

## One Club Man

July 2018

The home season concluded with the successive visits of Celtic and Hibernian. For the Celtic match the cover replicated 'Tinker Tailor Solider Spy' – or the slightly less catchy, 'Captain Leader Hearts P.O.T.Y.' - with Christophe Berra. Inside the main highlights were two photos - both from the early fifties. Firstly some of the Hearts squad captured at their Worthing Hotel in 1950 during a trip to play Chelsea – a programme I've featured here – and then Brighton – a programme I'd love! The photo shows then Assistant Manager Tommy Walker and a bunch of happy, smartly dressed players that would form the nucleus – with Walker as Manager – of the great Hearts side in the decade ahead. The second showed a more pioneering spirit with a Mary Allan dutifully answering calls on a special telephone line to update supporters on a Cup-tie at Dundee the same year. Back in the current day 19,031 saw Celtic win 3-1.

The visit of Hibernian saw home programme number 23 issued and Don Cowie featuring as the star of 'Enemy' on the cover. Naturally there was a reflective feel to the issue with a collage of the 23 covers as well as a photographic review of the season. David Speed's excellent series on the 1957-58 Championship side also concluded. 19,324 saw another highlight as Hearts won 2-1.

Finally for 2017-18 it was off to Kilmarnock for a lunchtime kick-off. Although the reading has dropped off over the years there is still enough to interest. Match reports always seem to find fault with refereeing and bad luck rather than Killie but that slightly acerbic nature is well mixed with snapshot items and some interesting historical articles. Here the 1970 tour of Rhodesia is featured and it perhaps deserves a more in-depth piece. The home side won out 1-0 before 6,273. A primarily white ticket with four players feinted though the background was utilised.

So, having concluded a fairly mediocre season it's worth reflecting on four programmes that would enter any 'Rogue's Gallery' at Tynecastle.

The winter of 1962-63 had decimated the football calendar to the extent that Hearts played 19 matches between March and the extended finish of mid-May. Accordingly the New Year's Derby was eventually played on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Incidentally, the postponed programme for the original match is one of the rarest Hearts' issues. The cover shows Johnny Hamilton scoring the winner against Celtic in a 4-3 win the previous week and the reading opens with a hope that the remaining games will see Hearts further improve their League position. They had been handily placed going into December but the three-month break had decimated form. Hibernian had fared worse though and “regret” was expressed that they were welcomed in such a “dangerous League position.”. News of Davie Holt's Scotland call-up is opposite before match reports on defeat at Ibrox and that win over Celtic. Hibernian are then fully profiled and revealed to be in second-bottom spot. A severe blow had been encountered with the injury to defender Willie Turner who had dislocated his shoulder and gashed his head after tripping on a running track and falling over a wall!

The issue closed with some general updates before that League table on the back-page beneath results to date, Hibs had 18 points – Raith doomed, below on 8 – and a game in hand on Clyde who were four points above. And here comes the rub. Hearts raced into a two-goal lead but, in six second-half minutes Hibernian's unforetold spirit made it 3-2. Hearts

rallied and that man Holt made it 3-3 before the end but the lingering feeling for bitter home supporters was that Hearts had not been keen to see their city rivals relegated. Yet having been 2-0 ahead and then equalising that seems unlikely. That said the point proved crucial for Hibernian as they survived by two from the unfortunate Clyde.

Celtic issues long-used a portrait photo for their regular cover. However, in February 1969 they did produce a special B5 issue 'In appreciation of our Chairman' – words unlikely to be heard anywhere nowadays. The tributes open on page-two with the news that all proceeds from programme sales from the day would be donated to Sir Robert Kelly's charity. And the reason for the celebration? Celtic's Chairman had been knighted.

“Congratulations from Hearts” was beneath with a lengthy tribute from their Chairman, William Lindsay. The teams were beneath that in two paragraphs. A full profile of Kelly was opposite before the centre-pages had a photo from the Celtic Boardroom and then 'words of a wise man' which looked back at Kelly's quotes - where he rightly eulogised Stein and the all-Scottish 1967 European Cup Winning side amongst others – over two pages. A final photograph was above the fixtures and scoreboard and the only adverts - for Celtic Pools and 'The Celtic View' - appeared on the back page. Hearts duly played the subservient role on the day losing 5-0 before 35,231.

Seven years later it was the more cut-throat, ten-team Premier League and Hearts' were initially slated to visit Kilmarnock on December 4<sup>th</sup>. however snow put paid to that. A programme had already been prepared nonetheless and the neat little A6 came complete with sideburn Bob and compatriot. The teams opened the inside of the issue – printed blue on almost-regular white paper – before Manager, Willie Fernie opened the reading with his thoughts. “We must ensure that we take the points from clubs like Hearts if we are to survive in the top division.” Prophetic words indeed.

Hearts are then given a page before fixtures and results reveal just one win for Kilmarnock thus far – albeit 6-1 against rivals, Ayr. Nonetheless, Hearts are then detailed in pen-pictures although Cammy Fraser's is cut off in his prime at the bottom-of-the-page. 'Behind the Scenes' then covers injuries ranging from a dislocated fibula to a “chill” and the reserves defeat at Clydebank. The issue then closes with a rather random article on Northern Ireland Manager, Danny Blanchflower.

Remarkably, the re-scheduled fixture wasn't played until April 11<sup>th</sup> by which point both sides had all-but been relegated with Kilmarnock bottom. Willie Fernie was still at Rugby Park despite just four wins to date and he opens “sadly Kilmarnock are fated to the First Division football next season.”. Fernie then goes onto bemoan bad luck but he'd be sacked the following autumn.

Hearts were then profiled as 'Companions in distress' before a later rather odd 'cover' page declaring only 'Our Visitors Heart of Midlothian' – more akin to sort of wastage you see in some modern programmes. More 'Behind the Scenes' included news of an upcoming Junior Cup Semi-Final at Rugby Park. The issue closed with a view on proposed reconstruction of the Leagues - just two seasons after it had happened. The new cut-throat nature of the Premier League had caught out clubs like Dundee, Aberdeen, Hearts and even part-time Kilmarnock and perhaps emerging clubs like Ayr and Clydebank did not have the same attraction. Here, a crowd of 3,000 watched a 2-2 draw that helped neither.

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