

**Bell's Scottish
League
Premier Division**

**CELTIC
v
HIBERNIAN**



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Saturday,
December 20,
1997
Kick-off 3pm**

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Scottish Cup Winners (30 times)
1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1961, 1984, 1985, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1995
League Cup Winners (10 times)
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Coronation Cup: 1953
Empire Exhibition Cup: 1938
St Mungo Cup: 1951

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There isn't a game that isn't a huge one for us as we chase championship glory.

That said, last week's win over Hearts was vitally important.

If we had lost to the league leaders we would have found ourselves some points of the pace and in the position of having to play catch up over a number of weeks.

Now, after that 1-0 win at Celtic Park a week ago, we are within touching distance of both the Tynecastle side and Rangers and within a three-point margin of the top.

This afternoon's fixture against Hibernian provides us with our final home encounter of 1997 and we can look back on this year with some satisfaction thanks to the Coca-Cola Cup win the other week and the fact that we are putting together form that makes us genuine title contenders.

The league is the prize we covet above all and we have a squad of players more than capable of playing as a tight unit and taking us through tough ties.

I put today's match against my old club Hibs in that bracket despite their recent poor run. Since we lost to them on the opening day of the season at Easter Road our campaign has taken off while the have had a tough time of it.

But the very fact that they scored that 2-1 win last time we met them means we must be on our guard. The worst thing we could do is look at their lowly league position and just expect everything to go for us.

I don't see that happening and

Homing in on the New Year

though this league campaign is going to be a long haul with points dropped by all the major challengers along the way - as recent weeks have shown - we have every reason to be positive.

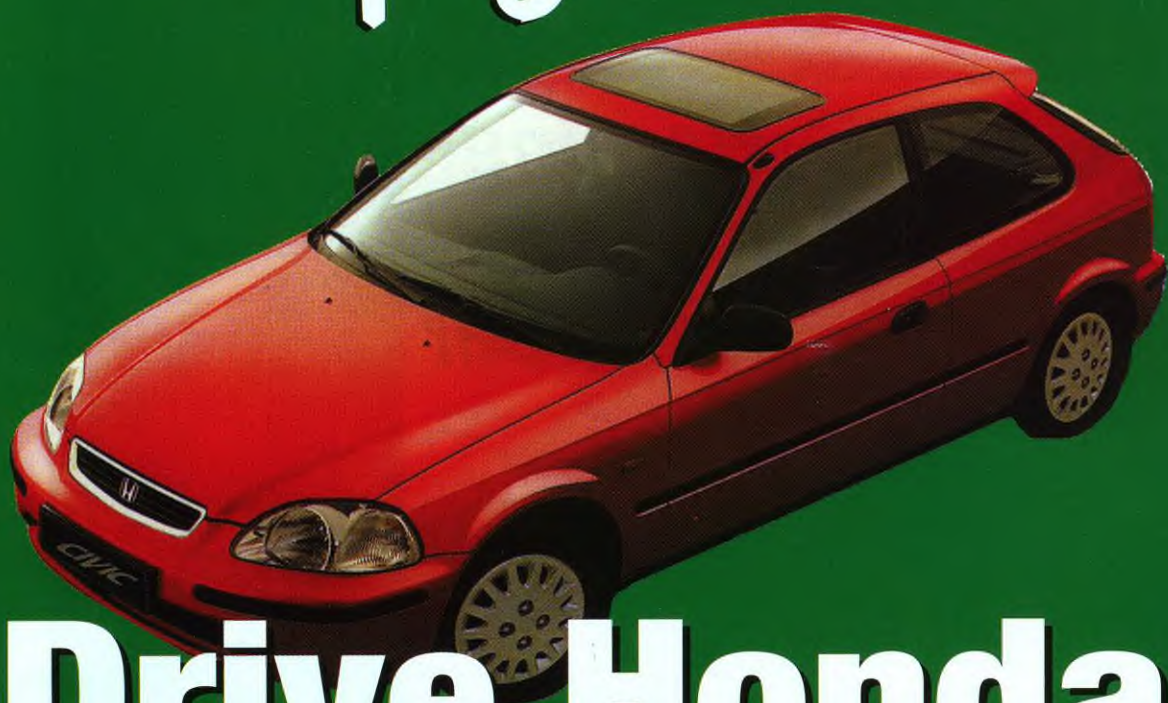
I'm sure we have signed a class striker in Harald Brattbakk and I know he really enjoyed his debut in front of a 50,000 capacity crowd at Celtic Park.

I hope he will experience that buzz again this afternoon and I'm sure the atmosphere that surrounds the club will help him settle quickly.

The better we play the better the support we receive from the stands and we know it is up to us to give the lead to our fans and continue to make our home an intimidating place for opponents to play in.

We are looking no further ahead than securing three points against Hibs today and the solidity in defence we have shown in recent months makes us confident in our ability to do the job against anyone.

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TODAY'S SQUADS



CELTIC



Jonathan GOULD



Tom BOYD



Stephane MAHE



Jackie McNAMARA



Rico ANNONI



Alan STUBBS



Henrik LARSSON



Craig BURLEY



Harald BRATTBAKK



Morten WIEGHORST



Regi BLINKER



Paul LAMBERT



Darren JACKSON



REFEREE:

Stuart Dougal (Burnside)



ASSISTANT REFEREE:

Kevin O'Neill (Kilwinning)



ASSISTANT REFEREE:

Joe Heggie (Oakley)

STAND-BYS

CELTIC:

Stewart Kerr (g/k), Graeme Morrison, John Paul McBride, David Hannah, Simon Donnelly

HIBERNIAN:

Olle Gottskalksson (g/k), Kevin Harper, Willie Miller, Jamie McQuilken, Brian Welsh, Stuart McCafferty, Rab Shannon, Shaun Dennis, Brian Grant, David Elliot, Lee Power, Paul Tosh, Barry Lavety, Greg Miller

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HIBERNIAN



Chris REID 

Jean Marc BOCO 

Andy DOW 

Darren DODS 

John HUGHES 

Chic CHARNLEY 

Andy WALKER 

Chris JACKSON 

Stephen CRAWFORD 

Tony ROUGIER 

Pat McGINLAY 

Steven RENWICK 

Kenny MILLER 

PARADISE PATTERN



Nosey parkers...Tom Boyd and Paul Lambert get in the festive spirit with 14-year-old Barry Devine from Newmalns

Christmas cheer for sick kids

The Boys began spreading the festive spirit on Wednesday with a visit to Yorkhill Hospital for their annual children's Christmas party.

Managing director Fergus McCann joined members of the first team squad to hand out presents to the sick and injured kids.

McCann said: "To me it is more than a charitable gesture, the boost

the children get from seeing the players is obvious.

"These kids have tremendous spirit despite all their suffering and it's a real privilege to be a part of this."

And the fund-raising continues today with Green Nose Day – and McCann has urged both sets of supporters to back this cause.

He continued: "If anyone ever needed a reason to back a charity

then this is it. It was a privilege for us to visit these children and I would hope the supporters would think of it as a privilege to donate to the Celtic Charity Fund."

And midfielder Morten Wieghorst backed up McCann, saying: "It's great to be able to help these kids, especially at Christmas. This must be the worst place to be at this time of year and if we can help to cheer them up at all then it has been more than worth it."

"This has been a humbling experience for all of us, and I hope all of these children can recover fully and return home to their families shortly."

Nosing ahead for charity

If Rudolph turns up at Celtic Park today he could well be sporting a green nose!

Over 50,000 of the green conks will be worn today with various charities benefiting from every pound donated. Last season around £20,000 was raised by generous supporters all game for a laugh.

Although it's all in good fun there's a serious side to it as the Yorkhill Trust For Seriously Ill

Children is the main beneficiary.

Managing Director Fergus McCann said: "For the last couple of years the club has organised a Christmas party for the seriously ill children in the Shehallion Unit."

Remember dig deep and give more than £1 if you can. The green noses will be on sale outside the turnstiles before kick-off.

Out of Eastern promise?

Such is the contingent of old Bhoys in the Hibernian ranks, Easter Road has fast become 'little Celtic'.

However, the Edinburgh club's faithful are no doubt more interested in operating at the same end of the league table as their opponents today than having a collection of the former employers of Glasgow's green and whites former on board.

Unfortunately, they are right in the grubber at the minute. It is amazing to think that they were being talked about as potential league challengers in the opening weeks of the season. Now they are in real relegation trouble.

August seems like an awful long time ago, with all that early promise having evaporated and some of the signings made by manager Jim Duffy having it tough.

CHRIS REID has been between the sticks in recent weeks after Icelander **OLAFUR GOTTSKALKSSON** made a few costly errors that helped condemn Hibs to six defeats on the trot.

There has been talk of young striker **BARRY LAVETY** being made available for transfer and though Duffy has dismissed talk of a clear-out, he has said his large squad needs trimming.

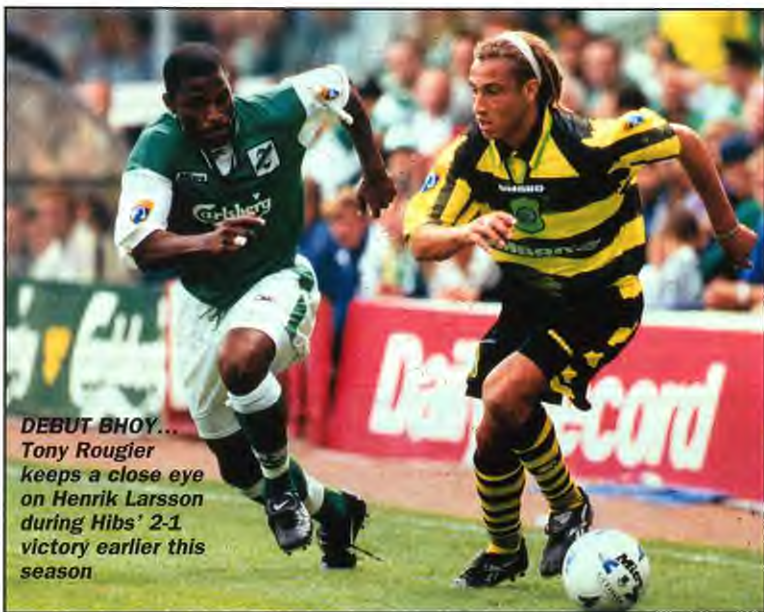
One new signing who has performed well is Frenchman **JEAN MARC BOCO**, a powerful full-back who plays in a back four containing captain **JOHN HUGHES** (right), who did a great job in his 14 months in the hoops.

Fellow centre-back is the home-grown **DARREN DODS** with **ANDY DOW** patrolling the left-flank.

In midfield Hibs have the mercurial talents of **CHIC CHARNLEY**, who seems to have lost his way after a superb run of form early in the season that led to calls for the 34-year-old to be capped for Scotland.

The Celtic connection is further to be found in **PAT MCGINLAY**, yet one more former employee of the East End of Glasgow club who recently signed a new contract with the Easter Road side.

Bustling winger **TONY ROUGIER** is another who has blown hot and cold this season after his move from Raith



DEBUT BHOY...
Tony Rougier keeps a close eye on Henrik Larsson during Hibs' 2-1 victory earlier this season

By ANDREW SMITH

Rovers in the close season.

CHRIS JACKSON made up the four-man midfield in last week's 2-2 draw with Aberdeen but others who could come into the fray if Duffy wanted a more attacking formation are the likes of **KEVIN HARPER** and **KENNY MILLER**, who turns the ripe old age of 18 next Tuesday.

Though **STEVIE CRAWFORD** has looked good since his July move from Millwall, goalscoring has proved a major problem for the Edinburgh men.

In an effort to solve this the club last week turned their attentions to former Celt **ANDY WALKER**.

Brought on a three month loan deal from Sheffield United he worked an

instant charm with both goals against Aberdeen.

And since his poaching abilities laid the foundations for the glorious 1988 centenary league and Scottish Cup double for an inspired Celtic side there surely won't be any home supporters in the ground today who won't want to wish him well – today apart, of course.

Andy, we salute you and thanks for the magical memories, old Bhoys!



“Hibs were talked of as title chasers”

TONY'S **DX** QUIZ TIME

The most sought after prize **EVER** is up for grabs this week - two VIP Directors' Box briefs for the Old Firm game on 2 January.

You and a friend could celebrate the new year in style from the best seats in the house with free refreshments.

PLUS, a final opportunity to have your photograph taken with your favourite Celt and the Coca-Cola Cup.

And, courtesy of our sponsors, we have £50 of DX Communications vouchers to give away. These can be used at any branch. For your nearest branch call free to 0800 34 44 44.

And because it's Christmas, in conjunction with PNE Video, we have 10 copies of Celtic's latest offering entitled "The Bhoys are back", the story of our league cup success which normally retails at £13.99.

All of this on offer and one simple question to answer: Just tell us who captained the Coca-Cola cup winning side?

Once you have the answer call the **DX QUIZLINE** on **0930 555**



HEADS I WIN... You could grab a piece of the derby action with the Quizline

965 and follow the brief instructions.

A winner for each prize will be selected at random and if you're entering the photograph competition, don't forget to leave the name of your favourite player and your age.

The **DX QUIZLINE** also welcomes your thoughts on any Celtic matter.

One from last week comes from East Kilbride hoops fan Greg McCormick.

He said: "Celtic are in a great position right now in the race for the league title. There is still a long way to go until things are eventually decided and the arrival of Harald Brattbakk is surely an ace up our sleeves."

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Sweet sixteen for Celtic



JACKSON... Six goals AGAINST Celtic

● Last season Celtic scored 16 goals in the four league meetings with Hibernian, breaking their previous of 12 from 1982/83.

● Last season's game aggregate of 18 goals also beat the previous best of 15 from 1982/83 and 1992/93.

● Celtic completed the grand slam of four league victories of Hibernian last season for the fourth time. The previous seasons were 1982/83, 1983/84 and 1986/87.

● Hibs' win at Easter Road on the opening day of the season ended Celtic's unbeaten run of 16 league games against the Edinburgh club, their best ever run in the Premier Division.

● Hibernian's last win at Celtic Park was on September 12, 1992 when they won 3-2. Among Hibs' goalscorers that day was a certain Darren Jackson.

● In the last meeting between the two clubs at Easter Road Malky Mackay became the 55th player to score for Celtic against Hibs in the Premier Division.

● In the same match, Chic Charnley became the 37th player to score for Hibs against Celtic in the Premier Division.

● Just two players have both played and scored for Celtic and Hibs in the Premier Division. They are George McCluskey (five for Celtic, one for Hibs) and John Collins (four for Celtic and one for Hibs).

● Pat McGinlay has played and scored for both teams but he was playing for Hibs when he scored an own-goal in Celtic's favour.

● Darren Jackson could soon join McCluskey and Collins as he is Hibs' top Premier Division scorer against Celtic with six goals.

THEY WORE THE GREEN AND WHITE - AND THE WHITE AND GREEN

Bertie Auld - Celtic 1965-71, Hibs 1971-73

Roy Baines - Celtic 1976-79, Hibs 1968-72

John Coleman - Celtic 1888-93, Hibs 1887-88

John Collins (right) - Celtic 1990-96, Hibs 1984-90

Patrick Connolly - Celtic 1921-32, Hibs 1933

Mike Conroy - Celtic 1978-82, Hibs 1982-84

John Curran - Celtic 1892-94, Hibs 1895-96

John Divers - Celtic 1893-96, Hibs 1893

William Donnelly - Celtic 1900-01, Hibs 1893-95

Michael Dunbar - Celtic 1888-93, Hibs 1887-88

Patrick Gallagher - Celtic 1888-93, Hibs 1886-88

William Groves - Celtic 1888-90 & 1896, Hibs 1886-88

John Hughes - Celtic 1995-96, Hibs 1996-present

Leslie Johnston - Celtic 1948-49, Hibs 1947

Peter Kavanagh - Celtic 1929-32, Hibs 1933-34

Charles Kelly - Celtic 1891, Hibs 1889-91

James Kelly - Celtic 1888-97, Hibs 1887

Tom Maley - Celtic 1888-92, Hibs 1886-87

Gordon Marshall - Celtic 1971-72, Hibs 1969-71

Allan Martin - Celtic 1895-96, Hibs 1893 & 1896-99

Joe McBride - Celtic 1965-68, Hibs 1968-70

William McCallum - Celtic 1890-92, Hibs 1889-90

John McCann - Celtic 1892 & 1893, Hibs 1893

George McCluskey - Celtic 1974-83, Hibs 1986-89

James McColl - Celtic 1913-20, Hibs 1922-26

James McGhee - Celtic 1890-92, Hibs 1883

Pat McGinlay - Celtic 1993-94, Hibs 1987-93 & 1994-present

William McGinnigle - Celtic 1918, Hibs 1918-29

James McGuire - Celtic 1948-50, Hibs 1945-47

Murdo MacLeod - Celtic 1978-87, Hibs 1990-93

Alex McMahon - Celtic 1890-1903, Hibs 1886-87

Jackie McNamara - Celtic 1970-76, Hibs 1976-85

John McNamee - Celtic 1959-64, Hibs 1964-66

Michael Mulvey - Celtic 1892-93, Hibs 1888-90

Michael Murray - Celtic 1890 & 1892, Hibs 1890 & 1894

Jeremiah Reynolds - Celtic 1889-95, Hibs 1886-89

Alan Rough - Celtic 1988, Hibs 1982-88

Chris Shevlane - Celtic 1967-68, Hibs 1968-71

Ronnie Simpson - Celtic 1964-70, Hibs 1960-64

Alan Sneddon - Celtic 1977-81, Hibs 1981-92

Pat Stanton - Celtic 1976-78, Hibs 1961-76

John Tobin - Celtic 1888, Hibs 1888-88

