

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC F.C

FORMER PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 20 // JANUARY 2022

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DAFC FORMER PLAYERS ASSOCIATION SPORTSMAN'S BRUNCH WITH

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WELCOME

The feel-good factor from the Ayr match has dissipated somewhat. Certainly the match against Queen of the South was exciting and we did fight back from behind three times, but we should be doing better than fighting back to draw at home with the division's bottom team.

Congratulations to Willie Gibson. Our 37 year old former player completely ran the match, displaying all his experience and cunning. I am fed up with the careless mistakes we keep making (for over four years now). Since then, we were totally outclassed by Arbroath again but managed an away draw with the Rovers. Hopefully Yogi will sort it all out. Welcome Stephen Lawless.

It is great to note that more and more people are recognising the brilliant work done over the years by Dick Campbell.

Both Doug Baillie and Nipper Thomson have significant birthdays this month and there are items on both. At the moment Matchday Facilities and Guest of Honour are on hold. I shall put a circular round by e-mail and facebook, when anything changes.

I hope that you all had a great festive season and that the New Year brings Good Cheer and Health.

Chris Wishart
Secretary



FRONT COVER: NORRIE MCCATHIE

January 1996 and the tragic loss of club captain Norrie McCathie. This year marks 26 years. Tribute to Norrie on page 11.



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A STRIP BACK IN TIME

Home Kit | Season: 1996/97 | Manufacturer: Le Coq Sportif | Shirt Sponsor: Landmark

Player Pictured: Gerry Britton



Volatile times

When you live in volatile and uncertain times, should you put your long-term plans on hold?

Promotional Feature



Read or watch the news, and you will encounter a world that's volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous.

Glance at a stock market's performance over the course of a few weeks, and what stands out is probably not the general direction of travel, but the short-term seesawing of prices – especially during a volatile period.

Those characteristics can make the task of planning for you and your family's future feel all the more daunting.

As investors, it can be all too tempting to try to predict the future, or react to events as they happen. However, on the one hand, even long-term investors can all too easily respond emotionally to short-term volatility; and make bad decisions as a result. On the other, events are unpredictable at the best of times, and perhaps especially just now. On top of all this, it's not always easy to sort the facts from the fake news. The wide range of current

challenges make the world highly unpredictable. In the context of saving and investing, the products and services we need to help us are similarly numerous and complex. Do you take the DIY approach to investing, seek guidance, or look for professional financial advice?

Do you know your ISAs from your pensions and unit trusts – and how do you choose?

Where should you invest? In public or private markets? In equities, bonds, or property? And should you seek out active managers or passive funds?

The weight, number and nuance of such questions can make us yearn for simpler times – and bury our heads in the sand.

Yet that will not help you secure a brighter future for you and your family. In times like these, it's important to take action and speak with someone you trust.

A professional financial adviser can help guide you through the wealth of options available, to keep your eyes focused on the horizon, and to help you to achieve your long-term financial goals.



If you feel you would benefit from a financial review of your individual requirements, I offer a no obligation review to suit each individual need.

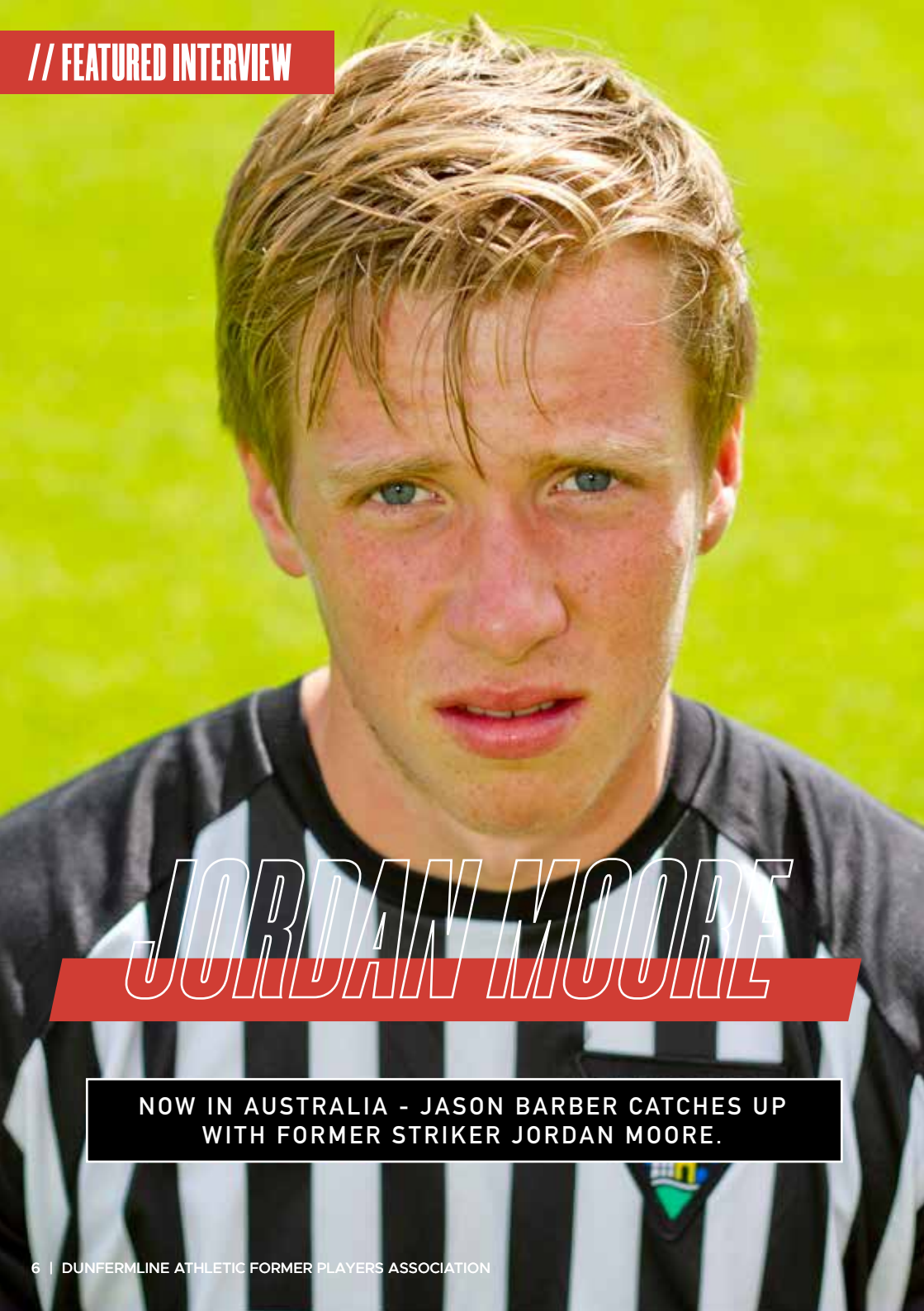
This review could be via a zoom meeting, telephone call or face to face at a Covid-secure venue at a time convenient to you.

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JORDAN MOORE

NOW IN AUSTRALIA - JASON BARBER CATCHES UP WITH FORMER STRIKER JORDAN MOORE.

Jordan in action against his former club Airdrie.



For the latest magazine, Jason Barber spoke to another former Pars player who is now plying his trade on the other side of the world; Jordan Moore played for the club on loan from Dundee United in the post administration 2013/14 season alongside some big characters. Now based in Perth, Australia, he had some fond memories of his spell at East End Park;

With Dunfermline competing in League One that season, having suffered consecutive relegations from the top flight, manager Jim Jeffries brought Jordan in on loan at a time when youth became key to forming a new side when every penny was critical

Jordan recalls "It was a great spell for me, I'd played against Dunfermline whilst on loan at Airdrie the season before. Last game of the season at East End

Park before Dunfermline went into the play offs. I was only 19 so when the chance came to go on loan there the next season I jumped at it. Some really great characters in the team at the time; Alex Whittle, Josh Falkingham, Callum Morris at the back. I think he would have gone on to have a much more successful career if he hadn't been so unfortunate with injuries. Faissal came to the club too and had a quiet first season.

Rangers were in the same division that season so it was always going to be tricky to finish above them with the squad they still had! It was a good time and the team scored a lot of goals along the way too. After a couple of sub appearances late on in games, I made my first start up front alongside Craig Dargo in the infamous 5-4 win through at Stenhousemuir, what a game that was! I scored the following week away to

Falkirk in the League Cup, but we ended up losing that one unfortunately.

If you look at Wikipedia, it says I scored 5 goals in 16 appearances but actually I got 8 goals from just 10 starts which is a few more impressive statistic! John Potter was on the coaching staff and was a huge influence on me. When I had been ill with my cancer and recovering in hospital, he sent me a card and it said "8 in 10" so that became a bit of a running joke for a while!

Going back to that Stenhousemuir match, even though we won it in the end, I remember the manager going absolutely ballistic at the defence. Even after the match, we were all bouncing around going daft and he was raging at the goals we had conceded!

Another match that sticks in the memory is a draw we had at home



NOT ALOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT...

ANDY RHODES



to Dick Campbell's Forfar just before Christmas. We were losing one nil and the manager sent me on as a sub to try and get something from the game. It was meant to be our player's Christmas night out down in Newcastle that night, the gaffer told me that it would be getting cancelled unless I scored! Stephen Husband, another great player, took a free kick well into injury time and the ball landed nicely for me. I scored an equaliser in something like the 94th minute and we were all going daft as it meant the boss wasn't going to cancel our night out down the road!

The fans were great with me during my time at the club, then again afterwards when I was recovering from my illness. It was a young side with boys like Ryan

Williamson and Lewis Martin coming into the team from the youth set up. In the January transfer window, some more experienced players came in to bolster the squad such as Danny Grainger at left back.

After retiring from playing, I had a role as Head of Academy Recruitment at Dundee United which was enjoyable. My partner had lived in Australia for a spell when she was younger and now that we've got a wee one together we took the opportunity to move over here as it's a fantastic place to raise children. I'm doing a very similar role to what I was doing at Tannadice and working for Perth Glory on the West coast. It's a whole different ball game when it comes to capturing youth talent, as football is the third, maybe

even the fourth most popular sport over here. Doesn't have the same monopoly as it has back in Scotland.

Lorraine Kelly is obviously a big Dundee United fan and she has suggested to me a couple of times that I should write a book about my life so far, but I'm not sure! Martel Maxwell was going to help write the book with me, but then she got an offer to do Homes Under the Hammer on BBC1 so that was probably a much better career option for her!

I see the results coming in and know that the club has been struggling this season, but hopefully with the new manager coming in things will improve now. All the best to everyone back in Dunfermline!"

The ridiculous behaviour of the Dunfermline Board in 1990, has been covered in a previous edition of the magazine.

The installation of Iain Munro as manager led, not only to the loss of Jim Leishman, but also stars such as Ian Westwater, Doug Rougvie, Ray Farningham and Davie Irons. This for no other reason but that Munro wanted to dismantle Leishman's team and replace it with his own signings.

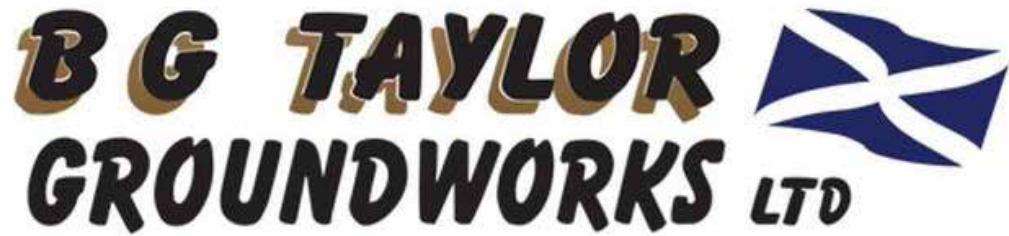
The result was largely catastrophic, but it had to be admitted that in Andy Rhodes, Munro had signed an excellent goalkeeper and a real personality. Andy was a big hit with Pars fans.

So what is it that not a lot of people know?

Two things. In the year 1991 Andy Rhodes won a national competition to be voted Uhlisport/ Shoot Magazine Goalkeeper of the Year, recognising his consistent excellent displays in The Pars goal.

He beat Aston Villa's Nigel Spink (2nd) and Arsenal's David Seaman (3rd). Not only that but he was watched three times by England manager Graham Taylor.

That is how close it came to Dunfermline Athletic having England's goalkeeper in their side. Not a lot of people know that!



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NORRIE McCATHIE

BY CHRIS WISHART

In the early morning of Monday 8th January 1996, the Club lost its most inspirational captain since Roy Barry when, Norrie and his friend Amanda Burns were victims of a tragic gas poisoning accident. Scottish Football was rocked and the folks of Dunfermline shocked and heartbroken. He had become so widely known and liked. Nobody could believe it.

Despite the understanding of the Scottish League and particularly Clydebank FC who were due to be the next opponents, the numbed players decided to go ahead with the game. Clydebank had suffered their own tragedy a year earlier with the sudden death of Davie Cooper.

The Pars faced The Bankies on 13th January at East End Park. It needed a big character to play in Norrie's position and that person was Neale Cooper. He wore the Number 21 shirt as Number 4 was retired for the rest of the season out of respect. Andy Smith was in the starting line up for the first time competitively and Craig Robertson took the Captain's arm band. Although he was nothing

like the ebullient character that Norrie was, Craig did a magnificent job that day and for the rest of the season. The players and the fans found it very difficult and the atmosphere was strained, but when Andy Tod and two goal Andy Smith had established a 3-1



well. When the goal went in Andy Smith sank to his knees, almost in tears. He had given everything and scored two goals for his old adversary. It was just the sort of situation which required Norrie McCathie. Maybe it was his memory which inspired the situation but, in a moment of football magic, a move started deep in The Pars half and produced an opening. Powering in on the chance was Skipper Craig Robertson. He still had a lot to do but he beat his man, held his nerve and blasted the ball home to put his team in front, just as Norrie had done so many times in the past.

There was no way back for The Bankies and the game finished 4-3. It had been a harrowing experience for everyone. Some players ran straight off to the dressing room, some were in tears on the pitch. From behind the Town Goal came a blizzard of scarves and favours which were respectfully collected to form a huge shrine. It was 10th February before another game was played at East End Park.

interval lead, at least some of the nerves had gone. As the second half proceeded, it all became too much and Clydebank scored to get back into the game. Graham Connell scored to equalise and although The Bankies needed the points, they did not celebrate but looked very sheepish.

We should not forget that it must have been very difficult for their players as

A SEASON IN TIME

1966 - 1967

BY CHRIS WISHART



Back Row (L-R) John Lunn, George Moran, Alex Totten, Dave Anderson, Eric Martin, Bert Paton, Ian Hunter, Willie Callaghan, (Inset Alex Ferguson) **Middle Row (L-R)** Jim Thomson, Jim Maclean, Pat Delaney, Jim Fraser, Hugh Maxwell, Tom Callaghan, Bob Methven. **Front Row (L-R)** Willie Cunningham, Eddie Ferguson, Alex Edwards, Hugh Robertson, Mike Judge, Jim Fleming, Andy Stevenson.

This time we go back 55 years, to The Pars Glory Years in the sixties. It was not the most successful of seasons, but, by today's standards, it certainly would have been.

The new season brought the departure of two more Pars Legends. George Peebles was sold to Stirling Albion, after 11 years of service and, just into August, Alex Smith went to Rangers for a then record fee between Scottish clubs, of just over £50,000. Also leaving was another stalwart in Paddy

Wilson. Paddy was a fine winger and was extremely unlucky that his time at East End Park saw him fighting for a place against, Melrose, Peebles, Edwards, Sinclair and Robertson. He would have been a regular at most other clubs and moved north to join Harry Melrose at Aberdeen. On their way in were:- Pat Delaney from Motherwell and John McGarty, a free transfer from Hibs. Joining the reserves were, Graeme McMahon, who had been a provisional signing last year and Tommy Titterton, who had starred for Bonnyrigg

Rose in their Scottish Junior Cup win.

The season began with an attractive friendly against Arsenal. The Londoners brought many of their stars to East End, including George Eastham, Ian Ure, Frank McLintock, Peter Storey and John Radford. The Pars managed a creditable 0-0 draw. In the match programme adverts showed that the Alhambra had been given over to bingo, but films could still be seen at the Regal and the Kinema. The Ballroom still feature

dancing to Dougie Campbell and the KB Band and Morrell was still entertaining diners at La Bella Palma.

The season proper commenced, as normal, with the League Cup. This season's rivals were Motherwell, Partick Thistle and Falkirk. Motherwell were up first, at East End Park. Pat Delaney made his debut against his former club and a narrow 2-1 victory achieved. The game was to make history as, being the opening game of the season, it was the first day that substitutes were allowed in Scotland. Motherwell's Gus Moffat became the first substitute to score in Scotland. Mike Judge was The Pars substitute. A 3-0 win at Firhill was followed by a 2-2 home draw against Falkirk. Next on the agenda was the opening match in the European Campaign and a trip to Oslo to meet FC Frigg. After going behind early on, Alex Ferguson equalised and two goals from Jim Fleming ensured a 3-1 win. Alex Totten played in this game in place of John Lunn. Following this was a trip to Fir Park, but despite goals from Hugh Maxwell and two from Ian Hunter, Motherwell won 4-3. The Well programme had a feature on their young goal scoring sensation Dixie Deans. The last day of August saw a return to winning ways as Partick Thistle were defeated 3-2 at East End.

September began with a trip to Brockville where Falkirk were defeated 2-1 and a place booked in the League Cup Quarter Finals. The Bairns programme praised the efforts of local swimmer Bobby McGregor who, after two near misses, had finally won a Commonwealth Games Gold Medal. The first League game had been delayed because of the European tie and was not played until 10th, when

a 0-0 draw was fought out with newly promoted Ayr United at Somerset Park. Due to Eric Martin's injury, the away first leg of the League Cup quarter final found young Dave Anderson in the Pars goal. Celtic rattled six past the youngster in a 6-3 win. Things did not improve in the next match, at home to Hibernian when another hapless performance behind, it must be said, a creaky defence, found The Pars 4-0 down with over an hour played. What followed was amazing. Ian Hunter



scored for the homesters in the 67th minute and three minutes later Pat Delaney added a second. Allan McGraw made it 5-2 for Hibs, with a long range effort, but, almost from the kick off, Pat Delaney made it 5-3 and with ten minutes still to go, Hugh Robertson made it 5-4.

Four minutes later, the crowd went wild as Fergie got the equaliser. There then followed the most catastrophic display of refereeing I have witnessed to this day. Ian Hunter scored what should have been the winner, but although the ball had clearly crossed the line and

the linesman was running back to the centre line, indicating a goal, the referee waved play on and amid the confusion, Hibs went up the other end and scored. There was not even time to re-centre the ball before he blew for full time. I have never been in favour of capital punishment, but I would happily have made an exception for the moron in black, who shall remain nameless. The following midweek brought the home leg of the quarter final, and Eric Martin was back in the side but Celtic prevailed 3-1. A trip to Perth was next and the still shaky defence shipped another three goals. The forwards saved the day by scoring three goals to gain a draw. The defensive frailties were a concern, as fans rolled up for the return leg with FC Frigg, but manager Cunningham had a surprise up his sleeve. Roy Barry arrived from Hearts and was immediately handed a starting place. Two more goals from Pat Delaney and one for Tom Callaghan gave The Pars a 3-1 win and progress to the next round.

The 1st October brought Airdrie to East End Park, but the poor League form continued with a 1-0 reverse. The programme bemoaned the succession of injuries to key players such as Eric Martin, Jim Thomson, Jim Maclean, Alex Edwards, Alex Ferguson and to reserves Jim Fraser and Tommy Titterton. A slight improvement in the next game, also at home, this time to Aberdeen saw Roy Barry score his first Pars goal and earn a 1-1 draw. Both Paddy Wilson and Harry Melrose featured for The Dons. St Mirren at Love Street was next and a 5-0 thrashing handed out to the Buddies. Two more goals for Roy Barry and one for Tom Callaghan secured a tight 3-2



home victory against Partick Thistle for whom Dan McLindon had a very good game. The next round in Europe brought Dinamo Zagreb to East End Park. Pat Delaney and Alex Ferguson scored two goals apiece. Unfortunately, so did Yugoslav international Sloven Zambata. The month concluded with an excellent 4-2 win at Tannadice. This was particularly impressive in that United were fresh from their win against Barcelona in their European tie. November kicked off with the return tie in Europe. Zambata proved to be a nuisance again with two more goals giving Zagreb a 2-0 win. Unfortunately, the away goals rule had been introduced this season and out went The Pars. A home League match against Clyde resulted in a fine 4-0 win but also to the loss of Tom Callaghan with a broken leg. A trip to Tynecastle

produced a 1-1 draw with Hearts before the home match with Celtic, which proved to be another amazing affair. Goals from Pat Delaney and Hugh Robertson had the home side 2-0 up when Bobby Murdoch's goal was quickly cancelled out by Bert Paton, it looked as though Celtic, who had been completely outplayed, were in for a stuffing. Just before half-time Jimmy Johnstone pulled one back. The Pars came out for the second half with all guns blazing and Alex Ferguson restored the two goal lead. Celtic started to fight back and, although the game was end to end, they scored the next two goals, through Bertie Auld and Joe McBride. The scores were level going into the last minute as referee Tiny Wharton awarded a goal kick when he noticed the enclosure side linesman with his flag up (nobody knew what for)

and after discussion he pointed to the penalty spot. Joe McBride scored to give The Celts a 5-4 victory. I was outraged, convinced that it was another case of Old Firm bias. I remained convinced until 40 years later when I was discussing the game with Roy Barry and he admitted that it was his hand and not Stevie Chalmers head which had put the ball past the post. My apologies to Mr Wharton. John McGarty had his contract extended until the end of the season. With five goals conceded in the last game, the fear was that the defensive frailties had returned and this was confirmed in the next match which was a 6-2 defeat at Fir Park.

December brought better fortune with a home win against Rangers. Alex Smith scored against his old club, but two

goals from Fergie and an Alex Edwards penalty against a Jim Forrest counter saw The Pars record a fine victory.

Eddie Ferguson, who seemed to have been at the club for ages was rewarded with a full contract now that his age permitted. The difficult trip to Kilmarnock was negotiated with a 1-1 draw. Dundee were the next visitors and they won 1-0. Eric Martin was injured in this game and Hugh Maxwell had to take over in goal. The Christmas Eve fixture away to Stirling Albion was called off with the fans already in the ground. Arrangements at Annfield were most eccentric. The dressing rooms were not in either of the tiny stands but in Annfield House, an old mansion across the car park. It also housed the cafeteria. I remember being awe struck when my Dad and I bumped into Roy Barry and his

team-mates coming out stocked out with a big pile of pies for the homeward journey. The final game of the year was, therefore, at Brockville, where Eddie Connachan put up the shutters and Falkirk, with future Pars in Doug Baillie and Ian Cowan inflicted a 1-0 defeat. It had not been a particularly satisfactory opening half to the season and Willie Cunningham threatened to resign. He was placated when the board appointed former Hearts boss Tommy Walker to be General Manager, leaving Willie free to concentrate on coaching the team.

A new year and new promise as Ayr United were thrashed 6-0 at East End Park, featuring a hat trick from Fergie. The programme announced that Jim Maclean was hanging up his boots due to a groin injury that just would not clear up. Jim had been an absolute rock at

the centre of The Pars defence at home and in Europe. Making his debut was new goalie Bent Martin, who had been brought in to cover the absence, through injury, of namesake Eric. Easter Road was next and a comprehensive 2-0 defeat from Hibernian.

The home match with St Johnstone was postponed, so the next action was a 3-0 victory at Broomfield. The fine form continued with another 3-0 win, this time away to Aberdeen, before this season's cup campaign opened with a very difficult tie at Rugby Park. Two goals from Alex Ferguson brought the tie back to Dunfermline after a 2-2 draw. The Killie programme gave details of the security arrangements which would be in place when Russian Premier Kosygin took in their League match at home to Rangers on 11th February. As we

Alex Ferguson was in fine form during the season





travelled home, news came through of Berwick Rangers famous win over Glasgow Rangers, with a Sammy Reid goal.

The replay against Kilmarnock opened February's account and a crowd in the region of 19,000 turned up to see the midweek action. An Alex Ferguson goal separated the sides and sent The Pars into the next round. Fergie was on great form and scored two more on the Saturday to send St. Mirren back to Paisley with a 2-0 defeat. The programme contained a belated welcome to Bent Martin who was keeping the, by now fit again, Eric Martin out of the team. Also welcomed was young reserve half back John McCluskey. The following Saturday led to Firhill and a 0-0 draw.

A feature at Glasgow grounds was a shout of "Erzimacroonsaandaspearmintchoony" in broad Glaswegian. I had heard it before and wondered what it meant. I managed to track down one of the callers and discovered that it was a greater spotted local purveyor of fine confectionery and that Macaroon Bars and Spearmint Chewing Gum, of dubious origin, was available for purchase.

The next round of the Cup took The Pars

back to Firhill, where they stayed in the cup thanks to Alex Ferguson, yet again. His goal secured a 1-1 draw and a replay, at East End Park. A hat trick from Pat Delaney plus counters from Hugh Robertson and, inevitably, Alex Ferguson eased The Fifers home 5-1. The month ended with a 3-3 draw at home to Dundee United. Twice two goals behind, The Pars fought back with goals from Pat Delaney, Roy Barry and Alex Edwards. On February 27th, former Dunfermline player John Kilgannon was seriously injured in a car crash. He died in hospital, the following day.

March opened with a trip to Shawfield to meet Clyde, never a happy hunting ground for The Pars. As was normal, Athletic came back without the points following a single goal defeat. The Cup draw had been particularly unkind with a third away tie against a top division side in Dundee United. Fresh from a 1-0 victory over Juventus, United inflicted a similar score on The Pars. The month continued to be unproductive with a 3-2 defeat at Celtic Park. Another Glasgow culinary delight was available at Parkhead, where guys were carrying around decaying cardboard boxes loaded with "Rolls and Meat". These turned out to be rock hard stale rolls, smeared with rancid butter or marge and containing thin

slices of spam like meat which was imaginatively turning the same colour as the hoops on Celtic's jerseys.

A swap deal saw Jim Fleming move to Hearts, with Don Kerrigan coming in the other direction. Also leaving the Club was Eric Martin who, unable to regain his place, moved to Southampton, where he was to become a firm favourite. Hearts were seen off 1-0 at East End Park before Motherwell came visiting and were beaten 2-1. The programme contained congratulations to Willie Callaghan and Alex Ferguson, who had both been selected for Scotland's tour of Oceania in the summer. The month ended in Stirling where the game postponed on Christmas Eve, ended in a 1-1 draw.

April began well with a 1-0 win at Ibrox and continued, in midweek, with a 4-1 home win against St Johnstone. Kilmarnock were next to visit and the usual hard fought game ended 1-1. A 3-0 defeat at Dundee was followed by Wembley week and The Pars travelled down early so that they could play Arsenal at Highbury on the Friday night. Dunfermline suffered a narrow 2-1 defeat, watched by the Scottish International Team who went on to beat England the following day. This was the first time England had been beaten since

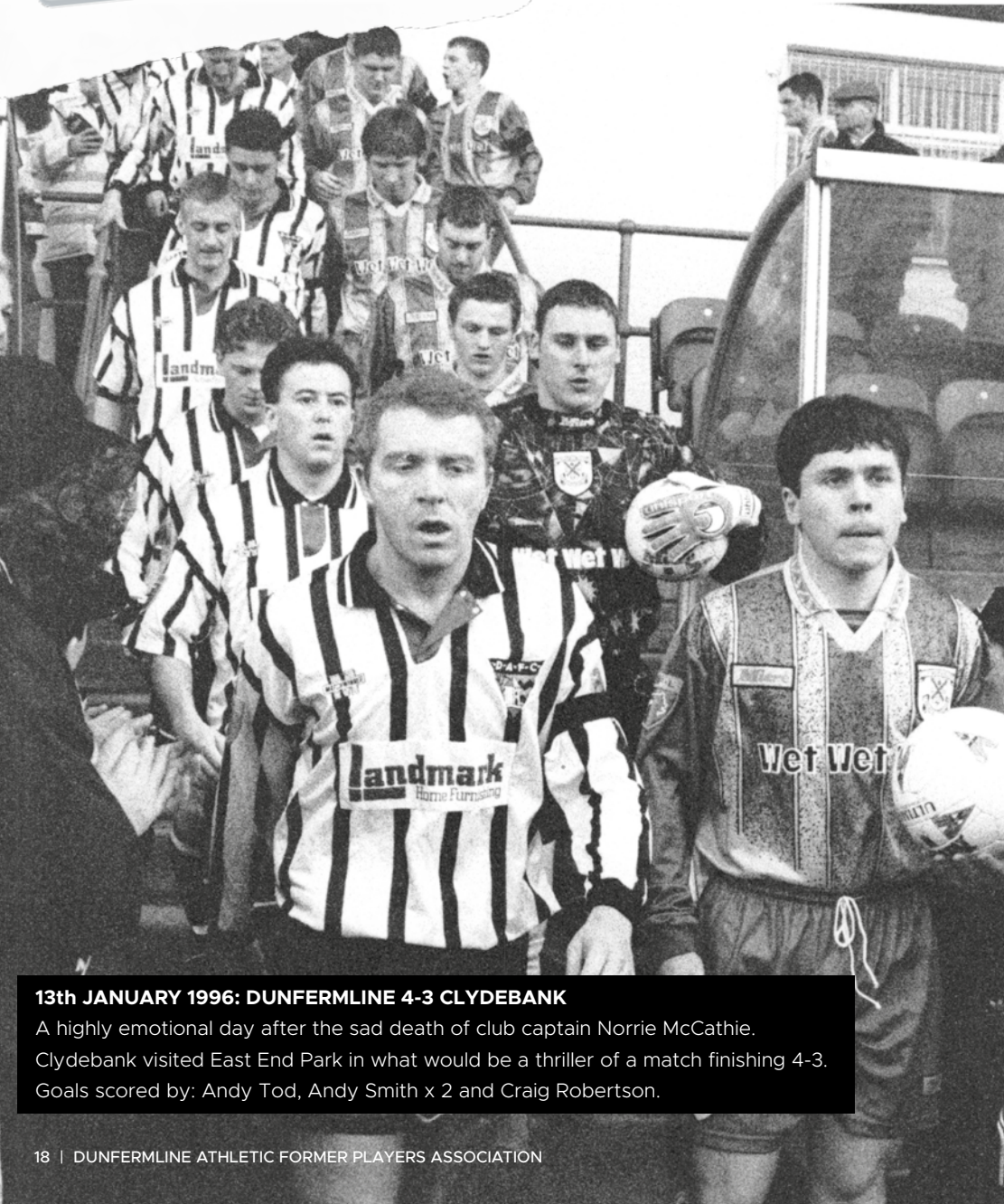
winning the World Cup. It was the famous game where Jim Baxter, in particular took the micky, so far on top were the Scots. Back home, in Scotland, Stirling Albion held The Pars to a 3-3 draw at East End. The final game of the season was a most satisfactory 4-0 home win over Falkirk. Despite finishing 4th,

Dunfermline, most unusually, had not qualified for Europe. Fergie's brother Martin, who had been on the staff, was released and it was announced that Rangers had been given permission to talk to self-confessed Rangers fan Alex Ferguson. Our brilliant goal scorer had netted a further 29 goals this season. As if that was not bad enough, Willie Cunningham announced, in June, that he was resigning due to a "total disillusionment with all things football".

What would next season bring?



IN THE MONTH OF... JANUARY 1996



13th JANUARY 1996: DUNFERMLINE 4-3 CLYDEBANK

A highly emotional day after the sad death of club captain Norrie McCathie. Clydebank visited East End Park in what would be a thriller of a match finishing 4-3. Goals scored by: Andy Tod, Andy Smith x 2 and Craig Robertson.

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Dunfermline Athletic Former Players Association was founded in 2009. It exists to provide a meeting point for anyone associated with the playing staff of Dunfermline Athletic. It is independent and run by a committee of former players. It also provides sponsorship to Dunfermline Athletic and its players.

Benefits to Members

Free entry to matches at East End Park with free half-time refreshments. A reserved area in the main stand. The Guest of Honour Scheme allows a member and his guest to enjoy full hospitality in the Club's premium hospitality suite at a game of his choice on a first come first served basis. The FPA also organises social events such as quizzes, cabaret evenings, whisky tastings, theatre trips and our own reunion events. A much admired magazine is issued each month.

Benefits to DAFC

The Association provides financial assistance to The Pars by donating kit items, help with young players expenses and capital items such as contributions for a players' room fridge, kit van, training items, etc. The FPA sponsors an inductee into the Hall of Fame each year. The Guest of Honour

Scheme provides the interviewee for Jim Leishman MBE which is such a popular part of Hospitality.

Work with other groups

Provision of the capital items is usually in conjunction with other DAFC groups such as The Supporters Trust, Lifeline and The Heritage Trust. The most popular part of the Heritage Trust's work has been the video interviews of former players. These interviews have almost all been with Guests of Honour.

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// CULT HEROES



JOSH FALKINGHAM

Allan Johnston should have been a popular manager for The Pars. After all, he did get us promotion. He had, however, an annoying habit of getting rid of our best and most popular players and replacing them with duds.

One of these players was Josh Falkingham. The combative Yorkshireman gave his all every time he played. He shared the captaincy with Andy Geggan and interacted well with the fans. Living locally, he always made himself available for fans events and was a big favourite with The Young Pars. On top of all that, he was no mean

player. Josh loved it at East End Park, but was made unwelcome by the manager, who decided not to renew his contract.

A trainee at Leeds United, Josh moved north in search of first team football, and joined St Johnstone in 2010. Later that year, he moved on to Arbroath, where he was a regular until 2012, when he was brought to Dunfermline. He made a total of 153 appearances for The Pars, scoring 14 goals.

He left in 2016, when he was out of contract, and after a short spell with Darlington he joined the exciting project at

Harrogate Town. From 2017, Harrogate embarked on an exciting run, beginning with promotion from the Conference North to the Conference from whence in 2020, they won the play off at Wembley, to gain promotion to the English League Division Two.

After a season of consolidation, they returned to Wembley to win the FA Trophy. The scorer of the only goal and skipper of the side was Josh Falkingham. Harrogate and Josh continue to build on their successes and Pars fans are delighted for him.



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1. Gary Delaney: Isn't it sad that the word Legend has been devalued. It used to mean someone who pulled a sword from a stone. Now it means someone who unexpectedly arrives with crisps.

2. Groucho Marx: I once shot an elephant in my pyjamas. I've no idea how it got there.

3. Milton Jones: Tricky isn't it when you visit a mosque at prayer time, and you enjoy leapfrog.

4. Les Dawson: I used to sell furniture for a living. The trouble was it was mine.

5. Gary Delaney: Announcement at a club. We apologise to the Hen Party in last night that the booked act Mr Manhood failed to appear. We also apologise for the confusion to Mr Mahood.

FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE

After Manchester United's recent hammering by Liverpool and before he was sacked, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was talking to Jurgen Klopp. How do you get your players to play so intelligently asked Ole. I only sign intelligent players replied Jurgen. But how do you know that they are intelligent continued Ole. I give them an Intelligence Riddle was the reply. Klopp called forward Mo Salah who was at the back of the room. If your parents have a child and it is not your sister or your brother, who is it? It's me said Mo.

Impressed with this, Ole turns up at United' training ground on the Monday and calls forth Harry Maguire. If your parents have a child and it is not your sister or your brother, who is it? He asks. I'll need to think about that, boss says Harry and goes back amongst his team mates to discuss it. Nobody can help him until Paul Pogba says "It is easy - It's Me".

Harry goes back to Ole. I know who it is boss, he says. It is Paul Pogba.

You idiot, says a disappointed Ole. It's Mo Salah.

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC

200 CLUB

Alex Smith joined the club in 1958 for just £83 from Dunbar United and became a legend in the glory days of the 1960s.

BY MICHAEL WOOD

Alex Smith may be pound for pound, literally, the best signing that Dunfermline Athletic ever made.

Andy Dickson signed the 17-year-old for a sum of £83 in 1958 from Dunbar United, and the inside forward gave eight years of service before being sold to Rangers for a then-record between Scottish clubs of £55,000.

In the intervening time before departing to Ibrox, Smith was two shy of 300 matches and a couple of goals short of the century mark for goals for the Pars in what was undoubtedly the best period in the club's history.

Smith was always present for the big games, which included 23 European ties, scoring five goals, as well as playing in the 1961 and 65 Scottish

Cup Finals against Celtic.

While he did not score in the game that clinched the first-ever major silverware for DAFC, he was pivotal in clinching it. During the 61 final replay, having attempted to chip the Celtic goalkeeper, who was unable to hold onto the ball, dropped it at the feet of the approaching Charlie Dickson's feet, who proceeded to net the second.

In his debut season at Rangers, he was the top scorer for the club in the league and all competitions. He also started in the 1967 European Cup Winners' Cup final against a Bayern Munich outfit which featured future Ballon d'Or, Euros, and World Cup winners Franz Beckenbauer and Gerd Müller.

He incredibly was never capped for Scotland and did not win anything in his time in Govan, finishing second thrice in the league and losing three finals before rounding out his career with a brief spell with Aberdeen.

In his post-playing career, he is the landlord of the Coaledge Tavern, only 10 minutes away from where he thought of as the brains of that Dunfermline team: East End Park.



311 APPS



4 EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN....JANUARY



1968

Pars beat recent European Cup winners Celtic 2-0 at Celtic Park in Scottish Cup with goals from Pat Gardner and Hugh Robertson.



2000

Jimmy Calderwood makes his first signings in Kris Mampaey and Ian Ferguson.



2008

1961 Scottish Cup winner George Miller sadly passes away from cancer aged 69.



2019

Allan Johnston is sacked after poor form in the SPFL Championship. Former striker Stevie Crawford takes over along with former defender Greg Shields.

FROM THE PARCHIVES

Andy Smith scores 5 goals in 7-2 Home win in
the Scottish Cup v Edinburgh City (January 1998).



TURNING 50 THIS MONTH WE LOOK AT THE CAREER OF A CLUB LEGEND

NIPPER

BY MICHAEL WOOD

Scott Munro Thomson started his career as an apprentice player at Shrewsbury Town in June 1988 before moving back home to Aberdeen in 1990. The beginning of his professional career came upon his return to the northeast, albeit as a part-time player at Brechin City and supplementing his income as a flat roofer.

Thomson's talents in football, not construction, did not go unnoticed for long by full-time outfits. Within 10 months he was recruited by the Dons –

although he found opportunities in the first team scarce with only 20 appearances in four and a half years with the Dandies.

His lack of game-time was, in part, due to the players Aberdeen boasted at the time that played in the positions the versatile Thomson excelled: Alex McLeish, Eoin Jess and Jim Bett. Those three individuals are features of the 'greatest team' in their 119-year history as voted for by the club's supporters.

However, it was also because

of the turnover in the dugout. There were co-managers Jocky Scott and Alex Smith who signed Thomson, and then Smith, who went it alone after Scott departed to Dunfermline Athletic in September 1991. Willie Miller took over the mantle in February 1992, followed by Roy Aitken three years later, who won the League Cup just months before Thomson's departure in March 1996. Thomson did not make the matchday squad at Hampden Park for the Reds' first silverware in six years.

A young Nipper in his days at hometown club Aberdeen.



Seeking that feeling of the grass underfoot in a competitive Saturday fixture is what Thomson craved and brought about his first association with Fife, at Raith Rovers, and featured in 63 of the 85 league outings while at the club; 58 of those appearances being starts.

Jimmy Nicholl convinced the members of the Stark's Park boardroom to pay a high five-figure fee to release him from the fellow Scottish Premier Division outfit before departing for Millwall a couple of days before the deal was finalised.

The Northern Irishman would eventually manage Thomson in Kirkcaldy, with Raith having just been relegated and yet to be back since 1997. The subsequent campaign, in which

Rovers finished third in Division One, continues to be their highest placing in the footballing pyramid since their descent from the top-flight and remained their best in the second tier since 2011 when runners-up to the Pars. And it was Fife's most populous town where Thomson would next find himself. At the end of his Raith contract, he headed west on the A92, only getting as far as East End Park. Bert Paton, who replaced Jocky Scott as DAFAC manager, brought "Nipper," as he was affectionately monickered by supporters, to Halbeath Road.

Yet, it was not an enjoyable debut season for Thomson. An injury saw him go three and a half months between matches from November to mid-February. When he returned,

the manager that recruited him was gone. The assistant Dick Campbell was now in Paton's place. The appointment of "the bunneted one" did not signify enough of a turnaround in form, and Thomson once again found himself at another Fife club relegated from the Scottish top tier.

Nicholl once again managed Thomson, this time on an interim basis following the dismissal of Campbell – who departed his hometown club with them at the top of the table – before reverting to assistant under Jimmy Calderwood after winning three of his four matches in the dugout.

It was under Calderwood where Thomson shone due to his prominence in the club's prompt

Signing for The Pars in 1998



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOUG!



return to the top-flight in 2000. He recalls fulfilling his potential under the five-time Scottish Premier League manager of the month: "Jimmy Calderwood was my favourite manager; he did everything for me – the boot up the backside when needed. He gave me the confidence as well and definitely helped me." Jimmy elevated Thomson from vice to captain after former Scotland internationalist Ian Ferguson emigrated to Australia in 2002. Thomson's reign lasted half a decade. His longevity as team leader is surpassed only in the last 35 years by the late great Norrie McCathie.

Unfortunately, Thomson was part of the 2004-05 team that conceded twice in the final seven minutes to lose to Icelandic amateurs FH Hafnarfjordur at McDiarmid Park, Perth in Dunfermline's first 'home' European outing in 34 years, a three-two victory over Anderlecht. The club qualified for the UEFA Cup first round due to their league placing of fourth, the highest the Pars have finished in the division since 1969. That disappointment against the side from the most sparsely populated country in Europe was not Thomson's only campaign in Europe. He would also play fellow Nords,

BK Häcken at East End Park – a game in which Dunfermline took the lead less than a minute after kick-off but ultimately drew, with the Swedes emerging victors in Gothenburg. "Nipper," alongside Darren Young, Greg Shields and Scott Wilson, are the only players to feature in both UEFA Cup outings for DAFC.

One of Thomson's most memorable moments was at Tannadice when Gary Mason netted in the 89th minute to defeat Dundee United and increase the gap to the Tangerine's local rivals Dundee in 12th. The Pars defeated the Dark Blues five-nil at East End Park eight days earlier in May 2005, which precipitated the start of the great escape under Jim Leishman. His single finals appearance for the Pars came the following season in the 2006 League Cup showcase against Celtic – where he started in midfield, showing the versatility of an individual whose vocation was as a defender for the majority of his career. He stated that he preferred to play behind a centre forward pairing.

Thomson's influence was missed as injury ruled him out the 2006-07 campaign, and Dunfermline was relegated. One of his first games back was his

testimonial versus a Manchester United side led by Alex Ferguson and featured Darren Fletcher, Gerard Pique, Mikaël Sylvestre, Owen Hargreaves, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs and Wayne Rooney.

It was fitting that the setting for Thomson's last match for Athletic was at Hampden Park in a 2009 Scottish Cup semi-final. As the side that had finished in the top half of the First Division for three seasons on the trot could not go one step further even after beating Calderwood's Aberdeen on penalties at Pittodrie.

Modest to the end, "Nipper" said about his DAFC tenure: "The club has been great for me, and I would like to think that I have been decent for the club as well." There was a final campaign in Methil with East Fife; he was appointed club captain by his former Dunfermline teammate Stevie Crawford. Somewhat fittingly, he scored once – against the outfit that gave him his professional debut: Brechin City.

Thomson is now a director at MBP, a video production company based in Melville Street, Edinburgh, that he cofounded in 2011. He is also a committee member of the FPA.



On 27th January, former Pars centre half Doug Baillie reaches the grand old age of 85.

Doug started his senior career with Airdrie in 1953 and stayed with the Broomfield Club until 1960, apart from a very brief spell with Swindon Town in 1956. He was big and commanding centre half and his performances with Airdrie persuaded Rangers to sign him in 1960. He remained, mainly as a

reserve, until 1964, when he moved across Glasgow to join Third Lanark. The demise of the Hi-Hi's led to another move and in 1965 he joined Falkirk.

At Brockville, he was the key figure in The Bairns defence and in a four year spell he played well over 100 games. In 1969, George Farm was looking for cover for Roy Barry and signed Doug for The Pars. With Roy's move to Coventry, Doug became

the regular centre half and played in nearly every game in season 1969/70 until that fateful night when Dunfermline lost to Anderlecht, on aggregate, in Europe. Farm blamed the defence and Doug never played again, hanging up his boots at the end of the season.

He then went on to enjoy a lengthy career in sports journalism. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Doug, from all at The Pars FPA.

WE REMEMBER

WILLIE McSEVENEY

BY DUNCAN SIMPSON

Willie McSeveney, one of Dunfermline Athletic's finest players of the late 1940s/ early 1950s passed away on Wednesday evening at the age of 92. He had almost certainly been the oldest living former Pars player, and, but for Covid, would have been making a final visit to East End Park last season, a request that he had made to his daughter but which sadly remained unfulfilled.

Willie hailed from Shotts in Lanarkshire and as a youngster made the headlines with the local YMCA team who won four major YMCA trophies in two years and helping Willie himself to gain youth caps for Scotland with the YMCA. Willie moved to Wishaw Juniors, then at the age of 19 moved to Dunfermline, having been signed by then Chairman Tom Gibson on 10th September 1948. As Willie himself was to say later, the travel from Shotts to Dunfermline

was considerable but he was lured by the contract which gave him £4 per week during the playing season, reduced to £3 per week during the close season. Were he to make the first team, that figure rose to £5 per week!

Rise to the first team he most certainly did, and wearing the number 6 shirt, he made his debut in a league match against Dumbarton at East End Park on 5th March 1949. Dunfermline won 3-2 and Willie played his part, keeping his place in the team while the Pars went unbeaten in the next three matches. The final match of the season was against Raith Rovers at Starks Park and Dunfermline needed just one point to win promotion. Willie was selected to play in the game but a last-minute injury kept him out of the side. Matters got worse when, ten minutes into the game, goalkeeper Jimmy Michie broke his arm and in those days with no subs allowed, Dunfermline had to play with ten men none of

whom was a goalkeeper. The Pars lost 4-0 and the chance of promotion was gone.

Despite this setback, Willie had clearly shown early promise at wing-half, and started the first game of 1949/50, a 1-0 League Cup win over Queen's Park. Unfortunately, at that point Willie found himself being called up for National Service which caused him to miss practically an entire season, and also perhaps the chance of playing in the 1949/50 League Cup Final which his teammates had successfully managed to make against all the odds. Willie used to ask to be able to leave the RAF station at Stranraer on a Friday night to allow him to play football on a Saturday, but the RAF insisted that he had to stay to do marching on Saturday mornings. That, combined with the need for him to take three trains to get to Dunfermline, meant that his football career was on temporary hold, although he did

Willie pictured visiting East End Park in 2006.



Willie McSeveney and goalkeeper John Smith v Falkirk, September 1951.



appear for the RAF Command team while on National Service.

Back in the side in 1950, Willie began to be viewed as an extremely talented all-round footballer, and during the season he was employed at left-back, wing half and inside forward. Later in his Pars career and for the sake of the team, he played in almost every position for Dunfermline, leading the club in one press interview to state that, "He's the most obliging player we've ever had."

However, it was at left back that Willie arguably had his best ever game for Dunfermline. In season 1951/52, Dunfermline remained in the Second Division and, without a recognised left back, Willie was asked to fill the position. The club went on another great League Cup run and reached the quarter-final stage where they were due to play Rangers star-studded line up in the first leg at East End Park on 15th September 1951. In front of a then record crowd,

Dunfermline stunned the football world, winning 1-0. Much of that success was due to a man of the match performance from McSeveney who completely subdued Scotland star winger Willie Waddell.

He proved to be one of the most versatile players ever seen at East End, making around half of his appearances in defence and a quarter each in midfield and attack, equally adept on both left and right. By 1953/54 he was the club's first choice inside-left and was in great goalscoring form as his thirteen goals that season demonstrated. Included among that number was a goal against Motherwell in the Scottish Cup in February 1954. Dunfermline were still beaten 5-2 by the Steelmen in that game but Motherwell recognised McSeveney's talents and showed immediate interest in signing him. At that point Motherwell were romping to the Second Division title while Dunfermline remained stuck in mid-table, so after six years at

East End Park, Willie decided it was time to move on. English club Middlesbrough had also shown interest but it was Motherwell who got him to put pen to paper on 11th March 1954, paying a £1,200 transfer fee to get him to Fir Park.

It turned out to be a fantastic piece of business for them. On his debut, he scored the equaliser against Third Lanark, the 1-1 draw being enough for them to clinch promotion, but McSeveney's influence was to last much longer than that. He went on to captain was surely one of the greatest Motherwell teams of all time. Managed by former Pars boss Bobby Ancell, the team could boast of some of the most talented young footballers in Scotland, including Ian St John, Bert McCann, Pat Quinn and John Martis. The team reached third in the league and made a League Cup Final and two Scottish Cup semi-finals. As Willie himself said at one visit to East End Park, "We never really got to the top but

we had a great reputation for playing great football. Ancell brought Flamengo from Brazil to play us and we won 9-2, we beat Leeds United 7-0 and we had an unblemished reputation against foreign teams. Our reputation was built on playing good football."

He made his final appearance for Motherwell in October 1962, having made 256 appearances and scoring 28 times in a Fir Park career that spanned ten seasons. He remained at Motherwell in a coaching capacity for a further decade. His final football involvement was at junior side Shotts Bon Accord, which, assisted by his brother Bobby, he managed for a number of years.

Although Willie is probably best remembered for his achievements at Motherwell, it was at East End Park that his career developed, and Willie never forgot that. Until recently he was a frequent visitor to the

club, and as he himself said, "You never forget your first club." Willie made his final appearance for the Pars on 10th March 1954 against Ayr United in a six year career that saw him make 132 appearances for Dunfermline Athletic, scoring 27 goals.

His achievements at both Dunfermline and Motherwell are all the more remarkable when you consider that throughout his career he was never a full-time footballer. A painter and decorator to trade, Willie combined both jobs throughout, and as an extension to his trade, became an expert signwriter. After his football career ended he became a director of Parklea Ltd before finally retiring in his early 60s. Willie was never a man to let the grass grow under his feet and in retirement he became a keen golfer and gardener, a DIY expert and an amateur car mechanic! He had a stroke around six years ago which curtailed his activities and sadly later developed vascular

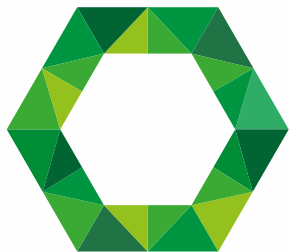
dementia. In recent years he has been cared for by his two daughters before moving to a care home six months ago.

Perhaps in a different era, Willie would have been a full-time footballer, and he might also have transferred to some of the bigger clubs in England – he certainly had a lot of clubs interested in making him offers. But then again perhaps not because for Willie, some things were perhaps more important, as his daughter May told us: "My dad could have gone to other clubs and Middlesbrough made a big offer for him to go there. But really he was a family man and he loved Shotts, and it was being able to do what he did and to be with his family that defined his career."

Our thoughts are with Willie's wife Jean, daughters May and Irene, son-in-law Pat and the rest of the family at this sad time.



Willie McSeveney and Ron Mailer, 2010



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