

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL TIE
SATURDAY 10th APRIL 1999 KICK-OFF 3.00pm
IBROX STADIUM, GLASGOW PROGRAMME £2.00



CELTIC v



DUNDEE UNITED





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WELCOME!

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Scottish Football Association, to welcome everyone to Ibrox Stadium for this afternoon's Tennents Scottish Cup Semi-Final tie between Celtic and Dundee United.

The clubs are not only on familiar territory from their league clashes, but have also made regular appearances in the later stages of Scotland's top cup competition in recent years. Celtic have progressed relatively smoothly to today's event, while Dundee United have undergone a replay in every round so far. In a congested fixture list, both sides will be keen to settle matters, and will no doubt be going all out for victory at the first attempt.

A major incentive for all the semi-finalists is the prospect of playing in the final at Hampden Park, in the first major match to take place there since the reconstruction of the new South Stand. Whoever is in opposition, the stadium is sure to be packed to capacity on 29th May, with fans eager to see whether the new stadium lives up to its billing.

It is a particular pleasure, once again, to welcome the representatives of the tournament sponsor, Tennent Caledonian Breweries, and their guests to today's match. This is the tenth year of Tennents' sponsorship of the competition, an extraordinary record which has been both highly enjoyable and mutually beneficial.

The Scottish Football Association is most appreciative of the support which our sponsor has provided for Scotland's top cup competition over these years and we all look forward to enjoying their continued support in the years ahead.

The Association is grateful to Rangers FC for making Ibrox Stadium available this afternoon, and I would like to thank the club's Directors and staff for their assistance in staging this important fixture.

Above all, I am confident that this afternoon's spectacle will be a credit to Scottish football, and continue in the exciting tradition of the Tennents Scottish Cup.

Enjoy the match, and may the better team win!



JACK MCGINN
President, Scottish Football Association.



A COMMON GOAL

Ibrox Stadium has a history of staging dramatic cup ties that have stirred the blood over the years.

You only have to go back 12 months to witness one such encounter when First Division Falkirk faced Hearts at this stage of the Tennents Scottish Cup. Hearts won through and went on to lift the trophy but not without a scare or two.

Falkirk gave a courageous performance and Kevin McAllister's wonderful solo goal still lives on in the memory.

Now Celtic and Dundee United have a chance of capturing the imagination of the public – and possibly a place in Europe.

The last time the clubs shaped up in a cup tie at Ibrox was back in November 1997. Then Wim Jansen was manager at Parkhead and Tommy McLean was in charge at Tannadice.

Now 17 months on there are new men in place at both clubs, Jozef Venglos with Celtic and Paul Sturrock with Dundee United.

They are men with vastly different backgrounds and vastly different personalities.

But they share a common goal to win the Tennents Scottish Cup in their first season in charge.

Jansen was the visitor that November with Celtic chalking up a 3-0 victory in the Scottish League Cup final thanks to goals from Marc Rieper, Henrik Larsson and Craig Burley.

The Dutchman departed in the summer to be replaced by Venglos. Then at the start of this season McLean moved out and Sturrock was recruited from St. Johnstone.

But while the coaching staff at both clubs have changed, many of the players remain.

Of the three goalscorers, Larsson and Burley continue to be an influential pair for the Parkhead club although the Scotland midfielder has been hampered by injury this season. However the former Chelsea star has looked on his way back to his best form in recent weeks.

Rieper on the other hand has had a miserable time with a long-term toe injury, and can now only look forward to next August.

Larsson is again having a magnificent season for both club and country. Goals have flowed on a regular basis but even when they have not, his determination never wanes.

He keeps defenders on their toes with his selfless running and link play. Larsson has also looked good playing for Sweden and is bound to relish the challenge of playing on the big stage at Ibrox.



Kjell Olofsson

With Burley driving forward and Paul Lambert pulling the strings in midfield, Celtic have recently held the upper hand against United.

Celtic still have their sights on two trophies, as they attempt to overhaul Rangers' lead in the Premier League.

United are more concerned about getting away from the foot of the table and there have been signs in the past few months that Sturrock's side are becoming more difficult to beat.

Sturrock has an infectious enthusiasm for the game as does one of his lieutenants, Maurice Malpas.

The former Scotland defender has been troubled by injury recently and United must hope he can play here today.



Henrik Larsson

Now on the coaching staff at Tannadice, Malpas will chalk up 20 years with United in August.

His experience and influence could be vital at Ibrox, where cool heads will be needed.

Dealing with the class of Larsson will be difficult enough but United may also have to contend with the formidable presence of Mark Viduka.

The burly Australian has shrugged off the problems that blighted his early days at Parkhead and led to speculation his time in Glasgow was over before it began. Viduka proved in the last round at Greenock Morton that he has a great touch for a big man with a spectacular opening goal in front of the TV cameras.

Larsson and Viduka are a handful for the best defenders and that's why Malpas and Jason de Vos will need to be on top of their game.

Canadian international, de Vos, started the season with English Third Division side Darlington and is beginning to look the part.

United have match winners of their own of course and none more so than Kjell Olofsson.

The likeable Swedish striker is returning to Moss in Norway in the summer after three seasons at Tannadice.

Olofsson hasn't been able to match his tally of 18 league goals last season but has the ability and instinct to hurt the opposition.

That was never more visibly emphasised than last month when he scored the winner against Rangers – at Ibrox of all places.

Olofsson is determined that his last act for United will be to pick up a Cup winners' medal on May 29.

But first of all Celtic have to be overcome in what should be a fascinating battle of wits between both clubs.

KEN GAUNT,
PA Sport



10 IN A ROW

This season marks the tenth anniversary of Tennents sponsorship of the Cup. From the inaugural Tennents Scottish Cup Final when Aberdeen collected the silverware, courtesy of the competition's first ever penalty kick decider, each Final has produced its own magic.

No fewer than six other clubs have followed the Dons to hold the Tennents Scottish Cup, each carving a new niche in the Scottish football history books.

Today's teams will be looking to create their own piece of history on May 29th and the battle for a place in the Final will no doubt ensure an exciting match.

As the tournament reaches its climax there will be a double celebration as in addition to Tennents 10th anniversary, the Final will be returning to its spiritual home – Hampden Park.

The National Stadium has received a £50 million facelift since the Rangers v Hearts Final of 1996 and will provide a spectacular backdrop for the 1999 Tennents Scottish Cup Final.

Tennent's Lager wishes both teams well and we look forward to another chapter in the history of the Cup.

TENNENT'S LAGER • THE OFFICIAL BEER OF SCOTTISH FOOTBALL.

How the teams reached the semis



FIRST ROUND

5th December, 1998

Arbroath 1 Partick Thistle 2
Stenhousemuir 1 Alloa Athletic 1
Dumbarton 1 Livingston 1
Queen's Park 2 Berwick Rangers 0

Replays: Tuesday, 8th December

Livingston 3 Dumbarton 0

Saturday, 12th December

Alloa Athletic 0 Stenhousemuir 2

SECOND ROUND

2nd January, 1999

Civil Service Strollers 0 Albion Rovers 3
Montrose 0 Stirling Albion 0
Whitehill Welfare 1 Stenhousemuir 1
Keith 0 Brechin City 0
Dalbeattie Star 1 East Stirlingshire 2
Inverness Caledonian Thistle 1
Livingston 2
Huntly 3 Peterhead 0
Partick Thistle 5 Cowdenbeath 2
Spartans 1 Clyde 1
Forfar Athletic 2 East Fife 2

Replay: Wednesday, 6th January

Clyde 5 Spartans 0

Saturday, 9th January

Queen of the South 1 Ross County 3

Replays:

Stenhousemuir 2 Whitehill Welfare 0
Brechin City 3 Keith 1
East Fife 0 Forfar Athletic 1

Monday, 18th January

Queen's Park 1 Clachnacuddin 1

Replay:

Stirling Albion 2 Montrose 1

Replay: Saturday, 23rd January

Clachnacuddin 2 Queen's Park 3

THIRD ROUND

23rd January, 1999

Greenock Morton 2 Dundee 1
Ayr United 3 Kilmarnock 0
Stranraer 1 East Stirlingshire 0
Falkirk 3 Huntly 0
Brechin City 1 Albion Rovers 1
Hibernian 1 Stirling Albion 1
Partick Thistle 1 Dunfermline Athletic 2
St. Johnstone 1 Forfar Athletic 0
Raith Rovers 0 Clyde 4
St. Mirren 1 Hamilton Academical 1
Celtic 3 Airdrieonians 1
Rangers 2 Stenhousemuir 0
Aberdeen 0 Livingston 1

Sunday, 24th January

Motherwell 3 Heart of Midlothian 1

Tuesday, 2nd February

Queen's Park 0 Dundee United 0

Replays:

Albion Rovers 3 Brechin City 1
Stirling Albion 2 Hibernian 1
Hamilton Academical 1 St. Mirren 0

Wednesday, 3rd February

Clydebank 1 Ross County 1

Replay: Tuesday, 9th February

Dundee United 1 Queen's Park 0

Replay: Monday, 15th February

Ross County 2 Clydebank 3

FOURTH ROUND

13th February, 1999

Ayr United 1 Albion Rovers 0
Greenock Morton 6 Clyde 1
Motherwell 2 Stirling Albion 0
Stranraer 1 Falkirk 2
Livingston 1 St. Johnstone 3
Celtic 4 Dunfermline Athletic 0

Sunday, 14th February

Hamilton Academical 0 Rangers 6

Monday, 1st March

Clydebank 2 Dundee United 2

Replay: Saturday, 6th March

Dundee United 3 Clydebank 0

FIFTH ROUND

6th March, 1999

Motherwell 0 St. Johnstone 2

Sunday, 7th March

Rangers 2 Falkirk 1

Monday, 8th March

Greenock Morton 0 Celtic 3

Saturday, 13th March

Ayr United 0 Dundee United 0

Replay: Tuesday, 16th March

Dundee United 2 Ayr United 1

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TIME IS STILL ON HIS SIDE

MARK BURCHILL

If Paul Sturrock hears a burst of chorus from the opposition dugout this afternoon it may just be the sound of a lament for Dundee United's hopes of making the Tennents Scottish Cup final.

Celtic's teenage striker, Mark Burchill, has never pretended to be Jim Kerr or Bono but has confessed he's often tempted to belt out a number from the heart whenever the Hoops hit the net.

The Scotland Under-21 striker would rather be making the music on the pitch than following the beat of band leaders, Henrik Larsson and Mark Viduka from the sidelines, but time is still on his side.

And, as if Dundee United fans need reminding, he is capable of knocking the Tangerines off key whenever he emerges from the bench and into the fray of match action.

Burchill's career with Celtic exploded into life in August when he replaced Harald Brattbakk near the end of a game at Celtic Park which was delicately poised at 1-1. Burchill, who made his debut a few days earlier in the shock League Cup defeat at Airdrie, posted notice of his frightening potential when he slotted the winner inside Sieb Dykstra's front post and sparked mayhem among Celtic fans ready to acclaim another kid for fame.

Since then, however, he has been used largely as back-up to the Aussie and Swede, hence the temptation to limber up the tonsils from the bench as well as cold muscles. Burchill says: "I'm just a fan who is lucky enough to have talent to play for the team. When I'm on the bench I celebrate when we score just like I would if I was sitting in the stand.



"In fact, sometimes I even want to start singing too.

"I treat all this as a fan would and recognise what I have, playing for a club I've always supported. I reckon it's much better if a player knows the background and history of the club for which he plays."

Celtic fans have not been as excited about the prospect of a player emerging from their ranks since Charlie Nicholas lit up the scene in the early eighties.

Nicholas was given the opportunity to shine in a terrific side which married seasoned pros such as Danny McGrain, Frank McGarvey, Davie Provan and Murdo MacLeod with youthful talent such as Paul McStay.

Burchill, on the other hand, has been reined in by Celtic coach, Dr Jozef Venglos, who appears unwilling to expose the teenager to too much too soon.

Understandably, Venglos is reluctant to risk burnout with a player who could not even legally drink the sponsor's product at the start of the season.

Yet the feeling remains the wily Czech coach may have to bow to Burchill's sheer persistence sooner rather than later – after all, a player who has scored five goals from just four starts cannot be ignored too much longer.

Burchill is a wonderfully balanced youngster who carries the assuredness of someone entirely confident of their potential, yet cased in a thick shell of modesty.

He's mature for his age and was undoubtedly helped by his trip to France '98 where he rubbed shoulders with senior pros on the training pitch every day before heading off to undertake his tasks as kit boy.

There were many furrowed brows among the Celtic fans earlier this season when it appeared as if Burchill was set to leave under freedom of contract at the end of the season.

That was never an option, insisted the youngster who went on to sign a four-and-a-half year deal, though he does



Mark Burchill in his Scotland kit

admit he has been frustrated at limited first team opportunities recently.

That's even more surprising after the comments of former Dundee United favourite, Jim McNally, who played against Burchill recently in a youth game (Jim turned out as an over-age player!) and said later that the Celtic kid could go on to score 300 goals if he stays at Parkhead throughout his career.

Burchill added: "It's strange I don't seem to have been getting many chances since I signed the new contract but I know I can score goals.

"Mark cost £3 million, Harald cost £2 million and I cost nothing, which is exactly what the financial arguments are worth. I've always believed teams are picked on ability and not the size of transfer fee.

"It's unfortunate I haven't played more first team games at Parkhead, but I'm being kept out at the moment by two terrific players in Mark and Henrik.

"However, I've been working hard in training and I'm fit and ready for my chance." Who knows what will worry Sturrock the most this afternoon – the strains of 'Hail Hail' drifting across the tunnel or the sight of Burchill getting stripped and ready for action in the last 20 minutes of the match.

GARY RALSTON,
Scottish Sun