

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE 01
TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021 V ARSENAL | PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY



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CONTENTS

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CONTENTS

Click each page number to jump to it



Jack Ross



Ron Gordon



Match Preview



David Gray



Arsenal



Jake Doyle-Hayes



Hibstory



Europa Conference League



THE GAFFER

JACK ROSS

A WELCOME BACK FROM JACK!



EDEN.MILL
ST ANDREWS



I am delighted at long last to be writing these notes to welcome some of our fans back to Easter Road. Along with my players and staff I wish more Hibeers could be with us this evening, but we hope that the time when Easter Road is full again is not too far away.

On behalf of the club could I please ask those fans in attendance to adhere to all of the Covid rules inside the stadium so that the game is a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. You should also notify us if you do get infected up to 14 days after the match.

Those fortunate enough to be at Easter Road will see us continue our pre-season preparations by facing high-quality English Premier League opposition in the shape of Arsenal. I welcome Mikel Arteta, his staff and players to Edinburgh and look forward to what should be a highly-competitive fixture.

I have been pleased with our preparations thus far albeit we have suffered from Covid-related disruption which has led to the likes of Christian Doig, Melker Hallberg and Josh Doig missing some of our work to date.

Despite this, the quality and conditioning levels shown by the all the players has been excellent and in alignment with what we will need to continue to progress and improve in the forthcoming season.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the incredible numbers who continue to purchase season tickets – a show of commitment and loyalty which really drives us to deliver success for you.

Enjoy the game! 🍷

RON GORDON Q&A

WE CAUGHT UP WITH HIBERNIAN CHAIRMAN RON GORDON AHEAD OF THE 2021/22 SEASON

What are your thoughts ahead of the new campaign?

I feel that the club is making some great progress across the board. I'm excited for the new season and even more so knowing fans are back. I think supporters will like what they see when they come back to Easter Road. There are significant improvements going on as we speak with the goal of creating a more dynamic and richer gameday experience. All that work should be finished within the next couple of months. On the pitch, which I know is everyone's priority, we are fortunate that we have a very solid and competitive squad so the idea is to build on the quality we have and strengthen in some key areas. We are excited about signing Daniel Mackay and Jake Doyle-Hayes – two young promising talents – and there are still seven weeks to go in the window so let's see how things unfold.

So how do you assess last season?

I thought it was a terrific season. A semi-final finish in the League Cup, a final in the Scottish Cup, a third-place finish in the league and qualifying for Europe is a successful season and one we must now build on. Of course, we had our ups and downs but to finish third is a major accomplishment. But more so than just that, we have revamped the team over the past year-and-half. We lowered the starting age and created a much more balanced and dynamic team. We have speed, creativity and a lot of fight. Bringing Jack in was a very important step and he's done a great job. You can see we are playing a more

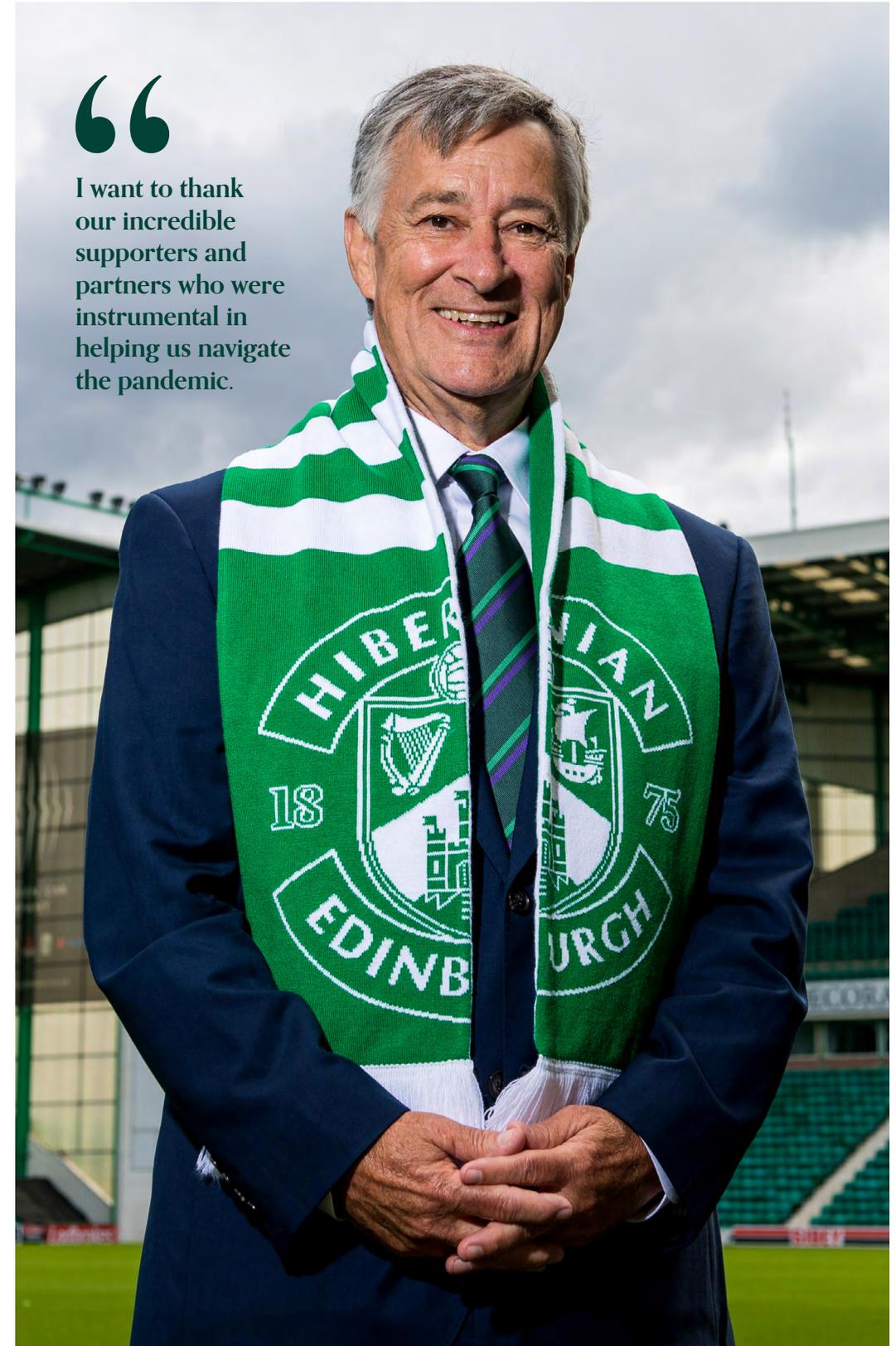
exciting and positive brand of football.

How has the pandemic affected the club?

Firstly, I want to thank everyone at the club for their terrific commitment and dedication this past year under challenging circumstances. Most importantly I want to thank our incredible supporters and partners who were instrumental in helping us navigate the pandemic. When you look at all the things that we accomplished last season we can all be very proud and feel positive about the progress the club has made. Of course, from a financial perspective the pandemic was a big 'haircut' so we have had to dig into our reserves. One of the great things about my investment in Hibs was eliminating the debt and infusing some cash into the club. But once Covid hit we ran through our reserves pretty quickly and found ourselves in a more difficult position. Our season-ticket holders really supported us, and we took advantage of the various government support programmes. We did have to downsize the entire club – things like hospitality, other game day activities and the Academy. We needed to do that from a public health perspective but also to cut costs. So our focus shifted to the first team, and in many ways that has had its benefits. I am happy to say that as Covid recedes and fans return we are bringing back all the other operational aspects of the club. Despite the pandemic, we have been able to move the club forward and continue to execute on the strategic vision we laid out 18 months ago.

“

I want to thank our incredible supporters and partners who were instrumental in helping us navigate the pandemic.



How crucial is it to go on a long European run?

I want us to try and go as deep as we can in Europe. It's important for Scotland to continue to raise its UEFA coefficient which in the long-term makes the entire league stronger. I'd like to see four or five Scottish teams go really far in Europe – especially Hibs! Success begets success, so I think competing at the top of the table, playing in cup finals and qualifying for Europe allows us to continue to build our football brand and reputation, which in turns makes us a 'go to' for young up-and-coming players and allows to keep hold of our more experienced talent. Historically, we have had a reputation for selling players very quickly to get cash through the door. But I am of a different opinion. I think we need to build a competitive team. There will be times when we have to sell, no doubt, and that's part of the business of football, but ultimately my number one goal is to compete.

Despite the pandemic, are you optimistic for the future of both Hibs and Scottish football?

I am super optimistic! I'm very much in love with the club and everything it stands for. It's an exciting personal journey for me and I'm fully committed to helping the club be all that it can be, certainly one of the best football clubs in Scotland – a club with values and integrity, quality and pride in everything we do on and off the pitch. I hope and trust that supporters and everyone who loves Hibs can see that we are taking significant steps to take the club to the next level. I think the future of

“
I'm very much in love with the club and everything it stands for. It's an easy club to fall in love with.

Scottish football is very bright, too. There are aspects of the league that we can improve by working together, which I think is happening. On the football side we've had Celtic lead the way for many years; and now Rangers have returned with a well-earned championship and a very positive run in Europe they've set a high bar which is good for all of us. I'm always amazed and excited about Scotland's passion for football: it brings people and communities together, it's what provokes talk and banter, it's just so real and meaningful across the whole country. We need to harness and celebrate football and all the good the game brings to our culture and society. We still have work to do as clubs and as a league but I do think Scottish football is headed in the right direction. 🇪🇸



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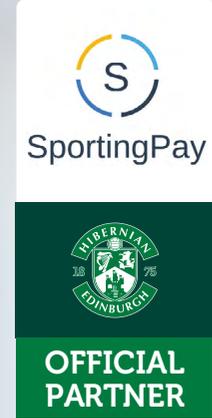


Adam Tomlinson
Reporter



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MATCH PREVIEW



The Lowdown

The 2021/22 Scottish Premiership campaign is just around the corner and to step up our preparations we host three-time Premier League title winners Arsenal at Easter Road.

The match is a fitting one for us as we welcome a number of you, our incredible supporters, back with us for the first time since the beginning of March 2020.

The game forms part of the Gunners' pre-season plans and kicks off their training camp in Scotland. This is actually Arsenal's first pre-season match ahead of their new campaign.

When the friendly was announced, Arsenal head coach Mikel Arteta said: "The match against Hibs will be a good test for us and we're looking forward to playing against a strong opponent."

For us, as many of you know, this is our penultimate pre-season game ahead of our second-qualifying round match of the inaugural UEFA Europa Conference League.

The fixture should give us a decent taste of what is to come throughout the 2021/22 season.



Welcome Back

16 months later and we can finally welcome a small number of you back to Easter Road. We have really missed you.

We had our first taste of your return in our 5-3 pre-season win over Civil Service Strollers as around 250 fans came to support our youngsters at Christie Gillies Park. It was great to see all the Hibs shirts, scarves, and flags on show as Josh O'Connor scored a hat-trick.

Seeing supporters back at stadia, including Hampden, during the Euros has created incredible excitement and we just can't wait until Easter Road is full again.

We are constantly following the latest government guidelines. If you are attending the game please refer to our Spectator Code of Conduct to ensure you and your fellow fans stay safe.



Team News

Jack Ross has a strong squad to choose from with new signing Jake Doyle-Hayes available for selection. But fellow new face Daniel Mackay has picked up a knock. Christian Doidge is back in training after recovering from Covid but won't be part of the squad for Arsenal.

Fans will be excited to see Mackay once fit. He scored in our 4-1 friendly win over Dunfermline at Hibernian Training Centre. He also impressed for Inverness Caledonian Thistle last season making 24 appearances and scoring seven times, including the club's Goal of the Season against Ross County in the Scottish Cup. He was named in the Scottish Championship Team of the Season and earned his first Scotland U21 cap.

Doyle-Hayes had a breakthrough season for St. Mirren in 2020/21 and we have an in-depth interview with him in this issue.

We also might see minutes for Josh Doig and Melker Hallberg. The popular pair linked back up with the squad during our pre-season training camp in Cheshire.

Scott Allan is in the squad, too, and back to full fitness after being diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy last season. He scored against Stoke last time out.



[CLICK HERE TO READ JDH'S INTERVIEW](#)

Head to Head

We have met Arsenal three times in our history and the first was all the way back in April 1926. The friendly took place in front of a crowd of around 4,000 fans at Highbury. The match was part of the deal that saw Scotland international goalkeeper Willie Harper make the switch to North London.

The game will be remembered by Arsenal historians as John Mackie played his final game for the Gunners after making 119 appearances for the club.

The sides' second meeting was in October 1952 as we lost 7-1. The game was the first ever televised match at Highbury with 60,000 fans watching on. It was also the first game under floodlights. Lawrie Reilly got our consolation.

The final match between us and Arsenal was just three years later in March 1955

and was played at Easter Road. Reilly was on the scoresheet again alongside Eddie Turnbull, but despite being 2-0 ahead with 15 minutes to play the match ended 2-2.



[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE FROM OUR 7-1 DEFEAT](#)

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The Visitors

The 2020/21 campaign was Mikel Arteta's first full season in charge as he looked to continue putting his stamp on the Gunners. Arteta is actually Arsenal's 20th full-time boss in their 133-year history.

Despite missing out on European football for the first time in 26 years, Arsenal's end-of-season form gives them cause to be optimistic ahead of the upcoming campaign. A run of five consecutive wins saw the Gunners miss out on Europa Conference League football by just one point, and that excellent run of form saw them beat Chelsea at Stamford Bridge and Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.

The Gunners actually only lost two of their last 13 Premier League games of the season. 🍀

“

The match against Hibs will be a good test for us and we're looking forward to playing against a strong opponent.”

Mikel arteta



Last Time Out



1-1



We drew 1-1 with Stoke City at the bet365 Stadium in a highly productive pre-season friendly.

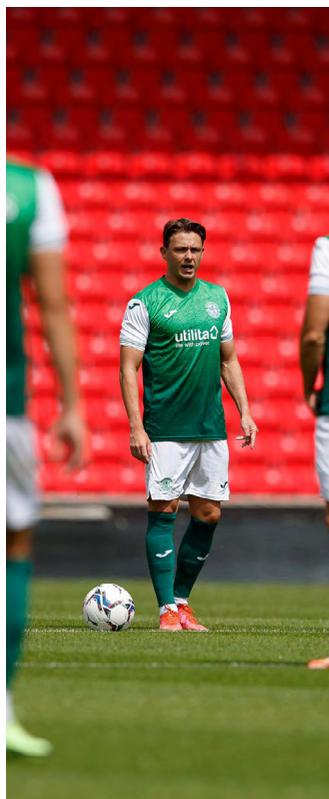
The game was the last of the week-long training camp in Cheshire as preparations were ramped up ahead of the first competitive game of the 2021/22 campaign.

After an evenly contested first 15 minutes we found a breakthrough. Ryan Porteous stepped out from the back and fed Jamie Murphy down the left. The winger drove forwards and cut the ball back to

the on-rushing Scott Allan who deftly placed the ball into the bottom corner.

It was a special moment for 29-year-old Allan, a fans' favourite, who is back to full fitness after missing five months of last season with a heart condition.

Stoke equalised just before half-time through Alfie Doughty's long-range effort. The second-half was evenly matched but neither side could find a breakthrough resulting in our first draw of pre-season.



Reaction

"It was brilliant for us today and it was a nice way to finish a week away. It was good to come to a stadium and play against top quality opposition as well. There's lots to be pleased about for all the players that were on the pitch today." **Jack Ross**

Starting XI

Macey Cadden (Campbell, 46'), McGregor, Porteous, Doig (Stevenson, 60'), Newell (Magennis, 60'), Gogić, Boyle (Mackay, 60'), Allan (Mallan, 60'), Murphy (Wright, 50'), Nisbet.

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OUR DIGITAL LEAD MATHEW NEWTON ROUNDS UP THE BEST BITS FROM THE WEEK

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The Proclaimers



Euros Banter
Who doesn't love a bit of banter between teammates? Well Martin Boyle made his feelings very clear about Joe Newell celebrating England's semi-final win over Denmark.



Josh and Melker!
The pair returned to pre-season training last week linking up with the rest of the first team. We caught them when they arrived...

Who else is excited for the new campaign?



When the home kit dropped...
Who else is loving our brand-new 2021-22 kit? [You can buy it here](#)



18

19

Happy Retirement Sir David Gray
John McGinn knows...



SDG as a future Hibs manager?



It was great to see you back!



He's still got it...



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Thank You, Sir!



Words:
Ben Jacobs



Our 2016 Scottish Cup Final captain 'Sir' David Gray might have retired but he'll remain a familiar face and popular figure at Easter Road after joining Jack Ross' coaching staff.

David Gray hasn't actually been knighted but he's widely known as 'SDG'; and rightly so after heroically winning the 2016 Scottish Cup Final in injury time with a glancing header that ended our 114-year wait to lift Scotland's oldest trophy again.

"At last! At last! At last!" bellowed the match commentator as the then 27-year-old hoisted the Scottish Cup at Hampden following a dramatic 3-2 win over Rangers. And the chorus of 'Sunshine of Leith' that followed will live almost as long in the memory as the goal itself.

"Liam Henderson put in the perfect ball," said Gray, who also scored his first Hibs goal against Rangers in a 3-1 win back in 2014. "I just peeled away and as soon as the ball hit my head I knew it was goal bound. I was almost off celebrating before the ball even hit the back of the net.

"It was very emotional and such a special feeling to have created so many memories for everyone. From a football point of view it was the greatest weekend I have ever been involved in and I'll never forget it. And how could I? Almost every day I get stopped by someone to talk about it.

"People ask if I get fed up hearing about it but I love it. There are guys who come over and say, 'My dad went to so many cup finals with Hibs and we didn't win, so thank you very much'. You hear how much it means to them all. And now I have retired it is a memory to savour even more."

Gray made 177 appearances in all competitions for us and scored 15 goals having joined from Burton Albion in July 2014.

And along with his Scottish Cup Final heroics, the former Manchester United trainee also scored against Brøndby, Runavik and Asteras Tripolis in Europe as well as in the 3-0 win over Queen of the South to seal promotion back to Scotland's top-flight after a painful three-year absence.

"It has been an absolute privilege and honour to play for, and captain, Hibernian," said Gray. "The decision I made to come to Hibs was the best of my life. But now it's time for me to take the next step in my career and I'd like to thank the gaffer and the club for this amazing opportunity.



GRAY'S GOALS

September 14:

Scored his first Hibs goal against Rangers



December 14:

Hit a screamer against Rangers three-months later



May 16:

This goal needs no introduction. "It's Liam Henderson to deliver..."



April 2017:

Scored against Queen of South as we sealed promotion back to Scotland's top flight



July 16:

An iconic goal to take Brondby to penalties



July 18:

An away equaliser in Greece against Asteras Tripolis to send the travelling Hibeas wild



"I want to thank all the players I've played with throughout my time and also a massive thank you to all the fans for all the support they have given me."

"I am delighted to welcome Dave to my coaching team," added Hibs head coach Jack Ross. "Throughout my time here he has demonstrated brilliant leadership qualities and a desire to learn about the game from a tactical and man-management perspective."

"I am excited about helping Dave with the next stage of his career and look forward to him assisting the staff and myself in raising demands, standards and achievements throughout the season ahead."

Gray made his non-competitive coaching debut with our development squad in their 5-3 pre-season win at Civil Service Strollers. And he'll be on the touchline for the first time at Easter Road against Arsenal.

"It will be a strange feeling sitting in the dugout and not being able to just come on and influence a game," said Gray. "But I am excited to develop my coaching credentials, learn from Jack and have a positive influence on the dressing room."

So what kind of coach will SDG be?

"Terrible, we're thinking about changing it already!" joked Ross. "He's been everything I thought he would be. I know he's spoken about it but it wasn't an easy decision for Dave to make when I first broached the subject with him because he had to make a decision to stop playing, which is never an easy one for a player."

"But I mentioned when he first came into the role that I had a close relationship with him ever since I came to the club. And his thirst for knowledge in terms of my job, from both a tactical and a man management point of view has been really big."

"He sees a potential future in this area for him and certainly I do, too. I know people would love that to be at Hibs – but hopefully not too soon because it means he'll be taking my job!"

"There is a good seriousness to David," added Alan Stubbs, who signed Gray and led us to the 2016 Scottish Cup. "He will be a useful link between the manager and the players and the fact he knows them all so well can help him but the difficult bit now is understanding that he can't always be their mate, which he has been now for a long time. He will now be part of the decision making."

"If you're doing your coaching badges or making that transition from playing to coaching the most daunting thing can be stepping out in front of your peers."

"It takes time to build that confidence. But if I could offer him one piece of advice it would be to take as many coaching sessions as he can because you don't get much time before people start making judgements and it won't matter if he was a great teammate or captain or if he scored the cup final goal, from now on it is all about what he does as a coach."

We will, however, see Gray one more time as a player. The club have agreed to stage a well-deserved testimonial with further details released later in the season. That will be an emotional occasion and a chance for fans to once again say #ThankYouSDG. 🙌

“

“The decision I made to come to Hibs was the best of my life.”



STATS CORNER

2014

Signed for Hibs

2

Shirt Number

2015/16

Scottish Cup Winner

2016/17

Scottish Championship Winner

177

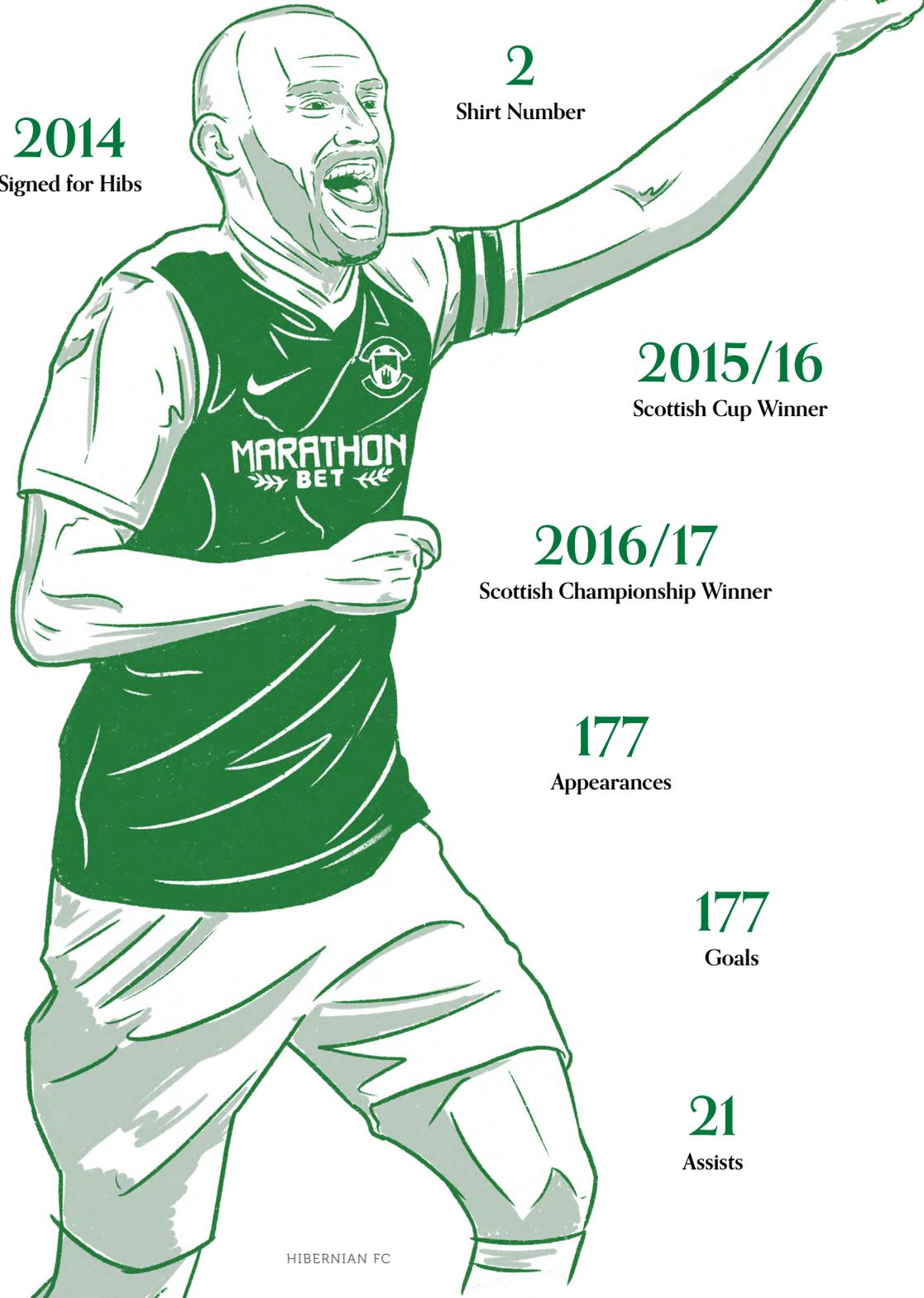
Appearances

177

Goals

21

Assists



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THE VISITORS

MIKEL ARTETA

Arteta landed his first role as head coach at Arsenal in December 2019 following the departure of fellow Spaniard Unai Emery.

At the end of his first season the former midfielder guided the Gunners to FA Cup glory beating Chelsea in the final. In doing so, he became the first person to win the FA Cup as both captain and manager of Arsenal.

Arteta's first full season as boss was more difficult, though: they lost 2-1 on aggregate in the Europa League semi-finals and an eighth-place finish in the Premier League ended the Gunners' 25-year run of participating in European competitions.



ARSENAL

FACT FILE ARSENAL

We welcome Arsenal to Easter Road for our penultimate pre-season friendly, which kicks off their Scotland tour.

The Gunners are likely to field a young, inexperienced side here with several members of their first-team squad having been away on international duty in recent weeks. New signing Nuno Tavares could make his non-competitive debut after joining from Benfica.

Mikel Arteta's side finished eighth in last season's Premier League and will be looking to get back into Europe with a more successful term this time around.

LAST 5



Sunday, May 23 // Premier League



Wednesday, May 19 // Premier League



Wednesday, May 12 // Premier League



Sunday, May 9 // Premier League



Thursday, May 6 // Europa League SF

SQUAD LIST

NO	NAME	POS	NAT
1	BERND LENO	GK	
2	HECTOR BELLERIN	DF	
3	KIERAN TIERNEY	DF	
4	WILLIAM SALIBA	DF	
5	THOMAS PARTEY	MF	
6	GABRIEL	DF	
7	BUKAYO SAKA	FW	
9	ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE	FW	
11	LUCAS TORREIRA	MF	
12	WILLIAN	FW	
13	RUNAR ALEX RUNARSSON	GK	
14	PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG	FW	
15	AINSLY MAITLAND-NILES	MF	
16	ROB HOLDING	DF	
17	CEDRIC SOARES	DF	
19	NICOLAS PEPE	FW	
20	NUNO TAVARES	DF	
21	CALUM CHAMBERS	DF	
22	PABLO MARI	DF	
24	REISS NELSON	MF	
25	MOHAMED ELNENY	MF	
28	JOE WILLOCK	MF	
30	EDDIE NKETIAH	FW	
31	SEAD KOLASINAC	DF	
32	EMILE SMITH ROWE	MF	
33	ARTHUR OKWONKO	GK	
34	GRANT XHAKA	MF	
35	GABRIEL MARTINELLI	FW	

TOP GOALSCORERS

ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE	13
PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG	10
NICOLAS PEPE	10
BUKAYO SAKA	5



PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

KEY QUOTE

Kieran Tierney

"I think the vision of the club, where it wants to go, and the expectations of the club are why I signed. There's no doubt about it, we're not where we want to be just now, but we're going in the right direction."

Kieran Tierney is excited by what's to come at the Emirates Stadium after signing a new long-term deal with the Gunners at the end of last month.



NEXT 5



Saturday, July 17 / Friendly



Sunday, July 25 / Florida Cup



Wednesday, July 28 / Florida Cup



Sunday, August 1 / The Mind Series



Sunday, August 8 / The Mind Series

ARSENAL 2020/21 STAT ATTACK

* Premier League Only

18 7 13 55 39
Won Draw Lost Scored Conceded

12 47 5 61
Clean Sheets Goals Conceded Offsets

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We caught up with The Athletic's Arsenal reporter Art de Roche to get the lowdown on the Gunners.



FROM THE PRESS BOX

How would you assess Arsenal's 2020/21 campaign?

Beginning the season with the aim of breaking back into the European places and potentially winning the Europa League, finishing eighth and getting knocked out in the semi-finals by Unai Emery's Villarreal ended a disappointing campaign.

There was a significant upturn in performance and results following the Boxing Day win over Chelsea, but the slump beforehand was costly. After beating Manchester United 1-0 on November 1, Mikel Arteta's side went winless for seven Premier League games.

Coinciding with this was the use of a 3-4-3 system which quickly became pretty predictable forcing the switch to a more conventional 4-2-3-1.

In terms of style, how does Arteta like his side to play and what can our fans expect to see?

Hibernian fans can expect Arsenal to try and build through the thirds and keep the ball on the floor. Although distribution from the goalkeeper has become more mixed in the 18 months under Arteta, the side will still look to suck in pressure and bypass the press to release their attacking talent.

Last season, the shortage of creative options in midfield was the main hindrance to this style. Emile Smith Rowe's inclusion in the squad from Boxing Day onwards, as well as Martin Odegaard's January arrival, were crucial to this improving as they occupied spaces between the lines that were hard for markers to pick up, but were also efficient in moving the ball into the final third.

Out of possession, Arsenal will try to press high up the pitch. In the second half of last season they often switched to a 4-4-2 off the ball to shut off spaces which worked pretty well.

This is Arsenal's first pre-season friendly, would you expect the team to be fairly mixed?

Yes. In total Arsenal have five players who have already or are going to be involved in international competition this summer.

Kieran Tierney, Bernd Leno and Granit Xhaka's Euro campaigns ended early, while Bukayo Saka reached the final with England and we all know how that ended. Elsewhere,

Gabriel Martinelli has made Brazil's Olympics squad which will rule him out of any pre-season action. Centre-back Gabriel Magalhaes was also supposed to head to Tokyo but pulled out due to a knee injury.

Aside from that, there will be a decent number of first team regulars travelling to Easter Road. Smith Rowe, Nicolas Pepe, Thomas Partey, Pablo Mari and Sead Kolasinac were all pictured back at London Colney for the start of pre-season on July 7.

Captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang is likely to be involved as well as Alexandre Lacazette. New signing Nuno Tavares could also make his debut. The left-back joined from Benfica having made 25 first-team appearances for the Lisbon club. He has also been capped for Portugal Under-21s.

Arsenal Under-23s playing on the same day leaves it to be seen which youngsters will end up making the trip to Easter Road. Those who were involved with the first team last season include Miguel Azeez, Flo Balogun and Joel Lopez.

What are Arsenal's hopes for the 2021/22 campaign?

The baseline goal would be for Arsenal to finish in the European places. Without European football this year the hope is league results can improve and allow the side to climb the table. Champions League qualification would be very ambitious.

What areas do Arsenal need to address in the summer transfer window?

The number one priority will be a creative midfielder that can play either as a No.10 or a No.8.

Going into pre-season, Arsenal are very light in these areas following the departures of Odegaard and Dani Ceballos, while Xhaka is currently on holiday due to his participation at Euro 2020.

As things stand, Smith Rowe is the sole player with first team experience that fits this mould. Turning 21 at the end of July, he has the quality to make that role his own, but will need extra creative support over the course of an entire season.

A much-needed backup left-back for Tierney has already been brought in thanks to Tavares' arrival. Midfielder Albert Sambi Lokonga is likely to be the next new face at the Emirates Stadium from Anderlecht. 🇧🇪



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“The baseline hope would be for Arsenal to finish in the European places... Champions League qualification would be very ambitious.”

JAKE DOYLE-HAYES

EYEING THE EUROPEAN STAGE



Idolising Roy Keane, a European test and ambitions of playing for his country, Jake Doyle-Hayes is keen to push on at Hibernian and play on the big stage.

Growing up as a young player in Ireland, Doyle-Hayes dreamed of emulating the footsteps of Manchester United icon and fellow Irishman Roy Keane.

Known for his work ethic and strength in the tackle, alongside his leadership and passion for the game, Keane is classed amongst the best all-time players to come out of the Republic of Ireland.

A midfielder himself, JDH emulated his game on the former Ireland captain.

"As an Irish player Roy Keane was a big, massive figure to look up to," said the 22-year-old.

"I was lucky enough to meet him when I was at Aston Villa, to speak to him, and he shared some insights into his career.

"That really gave me a look into what I should be aiming for and helped shape my own career."

With that in mind, Doyle-Hayes' first year in the Scottish Premiership was an eye-catching one and ultimately led to him become a Hibeec.

During the 2020/21 campaign, the midfielder registered the most interceptions per game on average in the Scottish top-flight and was tied fourth for the most tackles per match.

The role of a defensive-minded midfielder has really come to the fore over the past few years as those players receive a greater recognition for protecting the defensive line and launching counter attacks.

"I think I can do a bit of both and enjoy both sides of the game," said JDH, who singled out Chelsea's N'Golo Kante as another role model.

"I enjoy digging in and defending to help the back four, but I like chipping in with a few assists and a couple of goals if I'm lucky.

"I wouldn't like to say I'm just a holding midfielder or just an attacking midfielder. I'm a bit of both.

"I enjoy digging in and defending to help the back four, but I like chipping in with a few assists and a couple of goals if I'm lucky."

"I like to get up and down the pitch, I feel like I bring a bit of energy to the middle of the park and will hopefully help in the attacking third as well."

After an impressive stint with St Mirren last term, the ex-Aston Villa man now has his sights set on the brand new Europa

Conference League which starts for us this month.

"They're massive games coming up. I've never been part of a team that's played in Europe. It's a new challenge and I'm excited to be part of that."

As we prepare for the 2021/22 campaign we will look to build on from the successes of last campaign; reaching the Scottish Cup Final and finishing third in the league...

JDH is keen to develop even further and compete for silverware at Hibs.

"Last season I played quite a few games in the league and I saw how competitive it is. It is an enjoyable league to play in because every game is tough. It doesn't matter where you go.

"Being part of a squad that can challenge for 'medals' is something I really want to be part of.

"I've seen Hibernian last season, played against them, and with the players that are at the club, they should be competing all the time. The expectations of the club are to do that."

The 22-year-old midfielder has represented Ireland at youth level over the past seven years, including Under-18s and Under-21s.

And as he looks to make his mark at Easter Road, Doyle-Hayes hopes that'll help him achieve his goal of making his debut for Ireland's senior squad.

"A big aim of mine is to play for my country. I'm patient, but I do hope it comes soon. If it doesn't then I will keep working hard and try to show what I can do.

"Being at a club like Hibs is a massive step for me and hopefully that'll help me get into the international set-up." 🇮🇪



“C’MON HIBS, WE ONLY NEED SEVEN”

We take a look at Arsenal’s 7-1 friendly win over the Famous Five in 1952.

On 22 October 1952, Hibs travelled to London at the request of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh to take part in a charity match against Arsenal on behalf of the National Playing Fields Association and Central Council of Physical Recreation (Sports Development Fund).

Prince Phillip was president of both charities and wanted a competitive fixture between the best teams from both sides of the border to promote the causes.

Scottish champions Hibs were also considered to be a huge draw as a few weeks earlier they had defeated Matt Busby’s league title holders Manchester United 7-3 in Gordon Smith’s testimonial, a match many of those present described as the finest exhibition of football ever seen.

It was the second meeting between the sides with Arsenal winning the previous fixture 5-0 in April 1926. That friendly was arranged as part of the deal taking Scotland international goalkeeper Willie Harper from Easter Road to Highbury.

Hibs attractive attacking style was well-known in North London having played and won 2-1 against Spurs at White Hart Lane in 1952; and when the friendly was announced the brand new telephone at Highbury rang continually with fans desperate to see the men from Easter Road.

Arsenal, like Hibs have always been



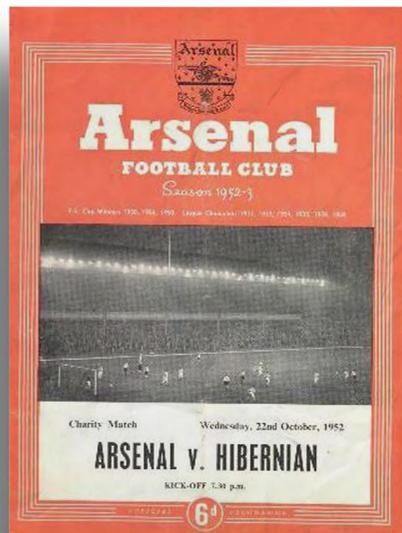
known for their innovation and both clubs had been amongst the first to install floodlights; and for this game they decided to allow the second-half to be broadcast live on television for the first time.

Interestingly the Radio Times reported that commentary on the game would be provided by Peter Thomson and Jimmy Jewell but sadly Jimmy passed away the previous day after the publication had already gone to print. His place was taken by a young Kenneth Wolstenholme.

What no-one seemed to consider; however, was that the strips of both teams looked identical on the black and white TV causing confusion for many viewers.

Arsenal welcomed The Duke of Edinburgh to the game and a statement in the matchday programme said that they were “honoured” to take part. The club also praised every spectator for contributing to such worthy causes to provide adequate recreational facilities for the “Youth of the Nation.”

ARSENAL 7 HIBERNIAN 1 22 October 1952





The game kicked off in front of a packed Highbury and Edinburgh-born Jimmy Logie ran the show with an outstanding performance in midfield while fellow Scot Alex 'Red' Forbes gave Eddie Turnbull little scope.

Hibs played well in the first half until they reached the penalty area and were unlucky to go in at the interval behind to a goal from Don Roper.

Roper was a popular left winger who had given Jock Govan a 'roasting' and in the second half he ran riot, quickly securing his hat-trick which included a goal direct from a corner kick. Teammate Doug Lishman then helped himself to a brace.

Hibs international goalkeeper Tommy Younger, who had been flown in from Germany where he was completing his national service, failed to show his usual confidence as Arsenal seemed to be able to score at will.

With 17-minutes remaining Lawrie Reilly, who knew a thing or two about scoring in London, pulled one back with a tremendous goal picking up the ball on the right wing before cutting along the goalline and firing the ball into the net from a seemingly impossible angle.

Roper then moved from left wing to centre forward and grabbed another couple to inflict a 7-1 defeat, the worst result by any Hibs team featuring the Famous Five.

A crowd of 50,001 watched the eight-goal thriller and an impressive £11,546 was raised for charity.

Standing on the terrace that night was a young Ronnie Biggs who would achieve notoriety as one of the Great Train Robbers. He later recalled that this was his first ever game and when Roper's last goal went in he imitated a Scottish accent and shouted, "C'mon Hibs, we only need seven" much to the amusement of his fellow fans.

There was no levity in the Hibs



dressing room, though, as the shellshocked players sat in silence until Reilly piped up, "Well I did my job, what happened to you guys?"

Both clubs were subsequently presented with signed diplomas and plaques from The Duke.

Arsenal later received a letter from the Football League pointing out that they had contravened restrictions that no football should be shown live apart from the FA Cup Final. Manager Tom Whittaker responded by pointing out that it had been an FA-sanctioned game and no further action was taken.

Arsenal went on to with the league by the narrowest of margins. When the season ended, they had an identical record to Preston North End. Both teams had won 21 games, drawn 12 and lost nine. In those days there was no goal difference, so goal-average

was used. Arsenal's was 1.516 whilst Preston's was 1.417 and therefore the title went to Highbury by 0.099 of a goal.

Hibernian finished second to Rangers, also on goal-average with both teams on 43 points. Had goal difference been the decider, Hibs and Preston would have been champions of their respective leagues.

Three years later, Hibs met Arsenal again and fared far better drawing 2-2 at Easter Road with Reilly and Turnbull getting on the scoresheet. But Arsenal were able to fight back despite trailing 2-0 with just 15 minutes left.

The scoreline in friendlies is often irrelevant but it's fair to say each meeting between Hibs and Arsenal has provided entertainment and drama. Their fourth friendly, and first for 66 years, promises to be no different. 🍷

“
Standing on the terrace that night was a young Ronnie Biggs... and when Roper's last goal went in he imitated a Scottish accent and shouted 'C'mon Hibs, we only need seven!'”

HIBS WOMEN

"We are going to put up a fight to make sure that Hibs are back where they belong."

THE GAFFER

Hibernian Women manager Darren Gibson has his sights set on challenging higher up the table during the 2021/22 campaign.

"We want to finish as high as we can," he said. "We know last year we were too far off the top. It wasn't a top-four last season, it was a top-three and we finished fourth.

"For us, we want to be a lot more competitive. We were competitive in terms of our performances, but we want to be more competitive in terms of our points total at the end of the season to make sure we are as close as possible to the Champions League positions.

"We are going to put up a fight to make sure that Hibs are back where they belong."

PREVIEW

38 Hibernian Women finished fourth last season and will be hoping to challenge for their first Scottish Women's Premier League title since 2006/07.

Last season's Women's Player of the Year, Leah Eddie, is certainly one to watch. The 20-year-old won her first senior Scotland cap in a 1-0 victory over Northern Ireland in June. Former Hibeer Caroline Weir got the only goal of that game.

Eilidh Adams, Kirsty Morrison and Amy Gallacher will all be hoping for a productive season. Gibson's young attacking line-up are sure to give defenders plenty of headaches.

NEW FACES

There have been five new additions to Hibernian Women this summer, the last of which was American forward Alexa Coyle.

She followed Emma Heikkilä, Gabby English, Toni Malone and Michaela McAlonie to Ainslie Park this summer.

This will be Coyle's first taste of football in Europe. She joins us from the University of Montana where she played for the Montana Grizzlies for four years. Coyle scored five goals in 11 games in her senior year.

Fellow American Malone moves from Wacker Innsbruck in the OFB Frauen Bundesliga having previously represented Oregon State University.



And our third new American is goalkeeper English. The Florida-born shot-stopper was previously playing for Boavista, having signed for the Porto-based club in October last year. Before moving to Portugal, English was at Mississippi State and also spent two years with San Diego State.

Finnish forward Heikkilä arrives off the back of studying in America where she played for Nova Southeastern University. In that time she scored 34 goals and had 17 assists, the second-best record in her school's history. She has also represented Finland at youth level where she scored a memorable hat-trick against Northern Ireland.

And last but not least, talented young

midfielder, McAlonie, signed from Spartans. She is one of the brightest young talents in Scotland and has played for her country from the age of 15. She has been capped at at Under-17 and Under-19 level and captained the latter team.

A predominantly right-footed player, McAlonie will add an attacking dimension to our midfield being well-renowned for her energy and aggressive box-to-box play.

FIXTURES

We start our defence of the Scottish Women's Premier League Cup on August 8 at home to Kilmarnock. The Scottish Building Society Women's Premier League fixtures are yet to be released.

A NEW ROLE FOR JOELLE MURRAY

"It was a no-brainer for me to join the coaching group and to learn off them this season."

Captain. Leader. And now... Coach! Ahead of the new campaign Joelle Murray will be trying something different as she takes on a new role as player-coach at Hibernian Women.

From the age of five Murray was a regular at Easter Road and her dream of playing for the club came true when she made her debut aged 17.

She has since become one of our most decorated players and is now looking to make a further transition within the team.

"Becoming player-coach was something that Dean approached me with in February. There was an opportunity to join up with the coaching staff and to use my expertise and knowledge to link in with them.

"It wasn't something I had to think about because I've got a keen interest in coaching and I'm doing my A License at the moment. It was a no-brainer for me to join the coaching group and to learn off them this season. It's an exciting opportunity that I'm really looking forward to getting started with."

This new role doesn't mean that the Hibernian Women's captain will stop playing, though. She's still fully focused on making an impact on the pitch.

"For me, I wanted to ensure that I would still be playing. I know a footballer's career is short lived and I always said I'd prioritise being a footballer for as long as I possibly could.

"I had that conversation with Dean and he absolutely understood that. The coaching aspect will be very minimal to begin with.

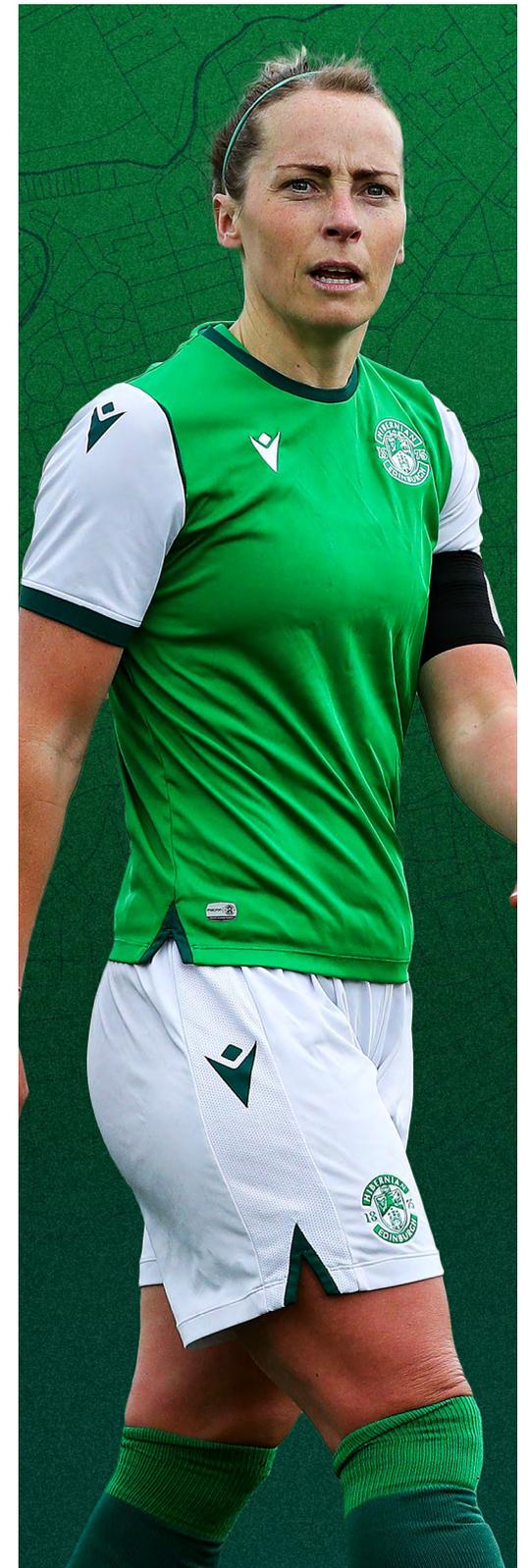
"I don't want it to take anything away from my training and my performances on the pitch. It is important that this is a very manageable transition."

Looking ahead to the new campaign, Murray is determined for Hibs to improve on their performances last campaign.

"This season is a fresh start and a clean slate. We want to beat our points tally from last season. The aim is also to make sure that we take points from a few games last season where we thought we should have got more.

"We want to finish in a stronger position. We need to bed in the new players, let them know what we are all about and then we will be starting on the front foot. It

"Personally, I just want to stay injury free, get as many minutes as I possibly can and to help the team on and off the pitch." 🍀



DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

YOUNG HIBEES OFF TO A STRONG START IN PRE-SEASON



Pre-season is well under way for our youngsters who have played two games since returning to training this summer.

The opening outing for the development squad was against Civil Service Strollers in front of 250 Hibs fans. It was also the first time supporters were allowed back to watch us since March 2020.

Josh O'Connor and Murray Aiken were the stand-out performers as we won 5-3 at Christie Gillies Park.

Aiken set the tone in the first half with a goal and two assists. His inviting cross set up Robbie Hamilton for the opener early on. And the 2020 Academy graduate grabbed his second assist before the break this time setting up 17-year-old striker O'Connor.

Jonathan Moffat pulled one one back with a powerful finish, but Aiken made it 3-1 at half-time.

Hibs began the second half in style as O'Connor stormed into the box and won a penalty which he confidently converted down the middle for 4-1.

As heavy rain descended Strollers pulled two back setting up a nervous finish. But O'Connor wrapped up the victory and completed his hat-trick late on as he neatly passed the ball into the right corner from close range to round off an eight-goal thriller.

The development squad's next fixture saw them take on Dunbar. The young Hibeers came from behind twice as the game finished 2-2. Ethan Laidlaw and Connor Young – who you may have noticed in the first team squad for the friendly win against Dunfermline – both got on the scoresheet.



ONE TO WATCH

JOSH O'CONNOR

AGE:
17

NATIONALITY:
SCOTTISH

HEIGHT:
180cm

ACADEMY GRADUATE:
2020

Striker O'Connor doesn't have to look far for inspiration given he's the son of former Hibs hero Garry.

Direct, quick and a natural poacher in front of goal, he has been on the Hibs books since he was 10.

Prior to switching to the development squad, O'Connor played for our Under-18s where he made his debut aged 14. The former North Berwick High School pupil is also still continuing his education as part of our tie up with Edinburgh Napier University. 📖





OUR EUROPEAN ADVENTURE

It's our first taste of European football since 2018/19 when we saw off Runavik and Asteras Tripolis in Europa League qualifiers before going out to Norwegian outfit Molde.

Here's everything you need to know about the UEFA Europa Conference League and the sides we could face before we start our exciting European adventure!

What is the UEFA Europa Conference League?

The idea behind the Europa Conference League is to give more clubs a taste of European football, particularly sides from countries that struggle to qualify for the other two UEFA competitions – the Champions League and Europa League.

To qualify for the Europa Conference League group stage, which guarantees European football until the start of December, we must come through the second-qualifying round on July 22 and 29, the third-qualifying round on August 5 and 12 and then a playoff on August 19 and 26.

Who will we face?

We have been drawn against either Mons Calpe Sports Club from Gibraltar or Andorran side FC Santa Coloma.

Mons Calpe were only founded eight years ago after Gibraltar was admitted into UEFA. They earned promotion into the Gibraltar National League Premier Division back in 2015.

Mons Calpe play at the 2,000-capacity Victoria Stadium and are managed by former Uruguay international defender Cesar Vega.

As such, their team is substantially made up of players from the likes of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay as well as home grown talent from Gibraltar itself.

FC Santa Coloma qualified for the Europa Conference League after finishing second in Andorra's top tier last season. They are their country's most successful club side having won the title 13 times.

As such, they have Champions League qualifying round experience – albeit they have never made it beyond the second-qualifying round.

Having said that, they have competed well against European regulars over the years and have come up against the likes of Maccabi Tel Aviv, Alashkert, Valur and Astana in recent times.

A penalty shootout loss in the Europa League preliminary round at the hands of Iskra Danilovgrad ended their European adventure last season.

The first leg of the pair's opening leg in Gibraltar ended 1-1 which means it's all to play for in Andorra. The second leg will take place later this week so we will find out who we'll play soon! 🇸🇰



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**WE'RE THE REASON FLOORS HAVE
SOME SHINE IN LEITH**

TRAINING GROUND

TRAINING GROUND

In our brand-new programme feature we'll teach you something new each issue from members of our playing squad or first-team staff on a variety of topics like basic football skills, fitness, nutrition and more!

Since it's our first game back at Easter Road in 16 months, it feels timely to start by showing you our advice on how to stay Covid safe inside Easter Road.

[Click here to learn more](#)



1

You must not attend if you are isolating or displaying any Covid-19 symptoms. Look out for a temperature of 37.8 degrees or above, a new continuous cough or a loss of taste or smell.



2

Remember to bring your digital ticket to the game and stick to your allocated seat. Arrive at your agreed time and bring your photo ID.



3

Face coverings must be worn over your nose and mouth whilst at Easter Road unless you are medically exempt. Please make use of the sanitising stations.



4

Cough or sneeze into a tissue or use the crease of your elbow. Please avoid excessive shouting, singing or celebrations that may increase the transmission of Covid.



5

If you develop any symptoms during the game, please contact your nearest steward. And if you test positive within 14 days after the game, you must let us know via tickets@hibernianfc.co.uk.

Please stay safe and enjoy the game! ®

KIDS CORNER



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Can you find the three differences between these two images?

WHERE'S THE BALL?



Is the matchday ball behind A, B or C?

NUMBERS UP

Can you match the player to their squad number?



PAUL MCGINN

RYAN PORTEOUS



PAUL HANLON



PAUL MCGINN

PAUL HANLON

PLAYER FINDER

Which four Hibs players' surnames can you find in the grid below?

F	N	W	R	G	C	P	W	R
B	E	F	O	O	A	F	E	T
T	O	G	G	H	D	P	Z	S
K	I	Y	V	G	D	S	G	Y
C	G	Y	L	B	E	C	N	W
K	L	I	D	E	N	E	F	K
A	L	L	A	N	F	Z	O	K
Y	K	J	C	G	G	J	M	T
T	N	F	Z	Z	O	V	O	D
G	V	R	Y	I	G	M	G	M

ANSWERS

No Cheating!

WHERE'S THE BALL: C
 SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: 1) Left player boot colour, 2) Left player shorts number, 3) Missing floor marker.
 NUMBERS UP: PAUL HANLON - 4, RYAN PORTEOUS 5, PAUL MCGINN 6
 PLAYER FINDER: ALLAN, BOYLE, CADDEN, GOGIC
 No Cheating!



HIBERNIAN

Head Coach:
Jack Ross

Matt Macey	1
Josh Doig	3
Paul Hanlon	4
Ryan Porteous	5
Paul McGinn	6
Kyle Magennis	7
Drey Wright	8
Christian Doidge	9
Martin Boyle	10
Joe Newell	11
Alex Gogic	13
Stephen Mallan	14
Kevin Nisbet	15
Lewis Stevenson	16
Daniel Mackay	17
Jamie Murphy	18
Jamie Gullan	19
Melker Hallberg	20
Maciej Dabrowski	21
Jake Doyle-Hayes	22
Scott Allan	23
Darren McGregor	24
Sean Mackie	26
Christopher Cadden	27
Tom James	28
Steven Bradley	29
Craig Samson	30
Josh Campbell	32
Jack Brydon	35
Innes Murray	38
Josh O'Connor	39
Connor Young	40
Murray Johnson	41
Jayden Fairley	42
Ethan Laidlaw	43
Yrick Gallantes	44
Josh Currie	45
Jacob Blaney	46
Murray Aiken	47
Robbie Hamilton	48
Oscar MacIntyre	49



ARSENAL

Manager:
Mikel Arteta

1	Bernd Leno
2	Hector Bellerin
3	Kieran Tierney
4	William Saliba
5	Thomas Partey
6	Gabriel
7	Bukayo Saka
9	Alexandre Lacazette
11	Lucas Torreira
12	Willian
13	Runar Alex Runarsson
14	Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang
15	Ainsley Maitland-Niles
16	Rob Holding
17	Cedric Soares
19	Nicolas Pepe
20	Nuno Tavares
21	Calum Chambers
22	Pablo Mari
24	Reiss Nelson
25	Mohamed Elneny
28	Joe Willock
30	Eddie Nketiah
31	Sead Kolasinac
32	Emile Smith Rowe
33	Arthur Okwonko
34	Granit Xhaka
35	Gabriel Martinelli



Match Officials

Referee: Don Robertson
Assistant Referee: Alan Mulvanny
Assistant Referee: Sean Carr