

# CELTIC



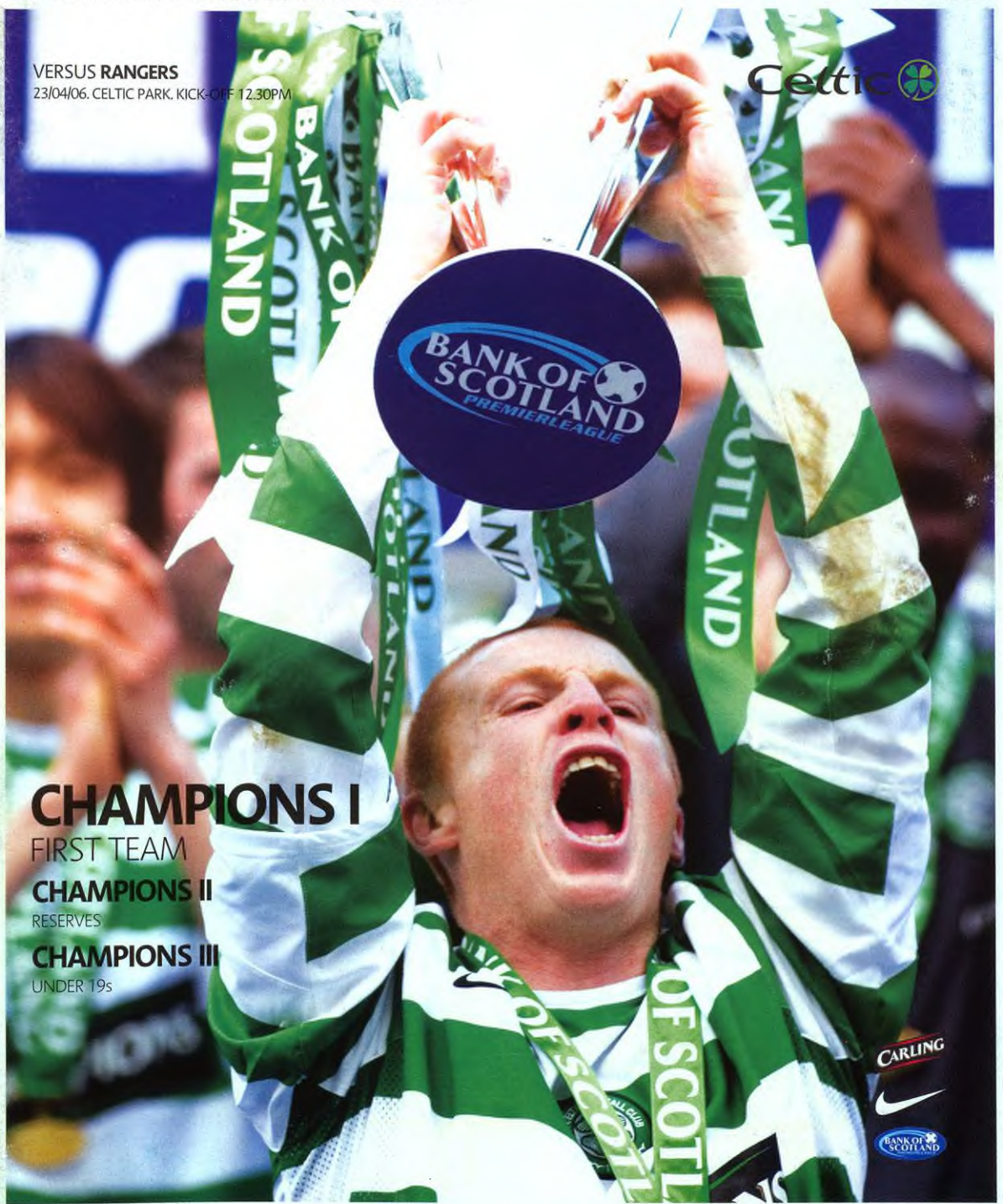
THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2005/06

ISSUE 23. PRICE £2.50

**VERSUS RANGERS**

23/04/06. CELTIC PARK. KICK-OFF 12.30PM

Celtic 



## CHAMPIONS I

FIRST TEAM

## CHAMPIONS II

RESERVES

## CHAMPIONS III

UNDER 19s

CARLING



THE GREAT BALANCE OF TASTE  
AND ICE COLD REFRESHMENT

SPOT  
ON

CARLING  
EXTRA COLD

First of all, the first team aren't the only title-holders within these walls as both the Under 19s and the Reserves have also won their leagues to give us a nice wee Treble



GORDON  
STRACHAN

**W**ELCOME back to Celtic Park for another installment in what has been a remarkable trio of consecutive games for the regular home crowd.

First we had a table-top clash with our nearest challengers and that was the night we claimed the title against Hearts and that meant our next home game was also going to be memorable as the game against Hibs finished with the trophy celebration.

And that brings us to today's game and while there won't be any Championships won or silverware handed out, this is one you certainly don't need to talk up and one that sets the pulses racing no matter what is at stake.

But, first of all, the first team aren't the only title-holders within these walls as both the Under 19s and the Reserves have also won their leagues to give us a nice wee Treble.

I am delighted for Kenny McDowall who, together with Danny McGrain and the players have put in a tremendous effort to retain the Reserve Championship trophy. It is a remarkable achievement to have won this trophy for five consecutive seasons as they have done.

Willie McStay has also done a magnificent job together with Joe McBride to win the Youth Championship this season for the fourth successive season and they too deserve great credit for their achievements.

Both of the younger sides played through difficult campaigns and our drive to the SPL title was no different as could be shown by our endeavours in our last home game here against Hibs last week.

Hibs have been one of the form teams this season and have created problems for more than a few teams so I'm pleased with our record against them this term despite the 1-1 draw.

Our other three games against them were victories and I have to say, after a quiet start, last week's match really rose to the occasion and I thoroughly enjoyed the football on show and I thought our forward play was better than in any of our three wins over Hibs.

But that brings us right up to today's match with Rangers and this a game we will approach in the same manner as we have done for the other games after the split – by doing our best to win it.

I think our performances in the last two games show that we still have that hunger for points and, in any case, these games certainly don't need any motivation.

Indeed, it will be the same for our further three games after today against Hearts, Kilmarnock and Aberdeen - we will approach each of these remaining games in the same manner as we have prepared for these two games past since we won the title.

**CLUB DIRECTORY & HONOURS**

Celtic Football Club  
 Celtic Park Glasgow G40 3RE  
 Telephone: 0845 671 1888  
 Website: www.celticfc.net  
 Formed: 1888  
 Stadium: Celtic Park  
 Capacity: 60,506  
 Home strip colours: Green / white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks  
 Away strip colours:  
 Green shirts, green shorts, green 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 in 1 season:  
 50 - Jimmy McGrory, 1935-36  
 Most Premier/SPL goals in 1 season:  
 35 - Brian McClair, 1986-87  
 35 - Henrik Larsson, 2000-01

**CLUB HONOURS**

**Scottish League Winners [ 40 times ]**  
 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, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2003-04, 2005-06

**Scottish Cup Winners [ 33 times ]**  
 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, 2004, 2005

**League Cup Winners [ 13 times ]**  
 1956-57, 1957-58, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1974-75, 1982-83, 1997-98, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2005-06

European Cup Winners 1967

Coronation Cup Winners 1953

**CELTIC PLC DIRECTORS**

**Celtic plc Directors:**  
 Brian Quinn  
 Peter Lawwell  
 Eric Riley  
 Dermot Desmond  
 Tom Allison  
 Eric Hagman  
 Brian McBride  
 Brian Wilson

**CFAC Directors:**  
 Peter Lawwell  
 Eric Riley  
 John Keane  
 Michael McDonald  
 Kevin Sweeney

**Manager:**  
 Gordon Strachan

**Assistant Manager:**  
 Garry Pendrey

**Coach:**  
 Tommy Burns

**Head of Youth:**  
 Tommy Burns

**Youth team Coach:**  
 Willie McStay

**Reserve Coach:**  
 Kenny McDowall

**Physiotherapists:**  
 Tim Williamson &  
 Gavin McCarthy

**Club Doctor:**  
 Roddy Macdonald

**Kit Controller:**  
 John Clark

**CELTIC MATCHDAY MAGAZINE**

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**CLUB SPONSORS**



**FIXTURES**

Sunday, April 30  
 Scottish PremierLeague  
 Hearts v **CELTIC**

Wednesday, May 3  
 Scottish PremierLeague  
**CELTIC** v Kilmarnock

Sunday, May 7  
 Scottish PremierLeague  
 Aberdeen v **CELTIC**

**TODAY'S OFFICIALS**

**Referee:** Craig Thomson  
**Assistant Referees:** Gordon Middleton  
 George Drummond  
**Fourth Official:** Dougie McDonald

**CELTIC**

- 1 ARTUR BORUC
- 2 PAUL TELFER
- 3 MOHAMED CAMARA
- 4 ADAM VIRGO
- 6 DIANBOBO BALDE
- 7 MACIEJ ZURAWSKI
- 8 ALAN THOMPSON
- 9 DION DUBLIN
- 10 JOHN HARTSON
- 11 STEPHEN PEARSON
- 12 MARK WILSON
- 16 ROY KEANE
- 18 NEIL LENNON
- 19 STILIAN PETROV
- 22 DAVID MARSHALL
- 23 STAN VARGA
- 25 SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA
- 29 SHAUN MALONEY
- 33 ROSS WALLACE
- 35 PAUL LAWSON
- 37 CRAIG BEATTIE
- 38 ROCCO QUINN
- 40 MICHAEL GARDYNE
- 41 JOHN KENNEDY
- 42 MICHAEL McGLINCHEY
- 43 DIARMUID O'CARROLL
- 44 STEPHEN McMANUS
- 46 AIDEN McGEADY
- 47 MICHAEL McGOVERN
- 48 DARREN O'DEA
- 49 SCOTT CUTHBERT
- 50 GARY IRVINE



**RANGERS**

- 1 STEFAN KLOS
- 2 FERNANDO RICKSEN
- 3 OLIVIER BERNARD
- 4 THOMAS BUFFEL
- 5 MARVIN ANDREWS
- 6 BARRY FERGUSON
- 7 BRAHIM HEMDANI
- 8 ALEX RAE
- 9 DADO PRSO
- 10 NACHO NOVO
- 11 GAVIN RAE
- 12 ROBERT MALCOLM
- 14 SOTIROS KYRGIAKOS
- 15 KRIS BOYD
- 16 JULIEN RODRIGUEZ
- 17 CHRIS BURKE
- 18 JOSE PIERRE-FANFAN
- 20 ALAN HUTTON
- 24 IAN MURRAY
- 25 RONALD WATERREUS
- 26 PETER LOVENKRANDS
- 31 HAMED NAMOUCHI
- 33 MARK KALENGA
- 34 STEVEN SMITH
- 37 GARY MacKENZIE
- 39 ROBERT DAVIDSON
- 40 GRAEME WATSON
- 41 LEE ROBINSON
- 42 DEREK CARCARY
- 45 STEVEN CAMPBELL
- 50 DANY N'GUESSAN
- 51 ALAN LOWING



# TAKE FIVE

THE RESERVES CAP A REMARKABLE 2005/06 TREBLE FOR CELTIC



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: GREGOR KYLE PICTURES: SNS

**T**HE RESERVES completed a remarkable treble for Celtic Football Club in 2006 on Tuesday, making it a clean sweep of honours at youth, reserve and first-team level with their fifth consecutive league title.

The Reserve League trophy will now join the Youth League title, Scottish Premierleague championship and League Cup in the trophy room at Celtic Park, sealing an impressive sweep of honours in Gordon Strachan's first year as Celtic manager.

This latest league victory is also the fifth consecutive title that has been clinched under coach Kenny McDowall and his assistant Danny McGrain, further asserting Celtic's supremacy at youth and reserve levels.

In past seasons the trophy has been sealed by a straight victory, but this time it was delivered following a dramatic chain of events that began at the Excelsior Stadium in Airdrie late on Tuesday afternoon and ended at Almondvale that same evening.

The day kicked-off with Celtic facing Motherwell at the Excelsior Stadium and with just 10 minutes remaining in the match, the reserves were trailing by one goal to nil. Rocco Quinn then produced a late contender for reserve goal of the season with his spectacular volley to level and with the Fir Park side reduced to 10 men through injury, Darren O'Dea was the unlikely goal hero,

grabbing his first goal of the season to seal the victory.

As the Celtic players left the field they knew that the pressure was all on their rivals, Aberdeen and Rangers, who both had to win all of their remaining matches and hope that the defending champions would slip up in their final game against Dundee United.

That pressure first began to tell on second-placed Aberdeen, who lost 5-3 against Dundee United despite going two goals ahead and striker John Stewart scoring a hat-trick.

Rangers then travelled through to Almondvale in the knowledge that they now stood as Celtic's principal challengers for the title and they responded by fielding a strong side featuring both Gavin and Alex Rae, Hamed Namouchi and Jose Karl Pierre Fanfan.

Former Dundee midfielder Rae opened the scoring in the 18th minute to get Rangers off to the perfect start, but in the lead up to half time their energy ebbed and Jimmy Scott levelled in the 40th minute.

In the second half Rangers then buckled, with Livingston bombarding their goal throughout the final 30 minutes and they were perhaps lucky to emerge from the game with a solitary point.

But this point was not enough and when the referee's whistle sounded at around 9pm, news began to filter back to coach Kenny McDowall.

"I actually thought that it was going to be a tricky game for Rangers against Livingston, after the hard time they gave us in our last meeting," said McDowall as he picked up the story.

"You are always hoping that other teams are going to do you a wee favour, but at the end of the day, you can only do your own work and we did that at the Excelsior that afternoon when we beat Motherwell.

"That put us in the driving seat and we knew that the win or even a point from our last game would give us the title. I was actually going to go to the Rangers game, but decided against it at the last minute," added McDowall. "But as it turns out that wasn't necessary.

"I received one call from the Celtic View office telling me the result minutes after the final whistle and then a few minutes later, Peter Lawwell had called with his congratulations."

The reserve coach then got on the phone to team captain Paul Lawson to discover that the reserve players had actually gathered that night to watch the Champions League game between AC Milan and Barcelona.

"Word had got around," he laughed, "a few of the boys had actually been texting me to say that they'd heard the score and wanted to know what that meant for us. Most of them were all round in Simon Ferry's house watching the football and it was great, when I called and broke the news they all started singing 'Championees' in the background. It was fantastic and I am so pleased for them."

"This year it has been particularly difficult, given that it has been such a young group of players," continued McDowall, who was perhaps most affected by the summer departures of no fewer than 12 players.

"What you find is that you do tend to get some inconsistencies along the line and one or

two bad results. But credit to the players, we have played 21 matches and lost only three of them and that says a lot about the lads.

"They have shown consistency throughout the season and on days when things maybe haven't been going as well for them, they have still succeeded in getting the result. That shows that they have the right mentality to be at Celtic.

"The progress that they have made this season has been fantastic and that has only been further highlighted by the number of lads who have been getting in and around the first team.

"Progress is the most important thing at this level and of course it's nice to win the league, but a time will come when we are not winning and people will be quick enough to let us know about that as well.

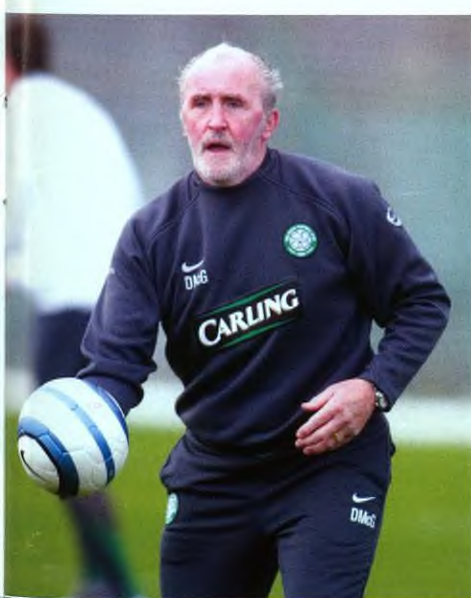
"So it's great that they are getting into a winning mentality, which is vital at a big club like Celtic."

That 'winning mentality' has now been maintained for five years at reserve level by the McDowall/McGrain partnership and this has been further complimented by the Under 19s' four back-to-back title victories.

But as McDowall explained, their dominance is made all the more remarkable by the barren decade that preceded it and he believes that his young players deserve great credit for both their form and consistency.

"That's five years in a row that we have won it now and considering that the club had not won the trophy for 10 years before that, makes it such a great feat by the players. Of course, we have had a few different teams over the years now, but the standard keeps getting better.

"As I have said all along this season," added McDowall, "this year it has been a real squad effort and every member of the squad has played their part."



“ So it's great that they are getting into a winning mentality, which is vital at a big club like Celtic ”