



# THE CIS INSURANCE CUP SEMI-FINAL



Wednesday 7th February 2001  
The National Stadium, Hampden Park, Glasgow  
Kick-off 7.45pm  
Official Programme £2.00



# CELTIC v RANGERS



# No introduction needed



**A** very warm welcome to all fans attending tonight's second CIS Insurance Cup Semi-Final at the National Stadium, Hampden Park between Celtic and Rangers.

Tonight's tie requires little in the way of introduction and brings together the two most

recent winners of this competition, recording two cup triumphs each during the course of the past four seasons. Celtic are the current holders of the famous three handed trophy and, of course, currently top the SPL table. However, as all football fans know, Old Firm matches, whether it be a League Championship match or cup tie, do on most occasions provide great uncertainty resulting in the form book going out of the window. Indeed, you only have to look back at the two previous encounters between the clubs this season for evidence of the unpredictability that this match brings, with Celtic winning the first League match back in August 6-2 with Rangers

exacting revenge three months later by five goals to one.

Tonight's match will be the 41st occasion that Scottish football's oldest rivals have met in this competition. The Ibrox club hold a slight advantage having won 20 of the previous encounters with the Celtic Park club winning two matches fewer. Two matches have been drawn but of course, there is no possibility of such an outcome this evening with the format ensuring that we have an outright winner.

As you will note elsewhere in the programme, Rangers have won this competition on twenty one previous occasions whilst Celtic have eleven cup triumphs to their name. Indeed, this is the 5th occasion that the Old Firm have met at the penultimate stage of this competition, with the Gers having the upperhand having won three of the previous meetings. However, the two managers, Martin O'Neill and Dick Advocaat, will be more interested in the outcome of tonight's encounter rather than the past meetings between the clubs, especially as victory not only guarantees a place in next month's Cup Final but will also provide confidence to the victorious side as they prepare to enter the final quarter of the season.

## Welcome to the National

**H**ampden is now beginning to become what it set out to be - a venue not just for football but fit for all events. Whilst it will always remain the spiritual home of the Tartan Army, over the months ahead this year, there will be all kinds of flags flown when American football, in the shape of the Scottish Claymores, comes to Hampden for five games starting in April.

The National Stadium will not only be a sporting arena but will also be the host to many of the world's top pop stars. The mind boggles at the thought of what might be waved when pop icon Robbie Williams takes over the stadium for two concerts in August. Indeed, tickets for his first concert were sold within hours of them going on sale resulting in a second concert being quickly added. Before that however, Bon Jovi are making an appearance in June and while this will be a sell-out as well, it might not have

the same hysteria attached. Maybe!

Mount Florida will now enjoy a new found status as a tourist attraction as football supporters from far and wide will not only be able to tour the Stadium but for fans who like a peek back in history, then the Scottish Football Museum, which is already fascinating even though it will not be fully kitted out until the spring, is the place for them.

Occupying some 1500 square metres - with nearly double that capacity planned for the future - the museum offers a fascinating collection of artefacts going right back to the early days of Scottish football. Medals, trophies, jerseys and... a montage portraying the wonder goal wee Archie Gemmill scored against Holland in the 1978 World Cup. One of the great moments for Scottish fans and... Scottish football writers.

The pundits are not neglected either. There is a section of the old Hampden Press Box on display. Ah, fond memories of playing the Frozen Finger polka on my old portable typewriter writing match reports on bitter winter

On behalf of the League Management Committee, I would like to express my gratitude to our sponsors, CIS Insurance, for all of the hard work and enthusiasm which they have shown once again this season. I understand that they are delighted with the co-operation which they have received from officials and players of all participating clubs as well as the excellent coverage which they have received from the various sectors of the media. I would like to take this opportunity in extending a very special welcome to all representatives of CIS Insurance attending tonight's tie and their invited guests and trust that they enjoy an exciting match.

I would like to thank all of the staff at the National Stadium, Hampden Park, for all of their efforts and co-operation in assisting The Scottish Football League stage tonight's Semi-Final tie. This is the start of a busy period for the stadium and, as you will note from the article below, there will be a number of different events taking place in the months ahead. After the well publicised difficulties which it experienced last year, it is further proof that the National Stadium is now Scotland's top sporting venue.

Both clubs have a great incentive to reach the Final. Here's hoping that we can enjoy an action packed and entertaining encounter.

ENJOY THE GAME.

**JAMES OLIVER**  
President, The Scottish Football League

# Stadium

nights. Why it was called portable I will never know... taking it to a game was the equivalent of a weight-training session! Compared to the modern day butterfly touch which is all that is required in this computerised business now, it was like playing a piano with the lid down.

I am sure that visitors will not only leave suitably impressed with the facilities, but also with the entire structure put in place at a cost of approximately £60 million. With all of the various football bodies either having already relocated to or are in the process of moving to Hampden, the National Stadium is now the nerve centre of Scottish football and without doubt provides value for money. If you don't believe that, keep in mind that the first re-building plan for Wembley came in at more than £700 million.

**DIXON BLACKSTOCK**  
(Saturday Times)

## A welcome message from the Cup sponsor

### CIS Insurance



As Chairman of CIS, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to supporters of both teams to tonight's CIS Insurance Cup Semi-Final.

This season's tournament has provided plenty of action so far and the pace looks set to continue with both of tonight's teams striving for a place in The CIS Insurance Cup Final at Hampden on Sunday 18th March.

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I'm looking forward to tonight's game which, with a place in the Final at stake, is sure to be a hard fought contest. Enjoy the match.



William Tucker, Chairman



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**J**ackie McNamara believes Celtic will receive more plaudits for safely negotiating a semi-final tonight than they did for actually winning this competition last March! The club was in such turmoil at the time, few people outside Celtic Park even registered their achievement.

"Looking back now, it's hard to believe," claimed McNamara.

"But last March, I was dancing around Hampden with the trophy at 5.00 p.m. At 7.00 p.m., I was having a celebratory drink and some food back at Celtic Park with the rest of the lads and by 9.00 p.m., I was back home in Edinburgh!"

McNamara suspects things will be slightly different this time if Martin O'Neill delivers the tartan version of the trophy he won twice in England with Leicester City. However, eleven months ago, John Barnes had just been dismissed and Kenny Dalglish was in temporary charge of a club with a number of well publicised problems. Dalglish somehow, managed to find a welcome, if temporary, silver lining to the black clouds which had followed Celtic since their Tennents Scottish Cup defeat by Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

Nonetheless, even McNamara admits that his side's comfortable 2-0 victory over Aberdeen at Hampden did little to lift the gloom surrounding the club.

"All I can remember about last season's cup final was the immense sense of relief when we had finally won it," he recalled.

"We were in a no-win situation going into the game. We weren't going well in the League. In fact, we were well behind Rangers by then and Aberdeen were the worst opponents we could have asked for.

"We had already scored 18 goals in three games against them and knew we

# JACKIE McNAMARA

## *No hollow victory this time*

by GRAEME BRYCE (News of the World)

had to beat them.

"The pressure was all on us especially as Aberdeen had absolutely nothing to lose.

"And though we celebrated winning the cup at the final whistle, by the following day, everyone's attitude was: 'We expected you to win it anyway!'"

"People regarded our achievement as a hollow triumph." McNamara knows it will be a very different story if Celtic beat Old Firm rivals Rangers tonight.

"Fortunately, things are totally different this season under Martin O'Neill and we still have a treble to play for.

"It's ironic but if we were to beat Rangers in this semi-final, we'd get more credit than we did for winning the trophy last season!

"Our manager seems to have a love-affair with the League Cup, after winning it twice with Leicester City.

"And, it would be some achievement for Martin O'Neill to win the trophy in his debut season in Scotland.

"The importance of this game is there for everyone to see especially as it's the first game of an Old Firm double-header as we clash again at Celtic Park on Sunday.

On this season's Old Firm meetings McNamara said: "Supporters keep asking me how we can go from beating Rangers 6-2 to losing 5-1 to them.

"All I can think of is that a player was sent off from the losing team during both games and that makes a massive difference.

"An Old Firm match is hard enough with 11 men, never mind 10.

"When we went three and then four goals down at Ibrox, I kept thinking: 'Oh no, here they come again.' But hopefully, it will be Rangers' turn to do the chasing tonight!"





# A look back at the 1973/74 League Cup Semi-Final meeting between

# CELTIC RANGERS

*with Harry Hood  
& Billy McNeill*

by IAN PAUL (The Herald)

If the fates had played their tricks differently, Harry Hood might well have earned undying fame as one of the Lisbon Lions. The former Sunderland and Clyde player joined up at Parkhead in 1968, the year after Celtic's magnificent victory in the European Cup Final, but he could have been there earlier, as Celtic had tried to buy him in 1964 but the deal fell through.

"The terms were not right, then," says Harry, now a successful publican. "In fact, they were shocking. However, that changed when Big Jock took over."

Hood had other claims to fame, of course, and one record in particular which none of the Lions, or any other Celtic player of any era, can match. Harry scored a hat-trick in the League Cup Semi-Final of season 1973/74 when he helped Celtic to a 3-1 win over Rangers at Hampden, the only time in four attempts that the Parkhead team have overcome their oldest rivals at that stage of the competition. Unaware of this until recently reminded, he has been making good use of the information to regale his customers of times past.

In fact, Hood was seven seasons at Celtic Park, during which time he scored 123 goals in 300 games, especially noteworthy as he was rarely ever used as an out-and-out striker.

One man who would never quarrel with any praise for Hood's talents is Billy McNeill, captain of the Lisbon Lions and a man who knows a player when he sees one.

"As far as I am concerned, Harry was an excellent player," said McNeill. "But he joined us at a difficult time, as one team was breaking up and another was being established. However, it is surprising how few people appreciate how long he was with Celtic.

"He could score goals too, but he was also capable of playing in one or two positions, which was perhaps which attracted him to Big Jock more than anything else.

"I have always had the feeling that people never really appreciated how well he performed for Celtic. His scoring record was terrific when you realise that Jock didn't play him as a centre forward. Harry could play there, he could hold the ball up but he could link up from a deep position. His value was definitely underestimated."

Hood had scored hat-tricks before and plenty of goals afterwards, too, in a career that was highly successful. He has almost complete recall of the game played on 5th December, 1973, in fact, he would tell you that he didn't play particularly well, despite his three goals. A fact which will have a familiar ring for the current Celtic aficionados, as they hear Henrik Larsson talk of his own form this season.

"Normally, I was the kind of player who was on the ball a lot, ran around a lot and dribbled with the ball, that kind of stuff. On that day, I didn't do all that well but I do remember that Paul Wilson and Kenny Dalglish were outstanding."



*Harry Hood scores past Rangers' keeper Peter McCloy in the 1973/74 League Cup Semi-Final.*

He also remembers being in the bath after the game when trainer Neil Mochan came into the dressing room. "Neilly said, 'Two good goals, Harry.' And I said thanks and shouted: 'Neilly, I scored three.' I thought it was a wind-up but it wasn't. Big Jock and everybody on the bench thought Billy McNeill had scored the first."

He added modestly: "You could say that it was the perfect hat-trick, a right foot shot, a left foot shot and a header."

"The first was a header from a cross by Kenny. Actually, just before that, the ball had ricocheted across the goal and at half-time, Big Jock gave me stick for not intimidating the goalie, not realising that I had scored the goal."



*Harry Hood shoots past Rangers' keeper Peter McCloy in the 1973/74 League Cup Semi-Final.*

McNeill also recalls the joy of victory in the semi-final of 1973 but also the disappointment of defeat by Dundee in the Final, which he describes as "a bit of a farce" but not, as you might think, because Celtic were beaten.

"One half of the pitch was playable, the other wasn't. The game was played in December and the Main Stand side was unplayable but the other side, because of the winter sun, was playable. We were actually at Seamill when Big Jock said we might as well go up the road home because the game would be off. We woke up on Saturday morning to discover the game was on and I honestly think that the way we had interrupted our preparation affected us.

"But Dundee worked and played very hard for their victory, no doubt about that."

Hood also played in the Final, but the conditions didn't allow him to cause the Dens defence the same bother as he had given the Ibrox rearguard earlier in the month. On that occasion, Harry actually had the ball in the net for the

fourth time but the referee gave offside.

"I don't know how it was offside," he recalls. "Kenny Dalglish beat everybody, cut the ball back and I stuck it in the net. Tom Forsyth then kicked me and I kicked him back, which was the right thing to do, I might add and the referee booked me for retaliation. I asked him how it could be offside, when Kenny had cut the ball back from the bye-line but he just told me I was booked. It was in the last minute, anyway!"

As for other clashes he was involved with as a player between the Old Firm rivals, Hood recalls, "I had a good record against Rangers yet Joe McBride, for example, never scored against them, as far as I know. Dixie Deans scored only one and rumour has it that it was going past the post before it was deflected into the net.

"In my first couple of games against them, I scored. I remember the first was a Glasgow Cup tie and in the first League game against them in September, 1968, I scored the only goal to give us a win that Celtic had not managed in the corresponding fixture for twelve years.

"I seemed to have the knack of scoring against Rangers and that has not done me any harm in the eyes of Celtic supporters."

In the season of that League Cup Semi-Final triumph, Harry's talents did begin to wane but he still collected seven goals. His finest scoring season at Parkhead was in 1970/71 when he accumulated 22 goals, which is pretty remarkable for a non striker.

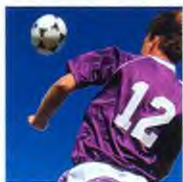
For the record, the teams that night were as follows:-  
**CELTIC:** Hunter, McGrain, Brogan, McCluskey, McNeill, Murray, Hood, Hay, Wilson, Callaghan, Dalglish. Substitutes not used: Connelly, Johnstone

**RANGERS:** McCloy, Jardine, Mathieson, Greig, Jackson, Houston, McLean, (Johnstone), Forsyth, Parlane, Conn, MacDonald. Substitute not used: Smith.

Only the other ten Celtic men who played on 5th December, 1973 (the two substitutes, Jimmy Johnstone and George Connelly, were not used) can claim, as Hood can, to have played in a Parkhead side that beat Rangers in a League Cup Semi-Final. Will it still be the case after tonight?

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# TOMMY JOHNSON

## *Will his fortunes finally change?*

by IAIN MacFARLANE (The Daily Star of Scotland)

**I**f it wasn't for bad luck, Tommy Johnson's Celtic career would have carried no luck at all. Serious injury has twice interrupted his spell at Celtic Park since joining in spring 1997 and hampered his hopes of impressing a seemingly endless stream of new managers.

It's no exaggeration to state that he's spent more time on the treatment table than on the pitch since leaving Aston Villa in a £2.7 million deal. However, Johnson has fond memories of previous adventures in the League Cup competition, north and south of the border.

Last season, in an otherwise miserable campaign for Johnson and Celtic, the dark clouds lifted in March in the shape of The CIS Insurance Cup win over Aberdeen. Johnson's second-half victory-confirming goal being the high spot of his Hoops career.

"There's no question that's my most memorable moment at Celtic so far, although it doesn't have much to compete with," laughed the 30-year-old.

"The ball from Mark Viduka fell to my right foot but I didn't have time to work it on to my favoured left side and somehow managed to shank it into the net!

"The League Cup competition has been good to me, though, and not only last season.

"I was lucky enough to be part of the Villa side which reached the English League Cup Final in 1996.

"In the semi-final against Arsenal, the first leg at Highbury was an astonishing game. We were 2-0 down after 20 minutes, yet fought back to draw 2-2 and that proved to be good enough as we drew the return leg 0-0 at Villa Park."

A good news story with Johnson however, wouldn't be complete somehow without a sting in the tale. He was injured in that second leg and was out of action for eight

weeks and looked to have no hope of making the Wembley meeting with Leeds United. But after travelling with the squad to their pre-final training camp, Johnson was given the shock news that he was among the substitutes.

"I had been out for eight weeks before the cup final and my first real training session was on the morning of the game," he recalled.

"But the boss told me that I was being given a place on the bench which was a huge confidence booster.

"We won the match 3-0 and it's still a medal I'll treasure."

A hat-trick of League Cup medals would be welcomed by Johnson but first Rangers have to be defeated before a final clash against Kilmarnock or St. Mirren.

A close analysis of Johnson's Old Firm record perfectly demonstrates the way his career in Scotland has taken shape. Despite being at Celtic Park for three-and-a-half seasons, he has only played in one Glasgow derby and that debut came at Ibrox last March when Celtic's frailties were cruelly exposed as Rangers cantered to a 4-0 win.

"Of course, I would change a lot of things about my time at Celtic if I had the chance again," admitted Johnson.

"But I don't regret for a minute the decision to sign for Celtic.

"I'm out of contract in the summer and don't know what the future holds, but in the meantime, all the players are working hard to bring more success to Celtic."

