

ISSUE No.2 APRIL

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GERS BUSTERS



Smith



Watson

Scottish Cup

Fourth Round Dunfermline 2 Rangers 0

INSIDE.. Bent Martin  
Hall of Shame  
Willie Cunningham  
Halftime Entertainments

Special Souvenir Issue

40p

# EDITORIAL ISSUE 2 APRIL

Walking Down the Halbeath Road  
P.O. Box 6168  
11a Forth Street  
Edinburgh 1.

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Senga Slag, Pentax Kid.

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Thanks to.....Grant Collie, Steau Bucherest  
all those who bought No.1

Inspiration...Moravia Pils £1.39 for 4  
from Oddbins.

Back Issues....Sorry none left.

Subscriptions..50p + A4 s.a.e. (20p)

On Sale.....

Dunfermline  
Virgin Records, Kingsgate  
Pitbauchlie Hotel, Aberdour Rd  
Montys Bar, Pilmuir st.  
East Port Bar, East Port (maybe)  
Edinburgh  
Football Crazy, Spittal St.  
Avalanche Records, Lady Lawson St  
Vinyl Villians, Elm Row

Glasgow  
Strathclyde Programme Shop  
136, Renfield St.  
London  
Sportspages, Cambridge Circus  
Shopping Centre  
Nottingham  
Selectadisc, 21 Market St.  
home and away games....

Price Increase.....Sorry but due to larger  
costs etc price now 40p  
still cheaper than Pars  
News.

Issue Three....."Crunch Issue" May  
Jim Bowie Interview  
John Watson  
Competition  
Plus all the usual stuff

The opinions expressed in this publication  
are not necessarily those of the editor  
and definitely not those of D.A.F.C.

Welcome to Issue No.2 of 'Walking Down  
The Halbeath Road', and thanks to all  
of you who bought No.1. Almost with-  
out exception; the exception being the  
Dunfermline F.C. Board, the response has  
been very favourable. All 500 copies  
are now sold out and there won't be a  
reprint unless the demand warrants the  
expense. We would much rather go on  
and print a new Issue monthly than  
have to keep reprinting back Issues.

Issue No.1 had a few mistakes, but then  
so does 'Par's News'; so if you can  
forgive these, we promise to make each  
issue better than the last. The re-  
views and letters will be in Issue No.  
3; hopefully, with an official response  
from the Club, but probably not!. The  
Dunfermline Press gave us a good write  
up without actually mentioning any of  
the contents or passing comment, and we  
have to thank the Club for the free  
advert in the recent Ranger's programme.

Already the mystic power of 'W.D.H.B.'  
has begun to work!. Three days after  
we published No.1, Billy Kirkwood was  
transferred to Dundee, and two weeks  
afterwards Davie Irons was bought for  
£80,000 from Clydebank after we'd men-  
tioned him in our 1st Division article.  
All we've got to do now is work on Gary  
Riddell!.

As we approach the final few games of  
the season it looks likely that we will  
be relegated. However, if the team and  
supporters can give the same level of  
commitment and spirit as seen in despatch  
ing the 'blue hordes', then miracles can  
happen!. The message from the 'W.D.H.B.'  
nerve centre is 'COME ON YE PARS!'.

N.B. Urgently Required: Any articles,  
opinions on the Pars - they don't

have to be grammatically correct -  
this is your voice - so let's hear  
from you. Also, any unusual or usual  
photographs, cartoons are, also, wel-  
comed.

VOLUNTEERS - to sell 'W.D.H.B.' at  
home and away games - commission paid!

..This issues cover is available  
as a T shirt, a real souvenir. Details  
from above address.

# "SPACE ALIENS TOOK MY TEAM"-Sounness

A **Sunday Filth** exclusive

Our roving reporter, Nigel (Bonking Crazy) Smeg, had done it again!. You thought it was bad tactics and superb football from the opposition that caused the awful exit of Rangers from the Scottish Cup by 'wee' Dunfermline. We can reveal that this is not so - no!, the real truth is that minutes before kick-off Aliens from Mars kidnapped the entire Gers team and replaced them with horrible creatures disguised as footballers. In an exclusive interview with Graham Sounness on Marabella beach, Nigel came back with this astounding tale:

## plot

The alien plot to take over the world could be a reality. Eye-witnesses have backed up Graham's story - it really happened!. Now that they've a foothold on earth, where will it stop?. How do they fit all their tentacles in their shorts?; how will the fans take to a team who all have green skin? - read on.

## green skin

'I first noticed something was wrong when the boy McCoist got injured - his knee wasn't that bad, but the blood that came out was green. I told him to go home for a few days and come back when it was blue. However, it didn't and eventually we had him go to the Infirmary for a blood transfusion, but after that his skin turned green and there was no way he could play against Dunfermline. I now know that he was, in fact, an alien; the switch had happened on Wednesday when he was at the hairdressers, rather than with the boys in Saudi'

'Everything was great on the bus going through to Fife, even Ian McCall smiled as he sold the filled rolls - 'it wiz just before we went out on the park...., I saw this terrible ugly monster come out of the toilet - I freaked until I saw it was Graham Roberts!'.... then

as we gathered to sing 'The Anthem', the dressing-room was bathed in a green-glow'. I ran off to put on some hair-spray and when I came back the glow was

gone, but the lads looked 'spaced out' but we ran out on the park anyway. I should have known what was up when Ian Durrant took out a ray-gun and vapourised the ball boy who had thrown the ball back at him'.

'In the sixth minute Jan Bartrum tripped over his tail and allowed Mark Smith to cuff the ball over Chris Woods who was levitating at the time and into the net. We should have scored when Durrant headed over the bar - he used his wrong head!'

## sent off

'Later John Brown attempted to give Mark a friendly Martian Greeting, unfortunately Mark wasn't an alien and could not return the gesture. John asked the referee if he could go and put some money in the parking meter as he didn't want the Flying Saucer clamped and the ref sent him off'.

'I hid at half-time, but decided to go back on and get off earlier so I could inform the Chairman'. 'Unfortunately, the aliens chose the 49th minute to go into a communal cationic state leaving Watson an easy task to score'.

'Soon after that I took myself off and I've been here ever since'.



wilkins,sounness,durrant

# 'GERS-BUSTERS

## W.D.H.R. goes apeshit



### Watson's goal as not seen by the record

All of us involved with 'W.D.H.B.' would like to thank the players, manager and everyone connected with the Club, for the totally awesome destruction of Rangers. Everyone a complete hero!. Never have I seen us play with such spirit - we wanted to win and Rangers couldn't be arsed.

The whole team just suddenly clicked and I have to pick out several players for showing what they can really do, but later.

#### **dreams**

I was impressed that the team went up to St. Andrews - at last a serious outlook to an important match - I'd gladly pay an extra £1 if the team went there before every match and got a similar result!.

#### **stuff the gers**

Strangely enough, I had a dream on Friday night, most of which is not printable, but I woke up with the realisation that we were going to 'stuff the Gers'. This realisation lasted all day and, therefore, the result came as no surprise.

The Ranger's fans who had bought tickets for the Dunfermline end, thus denying Par's fans the tickets (or were they really Par's fans?), had their little trotters well jumped on as their dreams of easy progress were shattered after 5 mins; destroyed after 43 mins and nuked after 49 mins. Once again at this match at East End a large group of Ger's fans were in the West terracing chanting away. This really makes a mockery of the segregation policy. Surely the Police and the Club must get organised and escort these fans round to their own end.

Back to the Cup match again!. It was a real solid performance from the whole team. The defence were majestic!. Holt, McCathie and Hagar making tackles that would put the wind up G. Roberts, legal, unlike 'Martian Man'. It may be didn't look very pretty, but it was certainly effective, perhaps we should try this in all our games!.

Graham Robertson showed Mark Walters what a Scottish full back can be like at their best, which Graham certainly was and Bobby Smith proved to Rangers that age is no barrier. If you have skill rather than brute force!

#### **clogs**

If the Queen was a Par's fan, Mark Smith and John Watson would both be knighted as both gave 100%. Mark Smith made Jan Bartram look as though he was playing in clogs and Watson got everything in the air - not least his own well taken goal.

Beedie, Jack and C. Robertson never gave up harring the Gers and both goals came as an indirect result of this, not to mention John Brown's assault on Mark.

#### **brilliant**

The rest is history now and we've all seen the video and read the papers (I bought 7 personally!).

Once again can we very humbly say 'THAT WAS BRILLIANT PARS!').

Match Commentator.

# THE MAGIC OF THE CUP



going

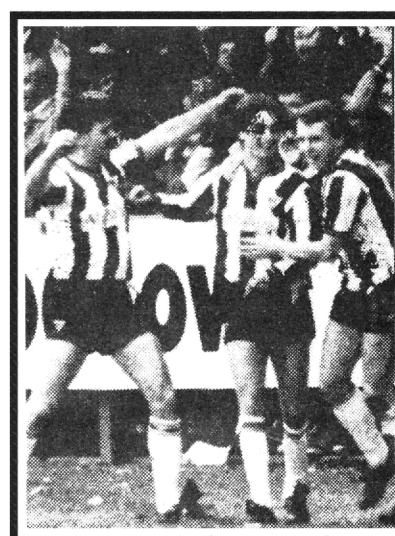


going



gone

Footnote - The Press coverage was very widespread the week after the match and those of you who read the 'Observer', will have noticed that they chose the Pars to launch a new series on Sport. The article was entitled 'The Paralytics Who Threw Away Their Crutches', and is written by an ex-Dunfermline man Ian Jack. It's worth reading - not least for Ian's admission that when we beat St. Mirren in the '61 Semi-Final at Tynecastle he was watching 'Ivan The Terrible' Pt.2 at the Cameo Cinema, 1 mile away!



## SENGAS PROBLEM PAGE

Dear Senga,  
Recently I was fired from my job after a punch up with an employee.

Now I have been given a job with Dundee Utd. Do you think that if I nuted Eamon Bannon I would be signed by Rangers.

Jimmy Bone

Dear Jimmy, Rangers will sign you whether you nut Bannon or not but I'm sure that Mark Smith would like you to nut him in any case.

Dear Senga,  
My name is Crawford Baptie, I play for Falkirk, I am very big and like to kick small things like Mark Smith. My mates at Falkirk say I'm brainless, can I get one on the NHS.

Anonymous

Dear Annon, I'm told by Dave Clark that a prerequisite to joining Falkirk is to have your brain taken out, can I suggest Motherwell, you only need half a brain to play there.

Dear Senga,  
At first I thought I was normal but then I found I liked tedious football and I think I may be a closet East Fife fan. Is there anyone I can share this with.

Worried Methil

Dear Worried, You will be on your own at Bayview I'm afraid as even the manager supports Cowden but can I suggest Falkirk which is really East Fife apart from a few other cast offs and you won't run the risks of having bits of the roof falling on your head as they don't have any.

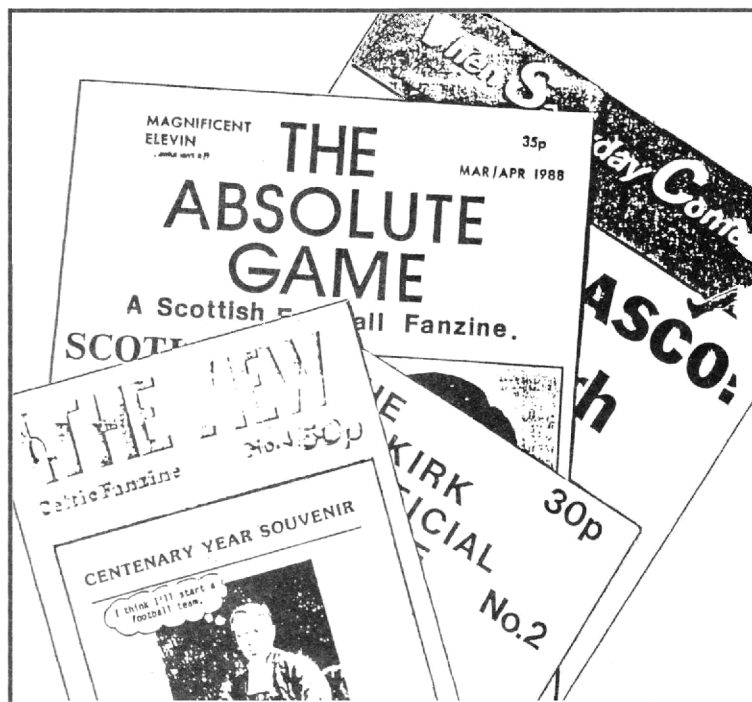
# FANZINES, BLOODY FANZINES

As Issue No.1 was so packed with goodies, I was unable to give a review of other Clubs' Fanzines. There are now literally hundreds of Fanzines all over Britain - still people buy the match programmes at over-inflated prices full of adverts for things like 'Sid's Septic Tank Cleaning Service'. What you have to ask yourself is - how much is the Club making? - 50p-70p being the norm, plus loads and loads of adverts.

Supporters no longer want to read what a player's favourite things are; invariably they run like this:-

- T.V. - Question of Sport, Dallas  
The Two Ronnies
- Book - Eh! - I haven't read one!
- Food - Steak, chips (in Graham  
Robert's case - BABIES!)
- Film - Rambo
- Record - Level 42, Dire Straights,  
Elton John

What Fanzines offer is a fresh, funny and critical assessment of a specific Club or just the game. Most of the ones listed can be bought from Football Crazy, Spittal St., Edinburgh. Buy a few 'cos most are around 30p-50p. Happy reading.



There is, also, a Dundee United, a Cowdenbeath?, numerous Hearts and a Gers Fanzine, but I don't have addresses for them. There are, also, numerous English Fanzines which I'll cover in Issue No.3.

In the meantime, buy some Fanzines or start your own!.

- The Absolute Game - One of the best around, features on Scottish football only and is well written, funny and gives in-depth features on 1st & 2nd division. Buy this one!  
P.O. Box 99  
26 Glen Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3
- Not The View - A Celtic Fanzine, almost professional print - but again funny and hard hitting. No.4 features 'The Pie Stall Of The Future', and a Pat Nevin interview.  
P.O. Box 306  
Glasgow  
G21
- A.W.O.L. (Meadowbank Th.) - Another good publication, well written articles - not solely on football and can be very funny - sells more copies than MTFC have supporters!.  
11a. Forth St  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3LE (50p+ 20p.p+p)
- The Northern Light - An Aberdeen Fanzine, which has an emblem of a sheep sporting a Don's scarf - enough said I think!.  
P.O. Box 269  
Aberdeen  
AB9 8EN
- The Web (Queens Park)  
120 Prospecthill Circus  
Glasgow  
G42 0LW

# WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR THE MONEY

Many supporters on a low income or unemployed, who regularly turn up for every game are just a mite pissed off at the 'so called' buying policy of the Club. The under-noted table is an approximate chart of the 'ins and outs' so far this season.

Ins: John Holt	£ 50,000
Billy Kirkwood	55,000
Graham Robertson	25,000
Mark Smith	35,000
Dave McKellar	11,000
Davie Irons	80,000
Stewart Beedie	50,000
Bobby Smith	Free
Gary Riddel	35,000
Velte Anderson	15,000
Ross Jack	20,000
	<hr/>
	£ 366,000

A rough estimate would have seen us paying out roughly £52,000 on players for a Club with Premier status - that is awful!. What has happened to the £100,000 plus from 'Aluglaze', Mel Rennie's cash, and the very, very lucrative cash from six ticket Old Firm games; four above 10,000 gates v Hibs, Hearts and 6,000 plus gates against other teams; not to mention the T.V. fees and advertising fees from our 6-8 televised home matches?

Sadly, it looks as though all that money has gone into the Bank or pockets of the Board - once again we're given excuses and third-rate players.

Hearts learned their lesson years ago, when they were in division 1, that buying 'experienced players' just does not work in the Premier League. In order to stay big you have to buy big, but not wholesale cast-offs from other Clubs. What we have is a team of experienced players approaching retirement and a few young players who are too quick and too imaginative for their team-mates.



Outs: Ian McCall	£225,000
Billy Kirkwood	50,000
Bobby Forest	6,000
Gary Thomson	6,000
Grant Jenkins	5,000
Dave Young	7,000
Rowan Hamilton	5,000
	<hr/>
	£314,000

The cash from the McCall transfer should have been invested in young players - not 'has-beens', who've only got a few years left - Rangers will struggle in two years time when their O.A.P.'s leave and unless the Board change policy, so will the Pars!.

Surely if players like Holt, Smith and Beedie were needed they should have been bought pre-Season not during the season and we should have kept Ian McCall. Imagine Mark Smith and Ian McCall in the same team!. This would have enabled young players to come on in their own time, and not kept in the reserves or pushed into the 1st team against the 'Gers, like Andy Williamson. No!, the policy is short sighted and cheats the supporters who pay hundreds of pounds a season to watch a bunch of 'has beens' try to compete with the big spending clubs.

I'm not suggesting that big money is the answer; look at Ibrox, but careful buying of the right players at the right time, i.e., pre-season is the answer!.

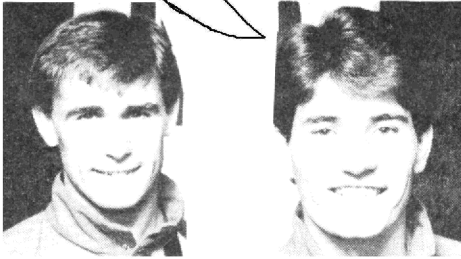
Even if we stay full-time next season.

# MONEY

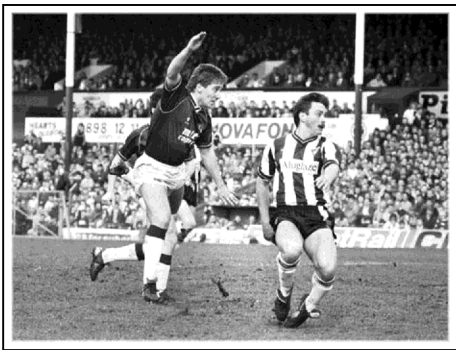
We're hardly likely to attract players to 1st Division football, so why not give the reserves and B.P. team a chance and what about Terry Christie (M.T.F.C.) as co-Manager to Leish?

Match Commentator.

*we're in the money*



# HEARTBREAKERS



When 7,000-8,000 Par's fans travel to Tynecastle for an important Cup match, the least they expect is a team who actually tries to play rather than give up even before a goal is scored!. That is exactly what happened. It was one of the worst performances I've seen this season and against a rather quiet Heart's team!.

Only two players came near to having a fair game - Stuart Beedie and John Holt; the rest were absolutely useless and at least two or three deserve to be dropped immediately!.

## **professional**

The whole team seemed just not to be concerned about the game!; there was no spirit, no competitiveness, no mid-field, no attack and an awful defence! If we'd been playing better opposition the score would have been in double figures - at least it wasn't the usual 0-4, which we seem to like!.



# Athletic 'Hans' it to Hearts

We're supposed to be a professional team, but that performance was not even amateur; it turned into a training match for Hearts long before half-time! Our fantastic total of two corners and one shot on goal says it all! Henry Smith didn't even get dirty and the Hearts defence never broke sweat!

Defensive blunders cost us two goals in the first half, when all the tactics (that's a joke!), went out the window as Segers and McCathie both went for the same ball, allowing Colquhoun in to score and then Segers fumbled an easy ball to let Wayne Foster in to score. After we went a goal down, we moved in to reverse gear and everyone knew that was it! - bye-bye Scottish Cup!.

## **abysmal**

The few occasions that we actually got near the Heart's goal, the players didn't know what to do with the ball, and either passed to Mark Smith, who was well covered, or lost the ball. The control and finishing of Jack, Watson was abysmal, and we could have played all day without even getting a shot on target. Only a Morrison free kick came near, but Smith held it easily!.

So much for tactics at times it was embarrassing watching another attack break-up in our own half and it must of been boring for Heart's fans as they simply had no opposition what-so-ever!.

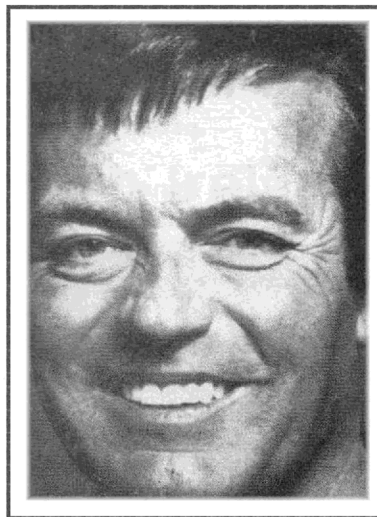
## **joke**

It must now be apparent to Leishman and Rennie that we simply have not got the right team players or Coach. The supporters are all too well aware of this and Ian Munro has done absolutely nothing; the players don't work together; they've no ideas at set-pieces; they freeze in possession and lose the ball, and there are too many being carried by the rest of the team. We haven't scored a League goal since Boxing Day and are fast becoming the joke of the Premier League; Morton could well overtake us in the last few games and on this form we won't score a goal before May 7th - let alone win a game!.



# "RADIO GA-GA"

## Prematch musical entertainment and the Scottish League - a very short history



pars new  
striker

Are you one of those people who actually hear the music played before a match?. Can you remember what you listened to last Saturday? Of course you don't have to be reminded of the Par's rendition of 'We're the Boys from East End Park', or Gregor Abel singing the praises of Dunfermline before his services were so ridiculously dispensed with!. Older fans could even be relied upon to give a quick version of the 'Bluebell Polka', and maybe the once-loved 'Stein Song', but I'm afraid that's just about it.

### barry manilow

Supporters of other Clubs generally have the same memory lapses. I am reliably informed that before a Petershill match, both sides of a Grateful Dead album were played to an expectant crowd, most of whom at a guess, will long since have forgotten this moving event. Meanwhile, long-suffering Glentoran supporters were obliged to listen for about three seasons (at least it seemed like three seasons) to a single Barry Manilow album (his greatest hits, I believe) before every home game. Finally, it seemed as though salvation had arrived. The Club Secretary announced over the loudspeaker system that a young supporter had made a special musical request. The excitement was almost unbearable, but you've guessed - the little bastard was a Barry Manilow fan and, as the Secretary heaved a sigh of relief, big nose treated us to his ruddy 'Bermuda Triangle' yet again!. But memories like those are all too rare!. The only solution is for club programmes to carry a list of the musical delights to which supporters are to be treated. If that happened, you would all be able to recall in the years to come what you'd been listening to shortly before the Pars put Rangers out of the Scottish Cup.

Unfortunately, in terms of providing a record of pre-match entertainment, only the gruesome two-some, Rangers and Hearts, have made genuine efforts in the Scottish League, thus, after an extensive survey, I am able to announce that before watching Hearts beat the Pars 6 - 2 at Tynecastle on 20th August, 1958, we were able to enjoy the City of Edinburgh Band playing the likes of Sousa's 'Stars and Stripes', and a selection of music from 'Oklahoma' (What a pity Leish wasn't playing - or was he?. He mightn't have prevented the defeat, but at least he could have sung along with the band!). The Jam Tarts employed the Edinburgh City Band as a tactical ploy for a number of seasons and the result was a series of poor Dunfermline performances at Tynecastle - courtesy of the enfeebling effects of a selection from the 'Inn of the Sixth Happiness', 'Jolson Memories', 'El Abanico', 'The Dambusters', and the 'Swing of the Kilt'. Thankfully, by the late 1960's, the Heart's Directors discovered gramophone records, slightly later than most, and the Pars victory at Tynecastle on 2nd January, 1968, by 2-1 was preceded by music supplied by Bandparts Music Stores, 9 Union Place, Edinburgh.

### compact disc

It's worth remembering, however, that Dunfermline's record (sorry) at Ibrox had, also, been pretty abysmal and Rangers had been without the support of the Edinburgh City Band. Indeed, as their programmes from 1964-5 bear witness, the bluenoses had already discovered the virtues of the somewhat-less-than compact disc. But would it have the same magical effect on opponents as the Edinburgh City Band?. The answer appears to have been 'yes', but one point must be understood. Rangers realised the value of playing BAD records before

## wayne fontana

games. For example, before beating us 3-0 in a League Cup Quarter Final, the perfidious Huns treated us to 'The Girl from Panama' by the Morgan-James Duo, Roger Miller's 'Dang Me' and 'Jenny's Gone', sung by the not very interesting Roger Whittaker. They thought they were on to a good thing and yet so magnificent were the Pars on April Fools' Day 1967 that they beat Rangers at Ibrox 1-0 despite the efforts of Ronnie Carroll singing 'The Minstrel Boy', Wayne Fontana ('Pamela, Pamela') and the 'Three Good Reasons' on the Mercury label with 'The Moment of Truth'. Curiously, Ronnie Carroll and 'The Minstrel Boy' were featured before our League match at Ibrox on 28th October, 1967. The subsequent goal-less draw was sufficient to ensure that demands for a recording of 'The Soldier's Song' were easily resisted. But the Gers still had surprises up their sleeves - Kaleidoscope and 'Jenny Artachoke' (19.10.68) - the Pars lost 3-0 - and Mems Mabley with 'Abraham, Martin and John' (or maybe the other way round?) (25.10.69) - the Pars going down 2-0 - and last but not means least Cuby + Blizzards performing 'Appleknaws Flophouse', (8.8.70) and the Pars defeated 4-1. Like the Edinburgh City Band before it, the choice of records at Ibrox had proved to be the Par's undoing. Unfortunately, there is no record (there I go again!) of what the Clubs we beat more regularly away from home played before games.



a young alan bairner  
at an osmonds gig  
circa '74

## firhill top ten

A special mention should be made, however, of Partick Thistle's noble efforts in 1982-3 to compile a Thistle Top Ten. The Firhill faithful aesthetic senses were considerably more elevated than those of the Gers. As-a-result, when the Pars visited on 4.9.82, the Thistle hit parade included 'Come on Eileen', (Dexy's Midnight Runners), 'Strange Little Girl' (The Stranglers), and 'Stool Pigeon' (Kid Creole and the Coconuts). But that I'm afraid is the story so far.

I'd be grateful for more information from readers, but in the meantime, I'm off to listen to 'I Write The Songs'.

Ta Ta.

Alan Bairner.

## Heartbreakers cont'd

### GOLD CARDS

There seems to be no discipline at East End; 'players and management all good drinking buddies down Lorenzo's with their gold cards!'. The fans have had enough and will soon start voting with their feet. We've waited all year to see a new striker at East End and as usual it hasn't happened.

We've tried all the combinations up front and at the back and still players are kept in the wrong position!. It's well time for a big 'clear-out' at East End and wholesale changes in the team - with nine games left it's unlikely that we will stay up and it's time to bring in some of the young players

like Sharp, Findlay and Strang, who would, at least, give 100%.

That performance has sickened myself and other Par's fans and we just will not take it any more!. Let's see some of the money taken in gate and T.V. receipts put into players, not the bank!. Drop the whole team and put the B.P. Youth Team out, at least they can score goals! - and have pride in the black and white jersey.

Leishman! - 'it's time to get the finger out and the foot down!.

Sam Slade.

# WILLIE CUNNINGHAM

## Pars and Northern Ireland pt 2



W. Cunningham with Alex Edwards and Jackie Sinclair

Last issue we left Willie as he waited for the Liverpool Ferry to join the Irish Squad in Belfast for the key match with Scotland. Recently he'd been transferred from St. Mirren to Leicester and was finding the change hard to adjust to. Would this affect his game against Scotland? Alan Bairner takes up the story with the teams in Belfast to start with.

### NORTHERN IRELAND:

1. Uprichard (Portsmouth)
2. Graham (Doncaster R)
3. Cunningham (Leicester C)
4. Blanchflower D. (Tottenham H)
5. McCavana (Coleraine)
6. Peacock (Celtic)
7. Bingham (Sunderland)
8. Blanchflower J. (Man U.)
9. Coyle (Coleraine)
10. McIlroy (Burnley)
11. McParland (Aston Villa)

### SCOTLAND:

1. Younger (Hibernian)
2. Parker (Falkirk)
3. McDonald (Sunderland)
4. Evans (Celtic)
5. Young (Rangers)
6. Glen (Aberdeen)
7. Smith (Hibs)
8. Collins (Celtic)
9. Reilly (Hibs)
10. Johnstone (Man.City)
11. Liddell (Liverpool)

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

The Irish scorers were Bingham and Jackie Blanchflower. Lawrie Reilly scored for Scotland. Observers claimed that the home team's victory was the result of magnificent defence and henceforth Cunningham was to be regarded as a regular fixture in the Northern Ireland squad.

His next victory came on 1st May, 1957, when Portugal were beaten 3-0 in Belfast in a World Cup qualifying match (goals coming from Simpson, Jimmy McIllroy and Toni Casey). Cunningham also played in Northern Ireland's other 3 qualifying games - 1-0 defeat at the hands of Italy in Rome.



Italy v N.Ireland, Stadio Olimpico, Rome  
25 April 1957

# cunningham cont'd

A 1-1 draw with Portugal in Lisbon (Bingham the Irish scorer), and finally a 2-1 victory over Italy in Belfast (McIllroy and Wilbur Cush), which sent the home team into the 1958 World Cup Finals in Sweden along with all the other home nations, plus Brazil and the talent of the precocious seventeen-year old Pele.

## WORLD CUP SWEDEN - 1958



The Northern Ireland Squad Board the Plane for Sweden 1958.

The World Cup Finals must represent the pinnacle of Cunningham's career in international football. Because of the unavailability of Jackie Blanchflower, injured in Manchester United's Munich air disaster, he was selected to play at centre-half, having won his previous 16 caps at full-back.

### RD. 1.1 - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The opening game was v. Czechoslovakia in Halmstad. Northern Ireland won 1-0 (Cush) and Malcolm Brodie, Scots born football correspondent of the BELFAST TELEGRAPH reported that 'Willie Cunningham, the Leicester City full-back, who was making his debut at centre half, came out of the ordeal creditably once he 'found his feet'. One can easily understand how the absence of the aforementioned might have caused difficulties!. The man of the match was Celtic's Bertie Peacock and the Irish Captain, Danny Blanchflower described the game as one 'When the artisan beat the artist'.

### RD. 1.2 - ARGENTINA

The next game, again in Halmstad, was versus Argentina. Cunningham was chosen once more at centre half and although the Irish lost 3-1, the match report observed that 'Willie Cunningham the Leicester City full-back and stop-gap pivot, again did not let the side down and looks the answer to the No.5 problem until Jackie Blanchflower is once again available'.

### RD. 1.3 - WEST GERMANY

Northern Ireland went into the final sectional game against West Germany in Malmo needing a victory to ensure qualification to the next stage of the tournament. Cunningham had a bruised thigh but passed a fitness test and played. The game was drawn 2-2 and according to Brodie 'Willie Cunningham who lacked mobility at the start and was frequently beaten by the fast-moving German centre-forward Seeter, settled down to command the middle'. The draw meant that Northern Ireland went into a play-off with Czechoslovakia, with the Argentinians, who had poured scorn on Irish chances, going out.



RD. 1 - TABLE

	Pld	W	D	L	Pts
W. Germany	3	1	2	0	4
N. Ireland	3	1	1	1	3
Czechoslovakia	3	1	1	1	3
Argentina	3	1	0	2	2

### PLAY-OFF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The 2nd confrontation with the Czechs took place in Malmo and once more Northern Ireland came out on top, this time by 2 goals to 1. Again Cunningham was injured (a bruised foot), but recovered to play in the quarter final with France, one of the competition favourites. He was given the task of marking Raymond Kopa, the Real Madrid winger whom a contemporary observer described as being 'worth every penny of his £75,000 transfer fee!'. Changed days indeed when one considers that his status as a player could be compared to-day with the likes of Butragneno or Gullit.

# cunningham cont'd

## QTR FINAL FRANCE

Cunningham played well. Kopa disappointed. But France triumphed 4-0 against opponents tired by the exertions of an additional game. So on the 19th June, Northern Ireland became the last of the home countries to depart from the 1958 World Cup Finals. Nothing but praise had been heaped on Willie Cunningham throughout the competition. Compare that with the criticism aired at Danny Blanchflower, at the time Footballer Of The Year in England.



Juste Fontaine scorer of 2 goals in the Quarter Final match in Norrkoping. Northern Ireland 0-4 France.

## HOME INTERNATIONALS 1958/59

Unfortunately, Cunningham's international career never really scaled such heights again. He played in only one more victorious Northern Irish team (beating Wales 4-1 in Belfast on 22nd April, 1959), although he, also, played in drawn games with both England (at Windsor Park) and Scotland (at Hampden). 58,000 watched the 3-3 draw with England with a major pre-match question mark hanging over the ability of Cunningham to subdue Bobby Charlton.

The England team also included Don Howe, Tom Finney and Jonny Haynes of Fulham, last seen supporting Hearts at East End earlier this season.

Charlton scored 2, but Cunningham's performance was described as 'magnificent'. The match took place on 4th October, 1958 and the following month Willie was picked to play at Hampden.

Scotland's team was:

Brown (Dundee); Grant (Hibs); Caldwell (Rangers); Mackay (Hearts); Toner (Kilmarnock), and Tommy Docherty (then of Arsenal); Leggat (Fulham); Collins (Everton); Herd (Arsenal); a young Dennis Law (of Huddersfield), and Henderson (Arsenal).

## SCOTLAND V N. IRELAND



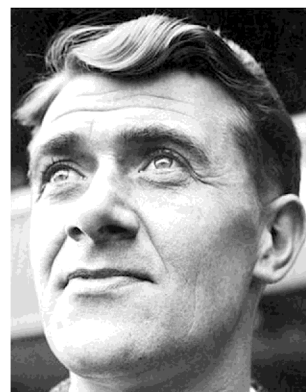
Scotland v Northern Ireland, Hampden Park 05 Nov 1958, (2-2)

Curiously Dennis Law was given the job of MARKING Danny Blanchflower who spoke later of the bruising encounter that had ensued. Cunningham, who had recently had a transfer request rejected by Leicester, played in a team comprising:

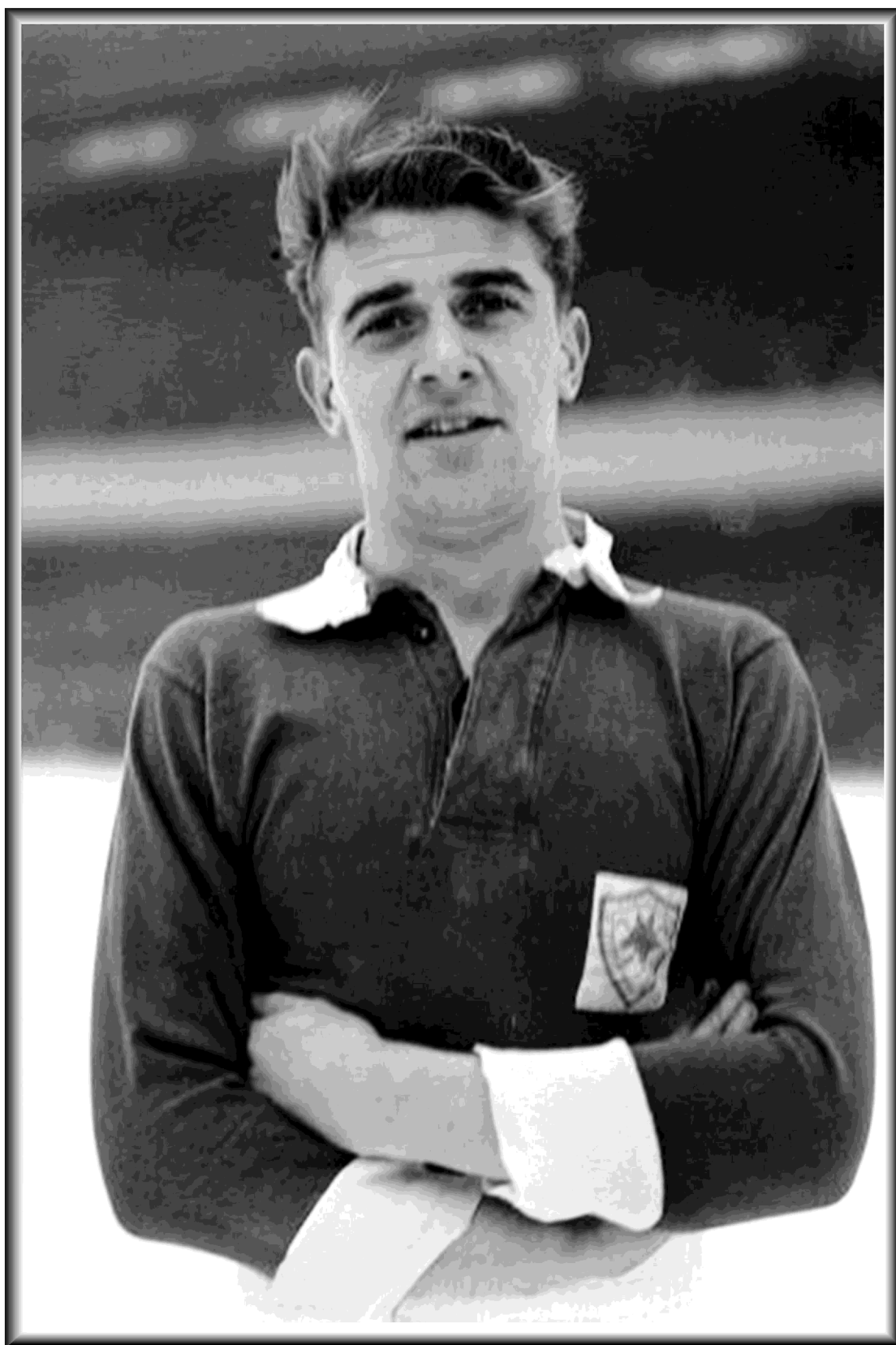
Uprichard (Portsmouth)  
Keith (Newcastle United)  
McMichael (Newcastle United)  
D. Blanchflower (Spurs)  
Cunningham (Leicester)  
Peacock (Celtic)  
Bingham (now of Luton)  
Cush (Leeds Utd)  
Simpson (Rangers)  
McIlroy (Burnley)  
McParland (Aston Villa)

Despite the 2-2 draw, Willie was described as 'lacking in mobility', although it was acknowledged that he remained the best centre half available. Perhaps his disillusionment with England had led to a deterioration in form.

He had never been really happy with the move to Leicester and, having left the club during season 59-60, he was out of football completely for a few months. The rest is part of Dunfermline's Athletic history.



**WILLIE CUNNINGHAM**



**LEICESTER CITY**  
1954 - 60

# BENT OUT OF SHAPE

The Pars have enjoyed the services of many outstanding goalkeepers in the past 30 years, but my personal favourite remains Bent Martin, if only because any reference to the Danish Internationalist evokes memories of a more innocent age when nobody gave a thought to the implications of his christian name

## **jock stein**

Bent begun his football career in Aarhus (pop. 25,000), a city situated on the east coast of Jutland and proud possessor of the mummified body of Grauballe Man, 1,600 years old and currently interesting Rangers supremo Graeme Souness. In 1965, his local team, AGF played Celtic in the Cup Winners' Cup, losing 3-0 on aggregate. Bent did enough in these games to impress Jock Stein who took him to Parkhead as cover for the maturing Ronnie Simpson. Such was the latter's consistency, however, that Martin was given few first-team opportunities. He played regularly for Celtic Reserves, but with diminishing enthusiasm for the game. After one impressive performance against the wee Pars, however, he was invited to move to East End Park. As Bent put it at the time, 'jeg vil gerne have en billet til Dunfermline' (rough translation: 'I can't play with these TIMS any longer'). Initially, towards the end of 1966, having been signed by the Pars for £3,500, Bent again found himself as an understudy - this time to Eric Martin. But an injury to Eric gave Bent the chance to make his first team debut at Brockville on 31st Dec., 1966, a match which the Pars lost 1-0. He showed good form in subsequent weeks thereby allowing Dunfermline to transfer Eric to Southampton for £25,000. Bent had become Dunfermline's regular keeper.

His career at East End was not without its ups and downs. (No he wasn't called Bent because he spent so much time bending to pick the ball out of the net!).

## **cup final**

Along with Heart's two Scandanavians, Moller and Jensen, he played in the 1968 Cup Final of glorious memory. He, also, performed superbly in an away European tie against Gwardia of Warsaw (which the



**bent tries to nut farm after the cup win in '68**

Pars won 1-0 (3-1 on aggregate). However, George Farm despite a career between the sticks, could distinguish the difference between good and bad goalies with the same level of accuracy as he differentiated his 'arse and his elbow', became increasingly unhappy with our hero. So Bent was replaced with Willie Duff then in the twilight stage of his career. Although not quite Duff by name, etc, etc. Willie's regular selection clearly angered the Dane who began to ask for a transfer as frequently as Ian Durrant. He asked plaintively, 'hvov er der en fodboldkaup I weekenden'. (trans: 'Why can't I get a game instead of a silly old fart like Willie Duff?'). But Farm's response was characteristically blunt - 'undskyld, men jeg taler ikke ret meget dansk'. (trans: 'F\*\*\* Off, Blondie!'). Martin Mooched around Dunfermline until finally being replaced by John Arrol, signed from Dundee on 15th December, 1969 for £3,000. He then spent two years with Rapid Vienna and finally returned to AGF and a career in banking (I said BANKING!).

## **confidence**

When Celtic played AGF again in the 1983-4 UEFA Cup, Bent was featured in the Celtic programme with the article being reproduced in the Aarhus programme to the second leg. He refers to his difficulties at Celtic Park (1) - he got friendly with Ranger's Danish full-back Kai Johansen. (2) - he bought a blue car. Of his move to East End, he said 'then I finally made it'. 'Once again I got the confidence from playing in the 1st Division. Bent Martin is 44. George Farm is not a banker.

Alan Bairner



## HALL OF SHAME No2

Since we have received no entries from readers for this Issue 'Hall of Shame', we asked Roving Reporter Nearside Linesman to ghost write an article. For those of you who didn't buy a copy of No.1, this is a series on Players (Managers/Coaches/etc), who have, not to put a fine point on it disgraced the Club. Any reference to people living or dead is purely intentional, 'we mean it man!'.

## TAM FORSYTH

The period between Sept. 1982 and October 1983 was not a very happy one for Par's Fans, little financial backing, a dwindling support and a succession of short-lived Managers did little to encourage results on the field. The departure of Pat Stanton on 22nd September left us once again without a Manager. Stanton's managerial career at Easter Road was not exactly successful hence his departure shortly afterwards to the Footballer Retirement Career (owning a pub).

### **shuddered**

The usual names were cast around, but it came as a surprise when Tam Forsyth was appointed Manager, at the age of 33. He had recently retired from the game with a broken nose ring!. Once again the Board had opted for someone with no experience and little talent other than as a hard man. Many fans shuddered at the thought of a whole team of Tam Forsyths let loose at East End Park.

### **gubbed**

Cammy Murray (Motherwell) - 'they should have known!', was brought in as Assistant Manager and Jim Leishman was appointed to Reserve Coach. The Par's start to the season had included a 13-1 aggregate defeat by Celtic, Morrison countering for the Pars.

The league form wasn't much better and, Forsyth's first game saw us well gubbed by St. Johnstone at East End.

### **bottom**

It was no surprise that by November we were bottom of the league, with 10 points from 16 games. A home match with relegated Partick Thistle promised a revival which lasted about 10 mins., until Mo Johnston scored. Partick Thistle won easily by 0-4. The week after on a Wednesday night Dumbarton came to East End and proceeded to take a 2 goallead, only to have TWO players

sent off. With half-an-hour to go Par's fans realised that a draw was possible and a win not unrealistic. However, they forgot about the experience of Forsyth and Murray (i.e., 'none') and they left for the pub as the Dumbarton players formed a human pyramid to celebrate their 3rd goal in a 3-0 win. Another ex-Hibs duffer Rochier was signed for £6,000 and Joe Smith ex-Motherwell (I ask you ex-Motherwell!), made up the cosy team of Forsyth, Murray and Smith.

John Yellowley, Chairman, left the sinking ship at New Year, to be replaced by Jimmy Watters and Mel Rennie as Vice-Chairman.

The New Year's Day fixture took us to Raith and although the team played well we had the Clown Prince of Fife in goals, the Pars Fans wishing they'd not been able to get up that day. A 6-0 defeat from Raith IS sacking material in its own right!.

### **f k off**

Forsyth favoured the Rangers way, but with Dunfermline's money, which meant a load of ageing 'has beens' and young failures with a few exceptions such as Forest, Bowie, Dr. Bob, Norrie, etc. His lack of experience and naivety was not helped by his aggressive and ignorant attitude to players, fans and reality. An acquaintance of mine met Mr. Forsyth in a pub (surprise!) in Hamilton and questioned Forsyth's continued selection of Jim Moffat; the reply was remarkable - 'F\*\*\* off, I don't give a toss!'.



# FORSYTH cont'd

## defeat

A 5-0 defeat of Elgin City in the Cup saw us face Celtic at Parkhead where we held out for an hour before the 'Bhoys' scored their usual clodgy opener and won by 3-0 eventually. The league was no better, defeats by almost everyone left us on the bottom. A victory over Dumbarton made us second bottom and three victories would have kept us in Div.1. however, we drew them all including a 2-2 draw with Raith; the Pars scoring all the goals.

A 3-3 draw at Tynecastle was supberb, but when two draws against Clyde and Falkirk left us with the task of beating Div.1 champions St. Johnstone at Muirton in the last game of the season We lost 1-0!.

## resign

Season 83-84 opened with a 1-0 win over Cowden, the prospect of that elusive League Cup seemed daunting as we drew Dundee United Away. It was a 6-1 defeat saw the second leg become a training match for Ut'd. A 1-1 draw v East Fife, and the usual 'not Stratheden'!. The team fared little better and after constant pressure from the fans 'Forsyth Must Go', etc, and to save face, Big Tam and Murray opted to resign rather than be fired.

Despite spending almost £40,000 on players (afortune for the Pars then!). Forsyth did nothing for us and probably did a lot of damage to talented young players by his ruthless attitude to management.

## worst

The fact that he refused to move to Fife and travelled 80 miles every day, didn't help either. Obviously there weren't enough ex-Ranger's players at East End for him, but a home-from-home was found at Motherwell where his vast experience in breaking limbs was put to good use.

Quite possibly one of the worst Managers we have ever had; that is, unless you know differently!.

Nearside Linesman.

## Heard in LOURENZOS

## Our Regular Gossip Column

MARK SMITH: We hear that Norwich are keen to sign our golden boy. Don't do it Mark do you really want to play with Robert Fleck.

PAUL FLEXNEY: Rumoured to be the next target for Leish, a good player but shares the same blonde from a bottle look that Graham and Stevie possess which means he will always be on the bench.

GOODBYE EAST END: We hear from very reliable sources that a firm have offered a 20,000 all seated stadium at Pitreavie in return for giving East End up for development. This deal is being done in secret and has a fair chance of going ahead. Charlton fans have found to their dismay that the club did the same and moved away from the Valley Parade ground, without asking the fans. We feel that East End is fine and that any developments should be made to that ground. All seated grounds are boring remember Aberdeen and where the hell can you get a drink in Pitreavie. Letters of protest to us and Mel Rennie.

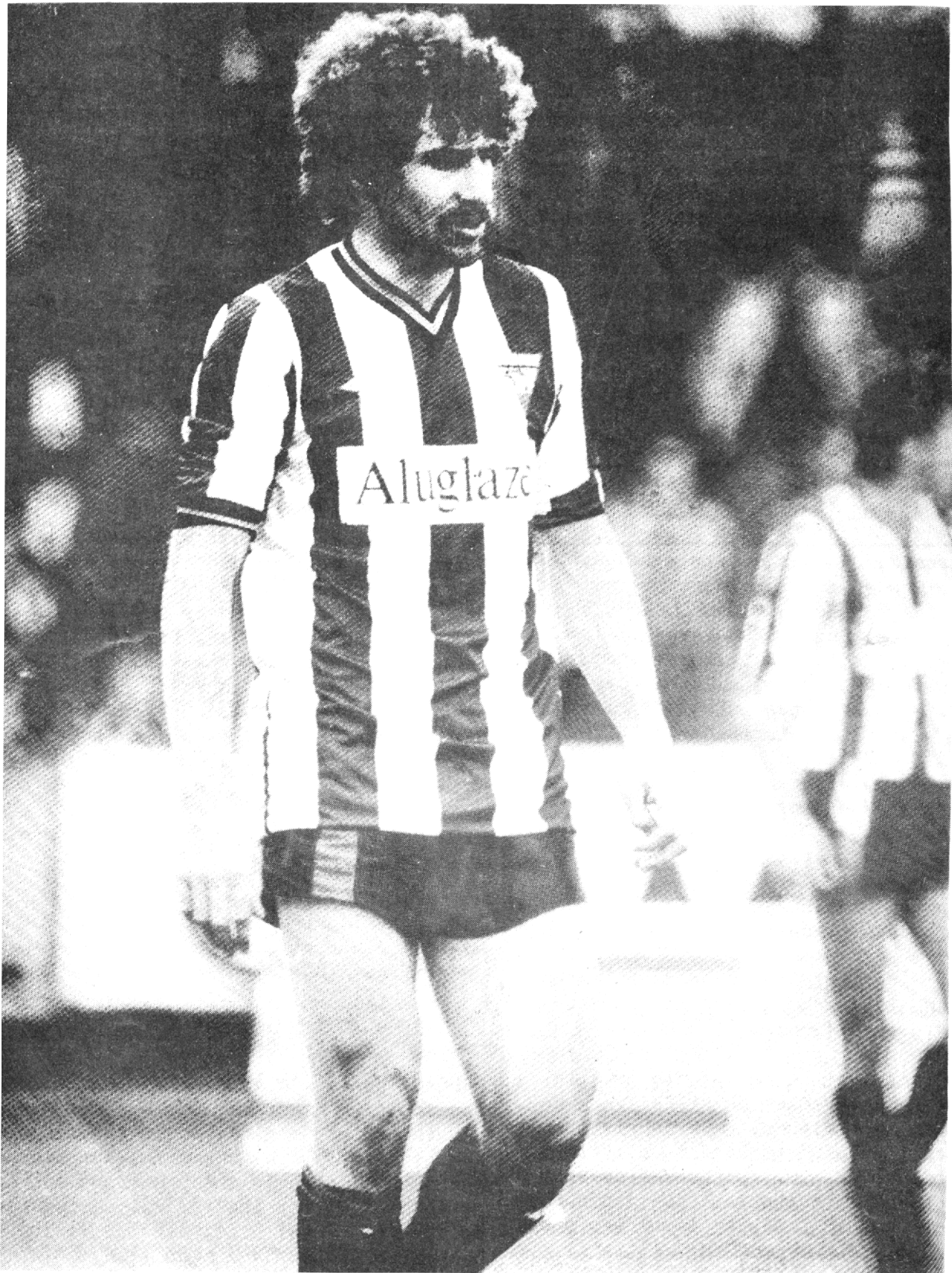
CHAT UP LINES: A certain Pars player has been heard uttering the immortal line "Do you know wholam, I am professional footballer with Dunfermline Ath". Recognise that girls.

IAN MUNRO : Ian's golf handicap is now six, well done, such a pity about the Scottish Cup.

BORDEAUX: No review in No.1 and why not, simply because it was the most boring game I've ever seen, the French couldn't be bothered and might have given us a real hammering. The score could have been printed in the programme and £3 to get in plus £1 for the programme, some reward for the fans loyalty. Get stuffed is the word, that match should have been free to fans.

by Senga

# DAVIE MOYES



**CULT HERO OF EAST END PARK**

**pic Enzo Minchella**