



Celtic

v RANGERS

Scottish Premier League
Saturday 8th March 2003
K.O. 12.30pm

ntl:



PHOENIX HONDA



ANNUAL OPEN TRAINING DAY

See the players go through their paces.



MONDAY 14th APRIL 2003
10am - 12noon

Don't miss your chance to be part of the Player's Training Day. Sit back, relax and watch your heroes train. It's a fantastic day out for all the family with fun activities, Hoopy guest appearances, prize draws, entertainment and much more. And you can be the first to see the brand new home kit celebrating 100 Years Of The Hoops - unveiled by the players.

Tickets now available - Adults £5, Children (under 16s) £3, Family Ticket (2 Adults/2 Children) £12. You can book online at www.celticfc.net, by calling +44 141 551 8653, in the Celtic Ticket Office and in all official Celtic Stores.

Celtic 



“These games are tremendous occasions and, of course, this one marks the start of what is a massive month for the football club”

LAST Sunday's last-gasp goal by Johan Mjallby gave us all three points in a magnificent match here at Celtic Park against Hibernian.

Earlier in the game we had forged into a two-goal lead, both scored by John Hartson, but Bobby Williamson's team, who had played enterprisingly and positively throughout the match, worked their way back into the game and when they equalised half-way through the second half, there was everything to play for from either team's perspective.

The determination and desire to win, much in evidence at the club in recent years, was again there for all to see. The effort put in by the players was phenomenal, and with the game coming so quickly after the Stuttgart game, victory was indeed deserved.

Some key players have been missing in recent games so that is one of many reasons why results and performances have been so good.

Those getting on with the tasks in hand have performed

excellently. We will, however, need as many major players to take the field, if we are to stand any chance of progressing in the competitions we are involved in, simply because of the glut of fixtures.

Old Firm games need no introduction and I'm sure I don't need to tell you that we will go into this afternoon's match full of confidence and desperate to win the match.

These games are tremendous occasions and, of course, this one marks the start of what is a massive month for the football club.

As well as today's game we have a cup final and a UEFA Cup quarter-final to look forward to, and the fact that we are still in all four competitions at this stage of the season is a superb achievement.

We have a busy month and understandably there is plenty of excitement around the club with regards to our immediate fixture list.

They really are massive matches and throughout the club's history it is difficult to

think of a time when Celtic were facing a run of such critical matches.

We are under a little pressure going into this afternoon's game simply because of the sheer volume of matches we will be playing over the next few weeks, although it goes without saying that we wouldn't have it any other way.

This is an ideal opportunity for us to make up the difference in the table and this is a match that we will strive to win.

While doing well in the UEFA Cup would be a significant achievement for us, there is absolutely no chance we will relinquish our league title without a fight.

Celtic Park will be full to the brim this afternoon and the crowd here can play a significant part in proceedings.

As always your backing is vital to us and your support can be an inspiration to those who go out on to the park.



Celtic FC Factfile

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park (capacity 60,506)

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

Away strip: Gold shirts, green shorts, gold socks

Third strip: White shirts, black shorts and 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

1. Celtic met Rangers, for the first time in official competition, in the second round of the 1888/89 Glasgow Cup. Celtic won 6-1 and the quality of the play had the local press in raptures. As the *Scottish Umpire* commented, 'Celtic came away with a brilliance which has seldom, if ever, been equalled on Ibrox Park. The dodging and dribbling of the whole forward quintette was a caution, while their shooting was dead on'. The fixture was not regarded as highly as today, as only 3,000 turned up.

2. The first League meeting of the Old Firm was on March 21, 1891 at Parkhead and ended in a 2-2 draw, Peter Dows and John Campbell the marksmen. In the Scottish Cup, they first met that same season, one of only six times the Old Firm has met in the opening round. A crowd of 15,000 saw Willie Groves score the only goal in the first half.

3. One of the most exciting Old Firm clashes ever took place at Parkhead, before a crowd of 55,000, in the Scottish Cup on February 16, 1957. The opening quarter of an hour produced four goals, two for each side (Billy McPhail and John Higgins for the Hoops) and then a tight match ebbed and flowed for the next hour. Celtic then went into a 4-2 lead with goals from Bobby Collins and Willie Fernie but Rangers forced two late strikes to gain a replay, which Celtic won 2-0, in front of an attendance of 80,000.

RANGERS FACTS

1. Among Rangers' early high spots was the season of 1898/99 when, in collecting the First Division Championship, the team won every one of its 18 games. Twelve years earlier, in 1886, they had suffered their worst-ever defeat, losing 10-2 to Airdrie. For the biggest victory, they had to wait until 1934, when poor old Blairgowrie were on the end of a 14-2 thrashing in the Scottish Cup.

2. When people talk today of the 'Iron Curtain', the term usually refers to the former ideological barrier between East and West, popularised by Winston Churchill. Older fans, though, will recall the phrase applying to the celebrated Rangers defence in the years following World War II. Comprising George Brown, George Young, Jock Shaw, Ian McColl, Willie Woodburn and Sammy Cox, the Iron Curtain proved an almost impenetrable obstacle to a variety of Scottish teams.

3. Although Hibs were the first Scottish club to play in any European competition, Rangers soon joined them. They began in season 1956/57 and quickly gained experience of the big occasions, reaching the semi-final of the European Cup in 1959/60 (going out to Eintracht Frankfurt) and losing to Fiorentina in the final of the Cup-Winners' Cup in '60/61. In 1971/72, however, they won that same trophy, beating Rennes, Sporting Lisbon, Torino, Bayern Munich and Moscow Dynamo on the way.

TODAY'S SQUADS

TODAY'S VISITORS **RANGERS**



SEASON 2002/03
CURRENT LEAGUE POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	29	25	3	1	78	21	78
2. CELTIC	28	23	3	2	72	19	72
3. Hearts	29	14	7	8	49	43	49
4. Kilmarnock	29	13	6	10	34	39	45
5. Dunfermline	29	12	3	14	44	54	39

TEAM SPONSOR: NTL DIGITAL

 MANAGER ALEX McLEISH	STADIUM IBROX PARK	CAPACITY 50,444	PREVIOUS RESULT RANGERS 3 v CELTIC 2	
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CELTIC



RANGERS

ROBERT DOUGLAS	20	1
TOM BOYD	2	2
MOMO SYLLA	3	3
JACKIE McNAMARA	4	4
JOOS VALGAEREN	5	5
BOBO BALDE	6	6
HENRIK LARSSON	7	7
ALAN THOMPSON	8	8
CHRIS SUTTON	9	10
JOHN HARTSON	10	11
DAVID FERNANDEZ	12	12
PAUL LAMBERT	14	14
BOBBY PETTA	15	15
ULRIK LAURSEN	16	16
DIDIER AGATHE	17	17
NEIL LENNON	18	18
STILIAN PETROV	19	19
MAGNUS HEDMAN	21	21
STANISLAV VARGA	23	22
COLIN HEALY	24	23
JAVIER SANCHEZ BROTO	26	24
JON PAUL MCGOVERN	27	25
SHAUN MALONEY	29	26
STEVE GUPPY	30	27
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34	33
JOHAN MJALLBY	35	36
JAMIE SMITH	39	53
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40	
JOHN KENNEDY	41	
LIAM MILLER	43	

STEFAN KLOS
FERNANDO RICKSEN
CRAIG MOORE
LORENZO AMORUSO
ARTHUR NUMAN
BARRY FERGUSON
CLAUDIO CANIGGIA
CHRISTIAN NERLINGER
MICHAEL MOLS
NEIL McCANN
ROBERT MALCOLM
RONALD DE BOER
BERT KONTERMAN
JEROME BONNISSEL
KEVIN MUSCAT
MICHAEL BALL
STEVEN THOMPSON
MAURICE ROSS
ALLAN MCGREGOR
MIKEL ARTETA
SHOTA ARVELADZE
DAN EGGEN
PETER LOVENKRANDS
STEPHEN HUGHES
BILLY GIBSON
STEVEN McLEAN
ALAN HUTTON

CLUB SPONSORS



RECENT FORM

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 2 MARCH, 2003
CELTIC 3 v HIBS 2 (Hartson 2, Mjallby)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 27 FEBRUARY, 2003
STUTTART 3 v CELTIC 2 (Thompson, Sutton)

SCOTTISH CUP 4th ROUND 23 FEBRUARY, 2003
CELTIC 2 v ST JOHNSTONE 1 (Hartson 2, Smith)

UEFA CUP 4th ROUND 20 FEBRUARY, 2003
CELTIC 3 v STUTTART 1 (Lambert, Maloney, Petrov)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 9 FEBRUARY, 2003
CELTIC 2 v LIVINGSTON 1 (Sylla, Sutton)

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

UEFA CUP 1/4 FINAL 1ST LEG
CELTIC v LIVERPOOL THURS 13 MARCH 2003 T.B.C

CIS CUP FINAL
CELTIC v RANGERS SUN 16 MARCH 2003 3.00pm

UEFA CUP 1/4 FINAL 2ND LEG
LIVERPOOL v CELTIC THURS 20 MARCH 2003 T.B.C

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: MIKE McCURRY
ASSISTANT REFEREES: ANDY DAVIS
STEWART SHEARER
FOURTH OFFICIAL: JOHN ROWBOTHAM



CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB
CELTIC PARK,
GLASGOW
G40 3RE
0141-556 2611

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Ian McLeod, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Sir Patrick Sheehy, Kevin Sweeney, Tom Allison
CFAC DIRECTORS Ian McLeod, Eric Riley, Jim Hone, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE Ian McLeod **MANAGER** Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Tommy Burns **HEAD YOUTH COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall
PHYSIOTHERAPIST Brian Scott **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark

JOHAN MJALLBY



WORDS: Alison McConnell

Eyes on the Prize

Celtic's Swedish defender Johan Mjallby is still on the comeback trail but says he will be ready if Martin O'Neill needs him for Celtic's crucial month

JOHAN MJALLBY has admitted that he isn't quite at his peak after spending the bulk of the season on the sidelines, but the Swedish defender has insisted that he will give his utmost should Martin O'Neill call him into action this afternoon.

It is difficult to underestimate the importance of the 32-year-old Swedish internationalist's last-gasp goal against Hibs last weekend and Mjallby is confident of showing the same spirit and determination if he is asked to take part in today's encounter.

Having missed so many important games this season, Mjallby is desperate to feature this month as Celtic take on a leviathan challenge as they bid to haul back the deficit at the top of the table and see off Liverpool in the quarter-final of the UEFA Cup.

"I'm on my way," said Mjallby. "I would be stupid to say that I am 100% but I am definitely nearly there and every time I am involved in training I am taking another step. I am determined and have been working hard and

I want to be fully back in my stride soon.

"I would say that I'd be confident to play in the game if the manager asked, even though I am not at my absolute best. If I don't make it for this afternoon's match then I need to set my sights on a place in the team to play against Liverpool or else the following Old Firm game at Hampden next weekend.

"It doesn't come much bigger than this. We have four massive games ahead and everyone is very excited.

"There is a great buzz around the place just now because of the way things have gone over the last few weeks. We are still in all four competitions so we need to have as many people fit as possible because I'm sure that the manager will need many players at his disposal over the next couple of months.

"It has obviously been a frustrating season for me because of injury, but the important thing is that the team play well and are winning and I think we can be pleased with the

way the season has gone so far.

"However, we want to make sure that we have some silverware to show for our efforts at the end of the season."

Victory this afternoon would slash the gap at the top to three points, a chasm that Celtic could bridge with a win against Motherwell on April 16 when the sides meet after their postponed meeting.

On the other hand, defeat would leave Celtic with an uphill struggle but Mjallby is confident that O'Neill's side are up to the test.

He said: "It would be a massive three points for us if we took them today. We are at home and we need to try and

TOUGH CHOICES:

O'Neill will need as many players as possible fully fit in the coming months





PARADISE:

Paul Lambert celebrates scoring Celtic's equaliser against Stuttgart at Celtic Park and Mjallby reckons the Hoops faithful can carry the team to victory this afternoon

“We have a great record here at Celtic Park,

play our game and I'm confident that if we do so then we have a good chance.

“We all know that Rangers are a good side and we respect them. The fact that we haven't beaten them for a while probably makes us more determined to do it.

“We have a great record here at Celtic Park, even in Europe we have been very strong here, and I don't think we are afraid of any team on our own ground. We

know that we have a great support here and at critical times in the game we have a strong vocal backing that can get behind us.”

Mjallby's heroics in front of goal last week have dominated much of the headlines this week and the defender is hoping that when he reflects on the season after the campaign has finished, he will realise just how critical it was.

“We hope that when we get

to the end of the season it will prove to be a vital goal for us,” he smiled. “It's much easier to go into this game six points behind but with a game in hand rather than going into it eight points behind which we would have been if we hadn't got the goal on Sunday.

“I had a nearly identical header just a few seconds before the goal and I thought that would be it, but I was lucky to get another crack at it and I got a lot

even in Europe we have been very strong here’

of power behind it.

“When it hit off the post and went in, it was a great moment for me. I don't score often so it is always nice when I do, but to find the net at that particular time was brilliant.”

Despite a month that boasts more red letter

dates than usual, Mjallby has insisted that Celtic won't be looking too far ahead of themselves.

“We don't have a crystal ball and we have no idea what is going to happen over the next few weeks but we will take it game by game, we

won't get too far ahead of ourselves,” he said.

“The performance in Stuttgart was great and got us through and now we can look forward to what will be a great occasion against Liverpool.

“The forthcoming games are massive and each match will need our full attention. We know we are good enough and if we play to our full ability, then we are capable of doing well in all competitions.”

