

**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!

**I**t 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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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

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# CHANGES AHEAD

**T**he man, without whose business acumen Celtic might not be competing in today's Scottish Cup semi-final, the club's former Chairman and Chief Executive, Fergus McCann, has walked away from Parkhead and asked new men to take the team to 'another level'.

Allan MacDonald is the new Chief Executive in charge of the day-to-day running of the Glasgow club with Frank O'Callaghan as Chairman and it is to the former British Aerospace executive that the task of taking Celtic into the new Millennium will fall.

In his first major media meeting, he made it clear that this was a job he relished and a challenge he was eager to face. In a glowing testimony to his successor, McCann suggested that MacDonald was better equipped to move the club onwards and upwards than he himself was.

Now MacDonald has the opportunity to live up to that massive compliment. He has explained already his belief that Celtic must be successful in a European environment, stressing: "There are going to be huge changes in the way European football is played and we, as a club, have to be ready to embrace any of the opportunities which are going to be open to us. One thing I know from my meetings with Fergus McCann and my study of the company's position is that Celtic are geared to go forward. I spent twenty-eight years pursuing another career in business and I had told British Aerospace that I wanted a change of direction and then this chance came up and it seemed ideal. Obviously I am a Celtic supporter and I have always attended as many matches as possible.

"Now I shall be able to see them all and try to help the club to the next level which Fergus has spoken of. The aim is to make Celtic the biggest and most successful club in Britain and if we can do that then we can also look to ensuring that our status in Europe is raised considerably. Personally I always believe there are lessons to be learned from history and often history repeats itself. In the late sixties and early seventies Celtic had a formidable record of success in Europe and football was one of the great products of Scotland. We want to see a return to these days with Celtic as the leaders in the process."

MacDonald has watched the transformation of the club in the five often turbulent and controversial McCann years.

Now he finds himself one of the keepers of the flame, a guardian of the Celtic traditions as a new football world beckons. MacDonald strikes you as a man who will embrace the fresh opportunities and be ready to provide the Celtic support with the players they want to see and a permanent place in Europe's soccer hierarchy that an afternoon in Lisbon more than thirty years ago surely gave them the right to expect.

**KEN GALLACHER,**  
The Herald

IF SHE SAID  
"IT'S CELTIC OR  
ME", WOULD YOU  
MISS HER?



# MEMORY LANE

**Twenty-five years ago . . . April 1974 . . . and a completely different football world from that of the present day.**

But the one constant has remained – controversy . . .

Celtic's European dream crashed around their ears on the playing pitch in Madrid and in the committee rooms at UEFA as anger flared and the SFA – as ever – was being criticised for their seeming intransigence over a Scottish Cup venue.

The month had begun well for the Parkhead club as they went through to the final of the Scottish Cup – the 9th appearance in ten years – thanks to a Jimmy Johnstone goal which beat Dundee and was the highlight of a performance from him which, it was reported, turned a “nervous semi-final occasion into a party for the 58,250 fans.”

But they had to wait for some time before learning that their opponents at Hampden Park would be Dundee United led by captain, Doug Smith, who was later to become a director of the club and as President of the Scottish League become embroiled in the momentous breakaway of the top ten clubs to form the now Scottish Premier League.

United's semi-final against Hearts required a replay after a 1-1 draw and the SFA angered both clubs who wanted to play in the east by insisting the replay must be at Hampden Park – and just 24 hours before Celtic met Atletico Madrid in a European Cup-tie in the same city.

Commentators at the time stated that the “SFA are nothing if not rigid” in their decision and the tie was finally played in front of only 12,860, with United winning 4-2.

But that was nothing compared to the furore the following evening at Celtic Park as Celtic and Atletico battled out a goalless draw in the first leg of their European tie. The Spaniards had three sent off, seven cautioned and there were calls for the Madrid club to be thrown out of the competition.

UEFA had to step in after a Celtic-led protest, but shockingly handed out only a tap on the wrist and decided that the second leg should be played.

Celtic directors met and in their reaction to the decision said that they were “completely mystified by its terms and consider it to be both illogical and unjust.”

However, there was to be no happy ending for manager, Jock Stein and his players for they were beaten 2-0 in an incident-free second leg.

But there were happier occasions, and none more than a double presentation at Ibrox when both John Greig and Derek Johnstone received silver salvers to mark club milestones – Greig had scored Rangers' 10,000th competitive goal and Johnstone their 6,000th league goal in the same 4-0 win over Clyde.

Twenty-five years on and this month, Greig received the ultimate accolade when the Rangers support voted him the greatest Ranger of them all.

St. Johnstone, meanwhile, were having a dangerous flirtation with relegation before a burst of goals from Jim Muir helped win some valuable points.

**BILL MARWICK**

# CELTIC

**Celtic are the greatest cup fighters of them all having lifted the old trophy on 30 occasions and appeared in 47 of the 103 finals since the year of their birth.**

There will be a sense of history about this year's Tennents Scottish Cup final on May 29th being the last of the century and the first in the revamped and refurbished Hampden Park and there is no doubt that Celtic want to be there.

While everyone in the Parkhead camp will continue to chase the Championship, there is a belief that the cup is a more tangible target and this will undoubtedly act as a spur today against Dundee United.

**JONATHAN GOULD** Born London 18.7.68  
Height 6ft 0in. Weight 13st 7lbs  
Having been signed by Wim Jansen for nothing last season, Gould has blossomed into a key member of Celtic's side, finally proving himself to be an excellent goalkeeper after years of reserve action in England. He has achieved 13 shut-outs this season which is a decent average and has been as consistent as he was last term.

**JACKIE McNAMARA** Born Glasgow 24.10.73  
Height 5ft 8ins. Weight 9st 7lbs  
One of the most talented players in the country, this season has been one frustration after another for Jackie who has been sidelined on three separate occasions because of injuries which have taken an eternity to clear up. His versatility allows him to operate in midfield and he may well play there today.

**TOM BOYD** Born Glasgow 24.11.65 Height 5ft 11ins.  
Weight 12st 4lbs  
Skipping Celtic to the cup would complete a personal hat-trick for Boyd, having lifted the League and League Cup last season and no-one will be more determined for victory today. He has been a consistent performer all season, which speaks volumes especially as the defensive system has changed.

**TOSH McKINLAY** Born Glasgow 3.12.64 Height 5ft 10ins.  
Weight 11st 9lbs  
Although resigned to leaving Celtic in the summer, McKinlay has responded to his recent inclusion like the good professional he is. The 34-year-old, who can still offer such a sweet delivery from the left side, would love to end his four and a half year association with another winner's medal.

**STEPHANE MAHE** Born Puteaux 23.9.68 Height 5ft 11ins. Weight 11st 11lbs  
The powerful Frenchman has been another excellent signing for Celtic, costing just £500,000 from Rennes in the summer of 1997, although he too had injury troubles at the start of the campaign when Celtic were at their least consistent. Always a tough competitor.

**PAUL LAMBERT** Born Paisley 7.8.69 Height 5ft 11ins. Weight 10st 6lbs  
When Lambert plays Celtic play. The anchorman in the middle of the park, Lambert is at the heart of everything Celtic do, rarely missing a team-mate with a pass and always in the right position to thwart any attacking thoughts the opposition may have. A key man.



*Tom Boyd*

## CRAIG BURLEY

Born Ayr 24.9.71

Height 5ft 11½ins. Weight 12st 13lbs

Like so many France '98 veterans, Craig was struck down with injury – in his case a hernia problem. He only returned to the side six weeks ago after a four-month absence and has been building back up to the form which made him player of the year last season.

## REGI BLINKER

Born Surinam 4.6.69

Height 5ft 8½ins. Weight 11st 7lbs

Similarly struck down with injury problems in the first half of the season, the Dutchman has been involved every week since the winter shutdown and has been showing the kind of form which the fans always knew he was capable of.

## PHIL O'DONNELL

Born Bellshill 25.3.72

Height 5ft 10ins. Weight 10st 5lbs

Having made his decision to leave the club in the summer for Sheffield Wednesday, O'Donnell had hoped to finish the season on a high with Celts but a niggling knee problem looks like ending that hope. His powerful runs and goal-scoring ability will be missed.

## MORTEN WIEGHORST

Born Glostrup 25.2.71

Height 6ft 3ins. Weight 13st 0lbs

Returned to the team last week after a long lay-off through injury, and the popular Dane will give an added dimension.

## LUBOMIR MORAVCIK

Born Slovakia 22.6.65

Height 5ft 6ins. Weight 11st 7lbs

The little Slovakian is arguably the best footballer in his country and Celtic's form since he arrived has been quite excellent with only two defeats in 15 games before he was struck down with a hamstring problem. A huge influence.

## MARK VIDUKA

Born Melbourne 9.10.75

Height 6ft 2ins. Weight 14st 6lbs

The Celtic fans may have waited a long time, but the Aussie striker has not let them down with some top performances and the goals to match since he finally got on with the business of playing for the club. Clearly a handful for United.

## HENRIK LARSSON

Born Sweden 20.9.71

Height 5ft 10ins. Weight 11st 11lbs

Quite simply in the best form of his life and literally unstoppable at times. The Swedish star's movement, control and striking prowess has been too good for every team in Scotland this season. The biggest danger to United.

## MARK BURCHILL

Born Broxburn

18.8.80

Height 5ft 8ins.

Weight 9st 9lbs

Due to the arrival of Viduka, the teenager is still cooling his heels on the bench most weeks but is always desperate to do well when he comes on. His fantastic pace makes him a nightmare for defences and he has already scored against United this season.

## HARALD BRATTBAKK

Born Norway 1.2.71

Height 5ft 9ins. Weight

11st 0lbs

He has suffered every striker's worst fear – missing virtually every time he is presented with an opportunity. The Norwegian is not one to feel sorry for himself and although more than likely on the bench today he will want to contribute.

## SIMON DONNELLY

Born Glasgow 1.12.74

Height 5ft 9ins.

Weight 10st 12lbs

A mixture of injury problems and Dr Jo's decision not to play him at times probably convinced Simon to agree a pre-contract with Sheffield Wednesday, just like O'Donnell, and he seems unlikely to feature. However, he clearly has the ability to hurt United if required.

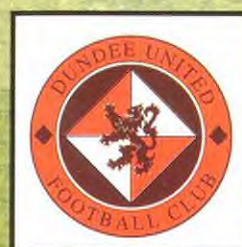
**LINDSAY HERRON,**  
The Scottish Express



*Regi Blinker*

# CELTIC

- 1 Jonathan GOULD
- 2 Tom BOYD
- 3 Stephane MAHE
- 4 Jackie McNAMARA
- 7 Henrik LARSSON
- 8 Craig BURLEY
- 9 Harald BRATTBAKK
- 10 Phil O'DONNELL
- 11 Morten WIEGHORST
- 13 Simon DONNELLY
- 14 Paul LAMBERT
- 18 Tosh McKINLAY
- 20 Regi BLINKER
- 25 Lubomir MORAVCIK
- 27 Mark BURCHILL
- 36 Mark VIDUKA



### REFEREE

Mr Willie Young (Clarkston)

### ASSISTANT REFEREES

Mr Martin Doran (Stewarton) and  
Mr Peter Peace (West Calder)

### FOURTH OFFICIAL

Mr Michael McCurry (Glasgow)



- 1 Sieb DYKSTRA
- 3 Maurice MALPAS
- 4 Sigi JONSSON
- 5 Darren PATTERSON
- 7 Kjell OLOFSSON
- 11 Craig EASTON
- 12 Alex MATHIE
- 13 Alan COMBE
- 14 Billy DODDS
- 15 Joe MILLER
- 16 Mark McNALLY
- 18 Neil DUFFY
- 19 Steven THOMPSON
- 20 Magnus SKOLDMARK
- 21 Jason de VOS
- 24 Tony MOLS
- 25 Neil MURRAY
- 34 David PARTRIDGE

# DUNDEE UNITED

## TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL TIE



• Spectators are urged to exercise the utmost care when leaving the ground, particularly in staircase areas. Your doing so will reduce to a minimum the risk of accident. We ask you to pay particular attention to this notice.

• First aid duties at today's match are kindly carried out by the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association.

• Today's Mitre Ultimax match ball has been supplied by Mitre Sports International Ltd., the official ball suppliers to the Scottish Football Association and the Scottish Football League.

• In the event of today's tie ending in a draw after 90 minutes, the match will be replayed at Ibrox Stadium on Tuesday, 20th April, kick-off 7.45 p.m.



# DUNDEE UNITED

**D**undee United will approach today's semi-final clash amid definite signs that Paul Sturrock is beginning to put together the squad he wants.

Recent performances against Celtic in Glasgow where the Tangerines were unlucky to lose 2-1, and their 1-0 win against Rangers at Ibrox, suggest better days ahead.

Yet several of the side which faces Celtic this afternoon will know that this is their very last chance to win a place in a Hampden final.

Some will move to other clubs next season while there are question marks over the future of others.

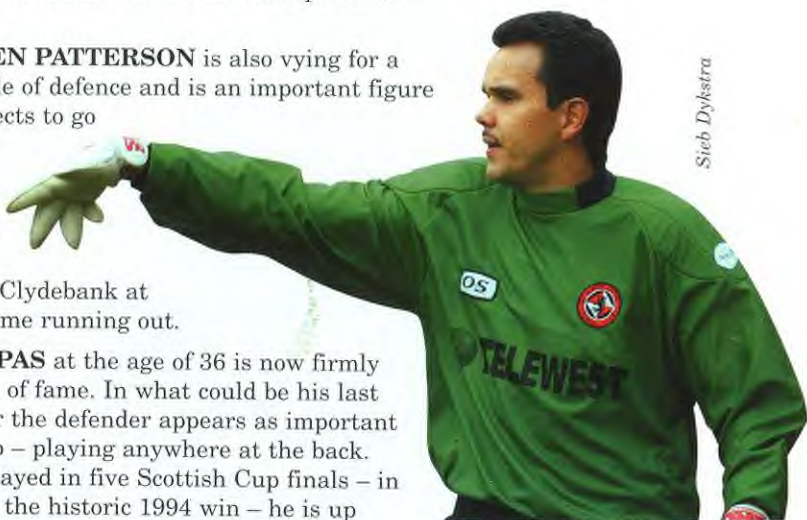
Eccentric keeper **SIEB DYKSTRA** has held talks about a new contract but it remains uncertain whether he will stay at Tannadice. A brilliant shot stopper, the Dutch keeper has become a cult figure at United with his loyal fans as likely to celebrate a mistake with the same enthusiasm as one of his gravity defying saves. The 32-year-old keeper, who briefly fell out with the club after losing his place to **ALAN COMBE** earlier in the season, goes for just about everything in his area and despite the heart-stopping moments is a difficult man to beat.

Canadian **JASON DE VOS** is just one of a number of shrewd signings manager Sturrock has made since taking over last September. When signed from Darlington for £300,000 at the end of 1998 it was largely a case of 'Jason who?' for most. Not any more. He has brought some authority to a United defence which was leaking alarmingly earlier in the campaign. De Vos has struck up an effective partnership with **NEIL DUFFY** who has finally shaken off the injury problems which have soured his time at Tannadice since he signed from Dundee more than two and a half years ago.

The 31-year-old defender is finally enjoying a few good breaks and gives United an added threat with some powerful forward runs.

Irishman **DARREN PATTERSON** is also vying for a place in the middle of defence and is an important figure when Sturrock elects to go with three at the back. Saved the club's cup hopes when he came up with a late equaliser against Clydebank at Forthbank with time running out.

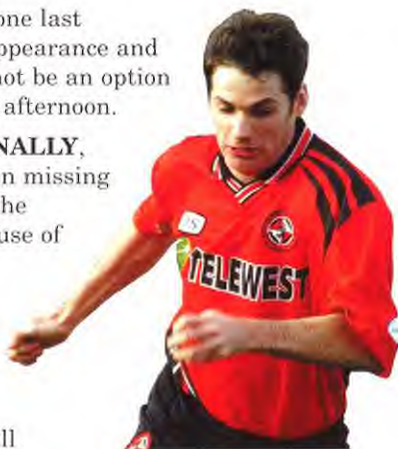
**MAURICE MALPAS** at the age of 36 is now firmly in the United hall of fame. In what could be his last season as a player the defender appears as important as ever to the club – playing anywhere at the back. Having already played in five Scottish Cup finals – in 85, 87, 88, 91 and the historic 1994 win – he is up there with Narey, Hegarty, Bannon and Sturrock.



Sieb Dykstra

Would love one last Hampden appearance and defeat will not be an option for him this afternoon.

**MARK McNALLY**, who has been missing for most of the season because of a blood problem, will also be pushing for a place after regaining full fitness.



*Joe Miller*

**CRAIG EASTON** is United's great hope in midfield. Stylish and clever, Craig plays in the style of an old fashioned inside forward and he is the club's best midfield prospect since Billy McKinlay. Has quickly formed an effective partnership with **David Hannah** who is unfortunately cup tied after playing for just 60 seconds in a previous tie with this afternoon's opponents.

**JOE MILLER** famously scored Celtic's winner against Rangers in the 1989 final and would love to get back to Hampden by putting one over his old side today. Has struggled to hold down a permanent first team slot this season but has often played a key role coming on as a sub.

**SIGI JONSSON** first came to fame as the victim of a Graeme Souness tackle in a World Cup clash between Iceland and Scotland back in 1985. Now 32, he has successfully rebuilt his career and has shown enormous versatility playing for United in both defence and midfield this season. Boasts a powerful shot but would like to add to his limited goal tally.

With popular Norwegian **Erik Pedersen** ruled out for the rest of the season with injury, recent signing, **NEIL MURRAY**, looks certain to feature in midfield.

Along with influential Swede, Kjell Olofsson, **BILLY DODDS** will be United's key man this afternoon. Signed from Aberdeen in the deal which took Robbie Winters to Pittodrie, the signing vies with Celtic's capture of Lubo Moravcik as the season's best bit of business. Since moving to Tannadice Dodds has resurrected his Scotland career by scoring three goals in two games against Estonia and the Faroe Islands and has netted a further 11

for United. One of the biggest tasks facing Paul Sturrock is replacing **KJELL OLOFSSON** who has announced he is returning to Norway in the summer. The Swede's influence on United is enormous. So often the main man with crucial goals and 'assists' he probably has the best 'final ball' of the entire playing staff. Scored the Ibrox winner against Rangers last month and will be well quoted to open the scoring at the same venue this time.

**ALEX MATHIE**'s £500,000 transfer from Ipswich Town last autumn was immediately hailed as one of United's best signings in a long time. Hasn't quite worked out that way so far with the hard-working former Celt taking time to reach his best form.



*Darren Patterson*

**STEVEN THOMPSON**'s height and weight immediately earned him the tag of being the 'new Duncan Ferguson'. Thankfully the 20-year-old has not been fazed by that baggage and could yet justify the extravagant comparison. Gives United a useful option up front and has excellent touch and pace for someone who measures in at six foot two.

**MAGNUS SKOLDMARK** returns to Ibrox desperate to make up for the sending off against Rangers last month which left his side with ten men for much of the second half. Utility man, Skoldmark, can play in a number of positions and may be asked to take up a holding role on this occasion.

**IAIN CAMPBELL,**  
Daily Record



**read about the bits you didn't see.**

SCOTLAND *on* SUNDAY

# Sport

# IN THE COMMUNITY



**A**s a regular in Dundee United's A championship winning side of 1983 John Holt was happy to keep his head down while team-mates like Paul Sturrock turned themselves into household names.

Sixteen years on with Sturrock now promoted to the post of manager at Tannadice, Holt finds himself still giving his all for United in a variety of roles that combine to keep his workload up and his profile down.

SFA Community Development Officer, manager of Dundee United Ladies and ever-willing assistant coach and scout for the big side, he is as likely to be found in the 'organised chaos' that is 70 over-excited kids on one of the Association's Goalgetters courses as he is putting one of the Tangerines' top stars through their paces.

It might not be the glamorous existence many dream of when they think of a full-time job in football but, as the man himself says, it suits John Holt.

"I would love to play in a Scottish Cup semi-final again but I wouldn't want to be the manager," he said.

"They get well paid but I honestly don't envy them their jobs and I say that having had a crack at it with Montrose.

"There is so much to deal with now, it must be hard to keep track. Players, agents, the press ... it just goes on and on.

"The demand is for instant success, with the result managers get no time to put down the sort of foundations that pay dividends in the end.

"What I do is very rewarding for most of the time I am helping people enjoy the sport and hopefully improve their ability so they can derive more pleasure from it.

"You can see kids pick up the things you teach them and start to incorporate them into their game. They can't all be superstars but the higher the standard is, the better for Scottish football on the whole.

"Working with teenagers comes naturally to me, for a strong youth policy has always been a tenet of United's success. It is still going strong with lots of good young players coming through the ranks."

As he admits with a laugh, that's to Holt's benefit for he has a vested interest in the subject.

The Allstars (over 35s) team which he plays for alongside United legends, Hamish McAlpine and Dave Narey, as well as Dundee boss Jocky Scott, are hoping to institute their own youth policy.

And among their ambitious signing targets is none other than current Tangerines stalwart, Maurice Malpas.

Like fans in the 80s who wondered when Holt would start shouting his mouth off, they could have a long wait.

**DAN STEWART,**  
The Courier

# JO VENGLOS and PAUL STURROCK

**Dr Jo Venglos of Celtic and Dundee United's Paul Sturrock share the distinction of being managers who were brought into their clubs around the start of this season – after their predecessors had departed abruptly – and who got their teams back on track so that this afternoon they are contesting a place in the last Scottish Cup final of the century.**

But what were they watching for when they first looked over their new charges on the training ground? What were the signs they hoped to see to suggest they might have winners on their hands? For Venglos, Celtic meant a new club but by no means a novel experience. The much travelled Bratislava-born coach, who steered Czechoslovakia to a superb win over West Germany in the 1976 European Championship final, aims for a mixture of ingredients.

“When assessing a team I always look for a high level of skill with a balance between technique and, of course, a good physical work rate”, says the Celtic boss. “There also has to be the right balance between attacking and defensive qualities but even if you think you have all those elements correct you still have to be sure that your players have the character and



*Dr Jo Venglos*

personality you require, otherwise the team will not work together.

“I would build firstly around three or four strong personalities but I also think you must build positive groupings of players. Teams cannot be put together overnight. It is a process, not only of money and buying players but also of bringing together footballers who can make a connection with each other, who will co-operate and have the personality to work for the whole team.”

If Jo Venglos has been a globetrotting coach, Paul

Sturrock's career as a player and manager has never taken him far from Tayside. When he came back to Tannadice from St. Johnstone, he instinctively fell back into the habits he first learned as a Dundee United striker under Jim McLean.

"When you've spent your career playing for one club you have a tendency to mould your teams in the way you've been brought up. You can see that 4-4-2 is my natural style but I do believe in pace, which is absolutely essential in the modern game," says Sturrock. "It's a bit different building a team here because if you're not in charge of one of the Old Firm clubs you start at a disadvantage which you have to make up.

"I want to play attacking football but I also have to be realistic. This season some teams have had a go at Celtic and Rangers and lost 5-0 and 6-0. People say that's a breath of fresh air but it's also a bad beating. So you have to know when to be cautious. I always look for skill in a player but eleven skilful players won't win you games. Attitude and work rate is important before ability. There was ability here when I came but not the scratching and biting you need to win games."

Ask a player and manager to select their favourite team or game and you'll usually find they've been involved, one way or another. Venglos and Sturrock are no exceptions.

Says Venglos: "The Czechoslovakian team in 1976 was very strong and to win the European Championship in 1976 was a great achievement. But Real Madrid in the 1960s, Brazil in 1970 and the Dutch team of the 70s were also great sides. My great match has to be the 1976 European Championship final but the World Cup games between France and West Germany in 1982 and Brazil and Italy in 1970 were also wonderful. Brazil in 1970



*Paul Sturrock*

played what I feel was the last romantic World Cup, where players had real freedom to express themselves."

Sturrock's selection is a hymn to back fours. "My choice of team has to be AC Milan seven or eight years ago when they turned the Italian league upside down by going to 4-4-2 with players like Baresi and Maldini. And I love the Arsenal defence. It started with George Graham and Arsene Wenger was very wise not to tamper with it. Otherwise, my best memories are of the Dundee United side which beat Monaco 5-2 in 1981. That was the start of a team which could dismantle the opposition when we got on a roll and there's no finer sight in football than a side playing with that sort of flair and confidence." \*

**RODDY FORSYTH,**  
Sunday Telegraph

# "A SEASONED SOCCER EUROCRAT"

# NEIL MURRAY

Six years ago Neil Murray was a raw Rangers rookie fulfilling a childhood fantasy when he scored a Scottish Cup final goal in the triumph over Aberdeen that clinched the Treble.

Today in this last four showdown with his old foes, Celtic, the Dundee United star returns to his old turf for the first time a seasoned soccer Eurocrat.

This game's popular wisdom tells you that every step away from Ibrox drags you into a downward spiral yet Murray has chosen to buck the trend.

The intelligent 26-year-old midfielder will walk back through the marble halls where he grew up as a footballer having won the Double in Switzerland with Sion and promotion to the top flight in France with Lorient.

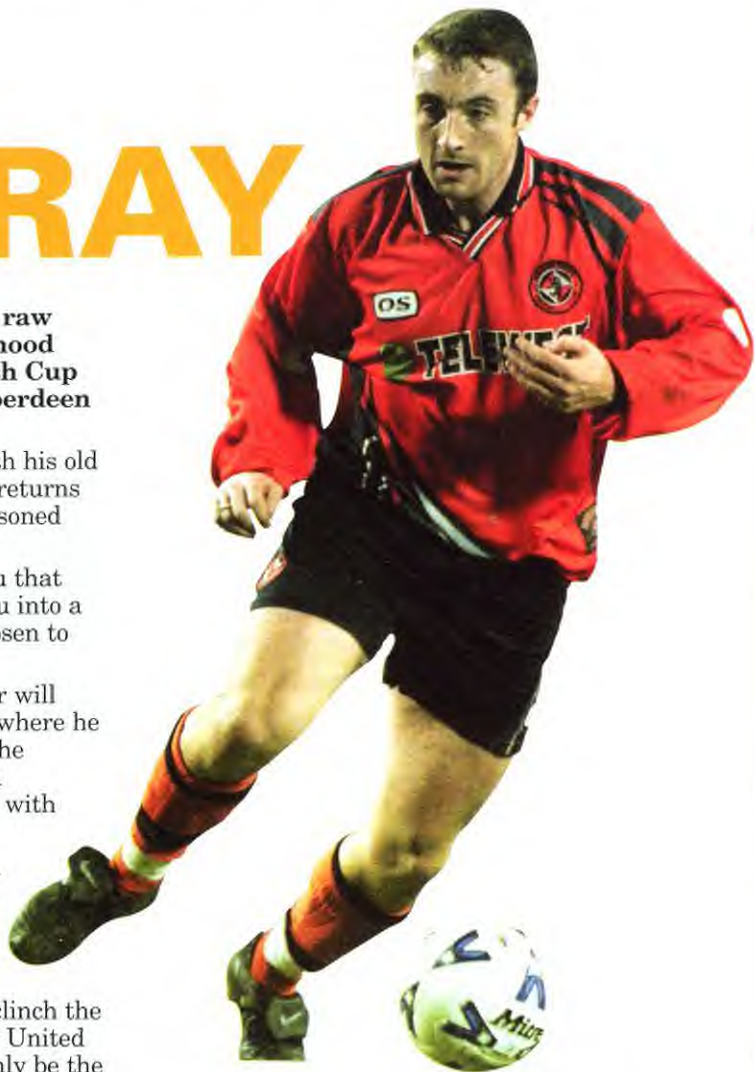
He has grown both as a player and a person in his time away and United, for now at least, look set to reap the rewards of his graduation with honours.

That spectacular volley that helped clinch the 2-1 quarter-final replay win over Ayr United to bring United to this match may only be the start for a player with a mind of his own.

The boy raised as a player by Rangers reserve coaches and Tannadice legends, Davie Dodds and Billy Kirkwood, is single-minded enough to have spent two months out of the game earlier this season to ensure he got the move he wanted.

And he smiled: "I remember the influence those two had on me in that final, from the day before the match when Doddsy told me I was playing until the warm-up before the match when Billy urged me to do something people would remember me by.

"I was lucky enough to score and whether anyone else will ever remember it, I always will.



"When the chance came I was surprised because it was quite an easy clearance for Brian Irvine to make but he was deceived and sliced it.

"There was spin on it and it broke away from me but I got the shot across goal and it deflected off Brian and in.

"That game showed the two sides of that Rangers team, from extravagant play to grit and determination, the final summed up the season.

"There was quality and arrogance yet there was steel too. That team had leaders all over the field from skipper, Richard Gough to Stuart McCall and Ally McCoist."

Murray's departure from Rangers may have tugged at his heart strings but it is not in his nature to dwell on disappointment.

Instead Neil, the former accountant who now speaks fluent French and a smattering of Italian, threw himself into being a success in Europe. He made the grade.

After missing out on United's shock 1-0 win at Ibrox last month through injury, Neil is desperate to play in this one and he insisted: "I don't regret leaving Rangers.

"I have played more first team games, I have won the Double in Switzerland, promotion in France and learned so much."

Part of that Soccer School came with a wily Slovakian taking the class. Of all the players who will face Celtic's Lubomir Moravcik this afternoon Murray knows what to expect.

The two were thrown together at Sion as club president, Christian Constantin, took a massive gamble on making the Champions League.

That dream died at the hands of the Turks, Galatasary, and mounting money worries meant the team was broken up.

Neil recalled: "Lubo had an injury after a fortnight training and never played for Sion, but my first glance was enough.

"I thought right away this was like Brian Laudrup at Rangers and every day I saw him I never changed my mind.

"Left foot, right foot, scores goals, sets them up, great awareness and a terrific passer. What more do you want?

"He was a fantastic talent and looking back his injury was a huge blow because with him I feel we could have made the Champions League and kept the club on the right tracks."

Instead Moravcik, Murray and other stars like Switzerland's former Monaco striker, Marco Grassi, were scattered around Europe in a selling spree and Neil opted for France.

Lorient are not the most glamorous club in a gifted league, but under coach, Christian Gourcuff, Neil believes he came of age as a player.

He stressed: "It was the club where I learned the most. The standard of the training was so technical and the organisation so strict.

"I learned so much about the roles of players within a team. It was the first club I had ever been at where the training games would be one-touch most of the time, two maximum.

Sadly after a superb season when he helped guide the club to the Promised Land



*Murray's former colleague, Lubomir Moravcik*

alongside Marseille and Paris Saint Germain, Lorient was riven by internal rows.

Neil found himself frozen out in a cash dispute and decided the easiest option was to terminate his contract and take a free transfer.

He trained at Aberdeen but the deal fizzled out, then enjoyed a similar stint at Port Vale, yet decided to wait for the European transfer window to open.

A trial spell with Chievo in Italy held some promise and German Second Division side, Mainz, were aching to seal a deal but his transfer would have put them in the red.

Where other players might have panicked Murray stayed cool, stayed fit and won his Tannadice stint.

And Neil, whose last game at Ibrox was a 1-1 Champions League draw with Steaua Bucharest, reasoned: "I'm happy here but if the permanent deal doesn't come off and the chance arises to go again then I'd happily take Spain, Italy, France, Germany or England.

"Those are the big championships in Europe and the countries who contest the glamorous European finals.

"Whatever happens I'm a confident person now, I have been around Europe and I have been through two months pondering my future in the game.

"I was mature enough to believe in myself then even though I was a man without a club. I'll continue to do that."

**IAIN KING,**  
Sunday Mail



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## ENCOUNTERS

**The last time these two teams met in this competition it was more like the Scandinavian Cup than the Scottish version.**

The scoreline at Tannadice in the quarter-final clash just over a year ago was Dundee United 2 Celtic 3.

Ah, but look at the scorers. For United the two goals came from the Swede, Kjell Olofsson.

Celtic's came from the Norwegian, Harald Brattbakk, the Dane, Morten Wieghorst and unluckily for yet another Scandinavian, United's Norwegian defender, Erik Pedersen the last and decisive goal came off him into his own net.

And to make matters worse, it happened in the dying seconds of the game when a draw looked inevitable.

"The great escape" is how Wieghorst described the tie afterwards. "But it really was a terrific cup tie. Tremendously entertaining for the fans. The game swung one way and then the other."

That 3-2 scoreline was, incidentally, exactly the same as when the clubs met for the first of their previous 11 Scottish Cup ties (including one replay) away back on February 4th, 1931.

So not much has changed over the years when it comes to cup meetings between these two teams.

United scored a spectacular win when the teams met for the second time in the trophy – a stunning 4-3 victory at Tannadice in the first round of the competition on January 22, 1949.

Celtic had to wait until 1970 to get revenge for that one – beating the Dundee side 4-0 at Parkhead in the second round with a first-half double from John Hughes and other strikes for Lou Macari and Willie Wallace rounded off a nice day for the Celtic fans in the 45,000 crowd.

In the past 25 years there have been three cup finals fought out between the two sides, with Celtic emerging victorious each time.

The first of the finals came at Hampden in May, 1974. Goals from Harry Hood and Steve Murray set Celts up for their 3-0 win, the other goal coming from Dixie Deans.

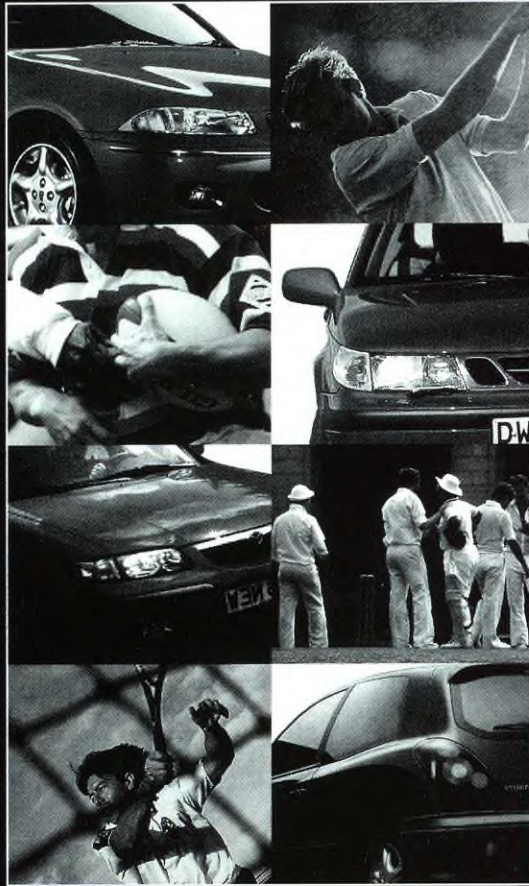
And there is an intriguing note to this tie . . . playing for United were a certain Mr Smith and Mr Knox . . . yes, Walter and Archie, who went on to form the trophy-winning Rangers side of the 90s.

No doubt they learned a hard lesson that May day.



*Morten Wieghorst scored in last season's cup classic*

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Somebody obviously learned something, because when the sides next met in the 1981 semi-final, United battled through a 0-0 draw at Hampden and then came out on top in the replay with a familiar looking 3-2 scoreline.

They showed guts, too. Going down after only five minutes to a Charlie Nicholas penalty, they hit back with two goals inside two minutes from Eammon Bannon and Paul Hegarty and even after Champagne Charlie levelled the tie up at 2-2 before the interval, United battled on to produce a 75th minute winner from Hegarty.

On to 1985 – and what was the 100th Scottish Cup final. Celtic fought their way through ties against Hamilton, Inverness Thistle, Dundee and Motherwell to get there.

United saw off Hibernian, Queen of the South, St. Mirren and Aberdeen to make it. A crowd of 80,346 at Hampden on May 18th saw United fill their fans with hope with a 54th minute opener.

But manager, Davie Hay, pulled Roy Aitken out of defence with 20 minutes to go and the surging strength he provided in midfield helped bring about a 76th minute equaliser from a Davie Proven free kick and then six minutes from the end Frank McGarvey threw himself head-first at an Aitken cross to bullet in a spectacular winner. Current United manager, Paul Sturrock, featured for the Tannadice team in that one.

It was back to Hampden again for the pair three years later . . . and again it finished 2-1 Celtic.

This time it was golden bhoys, Frank McAvennie who did the dirty deed on United – who once again had the agony of having a lead snatched from them . . . then lost to a goal in the dying seconds.

Kevin Gallacher put United ahead with a great 48th minute strike, but McAvennie hit back to draw Celts level with 15 minutes to go . . . and there was about 15 seconds to go when he stabbed in the winner.



*Maurice Malpas*

The ageless Maurice Malpas is the only survivor from that meeting who is still actively involved with his club – he has been 20 years a player at Tannadice now.

There have been three Cup clashes in the 1990s – all of them going to Celtic by the odd goal.

It was 2-1 in the fourth round in February 1992, with goals from Gerry Creaney and Tommy Coyne enough to fend off United who had only a Mixu Paatelainen score to show.

Then in 1996 in the quarter-final at Parkhead it was the same old story. United led from the 28th minute with an Owen Coyle strike and a fine win looked on with just two minutes left to play.

But in an unbelievable 90 seconds, in stepped two of Celtic's continental players to win the day.

No Scandinavians this time . . . just Dutchman, Pierre Van Hooijdonk and German, Andreas Thom, who were providing the continental touch.

The Dutchman levelled in the 88th minute and, would you believe it, the winner from Thom came just over a minute later.

So the advice to everyone at today's semi-final is . . . don't leave the ground early. There is a distinct chance you will miss some excitement.

**DIXON BLACKSTOCK,**  
(Saturday Times)

# OFFICIALS

**Mention the Chinese New Year to today's referee, Willie Young, and it will bring back the memory of an outstanding fireworks display over the harbour in Hong Kong.**

Earlier this year the Clarkston referee spent a wonderful week officiating at the Carlsberg Cup tournament – an international tournament played in Hong Kong and involving not only the hosts but Egypt, Bulgaria and Mexico.

“The Chinese were desperate to show that there could still be spectacular occasions even though they had taken over in Hong Kong and I believe the fireworks display was the biggest ever.

“I refereed the opening game in the tournament – Egypt against Bulgaria – with 35,000 attending even though it was also live on television. And then I took charge of the final in which Mexico beat Egypt in front of a 42,000 crowd and again that was live on television. It was a very good competition and the whole week was an amazing occasion and one which I will long remember”.

But while that was without doubt the farthest trip this season it was also only the latest for the Glasgow solicitor as he continued to be called upon by UEFA to take charge in European competitions.

“By Christmas I had been to France twice, Spain, Holland and Italy – and so far including my period when I was on the line I have been involved in 54 games in Europe in 25 different countries”.

Willie has also been kept busy at home since his appointment to the top grade and was the Tennents Scottish Cup final referee only a year ago while he has also taken charge of three semi-finals in that premier tournament and three semi-finals in the League Cup over the past three seasons. And he has an interesting view of the new concept this season that an elite group of Grade One referees only should take charge of Scottish Premier League games.

“I believe this is a good move. I am sure it improves the standard of the referees – I feel that I am refereeing more consistently this season than ever before as I am exposed to the players and they to me more often. We get to know each other – our strengths and our weaknesses – and we all get on much better”.

As part of the strengthening of the refereeing system the SFA introduced a new category of official – Specialist Assistant Referees, or as they were previously called linesmen. The change of emphasis is that these officials concentrate on running the line and develop that particular skill.

Two such officials, **Martin Doran** and **Peter Peace**, are on the lines today while, to complete the team, UEFA and Grade One referee, **Michael McCurry**, who has been in charge of a number of important clashes, will be the fourth official.

**BILL MARWICK**



The Football Trust has been providing support for football throughout the UK for 22 years.

A major new funding package involving contributions from the Scottish Sports Council Lottery Sports Fund has been added to the Trust's pools derived income for the benefit of football at all levels in Scotland. In addition, the Scottish Football Association is an active participant in helping to fund projects of national significance and at grass roots levels.

The Trust is working hard to ensure the Taylor programme is completed successfully in Scotland. Grant aid is available for Taylor related projects and essential safety work.

The Trust is about a great deal more than bricks and mortar: it can handle grant aid programmes of every sort and provides essential help for the game at all levels.

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