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A WARM WELCOME...

To all of our fans and to our visitors from Hibernian FC.

I wish to welcome our new manager, Gary Holt together with our latest player signings, Steve Lawson, Dolly Menga and loan signing Bobby Burns.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Sponsors and Partners for their continued support. Our commercial team have been working hard to increase the Livingston FC base and attract new corporate sponsors. As you can see the stadium has been further transformed and we are excited about these new relationships and the potential they have for the long term sustainability of the club.

I need to pay special tribute to 18 year old Jack Hamilton for his first Premier League Goal last Saturday which set Livi FC up for a vital victory.

We hope you all enjoy today's game which is sponsored by our latest backer First Group PLC "An Official Travel Partner of Livingston FC".

Robert L Wilson, Chairman
& The Livi FC Board of Directors



TEAM

MANAGER - GARY HOLT

ASST. COACH - DAVID MARTINDALE

- 01. LIAM KELLY
- 02. JACK MCMILLAN
- 03. RICKI LAMIE
- 04. ALAN LITHGOW
- 05. STEVEN SAUNDERS
- 06. SHAUN BYRNE
- 07. KEAGHAN JACOBS
- 08. SCOTT PITTMAN
- 09. RYAN HARDIE
- 10. CRAIG SIBBALD
- 11. NICKY CADDEN
- 12. CALLUM CRANE
- 14. EGLI KAJA

- 15. STEVEN LAWLESS
- 16. MATTHEW KNOX
- 17. SCOTT ROBINSON
- 18. LEE MILLER
- 19. BOBBY BURNS
- 21. ROSS STEWART
- 23. RAFA DE VITA
- 24. CAMERON BLUES
- 26. CRAIG HALKETT (C)
- 30. JACK HAMILTON
- 31. DECLAN GALLAGHER
- 33. STEVE LAWSON
- 45. DOLLY MENGA

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MANAGER - NEIL LENNON

ASST. COACH - GARRY PARKER & GRANT MURRAY

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| 02. D. GRAY | 22. F. KAMBERI |
| 03. S. WHITTAKER | 24. D. MCGREGOR |
| 04. P. HANLON | 25. E. AMBROSE |
| 06. M. BARTLEY | 26. S. MARTIN |
| 08. V. SLIVKA | 31. A. BOGDAN |
| 10. M. BOYLE | 32. O. SHAW |
| 11. D. SWANSON | 33. F. MURRAY |
| 14. S. MALLAN | 36. R. PORTEOUS |
| 16. L. STEVENSON | |

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AR1: Sean Carr
AR2: Andy Milne
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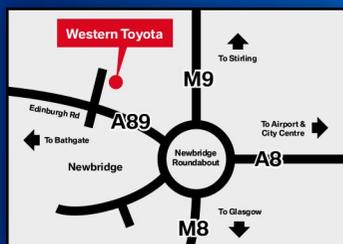
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A Word From the Manager...

It is my pleasure to welcome Hibernian football club and their fans to the Tony Macaroni Arena and I look forward to catching up with their manager, a former team mate of mine Neil Lennon.

I'm delighted with how the lads applied themselves to the game last weekend, how they took on the instructions from myself and the coaching staff and implemented them in the game. It was fast paced and although hectic at times for us being the away team, we played with a calmness that enabled us to create chances and score two very good goals. I'm delighted for the team that they came away with the three points but also a clean sheet as well.

I would like to give a big welcome to our new signings to the club and look forward to us as staff and you as fans getting to see them performing for our great club. Thank you for your continued support of the team and staff for the rest of the season.

Gary



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STADIUM NEWS...

SPFL TEAM OF THE WEEK

Huge congrats to Alan Lithgow who made the SPFL Team of the Week after his performance in last weekend's game against St Mirren.

WELCOME TO THE NEW BOYS

Livingston FC are delighted to announce the signings of both Steve Lawson and Dolly Menga on a permanent contract and Bobby Burns on a season long loan deal.

COLTS IRN-BRU CUP UPDATE

Our Colts side's Irn-Bru Cup second round tie with League of Ireland side Sligo Rovers will take place on Saturday 8 September at Sligo's home ground, The Showfields, at 7:45pm. More match details will follow nearer the time so keep an eye on our social media and website.

CONGRATULATIONS

Steve Lawson has been called up to the Togo National Team, for their African Cup of Nations qualifier with Benin next Sunday. Good Luck Steve!

LAST WEEKEND

As well as last weekend's game against St Mirren being the first league win of the season, Saturday's game saw Declan Gallagher play his 100th league game for Livi- taking him to 130 appearances since joining back in the summer of 2014. Congrats Declan!

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PREMIERSHIP ROUND UP...



The latest round of Premiership fixtures saw two of last season's top four go head to head at Easter Road as Hibernian took on Aberdeen.

It looked as though Derek McInnes' side would take all three points after Tommie Hoban turned the ball home from close range after a fumble by Hibeers' keeper Adam Bogdan but Jamie MacLaren turned home Paul Hanlon's cross with six minutes to spare to save a point for Neil Lennon's side. Both sides felt they should have had penalties, the Dons' Lewis Ferguson seeming to be brought down by Hanlon after the hosts' Martin Boyle had been barged by Andy Considine at the other end.

League leaders **Hearts** maintained their 100% record with a 1-0 victory at **Kilmarnock**. The Jambos' cause was aided by a soft red card shown to Killie's Gary Dicker before Uche Ikepeazu's header from the edge of the box found its way past Jamie McDonald to seal the win for Craig Levein's team.

Dundee's woes continued as they slipped to a 1-0 defeat at **St Johnstone**. The only goal came in the second half as Tony Watt beat the offside trap to run clear and slot past Jack Hamilton.

The first part of a Sunday double-header saw **Rangers** held to a thrilling 3-3 draw by **Motherwell** at Fir Park. Well twice led through Danny Johnson and Carl McHugh but were pegged back on both occasions by Kyle Lafferty. Ovie Ejaria gave Steven Gerrard's side the lead before half time but Peter Hartley fired home a 94th-minute equaliser to give the home side a deserved point.

Champions **Celtic** rounded off the weekend with a narrow 1-0 win at home to **Hamilton**. The only goal came on 63 minutes, wantaway defender Dedryck Boyata firing home from close range to move Brendan Rodgers' side up to second, three points behind Hearts.

This weekend's fixtures

ABERDEEN v KILMARNOCK

DUNDEE v MOTHERWELL

HAMILTON ACADEMICAL v ST JOHNSTONE

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN v ST MIRREN

CELTIC v RANGERS (Sun, 12noon)

LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Hearts	3	3	0	0	6	1	9	+5
Celtic	3	2	0	1	4	2	6	+2
Hibernian	3	1	2	0	5	2	5	+3
Rangers	3	1	2	0	6	4	5	+2
Aberdeen	3	1	2	0	3	2	5	+1
Kilmarnock	3	1	1	1	2	1	4	+1
LIVINGSTON	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	0
St Johnstone	3	1	1	1	2	3	4	-1
Hamilton	3	1	0	2	2	5	3	-3
St Mirren	3	1	0	2	2	5	3	-3
Motherwell	3	0	1	2	3	7	1	-4
Dundee	3	0	0	3	1	4	0	-3

FIXTURES & RESULTS 2018/19...



<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>COMPETITION</u>	<u>H/A</u>	<u>OPPONENTS</u>	<u>SCORE</u>			
July								
Tue 3	19:45		A	Queen's Park	W 5-1			
Fri 6	19:45		A	Queen of the South	D 2-2			
Sat 14	15:00		A	Airdrieonians	W 2-1			
Tue 17	19:45		A	Hamilton	W 6-5 (pens)			
Sat 21	15:00		H	Annan Athletic		Wed 5	19:45	
W 1-0						Sat 8	15:00	
Tue 24	19:30		A	Gateshead	D 0-0	Sat 15	15:00	
Sat 28	15:00		H	Berwick Rangers	W 2-0	Sat 22	15:00	
						Wed 26	15:00	
						Sat 29	15:00	
August								
Sat 4	15:00		A	Celtic	L 1-3	Jan		
Sat 11	15:00		H	Kilmarnock	D 0-0	Wed 23	19:45	
Sat 18	15:00		H	Motherwell	L 0-1	Sat 26	15:00	
Sat 25	15:00		A	St Mirren	W 2-0	Feb		
Sep								
Sat 1	15:00		H	Hibernian		Sat 2	15:00	
Sat 15	15:00		H	Hamilton		Wed 6	19:45	
Sat 22	15:00		A	Hearts		Sat 16	15:00	
Sun 30	13:30		H	Rangers		Sat 23	15:00	
Oct								
Sat 6	15:00		A	Motherwell		Wed 27	19:45	
Sat 20	15:00		H	Dundee		Mar		
Sat 27	15:00		A	Aberdeen		Sat 9	15:00	
Wed 31	19:45		H	St Johnstone		Sat 16	15:00	
Nov								
Sat 3	15:00		A	Hamilton		Sat 30	15:00	
Sat 10	15:00		H	Celtic		April		
Sat 24	15:00		A	Rangers		Wed 3	19:45	
Dec								
Sat 1	15:00		H	Motherwell		Sat 6	15:00	

SPLIT

Livingston 0



Motherwell 1

Johnson (23)

Att: 1957

Ref: Willie Collum

Livi bowed out of the Betfred Cup with a narrow defeat to Motherwell on a dreich afternoon at the Tony Macaroni Arena.

In a match where both goalkeepers were on top form, it was little surprise that one goal settled it and it came midway through the first half when Danny Johnson fired home from just inside the Livi box.

Lions boss Kenny Miller named the same starting XI from the goalless draw with Kilmarnock that yielded Livi's first Premiership point and they almost got off to a dream start inside 30 seconds when the ball fell to Steven Lawless and he unleashed a sublime volley from 30 yards that had Trevor Carson beaten all ends up but crashed back off the crossbar.

Motherwell then broke from that chance and Johnson was played in down the right and his low shot was palmed wide by Liam Kelly for the first of two quickfire corners that Livi dealt with comfortably. The Lions came close again three minutes later with another long range effort, this time from Kenny Miller whose dipping volley was brilliantly kept out by the fingertips of Carson.

In a barnstorming start to the match, it was Livi's turn to be saved by the woodwork on seven minutes when Johnson was played in again and he fired in a fine low strike that cannoned against the post and away to safety.

It was hard to fathom how the match was still goalless but it took until the 18th minute for either side to threaten again, Lee Miller going close for Livi when he got on the end of Scott Robinson's cut back but fired his effort inches wide of the near post. The visitors were then denied a minute later by a superb reaction save from Kelly as he somehow kept out Richard Tait's header at the near post.

The two keepers seemed to be involved in their own personal duel and Carson made another outstanding save on 22 minutes when Craig Halkett's header from Steven Lawless' free kick was brilliantly tipped over by the Irishman. The visitors took full advantage of Carson's heroics as they took the lead minutes later when Curtis Main broke down the left and cut the ball back for **Johnson** to sweep the ball home from just inside the box.

The Lions looked for an instant response and Lawless set up Pittman but he snatched at his shot and saw his effort trundle harmlessly wide. Lawless then crossed for Egli Kaja to tee up Kenny Miller but his shot flew over the bar. Up the other end, Kelly produced another outstanding save on 30 minutes as Carl McHugh turned Gaël Bigirimana's corner goalwards at the near post but Kelly made himself big to keep the ball out.

The Livi keeper was having the game of his life and produced arguably his best save of

the match on 43 minutes when Main headed goalwards from close range and Kelly, despite running the other way, stretched out his right hand to tip his effort wide to keep Livi in touch at the interval.

Half-time: Livingston 0-1 Motherwell

Livi made a change at the interval as Ricki Lamie came on for Kaja and made a bright start with Lee Miller and Lawless linking up well but the latter could only send his cross over the bar. The Lions were then forced into a second change on 55 minutes as Lee Miller was forced off with a knee injury to be replaced by Jack Hamilton.

Motherwell made their first change on the hour mark as Alex Rodriguez-Gorrin was replaced by Allan Campbell before a well-worked opening for the Lions five minutes later saw Lawless release Miller down the right and his cross found Hamilton but Carson was able to gather.

The woodwork came to Livi's rescue again a minute later as sub Campbell almost made an immediate impact, getting in behind the Livi defence and firing an effort across goal which came back off the post with Kelly well beaten. The visitors then made their second change as Aaron Taylor-Sinclair replaced captain Peter Hartley, who looked to have picked up a hamstring injury.

Livi made their final change on 70 minutes as Nicky Cadden came on for the tireless Robinson before Hamilton came close to an equaliser for the Lions four minutes later, doing brilliantly to turn away from the defender before firing a powerful effort across goal and wide. Conor Sammon replaced goalscorer Johnson soon after in Motherwell's final change. The Lions continued to press forward in search of an equaliser and Lamie and Cadden combined well before Lamie crossed for Pittman but his header lacked power and bounced harmlessly wide. Lawless then sent in a teasing cross that almost broke for Hamilton but Carson reacted quickly to gather as the visitors held on to book their place in the quarter-finals.

Full-time: Livingston 0-1 Motherwell

ANDY CRAWFORD

Livingston: Kelly, Saunders, Lawless, Halkett, Gallagher, Byrne, Pittman, Robinson(Cadden 71), Kaja(Lamie 46), K. Miller, L.Miller(Hamilton 55).

Motherwell: Carson, Tait, McHugh, Aldred, Hartley(Taylor-Sinclair 66), Main, Frear, Rose, Bigirimana, Rodriguez-Gorrin (Campbell 61), Johnson(Sammon 75).

Subs not used: Stewart, Lithgow, Jacobs, Brown.

Subs not used: Gillespie, Newell, Turnbull, Maguire.



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ON THIS DAY IN OUR HISTORY...Calum Brown

On the 1st of September 2007, 11 years ago to the day, Livingston travelled to Stirling Albion in a Scottish First Division encounter in the fifth fixture of the new league season. The Lions had made a disappointing start under manager Mark Proctor, losing three of the first four games, before the visit to Forthbank, and scoring only one goal in the process. The Lions took the lead through Czech striker Tomas Pesir in the 32nd minute, and held the lead until the interval in what turned out to be a relatively uneventful first half. The visitors looked comfortable and were deservedly in front going into the break but the opening 45 minutes gave no sign of the drama that was to follow in the second period.

HT: Stirling Albion 0-1 Livingston

It took Livi just nine second half minutes to double their lead and it was through academy graduate Graham Dorrans. The midfielder grabbed his first of the campaign and would end the season as The Lions' top scorer with 11 goals, as the West Lothian outfit looked on course for their first league win of the season after a poor start. Stirling Albion didn't give up though and found their way back into the game in the 64th minute. A Mark Tinkler own goal gifted them a lifeline, making it 2-1. Just two minutes later, the hosts were level. David McKenna made it 2-2, as The Lions blew their two-goal cushion. Albion could sense an upset on the cards and even the potential to win the game. With only 15 minutes to go, the incredible comeback was complete when McKenna grabbed his second of the

afternoon as he put Stirling Albion in front. After trailing 2-0 and looking down and out, three goals in 11 minutes saw the game spun on its head. Livi were stunned. However there was still another twist to this fantastic match. With just one minute of normal time remaining, young Livingston winger Robert Snodgrass rescued a point for The Lions, breaking the hearts of the hosts who had fought back superbly.

FT: Stirling Albion 3-3 Livingston

Livi, despite spending much of the season at the lower end of the table, ended the campaign in 7th place in the 10-team league and narrowly avoided the drop. In fact, Proctor's side had to wait until late-September before tasting victory in the league; a 4-2 win over Clyde in West Lothian. Stirling Albion were not so fortunate and finished the season firmly rooted to the foot of the league, suffering relegation by a margin of 13 points from both Clyde and Morton.

Livi enjoyed little satisfaction in cup competitions in the 2007-08 season, losing out on penalties to both Clyde and Partick Thistle in the League Cup and Scottish Cup respectively, and in the first round of the Challenge Cup to Dundee.

The Livi team that day was:

Liberda, Mitchell, McCaffrey, MacKay, Tinkler, Kennedy, Dorrans, Fox, Weir, Pesir, Snodgrass.

Subs: Stewart, James, Noubissie, Torrance, Griffiths



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HALFTIME TRIVIA...

- 1- Which young defender has joined Hearts on a season long loan spell for the second time?
- 2- The first ever Scotland team was made up entirely of players from which club?
- 3- Which club were the first in Scotland to carry a sponsor's name on their shirts?
- 4- The biggest win in the history of the Scotland National Team was an 11-0 victory over Ireland in 1901, true or false?
- 5- Newton Heath Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Football Club were formed in 1878, after a name change, what are they now known as?

Answers on [Page 27](#)

PDF PROGRAMME PRODUCED BY:

Editor: Coral Walker & The Livingston FC Media Team

ROAR

Editor: Coral Walker

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The views expressed within ROAR do not necessarily reflect those of Livingston FC, its Directors or Management.

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UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR STATEMENT

The Criminal Law (Consolidation Scotland) Act 1995 makes it unlawful to be drunk or in possession of alcohol, flares, smoke bombs, fireworks etc at football matches. Sectarian, Bigoted, homophobic, racist or sexist behaviour whether displayed in offensive matter, chanted or shouted; aggressive/violent conduct; Drunkenness are all considered unacceptable behaviour within The Tony Macaroni Arena and are likely to be dealt with accordingly. This may include ejection from the stadium and further exclusion.

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St Mirren 0



Livingston 2

Hamilton (14), Lithgow (36)

Att: 4347

Ref: John Beaton

Livi picked up their first win in the Ladbrokes Premiership as they comfortably saw off fellow new boys St Mirren at the Simple Digital Arena to get new Head Coach Gary Holt off to a perfect start.

First half goals from Jack Hamilton and Alan Lithgow were the least the Lions deserved for an accomplished performance in the Paisley sunshine as they won in the top flight for the first time since April 2006.

The new Lions boss made four changes to the starting line-up from the Betfred Cup defeat to Motherwell as Lithgow made a long-awaited return to the team alongside debutant Steve Lawson, Ricki Lamie and Hamilton, who made their first league starts for Livi.

It was the home side who started brightly and Kyle Magennis broke down the left inside the first minute but his cross didn't find a teammate and Livi were able to clear. That was almost as good as it got for the home side as the Lions took control.

The returning Lithgow was first to try his luck on five minutes as his long throw was returned to him by Declan Gallagher and he cut inside before unleashing a powerful effort that was well held by Craig Samson. Three minutes later the Lions came even closer as Lawson's low cross found Scott Robinson and his trundling shot beat Samson but crashed back off the post.

Livi's pressure was building and it was rewarded on 13 minutes as they broke the deadlock when, after the hosts failed to deal with a corner, Lithgow cut the ball back for **Hamilton** to fire home off the underside of the bar with the linesman judging his effort to have crossed the line. The Buddies' Cole Kpekawa then picked up a yellow card for pulling down Robinson with the resulting free kick from Steven Lawless well saved by Samson.

The Lions were firmly in command and came close again on 21 minutes when Hamilton and Robinson did brilliantly to keep the ball alive before Hamilton laid the ball back for Shaun Byrne to cross for Lawless, whose header was straight at Samson. Eight minutes later, a left wing cross from Gallagher was met by Lamie but Samson was able to save again.

Livi gave themselves breathing space on 36 minutes as they doubled their lead when Lawless' corner was met at the back post by **Lithgow** who looped a sublime header over Samson to make it 2-0. It marked a dream return to the starting XI for Lithgow and was also the first time the Lions had scored twice in the first half of a top flight match since a 3-1 win at Kilmarnock in November 2004.

Lawson picked up a yellow card three minutes from half-time for a mistimed challenge on Danny Mullen as Livi took a commanding lead in at the interval.

Half-time: St Mirren 0-2 Livingston

Gary Holt made a change at the interval as Lawson was replaced by Keaghan Jacobs. The hosts followed suit five minutes later, Jack Baird replacing Kpekawa, before Hayden Coulson picked up a yellow card for throwing a strop at the referee after the referee gave a throw-in Livi's way.

The home side tried to muster a response and ex-Livi striker Danny Mullen, who endured a largely forgettable afternoon against his old club, wriggled into space but fired an effort high over the crossbar. Scott Pittman then tried his luck six minutes later with an effort from the edge of the box that stung the palms of Samson, who made a fine save.

The Lions made their second change on 62 minutes as Egli Kaja replaced Hamilton, who received a well-deserved standing ovation as he made his way off after an outstanding display. The hosts also made a second switch as Matty Willock went off to be replaced by Cammy Smith.

The Lions came close to a third on 76 minutes as Lawless dinked a fine ball into the box and Kaja sent a header wide at the near post before Nicky Cadden replaced Lawless four minutes later in Livi's final change. Cody Cooke replaced Nicolai Brock-Madsen in the Buddies' final change on 81 minutes before Liam Kelly was booked by referee John Beaton after he was adjudged to have taken too long over a free kick.

Good play from Cadden almost brought a third goal for the Lions as he reached the byline before his cross was headed away only as far as Pittman. He teed up Robinson and he fired in a powerful strike that was well-saved by Samson. Kaja then teed up Cadden two minutes later and he turned his man inside out before curling an effort just over the bar.

The Lions played out the remaining minutes with ease before celebrating with their travelling support as they won away from home in the top flight for the first time since November 2005.

Full-time: St Mirren 0-2 Livingston

ANDY CRAWFORD

St Mirren: Samson, Hodson, Jones, Kpekawa(Baird 50), Coulson, Flynn, Willock(Smith 64), McGinn, Magennis, Brock-Madsen(Cooke 82), Mullen.

Livingston: Kelly, Gallagher, Halkett, Lithgow, Lawless(Cadden 80), Pittman, Byrne, Robinson, Lamie, Lawson(Jacobs 45), Hamilton(Kaja 63).

Subs not used: King, MacPherson, Muir, Erhahon.

Subs not used: McMillan, Crane, Stewart, Blues.

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Signing for Livi Gives Crane a Lift...

PLAYER PROFILE- CALLUM CRANE

Born: 8th March 1996 (22 years old)

Nationality: Scottish

Position: Left Back

Squad No: 12

Previous Clubs: Hibernian, Berwick Rangers(loan),
Alloa Athletic(loan).



Callum started his career in Edinburgh, with Hibs, developing through their academy set-up. After impressing at youth level, he signed his first professional contract in January of 2015. Towards the end of that year, the full back was loaned out to League Two outfit Berwick Rangers and made his debut in a 3-2 defeat to Elgin City. He made a further 20 appearances for Berwick that season as they finished 6th.

After a successful loan spell, the young defender returned to Easter Road in the hope of securing some first team action. He made his Hibs debut in September of 2016 in the Challenge Cup against Turriff United, which The Hibeas won 3-0. One further appearance in green followed for Callum, when he came on as a substitute in a Championship encounter with Dunfermline as the sides drew 2-2.

Crane wanted more game time and sought another loan move. He joined Alloa Athletic for the 2017/18 League One Campaign and was a mainstay in the Wasps side that was promoted to the Championship via the play-offs. The left back made 40 appearances in all competitions and popped up with four goals, with Alloa winning every game that he scored in.

The 22-year old's contract with Hibs ran out at the turn of the season and after his impressive loan spell at Alloa, there were a lot of clubs interested in his services. Fortunately, he was picked up by Livi in June and has caught the eye of a few already with some good performances in the Betfred Cup. League game time has been limited so far but Crane played every game for The Lions in the group stage, as Livi topped the group with 11 points.

Welcome to West Lothian Callum – and everyone at the Tony Macaroni Arena wishes you every success here.



This week Calum Brown caught up with gaffer Gary Holt to discuss his new role and his ambitions for this season.

Q- What interested you in the job and why did you decide to take it?

A – “The whole infrastructure of the place, the success that the club’s had, the feel-good factor with the community of engaging – the club try to do things properly off the pitch as well as on it and the work ethos of the whole place is something I could buy into.”

Q – How have you settled in at the club?

A – “It’s been brilliant, everybody’s made me welcome from the office staff to the chef. Everybody that wants Livi to do well have welcomed me with open arms. The staff have been brilliant with me, Davie’s been brilliant, the players have been really receptive to our wee ideas, so long may it continue.”

Q – You may have heard about the camaraderie of the players both on and off the pitch, how have you felt about them?

A – “Obviously I’ve watched games, I’ve watched bits from last season as well so I knew what they were like, I knew bits and bobs about them, I knew one or two players that were here so it’s just to grow on that and enhance that effect. They’ve been receptive to what we want to do and how we do it. It’s early days in the season, and it’s early days with me coming in.”

Q – After a great win on Saturday against, you must be happy with what you’ve seen so far?

A – “Aye. It’s about enhancing what they’ve got, tweaking little things to make small percentages better in what we want to do and how we want to play and how we want to play when we’ve got the ball. Saturday was testament and everybody keeps saying to me ‘that’s how Livi play, that’s how we are, that’s how we need to play

each week’ and that’s pleasing to me.”

Q – We face a tough game this weekend in the form of Hibs, are you looking forward to testing yourself against a manager like Neil Lennon?

A – “I’m looking forward to it. I played with Lenny, when we were both at Wycombe for a spell together and he was brilliant. His knowledge is great and to see the management success he had at Celtic and taking it on from there it’ll be nice to see him again and have a chat after the game. Hopefully he won’t be too angry. But, I’m looking forward to it. Every game is tough, there are no easy games in football, even in the league below and the league below that there are no easy games. You’re either the top dog and there to be shot at, or you’re the underdog trying to win a game. So, as long as we apply ourselves, as long as we approach the game in the right manner and make it as hard-working and energetic as we did last Saturday hopefully we’ll get the right result.”

Q – There’s no hiding behind the fact that this season will be extremely tough for Livingston, how are you looking to approach the season? Will the game plan be different against bigger sides?

A – “No. We go out to win every game, and we take each game on its merit. That’s it. We don’t look at 2, 3, 4 games down the line, every single game is important and we’ll approach each game from Sunday right through to Saturday then we’ll analyse it, put it to bed and move onto the next game. Because, you might not get 2 or 3 or 4 games down the line, you might be out the door if you lose 4 or 5 in a row, which might happen. But, if we approach each individual game on its merit and try and win the game it’ll not stand us in too bad a stead.”

Q – Do you have a preferred style of play?

A – “A winning one. Simple as that. And that’s what it is, it’s winning football. Yes, we all want to play pretty passing football, we want to create loads of chances, loads of crosses, shots, but as long as my players give 100%, not 101, 100%, - the eleven that start, the three subs that come on whoever it may be – every single week, we’ll get results. If they don’t, we won’t get results. You can’t guarantee you’ll play well, but as long as you give 100% and you have a bad game at least you’ve put in the effort then we can take that. That’s all us as staff want, honest professional hard-working players that’ll give 100% week in week out. And 9 times out of 10 you’ll find that hard-working teams, allied with what they’re good at – their technical, tactical ability – they’ll get results.

Q – Finally, what are your ambitions for the season?

A – “To get as high as we can. I don’t set a target. I want to win games of football, and the more you win the higher you’ll be in the league. That’s my aim, to win games of football and to be the best I can be, to be the best the staff can be, help the players be the best that they can be. If we’re all doing that together, then who knows. Why set a target that’s unrealistic maybe in some eyes and then set a target that’s low and you maybe miss out on that target by a goal or a point. Is that a success or failure? You don’t know, so why set it? We know where we want to get to, as high as we can. Until that’s mathematically impossible, who knows.



Alan Lithgow and Shaun Byrne celebrating Alan's goal at St Mirren.

Full-time: St Mirren 0-2 Livingston



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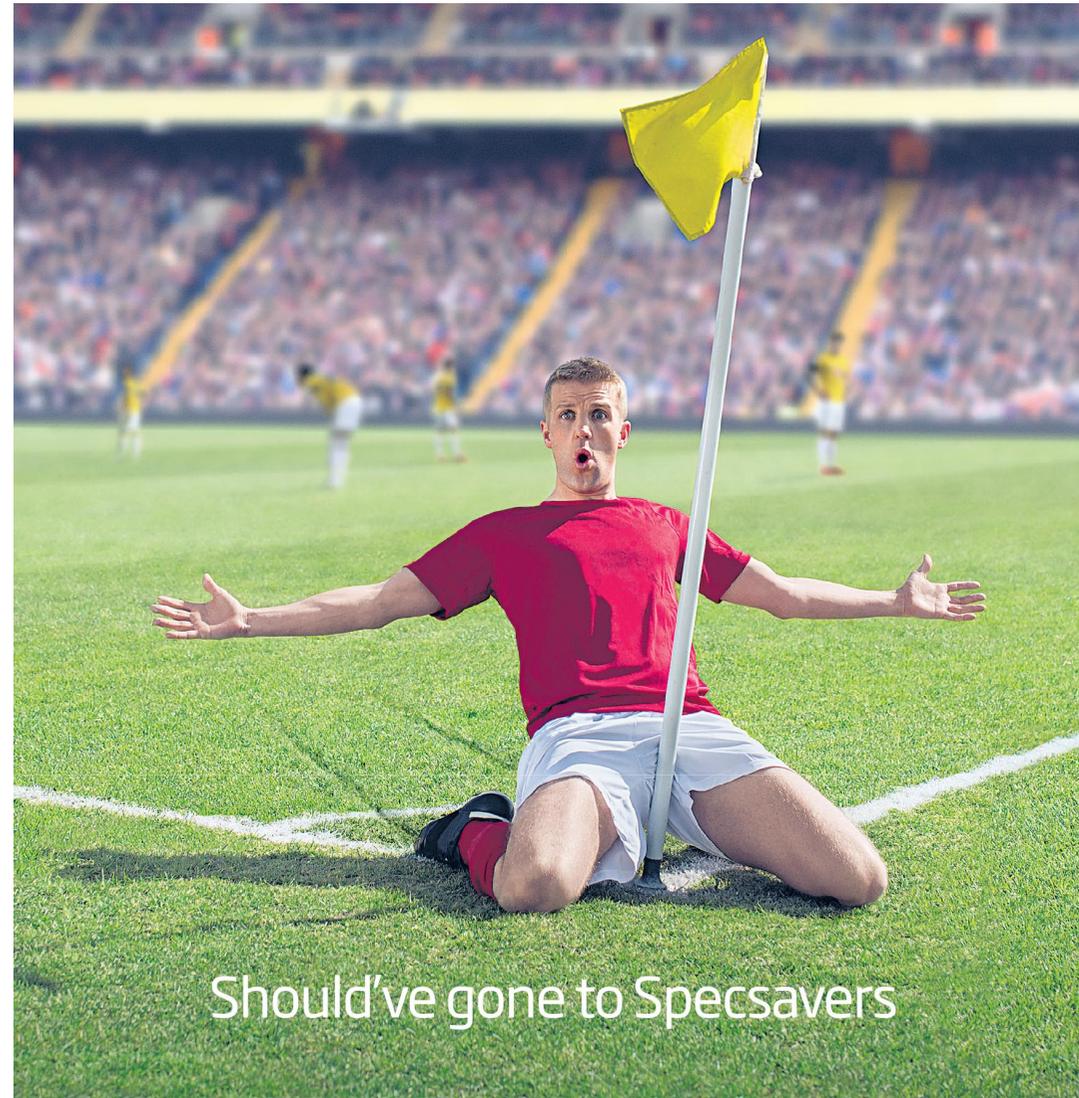
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Welcome Hibernian FC...Calum Brown

Nickname:	Hibs or Hibeets
Founded:	1875 (143 years ago)
Stadium:	Easter Road
Capacity:	20,421 (all seated)
Manager:	Neil Lennon

Hibernian FC was founded in 1875 by Irishmen from the Cowgate area of Edinburgh, who derived the name from Hibernia, an ancient name for Ireland. By winning the Scottish Cup in 1887, it became the first club from the East of Scotland to win a major trophy. In the early years, the team played its games in several locations including The Meadows, Newington and Powderhall.

The club temporarily ceased operating in 1891 and became homeless until it obtained a lease for the Easter Road site, playing its first match there on 4 February 1893. Despite this interruption, the club considers its history to include the period since 1875. It was admitted to the Scottish Football League in 1893, although they had to win the Second Division twice before being elected into the First Division in 1895. Hibs had some success after being reformed, winning the Scottish Cup in 1902 and its first league championship a year later.

Hibs' most successful era was in the decade following the end of the Second World War, when its so-called "Famous Five" forward-line of Gordon Smith, Bobby Johnstone, Lawrie Reilly, Eddie Turnbull and Willie Ormond, was generally considered to be the greatest in the history of the Scottish game. Each of these iconic figures scored more than 100 goals for Hibs and the Easter Road stadium's north stand is named after this quintet.

Local businessman, Kwik-Fit owner Sir Tom Farmer, acquired a controlling share of the club and Hibs enjoyed some notable success shortly thereafter, winning the League Cup in 1991 and finishing in the top five in the league in 1993, 1994 and 1995. Relegation under Alex McLeish followed in 1998 but the team secured promotion back to the SPL at the first attempt. The club experienced highs and lows in the early 2000s, finishing third in the league and losing 3-0 to Celtic in the Scottish Cup Final in 2001. McLeish left to become manager of Rangers and fans' favourite Franck Sauzée lasted 69 days in his capacity as his replacement.

Bobby Williamson took over the top job and the team emerged stronger with several talented young players including Garry O'Connor, Derek Riordan, Kevin Thomson and Scott Brown. Despite defeating both Rangers and Celtic on the way to the 2004 Scottish League Cup Final, Hibs lost 2-0 to Livingston at Hampden. Tony Mowbray replaced Williamson and the side finished in third spot in the league. When Mowbray left Hibs for West Brom in the early part of the 2006-07 season, former player John Collins took the reigns and his team won the 2007 League Cup. However, the club sold several key players - Kevin Thomson, Scott Brown and Steven Whittaker – for more than £8 million. Collins resigned in protest and another former Easter Road player, Mixu Paatelainen, took over. His tenure as manager lasted only one season. John Hughes, another favourite of the Hibs' fans, replaced Paatelainen and his side finished fourth, qualifying for the 2010–11 UEFA Europa League.

A string of managerial appointments followed in subsequent seasons - Colin Calderwood, Pat Fenlon and Terry Butcher - culminating in relegation after defeat to Hamilton Accies on penalties in a relegation play-off. Butcher was sacked and replaced by Alan Stubbs. Although unable to secure immediate promotion, the team reached the 2015-16 League Cup final, losing to Ross County. Hibs won the Scottish Cup for the first time since 1902, defeating Rangers in the final. Neil Lennon replaced Stubbs and won promotion back to the Premiership by winning the 2016–17 Scottish Championship.

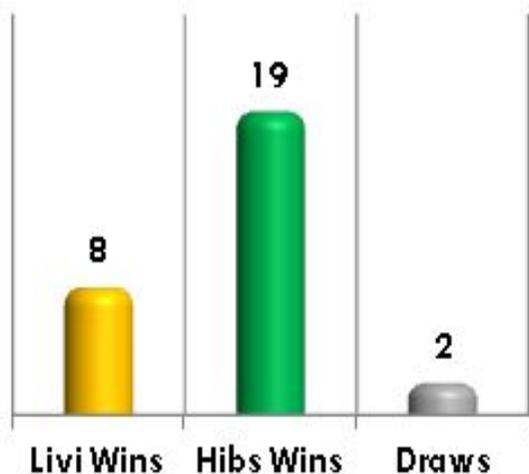
Hibs have a traditional local rivalry in Edinburgh with Hearts; the derby match between the two clubs is one of the oldest rivalries in world football.

Livi v Hibernian - The Facts & Figures

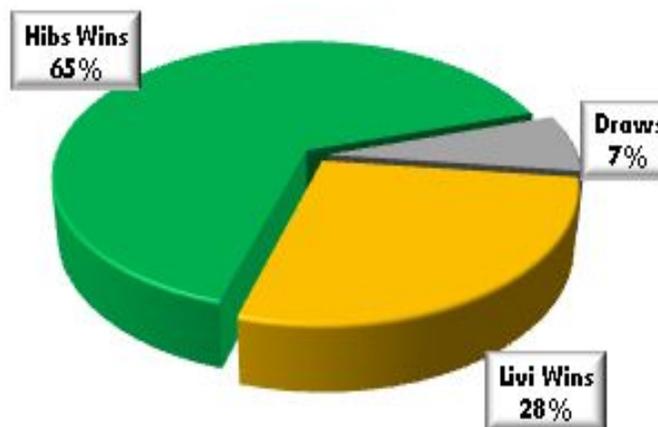
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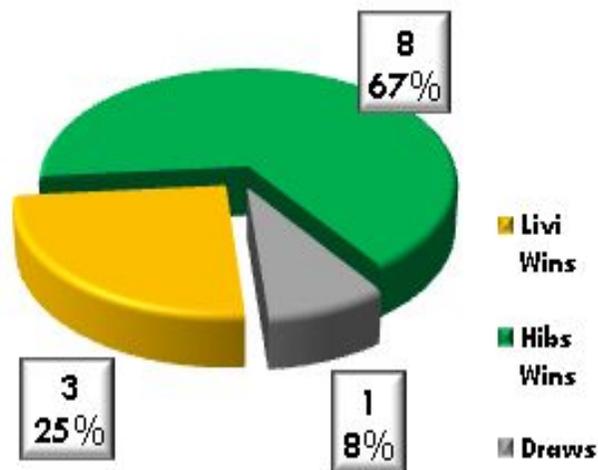
Livi v Hibs - Overall Outcomes



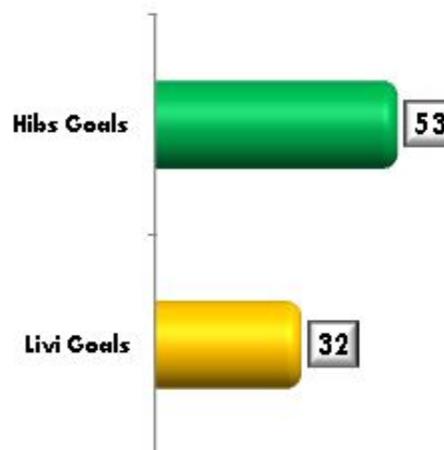
Outcomes in Livi v Hibs Games (as %)



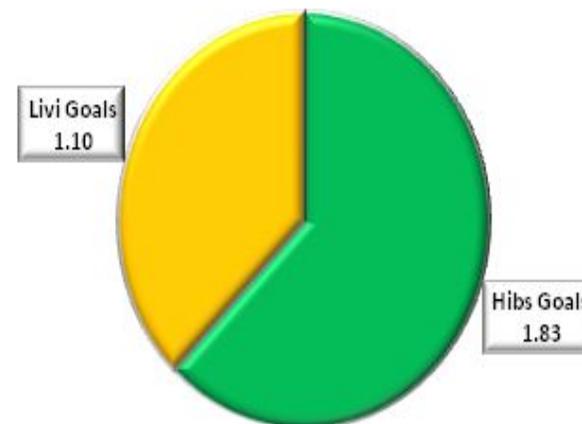
Outcomes in W Lothian- Livi v Hibs



Distribution of Goals in Livi v Hibs Games



Average Goals in Livi v Hibs Games



HISTORY OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS...Calum Brown

This afternoon's fixture is the 30th meeting between Livi and Hibs in all competitions, with the Easter Road club winning on 19 of the previous 29 occasions. That represents a win rate of 65%, with The Lions having been victorious in 8 matches (28%). Today's encounter will be the 13th time that Livi have hosted their visitors from Edinburgh, with the Hibeese securing 8 wins, one draw and losing only 3 times previously. That stalemate, a drab 0-0 affair in February 2016, remains the only goalless game - and one of only two draws overall - in the history of Livi-Hibs matches.

There has been a total of 85 goals shared in previous encounters, in all competitions, with Hibs having netted 53 times while Livi have scored 32 of them.

The first match between the sides was 17 years ago, in September 2001, when Jim Leishman's Lions defeated their opponents 1-0 at a sold-out Almondvale. A 64th minute goal from Francisco Quino was enough to secure a vital win for Livi in a season that saw the side finish in 3rd spot in the Scottish Premier League. Only 2 months later, the West Lothian team visited Easter Road for the first time and ran out convincing 3-0 winners with two goals from David Xausa and Nathan Lowndes.

Historically, the Leith club has dominated these fixtures. Hibernian secured its first victory over Livi in March 2002 with an excellent 3-0 away win after efforts from O'Connor, O'Neil and a Petersen own goal.

The Hibeese have won 11 of the last 12 meetings between the sides, scoring 31 goals in the process. Livi last tasted victory over Hibs on the 16th of April 2005, in an impressive 3-0 win in Edinburgh. Second half goals from Derek Lilley, Hassan Kachloul and Burton O'Brien gave The Lions a precious 3 points, which formed part of a spectacular run of form that saw Richard Gough's side win 5, draw 4 and lose only 3 of the last 12 games of the season. Consequently, Livi avoided relegation and consigned Dundee to the drop.

The West Lothian club has enjoyed some comfortable matches over Hibs, including a 4-1 win at home and two 3-0 victories at Easter Road. However, today's visitors can look back on a humiliating 7-0 thrashing of Livi in February 2006 and a 4-0 win in West Lothian in October 2014.

The most recent meeting was in September 2017, when Hibs eliminated The Lions 3-2 in the quarter-finals of the BetFred Cup. Despite leading twice, through Alan Lithgow and Rafa De Vita, the Hibeese secured a semi-final spot with goals from Danny Swanson, Martin Boyle and a controversial penalty from Anthony Stokes in the 83rd minute.

One to Remember

14th March 2004 – Hibernian 0 v 2 Livingston

It may not be the most spectacular performance by a Livingston team against Hibs but it's certainly the most memorable for all connected to the West Lothian club. Facing an excellent Hibernian side that boasted talent such as Scott Brown, Gary O'Connor and Derek Riordan and being heavily outnumbered off the pitch at Hampden by the travelling supporters from Edinburgh, Livi secured the CIS League Cup for the first time in the club's history.

A goalless first half ensued, during which The Hibeese squandered several good opportunities. Half-time witnessed a transformation in Davie Hay's Livi team. Second half goals from Derek Lilley and Jamie McAllister, within two minutes of each other, sent The Lions' fans into raptures against all the odds. Despite being in administration, Livingston won the first trophy in its short 9-year history. That occasion, and the date - 14th of March 2004 - is etched into every Livi supporter's memory.

One to Forget

8th February 2006 – Hibernian 7 v 0 Livingston

A 7-0 thrashing at the hands of Tony Mowbray's Hibs saw Paul Lambert's spell in charge of Livi edge closer to its inevitable end. This victory by Hibs remains Livi's record defeat.

A 19th minute opener from Chris Killen, followed by a Derek Riordan penalty, gave the home side a 2-0 half-time lead but gave no indication of the events that were to follow. The Easter Road men ruthlessly punished The Lions with an onslaught that included 5 more goals. Strikes by Gary O'Connor and another from Riordan doubled the advantage before an own goal by Dave Mackay and a brace from Steven Fletcher completed the humiliation.

A home defeat to Dunfermline a few days later saw Lambert resign and John Robertson take over but the change of manager was unable to prevent relegation from the Scottish Premier League for the West Lothian club. Hibernian, on the other hand, enjoyed an excellent season and finished 4th to secure a place in the UEFA Intertoto Cup.

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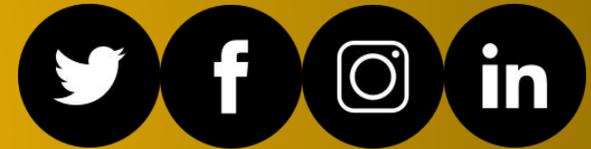
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- 2- Queen's Park
- 3- Hibernian
- 4- True
- 5- Manchester United



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Third Division: 1995/1996, 2009/2010
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Reserve League Cup: 1998/1999, 2000/2001
U19 Youth Division: 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012
U17 Youth Division: 2011/2012
U17 Youth League Cup: 2010/2011, 2011/2012
Scottish Qualifying (South): 1973/1974
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East of Scotland Qualifying Cup: 1963/1964

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