

Celtic

CHALLENGE MATCH THURSDAY,
AUGUST 10, 1995 KICK-OFF 7.45

LIVERPOOL

**RETURN
TO
PARADISE:
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GALA DAY
SPECIAL**

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ON JOHN
COLLINS**

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TOMMY BURNS



I WOULD like to congratulate all the Celtic fans for instantly recapturing the much-missed atmosphere on Saturday when they returned to Celtic Park for the first time in 15 months.

It was fantastic to be back home a last. And everyone connected with the club — even those who were experiencing it for the first time — was amazed at the atmosphere. It was quite unique and a great inspiration to the players ... and that's what we want.

I AM SURE THAT PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER SATURDAY FOR A LONG, LONG TIME TO COME AS IT WAS A REAL GALA DAY.

As for the match, for the first hour against Newcastle we played well, and then they found their feet and really threatened in the last 20 minutes, which is only to be expected from the kind of quality side they are.

Over the piece, though, I was pleased with our standard of play, and with our new signing Andreas Thom.

Positive

He showed his shrewdness of mind and quickness of feet in the move that won us the penalty and it proved that he has a lot of positive attributes that I am sure we will see a lot more of in the future.

It was nice to score the first goal in the new stadium and at the Celtic end as well, and just unfortunate that we didn't score another when big Pierre's shot came back off the crossbar.

But all in all it was a positive performance. The players' attitude has been first class, going about their business very well and playing a lot of good football.

TONIGHT WE HAVE ANOTHER NEW SIGNING ON SHOW IN JOHN HUGHES, AND WE'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE RIGHT AWAY HOW HE DOES.

This is our third game in 10 days against a big club and after the draws with Everton and Newcastle it would be nice to finish with a victory.

But we know that won't come easy against Liverpool, who I would like to welcome here for this homecoming match.

Saturday was a great day for the club and I'm sure Celtic people will remember it for a long time

The 6-0 defeat the last time we played them will be in all of our memories for a long time.

BUT TONIGHT WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW JUST HOW MUCH WE HAVE IMPROVED SINCE THEN.

Let's hope it is another great occasion like Saturday and that we give the fans plenty more to cheer about.



YET ANOTHER GREAT VAN TO BEAR THE CR SMITH NAME



YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO REAL QUALITY

CR SMITH

WE ONLY DELIVER THE BEST



THE SQUADS



**PAT
BONNER**



**TOM
BOYD**



**TOSH
MCKINLAY**



**MARK
MCNALLY**



**TONY
MOWBRAY**



**PETER
GRANT**



**BRIAN
MCLAUGHLIN**



**RUDI
VATA**



**PIERRE
VAN HOOIJDONK**



**ANDY
WALKER**



**JOHN
COLLINS**



**STUART
GRAY**



**SIMON
DONNELLY**



Referee:
**L.W. Mottram
FORTH**



Linesman:
**J.P. McBride
HOUSTON**



Linesman:
**J. McDowall
FENWICK**

STAND-BYS:
Celtic: Gordon
Marshall
(GK), Brian
McLaughlin,
Malky McKay.
Liverpool:
Michael
Stensgard, Nigel
Clough, Michael
Thomas

**DAVID
JAMES**



**ROB
JONES**



**JOHN
SCALES**



**NEIL
RUDDOCK**



**PHIL
BABB**



**STIG
BJORNEBYE**



**STEVE
MCMANAMAN**



**JAMIE
REDKNAPP**



**IAN
RUSH**



**STAN
COLLYMORE**



**ROBBIE
FOWLER**



**JOHN
BARNES**



**JAN
MOLBY**



IN ASSOCIATION WITH **CR SMITH**



+ TONIGHT'S VISITORS +



After a barren spell Liverpool are geared to make a renewed challenge for the big prizes down south. And the squad being put together by manager Roy Evans has impressed many and the Anfield boss will be keen to gauge their progress at Celtic Park tonight.

Goalkeeper DAVID JAMES was signed as an apprentice at Watford by former England manager Graham Taylor, after training with Spurs as a schoolboy. James had won 10 England under 21 caps before his £1 million transfer to Liverpool in June 1992. On standby for England during the Umbro Tournament in the summer of 1995.

Stand by MICHAEL STENSGAARD was Evans' first signing in the summer of 1994 and, at the age of 21, looks set for a big future. The Danish Under -21 keeper came from the same junior club as Manchester United's Peter Schmeichel. He had spells with Everton, Bolton Wanderers and Dundee United before Liverpool signed him.

England defender ROB JONES signed from Crewe Alexandra in October 1991 and WAS immediately thrown in against Manchester United at Old Trafford during an injury crisis. Born in Wrexham he trained with Crewe as a 12-year-old and made his debut at just 16. Played 46 games last season and is set for a long and distinguished career.

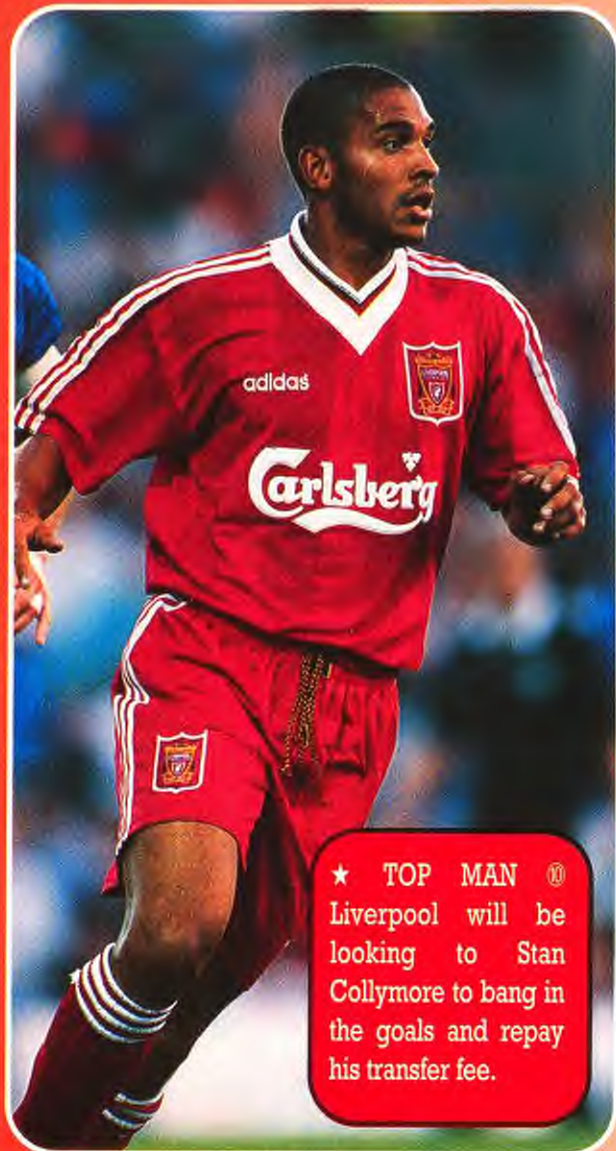
Norwegian defender STIG BJORNEBYE was tracked over a period of weeks before a fee of £600,000 was agreed with the Norwegian club. Stig represented his country in the World Cup and played 43 games for Liverpool before his season ended in April when he broke his leg against Southampton.

Tough guy NEIL RUDDOCK was signed from Spurs in July 1993 on a five-year contract, and has become a big favourite with the Anfield crowd because of his whole-hearted approach and willingness to move forward in search of goals. Became a pro with Millwall before joining Spurs in 1986, then he returned to Millwall before joining Southampton in 1989. He returned to Spurs at the start of the 1992-93 season before heading North.

Republic of Ireland defender PHIL BABB was bought from Coventry City at the beginning of September 1994, after outstanding performances in the 1994 World Cup. Played 45 games for Liverpool last season and showed calm and intelligence under pressure.

Liverpool signed defender JOHN SCALES for £3.5million from Wimbledon, arriving at Anfield just one day after Phil Babb. The 29-year-old played 47 games for Liverpool last season and his consistency had a steadying influence. Achieved his greatest ambition when Terry Venables selected him for England duty in the summer.

Midfielder JAN MOLBY joined his home town team straight from school at 16, and 18 months later he was signed by Dutch club Ajax for £10,000. At that time he was a central defender, but later switched to midfield. As a schoolboy he was capped six times by Denmark and went onto win 21 youth caps and six under-21 caps, before graduating to senior level. Has won top honours with Liverpool, but the 32-year-old has been plagued by injury in recent seasons.



★ TOP MAN

Liverpool will be looking to Stan Collymore to bang in the goals and repay his transfer fee.



+ TONIGHT'S VISITORS +

Reds set for another tilt at the top

JAMIE REDKNAPP was signed from Portsmouth in January 1991, and has made startling progress since his debut against French side, Auxerre in the UEFA Cup during the 1992/93 season when he was just 18. Has since captained the England under-21 side and led them to victory over Portugal in the Toulon tournament. The 22-year-old has been called in to the full England squad on several occasions and ultimate recognition of his talents does not seem far away. His father Harry, manages West Ham United.

Winger **MARK KENNEDY** had played less than 50 games for Millwall when Roy Evans swooped to sign him for almost £2 million as he became the most expensive teenage purchase in football.

Liverpool bought 31-year-old England international **JOHN BARNES** from Watford in June 1987, and he became an instant hit with the fans. His goalscoring and wing wizardry brought him championship and FA Cup medals and he was also voted Player of the Year by his fellow professionals and twice named Footballer of the Year by the nations football writers in seasons 1987/88 and 1989/90. With more than 70 England caps, John was born and bred in Jamaica but came to the UK when his father was posted there on army service. Started his professional career with Watford, before moving to Liverpool. Was a near ever-present last season.

Goal ace **ROBBIE FOWLER** made his debut against Fulham at Craven Cottage in the 1993/94 season and scored in the 3-1 Coca-Cola Cup win. Claimed all five goals in the 5-0 second leg victory at Anfield and scored a hat-trick against Arsenal in Liverpool's opening home game last season. The 20-year-old whizz-kid came through the club's School of Excellence, the 'A' and 'B' teams and is now a big favourite. Has played for England at youth, and under-21 levels and looks set to progress soon to full honours.

Liverpool-born **STEVE McMANAMAN** signed professional towards the end of the 1989/90 season. Had an outstanding FA Cup final against Sunderland in 1992 and operates on either wing or in the middle in his pursuit of goals. He suffered troublesome injuries in season 1993/94 but still managed 31 league games. Has a good turn of speed and is never afraid to take on defenders. Scored both goals in last season's 2-1 Coca-Cola Cup Wembley win against Bolton Wanderers.



STAN COLLYMORE arrived in July from Nottingham Forest for a British record transfer fee of £8.5 million and said he'd joined Liverpool in preference to any other because he was keen to win trophies. Twenty-four year old Collymore was bought by Forest from Southend United in 1993 and his 88th-minute goal against Peterborough guaranteed promotion to the Premier Division for Forest. His other clubs include Stafford Rangers and Crystal Palace.

Striker **IAN RUSH** (pictured above) had scored 325 goals in 605 league, FA Cup, League Cup and European appearances before the start of the season. Rush was appointed club captain in the 1993/94 season and played 41 Premier League games ... more than any other Anfield player. Celtic travelled to Liverpool last December to play in his testimonial match, the 33-year-old having rejoined Liverpool for his second spell on the eve of the 1988/89 season. Fifteen months earlier he left the club for Juventus where he scored 207 goals in 331 appearances.

Prior to his transfer to the Italians he had been the Reds top scorer in five out of six seasons, registering 11 hat-tricks. He overtook Dixie Dean's record of 19 goals in Merseyside derby matches by scoring twice against Everton in the 1989 FA Cup final. He also scored four against Everton at Goodison Park in season 1982/83 to equal a record that had stood for 47 years.

NOT BAD GOING FOR A PLAYER BOUGHT FROM CHESTER BY BOB PAISLEY FOR JUST £300,000.





OUR FANS DESERVE THE BEST

The big INTERVIEW

JOHN COLLINS

IT was confidently predicted that once the close season was over John Collins would be pitting his wits against English sides.

SO IT'S PROVED ... THOUGH NOT IN THE MANNER ENVISAGED!

For after two months intense speculation that the midfielder would be playing his football south of the border come the start of the 1995/96 season, John is focusing on doing his utmost to ensure Celtic get among the honours in the next 10 months.

And, like everyone connected with the club, he is excited about turning out at Celtic Park after a dream opening of the new stadium, with the match against Newcastle on Saturday.

A day that saw the 27-year-old create a bit of history, his penalty conversion in the 30th minute of the 1-1 draw being the first goal at the rebuilt Celtic Park.

Collins, who will be standing in as skipper for the injured Paul McStay for the opening month of the season, said: "It was great to be back at our proper home after not really enjoying the Hampden experience last term.

"AND THE ATMOSPHERE GENERATED MADE ME REALISE JUST HOW MUCH I MISSED CELTIC PARK.

"The whole day was absolutely terrific — it surpassed every expectation.

"The new stand is superb and the noise that came from it gave the players a real lift.

"It was back to the old days with the vocal support from the Celtic fans causing the hairs on the back of my neck to stand up.

"You could tell how much we were all up for it. We looked sharp and hungry and that was very encouraging.

"And of course it was a great thrill to score the first goal at the new ground. Even though it was a penalty you still have to put it away."

Enthusiasm is always in plentiful supply when John talks football and the

With the Scottish Cup in the bag and a brand new stadium I am feeling very positive about the new season

Interview: ANDREW SMITH

midfielder believes he and his club have plenty of reasons to look forward with relish to the next 10 months.

Even though, with the latest splash by seven-in-a-row champions Rangers now over the £9 million mark, wrestling the championship from their grasp will be harder than ever.

He states: "I'm very positive about the season ahead. In lifting the Scottish Cup we won the last trophy contested in Scotland and now we've come home to a terrific new stadium and have a few fresh faces — with another couple to follow I'm sure — in the side.

"ALL OF THIS ADDS UP TO PROGRESS.

"Sure Rangers have bought big in the close season. But we've come to expect that and it doesn't frighten us.

"We showed by winning two, and losing only one of the four league games against them last term that we could match them face to face.

"The points difference between us in the final league table was the result of us letting ourselves down against the lesser teams and that's a problem we have the capacity to iron out.

"People forget that if we'd scored only 10 more league goals and held onto a lead for only four more minutes in the final of the Coca Cola Cup we would have completed the treble!

"I know that might sound bizarre

but it goes to show that we weren't as far away from real success as has been painted.

"I think it showed against Newcastle that the addition of Andreas Thom will make us a more threatening side and I hope we can give further evidence of that tonight against Liverpool.

"I've enjoyed playing quality English sides as part of our build-up to the competitive season and, in a personal sense, it's been ideal preparation for me with the vital Scotland game against Greece next Wednesday at Hampden."

John then is firing on all cylinders and in the 1995/96 campaign hopeful of adding to his medal haul AND booking Scotland a place in the European Championship finals in England next summer.

IN TERMS OF HIS CLUB AMBITIONS, HE BELIEVES CELTIC SUPPORTERS DESERVE NO LESS THAN SEEING THEIR HEROES LIFTING SILVERWARE AGAIN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

He said: "Over the past year the Celtic fans have done everything asked of them ... and so much more.

"If you add the season ticket sales for the past two seasons to the £14 million raised in the share issue earlier this year, in all they've ploughed around £20 million into their club in just over a year.

"That's astonishing commitment and really does set them apart from any other supporters in the world.

"They can't be praised highly enough — or rewarded too much."

