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CELTIC v HIBERNIAN

Celtic Park, Saturday 27 December 2003, Kick-off 3.00pm

Scottish Premierleague 2003/04

Programme No.15



CARLING



BANK OF SCOTLAND
SPL

Celtic 



CARLING ARE PROUD TO BE SUPPORTERS OF CELTIC FC. **LOVEFOOTBALL**



“It is just over two weeks since we last played Hibs, at Easter Road in the CIS Cup, and it was a disappointment for us to go out of the tournament. I hope we can play better today and, naturally, we will need to if we want to win the game”

I WOULD like to welcome you all here to Celtic Park today and hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas.

Certainly, our victory last weekend against Motherwell gave everyone a boost for the festive period. Not only was it a hard-fought but deserved win, it also preserved our lead at the top of the table.

We knew, going into the game at Fir Park, that it would be a competitive match. This fixture always is and the players were aware that it would require a great deal of effort and determination to secure the three points.

We got off to the best possible start with a goal from John Hartson inside the first three minutes. It was a just reward for the way in which we had started the match.

However, we couldn't add to that tally and Motherwell slowly fought their way back into the match and contributed to what was a very competitive first-half.

We went into the break leading by that John Hartson goal, helped in no small part by the excellent penalty save from Rab Douglas. Everyone who watched the game would agree that justice was served by the save, given that Johan Mjallby was penalised for what was a perfectly good tackle inside the box.

In the second-half, I thought we controlled the game and scored a second goal through a wonderful Alan Thompson free-kick.

It was a good victory for us on a ground where we lost three points last season and it sets us up nicely for this afternoon's match against Hibs.

We know that it will be a tough match against Bobby Williamson's side.

It is just over two weeks since we last played Hibs, at Easter Road in the CIS Cup, and it was a disappointment for us to go out of that tournament. Hibs, on the night, played well and deserved their victory.

I hope that we can play better today and, naturally, we will need to if we want to win the game.

It will require a big effort from the players again and lots of assistance from the crowd.

I think we would love to finish the calendar year of 2003 on a high note – it will not be easy.



GREAT SERVICE
James Elliot set up Nicky Riley's goal in the 77th minute

A fine display against Stenhousemuir saw Celtic clinch their place in the quarter-finals of the SFA Youth Cup

A GAME of two halves saw Celtic clinch their place in the quarter-finals of the SFA Youth Cup with a 4-1 win over Stenhousemuir.

Paul Murphy's header given the Warriors a half-time lead, but a re-organised Bhoys outfit completely dominated the second 45 minutes.

Michael Gardyne began and ended the comeback, and sandwiched in between were also goals from Aiden McGeedy and Nicky Riley.

In the end, it was a convincing victory for the Hoops against an experienced Stenny side which had several players with first-team experience.

A satisfied Willie McStay said after the game: "We changed the shape at half time to get extra width. That made it more difficult for Stenhousemuir and we were

SFA Youth Cup, New Broomfield

CELTIC 4

Gardyne 54, 89 McGeedy 68, Riley 77

STENHOUSEMUIR 1

Murphy 42

pleased with the way we scored the goals.

"It was a typical cup tie, played at a high tempo. After going to extra time and penalties in the last round we are pleased to win tonight."

The first half was an even affair, although few clear-cut chances were created as the two sides frustrated each other.

Celtic's best chance came eight minutes before the break when Riley's cross ended up hitting the post and was cleared, but five minutes later they found themselves a goal behind as Murphy was unmarked to head home a free kick from the left.



DOMINATING DISPLAY

Michael Gardyne scores Celtic's first goal against Stenhousemuir and, right, Gary Irvine and Nicky Riley get in on the action while coach Willie McStay looks on



Stenny could have added to their lead right on half time, but were denied by Sandy Wood who was alert to Dave Morrison's header.

After the break, Celtic increased the pressure, and it took only nine minutes of the second half for the equaliser to come.

Keeper Alex Hardie couldn't hold McGeedy's long-range shot, and Gardyne was there to apply the finish then Gary Irvine was unlucky

not to put Celtic ahead just after the hour mark when his 20-yard effort flew just wide.

However, Celtic were well in command, and eventually took the lead in 68 minutes with a cracking goal by McGeedy.

He ran past two defenders and shot into the corner of the net from 25 yards to give the Bhoys the lead in style.

Stenny never looked likely to get back into the match, and in the last

10 minutes Celtic underlined their superiority with two more well-worked goals.

First, James Elliot sprinted clear of the defence and drew the keeper to supply Riley with an easy finish.

As the Hoops celebrated, the Warriors' Michael McGowan was dismissed after receiving his second caution of the evening for dissent.

And in the last move of the match, Gardyne collected a

clearance from the defence and ran from the halfway line to apply the finish.

Celtic: Wood, McCormack, Mulgrew, Irvine, Low, O'Dea, Riley, Quinn (Elliot 18), Hudson (Pinkowski 52), McGeedy, Gardyne. Subs: Friel, Robertson, Cassidy.

Stenhousemuir: Hardie, Buist, McVittie, Tully, Murphy, Craig (Dolla 60), McGowan, Sinclair (Bodel 52), Scott (Vita 60), Cairney, Morrison. Subs: Murray, McKirdy.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB FACTFILE

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park
 (capacity 60,506)

Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts,
 white shorts, white socks

Away strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with
 gold trim

Third strip: Gold shirts, green
 shorts, gold socks

Record attendance: 92,000 (v Rangers, 1938)

Record victory: 11-0 (v Dundee, 1895)

Record defeat: 0-8 (v Motherwell, 1937)

Most league goals (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory,
 1935/36

Most Premier/SPL goals (1 season): 35, Brian McClair
 1986/87, Henrik Larsson 2000/01

Website: www.celticfc.net

HONOURS

Scottish League (38)

1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06,
 1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15,
 1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19, 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36,
 1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69,
 1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77,
 1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98,
 2000/2001, 2001/2002

Scottish Cup (31)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914,
 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965,
 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985,
 1988, 1989, 1995, 2001

League Cup (12)

1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68 1968/69,
 1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98,
 1999/2000, 2000/2001

European Cup (1) 1967 **Coronation Cup (1)** 1953

CELTIC FACTS

- On December 17, 1892, in a Scottish Cup second round tie, Celtic faced one of the military teams that were quite common at the time. They beat 5th Kirkcudbright Rovers 7-0 at Celtic Park.
- Inside-right Jimmy Rowan scored his only goal for the club against Dundee, on his debut at Parkhead on December 18, 1954.
- Jim was later to become the chairman of the SPFA and was Alex Ferguson's predecessor as manager at East Stirling.
- In the 6-0 thrashing of Leith Athletic at Celtic Park on December 19 1931, Jimmy McGrory scored his third hat-trick of the season.
- In the same match, Peter Scarff made the last of his appearances for Celtic. Just one month later, Peter was seriously ill with TB.
- On December 21 1935 against Aberdeen, Jimmy McGrory scored the fourth of his astounding seven hat-tricks during that season.
- Against Hamilton, in a League 'A' Division game on December 22 1945, left-back Pat McDonald made the last of his 89 appearances for the Celts. Pat had been 'capped' by Scotland when they played the RAF at Hampden in November 1943.
- In one of Celtic's best ever performances on Christmas Day, the league match against Morton in 1965, Joe McBride scored a hat-trick as the Hoops thrashed the Greenock side by a truly incredible 8-1 scoreline.



HIBERNIAN FACTS

- Hibernian FC was founded as an all-Catholic club in 1875. They played at the Meadows 1875-78, Powderhall Stadium 1878-79, Mayfield 1879-80, and Easter Road 1880-1892 where they still play today.
- The record attendance for Easter Road was 65,860 for the derby against Hearts on January 2, 1950.
- Hibs' biggest victory was the 22-1 win over 42nd Highlanders on September 3, 1881.
- Their heaviest defeat came at the hands of Rangers – 0-10 on December 24, 1898.
- Hibs won their first championship in the lower division, the Second Division title of 1893/94, two points ahead of Cowliars.
- A year later, they won it again, eight points clear of Motherwell.
- After three semi-final appearances in succession, Hibs reached the Scottish Cup final of 1887, when they played – and beat – Dumbarton 2-1 before a crowd of 12,000.
- Hibs won the First Division title for the first time in 1903, a comfortable six points ahead of Dundee. Their fans then had to wait until 1948 before their heroes repeated the feat.
- Tragically, manager Willie McCartney died halfway through that season.
- Hibs won the Scottish Cup for the second time in 1902, beating Celtic 1-0 at Celtic Park. They have never won it since.





TODAY'S VISITORS - HIBERNIAN
 MANAGER - BOBBY WILLIAMSON ASSISTANT MANAGER - GERRY McCABE / JIM CLARK

CELTIC



HIBERNIAN

- Michael Gray **2** **1**
- Momo Sylla **3** **2**
- Jackie McNamara **4** **3**
- Joos Valgaeren **5** **4**
- Bobo Balde **6** **5**
- Henrik Larsson **7** **6**
- Alan Thompson **8** **7**
- Chris Sutton **9** **8**
- John Hartson **10** **9**
- David Fernandez **12** **10**
- Paul Lambert **14** **11**
- Bobby Petta **15** **12**
- Ulrik Laursen **16** **13**
- Didier Agathe **17** **14**
- Neil Lennon **18** **15**
- Stilian Petrov **19** **16**
- Robert Douglas **20** **17**
- Magnus Hedman **21** **18**
- David Marshall **22** **19**
- Stanislav Varga **23** **22**
- Shaun Maloney **29** **23**
- Steve Guppy **30** **25**
- Ross Wallace **33** **26**
- Johan Mjallby **35**
- Craig Beattie **37**
- Jamie Smith **39**
- Stephen Crainey **40**
- John Kennedy **41**
- Liam Miller **43**

- Morten Hyldgaard
- Gary Smith
- Roland Eedge
- Yannick Zambenardi
- Colin Murdock
- Ian Murray
- Thomas McManus
- Grant Brebner
- Garry O'Connor
- Derek Riordan
- Stephen Glass
- Kevin Nicol
- Daniel Andersson
- Mathias Kouo-Doumbe
- Steven Whittaker
- Jarkko Wiss
- Stephen Dobbie
- Scott Brown
- Kevin Thomson
- Alan Reid
- Alen Orman
- Paul Fenwick
- Nick Colgan

CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERLEAGUE 2003/04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CELTIC	17	16	1	0	53	7	46	49
Rangers	17	13	2	2	41	15	26	41
Hearts	17	9	2	6	26	22	4	29
Dunfermline	17	8	5	4	22	21	1	29
Livingston	17	5	6	6	18	19	-1	21
Motherwell	17	5	5	7	17	21	-4	20
Kilmarnock	17	6	2	9	23	36	-13	20
Hibernian	17	5	4	8	17	25	-8	19
Dundee	17	4	6	7	20	23	-3	18
Dundee Utd	16	4	4	8	15	29	-14	16
Aberdeen	17	4	3	10	19	32	-13	15
Partick Thistle	16	1	2	13	13	34	-21	5

CLUB SPONSORS



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

- Scottish Premierleague
CELTIC v RANGERS SAT 3 JANUARY 12.30pm
- Scottish Cup, Third Round
CELTIC v ROSS COUNTY 10/11 JANUARY 2004
- Scottish Premierleague
HEARTS v CELTIC SUN 18 JANUARY 3.00pm
- Scottish Premierleague
ABERDEEN v CELTIC SAT 24 JANUARY 12.30pm
- Scottish Premierleague
CELTIC v KILMARNOCK SAT 31 JANUARY 12.30pm

RECENT FORM



- Scottish Premierleague, December 21, 2003
MOTHERWELL 0 v 2 CELTIC (Hartson, Thompson)
- Scottish Premierleague, November 29, 2003
CELTIC 3 v 2 DUNDEE (Larsson, Balde, Kennedy)
- UEFA Champions League, December 10, 2003
LYON 3 v 2 CELTIC (Hartson, Sutton)
- Scottish Premierleague, December 6, 2003
LIVINGSTON 0 v 2 CELTIC (Sutton, Thompson)
- CIS Cup 3rd Round, December 4, 2003
PARTICK TH 0 v 2 CELTIC (Beattie, Smith)
- Scottish Premierleague, November 29, 2003
CELTIC 3 v 1 PARTICK TH (Sutton 2, Larsson)

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

- Referee: **Alan Freeland**
- Assistant Referees: **Brian McDuffy**
Neil Brand
- Fourth Official: **Colin Hardie**

Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, Glasgow G40 3RE 0141-556 2611

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman
CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney
MANAGER Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford
HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns **YOUTH TEAM COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark



Bobo Balde is the rock at the heart of the Celtic defence and the Guinean internationalist is determined not to concede anything to Hibs this afternoon

Exclusive Interview: ALISON McCONNELL

'TIS the season of goodwill to all men, but so far as Bobo Balde and his defensive team-mates are concerned Celtic see no need to be in a benevolent frame of mind.

The Hoops back-line have conceded just four league goals on home soil this season and Balde is keen that visiting forwards continue to enjoy the same miserly return for their efforts.

This afternoon Balde and company will strive to stifle the threat of Bobby Williamson's side and the colossal defender is eager to stretch Celtic's home run of 66 games undefeated.

While he has been satisfied with the domestic performances throughout the first-half of the campaign, the Guinean internationalist has warned that there can be no congratulatory slaps on the back just yet.

"There is not point in talking about what we achieved because we are only halfway through the season," he said. "There is still a long way for us to go and we have to make sure that we continue to follow the patterns that we have set for ourselves in the first-half of the season.

"That means keeping our focus and our concentration and working hard in each and every game. We want to keep winning