee - Mr X - to protect the guilty

Scene One Mr. Sowniss - Under suspension is standing at the tunnel mouth before a match, and along comes Mr X.

Mr. X 'Hello Mr. Sowniss - How's the suspension going ?'

Mr. S 'Fine, but I'm always picked on by referees. I never get a fair chance.

Mr. X Well I'm in charge of your next game at Aberdeen. I'll see you all right.

REFEREES ARE NEUTRAL (PIGS CAN FLY!)

SAM SLADE.

# Tractor Production in Tbilisi

AN INSIGHT INTO RUSSIAN SOCCER

By our correspondent - Valeriy Berezovsky.

Russian soccer has always conjured up images of burly, fearless Army teams, who more often than not only come to the attention of the rest of the world during the World Cup or when Dynamo Kiev won the European Cup Winners Cup. What follows is a brief interview with Kiev's manager, Valeriy Lobanovskiy (how long would a Scottish manager last if his name was Valeriy?) on Soccer in the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet National championships finished just before Christmas and a notable shift in power occurred as the 'Old Firm' of Dynamo Kiev could only finish a disappointing sixth. Moscow Spartak finally took the title after finishing second seven times in the last nine years. Dnepropetrovsk jumped from last year's ninth spot to runners up, and Vilnius Zhalgiris finished third for the first time ever.

Valeriy who is also the national manager suggested that the reasons for Kiev's poor showing that after last year's triumphs, his boys found it hard to gain consistency again, plus Kiev provided more or less the entire Soviet World Cup squad.

Valeriy - It is abundantly clear that big surprises occur in post World Cup year. The domestic calendar was strained by a heavy international programme, which meant that some of this year's surprises were not that much of a shock.

Spartak - They always peak too early, but lacked that little bit extra at the end and faded.

This year they've kept going and justice was finally in their favour.

## Soviet Soccer cont ...

Dnepropet- - Stable and have a well  
rovsk composed and solid line-  
up, after last year's  
flop they suffered  
psychologically, but  
soon overcame ...

Zhalgiris - Their strength comes  
from their logical  
chess-like team play and  
their confidence was  
obviously raised after  
success at the world  
student games.

The failure of some  
Clubs is also logical,  
Georgian clubs as a  
whole and Tbilisi Dynamo  
in particular are going  
through a crisis just  
now due to the state of  
their youth programme.  
It will be a few years  
before they will  
recover.

Moscow - Moscow Dynamo made good  
Dynamo progress last year, but  
they are a very young  
team and tended to  
overstretch themselves -  
their future is a little  
uncertain.

The national side and  
the Olympic side have  
been getting excellent  
results, the national  
side winning their  
qualifying section in  
the European  
Championships and the  
Olympic side getting  
some excellent away  
results.

### THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The national side can do well in  
Germany, but good results can only be  
achieved if the leading clubs do well  
in European competitions. A lot is  
expected of Italy, while the English  
will have something to prove after  
being absent from European competitions  
for a few years. Hosts W. Germany will  
be tough challengers again. Eire could  
be the surprise team in the tournament  
that has no underdogs.

SELF-FINANCING - At present all Soviet  
Clubs are financed by the state through  
their factories or armed forces.  
However a recent innovation allows  
clubs to be self-financed and turn  
full-time professional rather than  
soldiers or tractor assembly-line  
operators. One of the first teams to  
do so was the impossibly named  
Dnepropetrovsk. Valeriy was asked his  
opinion on this, and if he thought they  
were a little rash in going ahead with  
the scheme.

'It is always difficult for the trail  
blazers. We have done our best to  
prepare for the transition into a  
professional footing. We turned our  
proposals over to the State Economic  
Planning Committee - which are now  
being considered. The approach to  
setting up a club should be a state  
one. Our idea is that a club should  
not require any subsidies at all. I  
see the task as follows - To support  
ourselves by results on the field and  
to earn income for both club and  
state.'

The new openness prevalent within the  
Soviet Union could enable football to  
flourish. At present no Soviet player  
is allowed to play in the West, unless  
he defects. Now that more senior  
members of the national squad i.e.  
Blokhin and Rats are being linked with  
Scottish clubs such as St. Mirren  
(personally I'd rather stay in the  
U.S.S.R than Paisley), it shouldn't be  
too long before transfers are arranged  
in Roubles. Also it could mean a home  
at last for Ted McMinn and Frank  
McGarvey.

The present transfer systems works like  
this - an Army team such as C.S.K.A  
Moscow wants a striker from Tbilisi,  
Hey Presto! - one phone call later and  
that player is drafted by the Red Army  
and stationed in Moscow. Maybe a  
lesson there for Andy Roxburgh when it  
comes to the World Cup.



# Referees

"Who's the Bastard In The Black?"

One of the season's more regular occurrences at East End Park is the mood of depression which afflicts the supporters before a ball is even kicked. Victims can usually be seen browsing quite happily through their match programmes when quite suddenly they reach the centre pages and realise with a sense of foreboding just which of the dreaded men in black has been allocated to ruin our game this week.

Many Scottish supporters now seem to accept that the standard of refereeing in this country has dropped dramatically in recent years. Pars fans are no different in this respect, but it seems to have hit us particularly hard this season.

Our old friend Louis Thow has again been an unwelcome visitor to East End Park. Not surprisingly many people reckon that Thow has had it in for us ever since the famous incident at Stenhousemuir, where many dubious decisions and the sending off of Stevie Morrison (not exactly one of Scottish Football's more recognised hatchet men) turned the travelling support into a seething mass which surrounded the referee at the final whistle.

Perhaps this influenced Thow, but no one can be sure. What we do know is that on his last two visits to East End this season he has been a disaster. The penalty awarded to Celtic in our 2-1 victory in August was nothing short of a joke, and millions of television viewers have recognised it as such.

However his second visit when we played and lost to Hearts was unbelievable. In booking four Pars players compared to two from Hearts, he obviously decided that dissent was a far more serious offence than violent fouls. A typical example of this was when Brian Whittaker punched Mark Smith in the face while racing for a through ball. Hearts "classy" Left-Back wasn't booked, Stuart Beedie had his name taken.

In fact most of the serious incidents have involved Mark Smith and the regular doses of brutality our flying winger has had to take.

At Tannadice for example Maurice Malpas and Dave Narey nailed him three times in the opening five minutes, and it continued throughout the game. The only booking was Paul Kinnaird for not retreating 10 yards at a free kick. What made it harder to take was that the following week Jim McLean was quoted in the press as saying that the ball players in Scottish Football (presumably he meant his own) were being kicked out of the game.

Most of the really venomous treatment dished out to Mark Smith came in one game against Falkirk. After only two minutes he was the victim of the first of a series of savage fouls, for which two players were eventually booked. Maybe the Falkirk players only wanted to slow him down to their own pathetic level.

The clowns on the Falkirk bench acted like their nickname suggests, continually moaning to the referee that Smith was acting, which infuriated Jim Leishman. Just about the entire length on Mark's shin was bruised - and far from acting he actually missed the next two games.

Overall the protection given to players like Mark Smith is ridiculous. It's sad to think that exciting crowd pleasing young players like him could be kicked out of the game because of weak refereeing.

I know it's easy to criticize referees, but I don't think any Dunfermline supporter would blame the officials if their team is eventually relegated. It isn't just the Pars fans that think that some referees are bad - Just ask Hibs followers what they think of Louis Thow (I also know a Partick Thistle supporter who froths at the mouth whenever his name is mentioned).

# Referees

So is there anything that can be done about it? Well already this season the SFA have demoted two referees down to linesmen: O'Donnell of Airdrie and Gould of Markinch. O'Donnell's sacking will no doubt please the fruit lovers of Tynecastle, where the club's directors once put in a complaint about his handling of a match against Celtic. Dunfermline supporters will remember Gould for his inept displays when we played East Fife and Raith Rovers (in a 'friendly' match) last season.

Now that other referees have seen what can happen to them it is possible that there will be an improvement, but it is more likely that there will be a clampdown on trivial offences as they seem to equate more bookings with a better refereeing display.

Speaking of trivial offences its high-time that the SFA stopped what seems to be the annual pre-season announcement about getting tough on dissent and such-like 'crimes'. Of course players could and should be better disciplined when it comes to back chat, but when you've been kicked black and blue its hard to keep your temper when a mutton-head behemoth from Falkirk strip kicks you again. Referees have got to place more emphasis on stamping out violent, cynical play.

Maybe if we know the reasons behind some of the controversial decisions it would help clear the air a bit, but the SFA obviously doesn't agree. The way football's governing body in this country has gagged itself and referees shows nothing but contempt for managers, players and spectators alike.

Surely its better to issue a full and proper explanation of the decisions rather than have the media continually guessing what actually happened during a match. Take the Hugh Burns / Mark Walters incident - did the referee book Burns for making a racist remark to Walters. The SFA obviously prefers to keep it a big secret that the rest of us aren't worthy of knowing. The only thing this controversy is good for is selling newspapers.

Another suggestion that the SFA continually scoffs at is Professional referees. Many influential people (not least of which are the paying punters - but when does anyone ever listen to us?) now recognise the need for full-time officials, but once gain the SFA has its head buried in the sand.

If nothing else it would improve the fitness and stamina of our referees. How often have you seen them failing to keep up with the play and making decisions from 30 yards away? Our refs constantly bmoan the fact that they have to retire in their late forties, but lets be honest many referees ten years younger can't keep up with the pace of play.

Linesmen should help referees more than they do, but to be fair to them the man in the middle often ignores the views of the man standing just two yards from the actual incident. It may be a good ide to keep a referee and two linesmen together for an whole season to improve their understanding of each others' methods.

Another idea that might be worth exploring is encouraging ex-players to become referees. Who would know the tricks of the trade better than a player who's spent years trying to con refs? - Roy Aitken and Willie Miller for example would be ideal choices. Don't they already spend half the game making decisions for the referee as it is?

So there it is. YOU may have your own ideas about the subject but its generally agreed that something has to be done to halt the spread of erratic reereeing.

I know its easy to knock someone who can't answer back but as I've said earlier in the article, this is part of the problem.

Lets just hope they gat their eyes tested before the Tories start charging them for it.

BALL BOY.

# ' Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright '

## SHINE - Aberdeen - 17.1.1988

HISTORY - SHINE are the remnants of a band called 7-West who played in and around Central Scotland and England a few years back. They released one single last year on a local independent label run by Blair Morgan (DAFC Director) and helped out with the recording of East Enders.

The single sold a few thousand copies and received moderate critical acclaim. As always happens a few changes in line-up, style and name gave the band a new outlook and 'SHINE' were born.

The current line-up is: Wil Adamson (Vocals), George Wheelwright (Guitar), Steve (bass), Alex Frankie (with Kenny Hislop and Tony) helping out for this gig on percussion and saxophone.

SHINE have now signed a major deal with 'SPK Records of America' and recently returned from New York where they were mixing their forthcoming album and single. The single should be out late April and the album around May/June. WDHB believes that this band are going to be 'MEGA' so remember where you read about them first.

GEOGRAPHY - Three of the band live in and around Dunfermline and George and Stevie are fanatical Pars supporters - witness their comments later, while Alex who comes from Stirling supports Celtic. This was due to be their first gig in over a year, and the first after finishing the album. The venue for this was the wonderful Eadbroke Motor Inn in sunny Ellon some 25 miles north of Aberdeen.

BIOLOGY - I arrived in Dunfermline just in time to catch the band's mini-bus due to the phenomenally slow Edinburgh bus (we were lapped by a hedgehog on the Rosyth roundabout). I didn't really have to worry as George was over half an hour late.

At any rate we were off, with the sole alcoholic beverage - a bottle of sickly sweet Almond Liqueur being passed around the bus. In order to relieve the boredom we all did the Sunday Mail Quiz, in which WDHB finished second last. Brian the driver won by about 9 points as he had obviously memorised the answers (it was his paper!). The usual quips about the folk from Aberdeen and their 'fleecy friends' abounded until we got round to the subject of football and the Pars in particular.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - George and Stevie had been up to Aberdeen the day before (Sat, 16 Jan 1988) along with another 3,000 Pars fans to see us lose by the only goal of the game.

WDHB - How about the result at Aberdeen yesterday ?

GEORGE - It was a bad result, but it was some day out - 3,000 Pars fans outsung 17,000 Aberdonians. Stewart Adamson was there as well, he goes to as many games as he can, like me and Stevie.

WDHB - How about the Defence ?

GEORGE - Much better! - Hagar was superb and the rest of them have come on now. I really can't see us being beaten by four goals again - no chance!. The only liability is 'Billy Deadwood' - Absolutely Useless (WDHB also agrees). Westie's certainly playing better since McKellar was signed and Mark Smith was excellent, but he's going to end up dead on Saturday (Pars play Falkirk away next game) unless he gets some protection from the referees.

WDHB - I was really hoping for a point - at least.

STEVIE - We never really looked like scoring, but then again neither did Aberdeen.

Charlie Nicolas did nothing - He got a little bit pissed off when our chant of 'What A Waste Of Money' was louder than the 30 second chorus of 'Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Aberdeen!' after they scored their goal.

(WDHB note: see Press & Journal cutting for confirmation ).

MUSIC - Trying to fit SHINE into a certain musical style is like trying to believe that Billy Kirkwood is a good player. If comparisons have to be made then take the best parts of Hispway, Roxy Music, and T.T Darby, add a lot of original style a splash of Rock and you have a basic idea of SHINE.

With the addition of Kenny and Tony on percussion and sax the live show is almost like listening to an album, the production is that good. They also write some excellent songs most of which will be featured on their debut album due out in the summer, with a single out in May. The best songs for me were 'Walking On The Town', 'June Parade' and 'Turn Me Inside Out'.

After the gig a few drinks were downed as we watched the awesome Washington Redskins heading for Superbowl XXII. After that we sat up all night talking about the band and the Pars. George says that if the album sells he will buy the Pars and be manager, while Stuart Adamson takes over as chairman.

If you can - Get out there and see SHINE live or at least buy the records.

NEXT ISSUE: INTERVIEW WITH BIG COUNTRY.

## Pittodrie hush-hush

HAD A previous Bonnie Prince Charlie been able to command such a sizeable following for a home match, history may have taken a different turn.

As it was the 20,000 or so who flocked to Pittodrie on Saturday to show their allegiance to the modern-day Pretender came close to witnessing another humiliating defeat.

The very presence of Charlie Nicholas for his home debut was enough to guarantee one of Aberdeen's biggest gates of the season, and this when the opponents are languishing next to bottom of the league.

The crowd was more than 10,000 above the attendance for Dunfermline's last visit. Not that all those extra bodies made the slightest difference to the vocal support from the terraces, even on such an important and potentially exciting occasion.

*Restless*

Having given Nicholas what for an Aberdeen crowd was a rapturous welcome, the fans spent the remainder of the match in virtual silence. The 20,000 Dons following were constantly outchanted by the few thousand Dunfermline fans and were on occasion drowned out by the shouts of the players and managers and, late in the game, by a family of starlings nesting in the roof of the South Stand.

Only three times during the first 45 minutes were the Aberdeen fans stirred into any kind of vocal action — a Nicholas effort which missed the goal and was offside anyway; an accurate 10-yard pass by Peter Nicholas to his own goalkeeper; and the only goal of the game which actually brought the crowd to their feet and sparked off an impromptu chant of "Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Aberdeen", sustained for a good five seconds before the majority of the singers forgot the words.

The buzz of excitement which hung around the ground prior to kick-off was replaced by a buzz of muted conversation as the natives grew more and more restless. To be fair, events on the field were not of a standard to put the crowd in singing form. But the Dunfermline fans, who had to endure the same match and had the added disappointment of losing, still made their presence felt throughout.

It remains to be seen if Nicholas can generate enough excitement on the pitch to arouse the crowd, or there may be difficulties in attracting other class players to perform in an atmosphere like a public library.

# Ayr Utd

'BRINGING HOME THE BACON'

SCOTTISH CUP 3RD Rd DUNFERMLINE V AYR UTD  
EAST END PARK  
(SATURDAY - 30/01/1988)

When the draw was made the only team I would have avoided after Hibs was Ayr Utd and therefore that's who we got. Comparisons were made between the Pars and Ayr; top of the league, goals galore and extrovert managers. However the main difference was that Ayr are a better all round team than us when we topped the 2nd division. However at least it was a home-tie and I looked forward to a successful, but not comfortable progress into the 4th round.

The Ayr support put the home fans to shame by turning up in large numbers and giving full vocal support throughout the game - rather like the Pars fans at Easter Road. By contrast the home crowd were struck dumb and noticeable gaps appeared on a normally packed home terracing.

The Ayr away strip was remarkable in that it seemed to be a combination of two old Hearts strips, sadly for us the laughter stopped there. After the first ten minutes it looked as though the result would be comfortable after all as Beedie then Smith carved up the Ayr defence.

The warning signs changed from Red to Scarlet as Walker saw a snap-shot rebound off the post into Westie's arms and Templeton sudden departure and Walker took over midfield. The nearest we came to a goal was a near miss from Robbo and a bad miss from Mark Smith, who when right through elected to place the ball past Watson, rather than blotting it into the back of the net. At this point I started planning trip to Ayr in midweek



By now Ayr were in complete control of the midfield and Bobby Smith was having a tough time with the Ayr winger (Henry Templeton). Mark Smith was being marked out of the game, but every Pars player insisted on passing the 'Hot Potato' to him when he had no chance of getting the ball.

Westie was having a great game and it was with some relief that the half-time whistle went. Once again my 50-50 tickets were about 2,000 out and only the comfort of a possible shock at Parkhead (Celtic were "only" winning 1-0 v Stranraer) kept me from a nervous breakdown.

The second half went on much the same as the first, with Ayr on top. That was until a rare moment when Mark Smith beat his man and crossed for Ross Jack to head home. 'Thank \*\*\*\*', for that was the most common phrase uttered in the town end, and I looked to the introduction of Stevie Morrison to hold onto a slender lead.

I forgot however about the Lemming instinct that we show so well as in the next 4 mins disaster struck with a sickening thud! The sickening thud was the stupid tackle by Holt, who should have know better, which resulted in him being first to use the soap. Ayr equalised when Gary Ridiculous tried a pass back which moved 2cm before Walker prodded it home. From then on it was touch and go whether we would get a second chance, with only a few dismal headers from Norrie to give any hope.

The usual substituting with 5 mins to go came and went, while John Watson, who would have relished this sort of game and pitch kept the tartan blanket on his knees. By then it was too late and the Ayr players took a justified bow at the end.

It was obvious to me

that whoever watched Ayr for us must have gone to the horse racing instead.

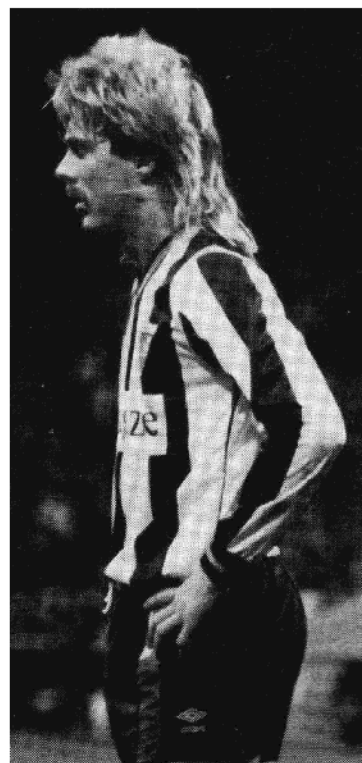
The blame lies mostly on Mr Holt's and Riddle's shoulders, although the whole team deserves a 'kick up the backside' for their over complacent display. Imagine the Man of the Match award going to Westie against 2nd Division opposition at home.

THE REPLAY - Well Well! - The roles were reversed in the second game, with the Pars playing some of their best football for months. Bobby Templeton, including a tackle which should never resulted in a booking. Beedie was superb and Mark Smith nutmeg'd Ayr's replacement full-back time and time again.

Ross Jack scored a remarkable goal, then decided that he wanted the soap first, and the referee obliged. After this we actually played better, and Trevor Smith almost had 'Goal of the Season', later followed by a penalty which Beedie, not Trevor converted.

A much better display and even the Ayr fans must admit that the better team won.

Ah well! - Dare we say Hibs in the Quarter Finals ?



Hagar all set to  
Axe the Gers

Willie Cunningham, Northern Ireland  
and Dunfermline

ALAN BAIRNER, the author of this very good article lives in Belfast and cannot make it to many games apart from the wonderful Glens. He contributes to many other fanzines and has an article on Irish football in the current edition of The Absolute Game (A footy fanzine which is unbeatable). Partly at Alan's suggestion and to save my sanity, the article will be put out as a three part series, as it is indeed a very long article.

PART ONE

Recent Dunfermline interest in Irish league players such as Colin O'Neil (Portadown) and Martin McGaughey (Linfield) prompts memories of our last Northern Irish player Willie Cunningham.

In fact Cunningham spent most of his life in Scotland, beginning his career with Ardrossan Winton Rovers before stepping up to the senior ranks with St. Mirren. But his place of birth was County Antrim, and it was for Northern Ireland that he played 30 Internationals. When he arrived at East End Park in the autumn of 1960 few Pars fans were aware of how illustrious the career of Jock Stein's new skipper had been.

For them and for a younger generation of Pars fans who may know little of Cunningham's contribution, to football in general and the Pars in particular, it is worthwhile recording some of the major events in his career.

In 1951 Jack Harkness (Sunday Post) watched a young full-back playing for St. Mirren, found out that he was Irish and recommended the player to the Irish Football Association.

As a direct result Willie was selected to play for Ireland (as the I.F.A continued to describe the team at the time) against Wales on the 7th March 1951. The award of his first cap was greeted in the Northern Irish press with guarded optimism.

According to "Ralph the Rover" of the Belfast Telegraph - "Satisfaction is general at the selection of Cunningham", but Ralph's claim was considerably weakened by the admission that Cunningham was unknown on the football field here and he will be the centre of attention.

Ireland lost the match 2-1 (the Irish goal coming from Billy Simpson of Rangers). It was played in poor conditions in front of wide open spaces on the terraces, and by all accounts Willie's debut was uninspiring. As far as Ralph the Rover was concerned he was "Scarcely up to the level of the scouting reports, but with youth on his side he is worth persevering with."

He was not chosen for the next four internationals. His reappearance came on the 4th October 1952 when he took part in the excellent 2-2 draw with England, again at Windsor Park, and this time before a crowd of 55,000.

His selection was due to the withdrawal through injury of Len Graham (Doncaster Rovers), but he

had impressed the selectors during a game against the Army during the previous month.

The teams were as follows:

- IRELAND Uprichard, Cunningham, McMichael, Blanchflower, Dickson, McCourt, Bingham, Darcy, McMorran, Mcilroy, Tully.
- ENGLAND Merrick, Ramsey, Eckersley, Wright, Froggat, Dickinson, Finney, Sewell, Lofthouse, Baily, Elliot.

Now Cunningham was keeping company with Alf Ramsey, international Centurion Billy Wright, the inimitable Tom Finney and two future managers of the national side in Danny Blanchflower and Billy Bingham. But the player most of the crowd was there to see was Charlie Tully of Celtic, The Clown Prince" described by Roy the Rover as "The Rainbow Boy of Celtic" - whatever that means. Tully scored both goals and even our Ralph left the ground satisfied by "A Glorious Effort". He demanded that the team be unchanged for the next international. Cunningham picked up and injury and missed the next three games, and was recalled on 3rd October 1953. From that date onwards he played in 27 out of 43 international matches for Northern Ireland.

He received a total of four caps while at Love Street, 23 at Leicester City and three after his arrival at Dunfermline.

Between 8.10.55 and 5.10.57 he was picked for 10 successive internationals. In all he played 12 matches at No.5, 13 at No.2, and 5 at No.3, ironically the position he held most regularly while at East End Park.

So what were the highlights of his career?

Willie Cunningham played in 6 victorious Irish sides, the first taste of victory coming on 8th October 1955 when he played left-back in a 2-1 win over Scotland in Belfast. He was chosen at the eleventh hour after the withdrawal of Alf McMichael.

He had been transferred by this time to Leicester City for around £10,000 and made his way by the Liverpool boat in stormy conditions to join the Irish Squad in Belfast.

Part Two in next issue .....

