

# PAUL McSTAY

## TESTIMONIAL PROGRAMME



**CELTIC v MANCHESTER UNITED**

**Tuesday, December 12, 1995**

**Celtic Park, Kick-off 7.45pm**

**Price: £3.00**



To one legend with  
McStaying power...

...from  
another

**Daily**   
**Record**

Scotland's Champion for **100** years

# PAUL'S THE MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

PAUL McSTAY  
TESTIMONIAL

## TESTIMONIAL PROGRAMME

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**F**IRSTLY, may I offer a warm welcome to everyone who has come here this evening to support Paul's Testimonial Match.

It is the support of the fans who make evenings such as these memorable.

I have been to all the Testimonial matches down south over the last 10 years or so and on every occasion it was the Celtic supporters who made the evening a success.

I am sure that it will be the same here tonight for one of our own. Although to describe Paul McStay simply as one of our own is a bit of an understatement. Paul has, without doubt, been Celtic's finest servant over the past decade.

He has served his club and country with unrivalled enthusiasm and dignity.

His loyalty to his beloved Celtic and his inspired performances are what makes it very easy for everyone involved with this Testimonial to dig that deeper and work that bit harder.

**P A U L ,**

**AFTER ALL, HAS BEEN DOING THAT FOR US FOR YEARS.**

A large vote of thanks must go to all members of the Testimonial Committee as well as many others who worked every bit as hard to make this evening and the rest of the year's events possible.

Being involved with the organising of all events associated with Paul's Testimonial has, although at times been hard work, nonetheless been very gratifying.

When you say you are looking for some help or support for Paul McStay you come to realise the esteem in which he is held.

I must say a special Thank You to everyone at Celtic Football Club.

From Chief Executive down, it has become very apparent to me in my dealings with them that Celtic now have the personnel in place behind the scenes to take us forward to a bright and successful future.

As for Alex Ferguson and Manchester United, the welcome and hospitality afforded us when visiting them to organise tonight's game was truly fabulous.

My father and I attended their recent home game with West Ham and everyone was simply marvellous.

A reception no doubt born out of respect for Paul McStay. As, in Alex Ferguson's own words: "I would be more than happy to do anything for Paul McStay."

"He is one of football's true stars and a gentleman with it."

I am looking forward to seeing Paul taking the park tonight, accompanied with his lovely daughters Siobhan and Melissa, to a tremendous ovation.

Beside me will be Anne Marie, Paul's wife of seven years, who completes the most important thing in his life, his immediate family.

When historians come to analyse Paul they may conclude that his best playing years were squandered in a



Celtic side lacking quality on the park and leadership off it.

Hopefully, however, all of us here tonight know that this misses the point.

Paul is a Celtic player before he is a professional footballer and

a Celtic supporter before he is a player.

Where many people may feel he should have thought more about himself than his club, they can console themselves in the fact that as far as Paul is concerned, he has played for the greatest team in the world and for the best support in the world.

He has played for the team of his family and in front of his family.

I am sure it is with everyone here tonight that I wish Paul McStay, the Celtic shareholder, supporter, player and captain, all our best wishes on this his Testimonial night.

**Hail! Hail!**

Liam Donnelly

**LIAM DONNELLY,  
CHAIRMAN,  
TESTIMONIAL COMMITTEE**

**THAT'S MY BHOY →**

# THAT'S MY BHOY

**J**OHN McSTAY admits he was a bit worried at his son Paul's lack of interest in football.

"Paul reached the age of seven without showing any passion for the game," recalls the proud father.

"His big brother William seemed to be born with a football under his arm! Everytime you looked at him he seemed to have it at his foot - even in the pram.

"He was wanting to play before he could walk. Paul, though, was completely indifferent to the game.

"We tried to encourage him, but it looked as though we weren't going to succeed.

"The family tried to force-feed him Scotsport and Sportsreel, as it was called then, but he didn't take the bait.

"Suddenly, though, he was yet another McStay football fanatic! It was like someone had thrown a switch. It was as simple as that.

"He went out one day and came back hooked on the game. And, thankfully, he's been that way ever since.

"When he was only eight he played for his Primary School team St. Mary's, in Larkhall. Paul would never admit it, but that was quite an achievement.

**H**E was playing with and against boys aged eleven and twelve. That is a fairly wide gulf in the developing stage of any youngster.

"The older lads were a lot stronger, physically better developed and, in most cases, taller. But that didn't deter Paul.

"He just loved to get out there and play football. The progress he made in a year was really quite startling. It was like he was



The Cup that cheers...Paul with proud parents John and Sadie after winning the Scottish Cup against Airdrie at Hampden in May.

**By John McStay**

**INTERVIEW: ALEX GORDON**

making up for lost time.

"He scored two goals as an eight-year-old when the team won the Larkhall Charity Shield. There was no stopping him after that.

"He was only eleven when he was asked to go to Gothenburg to play in an Under-14 tournament. His team won the trophy and that was his first taste of success on the Continent.

"The Scottish Under-15 selectors brought him into their team when he was only 13. Strangely, he played for the Under-15s for THREE years.

"In fact, at one stage he represented Scotland at three different levels. I believe

that is a record that still stands today.

"Paul was a full-timer when he was about eleven. He had little time for anything else but football. He would go off to school and you would catch him later that evening after he had probably played two full games.

"At that stage he was also training at Parkhead four nights a week. His school work suffered simply because he didn't have the time to sit down and do some swotting. But we all realised he had a future in the game if he kept up his progress.

"Certainly he didn't take after his dad! I think the best you could say about my ability

**Paul just went out one day and came back hooked on the game**

is that I was a hard-working Junior. I played for St. Roch's and then Larkhall Thistle.

**J**IM and Frank Brogan, two brothers who later played for Celtic, of course, were at St. Roch's at the time.

"A team-mate of their's was an emerging youngster coming through the ranks everyone thought had a reasonable chance of making it at senior level."

His name was Harry Hood. And, yes, he played for Celtic, too, after going onto turn senior with Clyde before having a swift spell in England with Sunderland.

"The only thing I passed onto my boys is their lack of pace. You can't say Paul, William and Raymond are exactly whippets.



That winning feeling...Paul salutes the fans after the Cup Final triumph over Airdrie.