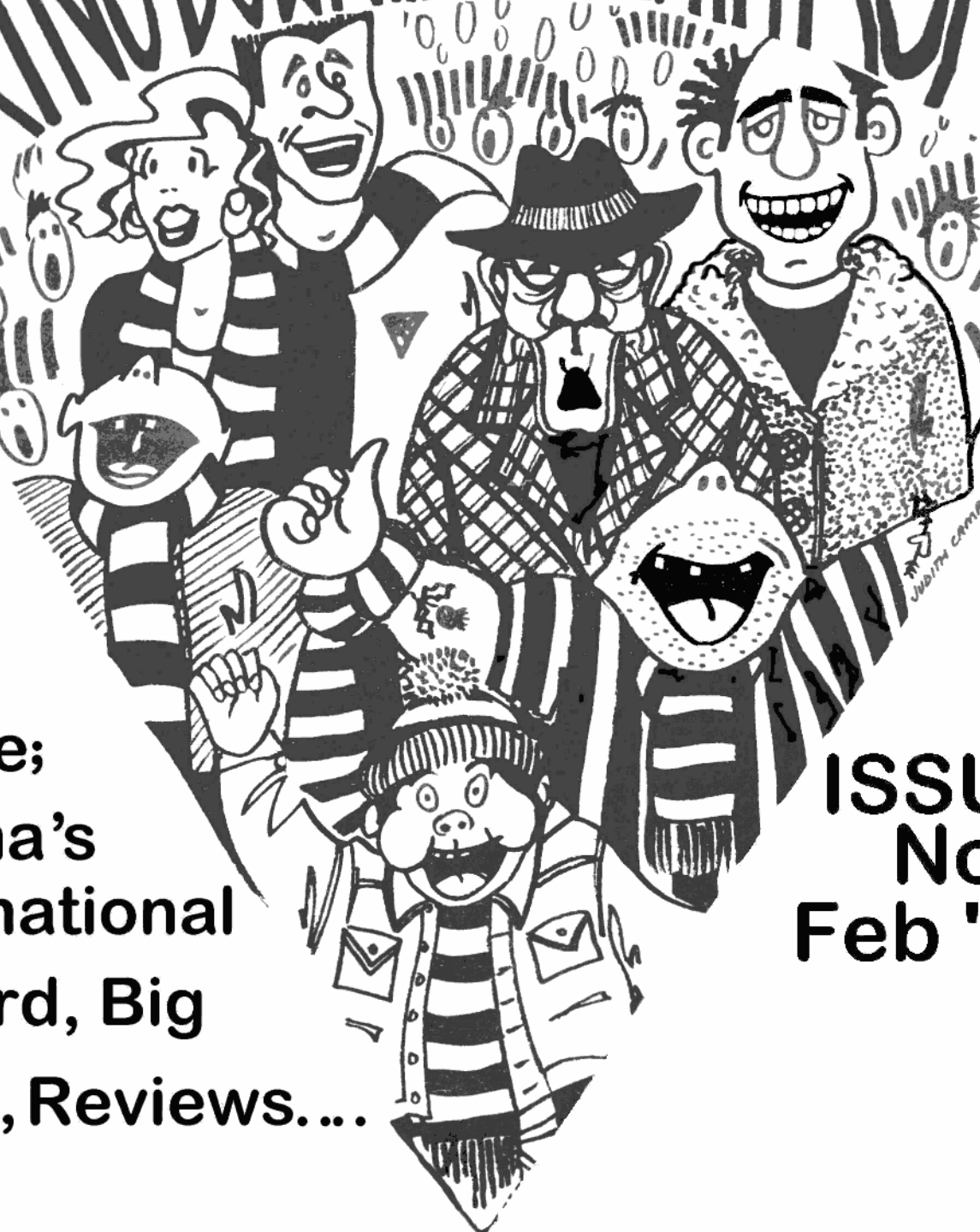


WALKING DOWN THE HAL BEATH ROAD



60p

Inside;
Kozma's
International
Record, Big
Doug, Reviews....

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A Dunfermline Athletic
Fanzine

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Walking Down the Halbeath Road is an independent Dunfermline FC publication. It has no connection with DAFC or any DAFC supporters club. The views expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor.

A belated happy new year and welcome to Issue 11 of Walking Down the Halbeath Road. This issue should have been out in time for Christmas but I became rather disenchanted with the whole festive season after the Pars gave their presents early. At the time of going to print the team has been struggling a little, three defeats so far in 1990 with eight goals against and none scored worried me. Nah - Not really. Thankfully the points have been gathered early in the season and Dundee may win the odd points here and there, but they will find themselves in a familiar situation to Hamilton last season, i.e. start to play when its too late, our current margin of nine points will probably be enough. The major difference to our last visit upstairs is that we've taken points of our rivals, six from Dundee, two from Motherwell and St. Mirren and two from Hibs.

We can probably look to October as our Golden month, full points from our games and a few goals bagged as well. The complacency of other teams has enabled the Pars to storm ahead, beating our biggest bogeys all in one season, beating the Jambos at Tynecastle, Hibs at Easter Road Dundee at Dens and of course the game that will live in our minds long after the 0-5 reverse to Motherwell is forgotten, the glorious 2-0 win at Parkhead.

However there are a few causes for concern. Our recent displays have had the fans thinking that the team has forgotten how to play football. Against Motherwell we were well beaten in the end, but not by that good a side. Against St. Mirren at Love Street we were worst of two very poor teams. No disrespect to the man but Eddie Gallagher is first division player, and nothing more, he was appalling against Saints, how he could have been on from the start beats me. The team that trotted out was amazing for the reason we had no full backs, two sweepers and O'Boyle out on the wing, and Kozma on the bench. They had the look of a team who had met just prior to the game. Ian Munro said that it was time to try some of the fringe players; fine we thought perhaps Strang, Cunningham, Williamson, but no we got players who've been tried and failed. A big, big improvement is required, Dunfermline fans deserve much, much better. George O'Boyle has now gone 25 games without scoring, its cards on the table time George, either score or take some time on the bench.

We all knew that at some point in the season we'd face suspensions and injury, but there seems to have been no attempt to increase the pool strength, nor to try out some of our very talented youngsters, who must be thoroughly pissed off knowing that no matter how well they play, they have no chance of playing for the first team. Anyway enough said on that, we must and will survive. The sooner Trevor Smith and Tommy Wilson are back so much the better.

On the commercial front; still a few WDHR T-shirts left for £5 plus 50p pp, or outside Pars matches.

Next Issue out in late February, our second year in print. Until then, take care and keep that great support behind the Magnificent Pars

SANDY.

THE KOZMA STORY

Hungary's 4-0 defeat at the hands of Spain in November concluded a thoroughly miserable attempt by the once Magical Magyars to reach the World Cup Finals this summer. In this match Istvan Kozma won his 15th cap for Hungary, and would seem to be considered a regular now that he has played in 18 of the last 19 Internationals. Unfortunately his run in the team has coincided with the demise of this once great football nation, and coupled with a recent match fixing scandal, it seems that it will be some time before Hungary established itself as a major force again.

Some pundits point to Hungary's poor showing in the 1970 World Cup Finals as ultimately leading to the current shambles, and while its certainly true that domestic attendances have never reached pre-1970 levels, things looked "rosy" for Hungarian football in the early to mid-eighties. The under 18's won the 1984 UEFA Youth tournament in the U.S.S.R, beating the host nation in the final, and two years later the under 21's reached the semi-finals of the European Championships. They were led by a certain Ujpest Doza player called Istvan Kozma, and his superb displays for his team and also the Olympic team earned him a place in the 1986 World Cup squad.

With hindsight his career was probably helped by not going to Mexico. Hungary had been tipped as one of the dark horses prior to the tournament, but their first match saw them well thrashed by the vastly superior U.S.S.R. side who knocked in six without reply. With their confidence in tatters they struggled to beat Canada 2-0 before going down 3-0 to France. The plane home couldn't fly fast enough.

With manager Gyorgy Mozey resigning as soon as they want home, the the team underwent a rebuilding process during which Kozma gained his first cap, coming on as a substitute against Norway in a 0-0 draw. The new manager couldn't have been much of a Kozma fan as it was about eighteen months before me was capped again. This time by the next manager in line Laslo Balint.

After a series of friendly matches in which only Iceland were beaten, Balint also quit after only nine months in charge. His replacement in an incredibly far-sighted move was Gyorgy Mezey, who had previously resigned after the 1978 World Cup fiasco. Can you imagine Andy Roxburgh resigning after Italy and being replaced by Ally MacLeod? (No neither can I).

This was in July 1986 and more headline news followed a few days later when Hungary's star player, midfielder Lajos Detari was transferred to one of the Pars old European rivals/sparring partners Olympiacos Pireaus of Greece.



THE KOZMA STORY

His move from Eintracht Frankfurt cost 4.7 million pounds, a record for an East European team. Olympiacos President George Koskotas, to get around the Greek currency laws bought Detari himself and gifted him to the club. Koskotas is now incidentally facing extradition from the USA after fleeing there following a massive banking scandal, he faces a long prison term. Frankfurt meanwhile were rubbing their hands with glee, after being there for only a year, Detari's sale made them a profit of £3.5 Million.

The Magyar's opening World Cup match was against Northern Ireland in October 1989. and they looked like playing without star striker Istvan Vincze, only recently sold to Italian club Lecce for £800,000. In a ridiculous situation the Hungarian football federation refused to pay his air fare from Italy. Eventually the player decided to pay his own fare and the Hungarians were bloody lucky he did, as he scored the only goal of the game with six minutes remaining.

The winning start in the qualification group was soon considered an irrelevance when news broke of a scandal involving match fixing and result arranging in the Hungarian league a couple of seasons previously. Ten players were arrested including at least three internationals, and several others were held in custody pending investigation. In a friendly match in Greece shortly afterwards, 6 debutantes played for Hungary in what was basically a new team. Confidence was shattered and team spirit invisible as Greece won comfortably 3-0. Five second half subs didn't help either.

By December '88, 40 players had been accused of corruption, which involved eight clubs, the most notable being Honved (Ujpest Doza were not involved). In the same month Hungary went to Malta for what was expected to be an easy victory and two more points towards qualification. However the corruption scandal had taken its toll, only 3 players from the N. Ireland match, two months previously remained. Kozma of course was one remnant, but whereas previously he had played in midfield he now played at right-back, probably due to the changes. Despite Vincze scoring early on Malta fought back to draw 2-2, their second equaliser coming in the second minute of injury time.

The Hungarian players were less than impressed, and amid the outcry manager Gyorgy Mezey quit again, reportably in frustration at the country's failure to clear up the match fixing scandal. Mezey felt that the Hungarian FA didn't know what to do, and had no idea of how to clear up the situation.

A few days later Bertalan Bicskei took over the reigns, incredibly becoming the sixth manager of Hungary in 2 ^{1/2} years since the Mexico World Cup. He had been in charge of the youth and under 21 teams a few years previously when they had been relatively successful.

The corruption scandal rumbled on with ten current and former Honved players banned, along with 20 others. Eleven more were deemed guilty but inexplicably allowed to continue playing. Of more concern for the national team was the fact that six of the suspended players were internationals, and that several foreign based players were afraid to return home, either for family visits, or international games, for fear of arrest.

One player who did return, but faced no charges was Lajas Detari, whose statement to the police claimed that his Honved team mates had "sold" a match to a club called Debecen two years previously, when Honved had already won the title. In return they received half a million Forints.

THE KOZMA STORY

The public were infuriated by the continued failure to clear up the scandal, and bombarded newspapers with letters, jammed radio phone-ins and wanted punishment for the big names, not just the lesser lights.

Hungary's world cup campaign stuttered on with a goalless draw at home to the Republic of Ireland in front of only 20,000 spectators, reflecting the public's attitude to Hungarian football at the time. A friendly match was arranged against Switzerland. Hungary won 3-0, in which Kozma was heavily involved in the cross-field move which led to their third goal.

To their acute embarrassment their World Cup campaign was more or less ended by Malta, who once again held Hungary to a draw, a second half penalty equalizing Malta's early goal. Defeat in Dublin was followed by their only away victory in Belfast. Kozma sat this match out due to his transfer to the Pars and the impending birth of his first child. A gift of a goal by Anton Rogan (so what's new) helped Hungary to a 2-0 victory.

Spain's draw in Budapest and victory in Seville ensued that Hungary would watch the World Cup on television. At first glance it seems that their record in the qualifying group is quite reasonable, only losing twice and being unbeaten at home. However in this tough group victories over Malta were essential, and Hungary failed both times, giving the Maltese their only two points.

Team spirit wasn't helped by the election of Dr. Mihaly Laczka last summer as President of the Hungarian FA. One of his first public statements was to announce that coach Ricskei was to be replaced, after only being in charge for five matches. Under pressure he backed down and allowed Ricskei to stay until after the World Cup matches were finished, but knowing that he was on the way out could not have given Ricskei any incentive.

Laczka then stated that Kalman Meszoly could be a popular successor. And this went down really well with the public. Meszoly was then implicated in the match fixing scandal and was relieved of his duties for most of the season as police rounded up all of the suspects. He was eventually cleared of implication, but the popular belief was that several high ranking personalities escaped punishment so its not inconceivable that Meszoly was among them.

His appointment to the post was announced recently, and it did nothing to improve the image of Hungarian football around the world. Whether he'll actually be allowed to select players formerly suspended in the match fixing scandal remains to be seen. But he still faces an extremely difficult task in raising morale for the European Championship qualifiers.

The standard of the squad is reckoned to be mediocre at international level. The best players continue to leave the country, and while it will improve their skills it will do nothing for the hard pressed domestic scene. A period of stability is required, but with the current upheaval in eastern Europe even this seems unlikely. All we can hope is that Istvan Kozma continues to be selected while at Dunfermline Athletic and that he can assist the Hungarian national team attain the recognition that the Magnificent Magyars had during the 1950s.

A FULL LIST OF KOZMA'S INTERNATIONAL CAREER FOR HUNGARY IS LISTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

ISTVAN KOZMA'S INTERNATIONAL RECORD

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	F - A	COMPETITION	CROWD
9/9/86	NORWAY	OSLO	0 - 0	FRIENDLY	
26/3/88	BELGIUM	BRUSSELS	0 - 3	"	8,500
27/4/88	ENGLAND	BUDAPEST	0 - 0	"	35,000
4/5/88	ICELAND	BUDAPEST	3 - 0	"	3,700
10/5/88	DENMARK	BUDAPEST	2 - 2	"	4,900
17/5/88	AUSTRIA	BUDAPEST	0 - 3	"	5,000
31/8/88	AUSTRIA	LINZ	0 - 0	"	12,000
21/9/88	ICELAND	REYKYAVIK	3 - 0	"	8,000
19/10/88	N. IRELAND	BUDAPEST	0 - 0	WORLD CUP	18,000
15/11/88	GREECE	ATHENS	0 - 3	FRIENDLY	12,000
11/12/88	MALTA	VALETTA	2 - 2	WORLD CUP	12,000
5/3/89	EIRE	BUDAPEST	0 - 0	"	20,000
4/4/89	SWITZERLAND	BUDAPEST	3 - 0	FRIENDLY	2,000
12/4/89	MALTA	BUDAPEST	1 - 1	WORLD CUP	15,000
26/4/89	ITALY	TARANTO	0 - 4	FRIENDLY	20,000
4/6/89	EIRE	DUBLIN	0 - 2	WORLD CUP	49,500
11/10/89	SPAIN	BUDAPEST	2 - 2	WORLD CUP	40,000
25/10/89	GREECE	BUDAPEST	1 - 1	FRIENDLY	4,000
19/11/89	SPAIN	SEVILLE	0 - 4	WORLD CUP	20,000



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PETER C RITCHES, Station Parade, Northolt Park, Middlesex; PETER AND KATH RUNDO PROGRAMMES, Newport, Dundee; AND OF COURSE, AT ALL FIRST TEAM MATCHES.

THIS ISSUE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT EDITOR; SANDY FENWICK, COVER; JUDY CAMPBELL, CARTOONS; CRM JIMMY DEE

PEOPLE; JIMMY DEE, FU MANCHU, BALL BOY, SANDY GARDEN, NEAR SIDE LINESMAN, K. KIRKHOPE, THE WANDERING PAR, DAVID ALAN.

THANKS; RAYMOND, MARY, KATY, THE ENTIRE PARS TEAM FOR THEIR MAGNIFICENT DISPLAYS THIS SEASON, CULMINATING IN THAT VICTORY AT PARKHEAD.

THINGS: LYLE LOVET "PONTIAC", McVITIES ABERNETHY BISCUITS

WALKING DOWN THE HALBEATH ROAD T-SHIRTS STILL A FEW LEFT, LARGE AND EXTRA LARGE, AVAILABLE FROM THE ADDRESS ON PAGE TWO, OR FROM THE FANZINE SELLERS AT HOME AND AWAY GAMES. £5.00 plus 50p postage.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE ADDRESS ON PAGE TWO. EITHER 80P per issue (includes p+p) OR £3.40 FOR THE REMAINING ISSUES THIS SEASON. BACK ISSUES ALSO AVAILABLE; Nos 2,3,4,5,6,9 plus a few 10's. Issues 2,3,4,5,6 AVAILABLE FOR 50p WHICH INCLUDES p+p.

Legends: Doug Rougvie

The current series in W.D.H.R Legends is ample proof that Dunfermline had at least one character player on the field. This has never been relative to League position or to the individual's skill as a player, but more to the players personality and his relationship with the supporters. It's a vital part of the club's P.R. to establish a rapport with the supporters who pay a considerable amount towards the club's financial standing, through the turnstiles and other methods of fund raising. Certainly Jim Leishman has done that part very well indeed, appearing at every opportunity to build up the club's image and to chat to the fans. The famous "Leishman Wave" has been dropped to be replaced by a more conservative approach, except when we win something and we are treated to a full scale celebration as was seen after the Meadowbank game last season.

The more mature fans at East End were fortunate to see the Pars in the 60s and doubtless recall such personalities as Charlie Dickson, Harry Melrose, Roy Barry etc. Those of us less fortunate had to suffer the fall from grace to the Second Division several times, but despite the poor showing of the team there were several personalities who gave some light relief during a bleak period in the Pars history. Names like John Salton, Dave McNichol, Sandy McNaughton and John Watson roll off the tongue, and there's a few more that you could probably add yourselves. Recently one player has surpassed all that his predecessors could muster: Doug Rougvie.

At the end of this season with the Pars surviving the drop to Division One, Big Doug will have earned more than a little of the respect and gratitude of the Pars support. His contribution has been superb. He came to East End after a disappointing time in England which saw him play for three clubs after his £200,000 move from Aberdeen to Chelsea, Brighton & Hove Albion, Shrewsbury Town and eventually leaving Fulham for what may turn out to be the bargain price of £35,000. His disciplinary record over the years gave him a reputation with referees who were only too willing to clamp down on him.

In his first game for us in the league against Dundee he was booked for a hefty tackle on Billy Dodds, while Jimmy Nichol was sent off for his first offence, and not a very bad tackle at that. A couple more bookings in the next few games must have been a lesson to Doug that Scottish referees still had the same attitude to him, and he changed the style of his play accordingly. He remained un-booked for several games until the Aberdeen game at East End when he was booked needlessly for reportedly punching Charlie Nicholas, who was shoving his arse into big Doug all afternoon. To lose Doug through suspension is something we will have to face at some point this season, no one will complain however if the caution is merited.

Big Doug's contribution on the playing side has shown that he may have lost a little pace, but the determination is there and his power in the air makes a huge difference to the Pars defence. He marshals the rest of the back line and tells them in no uncertain terms who to mark, where to stand and instils a sense of composure and confidence. His long throw-ins are a legend in themselves, changing a harmless throw-in to a dangerous lob into the box.

Legends: Doug Rougvie

Doug's heading ability is always a problem for opposing teams at a set play or corner, as Andy Goram will be the first to concede after letting a nod from Big Doug in, to start off on a great 3-1 win over Hibs in the SKOL Cup quarter final. His other goal this season also came in the SKOL Cup against Raith Rovers. It is our hope that it will not end there.

Already he has a great relationship with the fans, he acknowledges the fans at the start and end of every game. His best came at Motherwell when he crossed the ball which was eventually put in by Ross Jack. He came running over to where we were involved in some quite unreserved celebrations with a smile as wide as the Forth Estuary to shake hand with some of the younger fans at the front. Then after the final whistle he was back again to join in the singing of " Top of the League ".

It is unfortunate that the very promising partnership of Doug and Jimmy Nichol has never really had a chance to gel. However with Jimmy due to make a comeback (from injury) in the New Year, we can all look forward to more promising times at East End Park. One thing for certain is that Big Doug will be much in demand as supporters clubs start to plan their Player of the Year awards this for this season.

NEARSIDE LINESMAN.

.....
They came to East End Park
They came full of hope
They came wearing the Tricolour
And Singing "God Bless The Pope"

Our lads set about them
Ross Jack scored the first goal
And from that moment onwards
We were in complete control

A few minutes later
We caught the Celts defence napping
Kozma took a shot, Bonnar saved
And Rogan obliged with a tap-in

We really gave them the runaround
We ran rings round around the Celts
We went in at half-time
With surely a Victory under our belts

We came out in the second-half
Needing goals no-more
So we soaked up the pressure
And the Celts couldn't score

When the whistle went
We began to sing and celebrate
Well, we'd just beaten the league leaders
Now wasn't that Bloody Great!

THE WANDERING PAR.

Brazil Nuts

So Scotland have finally staggered into the World Cup Finals in Italy next June. They could meet up with old foes Brazil, who didn't exactly have a trouble free passage into the finals either. Drawn against Chile and Venezuela they were expected to qualify with some style. A feeble Venezuela lived up to everyone's expectations and were soundly cuffed, both home and away.

Chile however were made of sterner stuff, although they quickly realised they were no match for the silky Brazilians in the finer points of the game, they compensated for their shortcomings with aggressive tactics. That is to say they kicked their opponents as often as the ball. Brazil left Santiago (on 13 August 1989) with a 1-1 draw and a host of assorted injuries, including a broken nose to their manager, inflicted during a period of mayhem following the final whistle.

The Brazilians were clearly less than impressed with the "hospitality" accorded to them in Chile. They protested vehemently to F.I.F.A, demanding that Chile be expelled from the tournament for "cynical foul play and total disregard for the rules of the beautiful game". F.I.F.A remaining true to form did a realistic impression of the " Three Wise Monkeys " and ignored them completely. Three weeks later (on 03 September 1989), Chile arrived in Rio de Janeiro for the last group match. A draw would be enough for Brazil to qualify, while for Chile it was WIN or BUST.

General Pinochet saw the Chilean squad off at Santiago airport and urged them to make a supreme effort against Brazil. " Remember you are fighting for your country ". The Chileans took their Dictator's words to heart. They beefed up their "robust" tactics to such an extent that the ball was largely ignored. This enabled the Chileans to concentrate their energies on their skilful opponents. Midway through the second half with the score standing at 1-0 to Brazil it seemed that only a divine intervention could save Chile.

Unbelievably a bright, fiery light (A lit distress flare, thrown from the crowd) fell out of the heavens and landed only a few yards from Chile's goalkeeper, Roberto "El Condor" Rojas. Quick as a flash he collapsed onto the flame and rubbed his forehead with the inside of his glove. Doctors and team mates refused to allow the Brazilian emergency services near their keeper. They elected to carry him off the pitch themselves. By this time "El Condor" looked as though he had been involved in a brawl with a chain saw. Chilean officials refused to allow their team back onto the field for safety reasons and the match was abandoned. Chile asked F.I.F.A to award them the match and throw Brazil out of the World Cup.

F.I.F.A could hardly ignore this extraordinary event. After studying video film of the match and listening to the evidence of independent journalists and cameramen of different nationalities behind the Chilean goal. F.I.F.A awarded the match to Brazil by a 2-0 margin. They ruled that Chile should not have left the field during the match. Roberto Rojas, significantly did not turn up for the hearing (at F.I.F.A headquarters) in Zurich the following week, nor could Chile produce any independent medical evidence that to substantiate the "horrific injuries" suffered by their goalkeeper / captain.

On A Par?

The origin of Dunfermline Athletic's nickname " The Pars " has long intrigued Scottish Football followers. In recent years various theories have been promulgated by way of explanation. Jim Paterson and Douglas Scott in their 1984 production " Black & White Magic " listed several theories viz:

- 1) "The Pars" is a reference to the club's Black and White parallel stripped shirts.
- 2) "The Pars" was originally a reference to the players drinking habits or their style of play, both of which were described as " paralytic ".
- 3) The nickname derives from the fact that the team was renowned for its rough play with which they would paralyze their opponents.
- 4) English workers who came to the area to work at Rosyth Naval Dockyard and the armament Depot at Crombie kept alive their former allegiances by forming the Plymouth Argyle (Rosyth) Supporters Club. The nickname refers to these supporters' " P.A.R.S " banners which they displayed at East End Park.
- 5) The team was named after young salmon(Parr), which have black and white stripes.

To my mind none of these explanations appear particularly likely. The most plausible is Theory No.1 (parallel stripped shirts), but many clubs before and since had similarly stripped jerseys without any mention of such a nickname.

John Hunter's 1985 Centenary History of the club identifies that the name first appears in the local press around about season 1912/13. This is when Dunfermline first joined the ranks of the Scottish League. John Hunter contends that the "Pars" alludes to the fact that after almost 30 years of playing football, the local team having gained access to the top drawer of Scottish Football were equal to, or on a Par with the best in the land.

My own research in the local press of this era leads me to agree with John Hunter's theory to an extent, however I would contend that there is a specific source for the origin of the nickname.

In January 1913 at Dunfermline Sheriff Court local rivals Cowdenbeath FC were embroiled in a court case v Messers John Pennman and William Dick. The case involved a dispute over the lease North End Park between Cowdenbeath and the Greyhound Racing Company.

During the proceedings Cowdenbeath's solicitor attempted to establish the standing of the Cowdenbeath club in the football world. He asked Cowdenbeath Secretary / Manager Sandy Paterson (later to manage Dunfermline Athletic). " Are you one of the principal teams in the Second Division and almost on a Par with such a team as Dunfermline Athletic ? ". Sandy Paterson obviously did not appear to regard that as a great compliment to Cowdenbeath. " Higher up. ", was his reply.

This exchange was widely reported in all three local papers and was specifically highlighted in the " Notes and Suggestions " column of the " Dunfermline Press ". It does not take a great leap of imagination, given the fierce rivalry between the two clubs in that particular season, to envisage that this chance remark would have sparked off a good deal of banter between the two sets of supporters. It would appear likely that this banter grew into the widespread use of the nickname " The Pars " long after the incident which provoked it was long forgotten.

FOOTBALL IN BRAZIL CONTINUED

To add insult to injury Rojas's Brazilian Club, São Paulo have told him that he has played the last match for them. He has been placed on the transfer list and classed as an "undesirable alien". A recent update on this affair has been the heavy fine imposed on the Chilean F.A. by F.I.F.A. and a lifetime ban on "El Condor" from International matches. And a Brazilian travel agency is using a photo of Rojas writhing on the ground with the caption "Some people will do anything to get to the World Cup" to promote the package deals for their supporters.

The young lady who raised Chilean hopes by setting off the flare in the second half was 24 year old Brazil fan, Rosenery Mello do Nascimento. She explained that it was her first ever match and that she had been carried away with the atmosphere from the 140,000 crowd in the Maracanã stadium. Ms de Mello lit the flare in premature celebration, and had not intended to hurt anyone. The judge obviously believed her because she got off lightly with a fine, and has since become a model (posing for Playboy, Brazil). Shades of Erica Roe and those double-barrelled jackets.

Still in South America, a real hornets nest was stirred up in the Copa Libertadores, which is their version of the European Champions Cup. Each country is allowed to enter two clubs in the competition. They are usually placed in the same group to cut down on travelling costs. Thus Colo Colo and Cobreloa of Chile lined up in Group A with Sol de America and Olimpia of Paraguay.

Going into the last round of the group matches all four clubs had a chance of qualifying for Round Two. Both matches were scheduled to start simultaneously. The two Chilean clubs did themselves no favours by drawing 2-2. In the other game a mysterious floodlight failure after 25 minutes caused the match to be postponed till the following evening.

The two Paraguayan clubs now knew exactly what they had to do to qualify. For Sol de America it was win or bust. For Olimpia it was a little more complicated, they could afford to lose and still qualify as long as they scored at least four goals. The match was duly replayed and would you believe it Sol de America defeated Olimpia by FIVE goals to FOUR.

Despite howls of protest from the Chileans the match result was allowed to stand. The South American F.A. decided that there was no case to answer. Paraguayan newspapers even defended the right of clubs to play for a "mutually convenient result".

It couldn't happen here could it ?

SANDY GARDEN.

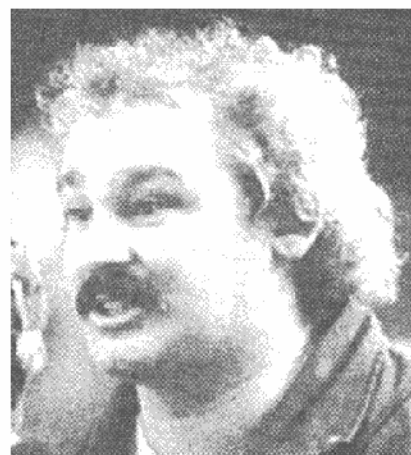
WHAT'S IN A NAME - THE PARS (continued)

There I rest my case. I would accept that it is impossible to prove, or disprove any of the foregoing theories, but I feel confident that this latest one is the true source of Dunfermline's nickname (It is the only one backed up by concrete evidence). Dunfermline fans may be reluctant to accept it, but the irony is that responsibility for the club's nickname of "The Pars" lies with their neighbours and rivals five miles to the east.

DAVID ALLAN.

While on the subject of names, several fans in exile have asked why the magazine is called: "Walking Down The Halbeath Road". Well quite simple really, the Dunfermline Fans sing a version of the "Blaydon Races" and the ground is located on Halbeath Road, hence "Walking Down . . .".

The Messiah



JIM LEISHMAN

Over the past few seasons there has been an increasing problem apparent in Scottish Football. No not the number of 12 year old Super Casuals or the sudden attraction of the English to Ibrox. A far greater and more hideous problem is now encroaching on Scottish Football - BLASPHEMY.

Yes, every time our glorious leader James Leishman Esq. enlightens the heathen world with his dreams of the future, cunningly described as short meaningless parables, twisted, evil bigots scream like the Pharisees of two thousand years ago and ridicule the Messiah because they are un-enlightened and do not understand the joys of supporting the Pars. They are the unbelievers, the blasphemers who write in the Falkirk Unofficial fanzine, the East Fife fanzine and A.W.O.L, not to mention other countless fanzines. It is a frightening indication of the moral and religious decline in today's society when peaceful, holy men like Leishman are ridiculed, and worst of all criticised by these human rejects, or Morton fans as they are commonly know.

Every time the great man climbs gingerly onto his soapbox to extravagantly proclaim the "Gospel According to Leishman" those foul minded bigots also attempt to disclaim his divine right to bullshit at every opportunity. They forget that Leishman is a shy, insecure and peaceful man who utterly detest hours of television appearances, press conferences, and weekly full page spreads in the "Daily Record". They should think of the consequences of their actions. When the Bible prophesised the second coming it was obviously a major error that the passage referring to the return of the saviour, which took place in October 1983 was omitted. Incredibly when "doubting" Mel Rennie was thrown from his moped to the ground and told of the saviour's existence, that same Leishman who was to lead the crusade to the top of Scottish football spent the afternoon in the local church praying to himself for guidance.

For it should be remembered that Leishman is a frail, timid gentleman, who is incredibly prone to criticism. The evil words of these blasphemers cuts deep into his gentle heart. He is mortified at the merest hint of criticism and has been known to sulk for days after reading "Walking Down The Halbeath Road". The increasing problem of Leishman abuse was recently highlighted in a "That's Life" special when toothy "Nanny to the Nation" Ester Rantzen delivered an emotional plea to end these senseless attacks on the unfortunate manager. A special help line, the Dunfermline Athletic Club Call was setup to treat sufferers, but at 30p a minute it was not very successful.

Luckily the Dunfermline Press gallantly rode to Leishman's side and showed their customary solidarity by refusing to print anything remotely critical of Leishman or the East End Politburo in their lively letters page. Consequently the rest of the newspaper has become exceptionally boring, the letters page more so than the rest, to the extent that the most interesting letters are all about the POLL TAX or the amount raised by the Scouts' Jumble Sale.

The Messiah

And all because of the Fife Cup Fiasco and the " Letter to the Press " scandal

BUT!, he exclaimed explosively, Why do these twisted people criticise the fore-mentioned mega-media-personality, part-time Daily Record centre-fold (clue: not Jim Duffy), super-popular Jim Leishman - - - ???????. He can't help being the charismatic / ebullient / unpredictable "rent a quote" guy that he is. It should be remembered, before these people begin to criticise that Leishman is a very successful manager. There are very few managers who have brought their club from virtual oblivion in the Second Division to win promotion three times in five years, going from the second to the Premier in two successive seasons, and the ultimate achievement, to lead the Premier League, albeit for three days. More significantly all of this has been achieved with very little money.

The foundation of Leishman's success must be built on his undeniable enthusiasm for the game, and the club. To bring Dunfermline to their current standing has taken skill, perseverance, sheer hard work and on occasions pure luck (e.g. Mark Smith v The Huns). Leishman due to his character and unpredictability has helped to focus media attention on the club - he is simply hard to ignore. Had Dunfermline achieved their current status under another manager (which I doubt) and being on the wrong side of Glasgow the subsequent media attention would have been greatly reduced. It is widely acknowledged that the present game has few "characters". Although the exact definition of the mythical beast is unknown. Leishman is perhaps one of the closest to it.

It could simply be a result of Leishman's behaviour and reputation which could account for much of the media coverage given to the Pars. Although his interviews are rarely dull and there is always the possibility of the infamous poem making an appearance.

Considering Leishman's relative inexperience when handed the manager's job, the board must be congratulated for making such a courageous move. It would have been very easy to pick a manager with some sort of track record or at least a famous name, as has been the case in the years of decline.

But whatever the mystical force which led them to the chosen one, Leishman has excelled in his duties, though as he himself admits it is a continuous learning cycle. When we were last in the Premier League the inexperience and mistakes were highlighted long before the fourth goal per match were conceded. By the time the formula was unravelled it was too late to survive. This time survival looks possible, and even likely.

Until we topped the League we could proudly boast an eight game un-beaten run which included, a 5-1 annihilation of St. Mirren, our first win at Tynecastle since the mid fifteenth century and yet another victory over Celtic. Coupled with an easily forgotten SKOL Cup semi. We can look back on the past few months as considerably more successful than we had in August. If we can repeat the form we found in October, then who knows where we may end up. The first round of the Scottish Cup will have been played by the time this is out, barring an error against Hamilton, with a little luck aka: 1987, we may even do better than just the semi-final this time. Just dreaming ? perhaps, but then again anything is possible as long as we avoid one critical error - Going Top of the Premier League.

JIMMY DEE.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

As most publications are currently either looking back to the Eighties or forward to the Nineties we at WDHR would not wish to appear any different, so we include a brief look at the rest of this season and amazingly through the entire 1990s. If events in the past season are anything to judge by, then perhaps these are not mere speculation.

FEBRUARY Celtic, after three replays against Forfar eventually go through to the 4th Round after appealing to the SFA, that Forfar do not play in Glasgow and therefore have no right to be in the cup. Roy Aitken although officially a Newcastle player, refuses to leave Glasgow. It seems he misread the offer of £100,000 from McNeil as £100. By popular demand from football fans all over the country, he is deported. Claims of rigging in the cup draw abound as Dunfermline fail to draw Hibs in the next round. St. Mirren boss Tony Fitzpatrick promises to apologise to every single Saints fan in person, after their not so shock exit at Ayr. Mo Johnston has a face change to avoid being recognised by Celtic fans. Unfortunately the surgeon is a Celtic fan and models his new face on Davie Dodds. Joe Jordan, Dennis Law and Lou Macari are recalled to the Italia 90 squad.

MARCH Rangers top the league by two points from Aberdeen and Dunfermline, Celtic drop to fifth despite signing three Poles, a Slav, a Romanian and Rab C Nesbit. Morton are to be investigated after yet another draw, and the allegations are of the Pools fixing variety. A prowler is arrested in Paisley, it turns out to be Tony Fitzpatrick, still apologising to Saints fans. He is later released when he says it was Frank McGarvey. In the interim St Mirren announce the signing of the year as their new coach, it is Roy Aitken. This is just too much. The CIA invade Paisley, and Aitken takes sanctuary in St. Marks church. Unable to break the deadlock the SFA offer him a post as referee. This seems to make everyone happy. Falkirk are taken over by Steven Hendry's manager, but part of the deal is for Hendry to play centre-forward, and for the strip to change to bow-tie, waistcoat and ridiculous glasses.

APRIL Leishman is knighted for services to football and light entertainment. The Pars take over at the top of the league and look forward to their cup semi with the Huns. Alex Millar lamblasts the league setup as unfair, "there's nobody we can beat". He demands that the second division be renamed The Premier and that Hibs are moved into the second. This is duly done, but the league forget to change the name. A match at Tynecastle between Hearts and St. Mirren boils over and the now purposeless N.A.T.O are called in to quell the riots. Hearts are pinned back in their own half by Saints who have the CIA providing air cover, from their "economic advisors", as Hearts launch a napalm attack on the Saints. Hearts manager Alex McDonald states, "Some people say we're a dirty team, Huh!, I say that is a load of rubbish.

MAY The final month of the season. Dunfermline go to Ibrox fresh from a 6-1 gubbing of the Teddy Bears at Hampden. After a 5-5 draw, with all of the Rangers goals coming after a sudden fog came down over Ibrox, saw the Pars go top with one game remaining. Graeme Souness is later charged with smashing up a china display in Habitat, and lighting fires in the Govan stand with damp wood. Celtic in a last bid to save face even sign Robbie Coltrane, who quickly shows exactly what he is made of, "Blubber".

INTO THE NINETIES (cont'd)

FIFA ask the Pars to join the European Super League, we refuse on the grounds that there would be no competition. In Beirut reports from Reuters state that an unidentified man has been seen in the battle zone. It is Tony Fitzpatrick, apparently there is a Saints fan he hasn't apologised to yet. Terry Waite denies he was every a Saints fan. Hibs do not turn up for the game at East End on May 5th and Dunfermline are given the points, and the league. A week later Dunfermline defeat Berwick Rangers on penalties in the Scottish Cup Final. Leishman is given Terry Wogan's job and Ross Jack packs his bags for Genoa.

NEAR SIDE LINESMAN.

The following passages are taken from a selection of "Scotland Today's" mysteriously faxed through a time tunnel. These documents then fell into the hands of a group of journalists who were intent on hiding the documents in their vaults at the Daily Ranger, and then revealing them as a series to suggest that they actually work for a living and possess some iota of journalistic talent. However by a bizarre series of bribes WDHR, always on the lookout for bargain buys, and pretty convincing stories, opened the piggy bank and purchased the aforementioned articles. Here is your future

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL TODAY - APRIL 1991

As we exclusively revealed last month Glasgow Rangers have been successful in their bid for the STV franchise. Chairman Souness described the deal as fantastic and a great advantage to the club. When questioned about possible changes in STV's organisation, Souness denied that presenters would have to wear orange at all times. On the tricky subject of sports reporting Mr. Souness stated that there would be no changes - Jock Brown could keep his office at Ibrox and that Rangers games would be shown on Scotsport every week as usual. On the subject of minority viewing, the Gers supremo announced that there would be no more reviews of the season featuring Celtic.

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL TODAY - AUGUST 1993

It would appear with the sad demise of Sir Alex Cameron OBE, late President of RANGERS M.I.M SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, that all opposition to a restructuring of the three leagues into four, and a Premier Division has melted into thin air. Or to be precise was crushed under the wheels of a Celtic convoy of busses after Rangers' 6-0 win in the Scottish Cup Final earlier this year. With Sir Alex's sad demise the path was clear to re-order Scottish Football. Shortly after the great man's state funeral, with him hardly cold in his grave under the centre-circle at Ibrox, buried in his favourite Sash, the changes began to happen. First of all, the Highland Clubs would form the Fourth Division. Central and Border clubs the Third Division, with the top club in the third and fourth promoted to the second and third respectively. The First and Premier Divisions are basically the same, except that two club's are promoted and relegated. Each league will consist of 14 teams. Hopefully these changes will see an improvement in the standard and variety of football - especially following the introduction of compulsory seating.

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL TODAY - APRIL 1996

It was not a rumour, the promises and the dreams of past chairman and managers has finally come to fruition. A European Super League has been setup, and the greatest names in Europe (and Hearts) are clamouring for a place. Rangers are hotly tipped to join the European Premier alongside such greats as AC Milan, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. Hearts are outsiders to enter the PEPSI COLA European Fifth Division (Northern Section) alongside such famous names as Locomotive Leipzig, Borussia Heidelberg and Ukrainian champions Dneper Dnepropetrovsk.

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL TODAY - JANUARY 1998

The world of Scottish Football was shocked this week by the attitude of the Celtic board at their unfortunate financial collapse. Chairman Jack McGinn (82), who suddenly emigrated to Brazil earlier this year with an unnamed Page 3 girl, thought to be a nurse, stated that . . . "Celtic's current position was the fault of the fans for being moaning bastards when times are bad, and almost as bad when we're winning".

When questioned about the Million Pound debt and the Inland Revenue investigation into the questionable gate receipts at Parkhead, Mr. McGinn (96), replied, "No Comment". When pressed further on the insider share dealing scandal over Celtic's move to go public, when the entire share issue was bought by Jack McGinn, age (105), for seven pounds and thirty fifty pence. Mr. McGinn became increasingly rude and violent.

Whatever the causes of Third Division Celtic's demise after their Scottish Cup win of 1992, perhaps the most incriminating revelation of where Mr. McGinn learned his book-keeping. A 1957 edition of the "Third Lanark F.C. - Teach Yourself Accounting Handbook", which was discovered in Mr. McGinn's abandoned Spanish villa is perhaps the most damaging. Despite the rumours that the Parkhead turnstiles have to turn 100 times to register one punter, or that tickets for away games are traded on the stock exchange, the club could not avoid ultimate oblivion. There is already rumours that Celtic will return as a Junior team and playing at the abandoned ruins of Hampden Park, but it will be some time before they can regain their Third Division status.

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL TODAY - APRIL 2001

Newly crowned League Champions, Dunfermline Athletic returned to Scotland proudly holding aloft the European Cup which they regained after losing out in last year's final to AC Milan.

In one of the highest scoring finals of recent years, the Pars swept aside Real Madrid by six goals to nil on aggregate.

The Pars have now won the Premier League for five consecutive seasons, and the Scottish Cup three times in four years. However despite this latest success the Pars have no wish to leave the Scottish League to join Rangers in the "Remington Micro Shield Second Division" until they win their ultimate goal - THE FIFE CUP. The champions were defeated 3-0 by Burntisland Shipyard last year, and Kelty Hearts the year before. As Dunfermline manager John Watson said, "The Premier League, the European Cup, the UEFA Cup, they're all piss easy. The Fife Cup is the competition for real men. There's something about a Dunfermline v Raith match which a small club like Barcelona couldn't even imagine".

Scotland Manager Jim Leishman OBE, a one time manager of Dunfermline said of the club's latest achievements.

"Its totally marvellous. Ah remember when a wiz four months old, ah crawled more than ten miles to see the Pars play Valencia in the sixties at East End. Since ah learned to walk I could go to more games and ah'm absolutely delighted about their success. By the way, have you read my latest bestseller - (How I Won The World Cup by Jim Leishman), its brilliant - an you can colour in the pictures as well".

JIMMY DEE.

Stylish George is all the rage in Scotland

Ex-Linfield ace George O'Boyle is putting in some tremendous performances for his new club Dunfermline Athletic in the Scottish Premier League.

George, who left Linfield at the end of last season, hasn't scored yet for the Fifers, but he has made a bagfull for his striking colleagues.

Last Saturday George set up the two goals that grounded Celtic and he is currently among the top six most consistent players in Scotland, a position confirmed by the weekly ratings in the Scottish Sunday Mail newspaper.

At present Dunfermline, just promoted from the Scottish First Division, are now in joint third position in the Premier League with Rangers, one point behind Celtic and Aberdeen.

The team reached the SKOL Cup semi-final thanks to George's promptings. Another Ulsterman, Jimmy Nicholl, also joined the Fifers this season, but injury has forced him out of action for several months.

Of course, George's stylish skills are well known to Linfield fans and at Windsor Park we are all looking forward to see him return to wear a Northern Ireland jersey. Billy Bingham is keeping close tabs on the Lower Shankill lad and current form would merit a call-up.

George, an ex-youth international, joined Linfield from Distillery in 1986 and after a season was transferred to French club Bordeaux.

He spent a year with Bordeaux and returned to Windsor Park for another season. He has won two League Championship, one Gold Cup, and one Roadferry Cup medals. In 100 senior games for Linfield he scored 39 goals.



GEORGE O'BOYLE

George O'Boyle has made several great impressions since coming to Dunfermline; Firstly he has been instrumental in more than half of Ross Jack's goals this season, and has assisted several others. He has impressed the Pars fans and other club's supporters with his outstanding ball control, quick thinking and in the way he has linked up with the Mighty Magyar (Kozma), and the swashbuckling Jacko. His layoff for Jack's clincher against Celtic at Parkhead is ample proof of George's talent. As we all know he has yet to score, but I'm sure that even the most critical fan will not be too frustrated if he does not score but continues to perform like this all season, creating goals for others. George may be disappointed though. The day he does score will bring the house down and send the female fans into heavenly delight, as George is definitely the new pin-up boy at East End.

Certainly George has had a few chances that he should have put away, and it would seem that he is tending to blast the ball in rather than take the easy way and place it. His goal against Dundee FC, mysteriously ruled out was a gem, and if George could take a little time the goals will come.

After the first others will follow, as his confidence grows, and we will have the formidable strike-force of Jack, O'Boyle and Kozma. With Northern Ireland now out of the World Cup and the European Championships coming up in 1991, a recall to the full Irish International squad is something that many Pars fans would love to see, not to mention a few Linfield supporters as well.

The above cutting came from the Linfield Programme, which shows that George is still well thought of in N. Ireland. There are three Linfield fanzines of which I've seen; THE WINDSOR ROAR, (5 KENDAL ST, BLACKBURN, DB1 7LH; ONE TEAM IN ULSTER, (P.O.Box 190, BELFAST, BT5 73F; BLUE FOR YOU (P.O.Box 51, LISBURN, BT27 5DN. All these are 50p plus an sae. All worth reading and a chance to gain an insight into Irish football, who knows we may get Linfield in Europe next season?.

A GOOD VINTAGE

1989 has been a very good year. It started with a fine 3-1 win at Starks Park and ended with a historic 2-0 victory at Parkhead. If memory serves me right our last win at Parkhead was some 25 years ago when a certain Alex Ferguson scored the winner. As I was saying 1989 was a very good year. Promotion to the Premier League was achieved at the first time of asking in May, and some excellent buys have bolstered the team sufficiently to ensure that there was no quick return to the First Division this time.

As I write the Pars have amassed 20 points from 19 matches, and occupy a comfortable fifth spot looking down on the likes of Dundee Utd and Hibernian. Few would have believed it possible at the start of the season. A not unexpected home win against Dundee on the opening day was followed by a poor spell in which the next four matches only yielded one point. The Pars occupied the dreaded relegation place already. A good run in the SKOL Cup came to an abrupt end against Rangers in the semi-final at Hampden. A rampant Rangers side thrashed the Premier League newcomers 5-0, "Men Against Boys" said the media experts. The Pars were now hotly tipped for relegation.

Four days later Leishman's Lions had the experts running for cover as they matched Rangers in every department, and but for an astonishing miss by substitute Ray Farningham late in the game, Rangers would have returned to Glasgow pointless after the League meeting at East End. This match proved to be the start of a great spell for the Pars. Three points from successive visits to Edinburgh, including a long overdue win against Hearts, an incredible 5-1 win against St. Mirren, including the most magnificent hat-trick I have ever seen, (Istvan Kozma really is something else is he not?). And yet some fans would like to see him put himself about a bit more. I say leave that to the less skilful lads in the team. I'll be quite happy if Kozma keeps delivering the goals as he has done against Dundee Utd (another absolute cracker), Celtic and the last minute winner against Dundee.

So what has brought about the transformation in the Pars fortunes? Undoubtedly the Hampden hammering was a blessing in disguise. Clearly their pride was hurt. They went out with something to prove and they proved it alright. Another significant factor has been the low key, feet on the ground approach by Jim Leishman. We have the best squad of players at East End in over 20 years, but we are still a long way off being championship contenders.

It is surely significant that after the lucky point obtained against Motherwell hoisted the Pars to the top of the Premier League we were knocked off with consummate ease by Aberdeen (Home) and Rangers (Away). Perhaps the players had begun to believe all the hype and crap that was written about them in the national and local newspapers. If that is so, then the footballing lessons given to us by the two best footballing sides in the country certainly helped us to put things into perspective.

Finally, it is not often that I find myself in agreement with Jolly Jim McLean, the Chairman / Dictator / Manager at Tannadice. He bemoans (really?) the fact that the Premier League produces far too much hurly-burly football with skill at a premium. The home match against Hearts certainly brought it home to me. The Edinburgh side were clearly after two league points and were not too fussy about how they got them. Strong arm tactics were very ...

much the order of the day. While the Pars have one or two players who can look after themselves they were no match for the Capital Cloggers.

To call Walter Kydd a footballer is akin to suggesting that Mike Tyson is a bit of a wimp. He would surely be at home as a bouncer at Hollywood Boulevard. As for Dave McCreary he reminds me of a former England International, Nobby "Bites Your Leg" Stiles, but without the skill. Another Headbanger in Maroon is young full-back, come midfielder Alan McLaren. Some of his antics bordered on the psychopathic. Ask Norrie McCathie who was extremely fortunate to escape serious injury.

Thankfully we don't have to face teams like Hearts every week. Here's hoping that the Nineties are the start of another Golden Age, one to rival the Sixties. I cannot wait to see those European nights, with that heady atmosphere making a long awaited return to East End.

Happy New Decade to all Pars fans, young and old, everywhere.

SANDY GARDEN.

The P.F.A. AWARDS



And arriving at our ceremony in his specially designed Sherman Tank-

Maurice Johnstone



'Ach, it wis his 'ain fault fur tacklin' Dougie

Dunfermline Reborn

The story so far:

Having created the Earth and feeling bored GOD was suddenly overcome by a serious mental collapse and so thrust Falkirk FC on an unsuspecting and innocent world of Football. To overcome this immense evil, the forces of Good, Dunfermline Athletic FC were sent forth from the Second Division to confront the Anti-Christ's of Falkirk. And so, in accordance with the scriptures Dunfermline won the Second Division and looked forward in anticipation to the next chapter in their renaissance.

Season 85/86 was history. Dunfermline won the second division and vowed never to return to the darkest period of their existence. The only way was up, to the Premier League, Europe and beyond. While the Scotland squad reached new heights of obscurity in Mexico, Jim Leishman was awaiting the dawn of a new season. He had already formed his master plan to win the First Division and subsequently the Premier League. So cunning and successful was the plan that the strategy was adopted by the Labour Party in the 1987 General Election. The board at East End was equally astounded by Leishman's success and promptly offered him a two year contract.

Eventually the new season arrived. As a curtain raiser to the following season and an indication of the success that was to follow, the Pars confidently hammered their country cousins Cowden' 5-0 on their way to the semi-final of the illustrious Fife-Cup. However it would be East Fife who would proceed to the Final, being beaten 3-1 by Raith Rovers, thus filling the Starks Park trophy room for another year.

But as the season got underway, Leishman in his first sermon of 1986/87 prophesied that the Pars would consolidate in the First Division, with a view to future promotion. Incredible as it may seem, this vision of the future was slightly inaccurate. As the season began the fans were fairly unconcerned that the players had followed the club's sacred traditions and refused to sign new contracts. The mere fans have never quite understood what it mean when players refuse the terms of the contract, but it became noticeable that contracts were signed after the players were allowed to use their credit cards in the Paragon Club. The terrible result of this decision was to manifest itself at the end of the season, when the amount and frequency of promotion celebrations began to affect the results - from about January.

On August 9th 1986 the Second Division flag was unfurled prior to the game with Forfar's finest, Forfar Athletic. Having narrowly avoided the Premier League the previous season Forfar looked to be a difficult baptism for Dunfermline Athletic. It proved to be a difficult game, and was decided by a controversial goal when Watson gave two points to the Pars and a right-hook to the Forfar keeper. Dunfermline then travelled West to defeat Dumbarton and Morton who were both tipped to win the Championship. The Pars rapidly edged into the bookies' reckoning while "The Leish" continued to preach to the "armchair fans", or football journalists as they are called. While the turnstiles at Starks Park, Central Park and other Fifeshire lavatories clicked over slowly, the turnstiles at East End whizzed round as fans, young and old clambered for a space on the sacred terracing of East End. The legions of Pars fans grew ever larger and more vocal in their devotion to Leishman.

After four games the Pars were top without conceding a goal, until the fateful Saturday of August 30th. Dunfermline were up against Fife Cup runners-up East Fife. The Methil men were out for a double over the Pars. Luckily for them the Pars were still jaded after their SKOL Cup exit at the hand of lowly St. Mirren. The match was unforgettable for several reasons; East Fife amazingly put Four past Dunfermline, and Leishman was booked for wrestling with the Linesman's neck. A crime that would have serious repercussions in the future.

More bad news was to follow when it was revealed that Grant Jenkins had signed a new contract. However to brighten up the day a sponsorship deal was announced with the well know, successful (and soon to go bust) Aluglaze Double-Glazing.

However Dunfermline soon returned to their winning ways by defeating Kilmarnock, Brechin and Partick Thistle. Dunfermline also began to cultivate their commercial appeal by rationalising some of their operations. By starting up a YTS scheme in the club Leishman could unwaged from the Employment Centre where he worked through the portals of East End, thus saving money for the club as their wages were pre-paid, and reducing the dole queues of West Fife. Thus the community benefited and Leishman received a pay rise. It was around this time that the match sponsorship scheme was started. This involved enticing rich individuals or companies into East End and plying them with Alcohol until they paid for a new match ball. The new business ideas were very successful and money poured into Mel's Halifax account. As the results remained good and the Pars kept near the top, the confidence grew as the interest accumulated.

Until one bleak Saturday in early December. The sky was dark and full of foreboding, the wind wailed painfully as it cried in anguish over the evils that had just passed. Chairman Mel and Leishman strolled onto the pitch to once again stand on the centre circle. The two men stood in silence as they looked around the not so magnificent stadium, and into the dark, foreboding sky. "Looks like its going to piss down", commented Jim.

"Aye", replied Chairman Mel. "Just a minute", he exclaimed. "Where's the *!?!?& flag?" The two men looked up and stared in disbelief at the empty flag pole, where the holy flag had once hung.

"Ooooh Shit!", exclaimed Jim.

"Its not there", snarled the Chairman.

"Ooooh Shit!", exclaimed Jim.

"Where the *!?!? is it?", roared the Chairman, in an increasingly alarmed voice.

Instantly the two men began their search. Like a military operation they searched clinically and logically. Unable to extract a confession from either the groundsman or the programme sellers Mel stormed off. The flag, the symbol of Dunfermline's greatness and power was missing. Some twisted individual had committed the cardinal sin of desecrating the sacred (if hardly used) flagpole at East End. The pole had been robbed of its most prized embellishment. Not even death would rid this evil criminal of the suffering they would endure.

And so began a nationwide search for the holy object. A search that would leave no stone unturned, no innocent citizens un-harassed, no public toilets ignored. A search which would range from Cowdenbeath to Kelty, from the open countryside of Crossford to the picturesque Olde Worlde charm of Abbey View. Nowhere was safe from the probing detective curiosity of the Fife Polis.

The policeman walked towards the door of the bungalow and rang the bell. A slightly balding, grey haired man, with a hugely apparent stomach answered.

"Aye?", he asked.

"Mr. Leishman?", began the policeman. "Dr. James Martin Luther Leishman?".

"Who wants tae know?", asked the mystery man, warily.

"Are you James Martin Luther Leishman? The manager of Dunfermline.", the policeman repeated.

"No Comment", replied the man instinctively.

"Will you please answer the question?", the policeman insisted.

"What question?", he replied. Then seeing the policeman's exasperated snarl, he continued.

"Okay, you got me, ah'm Jim Lieshman, he smiled, delighting in a captive audience. "What am I supposed to have done?".

"Well Sir", the policeman said, "We have reason to believe you are concealing a priceless antique last seen on the flagpole at East End and currently in your unlawful possession". Leishman was surprisingly silent as he stared at the policemen. After a few minutes he broke out of this uncharacteristic silence.

"A flag you say? Here in ma hoose? Aw come on whit would I want to steal that for?"

"I have no idea", replied the right-wing suppressor of civil rights. "But I'd like to take a look around. If that's OK?".

"Aw naw you dinnae. I've seen Cagney and Lacey, you need a search warrant. You can just bugger . . .", he stormed as the policeman held up a piece of paper with the word "WARRANT" written on it. Reluctantly Leishman turned round and led the policeman inside, he walked slowly and ponderously towards the living room door before throwing it wide open and exclaiming in surprise . . .

"Good grief, I've been framed". Slightly perplexed the policeman entered the room and stared incredulously at the flag, in all its splendour cunningly disguised as wallpaper. The policeman went up to the wall, removed the drawing pins and folded the flag up.

"Well Mr. Leishman Exhibit No.1 I think".

"Incredible", exclaimed Leishman, "Someone must have sneaked in while we were talking, stuck the flag on the wall and ran off, I bet he's having a guid laugh noo".

"Of course Mr. Leishman", replied the policeman. "Now would you like to try on this attractive pair of handcuffs?".

Some hours later Jim sat alone and confused in a police cell, his world was falling apart, and his dreams looked to be in tatters. No watertight alibi came to mind that could clear his name. GOD had clearly deserted him in his hour of need, an Jim prayed for forgiveness and a fair trial. Then he heard a familiar voice from behind the cell door.

"Now are you sure I'll get the bail money back?", asked Chairman Mel.

Jim's heart leapt into his mouth when he heard his old friend Mel Rennie's warm and comforting voice. After what seemed an eternity the key turned in the lock and a policeman announced.

"Er . . . You can go now"

"Why did you do it Jim?", snarled the chairman.

"Well Jim", smiled the chairman, "The team's no doing bad is it?", he continued as he took off his Raybans.

"No Mr. Rennie", grovelled Jim, "I'd like to ask a favour".

"What?", exclaimed the chairman, "You don't want money, please say you don't want money, anything but that".

"No, no Mr. Rennie, we want to go full-time".

"Full-time!", the chairman exclaimed, a concerned look spread across his face.

"But you already work full-time, how would you fit everything in?".

"Well I want to leave the Job-Centre, an . . .".

"Leave the Job Centre?", Chairman Mel exclaimed, "You'll be terribly short of money. Remember money's very important, precious in fact".

"Aye, ah know, that's why ah' want to be full-time manager of . . .".

"James, James, James", the chairman replied tactfully. "Full-time managers are bloody expensive, we just can't afford it . . .".

"Oh it's OK Mr. Rennie, ah dinnae want to be full-time here, the Aberdeen job's up for grabs and I've been tipped tae get it. No bad eh?"

The sound of Mel Rennie's chin hitting the floor could be heard downstairs as he sank to the floor in a dead faint.

"Mr. Rennie, Mr. Rennie", Jim exclaimed, "Are you all right, was it something I said?"

But the Saviour did not depart for the land of the sheep, and so the Aberdeen board had to settle for an unknown in the shape of the man with no brain, Ian Portaloo. In actual fact, Leishman had been tipped as the new Rangers manager, but it was felt that the Messiah's own particular brand of religion would only inflame the existing sectarian problems at Ibrox. You can understand their position of course. The Old Firm each steadfastly claim to fight for the honour of the One True God, but if Jim Leishman was to ascend the throne room at Ibrox this would mean a third god would be thrown into the sectarian jigsaw puzzle, and would also require Celtic to find a second religion to sponsor. The risk was too great for Rangers, who eventually settled for a decrepit player / manager / psychopath, who having hacked his way around Europe retired to Rangers to live out his twilight years in the service of the team that he had supported since before his parents met in Princes Street Gardens one dark Saturday night.

As the season progressed the Pars remained near or at the top of the league. Morton, the pre-season faves were always dangerous and waited like vultures for the Dunfermline bubble to burst. But it was not to be. The club moved from strength to strength and offered Leishman a full-time contract.

While the club looked confidently towards the future with eight players turning full-time and several more contemplating the prospect, Leishman was called before the referees' committee to explain his attempt to assault one of them. The committee was completely unbiased, and composed entirely of referees. They voted to ban Leish from the dug-out for one year. But the ban was a pointless exercise, placing Leish a few extra yards from the pitch would not achieve anything. He wouldn't even need a megaphone since every fan knows that Leishman's divine guidance is passed to the players telepathically. In fact the players do not even need to think as the power of Leishman flows through their being, guiding their every movement and inspiration.

By the half-way stage. Dunfermline were top of the League with 29 points from 22 games. All senseless talk of consolidation was forgotten and Leishman confidently preached of the delights of the Premier League in his pre-match sermon. The jewel in the crown of East End was the Second Division Flag, which proudly fluttered in the breeze on matchdays. Soon the flag was regarded as a holy relic, the first stage of the Dunfermline rebirth and an ever present reminder of greater glories to come. When ever the players felt downhearted or thought that their faith was wearing thin. They would stand and gaze at the flag, and the adrenaline would flow, the blood would race (or stroll gently in Watson's case) and they would charge up the park and knock another four past a despairing opposition. Yes, with the faithful flag as their Excalibur nothing could stand in their way, nothing could block their ascension to the Upper Echelons of Scottish Football.

"Honest", began Jim, "Ah didnae steal it, it was raining and I thought it would shrink . . now . . oh! it was dirty so I took it home for a wash . . an I thought that everybody should have a shot at taking it hame, me first like".

"I dinnae care why you did it", blasted the chairman. "This is bad for the club. Anyway I've a way to avoid bad publicity. We've planted the flag on someone who wrote to the Dunfermline Press last week, that'll teach the bastard to criticise me".

The chairman's face took on a glow of self-satisfaction as he pictured the victim's face as the police revealed the missing flag, cunningly under the floorboards of his house.

And so the chapter of the missing flag came to an end. Leishman's momentary indiscretion was covered up until now, and the innocent victim who dared to criticise our Chairman was duly convicted of theft and sentenced to support Falkirk. This was later commuted to death by hanging.

With the flag duly returned to its rightful position, flying high over East End Park, the team was once more on the road to the Premier League. But the rebirth was being noticed beyond our shores. For some incredible reason Crystal Palace offered the outrageous sum of £60,000 for "Super Johnny Watson". When the club's rep phoned East End to offer the deal, Leishman was so amused by the idea that he burst into uncontrolled fits of hysterics. The Englishman, so surprised at such treatment, he slammed the phone down. A similar sum was offered for Norrie McCathie, but this time it was Leishman who slammed the phone down.

By the New Year Dunfermline were on top with a four point cushion over Morton, East Fife and Dumbarton. The first games of 1987 fell foul of the weather and the Pars' fitness dropped ever so slightly. The Scottish Cup came around and surprisingly it was Hibs at Easter Road. Once again thousands of Pars fans made the traditional trip to Edinburgh and saw Hibs win by the traditional scoreline of 2-0.

The league programme resumed against Airdrie on February 7th. As usual Airdrie were pushing for promotion, and as usual they were not going up. Clyde were the next team to succumb to the Pars goal machine, who extended their unbeaten run to nine games. However as the Premier League drew closer so did the weather, postponing three of Dunfermline's games, allowing Morton to go top. The lead was quickly restored with wins over Partick and Brechin. However all good things must come to an end, and the winning sequence ended at Station Park, Forfar. A minor setback, and after gubbing Montrose at East End, the Pars held a five point lead over Morton, the place in the top league was getting closer.

It was around this time that our glorious chairman decided that Close Circuit Television was to be installed at East End Park. National television coverage would soon follow. On March 7th, Archie "I'm from Glasgow, and I don't care" McPherson was overcome by the talent on display on the terraces, which almost outshone the magicians on the field. In fact the next three weeks of Bob says Opportunity Knocks was packed with pars fans who had been discovered that day. The match was memorable for a number of reasons, but all I can think of was that the goal was scored by Stevie Morrison.

Obviously the cameras were to come again, this time to see Morton feel the Pars power. A win would see Dunfermline open up a seven point lead, and make the championship a mere formality. But the promotion celebrations had been in full swing since November and by now overindulgence in alcohol was a daily ritual. Surprisingly Dunfermline lost, but there was no cause for concern - was there? We would still be in the lead, there wasn't any danger - was there?

Unfortunately there was. Dunfermline travelled to Bayview to dish out a much deserved gubbing to East Fife. East fife's tactical genius Dave Clarke had just taken a step up in the world by leaving Falkirk to join the Methil men. The game finished a draw, and with results elsewhere the Pars lead was cut to two points. With six games to go and the awful possibility of yet another Berwick facing the team the run in would be as tense as ever. Something or someone was needed to inject drive and experience into the team, an influential goal scorer, a talented player just right for the Premier League.

Instead Leishman signed Stuart Beedie who made a greater impact on the players' drinks bills than on the pitch. Beedie had experience with Montrose, St. Johnstone, and Dundee United. Unfortunately this was all cancelled out by spending time with Hibernian. It was to be some time before DE-HIBEEESisation would be complete and he could play football again.

As the climax of the championship drew closer, the lead grew thinner with Leishman's hair as teams like Brechin had the audacity to win at East End Park. Finally the ultimate prize was won on 25th April when promotion was assured with a 1-0 win over Queen of the South. The party celebrations started at 4.45pm on the Saturday afternoon and continued into the night, the rest of the season and the close season. Morton had the ultimate cheek to steal the league

By one point on the last day of the season, but it really didn't matter in the end. The Messiah had led the Children of East End Park into the paradise called the Premier League. The first Fife club, under the guidance of The Lord to enter Premier League service.

Soon The Messiah's disciples - The Leishmanitus would journey to the new lands and temples of discovery which lay before them. The fans eagerly awaited the beginning of the new dawn when, once again the name Dunfermline would be uttered with awe, unlike Falkirk which is uttered in terror. But it was not just the first team who were victorious. The reserves had fought off all challengers to win the "coveted" Reserve League trophy, by the huge margin of two points, despite a sneaky move by the SFA who suddenly increased the number of games to be played. With a successful first team and second team, what chance would the Premier League have against Leishman's Lions?

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JIMMY DEE.

The future belonged to Leishman.

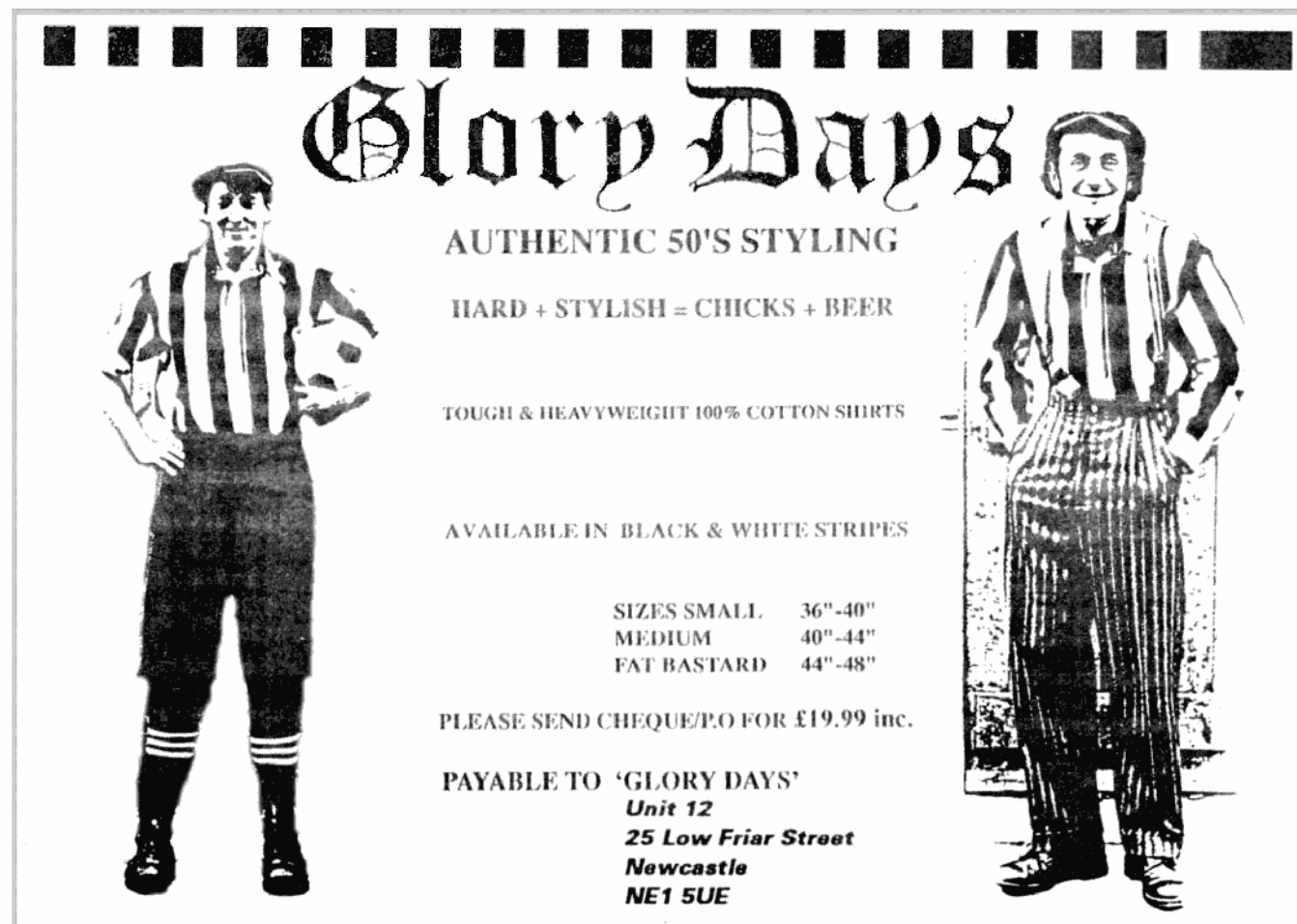
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WHO'S WHO

by K. KIRKHOPE

ABERDEEN : Despite their recent impeccable performance at East End Park I don't think the Dons have what it takes to snatch the ultimate prize from their free-spending Glaswegian rivals. They have a very strong pool of players which will give Souness a few sleepless nights, but I'm afraid that the season will end with the Dons heading home pondering on what might have been. Alex Smith has made some good signings since taking over, most notably the Dutchman Hans Gillhaus. But although he destroyed us and gunned down the Huns one wonders why he was unable to command a first team place with PSV Eindhoven and has no International career to speak of. The winter months will show how good he is. It's very difficult to find a weaknesses in the Aberdeen team but, Van der Ark's ability has to be questioned. When he's in possession he loos like he's never seen the ball before. Champagne Charlie is unsettled as ever and yearns the glamour of a top European Club.

Prediction: League - Runners Up. Cup: Possible Finalists and possible Winners.

CELTIC : Torrid times ahead for the Bhoys from Paradise. They've just gone through one of their poorest spells for a long time, but the recent victory over Aberdeen will spur them on to better things. The Roy Aitken saga has added to Celtic's troubles, but he will probably remain at Parkhead due to the enormous fee Celtic are asking for him. He'll just have to put up with Gerry McNee. Its really no surprise that they are in the situation they are, if they are prepared to squander £7.5 Million on such a pile of dross as Elliot, Galloway, Coyne, Miller and the vastly overrated Jacki. The Celtic fans are keen to criticise the McGinn "Biscuit Tin" spending and a reluctance to part with money, but these astonishing signings suggest otherwise. The Mo-Jo affair in the close season was a bad omen for Celtic, its years since the club has taken such a kick in the privates and it will take a while to get over it. Their "OLD GUARD" will see them through to a respectable league position and maybe a Parkhead victory over the Huns, but it is in the Cup that they have most chance of glory. In McNeill they have a likeable Manager, but he must be questioned for his signing of Elliot.

Prediction: League - 3rd. Cup: Possible Finalists, possible Winners.

DUNDEE : Any club who appoints a manager who was sacked by Raith Rovers several seasons ago when they were in the 2nd Division must be prepared to accept the consequences. When Gordon Wallace took over from Max Wall (Dave Smith) as manager the writing was on the wall for Dundee. Wallace has a unique talent for transforming a hardworking, happy and relatively sound squad of players into a depressed, desperate rabble with rock bottom team morale. Angus Cook should realise that running after Jim MacLean's arse as a tea-boy doesn't make you a gifted manager. Despite having several talented players of proven ability, Beedie, Dodds, wright etc. If the Boxing Day match at East End is a marker for how Dundee intend playing till the end of the season then their fans are in for an awful time, and the referees a busy one. The object is to gain points at any cost and whereas they may nick a point here or there, if they play in such a negative way they will be relegated long before the end of the season.

Prediction: League 10. Cup: To progress.

DUNDEE UNITED : The Tangerines have lost much of the flair and skill which made them such an attractive team to watch a few seasons ago. One can have nothing but admiration for Jim MacLean and what he has achieved with such limited resources. Sadly United are now a mere shadow of the team they once were, but they still merit a place in the top half of the Premier League. After a terrible start to the season they are picking up, and have climbed up the table a little. However the current pool at Tannadice does not suggest a team of trophy winners. Freddie (Nightmare on Dens Road) van der Hoorn turned in a pretty erratic display at East End, and looks more than capable of the odd dangerous mistake. Dave Bowman is always good for presenting opponents with free kicks in dangerous positions. Dave Narey, great servant he has been, should now be pensioned off along with Hegarty. Both were good players in their time, but now not quite as solid. Its only a matter of time before Jim steps down and Sturrock takes over as boss, or maybe Alex Ferguson when he gets the boot from Man Utd. Prediction: League 4th. Cup: Possible Finalists - but no chance of winning.

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC : The Pars are the most improved team in Scotland this season. The way we have gate-crashed the closed shop of the Premier League is nothing short of astonishing. We have really upset the apple cart causing Dundee and St. Mirren to run squirming to the Scottish League begging for the reconstruction of the leagues. Would the reconstruction plea have been so loud if we had been at the foot of the league as everyone had expected? With the aid of the French Connection Leishman has swooped into the transfer market with more than a little shrewdness. Big Doug has been a revelation so far, almost single-handedly keeping the defence together. Jimmy Nichol was oozing class before his injury, hurry back Jim. Istvan Kozma appears to be the most gifted player to play for the Pars since Alex Edwards. O'Boyle has been the Player of the Year so far, with many brilliant performances. Rafferty is working hard in midfield along with the 100% man Paul Smith. Tommy Wilson looks a great prospect but I'd retain Graeme Robertson as cover. All the other players have responded well to the new ones especially McCathie, Sharp and Jack. My only worry is that injury and suspension will rob us of a few of these players. If Jack goes we're left with Steady Eddie Gallacher, not a very encouraging prospect. If the team continues to play the way they can throughout the season then we will have no worries for relegation come May. Survival this season could see the 90s being as successful as the 60s for Dunfermline. With Jim in charge and Mel Rennie providing the cash we can't go wrong. Prediction: League 7th. Cup: Possible Semi-Finalists.

HEARTS : I can't really see Hearts doing that much this season. Qualification for Europe would be considered a successful season for the Jambos, but with Scotland's reduced share of places it is unlikely that the Maroons will get any exotic trips to Munich and Vienna this coming season. There are a few useful players at Tynecastle, Crabbe and McLaren look very good indeed, and with Levein returning to form they have some good times ahead. Overall Hearts lack the class necessary to challenge for honours. It is all too easy to push the self-destruct button by including Berry, Kidd, Whittaker or Ian Jardine in the team. To some Hearts fans Wallace Mercer is the saviour who took Hearts from the bowels of Division One and took them back to the top of Scottish Football. To most people in Scotland he is a Tory entrepreneur using his Hearts Chairmanship as a vehicle to obtain maximum exposure for his right-wing views. Prediction: League 5th. Cup: Possible Semi-Finalists.

HIBERNIAN : Hibs fans have every reason to be disgruntled with the current state of affairs at Easter Road. With a Chairman busy using the supporters and the Club's money to buy English Wine Bars to line his, and his sidekicks pockets rather than strengthen the playing pool, and a manager who models the team's playing style on Motherwell. Thus producing the grand total of three away goals this season. Their second half display at East End was the worst I have seen from the Hibeers. I am certain that most of the players are better than that display suggested. Although Gareth Evans exposed himself as a Cheating Little Bastard with his play acting which almost landed Big Doug in trouble. Prediction: League 8th Cup: Quarter-finalists possible.

MOTHERWELL: Apart from ourselves Motherwell are the most improved team in the Premier this season. No-one in their wildest dreams would have imagined Motherwell coming to East End and actually entertaining the crowd, which they did in the 1-1 draw at the start of the season. A few shrewd signings by Tommy McLean, particularly Davie Cooper, has transformed Motherwell from a boring, defence minded team of "Old Firm" has-beens to an entertaining free-flowing team of "Old Firm" has-beens. November has seen them drift a little into the relegation area, a more familiar place for the 'Well supporters. This will probably allow a "return to normal service" which means that we can all look forward to seeing Davie Cooper playing in Defence. However the current crop of players should be enough to keep Motherwell out of relegation trouble for the first time in living memory.

Prediction: League 6th Cup: Possible Quarter-finalists.

RANGERS : After their usual sluggish start to the season the Huns are starting to play as a team that cost the equivalent of half a dozen luxury yachts should. Their endless pool of money grabbing English players will ensure they take the winter points while their rivals are struggling in the mud at Love Street. However as good as they look there are still weaknesses in the Huns armoury. Chris Woods has never been too happy with cross balls (just ask Mark Smith). John "Psycho" Brown, although a talented player tends to lose the head and dive into a foolish tackle (just ask Mark Smith). Ian Ferguson who runs around in circles each week, now and then lofting the ball up into the Copeland Road Stand, chasing his dream, a colour centre page spread in the Sunday Mail modelling Top Man jackets with Ian McCall. In Europe Rangers flopped, albeit to Bayern Munich, but with the Scottish Clubs losing seeding next year the chances are that Rangers will draw one of the big clubs again and meet a similar fate. The Arsenal game should have been a warning to Rangers just how far they have yet to go to even survive in a European League.

Prediction: League Winners. Cup: Possible Finalists, Possible Winners.

ST. MIRREN: The best The Buddies can hope for this season is to finish winners in the dog-fight with Dundee to avoid the drop into Division One, to scrap it out with the Raith Rovers and Falkirks (If they're still there) of this world. In Tony Fitzpatrick, St. Mirren have the biggest moaning faced git in football management since Mike England lost the Wales job. Despite the signings of Manley and Wishart the defence has bigger holes in it than the Romanian President (just ask Kozma). They look to set a record this year, lowest ever Premier crowd as the support they receive is pathetic. A club with a fair bit of money but no ambition other than to remain in the Premier League. Its going to be a nerve tingling few months for the fans and I'd hate to be at the last clash with Dundee - Bodies everywhere.

Prediction: League 9th Cup: No chance.

Hall of Shame 83/84

At approximately 9.08pm on Wednesday 11th November 1989, Ross Jack scored a goal which could never be described as spectacular, but it was special. It brought untold joy to the thousands of Pars Fans at Fir Park that night and to others at home tuned into their radios. I feel sure that I don't have to remind you why we were so happy. That goal gave us the point required to put the Pars on top of the Premier League for the very first time.

Our glory may have only lasted three days, but if someone had suggested to me at the end of season 83/84 that the Pars would be Top of the Premier League in less than six years time, this person's sanity would have been seriously questioned. Season 83/04 was unarguably the worst season ever, finishing 33rd out of 38 teams. They finished 33rd in seasons 22/23 and 24/25 but there were 40 teams playing back then, so season 83/84 was the worst in our history, hence the inclusion of a whole season rather than just an individual player in the Hall of Shame.

What follows is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth:

AUGUST: The season was only five minutes old and "Zico" Morrison scored a cracker at Central Park and we waited for the barrowload of goals to come, and waited, and waited, and waited some more. We only just held on for the win. Then there was the League Cup to look forward to, a two-leg tie against Dundee United. Zico scored again but unfortunately Dundee Utd scored EIGHT times, the scores being 1-6 and 0-2.

SEPTEMBER: One win, two draws and three defeats was our record during sad September. The single win coming at home to Berwick, 1-0 a goal scored by Norrie McCathie. Only Norrie and Trevor Smith remain as present day Pars players from the 29 players who turned out during the season. Other results were 1-1 at Home to East Fife, 1-2 away to Queens, 1-1 away to Albion Rovers, 1-2 away to East Stirlingshire and 1-2 at Home to Forfar.

OCTOBER: The first day of the month saw the Pars beat Stenhousemuir 2-0 at home, Forrest and Shaggy scoring the goals. A 1-1 draw at Stranraer was next followed by a 0-1 defeat to Arbroath at East End, after which Tam Forsyth decided to leave as Manager. Surely one of the highlights of the season. Big Leish was appointed Caretaker Manager and as a result of a 3-1 defeat at Hampden, and a 1-1 draw at home to second bottom 'Shire he was offered the job on a permanent basis. He accepted the job officially on the 31st of October.

NOVEMBER: Three points out of four from the first two games of November, both away from home, winning 1-0 at Montrose and a 1-1 draw at Berwick saw Leishman off to a good start as Manager. The next game at home to second top Queens resulted in a 1-0 win for the Pars, "Jobby" Dall the scorer. Things were looking up but we were brought back to Earth with a 1-1 draw at home to Stranraer in the final game of the month, our goal being scored by an opposing defender.

DECEMBER: "Dire" was the word to describe this month with only one point gained from our games played. A 1-2 defeat at Ochilview followed by a 1-0 defeat at Forfar, with Perry's own goal being the only memory. Our point came in a 1-1 draw at home to Stirling Albion, but New Year's eve saw us crash 1-3 to East Fife at Bayview, with a young Gordon Durie scoring two for East Fife. Around that time a Red Headed striker came to East End, his name; John Watson.

Hall of Shame 83/84

- JANUARY: The New Year did not get off to the most auspicious of starts when the derby at home to Cowdenbeath on 02 Jan was abandoned at half-time. One week later though we were at home to Forfar in the Scottish Cup, some respite from the league and a single Rab Stewart goal was enough to take us through to the next round at Ibrox. The Saturday prior to the "BIG GAME" saw us lose 0-3 at Gayfield. It was ultimately a case of so near, and yet so far. There we were 1-0 up with only nine minutes to go, having gone 1-0 up when Paul Donnelly and Stevie Morrison had combined to create an opening for Rab Stewart, who tucked it away with great calmness. The joy of this goal was to be followed by unbelievable tension for the fans and the players, with McAdam and McCoist eventually scoring the goals that gave Rangers an undeserved win, as a few Rangers fans admitted to me on the train home. A great performance when it is compared to the League form at that time.
- FEBRUARY: A mixed bag this month, two wins, two draws and two defeats, back in the nitty-gritty of league football, but this month also saw the arrival of Gregor Abel at East End who was to play a big part in the club's future. A 1-1 draw at home to Montrose was followed by an embarrassing 1-2 defeat at home to Albion Rovers. This was followed by a 2-0 win at East Stirlingshire with Trevor Smith scoring his first goal for the Pars. The rest of the month saw us lose 0-1 in Dumfries, 2-2 against Queens Park and a 1-0 win over Stranraer, both played at East End.
- MARCH: Another indifferent month with two wins, one draw and two defeats, both the wins were away from home, at Cowdenbeath and Stirling, both by a 1-2 scoreline. The 0-0 draw was at home to Cowdenbeath in the rearranged New Years fixture. The two defeats came at home to East Stirlingshire 1-2 and away to Montrose 0-2.
- APRIL: The best month of the season by a mile, with four wins out of five matches. The loss was a 0-1 reverse against East Fife with Durie again scoring the goal. Only 385 pars fans, the lowest crowd of the season witnessed the Pars defeat Arbroath by 2-0, then two days later the Pars notched up a fine 3-1 win against the already promoted Forfar, John Watson scoring the first of his many goals for the Pars. An equally fine 2-1 win over Queens Park at Hampden was followed by the defeat of East Fife. The best performance of the season came with the 5-0 win over Albion Rovers at East End, Watson scoring after two minutes, he added a second with the others coming from Shaggy, Rab Stewart and a rare goal from Bobby Robertson.
- MAY: After the best win of the season there was only one was to end the season, but it wasn't to be, a 1-2 defeat at Stenhousemuir followed by a 0-2 defeat at Berwick was an appropriate way to end our darkest season. The rest is history, winning the Second and First Division titles. Last season Watson scored his last goal for Dunfermline to win the league. It was only travelling back from that historic game at 'Well, that the memory of that season came back, we were awful. Let us hope that those days never return to East End Park

FU MANCHU



PARALLEL LINES with the rev.

WALKING DOWN THE HALBEATH ROAD'S LETTERS PAGE
ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS LIKELY TO BE PRINTED
UNLESS STATED NOT FOR PUBLICATION. PRIZES
AWARDED FOR LETTERS AS AVAILABLE.

* STAR LETTER *

Dear WDHR,

What a great mag. Like Paul from Newcastle I am also a postie, all the way down in the Midlands. I also wear the Pars badge on my jacket. I have visited East End a few times and I'm organising a bus load of posties to make the journey up. That's to prove to my work mates that I'm not mad. I am also trying to setup a Pars supporters club to save costs. If anybody in England wishes to write please write, we already have 20.

Ian Avery, 20 Malham Road, Warwick, W34 5XY.

Dear Ian,

Great 20 new Pars fans. I'd write to the club about starting the supporters club, they're very helpful. Let us know if you're coming up and we'll have a beer or two. Your prize is a T-shirt.

Dear WDHR,

I've been to two contrasting matches this season, Celtic 2-0 which was outstanding and Aberdeen 0-3, which wasn't. Still, the unbeaten run had to end sometime. Issue Ten says that Kozma and O'Boyle have not been bought outright yet, these two have to be tied up on long term contracts. George's tireless running against Celtic was great, at times it was him against the whole defence. Till the Celtic match I'd only read about Kozma's class, then I saw it for myself, "Brilliant!" Against Aberdeen he looked a little tired from International duty, but that's a small price to pay for such quality and vision. They've both got to be Pars players again next year.

Mark from Ipswich.

Dear Mark,

couldn't have put it better myself mate. Thanks, and a WDHR prize is on its way to you.

Dear WDHR,

Thanks for sending Issues 9 and 10. I enjoyed them and I'm looking forward to the next issue. I read about the tragic story of Gary Riddell in the Liverpool fanzine "Through the Wind and Rain". As a Liverpool supporter I am grateful for what he did for the Hillsborough appeal. He'll never walk alone. The story has converted me from a Rangers fan to a Dunfermline fan. Good luck for the rest of the season, and I'll look out for your result every Saturday.

Karl Powell, 19 NINIAN ST, TREHERBERT, RHONDA, CF42 5RD

Dear Karl,

Thanks good to hear you have swapped allegiances. Hope to see you at East End Park sometime.

Dear WDHR,

Thanks for No.9, I enclose cheque for a years subs. I enjoyed Early Baths No.3 - I was there-before I moved up here-just before Premier football. Also enjoyed the Barrie Mitchell interview since he was my first hero, but there was no mention of why he always held his shirt cuffs clenched in his fingers. Although I was born and bred in Glasgow I hated the Rangers/Celtic bigoted setup, and at the age of eight I decided to support someone. I asked my brother (who had the Wee Red Book) who had won the cup last year ? - Rangers, the year before that? - Rangers, the year before that? - Dunfermline, that will do for me, and it has been ever since. Until I got my own transport I had to settle for games in Glasgow, then I got a car and was able to travel to East End. Then after the promotion I got a job up here in Dingwall and now see Ross County. Anytime I'm visiting Glasgow I'll certainly go W.D.H.R.
Ian McDonald. Greenhill St, Dingwall, Ross & Cromarty.

Fanzines

The football fanzine world has now reached saturation point, new magazines appear every week and with a few exceptions the majority are absolutely rubbish, full of ideas pinched from other and better publications. Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery but plagiarism is not. It would be all too easy to mention these fanzines by name, but I'm not about to waste your time and my time by churning out slaggings which they'd probably welcome anyway. The initial ideas were and still are good, giving a respite from the official magazines for the fans, who are the most important people in the club, to air their views. What we now have is a collection of 'zines whose humour is schoolboy to say the least. Criticism which used to be subtle and constructive is now blatant and way over the top. They're often less than 20 pages and look as though they've been put together after a good night in their local. Below are our previews for this issue. Apologies to those 'zines we've missed out this time, we'll cover them in the near future. Also included is a list of our top ten, we are of course too modest to include ourselves in this top ten.

WAITING FOR THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD (M'WELL)
PO BOX 2
WISHAW, LANARKSHIRE, ML2 8DZ

Issue 3 is the one we saw and it's quite good value for 40p, although only 24 pages. Great article on sectarianism, good cartoons and a fair bit of humour. Where they fall down is the following quote: "... and let it slip against teams of the calibre of Dunfermline and St. Mirren". Cooperwell should bear in mind how the SFA saved them from relegation, and how crap they've been till now.

ONE TEAM IN DUNDEE (Dundee Utd)
Address being changed.

Only 20p, great value and a very good fanzine to boot. The issue we saw had reviews of United's trip to Antwerp. Thought provoking articles on the Animal Liberation Front and the appearance of the National Front in Scotland, and is well worth a read.

ONE TEAM IN ULSTER (LINFIELD)
PO BOX 190
BELFAST B75 7DF (50P)

I don't know very much about Linfield except that George O'Boyle played for them and scored 39 GOALS. A very well produced magazine. Issue 7 includes a wee bit on George. Apparently his nickname was John Conteh? Aside from that a very good read, although you do tend to pick up the same traits as "Follow Follow" when they speak of Glentoran. Worth a look.

DIRTY DICK (West Bromwich Albion)
No 7 RUTH CLOSE
TIPTON, STAFFS, DY4 0AQ (50P)

A new fanzine which has arisen from the ashes of FINGERPOST. One of the editorial team is a Pars fan so they must be alright. This issue seemed taken up with reviews of away matches and some very good cartoons. All you wanted to know about life in the English Second Division. Worth a look.

W.D.H.R'S TOP TEN - NEVER BE WITHOUT THEM

1. THE NORTHERN LIGHT (ABERDEEN); The best around, great cartoons, good humour, hate Rangers.
2. A.W.O.L (Meadowbank); When it appears it's a good fun packed issue every time.
3. WHEN SATURDAY COMES (GENERAL); another must every month.
4. ONLY THE LONELY (AIRDRIE)
5. WENDY WHO (ST. JOHNSTONE)
6. KILLIE KEN (KILMARNOCK)
7. NOT THE VIEW (CELTIC)
8. ONE TEAM IN DUNDEE (DUNDEE UTD)
9. THE FALKIRK UNOFFICIAL FANZINE (FALKIRK)
10. THE GORGIE WAVE (HEARTS)

30.12.89

CELTIC 0 : PARS 2

As we took our places on the packed away terracing at Parkhead on Saturday the 29th of December 1989, few of us could foresee the epic win that was about to unfold. We had won 2-0 at East End earlier in the season, and had gone down by the odd-goal at Parkhead. As we had expected, Celtic urged on by a large home support hit us from the start, well if you call pumping high balls into the box for Tierney and McCathie to head clear hitting us. Never having seen us score at Parkhead it was difficult not to go bananas when after weathering some 12 minutes of pressure; Jacko won the ball on the edge of his own box, streaked 50 yards down the wing and heaved a cross over to Stuart Rafferty, who calmly collected the ball and put it past Bonnar into the net.

Then the expected happened, Celtic got a penalty a minute later when Aitken took a dive in the box. Andy Walker duly stepped up and blasted the ball over the bar, roughly in the direction of Partick. We went in at half-time leading 1-0 and the thoughts going through our minds were that Celtic would stop the punting of high balls into the box and go for wing play instead. Attack they did and forced corner after corner. Westie was of course in command, clutching crosses more closely than a Vampire Hunter. The press photographers came in for a lot of stick when they all came round behind Westie in the second half, as did Aitken every time he came near the ball.

Despite bringing on Miller and Galloway their play still revolved around the high ball over their defence. With time running out Celtic pushed everyone up, this was to be their biggest error. Irons streaked past Elliot, only to be brutally scythed down by the Celtic defender, a Red Card surely! - No only a Yellow! Elliot would be more at home at Ibrox or Tynecastle, he is an animal and surely his first red card can't be that far away.

With one minute remaining the ball was cleared out to O'Boyle who hit a superb lay-off to Jacko. Caught out by pushing too far forward the Celts could only watch as Jacko ran up the park and from just outside the box, chipped the ball over Bonnar and into the net.

The scenes on the terracing were brilliant, old men crying, kids dancing and a mass chorus of "Cheerio, Cheerio" to the melting Celtic fans. It was soon all over and the Celtic fans called for resignations, signings and mass prayer meetings. The Pars fans saluted their heroes and Hogmanay was certainly a joyous occasion to those of a Pars persuasion, not to mention Rangers fans as well.

A great performance which will be long remembered by Pars fans.

