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DIRECTOR'S BOX

Graham Tatters

Good afternoon everyone. Let's start by apologising for the debacle of last week's postponement. I can assure you all that the pitch was in no worse state than the previous home games. The referee had his attention drawn back to an area he had already passed and upon further inspection, he deemed it a danger to the players and the match was called off.

The Club has followed the same procedure in post-season pitch maintenance for the last seven years. It has not been a problem until this year and that was due to the lack of rain, nothing else. Before keyboard warriors jump on the bandwagon just look around and see the effects of the lack of rain in the local area before offering criticisms. Luckily the Club is blessed with a majority of supporters and volunteers who do not see the problems but solutions. Thanks to them all.

On Monday, with the help of Steven McKidd, we managed to remove much of the excess grit that was on the surface and on Tuesday, the SPFL's Operations & Events Manager, Anton Fagan, arranged for Douglas Ross to inspect it. Thankfully, he has declared it playable, so let's hope we get a bit of rain to soften it up a bit too.

We welcome today's visitors Stirling Albion, a club with a wonderful pedigree who will not be without a point for long. I just hope it's not today that they turn the

corner. Our squad looks as good as it has done for several years. We have a good balance and the arrival Greg Morrison on loan from Ross County will strengthen the forward options available to the manager. It looks as though the league is going to be really competitive, several teams have recruited well and we have to make sure we stay in touch throughout the season and be ready for the play-offs or better.

The Elgin Sports Community Trust is continuing its efforts to acquire Lesser Borough Briggs. Dave Allen is leading the project and following the award of charitable status, he has prepared and submitted (after several iterations) the business case to Moray Council and it is hoped that it will be accepted soon to enable the Trust to complete a community asset transfer of this land. Elgin City, like every sports loving individual, should be thankful for the efforts Dave has put in, working tirelessly for a year, trying to bring this project to fruition.

I heard the sad news this week that one of our oldest supporters, Russell Simpson, has passed away. Our deepest condolences to his family, he will be missed by all at the Club.

As ever I sign off thanking you all for attending today; we would be in a pretty poor state without your fantastic support.



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FROM THE DUG OUT

Gavin Price

STIRLING ALBION ALWAYS GIVE US A TOUGH GAME
AND TODAY WILL BE NO DIFFERENT

It was good to get off the mark with a win over Edinburgh City in our first home League game.

It was a hard-fought match as the visitors had clearly strengthened over the summer and the fact that they have won their other three League games underlines what a good three points that was. Chances were at a premium in a tight game but we won it with what was probably our best move of the match so that was particularly satisfying.

After that game I rested some of the players for our Irn Bru Cup meeting here with First Division Arbroath as I felt it was important that we give some game time to other players in the squad. It was another good performance and I thought our play merited the draw that Darryl's late header gave us.

It was disappointing not to go through to the next round but I have to be pleased with the shift that the players put in on the night.

And so to Albion Rovers. We started strongly and missed several first-half chances but looked to be on

our way when the referee awarded a penalty after a clear foul on Brian Cameron. However after consulting his assistant, that decision was overturned.

We didn't let that setback upset our rhythm and we were rewarded when Chris McLeish netted after good work by Shane Sutherland. A welcome three points away from home and that clean sheet is a definite bonus.

On the back of those performances, the players were really up for the Cowdenbeath game last Saturday so it was a massive disappointment that it didn't go ahead.

Still, we used that opportunity to have a good session with the players and build on the valuable work we've been able to do with the entire squad in the sessions at Aviemore.

Today we face one of my old clubs, Stirling Albion. They'll be desperate to get some points on the board. They always give us a tough game and, whatever the League table may suggest, this afternoon will be no different.



WELCOME TO

Stirling Albion

LOOKING FOR A RESULT
TO KICK START THEIR SEASON

Four straight League defeats is not been the start that Binos' boss Dave Mackay would have wanted. Their cause hasn't been helped by a number of injuries including last season's leading scorer Darren Lee Smith, who made his first appearance of the season from the bench in last week's 2-0 defeat by Peterhead.

Despite that result against the Blue Toon, boss Mackay noted an improved level of performance from his team and Albion look to have too much quality to spend much longer in the division's nether region.

Goal

Calum Ferrie - 20 year-old former Port vale youth player who joined Dundee in 2016 from whom he is currently on loan to Albion.

Cammy Binnie - 20 year-old graduate of the Bino's youth set-up.

Defence

Ross McGeachie - former Hamilton Accies youth player who usually operates at right-back.

Jordan Allan - 22 year-old left-back, successfully converted from the front line by City last season.

Lee Hamilton - 22 year-old central defender in his second spell at Forthbank. He's also played for Berwick Rangers.

Kyle Banner - the 19 year-old is a graduate of Stirling's youth programme.

Cammy Thomson - 18 year-old former St Johnstone U20 player who arrived in the summer.

Jason Marr - tall 29 year-old central



DARREN LEE SMITH

defender who began with Celtic but really established himself in a five-year spell at Alloa. He joined Stirling from Albion Rovers in the summer.

Darren Barr - 33 year-old who has great experience with Falkirk, Hearts, Kilmarnock, Ross County, Dumbarton and Morton. Barr was a full Scotland cap in 2008, having previously represented his country at 'B' level a year earlier.

Midfield

Danny Jardine - 20 year-old summer capture from St Johnstone. He played on loan at Forthbank last term

Dominic Docherty - 21 year-old former Partick and Queen's Park midfielder who arrived in the close season.

Willie Robertson - 25 year-old who joined Stirling after appearing as a trialist against City back in July 2014. He's also played for Annan.

Forwards

Mark Stewart - much-travelled 30 year-old summer arrival who's played for half-a-dozen clubs in all four SPFL divisions and also had spells with Derry City and Bradford City.

Peter MacDonald - 37 year-old who began with Rangers and has amassed over 150 goals in senior football; he's probably best remembered for a ten-year stay at St Johnstone.

Neil McLaughlin - 19 year-old former Partick U20 player, currently on loan to Stirling from Motherwell.

Kevin Fell - a summer signing from Glasgow amateurs UB United, for whom he scored 28 goals last season.

Darren Lee Smith - 30 year-old who previously played for Stenhousemuir, Ross County and Motherwell and is a Scottish Internationalist at U19, 20 and 21 levels. Returned to first-team action last Saturday after injury. Last season's SPFL2 Player of the Year.

Reg McLaren - promising young forward who has burst into first-team contention after leading the goalscoring charts for the Bino's U20s last season.



DAVE MACKAY

36 year-old Dave Mackay took charge at Forthbank in November 2016 following the departure of Stuart McLaren.

A full-back or central-defender, his senior playing career had begun at Dundee back in 1999. He had loan spells with Brechin and Arbroath before signing for Oxford United in 2004. He returned north to sign for Livingston in 2005 and was a regular at Almondvale over the next four seasons.

In May 2009 he signed for newly-promoted St Johnstone and would be a fixture in the side over the following six seasons. He captained the Perth club in their 2014 Scottish Cup Final victory over Dundee United in 2014.

He retired through injury in 2016, having clocked up over 500 senior games, and coached the Saints' U20s until taking the Forthbank hot seat.

The Binos finished seventh in his first season and last season finished third to qualify for the play-offs, only to be eliminated at the semi-final stage by Peterhead.

THEY PLAYED AT BOROUGH BRIGGS

Easton Thain

City Not Out-Foxed!

17 September 1979 saw a prestigious friendly take place at Borough Briggs and even though City's opponents were a team from the second tier of English football, it was very much a glamour occasion matched by an excellent performance from the Black 'n' Whites that gained them a creditable draw.

On that day Elgin City played host to Leicester City, then under the guidance of their wily Scottish manager, Jock Wallace, and even though they were in Division 2, the Midlands club was heading for promotion back to the top flight and were full of quality players including the burgeoning talent of a young Gary Lineker! Also in the Leicester side that night was Ian Wilson who was made captain for the game as he was facing up to the club that had sold him to Leicester City for a record £20,000.

Ian would make 318 appearances for Leicester City between 1979 and 1987 and the game at Borough Briggs was part of the transfer agreement, which also stipulated that the Foxes came north at their own expense.

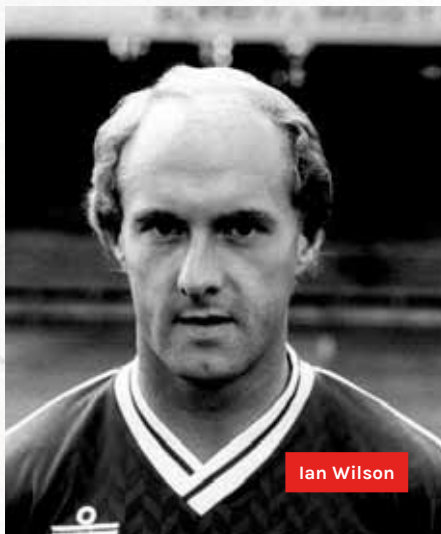
Over 2000 fans were duly entertained in a match that was always interesting. All the kudos went to the Black 'n' Whites who demonstrated that they paid little heed to other clubs' reputations; the Northern Scot reporter though did wonder why they couldn't perform to this standard on more occasions! It was pondered that had anything been at stake then Leicester City might have been a different prospect but the visitors were going all out to win this friendly and that made the final outcome of 1-1 all the more creditable for Elgin City.

Both the goals came in the first-half. In the 18th minute, a thunderous drive from Chico McHardy flew home with the aid of a deflection, but within minutes Leicester City were level and who should score but Academy product Gary Lineker. No more

scoring occurred but there was plenty of action for the crowd to savour and everyone departed Borough Briggs fully satisfied that they had got their money's worth.

Unfortunately I don't have the team line-ups as they weren't noted in the Northern Scot. One thing I do know is that out of retirement to play in goal that night for the Black 'n' Whites was Dave Lawtie and the former hero could do nothing wrong, much to the delight of the home fans.

A number of presentations took place before this game. Ian Wilson received a carriage clock and Chico McHardy was presented with a wireless alarm (younger readers should ask their parents what this is), both being handed over by then Supporters' Club President, George Bain. Also being presented that night was a new set of tracksuits, gifted to the club by Peter McDonald of MacDonald and Muir, the suits being maroon in colour! The other pre-match event of note saw Leicester City gaffer, Jock Wallace, officially switch on City's new 'Euro-standard' floodlights.



Ian Wilson

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LEICESTER CITY WHO?

You probably know about Leicester City's recent triumphs but the club has a long and interesting history. They were founded in a house in the city's Fosse Road in 1884 and were duly named Leicester Fosse. They were elected to the Football League in 1892 but by 191 the club was struggling and after football returned after the Great War, the situation worsened and the club was taken over and reformed as Leicester City FC.

Between the Wars they had their moments. In 1924-25 they won the Division 2 title gaining promotion to the top flight for the first time ever. It was almost glory in 1928-29 but they lost out on the title by one point to Sheffield Wednesday. A decline followed and they were relegated in 1934-35. They returned to the top flight after promotion in 1936-37 but 1938-39 saw them relegated once more and then football ceased after the outbreak of World War II.

The post-war years saw them yoyo between the top and second flights but by 2007-08, they found themselves in the third tier of English football. They bounced straight back and in 2011 the current owner took over and they made their way back to the top flight for 2013-14 as Championship winners.

2014-15 saw the Foxes engineer a Great Escape, winning seven of their last fourteen games under Nigel Pearson to avoid relegation to finish fourteenth. Unsurprisingly, they were tipped to be relegated in 2015-16 especially with the departure of manager Nigel Pearson.

Oh how the pundits got that wrong as the club sensationally secured their first ever English Championship under Italian manager Claudio Ranieri and with goals galore from the 'boy from nowhere', well from then non-League Fleetwood Town, Jamie Vardy, who overcame Ruud Van Nistelrooy's feat to set a new top flight record of scoring in eleven straight games.

In 2016 at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards, Claudio Ranieri was awarded Coach of the Year but just two months later he was sacked due to poor league form and despite a great run in the UEFA Champions League which saw the Foxes reach the quarter-final stage. They stabilised last season with a ninth place finish and ten Foxes went on to represent their respective countries in the World Cup Finals with Ahmed Musa becoming the first City player to represent his country (Nigeria) in the Finals.

Renowned Players

The club's record goalscorer, Arthur Rowley (44 goals in 1956-57 and over 250 career goals for the club) and of course Gary Lineker but other notables have been Ian Wilson (318 games 1979-87), ex-Caledonian player Kevin McDonald, two legendary England keepers Gordon Banks and Peter Shilton, Gary McAllister, one time Scotland captain, Robbie Savage and Andy King the only man to have won Premiership, Championship and League One medals with the club. Oh, we mustn't forget the Scot Steve Howard either. Who? Well he holds an unusual club record; 55 of his 168 appearances were from the bench, making him the most used substitute in the Foxes' history!



Arthur Rowley

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Bryan's *Diary*

We are barely a month into the new season and already there have been five managerial casualties in England and Scotland, with several more hanging their jackets on 'shoogly pegs'.

Whilst of course sackings have always been part of the game, in recent years it has been such a regular occurrence it can be hard to keep up with the comings and goings, some clubs seeming to have a revolving door installed in the managers office.

A club that can be used as an example of managerial uncertainty is West Ham United, who in their first 100 years to 2001 had eight managers, over the last 17 years, nine have taken the helm...mindboggling!

In Scotland the longest serving manager is Jim McInally at Peterhead who has been in charge almost 7 years, only 11 clubs have managers who have served over 3 years. There are those that move on to new jobs but in most cases, departure comes when their contracts are terminated.

The timing of sackings is fascinating. At this time of year with new additions to squads and the preparation for the long season ahead,

it seems baffling that a couple of defeats ends in the manager collecting his P45. The other strange timing is either during or just after the January window, neither giving the incumbent any time to bring players in and forcing him to work with a squad that has performed poorly with games running out.

There are various reasons for changing the manager, however in many instances the board panic after a few bad results and if the support is restless the inevitable happens. Sometimes the change has the desired effect but in many cases it doesn't alter the outcome.

A practice that has crept in is short-termism where managers are just brought in to fire fight with the knowledge that even if successful, they stand little chance of remaining in the post.

It appears that there is a merry go round of appointments, with sacked managers picking up a job at another once a position is vacant, leaving little opportunity for new coaches to get a foothold in the game.

Bryan Easson



Paul Hartley, who departed Falkirk this week



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ELGIN CITY REGULATIONS FOR GROUND SAFETY AND BEHAVIOUR

Elgin City Football Club has a duty to ensure that its players, officials, supporters and any other person connected with the club does not engage in any conduct deemed unacceptable under these rules. This applies to both home and away matches and includes the content of postings on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

The definition of unacceptable conduct covers conduct which is violent and/or disorderly.

Violent conduct includes:

1. Actual, attempted or threatened violence against a person or persons
2. Intentional damage to property

Disorderly conduct includes:

1. Conduct which is designed to stir up or sustain hatred or ill will against a group of persons based on their membership or presumed membership of the following categories of defined groups :

Gender, colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national group, membership of a religious group or a group with a perceived religious affiliation, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability.

2. The use of threatening, abusive or insulting words
3. The display of written or other visual material which is threatening, abusive or insulting.

Elgin City Football Club accepts its responsibility under these rules and will not tolerate any behaviour deemed to be unacceptable.

Any Elgin City official, employee or other person connected with the Club who engages in such behaviour will be dealt with under the Club's internal disciplinary procedures.

Any supporter who engages in such behaviour will be liable for sanctions imposed by the Club which could include withdrawal of season ticket, exclusion from future Elgin City matches or in the event of serious and/or persistent offending, an application being made towards obtaining a football banning order.

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Craig Stewart - July 2018



Academy scene

UPDATE FROM ACADEMY MANAGER ROBBIE HOPE

Further developments have happened within the Academy recently with all squads now training on quality synthetic pitches.

I was delighted we were able to get our young squads booked onto the new third generation (3G) pitch at Elgin High School when it opened in August. The surface is of real quality and will make a huge difference in the player's development now that they are training on it weekly. I would like to thank the Moray Council for their assistance and support on this and thank the facility staff who have been fantastic since day one.

Our older squads (U16s, U18s and U20s) still use the 3G surface up at Aberlour as this is a central point for players coming from many areas and distances including Cawdor, Buckie, Dufftown, Duffus, Elgin, Grantown, Hopeman, Inverness, Keith, Kingston, Lhanbryde, Lossiemouth, Macduff and Rothes.

The U18s will travel through to Aberdeen to play Banks O'Dee in the first round of the

Scottish FA Youth Cup tomorrow, Sunday. The game will be played at Spain Park with a 2.30pm kick off.

More U20s have gone out on loan with 17 year-old Keith pair Lee Scott and Scott Barron joining Fergus Edwards at Islavale Juniors and 17 year-old goalkeeper Oliver Kelly going out to Nairn St. Ninian Juniors.

The U20s started off their league campaign two weeks ago defeating Forres Mechanics 9-1 at Borough Briggs. The goals came from former Peterhead player Aidan Sopel(19), Jake Thomson(16), Aaron Anderson(16), Ryan Farquhar(24), a brace from 15-year old Owen Loveland and a hat-trick from Moray Taylor(18).

The next U20s game will be away to Brora Rangers at Dudgeon Park on Monday 3rd September 2018, kick-off is at 8.00 pm.

Keep up to date with the academy on @ECFCacademy (Twitter)



Young City players try out the Elgin High School 3G pitch



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CLUB NEWS

A' the news fae Borough Briggs



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MASCOT

This afternoon's mascot is Byron Mitchell. We hope you have a great day today, Byron!

MATCH BALL SPONSORS

Match ball sponsors for all of our SPFL2 matches this season, are Andy Robertson and Katrina Thomson. A big thank you to Andy and Katrina for their generous support.

SIGNING NEWS

Elgin City is pleased to announce the signing of 26

year-old central defender James McGowan from Hellenic League Premier Division side Thame United. Also joining us on loan from Ross County is 20 year-old forward, Greg Morrison. Greg is an Elgin loon and a Scottish Internationalist at U19 level. A warm BB welcome to you both.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

The Supporters Club-run Tea Bar is looking for volunteers to work on match days. If you have what it takes to make a decent cup of team and give the exact change from a fiver when someone buys a pie, bovril and mars bar, then this is for you. If you think you can help, have a word with one of the folk in the tea bar today.

MAN OF THE MATCH AWARD

Collecting the Man of the Match versus Edinburgh City from Jenny Sutherland of Riverside Kitchens is David Wilson.




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ELGIN CITY

2018-19 FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	H/A	RES	ATT	POS	GK	2	3	4	5	6	7
14/07/18	Ross County	BFC	A	0-2	1270	-	Gourlay	Cooper	Lowdon	McHardy	Bronsky	Miller	McGover
21/07/18	Arbroath	BFC	A	0-2	386	-	Gourlay	Cooper	Lowdon	McHardy	Wilson	Miller	Omar
24/07/18	ALLOA ATHLETIC	BFC	H	0-3	417	-	Gourlay	Cooper	Lowdon	Ballam	Wilson	Miller	Omar
28/07/18	DUNDEE UNITED	BFC	H	0-4	1104	-	Gourlay	Cooper	Lowdon	McHardy	Wilson	Miller	McGover
04/08/18	Annan Athletic	SPFL2	A	1-1	395	5	Gourlay	Cooper	Lowdon	McHardy	Wilson	Beattie	McGover
11/08/18	EDINBURGH CITY	SPFL2	H	1-0	612	4	Gourlay	Cooper	Lowdon	McHardy	Wilson	Beattie	McGover
15/08/18	ARBROATH	IBC1	H	1-1*	401	-	McHale	Cooper	Farquhar	McHardy 1	Wilson	Omar	McGover
18/08/18	Albion Rovers	SPFL2	A	1-0	275	3	Gourlay	Cooper	Lowdon	McHardy	Wilson	Beattie	McGover
01/09/18	STIRLING ALBION	SPFL2	H										
15/09/18	Berwick Rangers	SPFL2	A										
22/09/18	Clyde	SPFL2	A										
29/09/18	QUEEN'S PARK	SPFL2	H										
06/10/18	Peterhead	SPFL2	A										
13/10/18	COWDENBEATH	SPFL2	H										
27/10/18	ANNAN ATHLETIC	SPFL2	H										
03/11/18	Cowdenbeath	SPFL2	A										
10/11/18	BERWICK RANGERS	SPFL2	H										
17/11/18	CLYDE	SPFL2	H										
01/12/18	Stirling Albion	SPFL2	A										
08/12/18	ALBION ROVERS	SPFL2	H										
15/12/18	Edinburgh City	SPFL2	A										
22/12/18	Queen's Park	SPFL2	A										
29/12/18	PETERHEAD	SPFL2	H										
05/01/19	Annan Athletic	SPFL2	A										
12/01/19	COWDENBEATH	SPFL2	H										
19/01/19	Clyde	SPFL2	A										
26/01/19	EDINBURGH CITY	SPFL2	H										
02/02/19	QUEEN'S PARK	SPFL2	H										
09/02/19	Albion Rovers	SPFL2	A										
16/02/19	STIRLING ALBION	SPFL2	H										
23/02/19	Berwick Rangers	SPFL2	A										
02/03/19	Peterhead	SPFL2	A										
09/03/19	CLYDE	SPFL2	H										
16/03/19	Queen's Park	SPFL2	A										
23/03/19	ALBION ROVERS	SPFL2	H										
30/03/19	ANNAN ATHLETIC	SPFL2	H										
06/04/19	Stirling Albion	SPFL2	A										
13/04/19	Cowdenbeath	SPFL2	A										
20/04/19	PETERHEAD	SPFL2	H										
27/04/19	Edinburgh City	SPFL2	A										
04/05/19	BERWICK RANGERS	SPFL2	H										

*lost 7-6 on penalties

H - HOME FIXTURE A - AWAY FIXTURE

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DEFENDER

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DEFENDER

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FORWARD

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FORWARD

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07/05/1996



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FORWARD

DOB:
05/01/2000

THE LAST WORD

David Drummond



While it seems everyone can tell you about the record-breaking Arbroath 36 Bon Accord 0 score line in the Scottish Cup tie of 1885, few would be able to tell you about the equivalent record in the century that followed.

That was recorded by Stirling Albion in December 1884 when they beat Selkirk 20-0 in the first round of the Scottish Cup. That scoreline was the biggest in a senior match in Britain since Preston's 26-0 English Cup victory over Hyde United in October 1887.

Stirling were then in the Second Division of the Scottish League and Selkirk were members of the Border League. On a cold and wet afternoon, Stirling outplayed their opponents from the off. The outcome was never in doubt but with the score line 'only' 5-0 at half-time, a record-breaking score didn't seem to be on the cards.

But it was in the second-half with the Binos playing down the Annfield slope that the floodgates well and truly opened. Eight different players scored their goals with Davie Thompson leading the way with seven, followed by Willie Irvine who hit five.

In goal for Selkirk was 23 year-old textile

worker Richard Taylor. He had little chance with the goals that sailed past him and his defence seemed to be, quite literally, stuck in the mud as Stirling's forwards ran rings around them. This slice of football history was witnessed by a meagre attendance of 371.

Interviewed some years later, Selkirk's player-manager in that game, Jackson Cockburn, commented ruefully, "Every year I hope that someone loses 21-0. You can't take away the fact it was the worst result of the 20th century. I just wish it had never happened".

Stirling had made the record books three years earlier when they went 14 games without scoring a goal and it's also worth mentioning that the 20 goals that Stirling put past Selkirk were two more than they managed in the entire League campaign of 1980-81.

Stirling's record looked to be jeopardy when Ross County built up a 9-0 half-time lead in their Scottish Cup meeting with St Cuthbert's Wanderers in 1993 but, inexplicably, the Staggies could only manage to add two goals to that tally in the second half.

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Safety advice from Police Scotland in conjunction with the SPFL and FSOA Scotland

Supporter safety is a key priority for all clubs. We at Elgin City Football Club are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that the match-day experience is safe and enjoyable. One of the most dangerous things we have to deal with is pyrotechnic devices such as smoke bombs and flares in the stadium and we'd ask that you assist us to look after you by not bringing such articles with you to matches. These articles can cause severe burns, damage to hearing or breathing difficulties and their use is especially distressing for small children and those who can't easily move away when pyrotechnics are activated. Experience shows that when a pyrotechnic is activated in a crowd there is often a movement away from the immediate area which can cause panic and disorientation and create a risk of slips and trips or crushing for those nearby. Please be in no doubt that these articles are unpleasant and potentially life-threatening to be around - they are also illegal at football matches - and being caught with them will result in exclusion from Elgin City Football Club as well as a possible criminal conviction.



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Assistant Referee

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QUEEN'S PARK
 SPFL DIVISION TWO



29 September 2018

Kick-off 3.00pm

