

THE CIS INSURANCE CUP FINAL



CELTIC v RANGERS

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE £4.00

The National Stadium, Hampden Park, Glasgow | Sunday 16 March 2003 | Kick Off 3.00pm





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CIS Insurance Cup Final 2003

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Pre-match and half-time entertainment

12.00-12.40 p.m. CIS Youth Brass Band perform outside main entrance.

1.30 - 2.50 p.m. Sky Guys behind both goals. Supporters will be entertained with a selection of popular music.

2.25 - 2.40 p.m. Scottish Claymores Cheerleaders perform dance routines on trackside.

2.30 - 2.45 p.m. Cooper Squirrel and Mascots from both Clubs will enter the field of play.

2.40 - 2.45 p.m. Pipe Band will play a selection of tunes as they walk round track.

2.45 - 2.50 p.m. Scottish Claymores Cheerleaders perform routine on park which will end in Guard of Honour for the Players entering the field of play.

2.56 p.m. Both teams led by the Match Officials and Match Mascots will be welcomed into the arena.

3.00 p.m. KICK-OFF

3.45 p.m. HALF-TIME

During the Half-Time Interval, The CIS Insurance Cup "Ten Second Challenge" will take place involving five players and a goalkeeper each from the respective Under-14 Youth Teams of Celtic and Rangers. Each Player has ten seconds to score against the opposing goalkeeper starting from the halfway line.

4.00 p.m. SECOND HALF

4.45 p.m. END OF MATCH

**In the event of the match being level after 90 minutes, extra-time of 30 minutes (i.e. 15 minutes each way) will take place and thereafter, if necessary, Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the Rules laid down by The International Football Association Board will be taken.*

The CIS Insurance Cup and Medals will be presented by the Chief Operating Officer of CIS Insurance, Mr. Finian O'Boyle, accompanied by the President of The Scottish Football League, Mr. John Smith

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The Matchday Magazine

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while she's still alive.
We'll harness all that knowledge, skill and
experience. Take good care of her and more
importantly, take good care of you.
However, she can't last forever...

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57 Varieties!

It gives me great pleasure as President of The Scottish Football League to extend a very warm welcome to all supporters attending today's CIS Insurance Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers at the National Stadium, Hampden Park.

Today's match will be the 57th League Cup Final since the competition was first played back in season 1946/47 and although the Old Firm have met each other on eleven previous occasions at this stage of the competition, surprisingly enough, it will be the first time that they have met in the Final since season 1990/91. That particular Cup Final coincided with The Scottish Football League celebrating its centenary and it would be fair to observe that much has changed in Scottish football during the intervening period!

I am aware that there have been comments expressed recently in various sectors of the media regarding the future viability of the League Cup and, in particular, the time of season during which the competition is played. It is interesting to note that when Celtic and Rangers last met in this Final 12 seasons ago, the competition was played during the first three months of the season, with the Final taking place towards the end of October. However, the importance of domestic football during the course of the past few years has to a large extent been compromised, particularly with the proliferation of International and European club competition matches now being played during the first half of the season, making it virtually impossible to find a sufficient number of midweek dates in the football calendar to play this competition during the first half of the season. Whilst I appreciate the commercial opportunities that this now affords certain clubs, this consequently has had a detrimental affect for the vast majority of clubs, not only in this country, I hasten to add.



Whether or not football in general can find a solution to the current fixture congestion remains to be seen.

Today witnesses the conclusion of our four year agreement with CIS Insurance to sponsor this competition and during the past four seasons, the League and all participating clubs have enjoyed a very good working relationship with our colleagues from CIS Insurance. At the time of writing, discussions are still taking place between the League and CIS Insurance regarding the future but in the meantime, I would take this opportunity in extending a very warm welcome to Mr. Finian O'Boyle, Chief Operating Officer of CIS Insurance, his colleagues and their invited guests, and trust that they will enjoy another exciting and memorable Final.

The outcome of today's Cup Final could prove pivotal to the fortunes of both clubs for the remainder of this season. They are both involved in an exciting race for the League Championship and, of course, are still involved in the Tennent's Scottish Cup. In addition, Celtic are currently in the midst of their UEFA Cup Quarter Final tie with Liverpool and on behalf

of everyone in Scottish football, I wish them every success in their second leg tie next Thursday.

Matches between the Old Firm are always special and some of the ingredients today make for interesting reading. Both clubs have built-up an impressive record in this competition down through the years. This will be Celtic's 25th League Cup Final appearance, having won the trophy on 12 previous occasions, while Rangers, who are the current holders, will be making their 29th Final appearance, having won the competition a record 22 times. For the managers and captains today, something will have to give. Currently, Martin O'Neill and Alex McLeish as well as Paul Lambert and Barry Ferguson, all enjoy one hundred per cent records as managers and players respectively in the Final of this competition. Furthermore, both clubs have met at the Semi-Final stage of this competition during the past couple of seasons with each club having recorded one victory each. It makes for a fascinating contest.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all of the staff at the National Stadium for their co-operation in assisting The Scottish Football League stage today's CIS Insurance Cup Final. In many ways, it is appropriate that Scottish football's oldest rivals should meet here in the Final of this competition in the year when Hampden Park celebrates its centenary at its current site. The National Stadium is now of course, not just a football stadium, but a multi-purpose venue used seven days a week. It has a rich and unrivalled history and you can read more about this famous stadium on pages 54 to 57 of today's Matchday Magazine.

ENJOY THE MATCH!

JOHN SMITH,
President,
The Scottish Football League.