

THE CIS INSURANCE CUP SEMI-FINAL

CELTIC

versus

DUNDEE UNITED

The National Stadium, Hampden Park, Glasgow
Thursday 6th February 2003, Kick-off 8.00pm



Official Programme £2.00



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A feast of first **CLASS ACTION**



Iwould like to take this opportunity in extending a very warm welcome to all fans attending tonight's second CIS Insurance Cup Semi-Final tie between Celtic and Dundee United at the National Stadium, Hampden Park.

Although both clubs have met each other on 23 previous occasions in this competition over the years, it is only the fourth time that the draw has paired them together at the Semi-Final stage. The last occasion was in season 1990/91 when the Parkhead club won 2-0. However, the last time that the two clubs met in this competition was in the Final back in season 1997/98 when Celtic convincingly won 3-0 at Ibrox.

Once again, we have enjoyed a feast of CIS Insurance Cup tie action since the competition began last September. So far, seven ties have produced an extra thirty minutes of overtime and with three of these matches requiring penalty shoot-outs to determine the outcome, the real winners have been the paying public who have witnessed many exciting and enthralling cup ties. I would like to thank the players and management of all clubs for the positive manner in which they have approached this tournament to date.

At this point, I would like to thank our sponsors, CIS Insurance, for the part that they play in making this such an enjoyable competition. This is the fourth season of their sponsorship of the League Cup and on behalf of The Scottish Football League, I would like to take this opportunity in welcoming all officials and representatives of CIS Insurance and their invited guests to Hampden Park for tonight's tie. I am sure that they will all enjoy the occasion that a big match at Hampden provides and hopefully, everyone witnesses plenty of

good football played by both teams in a sporting manner.

Two seasons ago this competition provided Martin O'Neill with his first piece of silverware as boss of Celtic and following the disappointment last season of losing at this stage to Rangers, he will be hoping that his players can go one better this time. Victory tonight would not only give the Bhoys a place in next month's Final but would also provide the perfect confidence booster as they prepare for their UEFA Cup matches against Stuttgart later this month.

It has obviously been a hectic past few days at Tannadice with the appointment of Ian McCall as the new Dundee United manager. In recent years Ian has built up a wealth of managerial experience outwith the top flight, having managed Clydebank, Morton, Airdrieonians and, until last week, Falkirk, who he took to the top of the First Division. He has already tasted cup success with Airdrieonians, when they won The Bell's Challenge Cup last season, and will now be looking to prove himself at the highest level and obviously, victory tonight would give him the perfect start at his new club.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the staff at the National Stadium for their co-operation in assisting The Scottish Football League stage tonight's Semi-Final tie. This is the start of a number of top class sporting events over the next few months here at Scotland's top sporting venue.

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SPONSOR'S MESSAGE

A welcome message from Cup sponsor CIS Insurance

On behalf of CIS, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to supporters of both teams to tonight's CIS Insurance Cup Semi-Final tie between Celtic and Dundee United.

From the start of the Cup competition in September, we've seen the 42 teams whittled down to just four; all of whom I am sure are excited at the prospect of lifting the silverware.

CIS has been supporting football for four decades and is committed to football at all levels. Besides its sponsorship of the CIS Insurance Cup in Scotland, CIS also sponsors the League Cup in Northern Ireland and, as part of our social accountability programme, organises and participates in children's grass roots football initiatives throughout the UK.

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I hope you enjoy the match.



Finian O'Boyle

Finian O'Boyle
Chief Operating Officer

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The CIS Insurance Cup





Road to the SEMIS

by Dixon Blackstock (Weekend Evening Times)

The first CIS Insurance Cup ball was kicked, and the first goal scored, five months ago with the honour of netting that first score going to Stranraer's Allan Jenkins, whose fifth minute strike in the 6-1 demolition of Brechin City at Stair Park on Saturday, 7th September, 2002 saw him put the ball in the net just a handful of seconds ahead of events directly across the country at Berwick where Eddie Forrest potted one in the sixth minute as the local Rangers beat Arbroath 4-2.

Since that opening day, the 38 ties over the intervening months have produced games of excitement and drama in the best of cup traditions. There have been seven games that have had to be decided in extra-time...and three others that have still needed a penalty shoot-out after over-time to find a winner.

SECOND ROUND

Tuesday, 24th September, 2002

DUNDEE UNITED 4 QUEEN'S PARK 1

S. Thompson, S. O'Donnell (3) S. Canning

Dundee United: P. Gallacher, W. Cummings, J. Lauchlan, D. Lilley, (C. Easton), J. McIntyre, (A. Gunnlaugsson), J. Paterson, (D. Winters), S. Duff, S. Thompson, D. McCracken, M. Wilson, S. O'Donnell
Substitutes not used: J. McCunnie, P. Jarvie
Queen's Park: C. Stewart, S. Fallon, J. Gallagher, S. Moffat, D. Agostini, A. Quinn, (J. Whelan), D. Ferry, G. Lappin, W. Martin, (J. Gemmell), C. Taggart, (S. Jack), S. Canning
Substitutes not used: R. Sinclair, S. Thomson
Referee: Willie Young
Attendance: 3,600

Dundee United have had to make a longer, and distinctly more hazardous trip to the National Stadium. They started back on 24th September last year with a 4-1 home win against Queen's Park in the Second Round of the competition.

This was a memorable hat-trick night for teenager Stephen O'Donnell. He was playing in his first game of the season and he certainly made the most of the occasion, netting his first from a free kick after just seven minutes with the others following in the 37th and 69th minute. The other Tannadice goal came from Scotland cap Steven Thompson, who of course, has now moved on to Rangers.

Dundee United v Queen's Park – Craig Taggart and Jim Lauchlin



THIRD ROUND

Wednesday, 23rd October, 2002

CELTIC 4 INVERNESS CAL THISTLE 2

S. Maloney, J. Hartson (2), P. Ritchie, D. Wyness

A. Thompson

Celtic: R. Douglas, T. Boyd, (L. Miller), S. Maloney, S. Crainey, C. Healy, D. Balde, (J. Kennedy), D. Agathe, (R. Wallace), A. Thompson, J. Smith, J. Hartson, D. Fernandez
Substitutes not used: M. Sylla, J. Gould

Inverness Caledonian Thistle: M. Brown, R. Tokely, (L. Keogh), S. Golabek, R. Mann, G. Munro, R. McBain, R. Duncan, D. Wyness, P. Ritchie, (A. Low), R. Hart, B. Robson, (C. Christie)
Substitutes not used: S. McCaffrey, A. Ridgers

Referee: Mike McCurry

Attendance: 32,122

Due to European commitments, the Premier title holders only came into the competition for the first time in the Third Round and at which stage the draw paired them with Inverness Caledonian Thistle, who of course, had dramatically beaten the Parkhead club when the pair met in the Scottish Cup at Celtic Park in season 1999/2000.

This time there was no sign of any cup stunner like three years ago. Well, only a brief hint.

A double from John Hartson and singles from Shaun Maloney and Alan Thompson brought a 4-2 victory, although Caley caused a wee tremor when they pulled it back to 1-1 in the first half after losing an early goal. However, Celtic cruised to 4-1 in just over the hour and their fans didn't get twitchy even when Thistle pulled one back in the 72nd minute.

This was Martin O'Neill's 100th victory as manager at Parkhead.



Tuesday, 29th October, 2002

AIRDRIE UNITED 1 DUNDEE UNITED 2

S. Vella S. Thompson (2)

Airdrie United: M. McGeown, W. Wilson, N. McGowan (D. Miller), A. Stewart, K. Brannigan, S. Vella, D. McGuire, P. Armstrong, P. Ronald (M. Glancy), S. Docherty, J. Varella (A. Gow)
Substitutes not used: S. McKeown, P. Cherie

Dundee United: P. Gallacher, J. McCunnie, K. McGowne, C. Easton, C. Miller, D. Lilley, (J. Paterson), J. McIntyre, S. Duff, S. Thompson, D. McCracken, M. Wilson

Substitutes not used: J. Lauchlan, J. Hamilton, S. O'Donnell, A. Combe

Referee: Dougie McDonald

Attendance: 1,768

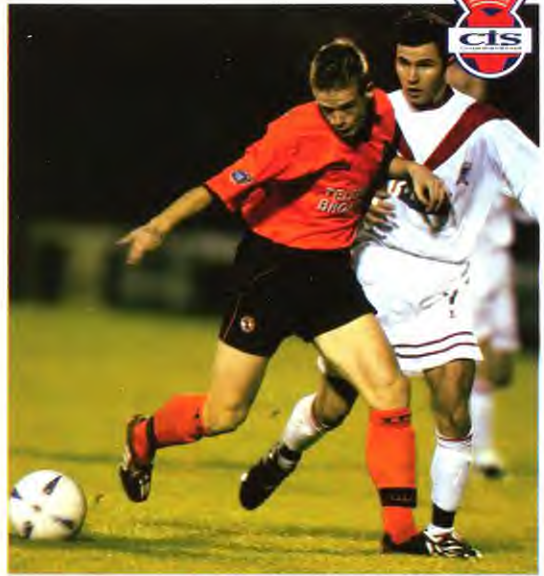
It was Scotland cap Steven Thompson, who took United through what was always going to be a perilous trip in the Third Round. They were drawn against another United, who like themselves had gone through much upheaval....the new form of Airdrie which had replaced the old Clydebank!

It was a tough game and just as expected, Thompson featured prominently. He scored both his team's goals, missed a penalty, just missed a hat-trick and got himself booked but in the process of this, also booked his then team a place in the Fourth Round against Livingston.

After his first half penalty miss, Thompson got his goals, both coming quickly midway through the second half and it wasn't until the final seconds that Simon Vella scored a consolation free kick for the home side.



Celtic v Inverness Caledonian Thistle – Shaun Maloney's goal



Airdrie United v Dundee United – Jamie McCunnie and David McGuire

FOURTH ROUND

Wednesday, 6th November, 2002

CELTIC 1 PARTICK THISTLE 1

P. Lambert A. Burns

(AET – 1-1 after 90 minutes)

Celtic won 5-4 on Kicks from the Penalty Mark

Celtic: R. Douglas, T. Boyd, D. Fernandez, (S. Petrov), P. Lambert, B. Petta, (M. Sylla), U. Laursen, N. Lennon, S. Maloney, J. Smith, J. Hartson, S. Craigne

Substitutes not used: S. Lynch, J. Kennedy, J. Gould

Partick Thistle: K. Arthur, D. Lilley, A. Archibald, (K. Milne), S. Craigan, S. Paterson, D. Whyte, G. Britton, (S. McLean), P. Walker, (J. McKinstry), D. Chiarini, M. Hardie, A. Burns

Substitutes not used: R. Waddell, K. Budinauckas

Referee: Willie Young

Attendance: 26,795

Celtic found themselves in a spot of bother, and against across-Glasgow rivals at that....the THIRD big club in the city as folk up in Maryhill like to point out. This was in the Fourth Round of the Cup, or Quarter Final as they used to call it in ancient times, when Celtic had already been through one "handle with care" tie with another Thistle (the Inverness variety).

The 27,000 fans inside Celtic Park will certainly "remember, remember that 6th of November." They could hardly forget, since they were trapped inside the ground for more than two hours waiting for a result.

They had seen Parkhead skipper Paul Lambert put the Celts ahead just before the break with a diving header



but instead of that being the overture with more to follow, the home side became another side to suffer from Burns...wee Thistle striker Alex nicked into grab a 50th minute equaliser.

Anything could have happened after that, and usually did. There were misses, saves, woodwork hit, goals disallowed. The lot. But that wasn't enough. In the end there had to be penalties.

But EIGHTEEN!

That was what was needed before Celtic eventually went through 5-4. Nine players either missed or had their efforts saved by Kenny Arthur or Rab Douglas respectively, and it was Scotland 'keeper Douglas who made the last decisive move when he got down to block that final 18th spot kick from David Lilley.

"I had to save that one. It was getting close to the point where I might have had to take a penalty myself and I couldn't have faced that," said Rab afterwards.



Celtic v Partick Thistle – Stephen Craigne and Paul Walker

Wednesday, 13th November, 2002

LIVINGSTON 0

DUNDEE UNITED 2

D. Lilley (2)

Livingston: J.S. Brato, D. McNamee, G. Bolland, O. Rubio, M. Andrews, L. Makel, B. Wilson, (R. Zarate), B. O'Brien, (F. Quino), C. Toure-Maman, D. Bingham, (D. Xausa), E. Dadi
Substitutes not used: M. Hart, D. McEwan

Dundee United: P. Gallacher, J. McCunnie, J. Lauchlan, C. Easton, C. Miller, D. Lilley, (S. Duff), J. McIntyre, J. Paterson, (A. Smart), S. Thompson, (J. Hamilton), D. McCracken, M. Wilson
Substitutes not used: S. O'Donnell, A. Combe

Referee: Michael McCurry

Attendance: 3,592

Livingston v Dundee United – Steven Thompson shoots



United had to hit the road again to win their place in tonight's Semi-Final and their travels took them to Almondvale.

Yet again, his team showed commendable fighting spirit, and in substitute Allan Smart's case, too much of that quality. He was on the pitch a mere four minutes in the second half before being ordered off by referee Mike McCurry for retaliating with a kick after being elbowed in the face by Livi defender Rubio. The result was two red cards and a penalty for United which David Lilley duly dispatched to clinch his team's 2-0 victory, having already slotted home in the 37th minute.

This was a header directed into the net after a mis-kick by team-mate Thompson came his way: "It was heading for the nearest exit until I got my head to it," said Lilley later.

Just to confirm that it had indeed been a real cup tie, there were bookings in the game for David McCracken, Jim Lauchlan, Eugene Dadi and Lee Makel.

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Stilian Petrov cut a sad and lonely figure around Parkhead in his early months at Celtic but now he's most certainly one of the Bhoys. The energetic midfielder dynamo, who has become such a key player in Martin O'Neill's Celtic side, is hardly recognisable from the shy teenager who first arrived in Scotland from CSKA Sofia.

Saddled with a £3.5 million price tag and a glowing reference from former Barcelona superstar and fellow Bulgarian Hristo Stoitchkov, Petrov struggled to make an impact. He looked out of sorts at full-back, not to mention out of shape at times and the Bulgarian's Celtic career had reached a crossroads by the time John Barnes and Kenny Dalglish had made way for Martin O'Neill.

However, since O'Neill took over the club in July 2000, Petrov and Celtic have found the right route and the two are hardly unrelated. Gone is the awkward teenager, shy and uncomfortable when facing the press and with barely a word of English to his name.

"I hadn't been able to find a steady position in the team and I don't think the fans knew where my best position was, but I enjoy the midfield role and supporting the strikers.

"I scored goals when I started out at CSKA Sofia as a defensive midfielder, but I'm happier at Celtic playing further up the park.

"Neil Lennon and Paul Lambert can take on the defensive duties and that gives me a chance to push on.

"I see goalscoring now as part of my game at Celtic and having scored nine goals last season, I think I should be looking to score even more. I don't think a target like 15 is unrealistic for a player in my position given the encouragement to push on."

Dundee United will certainly need to be wary of Petrov's goal threat tonight, especially as the Bulgarian stole in to score at Parkhead the first time the sides met in the League this season. Celtic ran out comfortable 5-0 winners.

Petrov has endured tough times as a Celt.

The first season was unimpressive, the second ended in agony when he broke his leg in a game against St. Johnstone and even this season, 15 stitches in a face wound three days before a UEFA Cup tie left him eating his meals through a straw!

However, as far as the Celtic fans are concerned, Stan is most certainly the man and if Celtic do overcome United tonight, look out for another hair-raising encounter with a barber before the CIS Insurance Cup Final on the 16th March!

Stilian PETROV

Hair raising talent

by IAIN MacFARLANE (Daily Star of Scotland)

In his place has emerged a confident, bubbly character. A man who dyed his hair green for last season's Old Firm Scottish Cup Final and a player who laps up responsibility as a Celtic regular and now the proud captain of his country.

Petrov acknowledges that the arrival of O'Neill – who is still pushing hard for the player to sign an extended deal at the Parkhead club – brought about a sea change in his personal plight.

"When Martin came here, he gave me more freedom and a chance to get in the box and score goals," reflected Petrov.

