

The Voice of East Kilbride

ENTERTAINMENTS

IAIN'S ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Special Feature by Gordon Bury

GIVEN a choice between singing about the World Cup and actually playing in it, there's no doubt that Iain Harvie would choose the latter.

But despite being an avid football fan — as a boy he was a regular at East Kilbride Thistle matches — that was never going to happen.

The Del Amitri man's skill with a football never quite matched his prowess as a guitarist.

Now, however, a superb consolation prize has come Ian's way.

For the SFA have chosen his band's song Don't Come Home Too Soon as Scotland's official World Cup theme.

And the former St Leonards man is mightily chuffed by the honour, although meeting him in a top Glasgow hotel within an hour of recording with the World Cup squad he was pretty laid back about the whole experience — his approach to life in general, I suspect.

"The players must have been training right before they arrived at the studios. Most still had wet hair from the showers but they seemed to have fun doing their bit for the chorus.

"I couldn't believe how many minders they had, either. The

place was jam-packed not just with players but with SFA staff and what looked like agents," he said.

It transpired that the stars including East Kilbride-based Celt Simon Donnelly had only one line to sing.

But no chances were taken as Del Amitri frontman Justin Currie handed the players a lyric sheet so they could remember the seven words!

Given the high standard of recent English footie chants by New Order and The Lightning Seeds, did Del Amitri feel the pressure was on them to produce the goods?

The answer was definitely yes — but the band is determined to rise to the challenge and produce a song which the nation can be proud of.

For good or for bad, the World Cup song is always remembered and Del Amitri are in no mood to let the side down.

Much-admired musician/singer/songwriter Kevin McDermott joined our table and the contrast in personalities was obvious straight away.

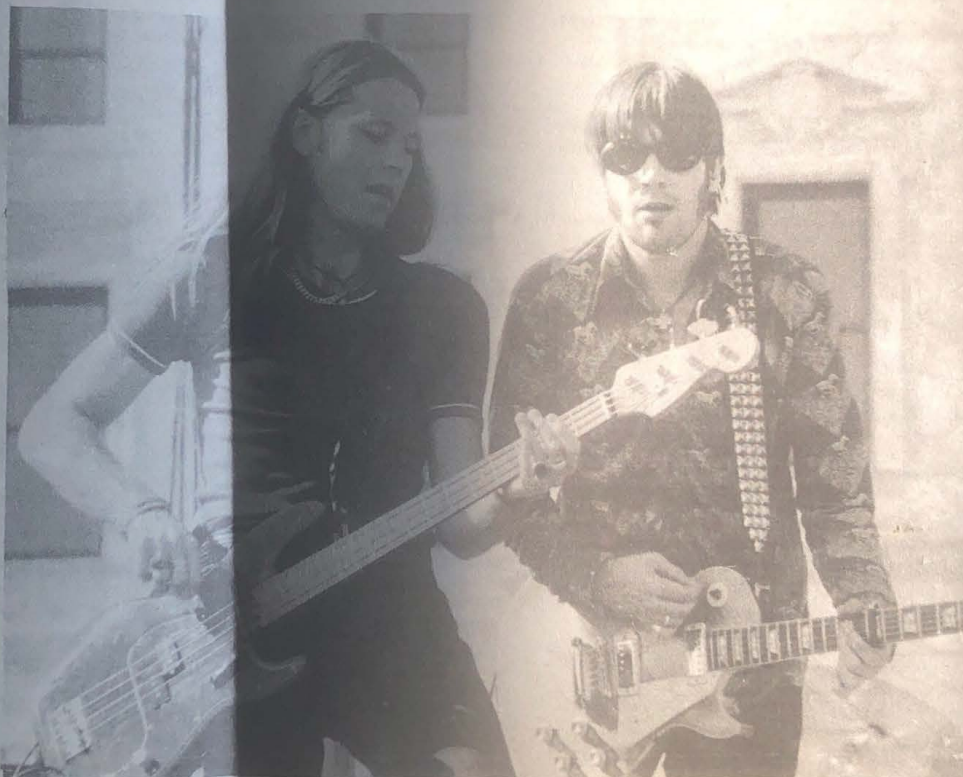
He was absolutely buzzing, having met and sang shoulder-to-shoulder with Colin Henry, Gordon Durie, John Collins and all.

"I would have done anything to get involved with the record. I still can't believe I was there," said the affable Kevin.

Then we got down to the hard stuff. The nitty-gritty. How would Scotland fare in the World Cup?

The consensus was that our chances of progressing to the next phase were reasonable.

We definitely didn't want a repeat of the Scotland v Iran game at the 1978 World Cup. Iain's dad John, the former Claremont head teacher, revealed afterwards that his son had gone missing for two hours



■ Del boys... Iain Harvie (left) and Justin Currie are entrusted with the sacred task of writing Scotland's World Cup theme song.
Photo: Cliff Powell

in a fit of rage after the infamous 1-1 draw.

Despite recently buying a £250,000 property in London, Iain regularly returns to his Scottish roots.

In fact, he'd be living in Glasgow if

his girlfriend wasn't studying in the capital.

Given his feeling for these parts, it's a wonder that Del Amitri ever wrote a song called Don't Come Home Too Soon

because it wasn't written with the World Cup in mind.

Originally penned as a love ballad, second thoughts saw it as an ideal candidate to see Scotland through thick (and

hopefully not) thin in France '98. The SFA agreed and the rest is history.

A rough version has been aired already on television and radio but the final mix including strings by

The Verve's arranger Will Malone won't be on sale until May 25.

Without becoming too barmy Tartan Army, let's hope that both the team and the song scale new heights.