

Davie Cooper's legend lives on

THERE were tears of laughter and well fed bellies at another hugely successful A Pie, a Pint and a Pundit event.

Hundreds of football fans were treated to another fabulous night of anecdotes and tributes to ex-Bankie footballer Davie Cooper from guests including future Rangers manager Ally McCoist and comedian Tam Cowan.

Ex Celtic player Andy Walker, journalist Hugh Keevins and host for the evening, Sky Sports reporter Peter Martin, made up the group of VIPs who faced questions from a lively, well-watered audience.

Held to raise funds for the Davie Cooper Centre, the event in Drumchapel's Goodyear Social Club on Friday night had a poignant undertone which was felt through heartfelt words from the guests about the legendary ex-Bankie footballer.

The event was organised by Hugh and his daughter Lisa Monaghan.

Digesting the savoury delights was made all the more challenging for the audience as hilarious banter involving Paul Gascoigne, smelly fish, McCoist's timekeeping and Peter Martin's waistline had grown men clutching their stomachs while choking on their beverages.

The tone of the night was set immediately through the first question as one punter asked: "Do you think Peter Martin has been on a diet since he

started working for Sky Sports?"

To which Tam Cowan answered: "Peter Martin looks like Michelle McManus without the make-up on."

Despite the butt of many a joke from the panelists, Peter did a fantastic job of hosting the event, playfully terrorising anyone brave enough to pitch a query to the top table.

The inevitable question to Ally — about the recent touchline spat with Neil Lennon — was professionally deflected by the razor sharp Peter.

It was obvious the top table were enjoying the night as much as the punters and their warmth and affection for Cooper was evident throughout.

A polite and approachable Ally told the Post before he went on stage: "It's obviously a cause that's unbelievably close to my heart.

"Everyone knows how close I was to Coop and what a good friend he was to me and my family.

"I think the work Lisa does is absolutely fantastic and it is a pleasure to be here.

"An especially sad thing about Coop leaving us so young was he was just getting into the coaching side of things and I just think he was realising he had so much to give back to people.

"Davie was robbed from us and the kids would have been privileged to work with him.

"He would have been a wonderful teacher."

An equally receptive Andy added: "It's a fabulous event — I played against Davie several times.



THE PANEL: Hugh Keevins, Tam Cowan, Andy Walker, Peter Martin and Ally McCoist

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"If his name is living on in this manner he is still doing a lot of good."

A fantastic £5,000 was raised on the night through ticket sales and a raffle which was conducted by the enthusiastic Peter. All proceeds will go towards build-

ing the Davie Cooper Centre, which will provide special needs children with a base where they can play and learn.

A delighted Lisa said: "Another £5,000 raised for the Davie Cooper Centre and we would just like to thank everyone for coming and attending the night and making it a success."

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'Davie was robbed from us and the kids would have been privileged to work with him'

— Ally McCoist



PICTURES
BY ALEX
CRAIG

PUNDIT: Ally
McCoist with
Laura
Macdonald