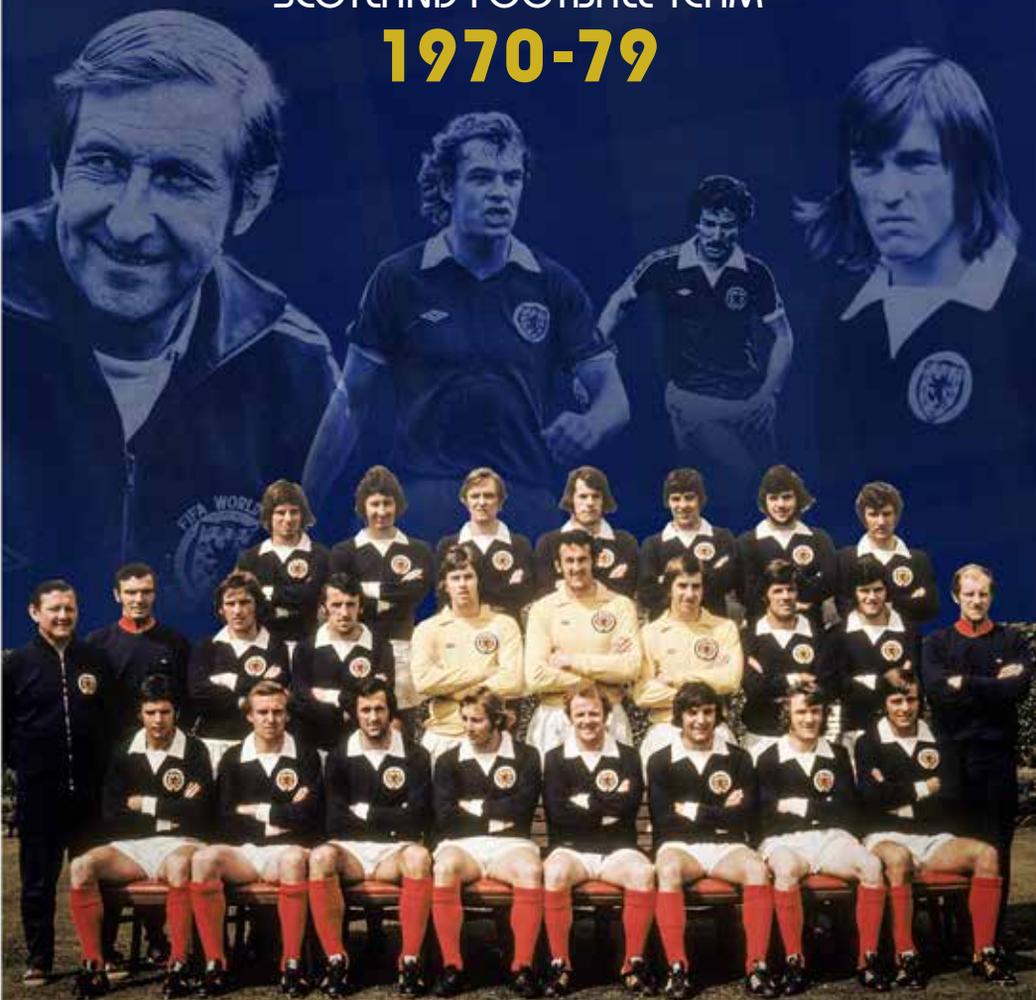


SCOTLAND IN THE SEVENTIES

THE DEFINITIVE ACCOUNT OF THE
SCOTLAND FOOTBALL TEAM

1970-79



RONNIE McDEVITT

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1970

“Bestie picked the mud up to throw at him, but Ronnie ducked and it hit the referee and he sent him off!”

Willie Johnston

The Swinging Sixties had ended in disappointment for the Scottish national side, with a gallant display in West Germany deserving more than the narrow 3-2 defeat that ended qualification hopes for the 1970 World Cup. This was on top of the failed attempts to reach the 1962 and 1966 tournaments.

A host of naturally gifted players had worn the dark blue, some of whom, such as Baxter and Mackay, had been replaced by players from the seemingly endless conveyor belt of Scottish football talent.

There was still room for optimism in a new decade, which would see the introduction of colour television to Scotland, the first North Sea oil pumped to the mainland, a referendum on devolution, the restructuring of the Scottish League and the punk rock phenomenon.

Scotland's first international fixture of the 1970s took place on 14 January, with Pittodrie Stadium hosting the annual Under-23 match against Wales. Scotland's last outing at this level had been an impressive 4-0 win over France in the previous December.

Manager Bobby Brown made five changes from the French match, explaining his intention to assess as many potential full internationals as possible. Along with the Inter League fixtures

the under-23 games were still considered an important part of the international calendar, offering players the opportunity to progress to a full cap. The selections generally contained a mix of youngsters and established internationals – a blend of youth and experience.

“They were big games for me because I had never had any international recognition at all until the Under-23s,” recalls Hibs defender John Blackley, who had debuted against the French. “I’d gone through school trials and never got picked at Under-18s. I never even got sent for a trial with the club and I was thinking, ‘I am way behind here.’ Then all of a sudden the Under-23 squad gets picked and it was great for me as it was my first recognition. The next stepping stone was if you got picked for the League side.” The Dons’ new floodlights were switched on for the first time watched by a crowd of 15,349, which would have been larger but for the stormy conditions that did not encourage skilful football.

Brown gave the captaincy to Blackley who rather modestly plays down the award. “To be fair I did get the captaincy but Tam McNiven was the Hibs physio and also the Scotland physio and I think Tam would have a wee input when the question came up. I always think that he put my name forward. That’s my belief anyway.”

Wales took an 11th-minute lead through a Dick Krzywicki glancing header and the West Brom midfielder almost scored again when another effort rebounded from Stewart’s crossbar. His goal looked to have won the contest until John O’Hare levelled when he shot home following a corner kick taken by Harper with four minutes remaining. The Scots then almost won the match with the very last kick – Peter Lorimer’s shot against the goalpost.

Norman MacDonald wrote in the *Aberdeen Press and Journal* that: “Despite the fact the game was played in a wind and rainstorm the switch-on of the new floodlighting system at Pittodrie was an instant success. But sadly the play of Scotland’s youngsters failed to match the brilliance of the illuminations. John Blackley, the Scottish captain, guessed the spin of the coin correctly and then inexplicably decided to play against the elements. The end product was that Scotland came within an ace of losing the match.” In the same paper Bobby Brown defended his captain: “John Blackley and I went on to the pitch and decided to take advantage of the wind if we won the toss. At that time the wind appeared to be blowing from the west. By the time the

game started, however, it had veered and was blowing in exactly the opposite direction.”

An 18-year-old Kenny Dalglish spent the entire match on the bench, just as he had done against France. It was a frustrating 90 minutes for the Celtic forward, as he recalled in his autobiography, *Dalglish*, published in 1996. “I thought my whole world had collapsed,” was his reaction to not playing.

Aberdeen FC received ground rental of £903.13s.7d. from the evening, which was 25 per cent of the gate receipts of £3,614.14s.6d. After the Scottish Football Association’s (SFA) hotel bill of £1,081.9s.9d. and other expenditure was taken into account the SFA made a profit of £55.4s.4d. on the evening.

Two days after the match the *Press and Journal’s* Norman MacDonald called for the city to be given a greater share of international action. “The time is opportune for the SFA or the Scottish League officials to end the Glasgow monopoly and stage one of the Inter League fixtures or a full international against Wales or Ireland in the provinces. Considering the appalling weather conditions,” he continued, “Scotland’s football legislators could not but have been impressed with the attendance. The crowd was almost 6,000 in excess of the combined attendances of the recent Inter League and Under-23 fixtures staged in Glasgow. Glasgow enthusiasts simply don’t want to know about minor representative games,” MacDonald concluded.

With no full internationals scheduled until the British Championship series in April, the next fixture was also at under-23 level, when a party of 15 players headed to Sunderland to face the Auld Enemy England on 4 March. On the eve of the game the manager stressed to his players that every one of them had the opportunity to progress to the full side for the European Championship qualifiers starting in the autumn.

Again there were changes, with three players making their debuts: Billy Dickson of Kilmarnock, Celtic’s George Connelly and Archie Gemmill of Preston North End. Unlike Connelly, Dalglish was not released by Celtic who had a European Cup quarter-final against Fiorentina the same night.

The young Scots started well but fell behind to a Peter Osgood strike after 24 minutes, which altered the pattern of the game. Again the weather spoiled the spectacle for the 12,885 crowd, with

a snowstorm creating near-impossible conditions. Osgood scored again before Brian Kidd gave England a three-goal lead after almost an hour of play. Colin Todd then reduced the margin by heading into his own net from a Munro free kick, before the relentless snow forced Welsh referee Clive Thomas to take the teams from the pitch on 62 minutes.

A ten-minute interlude was planned in the hope that the match could restart but the players failed to reappear and the game was abandoned. There would have been little complaint from the Scottish camp whose reaction was later summed up in the SFA's Annual Report: "Mercifully, from our point of view, a heavy fall of snow during the second half, caused the game to be abandoned, at a time when we were lagging by 3-1."

Of equal value, but not under the jurisdiction of the SFA, were the Scottish League internationals. Since the early 1960s the Scotland team manager had traditionally taken charge of the League side, providing continuity and experience. This also meant, of course, an additional payment to the manager. The Scottish League's first fixture of the decade came just two weeks after the Under-23 match against the Football League at Coventry City's Highfield Road.

There was some good news for Scotland with Osgood withdrawing due to a heavy cold. Sir Alf Ramsey traditionally took charge of the Football League side and he was keen to assess his players ahead of their defence of the World Cup in the summer.

No Celtic players were available for the Coventry game due to the second leg of their European Cup tie and Brown chose a 4-3-3 formation, with Tommy McLean, Henry Hall and Willie Johnston playing up front.

The home side established a two-goal lead after 24 minutes through Astle and Rogers but Ramsey's replacement of two Manchester United players at half-time affected the flow of the game. "The Football League's rhythm vanished in the second half when Kidd and Stepney were taken off," noted Desmond Hackett in his *Daily Express* report. Peter Cormack, taking advantage of a defensive mix-up, brought the Scots back into the match before Astle restored England's two-goal lead in the 72nd minute.

Hibs' Johnny Graham, who had replaced Hall, made the final score a more respectable 3-2 following good work by Johnston on

the left. The scoreline was considered “ridiculous” in Hackett’s view, considering the gulf between the teams in the first half.

Bobby Brown released a list of 17 names for the opening Home International in Northern Ireland on 18 April. When appointed team manager in 1967 Bobby had been granted complete control over team selection. There was still a Selection Committee, which continued to travel the length and breadth of the UK monitoring the form of players before submitting its reports to the manager. After deciding on his team Bobby Brown would go through the formality of handing his list to the committee, which rubber-stamped it without interference.

The manager did not place too much emphasis on the findings of the Selection Committee, having a good relationship with many club managers whose views he considered more relevant.

“They were only there in name anyway,” Bobby reflects. “It was said sometimes that they went and looked at players. That was up to them but I never took their word. I took Jock Stein’s or Don Revie’s or Bertie Mee’s at Arsenal, people I could rely on.”

Following Celtic’s victory over Leeds in the semi-final of the European Cup, full-back Davie Hay was added to the squad and was personally driven by Jock Stein to Glasgow Airport to join up with the squad the morning after the Leeds game. Also called in were Arsenal duo George Graham and Frank McLintock, who had both played in Amsterdam in another European semi-final – that of the Fairs Cup.

Bobby had a long-standing friendship with Arsenal manager Bertie Mee whom he praised in the *Evening Times*, saying: “It says a lot for Arsenal that they have done this for Scotland at such short notice.” John O’Hare was chosen to play up front alongside Alan Gilzean, with the captaincy awarded to McLintock, who was making a return to international football after a three-year gap. Four players represented Scotland for the first time – O’Hare, Hay, Billy Dickson and Willie Carr.

As a one-off experiment the 1969 Home Internationals had been played within an eight-day period at the end of the season with each game televised live.

The four home nations decided to continue with the format into the new decade but without any live TV coverage. The SFA was particularly opposed to over-exposure of the game on television and its Annual Report contained the following in reference to the paltry

attendance of 7,483 at Hampden for the Northern Ireland game. "If vindication were needed of the Association's attitude towards television down the years, this was it."

The television coverage of the 1970 series saw the matches screened either in full or as edited highlights later in the evening, and the game in Belfast was the first Scotland international to be televised in colour.

There was a full league programme in Scotland the same afternoon with the final round of matches in the First Division taking place. By this time Celtic had already secured their fifth successive title with Rangers assured of second place.

For the second consecutive year the Scotland v Ireland fixture went ahead on a waterlogged pitch.

George Best and Gilzean were both guilty of poor finishing in the first half with Gilzean's effort so far off target that it almost struck the corner flag.

Early in the second period Bobby Clark saved well to deny Best before the only goal of the game after 58 minutes, scored when a cross from McLean was headed past Jennings by O'Hare. This ensured that the Derby County striker has the distinction of scoring Scotland's first goal on colour television.

Five minutes later Best appeared to be fouled in a crowded goalmouth only for English referee Eric Jennings, possibly unsighted, to award a free kick to Scotland! After retaliating Best then threw a handful of mud in the direction of Jennings which earned him an early dismissal. Willie Johnston is unable to suppress his laughter looking back on the incident. "Big Ronnie McKinnon had tackled or fouled him and Bestie picked the mud up to throw at him, but Ronnie ducked and it hit the referee and he sent him off!"

Bobby Clark, who had gathered the ball, also remembers the event. "I feel confident that the referee was only going to book Best but the way he reacted by throwing mud was what advanced the booking to being sent off." The seeds of Best's frustrations had been sown early in the match when McKinnon had brought him down and he had aimed a kick in retaliation, which the referee had viewed leniently.

Stein replaced O'Hare for the last 20 minutes against the ten men but there were no further goals and Scotland recorded their first win in Belfast since 1961. Most observers considered the game

unmemorable with the *Sunday Post* match report suggesting that Best's antics had diverted attention from the game. "A lot of players in this international match had much to thank George Best for," wrote Jack Harkness. "This saved quite a bit of embarrassment for many players." The following day eight players were added to the pool for the games against Wales and England, five of them from Celtic – Gemmell, McNeill, Lennox, Johnstone and Hughes. McLintock and Graham left the squad to join their Arsenal team-mates for the first leg of their Fairs Cup Final against Anderlecht on the same night as the Welsh game.

The starting XI against Wales on the Wednesday had four changes including Hearts goalkeeper Jim Cruickshank who replaced Clark, with Stein partnering O'Hare in the attack.

John Greig, another addition, was made captain – a position he had previously held until Billy Bremner had taken on the role in 1968.

A determined Welsh defence thwarted almost every Scottish attempt to breach it. Greig twice threatened with free kicks but it was Hay who came closest to grabbing a winner when Swansea keeper Tony Millington saved his deflected shot in the dying seconds.

The 0-0 result ensured that the visitors left with a point to supplement that gained in the 1-1 draw with England on the Saturday. In his summary for the *Press and Journal* Norman MacDonald was in no doubt about who ought to have won the game: "On play and creative ability Scotland should have won handsomely and how the Welshmen survived despite all their courage and tenacity is something of a mystery." Despite the lack of goals there was praise from supporters with Jack Kelly of Dorchester Avenue in Glasgow writing a letter to the *Evening Citizen*: "Our team against Wales was like a breath of fresh air with the successful introduction of new faces like Moncur, O'Hare, Dickson, Carr and Hay. At long last we have the feeling that Scotland is going places from now on with such young stars available." With the manager's contract due to expire on 31 December, the SFA International and Selection Committee met that week to discuss Bobby Brown's future. After the Wales game Bobby announced to the press that he had agreed to remain in charge for a further four years with the extension due to expire after the 1974 World Cup.

The prices for the 134,000 tickets for the home game against England ranged from seven shillings and sixpence for a place on the

uncovered East Terracing to 50 shillings (£2.50) for the best seats in the South Stand.

There was annual discontent over the demand and distribution of Scotland v England tickets, whether the game was in Glasgow or London. The only public sale was a limited number, which had to be applied for through a postal ballot for which the number of requests always far outweighed availability. After the clubs and various associations had received their allocation the number left for the ballot was a mere 12,572, less than ten per cent of the total number of tickets printed.

Scotland v England fixtures at Hampden Park had been televised live north of the border since 1956 but the contract with the television companies had been agreed some months ahead of the 1970 game, which allowed for delayed coverage only. With all tickets sold, there had been an indication from the SFA secretary Willie Allan a few weeks before the 25 April fixture that the match might be available for a live screening. He later claimed that there had been no approach from either of the broadcasters.

The *Daily Record* dated 7 April highlighted the situation and quoted an unnamed “top TV official in the south” saying: “It was made clear to us that only recordings would be considered. It was on this basis that the contract was agreed.” A spokesman for Scottish Television (STV) told the same newspaper: “We are under contract to show the Scotland–England game in the evening. There are no signs that we will be changing our plans.” Peter Thompson, head of BBC Sport in Scotland, did, however, appear to have a more conciliatory stance and advised the *Record*: “We have had no contact with the SFA on this subject, but would be interested if the question of a live showing cropped up.”

Coupled with Willie Allan’s comments there appears to have been a stalemate which was never broken, and those unable to get their hands on a ticket had to listen to the radio commentary until 7.15pm when STV showed a recording of the entire game, just as it had done with the Wales match. The BBC screened extended highlights at 9.15pm in a 90-minute version of *International Match of the Day*, which also featured the Wales v Northern Ireland game. It was the first Scotland v England international to be televised in colour and the four home associations each received £20,000 for the television

coverage of the series, which was £10,000 down on the previous year's agreement when all the action had been shown live.

Brown made two alterations from the Wales game with Tommy Gemmell, having served his three-match suspension from a sending off in Germany, replacing Willie Callaghan whilst Jimmy Johnstone was preferred to Tommy McLean.

Bobby Brown recalls the team doctor, Archie Downie, giving the winger a sleeping tablet on the eve of the game. "I remember asking Jock Stein about Jimmy Johnstone," says Brown. "I said: 'Jock, how do you train wee Jimmy, how do you coach him?' And Jock's answer was 'Aw him, his brains are brand new!' In other words he meant that he was such a natural player that you didn't need to coach him."

With the World Cup in mind England chose not to risk Bobby Charlton who had broken a bone in his right hand during training. It was Everton's Brian Labone whose name was destined to be the most talked about following the game, and to those old enough to remember is still synonymous with the match today. The British Championship trophy was at stake for three of the four competing nations with Scotland and England level on three points each and the Welsh on two points, ahead of their game with Northern Ireland. Since the first Scotland v England fixture in 1872 the Scots had won 35 times and the English 30 times. There had been 21 draws.

The first cheer of the day greeted the Ayr Majorettes as the tartan-bedecked girls accompanied a pipe band before the teams came out. It was noticeable that there were fewer England fans inside the ground than in previous years, indicating that much of the FA's allocation had fallen into the hands of exiled Scots.

Scotland took the game to England from the outset and a shot from Greig flashed past Gordon Banks's right-hand post. Then, in the 19th minute, as Stein dashed into the box, he was sent crashing to the turf by Labone only for the West German referee to indicate that the striker had dived. This decision infuriated both the home players and spectators and has never been forgotten by Bobby Brown, as he recently confirmed: "I remember quite clearly that Colin Stein was my centre-forward and Labone brought him down in the box when we were very much on top."

Scotland's superiority, despite the lack of goals, was recognised when the crowd broke into a chant of "Easy! Easy!" after half an hour,

with keeper Cruickshank at this point a bystander. Johnstone was having a great game despite being continually fouled, whilst Moncur and Hay were in sparkling form. The goalless scoreline at the interval did little to reflect the gulf between the sides.

“Jimmy Johnstone played on the wing,” Bobby Brown recalls, “and I had said to him before the match, ‘Now listen, a lot depends on you, son.’ ‘Right, right,’ he said, and he would take the full-back Emlyn Hughes on and he played his heart out that day beating him this way, that way and putting balls across.”

Johnstone and Stein both had shots saved as the game wore on, with the massive crowd sensing that time was running out. With quarter of an hour left Gemmell fired a piledriver towards goal which looked to have struck Bobby Moore’s hand but again claims for a penalty were ignored.

A third penalty claim came in the 85th minute when O’Hare was felled inside the area by Nobby Stiles but again Herr Schulenberg was not impressed.

The crowd was silenced for the only time late in the match when Hurst headed beyond Cruickshank from a great Peters cross, but the referee adjudged the striker to have been offside. Again this was a contentious decision from the referee who had been praised for his handling of both the Celtic–Leeds semi-final and Scotland’s last win against England three years earlier. But it would have been cruel had Scotland lost a match they had deserved more from. It was the first time that the annual fixture had failed to produce a goal since the inaugural meeting 98 years earlier.

“We should have won the match and we should have had two penalty kicks, but we came out with a lot of credit,” Bobby Brown remembers.

The Labone–Stein incident occupied much of the Sunday journals’ sports columns. Jim Parkinson of *The Herald* had the referee in his sights, referring to, “His adamant refusal to recognise one of the most blatant penalty fouls seen at Hampden for many years, and later he rejected two other lesser claims ... A goalless draw did the Scots no justice and made a mockery of their overwhelming superiority.” “If that wasn’t a penalty then I’ve never seen one!” was Harry Andrews’s assessment of the Labone–Stein controversy in the Scottish *Sunday Express*. In the same publication the referee responded to persistent

journalists with: "The Scots player had pushed the ball well in front of him. It was not a scoring chance and the player seemed to throw himself down."

Alan Hoby offered "The English View" to Scottish readers of the *Express*, which included the following: "I thought it was most emphatically a penalty. But then I also thought that England's 'goal' two minutes from the end was perfectly valid. But it would have been outright robbery if Sir Alf Ramsey's men had come away with the Championship after this in-and-out show." Even Sir Alf conceded in the *Express* that his team were "more than a little fortunate to get away with it", referring to the match as a whole rather than the Labone incident.

After Wales's defeat of Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and the Welsh all finished the tournament on four points with the Irish having lost all three of their games.

Newspapers speculated over the official attendance figure of 137,438, which was well in excess of the 134,000 tickets printed. SFA investigations found that a number of what were described as "high-quality forgeries" had been accepted and planned to meet with the police to discuss the matter.

Secretary Willie Allan later advised that he had been shown two forgeries, made with photocopying equipment, which were difficult to distinguish. An officer at Glasgow Southern Police Headquarters told *The Herald* that inquiries were continuing to identify the source of the counterfeits.

After spending four days sifting through the thousands of tickets, rather embarrassingly for the SFA, police officers found spectators had gained entry with, amongst other objects, a plain piece of card, a discotheque ticket and a hospital visiting card! It would, of course, be naive to think that the England match was the first occasion that cunning fans had entered the stadium by similar means.

There was no shortage of ticketless supporters who found alternative ways of entering the ground. Stuart Borrowman recalls standing outside Hampden before the previous England game in 1968 when an elegantly dressed supporter had the confidence to blag his way in. "We were standing outside the schoolboys' enclosure and this guy appeared in a smart raincoat and says, 'Watch this, guys.' Then he just went up to the policeman at a gate and said, 'Good afternoon

officer,' and he opened the gate and he just walked in! A superb bit of skill!"

There was a stark contrast in the final balances for the two Home Internationals played at Hampden Park, which illustrated the financial benefits of the Scotland v England fixture. The profit for the Wales match was a total of £6,388.7s.5d. whereas the figure for the England game was £54,786.7s.8d.

During England's reign as world champions Scotland had lost the annual fixture just once and recorded one victory themselves with the other two meetings drawn.

Scotland's international season had concluded with what most considered a disappointing result but a "moral victory". The Celtic players still had the small matter of a European Cup Final to deal with in May. In his capacity as Scotland manager Bobby Brown travelled to Milan as a guest of Celtic Football Club, where Feyenoord triumphed 2-1 after extra time.

Bobby remembers good times in the company of Jock Stein. "Big Jock and I were always very friendly; I got on well with him. The first match we attended together was down in Leeds when we went to see Leeds playing Ferencváros." Their friendship later extended beyond the assessment of players. "Quite often he would phone me for the Ayr races where he always got the red-carpet treatment. The routine was that I'd go up to Parkhead and Sean Fallon would drive the Mercedes and Jock always sat in the back of the car with a wee fellow called Solly. That's where they counted the spoils on the way back."

Following the Mexico World Cup Scotland were under consideration for an invitation to take part in a "Mini World Cup" in Brazil that the newly crowned world champions were hosting as part of their 150th Independence Day celebrations in 1972. The event was originally conceived as a competition between all the previous winners of the World Cup but the criteria had to be altered because the matches were scheduled for the end of June and beginning of July, which was unsuitable for some of the Europeans including England. This led to the Brazilians considering other nations, with Scotland one of the names on the shortlist.

Bobby Brown had the Inter League International with the League of Ireland to assess his players early in September, ahead of Scotland's

opening European Championship qualifier against Denmark in November.

It would be an understatement to say that the Irish record in the fixture was poor with just one victory in the 20 matches played. The last three home games in the series had ended 5-1, 11-0 and 6-0 and, not surprisingly, the Scots were expected to win convincingly at Celtic Park.

The evening did not go to plan with only 7,654 restless spectators present to see a single second-half George Connelly goal separate the sides. "The pitch was invaded by hundreds of youngsters when Connelly, at long last, put the Scots ahead on 62 minutes," reported the *Press and Journal*.

"A LOAD OF OLD RUBBISH" was the headline of Malcom Munro's report for the *Evening Times*, which criticised Bobby Brown's tactic of playing out of defence rather than going all out for goals.

The manager was realistic when interviewed by *The Herald's* Jim Parkinson. "It is a well-worn cliché but I did learn several things from this game. For instance, some players there didn't fit into my future team plans." He did praise Pat Stanton's performance with the forthcoming visit of the Danes in mind. "He could be a most useful player for the future, especially against teams who employ packed defences."

During an SFA Council meeting the following week there were strong pleas, by the Aberdeen representative George Rattray and the North of Scotland's Fred Newton of Ross County, for Pittodrie to be allocated the Denmark match. But there was a unanimous decision in favour of Hampden Park and the two most northern members of the Council had to be content with the award to Aberdeen of the under-23 meeting with England early in 1971.

Brown attended the Dunfermline v Rangers First Division match at East End Park on the Saturday before the Denmark game. Davie Hay missed Celtic's game with Cowdenbeath the same afternoon due to flu and was not expected to join up with the squad. This resulted in Sandy Jardine being added to the pool.

Hay surprised everyone by joining the players in Glasgow on the Sunday before they set off for their base at the Queens Hotel in Largs. Bobby Moncur, winning his sixth cap, was chosen as captain for the night.

Scotland were expected to attack from the kick-off. They had overlapping full-backs Hay and Greig, Stanton and Moncur in midfield and Willie Johnston and Jimmy Johnstone on the wings to feed forwards O'Hare and Stein.

The game began well with a 13th-minute O'Hare header from a Johnston cross slipping from Poulsen's hands then through his legs and over the line for what proved to be the only goal of the match. Johnston then went close with a swerving shot but a second goal never really looked likely. Although the Danes rarely threatened, Cruickshank safeguarded the points with his only real save close to the end, diving to keep out a shot from Benny Neilsen. At the final whistle there was a strange anti-climactic feeling, with even the goal considered sloppy.

A disappointing 24,618 had turned up on an awful night but there had been enough present to soil the evening. Jimmy Johnstone, who had been so effective in the England game, had been jeered against Wales three years earlier when he had been chosen ahead of Old Firm rival Willie Henderson. The boo boys had returned for the Denmark match and both Johnstone and Hay were barracked from the traditional "Rangers End" of the ground before Hay was replaced by Jardine for his first cap. Clearly Hay had not been fully fit but the substitution led to accusations that the manager, a former Rangers goalkeeper, had bowed to the demands of the crowd, ignoring the fact Hay had been first choice.

Four years later, in the *Glasgow Herald*, as Jardine was about to captain his country for the first time, he praised the more unified crowd. When reminded by Ian Archer of his Scotland debut, Jardine, clearly, had not forgotten the circumstances: "Put it this way, it wasn't the nicest way to start an international career."

The abuse which descended from the West Terracing that evening was not prevalent in every international but there was always an uneasy feeling that it could surface at any time. "Night of Shame – for fans" was the headline in the next edition of the *Evening Times* with the match itself given less importance than the crowd's behaviour. It was an issue the manager could well have done without.

Historically Celtic supporters were not entirely innocent in these matters. During an Inter League match between the Scottish League and the League of Ireland four years earlier at Celtic Park the abuse

directed at Ronnie McKinnon was considered unpleasant enough for the club newspaper, the *Celtic View*, to comment on its front page: "The management were extremely disappointed with the attitude of some sections of the crowd last Wednesday. There was no excuse for the booing and baiting of the sole Rangers player in the Scottish League side." A letter to the same publication the following week from Airdrie reader Joseph McLaughlin expressed similar sentiments, describing the treatment of McKinnon as "unbelievable". The letter went on: "I am as ardent a Celtic supporter as anyone but when a player is good enough to be chosen for a place in a Scottish team it is the duty of the fans to give him and his team-mates the support they deserve." But when it came to Hampden internationals it was undeniably only a problem for Celtic players. Following the vitriol levelled at Hay and Johnstone, the *Celtic View* highlighted the issue in its editorial which advised that the club's players were "unhappy at this treatment". Reader David Crotty of Glasgow wrote to the newspaper thus: "I was disgusted by the attitude of the so-called Scotland fans towards the Celtic players in the team. Before and during the match most of the scarves I saw were Rangers and it seems Scotland is becoming more like Rangers every game. David Hay being taken off was the last straw. I don't think I'll be back at any more internationals." Fellow Glaswegian Philip Keane used his letter to appeal to the players, "I implore all Celtic players to reject all offers to play for Scotland."

On the match itself Norman MacDonald labelled it an "exercise in boredom" in his *Press and Journal* report, summarising with: "It was an untidy and unsatisfactory 90 minutes. The Scots lacked the inspiration and imagination to demolish an unimpressive, all-amateur Danish team." John MacKenzie was just as critical in the Scottish *Daily Express*, describing a "rock bottom performance" and reporting: "With the derisive whistles of an impatient, bitterly disappointed crowd ringing in their ears, they crept from Hampden with a solitary, lucky goal to show for 90 minutes of unimpressive endeavour."

Scotland contested only four full internationals throughout the calendar year of 1970, three of those in the British Championship. Two of the four games had been won and the other two certainly ought to have been. There had been many positives including the emergence of Hay, O'Hare and Moncur and, although the victory over the Danes had been unimpressive, the qualifying campaign had at

least got off the ground with the desired two points. Tougher times lay ahead in the New Year with six away matches from seven games in the first six months of 1971 including trips to Belgium and Portugal.

During a meeting with the Selection Committee in December Bobby Brown expressed his desire for more international matches to aid the qualifying campaign. The offer of a match against Australia in November had been turned down as was an invitation to Hungary the following June. The manager had held a number of squad get-togethers in the latter part of the 1960s to try to build a club spirit within the camp but these had been hindered by midweek fixtures and call-offs and were reluctantly discontinued, much to his frustration.