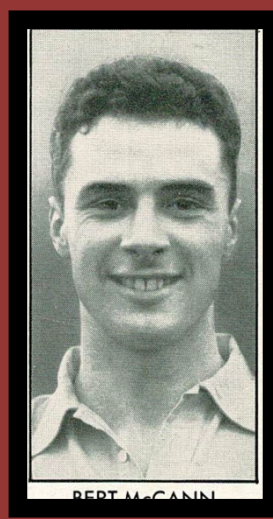


ROBERT 'BERT' JOHNSON MCCANN

(INSIDE FORWARD)

MOTHERWELL FC 1956/57 – 1964/65



CAPTAIN MCCANN

## MOTHERWELL KITS WORN BY BERT



Season 1956/57

1957/58

1958/59



1959/60 (home socks)

1959/60 (away socks)

1959/60 (home socks)



Seasons 1960-62

1961/62

1962/63



Seasons 1963-66

Bert was born on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1932 in Dundee and was signed in the summer of 1956 from Queens Park by manager Bobby Ancell. According to the 1956/57 season club handbook he was 5'9" and 10st 7lbs and a student at a college in his native city when he arrived at Fir Park. During July 1956 he left for Majorca in order to undergo an intensive 4 week long Spanish language course and was expected to be back at Fir Park by 8<sup>TH</sup> August. He made his debut on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 1956 in an away League Cup tie against Raith Rovers which 'Well lost 4-2. His first League game was on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1956 away to Partick Thistle in a 3-2 victory. On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1956 he scored his

first goals in a 4-1 derby game away to Airdrie. In that first season of 1956/57 he played in 29 of 34 league games, scoring 7 goals. He also scored once in a Lanarkshire Cup game.

Here is a quote from Willie McSeveney whilst talking about his own move to Motherwell following the resignation of George Stevenson and the arrival in 1955 of new manager Bobby Ancell. “Ten babes and me because I was definitely the oldest. The Motherwell forward line was Hunter Reid, St John, Quinn and Weir, 5 international players, behind them was big Charlie Aitken, Bert McCann and the rest of us. I joined the team that had won the 1952 Scottish Cup which was quite an ageing team and they had started to break up that team. When Bobby Ancell came in 1955 he started to sign young guys like John Martis, Ian St John, Billy Reid and Charlie Aitken. We finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1958/59 and had a reputation for playing great football. We beat Flamengo 9-2, Leeds United 7-0 and we had an unblemished record against foreign teams.”

Although Bert was signed as an inside forward by Bobby Ancell come the end of season 1958/59 he finished as one of the best left half-backs in Scottish football and was now captain of the Babes. It was also an important period of his life outside football as he was still at Edinburgh University studying languages and due to sit his final examinations.

Bert made his first of 5 appearances for Scotland at Hampden Park on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1959 against West Germany where he was joined by two ‘Well teammates, Andy Weir & Ian St John with Andy scoring in a 3-2 victory in front of 103,415 fans. According to a newspaper report “the three new caps, McCann, St John & Weir made impressive first appearances”. He also made 5 Scottish League appearances scoring once.

On 13<sup>th</sup> April 1960 Bilbao Atletico played in torrential rain at Fir Park in front of 18,000 spectators who were entranced by a wonderful exhibition of football. ‘Well were leading 2-0 after 25 minutes but two smartly taken counters by Bilbao had the team’s level before halftime. Thankfully Ian St John struck the winner 2 minutes after the break.

Bert was outstanding in a floodlit friendly v Flamengo of Brazil on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1960 before an incredible 25,000 crowd when ‘Well won 9-2 with Ian St John



scoring 6, Willie Hunter 2 and Pat Quinn the other. In that Flamengo side that night was a player named Gerson de Oliveira Nunes who was later commonly known as Gerson and played in the brilliant Brazilian World Cup winning team of 1970.

By the start of season 1960/61 Bert was now a 'master' of two arts. A master of football and after graduating from University an M.A in modern languages. The second one helping any language difficulties when the foreign teams arrived at Fir Park. His studies prevented him from going on tour with the Scotland team in May/June 1960 to Austria & Hungary, however he was tipped as a successor to Bobby Evans as Scotland captain.

Season 1962/63 got off to a dream start on 11<sup>th</sup> August with a stunning 9-1 home win over Falkirk in a League Cup tie, 'Well scorers were Russell (5) and Quinn (4) but the Man Of The Match was Bert.

In the famous 1960/61 Scottish Cup tie Bert scored an equaliser to make it 2-2 at Fir Park on 25<sup>th</sup> February and force a replay at Ibrox on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Goals by Bobby Roberts (2), Ian St John, Pat Delaney & John McPhee gave Motherwell an historic 5-2 victory. Here is another quote from Willie McSeveney about that night "I turned to the dug out to check how long was left and they told me that there were 5 minutes left. I turned to Bert McCann and let him know and he shouted back that he wished there were 5 hours as it was just one of those great nights!" Reportedly the majority of Ranger fans stayed until the end to applaud Bert and his team mates off the park, after a tremendous performance by the Fir Parkers.

Bert played in the 'Well team that lost two Scottish Cup semi-finals, 3-2 against Clyde on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1958 and 3-0 against Celtic in a replay on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1965.

One statistic that Bert might not want on his record is that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1954 he was a member of the Dundee United team (he later joined Queens Park) who lost 12-1 to 'Well.

Bert's last goal for the club was in a league game on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1964 v Dundee United at Tannadice in a 4-1 defeat. He played his last game for

Motherwell on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1965 in a 3-1 home defeat by Rangers. The belief is that his career at the top level was effectively brought to an abrupt end by a tackle in this game so horrendous that the club doctor is quoted as saying it was the worst football injury he had seen, stud marks gouged across the thigh muscles on one of Bert's legs.

In 2007 he was voted by the fans as one of 'The Greatest Ever Motherwell Team'. In an interview at the time he said "this is the greatest honour of my professional sporting life because Motherwell is a terrific club with wonderful supporters. One of my favourite memories is the 5-2 match against Rangers in 1961 when there were 85,000 people there, it was a replay of the Scottish Cup game after we'd drawn 2-2 at Fir Park and we went to Ibrox and beat them in what was perhaps the greatest game that Motherwell played when I was captain.

Just short of 10 seasons at Fir Park Bert made 246 appearances scoring 21 goals, add to this a number of friendly games during his time.

Bert died on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017, one month short of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday and his funeral was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

This is only a brief summary of his career whilst wearing claret & amber but it can be clearly seen that he is one of the clubs legends, great captains and maybe best of all, long remembered as a member of THE ANCELL BABES.

Willie M. Sevens  
Andy New  
John  
Pat DeLaney  
Tom & John  
Master  
Charles  
Robb  
B. Reid  
B. Reid

Autographs 1958/59 squad

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MOTHERWELL F.C.  
1956-57.

Alex  
Hewer

Port Hutton

A. Paton

Stewart Brown Garry Baker

John

Jimmy Forrest John Hunter

Robert Earl

Arthur Rennie

Robert Quinn

Ed Shaw

Willie  
M. Phee

Willie McQuinn  
Jimmy Brown

Billy Reid

Alastair MacFarlane

John

Sammy Reid

Sammy Reid

Charlie Rieker

Beal McLean

George

Robert Ansell

manager

Thomas McKenzie (chair)









SEASON 1956-57

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Season 1956/57 Club Handbook



## MOTHERWELL'S SIGNED PLAYERS.

Season 1956 - 57.

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Ind.Club</i>	<i>Former Club</i>
Goalkeeper	HASTIE WEIR	Whitburn	5ft 11in	11½st	1954	Queen's Park
Right Back	WM. KILMARNOCK	Irvine	5ft 7½in	10st 7lbs	1939	Irvine Meadow
Right Back	*JOHN CAMPBELL	Alexandria	5ft 7in	10½st	1955	Kirk'ch Rob Roy
Left Back	ARCH. SHAW	Wishaw	5ft 8½in	11½st	1942	Wishaw Juniors
Left Back	WM. MCSEVENEY	Shotts	5ft 9in	11½st	1954	Dunfermline
Left Back	CHARLES HENDERSON	Dundee	5ft 9½in	11st 9lbs	1955	Blairstownie
Left Back	JAMES BROWN	East Calder	6ft	12st	1956	Bathgate
Left Back	PATRICK HOLTON	Eddlewood	5ft 9½in	11st 6lbs	1956	Hamilton
Right Half	CHAS. COX	Yoker	5ft 8½in	11st	1951	Hearts
Right Half	CHARLES AITKEN	Gorebridge	5ft 9½in	11½st	1949	Arncliffe Rovers
Centre Half	ANDREW PATON	Dreghorn	5ft 10in	12st	1942	Kello Rovers
Centre Half	WILLIAM COWIE	Annathill	6ft	12st	1956	Kilsyth Rovers

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Ind.Club</i>	<i>Former Club</i>
Left Half	JAMES FORREST	Bothwell	6ft	11½st	1949	Newarthill Hts.
Left Half	IAN MACFADYEN	Wishaw	5ft 10in	11½st	1954	Dundee United
Outs. Right	THOS. SLOAN	Barrhead	5ft 8in	11st	1951	Hearts
Outs. Right	ARCH. KERR	Falkirk	5ft 6in	10st	1953	Camelon Jun.
Outs. Right	MAXWELL NELSON	Glasgow	5ft 7½in	10st 8lbs	1955	Muirkirk J.
Outs. Right	WALLACE REA	Uddingston	5ft 5in	10st	1955	Third Lanark
Ins. Right	PATRICK QUINN	Glasgow	5ft 6in	10st 7lbs	1955	Bridgeton W.
Ins. Right	ROBERT McCANN	Dundee	5ft 9in	10st 7lbs	1956	Queen's Park
Ins. Left	STEWART BROWN	Stewarton	6ft	12st	1955	Beith
Ins. For.	WM. REID	Wishaw	5ft 6in	10st	1955	Wishaw High S.
Centre For.	JOHN HUNTER	Leith	5ft 9in	11½st	1948	Tranent Jrs.
Centre For.	ALEX. BAIN	Edinburgh	5ft 9½in	11½st	1954	Cockenzie Star
Centre For.	IAN GARDINER	Balbeggie	5ft 10½in	12st	1955	East Fife
Outs. For.	ROBERT HUNTER	Shotts	5ft 8½in	11st 3lbs	1951	Hamilton A.C.
Outs. Left	JOHN AITKENHEAD	High Blantyre	5ft 6in	11st	1949	Hibs.

\*On Service

## Season 1956/57 Club Handbook



## BERT'S BRILLIANCE.



**Bert McCann**

Since his conversion from an inside forward to left half, Bert McCann, like Charlie Aitken, looks like making the position his own for keeps. He has proved his mettle in many stiff encounters and looks as if he really enjoys his game. His play as a half shows spirit, determination and cleverness. Bert's brilliance is another boost for Manager Ancell's switching genius.

That injury which Bert sustained against Rangers looked as if he was out of the side to play in the semi-final against Clyde the following Saturday. Not only did it prove a striking example of Bert's will to overcome injury in order to strengthen the team, but was a tribute

to the intensive treatment so successfully employed at Fir Park. When Bert left the field injured in the Rangers game, it looked as if he would not be able to chase a ball for a few weeks at the very least. But Bert had other ideas. Although residing in Dundee, he came back to Fir Park, took "digs" in Motherwell for a week and attended Fir Park three times daily, where Trainer Tommy McKenzie worked on him with such success that he was able to stand up to it against Clyde in the semi-final on Saturday! And brilliant Bert has improved ever since.





Bert in Queens Park kit

*Back : McSeveney, Holton, McFadyen, Gardiner, Brown, Cowie, Martis, Forrest, Aitken.  
 Middle : B Ancell, A Weir, McCann, Campbell, Shaw, H Weir, Stenhouse, McCallum, McPhee, St John, J Hunter  
 Front : Ellis, Quinn, Hunter, Reid, Baker, Rea, Newman, Kerr. Kneeling : Reid.*



**1957/58 Squad**





**1958-59 Season**

*Back: McSeveney, Holton, MacFadyen, Gardiner, Brown, Cowie, Martis, Forrest, Aitken  
Middle: A.Weir, McCann, Campbell, Shaw, H.Weir, Stenhouse, McCallum, McPhee, St.John  
Front: Reid, Quinn, Hunter, Reid, Baker, Rea, Newman, Kerr*

**1959-60 Season**

*Back: Forest, McCallum, Cattenach, H.Weir, Wylie, Martis, Delaney  
Middle: St.John, McCann, Stewart, McSeveney, McCallum, Roberts, Martin, Aitken  
Front: Young, Quinn, W.Reid, S.Reid, Stevenson, A.Weir, Lindsay, Hunter, Kerr*







**1960-61 Season**

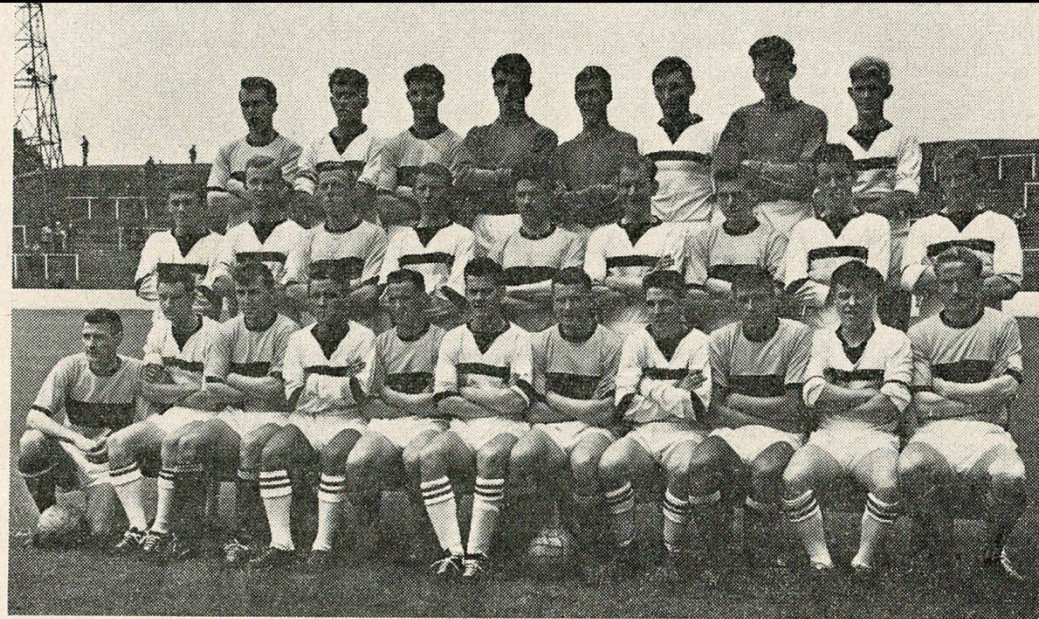
*Back: McSeveney, Strachan, H.Weir, Aitken, Martis, Roberts  
Front: Young, Quinn, McCann, Hunter, A.Weir*

**1961-62 Season**

*McCann, Weir, Quinn, Hunter, Thompson, Aitken, McPhee, McCallum, Thomson, Roberts, McCallum, McSeveney, Murray, Wylie, Delaney and Martis, are only sixteen of the above squad.*







Motherwell on parade: Back row left to right: John Martis, Willie Wallace, Jim Lonie, Alan Wylie, Willie Murdoch, Ian Sim, Jim McCloy, David Hope. Middle: Ian Thomson, George Murray, Matt Thomson, Bobby Russell, Bert McCann, Willie McSeveney, Bobby McCallum, Billy McCallum, John Goodwin. Front: Pat Delaney, Ian Blair, George Lindsay, Jim Robertson, Andy Weir, Willie Gallacher, Joe McBride, Jim Seith, Bobby Roberts (now Leicester), Bobby Ramsey, Charlie Aitken. (M.P.I.)

### Season 1963/64







1964/65 and this squad included some new players such as Joe McBride, Hastie Weir, Douglas Hope, Peter McCloy, John Moore and Tommy Coakley. Willie Gallacher and Bobby Ramsey were added to the other familiar faces.

### **Season 1964/65**



This is a representative of the players selected by Bobby Ancell in his final season as manager. From left to right, back row: Bert McCann, Pat Delaney, Alan Wylie, Bobby McCallum, John Martis, George Murray. Front row: Tommy Coakley, George Lindsay, Joe McBride, Andy Weir, Willie Hunter, Craig Bailey. Ancell had a brief spell at Dundee as their manager but never again reached the level of success and acclaim he had enjoyed at Motherwell.





**West v East Charity match May '71.**

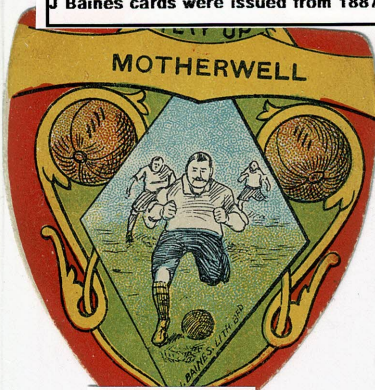
**Back row; Bert McCann, Willie McSeveney, Hastie Weir, Bert Paton, Bobby Howitt (ex-Stoke City), Bob Caldwell (ex-Queens Park), Bobby Shearer (ex-Rangers)**

**Front row; Eric Caldow (ex-Rangers), Willie Fernie (ex-Celtic) , Archie 'Baldy' Shaw, Willie Telfer (ex-St Mirren), Willie Redpath, Tommy Duncan (ex-Airdrie)**

**East won 3-2 with goals by Davie White, Ralph Brand and Willie MacFarlane, west goals from Willie Telfer and Tommy Duncan**



J Baines cards were issued from 1887 until just after WW1 and sold in packets of 6 for 1 halfpenny



J. Baines c.1897



J. Baines c.1900



J. Baines c.1905



J. Baines c.1922



J. Baines



City Bakeries c.1940



Anonymous Shield



CITY BAKERIES & J BAINES CARDS ISSUED 1897-1940





**Looking down Brandon Street towards Motherwell Cross**



**Looking up Brandon Street past Royal Hotel towards Odeon Cinema**

