

TOMMY MCLEAN (MANAGER)

MOTHERWELL FC 1984-1994



Tommy McLean arrived at Fir Park on 1st June 1984 from Morton FC with ex-Motherwell midfielder Tom Forsyth as his coach. They joined a Motherwell who had just been relegated from the Premier League and about to start 1984-85 playing in the 1st Division.

His first game as manager was away to Kilmarnock on 11 August 1984 and he saw 'Well win 2-0 with goals by Gary McAllister & Andy Harrow. They finished as League Champions by 2 points over Clydebank (who were also promoted as runners-up), winning 21, drawing 8, losing 10, scoring 62 goals and conceding 36 goals in a 39 game season. A Scottish Cup semi-final was reached in April '85 but they lost 3-0 to Celtic after a replay.

1985-86 saw them finish 2nd bottom above Clydebank on goal difference in a 10 team division. That position would have seen them relegated but league reconstruction was being considered by top flight clubs and when it was proposed to have a one-up one-down promotion and relegation system not surprisingly Motherwell voted for that proposal. However with bad feeling amongst some clubs it was decided that no teams would be relegated at the end of 85-86 and that 2 would be promoted to increase the league to 12 teams.

1986-87 was a better season and they finished 8th of 12 teams, losing in a Scottish League Cup semi-final to Celtic, this time on penalties.

1987-88 they again finished 8th of 12 teams and yet again lost in a Scottish League Cup semi-final, this time to Rangers 3-1.

1988-89 was not a good season and the club avoided relegation by finishing 9th out of 10 teams, 13 points above Hamilton Accies.

1989-90 an improvement was made and they finished 6th out of 10 teams with the same 34 points total as Celtic and Hibernian.

1990-91 not much exciting happened this season!!! If you're younger than 28 at the time this was written in 2019 you've maybe not got a clue what it felt like to be a Motherwell fan that season. Comfortably finishing 6th in a 10 team division and 4th highest scorers in the division with 51. The league season got off to a great start with a 2-0 home win over Celtic in August and

ended with a 3-0 thumping of Rangers at Fir Park in early May but the best was yet to come.

Hampden Park 18th May 1991. Possibly the greatest ever Scottish Cup Final but also one of the worst if you were a 'Well fan, the feeling when Darren Jackson hit the 3rd equaliser in the 3rd minute of injury time was horrendous but at 5.21 pm when referee David Syme blew for full time, wow wow wow!!

1991-92 the team finished 10th out of 12 teams, lost our Scottish Cup in a questionable 2-1 defeat at Ibrox. However Motherwell FC played in European football for the first time in their history v Katowice FC of Poland, the European Cup-Winners Cup. The first leg was in Poland in September 1991, 'Well lost 2-0. The second leg was on 2 October in front of 10,032 and although Well won 3-1 with goals by Steve Kirk (2) and Nick Cusack for 3-3 draw it wasn't enough and they went out on 'away goals'.

1992-93 was a bit of a battle against relegation and 'Well finished 9th out of 12 teams but only 6 points above the drop.

1993-94 the claret & amber roller-coaster ride continued as they finished a remarkable 3rd place out of 12 teams only 4 points behind the champions, Rangers and 4 ahead of Celtic.

At the end of the season after a 2-1 home defeat to Dundee Utd which effectively was the result that with 2 games left stopped 'Well winning the league, stories appeared that Tommy was unsettled at Fir Park and that he hadn't accepted a new contract that had been on offer since the end of 1992-93. Surprisingly on 31st May he resigned as manager and a few weeks later he was appointed manager of Hearts, considered a sideways move by many 'Well fans and it left a bad taste amongst many.

In his 10 years as manager the club won the Scottish Cup, played in Europe for the first time and finished 3rd in the Premier League.

He managed 403 league games, won 123, drew 111, lost 169, goals scored 450, conceded 528, a win percentage of 30.52%.

Of the 9 Motherwell managers who have been in charge for more than 100 league games his winning percentage would put him in 7th place.



1985-86 Squad



1988-89 Squad



1990-91 Scottish Cup Winners



Let the celebrations begin



1992-93 Squad



1993-94 Squad



Manse Road with the Fir Park Ice Café c.1932



Looking up Knowetop Avenue from the junction with Fir Park Street. The cottage sits where the current corner gate entrance to the Davie Cooper Stand is positioned.



May 1994



January 2019

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

