



issue 7

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EASTENDERS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
THE LEISHMAN FILE
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PLUS ALL THE USUAL RUBBISH

STUFF YOU DUFFY!



SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE WITH FANTASTIC FREE GIFT

A DUNFERMLINE ATH FANZINE

50p

Editorial

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US AND ALL THAT NONSENSE, WELL WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT WE COULD SURVIVE A YEAR IN PRINT-BUT EXACTLY A YEAR TODAY ISSUE ONE HIT THE FAN AND WITH THE FOOTER SEASON LASTING TEN MONTHS SINCE THE 'ZINE STARTED THAT MAKES IT AN AVERAGE OF 1.4 ISSUES A MONTH. THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US IN THE PAST AND TO THE CONTRIBUTORS WHO HAVE FAITHFULLY HELPED EVERY ISSUE. TO MARK THE OCCASION YOU SHOULD BE GIVEN A FREE BADGE WITH THIS ISSUE, WEAR IT WITH PRIDE, AFTER ALL WE ARE THE PARS. THERE IS ONE BADGE PER ISSUE AND NO MORE SO PLEASE DON'T ASK FOR ANY EXTRA. TALKING OF PRIDE, AT PITTRODIE, LEISH MADE A GESTURE WHICH FOR ME SUMMED UP THE FANS AND THE CLUB AFTER THE GAME, WITH THE PARS 6,000 STILL SINGING HE POINTED TO HIS BLAZER BADGE (THE CLUB BADGE) AS THOUGH THAT WERE THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERED. SUPPORTING THE PARS IS ALL ABOUT PRIDE, PRIDE IN THE TEAM, IN THE FANS AND THE GROUND, WHEN YOU PUT ON THE BLACK AND WHITE, BE PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND WILL ACHIEVE IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. THE WHOLE POINT OF THIS FANZINE IS NOT TO KNOCK THE CLUB OR THE PLAYERS, BUT TO ENABLE THE FANS TO WRITE ABOUT THE TEAM THEY LOVE, AND IF THAT HAPPENS TO BE A CRITICISM THEN SO BE IT, CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM IS BENEFICIAL TO EVERYONE. BOO-BOYS WE MOST CERTAINLY ARE NOT, I WOULD NOT SPEND THREE WEEKS ON AN ISSUE, WHEN I COULD JUST SHOUT ON THE TERRACING, THE BOO BOYS ARE THE ONES WHO GIVE A STANDING OVATION WHEN WE ARE BEATEN 3-1, AND BOO WHEN WE ARE UP 3-1. HOPEFULLY IN ISSUE 8, THE ENTIRE ISH WILL BE DONE ON COMPUTER FEWER TYPING ERRORS BUT JUST AS MANY SPELLING MISTAKES. AT THE TIME OF WRITING WE SIT TOP OF THE LEAGUE AGAIN, I THINK WE HAVE THE PLAYERS, THE MANAGER AND THE FANS TO GO UP AND TO STAY UP, SO EVERY SATURDAY FROM NOW ON GO OUT THERE AND CHEER ON THE LADS, WE ARE THE PARS.

SANDY

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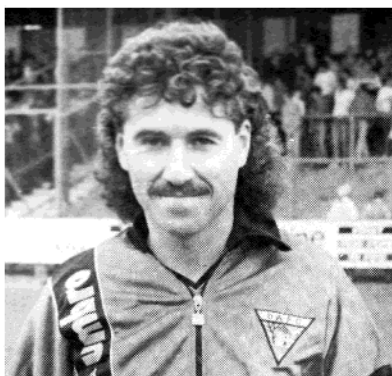
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GREAT FOOTBALL HAIRCUTS OF OUR TIME

NUMBER ONE: BOBBY SMITH OF THE PARS



	SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1											
	Home			Goals			Away			Goals		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dunfermline	24	10	1	1	29	13	4	4	4	15	14	33
Falkirk	24	7	2	3	17	8	7	2	3	25	16	32
Airdrie	24	7	4	1	24	10	6	4	2	22	11	34
St Johnstone	24	9	2	1	22	8	2	5	5	14	15	30
Clydebank	23	6	5	0	26	17	3	4	5	18	15	27
Morton	23	6	2	4	11	12	5	2	4	20	19	26
Forfar	24	5	5	2	16	13	3	4	5	17	17	25
Clyde	23	3	3	5	13	19	2	7	3	14	14	20
Ayr	23	5	4	3	25	23	2	2	7	10	22	20
Raith	24	4	4	4	15	17	3	2	7	11	19	20
Kilmarnock	24	4	2	6	13	19	3	4	5	13	22	20
Meadowbank	24	4	3	5	13	16	2	4	6	8	14	19
Partick	24	1	5	6	11	20	5	0	7	20	22	17
Queen Sth	24	1	4	7	13	26	1	2	9	14	20	10

SUNDAY MIRROR
(SPOT THE MISTAKE?)

ISSUE No. 8, DUE OUT AROUND END OF MARCH, SO GET WRITING, SPECIAL ISH IN MAY TO CELEBRATE PROMOTION....

STOP PRESS..... STOP PRESS..... STOP PRESS

AS THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME WE WILL BE PLAYING THE BABIES FOR A VERY LONG TIME, WE HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO MARK THE OCCASION, NOT WITH A RED CARPET BUT WITH A RED CARD. INSIDE THIS COPY YOU WILL FIND A RED CARD, USE IT TO HELP THE REFEREE IN HIS DECISIONS TO SEND OFF A FALKIRK PLAYER THERE'S BOUND TO BE AT LEAST ONE.....

THE UNOFFICIAL FALKIRK PROGRAMME

TODAYS VISITORS: DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC F.C.

Today we welcome Champions elect, Dunfermline Athletic to Brockville, in the forlone hope that we can salvage some pride, and settle for a low score defeat. The "Pars", showed us at New Year what a real football team is, and the 3-0 scoreline would have been even more, if I had not pleaded with "Big Jim" to go easy on my boys. Jim's reply is not printable in a family magazine such as this but suffice to say the answer was no.

In recent weeks we have not enjoyed the best of fortunes defeats by Partick and St. Johnstone have left us adrift of the leaders All is not gloom though, as we forced a creditable draw at home to the British Shipbuilders Reserves in the Preliminary round of the Guide Dogs Trophy, on completion of their evening shift last Wednesday. The scoreline of 0-0, shows just how difficult an encounter this proved to be.

In the past weeks, I have tried to bring several household names to the Club, including McDonald, Francis, Robson, Shaw and Gayle but unfortunately Aimee, Connie, Dame Flora, Sandie, and Crystal have all declined as they think we already have enough tits in the team. Crawford Baptie and Burgess are also not available for today's game, they are both running in the 2.30 at Newmarket and could not run back here in time.

Tickets for next season are now available from the office, now situated in the third cubicle in the gents toilet under the stand, if you happen to meet any referee's there, watch out for the Sun reporter hiding in the corner.

The rumour that we are about to turn the pitch into Council allotments is entirely unfounded. We can see little point in this whatsoever, as we already have an abundance of spuds and cabbages on the pitch.

Finally can I just welcome Dunfermline's tremendous away support and apologise once again for only having one turnstile open at the away end, but we are short of operators as Crawford is running at the races, let's look forward to next season and to maintaining our rightful place in the First Division.

JIM DUFFY

FALKIRK FOOTBALL CLUB

Home for the Mentally Disturbed, Brockville Park

HONOURS

Scottish Cup Winners 1450, 1887
First Division Winners 1979, 1986 ^{well nearly!}
Sunday Post Crime 1971, 72, 73, 74
Count Champions 75, 76, 77, 78, 79
80, 81, 82, 83, 84
85, 86, 87, 88,
Larbet Sheild Winners 1901
Runners up 1902

WHO'S WHO

Manager Jim "Humpty" Duffy
Coach Gerry A. Trick
Chief Scout Baden Powell
Treasurer Ronald Briggs
Directors R. Soales, Isacc Hunt
Dave Clark, Edwina Currie
B. Sarcastic.
Trustees Oxfam and Everglades Old
Folks Home
Sponsors The S.A.S.

.....
FANTASTIC END OF SEASON SALE - NEVER TO BE REPEATED (UNTILL NEXT YEAR ANYWAY)

CHOOSE YOUR OWN FALKIRK PLAYER OR BUY A SET FOR UNDER A TENNER, THEY'LL ALL BE FREED ANYWAY.

A TALE OF TWO MATCHES(OR WHY JIM BETT IS A DIRTY BASTARD)



CHARLIE "GIE'S A CHIP" NICHOLAS



DAVIE "ELEPHANT MAN" DODDS

WHERE THESE TWO CLOWNS CERTAINLY BELONG

An almost balanced view of the cup ties with Aberdeen (well ok not really)

The first game against Aberdeen at East End, proved one thing if nothing else on present form Dunfermline have no fears in the Premier League next season. They matched and even bettered Aberdeen in all departments, well not quite but Westie did have another good game. Perhaps for the first 15 minutes they gave the Don's too much respect, but once we saw that they were there for the beating we took the game to them and very nearly won, although it wouldn't have been a major surprise to the lads and the lassies on the terracing. The defence was superb Dodds, Nicholas and the rest of that mob didn't get a look in and when they did there was Westie or the terracing roof to thwart Dodds and Nicholas. At times it was embarrassing as the Pars dominated the midfield against half the national team (win in Cyprus ha ha ha).

The first chance from Jacko that Theo somehow managed to tip off the post, had everyone behind the goal, including, Dave and Mike, our guests for the day from Wise Men Say (Sunderland Fanzine), up in the air to celebrate a goal. Alas it was not to be, although rather than a good save, I reckon that he was lucky, nine times out of ten that ball would have gone off the post into the net. Jacko's second chance was even more unbelievable, how that ball stayed out I'll never know, get some square posts Leish, then maybe we'll score a few more goals. After that Aberdeen, as Jock "Patronise moi?" Brown, said took no chances and started passing back to Theo at every opportunity. A goal-less draw was always on the cards. The best laugh of the day was definitely the bookings for Dodds for persistent fouling (elbows every time) and McLeish for surprise surprise talking back to the referee. In the first game at any road Syme had a very good game, letting play flow, stopping the game when required and even giving the Pars a few decisions, after that I suppose it was only reasonable to expect the reverse in the replay. And indeed it was.

THE REPLAY

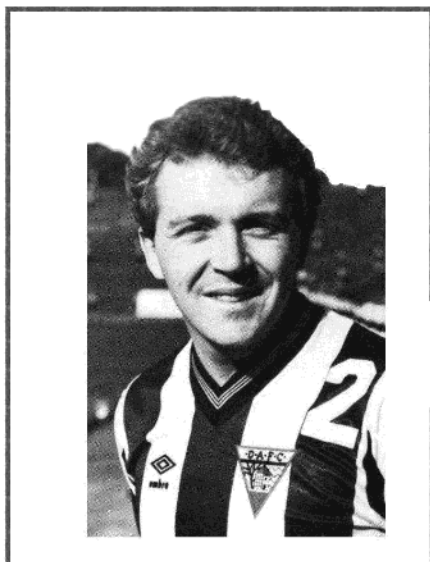
Only the Old Firm could have surpassed the travelling support to Pittrodie (which incidentally in old Scots means Dunghill) and it certainly took the Aberdeen officials by surprise as the game was held up for over 10 minutes and even then there were still Pars fans coming in 20 minutes after kick-off. One question though, why did the police and the stewards allow Aberdeen fans and more in particular Aberdeen casuals into our end, surely the laws on segregation state that when one section is full you cannot let any more in, especially those of the opposing team.

Before we had time to settle we found ourselves a goal down, a bad start but even though Aberdeen huffed and puffed they did little else that half. The Pars were outplayed in midfield but held their own in defence and gave Aberdeen a few problems in attack. Any hopes of a comeback were dashed when Theo came to the rescue, once again and shortly after that from a corner which had looked suspiciously offside, Wright got his second. Nicholas who had been getting stick all night proved how sporting he is by gesturing to the Pars fans after scoring. As usual Leishman had the subs out warming up for the whole game but only brought them on after we were two goals down, this was a bad error especially as the Smiths looked good enough to turn the game but by then it was too late. Poor Jacko still couldn't score past Theo but Trev did and we got some consolation

What followed was an absolute disgrace, Jim Bett with 3 mins to go steamed over to the touchline where Grant Tierney was laying off the ball to Markie, and with studs up a la Simpson came very close to ending Gary's very promising career. Syme booked him far too quickly, he should have assessed the damage and then sent Bett off, there was no need for that as Aberdeen were winning 3-1. Any self-respecting Don's fan watching that on the telly must agree it was a terrible tackle, Bett should be barred but he'll be playing on and on

GOING....

GOING....



GONE

FOR PEANUTS....

In issue five of WDHR, we mentioned that perhaps it was time for some national recognition for Craig Robertson. Unfortunately if this is to be so, it will not be with him as a Pars player. Little did we know that Alex Smith and Jocky Scott would be reading the same article. Rather than just have the viewpoint of a Dunfermline fan on Robbo's transfer to Aberdeen, what we have for you is both a Pars fan's view and a Raith Rovers fan's view. We are indebted to Gary from the WILD ROVER, the Raith fanzine for his permission to re-print the article published in issue 3 of his fanzine. Apologies to those of you who have already bought a copy and those of you who haven't, why not it's a very good read. Anyway Gary's article is first up.....

Watching Raith floundering around in the Second Division under the inspired leadership of Bobby Wilson, which player in Rovers colours might you have identified as a candidate for a £200,000 move several years hence, to a club in the upper half of the Premier League. Keith Wright?, well it's only a matter of time before he's the subject of a considerably greater deal. Paul Smith?, maybe even Paul Sweeney?. Any of these might have been plausible suggestions three or four years ago. But I ask you, Craig Robertson?

It would be unfair to give the impression that Robertson was a rank bad player during his time at Stark's Park, and certainly his choice of employer on leaving Kirkcaldy did little to boost the affection with which he is remembered. Nonetheless it seems inconceivable that someone, who in the main looked little more than an average lower division player and who was obviously limited in skill, pace, and not least his commitment to the club in the latter stages of his Raith career, should appreciate eight-fold within eighteen months. My initial thoughts on hearing of his move to Pittodrie and the fee involved, were "what a bloody awful signing for Aberdeen to make". Few in Kirkcaldy could have grumbled at the time of receiving £25,000 from Dunfermline as the worst kept secret in Fife was eventually realised, particularly considering the relative recompense for more important players transferred before and after.

Our first sighting of Craigie in the black and white at the Fife Cup tie at Central Park is still one to look back on with relish. Hitherto anonymous, he was forced to fill in at right-back for Bobby Forrest and proceeded to receive an absolute roasting from Ian Ferguson. Such feckless defending was not entirely unfamiliar to the Stark's Park faithful.

That Robertson was to be on the move from East End Park sooner rather than later was evidenced by Leishman's remarkable TV interview following the victory over Morton in which his reference to the abortive bid by St. Mirren could have been paraphrased as ... "If the price is right, come on down". The avidity of various clubs to obtain his signature was of course prompted by one single, and well worn fact: that he was top scoring midfielder in the Premier League last season. On the face of it this seems a laudable achievement, particularly amidst a side which offered such a feeble exhibition as Dunfermline. If we need any evidence of how misleading and irrelevant such a statistic can be however, we only have to remember 84/85, when he performed a similar feat in Div Two, finding the net eleven times in league matches. A lot of use it served of course, as we only scrambled into the top half by virtue of a phenomenal late run, which in reality only flattered to deceive. A glance at the goals against column for that season identified where the problems lay, those in front of the back four offering a pitiful lack of protection to an already inept defence. No one escaped blame under such circumstances and I suspect that East End witnessed a not diss-

dissimilar scenario.

When the goals dried up, so alas did much of his contribution to Raith Rovers. Attempts to utilise Robertson in shoring up the defence proved to be little improvement on the existing incumbents. His appointment as captain for his final season at a time when he was fully expected to take his leave was particularly incredulous, and he certainly managed to remain incognito in midfield for much of that campaign. The haste with which he headed west following the clinching of promotion highlighted that latterly Raith Rovers could not have been uppermost in his thoughts.

Time will tell if my judgement on Craig Robertson and his likelihood of success at Pittodrie is a harsh one. In Issue 1 I reflected on the appointments of Alex Smith and Jocky Scott and dismissed their chances of returning Aberdeen to the forefront of Scotland, let alone Europe. At this moment I would suggest that parting with £200,000 for Craig Robertson merely provides further ammunition.

(And now a personal view from a Pars supporter)

When Robbo came on as substitute in the recent cup reply at Aberdeen, there must have been more than a few Pars fans who wished he could have come on as a substitute for Dunfermline. The reaction was surprisingly quiet, a few booed, which just goes to show that they have very short memories, no-one can really blame Craig for going to Aberdeen, presumably the money is better and there is the chance of a European debut next season. I for one will certainly remember the contribution he made to last years efforts to stay up, his goals against Celtic, Aberdeen and the equaliser at Ibrox, come to mind as did his non-stop grafting in midfield and even when Leish played him out of position he at least made the effort, unlike John Holt for example.

Even when he was at Pratt Street it was obvious to everyone that Craig would be a Pars player sooner or later and he made a welcome addition to the squad for season 87 88. The previous article suggests that Robbo was devoid of talent and that Aberdeen have made a grave error in paying £200,000 for him; I am of the opinion that if you hang around with no-hopers, or monkeys, then you play like them as well, this definitely being the current situation at Starks Park. At Dunfermline Craig was given the opportunity of full-time footer and more than showed that he could rise to the occasion. The number of times this season, when we have seen a cross ball, fly over to the far post only to find no Robbo to hit a pile driver or a long range header into the net makes me all the more saddened that such a vital part of the team was allowed to leave, at such a crucial point of the championship.

The events surrounding his departure to Aberdeen, as Gary pointed out, bordered on the farcical. There was Leishman openly selling Craig on the open market, for "an awful lot more than that" referring to the laughable £150,000 that St. Mirren bid for him. Everyone knew at that point that he would go the same week, frankly Aberdeen were the last team I had in mind, Hearts seemed the more likely choice, as they reportedly bid £300,000 the same week. Therefore the only surprise really was the paltry £200,000, that we got for him, is £50,000 an "awful lot more"? I don't think so. If we are serious about staying up in the Premier next season, then the last thing we should be doing is selling our top player at the time, to another Premier team, that was the reason for not selling, McCathie and Watson to Dundee Utd two seasons ago, and that should have remained the reason. Or if he had to go then a real value in my opinion would have been the figure Hearts were reputed to have bid for him.

Looking on the positive side, with the money we got for Craig and Holt, which was by the way a vast overpayment and good riddance to that bastard we have bought two players who may well yet prove to be Leishman's most astute signings. In one game Farthingham did more than Holt did in one season and looks to be an even better player than our Robbo. In Grant Tierney, we have possibly one of the finest centre-halves to grace the turf at East End, or any other ground for that matter. In the two games against Aberdeen he was superb, particularly in the first game where he almost single-handedly kept out the Don's forward line. In what was always going to be a difficult game for the Pars in the replay Grant had another great game, despite being forced to leave the play due to an assault by Bett which must rival the tackle by Simpson on Durrant, and a few of Souness's tackles as well, but there's a fuller slugging of Bett and Aberdeen in general elsewhere in this ish.

Good luck to Robbo, but next year he'll just be another opposition player, and as always the Pars will go marching on.....

Tam Toon'hill

TOTAL FOOTBALL GONE TOTAL LOCO



ZICO

However hard life seems to treat us, there is always some other country where things are even worse. Take Brazil, for example. Most of the population live in the kind of abject poverty we cannot even begin to imagine, but they always seem to keep a smile on their face and struggle on. Brazil's economy is in a disastrous state, with inflation running at over 370 percent a year, a massive debt owed to "First World" countries (£4.3 billion to the Midland Bank alone), along with other countries in the developing world, they struggle to even pay off the interest on their foreign debts, most of the people struggle to survive on wages of £30 a month. As an indirect result crime and violence continue to rise dramatically, Rio de Janeiro alone has 16 murders a day.

But the Brazillians love their sport, of which football is king, and it is maybe the thought of watching their heroes in action or kicking a ball around the Copacabana, that keeps them sane (it sure beats the hell out of a wet Sunday afternoon on Pitreavie playing fields). Football has always conquered every other problem and the Brazillians have long been regarded as the most skillful and fluent in the world.

Many people may wonder why Brazil received only two votes in their bid to host the 1994 World Cup. Even Pele was against his country spending money on what would have been an extravagabt waste of money to such a fragile economy. The truth is that now football is at an all-time low in Brazil, the games being so boring that they make Falkirk Motherwell clashes look like the epitome of total football. The top players are now abroad, the punters staying away in their thousands and most damaging of all violence has crept in to the game in a big way.

Brazillians can now receive live transmissions of Italian League matches and are impressed by the high level of skill and entertainment and by the lack of malicious fouls. The violence in Brazil was given massive publicity after injuries to three of the countries top stars last year, Zico being the first. While playing for Flamengo against Botafogo, he lasted only six minutes when he was crunched from behind. Zico, who has had knee trouble for quite a while, left the game 10 minutes later, not to play again for two months. His attacker wasn't even booked.

Only a week later, a young player called Mauricinho from Vasco Da Gama was crocked for three months after a tackle by Fluminense's Jandir. The incident happened near the end of the first half when Mauricinho sprinted past the static Jandir, who lunged at the player with both feet even though the ball was long gone. Mauricinho was stretchered off and had his knee operated on. His parents threatened to sue Jandir, who was incredibly only shown the red card.

A month after this came the worst incident. Flamengo's Renato was viciously hunted down by players from the America team. He was subjected to four horrendous fouls in the first ten minutes, the last being worse than any assault attempted by Souness. Renato, barely able to stand up after this bravely carried on until just before half-time. Out of the four culprits two of whom combined for the last foul, not one was ordered off, although the worst was later sent off for a tackle in which he nearly ripped the shirt off the back of an opponent. So while Renato missed six weeks of football, his attackers missed none.

Sadly this just seems to be the tip of the iceberg. It's easy to blame weak referees but it actually goes a lot deeper than that. The directors of the State Federation chose the referees that officiate in the State Championship, these directors are connected with those clubs and can veto any ref they don't like, refs are hesitant to send off players for fear of offending the directors.

TOTAL FOOTBALL GONE TOTALLY LOCO

If by some remote chance a player is sent off he goes before a tribunal to decide his punishment,if he doesn't like this he can go to another tribunal to have it reduced,if that fails he can go to a court of law.The directors in fact try to protect their players as best they can,it's no wonder the morale of referees is so low,and we think we're hard done by in Scotland.

It isn't just the players who are attacking each other.Botafogo full-back Ronaldo had four stitches in his left arm after a free for all between fans and players angry at being heckled at a World Cup training session.World Cup veteran Edgar was injured after being hit with a crutch.

There are two main suggestions put forward to prevent further trouble.Firstly an independent committee should be appointed to select referees for matches,and there should be a single disciplinary tribunal to metre out punishment,with no further appeals.Secondly top players such as Zico,want to see a system whereby players guilty of a bad foul are suspended until their victims are fit again (if that was the system here Baptie would have to find a day job).Zico and Renato are both quitting the Brazilian game mainly due to the violence.Zico had intended playing for another few years but is now retiring when his contract runs out at the end of the summer.Renato who was perfectly happy in Rio and received hundreds of fan mail every day has now been transferred to Roma for £1.8 million,he left because of the violence.

Coupled with this the large exodus of players to Europe has understandably caused a drop in attendance figures.Recent reports suggest that in the last two years over 250 of the county's top players have gone to Europe.There are well over 200 Brazilians playing in Portugal alone.

There are 13,000 professional or semi-pro players in Brazil's 778 clubs and the pay scale ranges from the 16,000 dollars a month paid to Zico to a measly 40 dollars a month.Zico claims that if the football authorities gave the footballers a bit more security and stability there would not be so much desperation resulting in violence and perhaps a few players would be persuaded to stay in Brazil

It seems to be a vicious circle with fans staying away because the top players have left,but because the clubs aren't taking in enough money they can't afford to keep the players Sao Paulo sold their two star players,Muller and Silas,to Torino for a total of £2.1 million because the club needed the money to survive-Sao Paulo's takings at the gate come to only 8 per cent of what Torino take.

Recently PSV Eindhoven signed Romario from Vasco Da Gama for a Brazilian record of £3 million.Romario was the top scorer in the Seoul Olympics and chose Eindhoven over clubs in Italy,Spain and Portugal.His reasons are obvious - a £600,000 signing on fee plus another £600,000 in pay and benefits which include a house,a Porche,school tuition for his children, and six round trip air tickets to Brazil every year untill his contract expires in 1992.The Gers still beleive they can compete financially in Europe,dream on.

A few years ago,a match in the Maracana Stadium(capacity 160,000) between two of Rio's top teams would raise a crowd of 70,000,now they are lucky to raise 20,000.As Renato says,"violence on the pitch is destroying the art of Brazilian soccer,we didn't win the World Cup three times like this.....".

If the situation continues like this then sadly for everyone who enjoys the free-flowing samba style teams of the past Brazil will never win the World Cup again.

BALL BOY

.....
SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

CROWN TRAVEL SUPPORTERS CLUB

FALKIRK (A) 25/2/89
Dunfermline 1.30
Oakley 1.45
Newmills 2.00
High V'field 2.05
Kincardine 2.15

Clydebank (A) 4/3/89

Dunfermline 1.00
Oakley 1.15
Newmills 1.30
High V'field 1.35
Kincardine 1.45

LOTHIAN SUPPORTERS CLUB

Buses to every game,even the home games,details in Evening News mid week.Beware of other buses i.e. Leishman Pars bus which is actually a Hearts bus.

Oh What Fun it is to.....



ANOTHER GOAL FLIES PAST GORDON MARSHMALLOW

At last the wait is over. After ten years the Philistines of Scottish Football have been conquered and the celebrations were long and sweet. Who needed Hogmany anyway?—the Pars had ensured that West Fife was partying long before the bells signified the beginning of a New Year. Anyone who thought that the Ayr result was a bit of a fluke wouldn't have believed their eyes as Dunfermline demolished Falkirk with a skillful, powerful display of football.

The crowd of 12,889 exceeded everybody's expectations and is the sixth largest First Division crowd since reorganisation. The ten minute delay didn't help the tension, although the result from the previous week (Falkirk 0 Partick Thistle 1) had shown us that they were there for the taking. As long as the Pars didn't freeze start defending, we'd be alright—and of course an early goal would help. Thanks to Gordon Marshall we got it. As Scotland on Sunday's Kevin McCarra reported "Marshall showed all the dexterity of a mummy in a Hammer horror film," and flattened Trevor Smith (It was similar to the penalty that Westie conceded at Cappilow earlier in the season). Ross Jack calmly scored, the crowd went wild and the Pars were on their way. Five minutes before half time Wacko Jacko headed onto the bar and Watson easily headed in the rebound. McNair had a sly kick at John as he lay on the ground (where McNair had pushed him) Trevor Smith rose to the provocation and a brawl almost ensued.

At the break we all knew there would be no second half collapse this time. The way Falkirk were playing they couldn't have scored an open goal. Ross Jack scored the decisive third after another Marshmallow cock-up (undoubtedly the biggest balloon that day was the Babies keeper).

A terrible Tierney passback gave Falkirk their open goal, and sure enough they missed it. McGivern had the crowd in stitches as he took a fresh air shot and fell on his arse. That's entertainment.

Instead of going for more goals as the support wanted (wanted? we were begging for more) the Pars relaxed and coasted for the last half hour, but still created more chances than Falkirk. The roar at the final whistle was as if Dunfermline had won

More on the thrashing of Falkirk

the cup rather than beaten a crappy First Division side, Falkirk were completely overwhelmed with their usual strongpoints swept away. As I said Marshall was a liability, and Burgess was surprisingly beaten in the air constantly and was shakey on the ground. Baptie played like the invisible man now that the football authorities have caught up with him and he's having the long "holidays" that he deserves, his effectiveness has been substantially reduced.

Dunfermline were superior in every department—the forwards were sharp, the midfield creative and hardworking and the defense solid as a rock. If Grant Tierney plays like that in every game he'll have no worries about opposing forwards. More than anything we wanted to win badly.

The post match media talk was all about bursting balloons. The result must have sickened those at the Falkirk Unofficial Fanzine. Anyone who has read this will have realised that the contributors have a very balanced view, they've got a chip on each shoulder. For any Dunfermline fan who hasn't read it—don't bother, it's as much an anti-Pars fanzine as a Babies one. Their free gift of a balloon with Leishman's face and the caption "Scottish Footballs biggest balloon" raised a few laughs around East End—we don't need you to tell us that. One of the biggest gripes in the fanzine is the level of media coverage that the Pars get, and constantly refer to the Pars as media darlings. Of course Dunfermline will get more coverage than Falkirk, we're more popular, and I'm not just talking about attendances. Supporters of other clubs seem to like Leishman—he's entertaining, but that's a dirty word where Falkirk are concerned.

But the balloon carry-on backfired on them totally, it got Leishman more publicity than he had for weeks beforehand. Television, radio and newspapers queued up for quotes, pics etc—Jim Duffy hardly got a look in and all because of the balloons. I hear that Leishman's considering appointing the editor of the Falkirk Fanzine as his personal Press Officer, but I think that he does a better job where he is. Remember lads think of something good before the next match—we could do with the publicity

BALL BOY

.....

Great Gubbings of our Time

DUNFERMLINE 7 MEADOWBANK 1 APRIL 22nd 1978

After losing to Meadowbank at East End Park earlier in the season (in what was our worst performance of the season so far) it was good to see Dunfermline beat them in Edinburgh, it only to avoid another page of gloating in A.W.O.L.

A.W.O.L.'s a good fanzine, one of the best in fact, but recently it's had a few digs at Dunfermline. Firstly the Paragon club was slagged, although whoever wrote the piece must have been pissed. Then the programme editor was abused because he had dared to call Meadowbank a "tiny" team. I suppose it all depends on who they are being compared with but Thistle are hardly a big club.

The best laugh was the statement "Our stand's bigger than yours"—OUR stand? mtfc don't own a bloody stand, Edinburgh District Council may well have a bigger stand than the Pars but M'bank Thistle certainly don't. If we wanted to be childish we could say that we had a bigger enclosure, a bigger terracing etc, although I have to admit that Thistle do have a bigger support watching from outside the gates.

"We've stuffed the Pars a few times"—Oh have you now. The Pars have lost to M'bank twice out of 14 meetings and those two were certainly stuffings, but a few times?, dream on.

Talking about stuffings, however, brings me on to the point of this article. Back in 1977/78 season the Pars had already cuffed Meadowbank twice before they visited East End again on April 22nd. With a team featuring Pars rejects Gerry Adair and Kenny Davidson, Thistle were thrashed 7-1.

The Pars got off to a great start, with two Jim Mullin goals in 11 minutes and only a professional foul by Wight stopped Borthwick when he was through on his own. With 5 minutes until the break, McKenzie of Thistle was sent off after fouling Wattie Borthwick just a couple of minutes after hacking down the same player and being booked.

In the second half two quick goals sealed the points for the Pars, Borthwick beat three men had his shot cleared off the line but nodded in the rebound and then Andy Dickson blasted in a shot. With the visitors defence in tatters a Salton knockdown was touched in by Mike Leonard. Goal number six came when a Donnelly corner was feebly cleared and former ball-room dancing champion, rugby player and all round headbanger Bonar Mercer was on hand to nod the ball over the keeper.

With 20 minutes to go Davidson became the second M'bank player to be ordered off after fouling Dickson who was replaced by Watson. After Donnelly was brought down in the box Mullin had the chance of his hat-trick, but his pathetic Pat Nevin style penalty was easily saved. Thistle showed how it should be done when they were awarded a penalty, but any ideas of a fightback were snuffed out when a Bowie cross was turned into his own net by Wight.

The final score of 7-1 was the last time that Dunfermline scored seven goals in a game, let's hope for a similar score in the final game of this season.

BALL BOY



Send Them Over Here

Without doubt the most distressing and frustrating aspect of football today is the purile and sickening attitude of that group of pre-pubescent juveniles known as "casuals". Let's be quite clear about this bunch of arse holes they are not in the least concerned with football, but deliberately go to games to have a "rumble" with opposing groups, but quite often pick on ordinary supporters, generally wee boys or fans on their own with the odds of at least 20-1 in their favour. A recent example of this behaviour came after the

CASUALS WHO WENT TO THE WRONG END

recent match at Airdrie; as we rolled very happily back to our buses we witnessed two Pars fans being chased by a gang of around 20 Airdrie casuals, who caught them and proceeded to beat the shit out of them as they lay on the ground. By the time the police had arrived and walked, yes walked over to the incident the mob had already fled, as two or three Pars fans had ran in to assist, the police reaction was to try and lift the Pars fans and then walk back to their meat wagon, an absolute bloody disgrace. There was no police presence whatsoever at the bus park, as there had been a past record of trouble here, i.e. our buses being stoned by Airdrie fans, it would have been a sensible idea to have at least a few Plods on duty here. One notable night when we beat Albion Rovers 3-0 at Broomfield the Airdrie fans came down to stone the buses after the game. One plod I spoke to before the game said quite nonchalantly "Oh aye, there's always trouble here"

Casuals first made their appearance in England when the notorious I.C.F. found that wearing Chelsea or Spurs colours made them more apparent to the police and gradually these were dropped in favour of extremely expensive clothes as the new uniform. The "cult" soon spread and in the early eighties, the graffiti started to appear around the grounds, most groups were in favour of abbreviations such C.S.S., C.S.C. and the like. Not all teams were lumbered with a casual following, but the most notorious were Hibs and Aberdeen who had running battles in the City centre in Edinburgh which apart from the usual missiles included a petrol bomb on one occasion. Others included Partick Thistle, Rangers and our own Dunfermline, teams not having a mob found themselves having one thrust upon them as the casuals would travel miles to obscure out posts of Scottish Football to sort out rival groups. One notable example of this was the Aberdeen lot, who travelled to Montrose when they played the Pars in the last game of 86/87 season, and picked on a crowd of wee Montrose fans. At first the police seemed hesitant to combat what was at first a small problem but which could so easily have been dealt with by simply ejecting

CASUALS CONTINUED

them from the ground.

The pattern at East End used to see a group of around 40 kids in the latest Top Man fashions being followed by the Police as they walked back and forward on the uncovered "Cowdenbeath" and they wouldn't dare come into the home end. Eventually they would be led out of the ground to lie in ambush for the real fans in the Public Park area. After one home match against Hearts last season the police intervened in a mini-riot in the park and arrested 40 casuals of whom around 4 were above the age of criminal responsibility.

It's not difficult to identify "casuals", generally in groups of 15-20, with stupid pudding bowl haircuts, smothered in a gallon of cheap setting gel, ridiculous but expensive motif sweatshirts baggy trousers and trainers, they now seldom go in to the game but wait outside or at the bus-station. There is little the police can do except move them on for loitering, which is usually ineffectual as they just re-appear once the plods have gone.

Pars' fans who visited Firhill for the opening game of the season, found themselves pelted with bricks and bottles as they queued to get out after the game, thrown over the wall by casuals who found ample armunition on the waste-ground adjacent to the stadium. As we made our way back to the buses under a barrage of missiles only to find that the buses were a target as well, the plods just stood and watched, the fact that it was daylight made it more unbelievable as they could quite plainly see what was happening. Their eventual reaction was to move in and lift Pars fans who were forced to defend themselves. One Pars fan who was assaulted by four casuals and had his son hit by a missile shoved his boy onto the bus and then chased after the four youths who ran like the clappers, the plods duly marched up and arrested the Pars fan.

These incidents happen all the time, the police plan seems to be hang around and then wade in to clear up the mess, which for any constabulary outside Dunfermline means lifting a few Pars fans into the bargain. This does little to encourage families to go and watch the lads, and does even less to install confidence and trust in the Police as we find ourselves constantly harassed by the forces at Dumfries, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

In some ways, the "casuals" could be compared with the groups of teenage hooligans in "A Clockwork Orange", whose bowler hats, stripped shirts and sharpened umbrellas spawned a thousand imitators in the early seventies. Far from denouncing what was a great film and a better book, the similarities are there if not in uniform then in their actions. In the film gangs of teenage youths, spend their time assaulting and robbing older people and are a product of a totalitarian right wing state and a society which has lost the art of reading, preferring violence and T.V.. They were not associated with Sport, but it would appear that the problem with casuals is not solely restricted to football and it has now spread onto the streets as well.

In Edinburgh certain streets are notorious for being dangerous at night attacks by groups on single persons or couples are frequent, Pat Stanton being a prime example when he was attacked in Princes Street on the Friday before The Pars disposed of Hibs at East End. This was an attack by a group of six casuals, who may even have been Hibs Casuals. One of the major problems which faces the authorities is the age of the offenders, many below the age of 16 and the problem of discipline is left to the parents.

Real football supporters have long shown their dislike of casuals with derogatory songs and in a few instances a good slapping, which in the case of these little shits is totally justified. It's time for the clubs and the police to come together and work out a plan to ban them from the grounds as they are so easily identifiable. It's within the powers of individual clubs to ban people from their grounds, so why not start with banning casuals. They are after all nothing more than a bunch of stupid, cowardly wee boys, who think it's a great laugh to beat up people who are outnumbered 20-1, and they have unfortunately chosen football as a venue for their brand of violence. It can only be hoped that once they reach puberty and grow a few more brain cells they'll grow up a little as well. Football fans all over have had quite enough of casuals, and if we want to avoid an I.d. card system up here then they'll have to go. Check out the work of the F.S.A on the solutions to football violence and don't be put off pointing out casuals to the Police, you never know they may even want to do something about it; don't however attempt this in Dumfries as you will be more likely to spend the weekend at the local nick and be fined £100 quid on Monday morning.

Legends



No.3 Shaggy Jenkins

"Twas February last year
That an era came to end
When everyone cried in their beer
and I was driven round the bend
It would be foolish to deny
that when dear old Shaggy left
there was a tear in my eye
and I was left feeling totaly bereft
Grant Jenkins had gone to ST.J
you could hear the Pars fans roar
or as the Proclaimers would say
Shaggy no more "

First of all apologies for the above poetry which is even worse than Leishman's vivid efforts but it really was the end of an era when Grant Jenkins(or as the Pars fans and Scooby Doo knew him,Shaggy)left DAFC just one month short of seven years service,to join the Saints of Perth.Those among you who made the trip to Perth in December will be aware of the poularity of the man,as the loudest cheer of the day was reserved for Shaggy when he entered the field of play as a second half substitute for the Saints.The response from the majority of Pars fans present was quite staggering as ex-Pars players are usually subjected to a torrent of abuse,witness Garry Thompson in the same game where his parentage and not insubstantial build were commented on by the afore-said Pars fans.

Back to the main subject(Shaggy),who in various away match programmes over the years was described as "a deceptive player","difficult to subdue","shows clever touches", gives a 100 per cent", was signed by Pat Stanton from Jeanfield Swifts a Perth Junior side whose ground is virtually next door to Muirton Park.He made his debut later the same month but it was not to be a happy month as the Pars were drubbed 0-5 by Hibs,but he did go on to score two goals before the end of the season.Over the ensuing years he went on to score another 50 league and cup goals in just over 200 games,a reasonable strike-rate untill he departed from the scene almost exactly a year ago when the Pars were in the Premier League Unfortunately Shaggy never scored a goal in that league and in all honesty, never quite looked strong enough amongst the elite of Scottish Football,being a player who was all to easily dispossessed of the ball.The begining of the end coincided with the arrival of Ross Jack from Dundee(a target for the boo-boys last year but fast approaching cult status at time of writing with 15 goals to his name)and after making a couple of appearances as a substitute he was gone.

Let us recall the good times though and start with season 81-82,his first full season with the Pars during which he scored seven league goals,the best coming at Rugby Park where he struck such a sweet swerving shot that that the Killie keeper had no chance and he gave the Pars a 1-0 win.

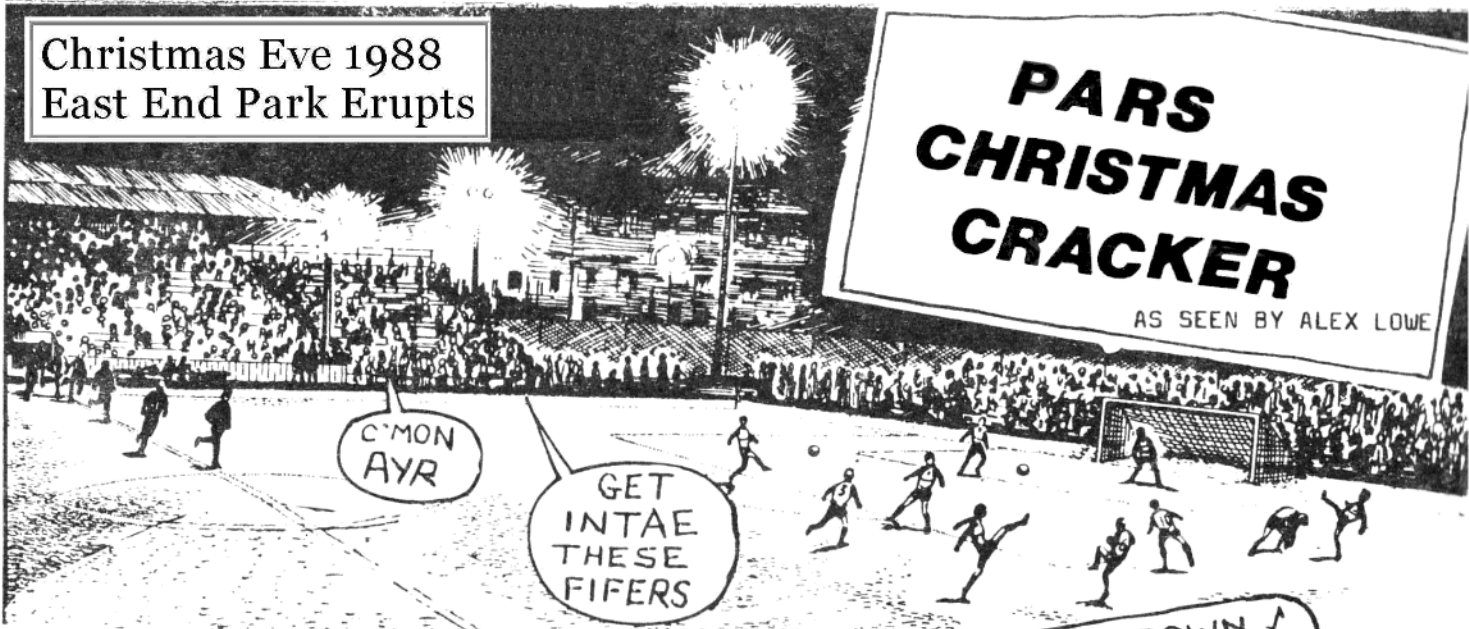
The next season he was only to score 5 goals in all but one of these goals was,for me the most memorable he ever scored.It was a dark Wednesday night at East End Park,the Pars were playing Hearts and the score stood at 1-1 with about a minute to go when Shaggy recieved the ball on the left,he turned and faced the Hearts goal,then swerved and dribble past Roddie McDonald and Sandy Jardine as though they weren't there and then from the edge of the box hit a cracking shot past Henry Smith.Well,the Pars players and the fans went absolutely mental with the likes of shuggy White going absolutely apeshit whilst the fans on the terracing danced for joy.I was quite happy as well,we held on to win 2-1,but sadly it was to no avail as we were relegated at the end of that season.

The second division and the 83-84 season beckoned and it proved itself to be the Pars worst ever season,finishing sixth bottom of the league ,it could've been worse than that but the board at last saw sense and sacked the Neanderthal Man Tam Forsyth. Shaggy scored 6 goals that season,including one in the 5-0 drubbing of Albion Rovers at East End in the last game of the season which augered well for him and for Dunfermline Athletic.

Christmas Eve 1988
East End Park Erupts

PARS CHRISTMAS CRACKER

AS SEEN BY ALEX LOWE



C'MON
AYR

GET
INTAE
THESE
FIFERS

WALKING DOWN
THE HALBEATH
ROAD --- ETC



HA-HA!
HAVE YOU
SEEN THIS?

HE'S GONE
SENILE.

MOTORMOUTH ALLY McLEOD GIVES THE FANS A GOOD LAUGH WITH HIS LATEST PRESS RELEASE.....



GRANT TIERNEY
"THE BEAR"

IT'S

A GOAL

AYR TAKE THE LEAD FROM A PENALTY BUT THE PARS PULL THE FINGER OUT AND SCORE TWO BEAUTIES THROUGH GRANT TIERNEY AND JOHN WATSON.

THE LARGE AYR SUPPORT COMFORT THEMSELVES WITH THOUGHTS OF THEIR FLEECY FRIENDS BACK HOME AND A SECOND HALF REVIVAL.



JOHN-BOY

HOORAY

EASTENDERS



AFTER A CUP OF HOT STEROIDS AND GINGSIGN TEA, THE PARS TAKE TO THE FIELD AND PROCEED TO GIVE AYR UTD THE ROYAL SHAFITING.....



SUPER ALLY CAN'T WATCH AS WATSON SCORES HIS SECOND.....
 JACKO GETS ONE TOO

ACIEEDD

THE ONLY WAY IS UP



THE CELEBRATIONS START AT 4.40 pm AND GO ON RIGHT THROUGH UNTIL WE BEAT FALKIRK ON NEW YEARS EVE

NICKED FROM A.V.O.L.

Season 84-85 saw the Pars just fail to win promotion to the first division and Shaggy had his best season ever with 11 goals, his best run was four goals in the first three league games but this total was to be surpassed in the following season where the Pars won promotion to the first division and the championship in some style, the team as a whole scoring over a hundred league goals. John Watson being the top scorer with 31 and "Scunner" Campbell second with 18, followed closely by Shaggy with 15. Most of Shaggy's count came before New Year with a notable double at Firs Park against the 'Shire and another two at Starks Park when the Rovers were gubbed 2-1, thus making Shaggy the hero of at least one set of fans.

Next season saw the Pars win promotion to the Premier League but Shaggy only got 6 goals and one memorable double, well infamous double anyway. He managed to score both goals in the 1-1 draw with East Fife at East End on New Years Day. His last proper goal for the Pars (I discount the superb double against Raith Rovers in the Fife Cup at Central Park), came on the 2nd March 1987, the second goal in a 2-0 win over Montrose.

Despite making sixteen Premier appearances, four as sub, he was fated never to score a Premier goal and it was a sad day when he was transferred to St. Johnstone, but as the Pars fans shouted at Muirton Shaggy is still and always will be highly regarded at East End by the DAFC faithful. Let us hope that he doesn't spoil it by scoring the last minute winner for St. Johnstone against Dunfermline at a future date.

FU MANCHU

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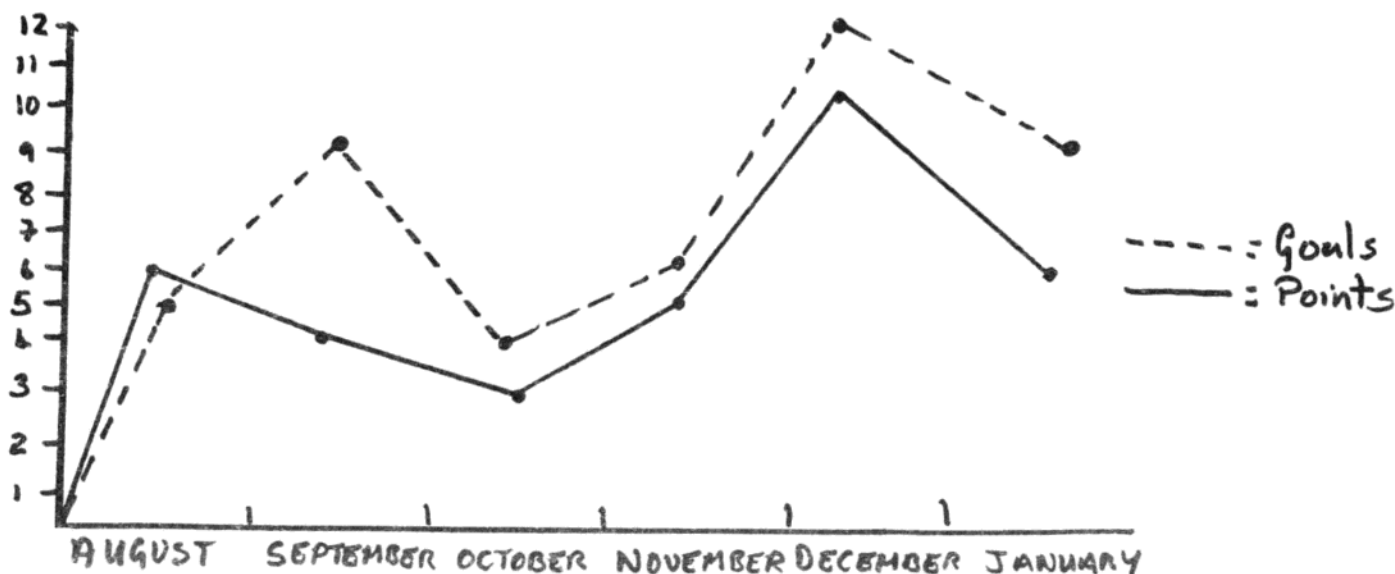
So Far So Good....

- AUGUST ; Off to a brilliant start with a pre-season tour of the outposts of Scottish footer played 5 won 0 lost 0 drawn 5 for 0 against 0. Then came a near revival in the Fife Cup until we met Cowdenbeath in the final, which resulted in the "Letter to the Press" scandal and Leishman's rather Stalinist reaction. Apart from that the month saw us win 2-1 at Firhill and depose Raith Rovers and St. Johnstone at East End. We looked the part and this was exemplified by a fine 2-1 defeat of Motherwell and the referee at East End Park. The next round saw us go out 1-4 to Hearts in a game which the scoreline flattered Hearts. It was one of the best I've seen if only to have the chance to shout at Henry Smith as he let another one through his legs.
- SEPT ; A visit to Castle Doom on league business and our first reverse of the season, Baptye up to his old tricks, booked in 19 minutes and a rather fortunate win for the Babies. A 4-2 win over the sheep-shaggers from Dumfries did a little to redress the balance but a truly awful game at Kilbowie, where a rare Bobby Smith goal was cancelled out by a Westie blunder and a fine own goal by Riddel, was a setback. However we bounced back the following week with a 3-0 cuffing of Kilmarnock despite not playing up to standard, which doesn't say much for the Killie boys.
- OCT ; A fine debut by Feenie at Firhill was slightly marred by his own goal but a 1-1 draw was probably a fair result against a Clyde side who were at the time near the top of the league. A 1-0 win over Airdrie at East End, which we dominated from start to finish suggested that all was well. However with Watson still playing centre-half (In years to come that will probably be equal to having Alex Edwards at centre half) we could only manage a draw against Ayr at Somerset. Worse was to follow when Steve Logan on his own destroyed the Pars in 13 minutes at East End as M'bank coasted to a 1-3 win. Another defeat followed this one at the hands of Morton at the Greenock Sewage Works thanks to a soft penalty.
- Nov ; A 2-1 defeat of Forfar at East End had us all thinking that the slump was over, Forfar are probably one of the best sides in the division at present, but this belief was crushed after a turgid 0-0 draw with the sheep-shaggers on their own midden in the hell-hole they call Palmerston. Christmas came early for Clydebank and Kilmarnock as twice in two weeks the Pars threw away 2-0 leads to eventually hang on for a 2-2 draw. It is surprising that we managed to keep up with the leaders of the table at this stage.

DECEMBER; The Pars characteristic slump over the Xmas New Year period came early this season in October/November just like Xmas. December will go down as one of our best ever, we finished with full points from games which even the most optimistic fan would have settled for half. The party started at Perth on a drier afternoon where a lone Beedie goal gave us the points in a hard fought match against in-form Saints. The match was perhaps more notable for the incessant rain and a barrage of abuse for GAZZER Thompson and an in the huff Shaggy who refused to wave to the Pars fans. A 2-1 home win against Morton when we should have won by more finished their half-hearted promotion campaign and had their pitiful away support crying over their bottles of El-Dorado in Greenock. A trip to Edinburgh, saw us come home with the points, thanks to a fine Watson goal. The best was yet to come; a brilliant five minute spell against Ayr at East End at the start of the second half, saw a tentative 2-1 lead turned into a 5-1 romp, which had our Ally holding his head in his hands a la Argentina. Watson's first goal and Tierney's were memorable from a game where the score could well have been double figures. New Years Eve saw the babies at East End, and after the kids had played with their ballons for a while in a bid to display their knowledge of sfe sex, the real fun started and their hangover started as early as the fifth minute when hot shot Jack fired in the first of three goals which had the Falkirk team reeling, and to be honest they never really kicked a ball in earnest the whole game.

JANUARY; Our traditional failure on the Derby fixture never happened and in a match where we never really played that well, we won 3-1, thanks to an ogie by Brash and a real cracker from Trevor and the usual counter from Jacko. The bridie express to Forfar was merely dampened by a 2-1 reverse to a Forfar team who outplayed the Pars in every department. The following week will most probably be remembered for a great own goal from Shuggy Burns and an absolute beaut from Trevor Smith hitting a pass from Watson on the volley in to the back of the net. Many Pars fans travelled to Broomfield with the idea that a point would be a good result. Instead we were treated to our finest display since the Falkirk match as the Pars strolled to a very easy 2-0 win, which without the saves by Scab Martin could quite easily have run to 8-0. An all round team performance with Jack scoring a cracker and a very competent display by new signing Farthingham. Airdrie were frankly disappointing but this does not diminish the superb performance from the Pars as they hit the top spot once again.

The chart below depicts our points and goals tally per month for the first half of the season and it is not too difficult to spot the bad period and the good periods, what is interesting though is to compare the points for goals ratio. You can see that only in August did our points total exceed the goals total, elsewhere it was a different story, in September for example it took 9 goals to secure only 4 points, whereas in December 12 goals gave us a massive 10 points. This is an average which must be maintained until the end of the season as it may yet come down to goal difference. Keep knocking them in lads.



AFRICA EMERGING

Ebo Quansah takes a look at the problems facing Africa in its bid to become established as a major force in World football

After decades of frowning on the standard of African football, the International Community now appears to acknowledge that football in Africa has come of age. According to Mr. Issa Niyatou, President of the African Football Confederation (CAF), the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) has promised to increase the continent's representation in the World Cup from two countries to three.

While this may not balance an equation that enables Great Britain to field four "national" teams against only two from more than 50 nations constituting Africa, it is an indication that given time and the continued progress of the game, Africa will get its fair share of representation eventually.

The FIFA pledge is seen by some observers as a personal triumph for the CAF boss who won his seat on the pledge to work for such an increased representation. Africa over the years has established a genuine claim to such a status. Nigeria won the Junior World Cup for the Coca-Cola Trophy in China in 1985. In 1987 The Baby Eaglets (Nigeria) were runners-up to the Soviet Union in the Championship in Canada. Morocco topped group D in the 1986 World Cup, beating Poland Portugal and Paraguay. Barely two months ago Zambia stunned the Soccer World with an authoritative 4-0 spanking of Italy on their way to the quarter-finals of the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul.

In spite of all this evidence of progress FIFA still seems to find it difficult to look at the game in Africa without allowing its judgement to be clouded. In explanation of why Morocco was overlooked and the hosting of the 1990 World Cup to the United States Mr. Guido Tognini, FIFA's public relations chief was blunt, "I think it is too early for Morocco to



bid for the World Cup. FIFA considered the Economic state of Morocco and the high debts the country would incur if it hosted the World Cup.... For now it would be unrealistic for Morocco to host the World Cup".

For African Football to really develop it is generally believed there is the need to rid it of the many "man-made" problems. The economic freeze on the continent has crippled football in a manner that calls for remedial

(OPOKU AFRIYIE OF GHANA'S BLACK STARS in white shirt)

measures. There is also the problem of political interference and the incompetent administration. The player drain has dehydrated many a club as well as the National teams, superstition still haunts the game and the standard of football is anything but high.

Cash starved nations continue to withdraw their teams from African and International competitions and there is a dearth of equipment and facilities needed to improve standards. Ghana one of the torch bearers of African football, could not sponsor its soccer champions Accra Hearts of Oak, for the 1988 African Cup Winners competition and club from that country will be in continental action in 1989 for the same economic reasons.

Uganda the 1978 African Cup of Nations runners up as well as Togo and Gambia have called it quits to International engagements well in to the 1990's. In oil rich Nigeria the champion club Leventis and the Challenge Cup winners Abiola Babes were disbanded at the beginning of the 1988 season for financial reasons. Explaining why they had to do this, Mr John Mastroudes, chairman of the Leventis supermarket chain, said; "The economic depression forced us to reorganise. We had to get rid of the luxuries and football was such a luxury".

The state of the economy is at the root of the mass exodus from Africa of footballers seeking professional careers in Europe. There are 53 Africans in the 20 first division teams in France alone. With others in Belgium, Holland, West Germany and other European states African football is starved of its quality performers.

Expressing his displeasure at the professional exodus, Mr Haytou told the Cameroon Tribune last April that while he was not opposed to professionalism he did not like what he termed "adventurism", implying that incentives were needed to keep African footballers at home.

FOOTBALL THE AFRICAN WAY CONTINUED

Linking the game's standard to the quality of refereeing, the CAF President said improvement to the standard of the "knights of the whistle" was a prerequisite to the development of the African game. Frustrated by the poor quality refereeing during the 1988 African Cup of Nations in Morocco last year, the President of the Supreme Council for sport in Africa, Air Commodore Bayal Lawal, set his organisation on a collision course with the CAF by proposing to ban offenders. The CAF quickly pointed out that only the soccer-controlled body had the power to discipline referees in Africa.

Bribery and intimidation of match officials has everything to do with the situation in Africa where teams playing the second leg of competitions at home have always won the competitions. Any solution to the continent's football malaise should address itself to the problem which puts visiting teams at the mercy of poor accommodation, poor food and outright bullying.

Official interference in football management by politicians (Check out Thatcher here) has affected the progress in the game in more ways than one. In Togo, a cabinet meeting pulled the country out of all International meetings until the 1990's. Sierra Leone's President Momoh ordered the dissolution of the national team and in Liberia, President Samuel Doe has taken over the chair of the LFA.

There is also the question of superstition which unfortunately continues to plague the game. Over reliance on juju men and fortune tellers has affected the standard of play. In 1977 when Accra Hearts of Oak met Hafia of Guinea in the finals of the African clubs championship they were allegedly told by a juju man to lose the first leg at home as a condition for success in the final in Conakry. To worsen matters players of the club scheduled to appear in the final on the Sunday kept vigil on the previous night at a shrine in a village several miles away. They were told that anyone scoring in the Accra match would die.

The result was a 0-1 loss in Accra and a 2-3 defeat in Conakry. The players spent their stay in Conakry sleeping on the floor of the Ghanaian Embassy because the juju man had warned against any hotel accommodation.

On another occasion Burundi's ambassador to Congo had to call on the country's foreign minister to personally intervene to secure the release of players of his champion club detained following the stabbing of an aide to the team who was allegedly to have asked police to detain Burundi's juju man.

Plagued by such problems it is thought miraculous that African Soccer is making such progress. The CAF feels confident it will one day reach a standard comparable to Europe and South America.

Other African footer news.... The finals of the Mano River Union soccer match between hosts LIBERIA and the Guinean national team The SYLI STARS, ended abruptly when the ref halted play when a dodgy offside goal for Liberia caused a free for all and the ref had had enough.. Angola defeated Sudan 2-1 in their second leg World Cup elimination in Khartoum to qualify 4-1 on aggregate. They now meet the winner of the Cameroon Nigeria clash. CAMEROON have't had a good time recently when they were beaten in a major shock by GABON in the finals of the Central African Championship in Yaounda, despite all the first half pressure the Indomitable Lions were beaten by a cracking goal scored early in the second half and GABON held on to win. The president of the Invincible Eleven Club of Monrovia has appealed for fans to donate money to it, he said "This is a challenge and an opportunity to all true members and fans to show their concern". NIGERIA will have a full time national squad soon, plans are under way to turn THE FLYING EAGLES, the youth team into a full time nucleus of 33 players, NFA chairman Justice Ikpeazu sees this as the way to improve Nigeria's performance in domestic and International matches. The players selected will stay with the team after games rather than go back to their clubs. New players will be called up at the end of the season to avoid problems with the clubs "...but we won't pay any transfer fees says Mr. Ikpeazu. The Eagles are due to play in the junior World Cup in Saudi Arabia and have their first chance against GABON in January. ASARE BOETANG, star player for Cape Coast's Ebusua Dwarfs has flown to the United States to join first division Bolts of Boston. President Kamuzu Banda of MALAWI has presented the national side with K48,500 (about £20000) as a thank you for winning the East and Central African Championship in Blantyre. Malawi beat Zambia 3-1 in a thrilling final on the way they cracked 9 goals for the loss of 1 to establish their claim to a top place in Africa.

More African stuff next issue as the World Cup gets underway... Come on you Eagles.....

REVIEW

" THE DIGEST OF FOOTBALL STATISTICS" by The Football Trust

It's not often that I bother reading books about football, most being about as exciting as a wet weekend in Methil; one glance at the title often brings on a wave of nausea. Just about every second book published this year has been on Celtic anyway.

However one publication that did interest me was the Digest of Football Statistics by the Football Trust. The Football Trust being an organisation funded entirely by the Pools Companies from their Spot the Ball competition, giving the Trust a yearly funding of £9 million. The introduction of the Digest outlines its purpose, "It is intended to increase the volume and quality of information about Britain's national game and to ensure that debates about structure, finance, organisation and social problems are conducted on a more informed basis than would be the case otherwise."

The book deals with facts and figures up to and including season 86/87 most of the book dealing with the English leagues but there is a small but illuminating section on Scotland.

It shows that after years in the doldrums, the sport has enjoyed a recent upturn in economic activity. Gate receipts in England and Wales increased in 1986/87 to £55,840,000, a rise of over £7 million on the previous season. The Football League recorded an increase in attendances for the first time in eight years.

However onto the section that we're concerned with—Scotland. The 1986/87 season attendance levels were the highest since reconstruction, a total of 3,677,000 with the Premier Leagues record total of 3,094,000 obviously making up the bulk of that. It's certainly a dramatic turnaround since 1982/3, when attendance levels were at an all-time low.

The First Division figures were boosted by the return of Dunfermline to its ranks and the total of 402,000 was the highest since 1982/3 (when the Pars were last in the division). Sadly, it's still a long way to go to match the record season of 1977/78, when 790,000 punters watched Morton, Hearts and Dundee fight for promotion.

The 1986/87 figures for Division Two dropped due to Dunfermline's move up, but for the previous two seasons the totals were the highest since 1978/79 (both of which involved Dunfermline getting promotion). It's interesting to note how often the Pars crop up when attendance figures fluctuate, out of five occasions when the levels in Division Two reached 200,000 the Pars were involved four times.

Going on to average attendances per club Dunfermline's 86/87 average was not surprisingly their best since reconstruction. Their lowest 1,100 in 83/84 may look poor but it's not surprising considering the crap they were dishing up at the time.

1986/7 saw four other clubs achieve their highest totals since 1975—Rangers Falkirk and Hamilton (both promoted to the Premier for the first time) and amazingly Albion Rovers (although their average of 500 was level with 1977/8. It also saw four clubs record their lowest averages Alloa, Arbroath, Queens Park (although they've been as low as 500 on four other occasions) and most surprisingly Partick Thistle whose average gate of 1,800 reflects the turmoil in recent years.

The average Premier Division gate was down about 900 from season 85/86, but still higher than any other season since 1978/9, Division One had its highest average attendance since 82/83, but the Second Division was a paltry 700. Even in 85/86, with Dunfermline pulling an average 2,900, the divisional level was only 800. The Second Division has only once reached an average of 1,000 a game in 1977/8.

Taking the league as a whole, the average attendance in 1986/87 (4,600) was the highest since 1975/76 with the lowest being 3,300 in 1981/82. Rangers set a new record high of 36,200 with Clydebank's average of 3,200 being the worst ever in the Premier League. Hearts hold the First Division record with an average of 9,900 in 77/78, while Dumbarton and Meadowbank have the lowest at 500. The second division record average is held by Dunfermline (2,900 in 85/86) with East Stirling at the other end of the scale admitting 200 per game in both 82/83 and 83/84.

YET MORE FOOTBALL STATISTICS

After a page or two on gate receipts, we progress to the statistics concerning sendings-off and bookings. These figures are for League and Cup matches and contrary to what most people believe, the numbers are not getting worse every year. Remembering that the figures for 1987/88 are not included, the worst season so far has been 1985/86, which has the highest totals in most of the 17 categories. In fact, out of 17 offenses, 85/86 is higher than 86/87 in all but three items (one of these being "violent conduct"-when did Souness come to Scotland exactly-?). Dissent offences were actually lower than the three previous seasons.

The highest total of sendings-off was in 1983/84 with 113 and most bookings 1,869 in 1985/86. The highest combined figure of 1,974 came in 1985/86 also. In season 83/84, referees must have been under orders to clamp down on the more trivial offences, - "time-wasting" figures are more than double than that of any other season and "encroaching" is three times higher than any other season.

One question what exactly is the difference between "violent conduct" and "ruthlessly dangerous play" ?.

Finally we come to figures relating to the cost of police attendance at Scottish League matches. These obviously rise annually, and in 86/87 Scottish Clubs made a total payment of £814,000 to the police, with the Premier payments amounting to around £749,000. The cost per 1,000 spectators in all divisions was £221. Celtic paid more than any other club in BRITAIN for policing during 86/87 - a staggering £256,600. Rangers were next, paying £184,700 and Aberdeen were the third highest with payments totalling £84,100. Chelsea were the highest English club but at £114,700 it's a hell of a lot less than the Celtic bill. Perhaps someone could explain why policing costs more in Scotland.

Where the average charge per match is shared out, Celtic paid £11,600, Rangers £8,400 and Aberdeen £3,820, Chelsea's figure was £5,460. In Dunfermline's case, the club paid out £4,800 for 86/87 (the fourth highest in the first division but way behind Morton who paid £8,800). The Pars were charged an average of £220 per match.

The Football Trust reimburses clubs to the extent of 35 percent of the police charges (net of VAT) at League matches. The amount paid by the Football Trust to the Scottish League Clubs in respect of police costs came to about £285,000 in 1985/86.

Although that more or less ties up the Scottish section, in the miscellaneous section the Digest takes a look at the football-related crimes, which includes an arrest and ejection table for every English league club for three seasons, 1984/85 to 1986/87. In one interesting paragraph, the book states that "Some police forces use their powers of ejection frequently while others seem to ignore them entirely.....". It is possible that some of the clubs for which large numbers of arrests and ejections are recorded, may be largely the victims of hooliganism by visiting fans...."

The total number of arrests have fallen during the three seasons 84/85-86/87 and in the latter season, Chelsea recorded their highest total of 222, but it should be remembered that their average league attendance was 17,700. There are no figures to differentiate between home and away supporters.

It is worth noting that in the English First Division during 1986/87, attendances of over 9 million produced just over 2,000 arrests, or 2 arrests per 10,000 fans. Somebody should point these facts out to the Minature for Sport (as Spitting Image once called him) but I don't suppose he'd listen.

All in all, a very interesting book, if you can be bothered with statistics. The information is well set out and easy to understand. Although it is not intended to be a campaigning document, certain people doing their best to ruin the game, should be forced to read this book.

The Football Trust do a great deal of good in the game, and although the Digest is a small part of their organisation, it's still an important cog in the machine.

BALL BOY

The Digest of Football Statistics is available from; The Football Trust
Walkden House
10 Melton Street
London NW1 2EJ

A Night Out With The Lads

Once again we create literary history with another breakthrough in investigative football journalism, our intrepid reporter Ball Boy sends this review of a footballers night out, THE GEORGE COWIE, DINNER.

It's not every day that I consider forking out £20 for a night out before a drop of alcohol has passed my lips, but I decided to go to George Cowie's Testimonial Dinner anyway. I'd always been curious about what happened at these fixtures, sorry functions.

After arriving at the Glen Pavillion early to make sure of a couple of pints before the rush, the procession of stars of Scottish football entering the building was an entertainment in itself. Several clubs were represented, none more than Hearts, Cowie's old club, who had dozens of players, staff and supporters there. Players from Hibs Dundee Utd, Rangers, Celtic, Morton and Newcastle (John Robertson and Darren Jackson, leading to much speculation at the time) several other clubs were there, ex-Pars included Eric Ferguson Ian Heddle, Rowan Hamilton, Dave Young and Billy Kirkwood with past players such as Alex Edwards, Alex Smith and Willie Johnston (who didn't kick anyone all night) also present.

After the introductions by Testimonial Committee Chairman Jim Harrison it was on to the food and drink part of the evening. The meal was fine and the waitress service for drinks even better.

Alex Ferguson made the first speech, with the usual gushing about what a good job Leishman's done at East End. He mostly talked about the managerial experiences, from the financial hardships of East Stirling to the glories of Aberdeen, with reference to the stinginess of the Dons Directors (which should strike a light with the editors of The Northern Light). He didn't say much about the current Man. Utd set-up, but talked more about Matt Busby and Bill Shankly. One interesting thing is that he kept referring to Paul Sturrock and his future in Management, Luggy didn't look too chuffed—is Jim McLean to step down at the end of the season in favour of Luggy? Did Fergie blow the gaff.

Next up was former professional sprinter George McNeill. More than a few people must have wondered why he was there but he turned out to be the highlight of the evening. George's career started in football, and although he never made the grade, the Amateur Ath. Board refused to reinstate him and he turned to pro-sprinting. After having a go at Cowie's Highland origins and Leishman's "Biblical" speeches, McNeill went on to recall his youth as a Catholic at a predominantly Protestant school and then on to his running days. In particular he told a hilarious story concerning his attempts to win a race in Australia whilst sponsored by two Edinburgh bookies, who arranged everything on the cheap. They thought they'd clean up when George won—needless to say he lost. He did win the final two years later and the bookies more than recouped their loss.

I wouldn't even attempt to write down in detail any of McNeill's speech—it wouldn't do justice to what many people regard as the best after dinner speech they had ever heard. If anyone has a bootleg tape of it I'd be interested.

Tony Higgins had the unenviable task of following that, and the S.P.F.A. Secretary did himself justice with another good speech again with plenty of laughs. He won over the audience immediately with a merciless slagging of Wallace Mercer, some of which the subject didn't seem to enjoy. He also referred to Stuart Beedie's drinking exploits, which had a few Pars fans thinking perhaps the rumours were true after all. He then related a few Bertie Auld stories, with a good imitation of his voice, mostly on the messages that Auld passed on from the dugout at Firhill "Higgins tell Rough he's a poof".

Higgins also does a passable rendering of David Francey the now retired radio commentator. The story was that Francey was covering a Rangers v Sofia European match, when a Bulgarian scored, shutting off his mike he asked his assistant and asked who had scored, the reply was "fucked if I know". Francey then announced to stunned listeners that the goal had been scored by Fuckdivanov. Despite claiming in his book that he never swore during a commentary, Higgins told the story of how Ranger's Colin Stein missed a sitter, with the immortal Francey comment "He's fucking missed it". Issue 7 of the Absolute Game ran this as well unless Tony Higgins reads TAG the story is confirmed.

Next on the agenda was the inevitable and seemingly never ending raffle and shirt auction. Various autographed shirts went on auction mainly to local businessmen and publicans

While all this was going on there were the inevitable trips to the toilet, with the equally inevitable queues forming, most people crossed their legs and patiently waited. Not

so Gary MacKay, he whipped out his dick and pissed in the sink. He obviously thought it was a big joke, how do you think he'd react if he caught you doing that in his pub?. The final word was from Jim Leishman, although it was more a series of jokes and anecdotes, than a proper speech, he finished with one of his now famous poe-yums.

By the time a tired and emotional George Cowie had thanked us all, it was after 1am. Some hardy souls went on to Lorenzo's, but my bed was beckoning. The entertainment wasn't over yet though. After jumping into a taxi, a white Ford Escort pulled out in front of us as we made our way towards the car park gates. As we approached, the headlights picked out Martin Feenie driving, with Mark Smith and Anton Rogan also in the car. Feenie treated us to a virtuoso display of driving as he stalled god knows how many times in the space of 3 or 4 yards. Our driver made several remarks about our illustrious first team regular who along with the rest of the second eleven couldn't drink as they had a game the next evening, as it turned out the game was postponed. Don't worry Martin, I know that a cold car with an automatic choke is murder-just put the blame on that.

The Testimonial Game itself, was played on a bloody miserable day, but a fairly substantial Hearts support turned up to boast the crowd to 3500. It was far better than the usual friendly match, quite entertaining with eight goals. Grant Tierney made his debut for the Pars and Ian McCall returned to the colours the day after single-handedly destroying the Hibs at Ibrox. We all looked forward to another display of his passing and shooting from that game, but sadly all we got was McCall at his worst, running around in circles unwilling to pass the ball. Ray Stewart and Trevor Brooking showed class, despite Brooking being retired. Some of his passes were a joy to watch, long accurate through balls being a distant memory to Pars fans since Morrison was dropped.

Although Hearts won 5-3, the result was the least important thing. George has benefited to the tune of around £20 000 thanks to the generosity of Pars and Hearts fans and many others involved in the game. George will probably never forget the tributes paid to him, his testimonial events being more memorable than the 16 games he played for the Pars. At least he's got enough money to tide him over until he gets another job, although he will not be driving a new car for a while. All of us here at WDHR wish George all the best in the future.

BALL BOY

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PARS TOP TWENTY

1. I missed again - Paul Smith
2. The Irish Rover - Mike Leonard
3. The Boys are back in Town - Pars Away Fans
4. Oldest Swinger in Town - Bobby Smith
5. Substitute - Trevor Smith
6. Release Me - Dave McCellar
7. Rocket Man - Mark Smith
8. Alright Now - Ross Jack
9. Crying in the Chapel - Pat Bonnar
10. Crying - Graeme Souness
11. Move on up - Jim Leishman
12. King of the Road - John Watson Banned
13. Careless hands - Hans Seger
14. Addicted to Love - Velte Anderson
15. Another one bites the dust - Davie Moyes
16. Milk and Alcohol - John Donnelly
17. A kind of Magic - Jim Bowie
18. Hello Goodbye - Billy Kirkwood
19. Legs - Hugh Burns
20. Liar - Steve Kirk sent by GOGS.



**This is what happens
when you knock on a
door in Ibrox and say
you're from the Green
Party**

All Time Worst XI

The money made available to Leishman in the last couple of years has resulted in some talented players arriving at East End, Beedie, Irons and Mark Smith to name but a few.

But it should never be forgotten that before Mel Rennie released some of his millions Leishman had to make do with the usual lower divisions fare of has-beens and never-will-be's. Pars fans often forget when they abuse the current players that just a short while ago they had one of the worst teams in the club's history. When Leishman got the managers job he inherited some truly awful players and before he got the team back on the rails he signed a few himself.

In memory of those dark days when a draw against Albion Rovers was considered a good result here is a team made up from what I consider to be Leishman's worst signings.

1. Goalkeeper was perhaps the hardest choice.

It could have been Dave McKellar, but as the Huns couldn't score past him in the cup tie he was considered a hero for one match at least. Hamish McAlpine was considered, but as he was an emergency signing and already well into his dotage, the honour falls to our fave

Dutchman HANS SEGARS. Signed on loan last season from Nottingham Forest he looked good in his first match against Rangers. Then came the Hearts cup match and the Ba' was well and truly burst. In a miserable team performance Segers was about the worst on the park. Even in the two victories over Dundee and St. Mirren he looked liable to concede a goal at any minute. In his final match against Motherwell at Fir Park he showed us that the art of Dutch goalkeeping was well and truly buried, (Theo showed us that this is not the truth). The combination of a dodgy full back and Segars panic at cross-balls saw victory turned into defeat and more or less relegated the Pars. Due to Segars, Dunfermline supporters wanted to see the Dutch soundly thrashed in the European Championships (except of course by England).

2. JOHN WADDELL is the obvious choice at right back. In his debut at Kilmarnock in September '86 he was sent off after 20 minutes, but even without him the Pars still managed to win. A fortnight later he came off the bench at Dumfries to bring his total appearances for Dunfermline to 45 minutes. He was at East End Park until the end of the season but he never played for the first team again.

3. Without a exceptionally duff full-back to select GORDON WILSON has been drafted in. Wilson played in two of 85-'86' most important games at Q.O.S. and Meadowbank which resulted in two of the heaviest defeats of the season. With this youngster in place of McCathie alongside Young the defence was murdered on the ground and well gubbed twice.

4. PAUL RODGERS looked to be a good partner for Davie Young at the start of 84/85 season but in his fourth league match he was crocked. Despite a few subs appearances he played only two more full matches, both defeats (Raith Rovers and Queens Park) in which he looked to have put on more weight than Derek Johnstone. Queens Park took advantage of his tortoise like acceleration and ran us ragged to win 4-1. We should be grateful however, with his crap form and Alan Forsyth's injury McCathie was restored to the Pars defence.



Derek O'Connor

ALL TIME WORST XI continued

5. FRANK LIDDELL was signed on a three-month contract but only played three games for the Pars and actually scored a superb header in the second of these against Stirling Albion. A big donkey of a man (as be-fits a Hearts centre half), Liddell was sent off at Stranraer his last appearance, not surprisingly he was freed at the end of the season.
6. The one easy choice for midfield is DAVE HOUSTON signed from Alloa in 1985. He made his debut at Hampden in August 1985 (a 3-1 defeat) and that season totalled 16 appearances, half of which were as substitute. His last full game was the infamous defeat at Dumfries. The Clyde programme once said of Houston "a player totally devoid of skill". I can't argue with that.
7. BILLY MACKAY was signed on loan from Hearts in 86-87. He instantly endeared himself towards the Pars fans by coming on as a sub for his debut and giving away a goal which cost us a point. His main skill was kicking the ball twenty yards in front and charging after it. He probably gave opposing teams more goal-kicks than any other player. Leishman actually enquired about buying him but Hearts wanted £20,000 for a player who made a career out of being injured. Shortly after MacKay was forced to retire (Con-men? Hearts?. Surely not)
8. Few Pars fans will remember JIM DUNLOP who was signed in February 1984, but played as a trialist. He was signed on a one-month contract with the condition (wait for it) that he lost some weight. In the three matches that he played Pars won 1 and lost 2. Fatty Dunlop was released at the end of his month.
9. Now we come to a trio of devastatingly inept forwards, DEREK O'CONNOR was signed from Hearts in January '85 and made his debut in the 4-1 disaster against Queens Park. Anyone present at this game saw what to expect from O'Connor as he missed two absolute sitters. He went on to play a half dozen further games for Dunfermline before being swapped with John Perry to Brechin for Scunner Campbell. Perry combined with O'Connor to perhaps pave the way for their departure to Brechin, during a 1-1 draw with Queens Park at Hampden (yet again). Queens Park outplayed us but Forrest scored the jammiest goal I've ever seen. With time running out Perry galloped down the wing evading two tackles, looked up and launched a superb cross, with the keeper beaten all the red-shirted figure at the far post had to do was stretch out his neck an inch to give the Pars both points. From a yard out and nobody near him O'Connor managed to miss the ball completely. The whole crowd was weeping, the Pars fans in disbelief and the Hectors and Victors with laughter. Every time I look at the final league table for 84/85 and how we missed by one point I think of Derek O'Connor.
10. One of Leishman's first signings in December 1983 was JIM DOCHERTY who managed the grand total of two appearances for the club, one of which was as a sub. His only starting game was a 2-1 home defeat by East Stirling, I'm ashamed to say. He was even taken off, to be replaced by Shaggy Jenkins, a real duffer.
11. Finally we come to a donkey in the true sense of the word, TONY O'HARA was signed in the summer of 84 and before he received his obligatory free transfer at the end of the season, did not start a single game for Dunfermline. His half dozen sub appearances made Leishman realise that another striker was needed, he bought O'Connor.

I reckon that this lot could compete with any team in the Dunfermline and District Sunday League Div.3 without fear of embarrassing their opponents, between them they didn't even manage 40 first team appearances although you can add 30 or so subs appearances. Most were played when places were there for the taking, but this load of duffers were almost completely talentless. So the next time you feel like criticising any current Pars player just remember the failures who made up this eleven.

(A list of Leishman's best ever signings could be as follows, Westwater, G. Robertson, B. Smith, Norrie McCathie, Grant Tierney, Stuart Beedie, Ray Farthingham, P. Smith, Jack, Watson Irons, subs M. Smith and T. Smith, or in other words the current first team)

Great Early Baths

THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF MEMORABLE SENDINGS-OFF

NO.1 JIM LEISHMAN

Jim Leishman's playing career with Dunfermline was plagued by injury and after a while it was clear that he was never going to be the player he once was. During the '76-'77 season he went to Cowdenbeath in a swap deal bringing forward Bobby Morrison to East End Park. Morrison duly made his Pars debut at Meadowbank on January 22nd 1977 in a thoroughly mediocre 0-0 draw. The only memorable thing about the game was that it looked like he had his shorts on the wrong way round.

About two months later on March 12th Leishman returned to East End Park for the first time since his transfer to Cowden. Even before the game had started Leishman taunted and gestured to the Pars fans and despite being a popular figure at East End the Pars fans soon turned against him.

Cowdenbeath's tactics were obvious from the start, with three players, including Leishman penalised for tackles from the back after only a few minutes. Leishman was marking Alan Evans but insisted on having a running battle with his former team-mate. Despite intense provocation Evans refused to retaliate, which seemed to wind Leishman up even more. He continued to goad the fans, who thought his booking for a foul on Evans long overdue.

It wasn't until the second half that Dunfermline scored the opening goal, with Kenny Watson blasting in a Bowie corner. Five minutes later the points were secured when Jim Bowie scored his first goal for the club.

Cowdenbeath continued their vicious tackling and when Leishman fouled Evans once more the referee had no alternative but to give Leish the first use of the soap. To the cheers of the home support he ran from the pitch, although whether he was ashamed of his actions is arguable.

As the Dunfermline Press stated, it was a game where Leishman lost all the respect he had as a Pars player...

BALL BOY

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REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS

"ONLY AN EXCUSE?" THE REAL HISTORY OF SCOTTISH FOOTBALL BBC TAPES

At last the very funny series from Radio Scotland is available on cassette first heard in 1986 as the Scotland team were heading for Mexico, the Naked Radio boys took a humorous swipe at Scottish Football in "Only an Excuse". This proved so popular that two seasons later, a follow up was made entitled "A Tale of Two Seasons", this again was hilarious and both are available on this tape. We listened to it on the long journey back from inglorious defeat at Forfar and it made the lads on the bus a little happier.

It features the voices of Jonathon Watson and Tony Roper, both well known from Naked Video and from the popular T.V. series "City Lights". The first side deals mainly with the World Cup and the history of Scottish football and although a little dated it certainly made me laugh with its self-critical analysis of the game and unashamed knock at every person in the game. For example Mo Johnston is dealt thus; "When I wiz a wee red-haired boy in Maryhill, I found that..... When I was a wee blonde-haired boy in Maryhill, I found that playing fitba' was a good way tae get the birds".

Side two deals with the previous two seasons, Souness and the Gers and Celtic feature prominently as does the question of Sectarianism, almost every club gets a few minutes including the Pars and Crawford Baptie. The impressions and mimicing of famous and infamous characters from the Scottish game are brilliant and even Rangers fans would be forced to laugh at the way their heroes are portrayed. I cannot recommend this tape highly enough, in parts it is almost anarchic and is nearly the equivalent of a fan zine on tape. Buy this tomorrow.

WEE WINGER

JIM DUFFY SENSATION



Jim Duffy is an egghead

While opening another private hospital today, controversial Tory M.P. Edwina Currie was tonight being blamed for the latest poisoning scare to shock the nation. While M.P.s gathered in the Commons to debate the future of the first Division once the Pars go up in May news broke of Currie's latest bomb shell; supporters and local people in the town of Falkirk, still suffering severe trauma after their 3-0 spanking at East End Park have had another shock. Currie claimed that Jim Duffy, manager Falkirk F.C. is in fact Humpty Dumpty and therefore checked for signs of salmonella bacteria.

Falkirk player Crawford Baptie, the well known type of bread roll said that he had to go along with Mrs Currie, when in a recent match at Dunfermline Duffy had cracked his head on the dug out roof after Jacko had whipped another past

the Falkirk keeper Gordon Marshmallow. "It wasn't so much the bump but I knew things weren't quite right when Jim asked for all the king's horses and all the king's men. Jim Leishman, the manager of Dunfermline stated that he was stunned to hear of the surprise news and immediately offered the necessary vegetables to make Duffy an omelette he couldn't refuse. The vegetables will come from the Airdrie first team. Edwina now sacked by boss Thatcher, will travel on the team bus to the Falkirk game on Saturday and will probably sign on Monday.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

1. How many Falkirk players does it take to change a lightbulb?
2. What advice would you give to a defence taking the Aberdeen forwards on?
3. How do you improve the credibility of the Scottish Cup draw?
4. Who is the Paul Daniels of Scottish Football?
5. Which Scottish First Division team, are over-rated, lack any skill or motivation and are no match for a real team?
6. Name the "real team".

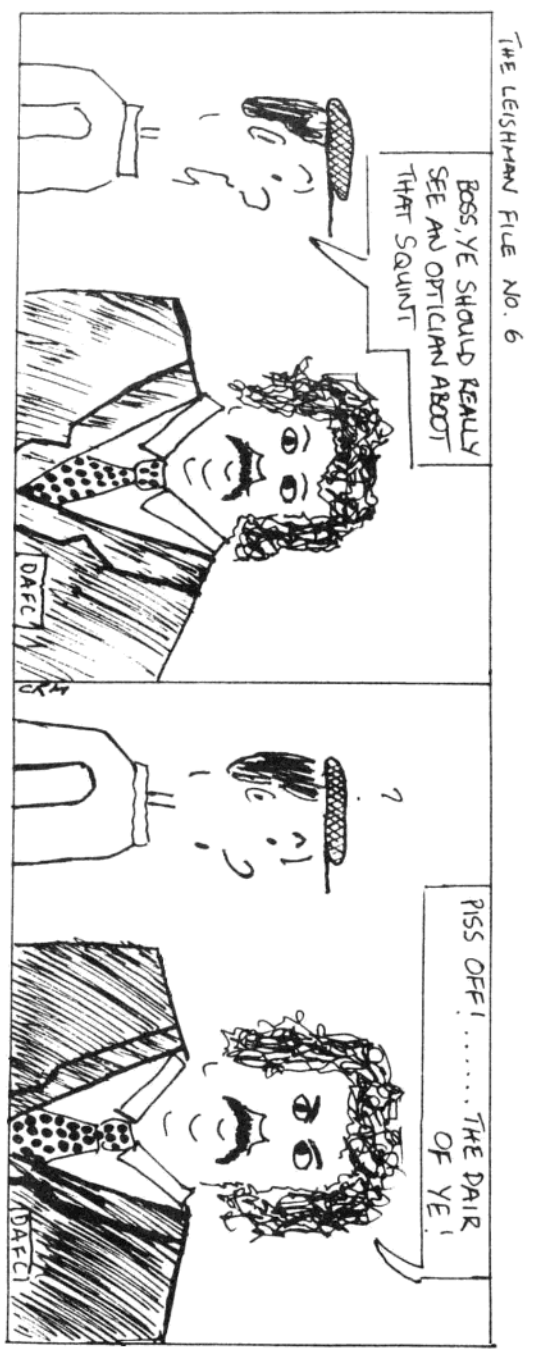
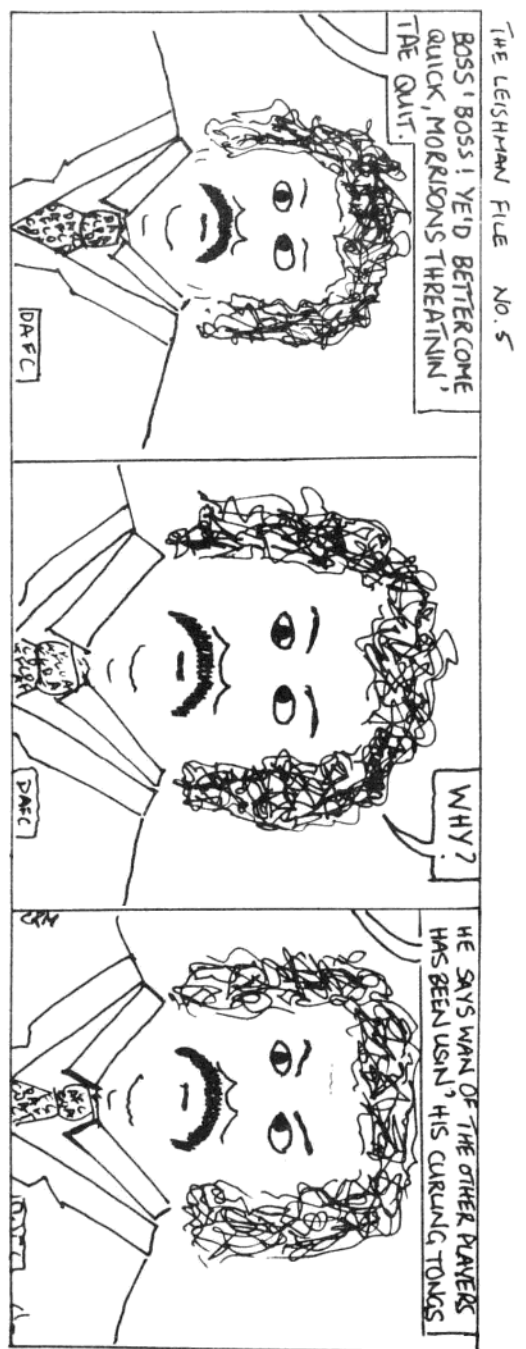
1. Four, one to moan about the lack of T.V. coverage, one to polish Duffy's head, one to brutally bring down anyone near them and one to moan about referees picking on them.
2. Three ways, hold up a bunch of garlic and a crucifix to Davie Dodds, wave a bottle of expensive lager in Charlie Nicholas's face and tell him he can't have any of your chips, or tell them you're Rangers and this is a Scottish Skol Cup final.
3. Get Tennent's to make the draw.
4. Ally McLeod.
5. Airdrie
6. THE PARS.

ANSWERS

A Brief Heard in Lorenzos

TRANSFER RUMOURS. We hear from what could be described as the horses mouth that prior to signing Tierney and Farthingham, the Pars bid an incredible £270,000 for Manley of Falkirk, even more incredible Falkirk said no. We further hear that prior to Robbo departing for Aberdeen, Hearts bid £250,000 which Leish turned down. With Leish's list of six down to three now we speculate that a Newcastle player and a certain M'Bank winger who destroyed us at East End could be next.....'till next ish.

THE LEISHMAN FILE



THANKS TO CALUM MACCAULAY FOR YET ANOTHER EPISODE IN OUR SOAP OPERA THE LEISHMAN FILE.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS EXTRA.....

LOTHIAN SUPPORTERS CLUB ARE HAVING A RACE NIGHT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CLUB AND SOMETHING TOWARDS THE GEORGE COWIE TESTIMONIAL FUND. IT WILL BE HELD IN THE WHITE SWAN, MORISSON STREET, EDINBURGH IN MARCH, AN EXACT DATE TO BE ARRANGED. IT IS HOPED THAT SEVERAL PLAYERS WILL BE THERE AS WELL AS DAVIE MOYES SO IT'S A NIGHT NOT TO BE MISSED. DETAILS ON THIS AND THE TIMES AND PLACES OF BUSES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM JIM GORDON OR ANDY AT THE WHITE SWAN 031-228-1949.