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# WALK ON



**celtic football club**

**AIRDRIE**

**Scottish Cup 3rd round**

**Saturday**

**January 23, 1999**

**3pm**

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IT'S WHO YOU WANT  
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# WALK ON contents



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# pep talk

**W**ell this is our first game on returning home from our winter break abroad and hopefully we can continue on the good performance from our last game against Rangers away.

The break is something the boys deserved mainly because they worked extremely hard last year on club commitments and national side duties with many of them performing in the World Cup.

They also had other international qualifying games to take part in and of course there were a few injuries to take care of so the interlude was needed....

Especially at this time of year in Scotland when the winter weather can be very demanding on the players even in training sessions.

So the break in Spain was timely not only for their physical needs but also to psychologically gear them up and give them a rest before the final run-in to the season.

It wasn't all rest though as the players put in training sessions as well as a few games where they showed the same determination and spirit as usual.

We also used the games to give players who have been on the fringes or injured to have a run out.

The players who haven't played recently all had a



chance of a game and that is one of the reasons why we took the opportunity to play over in Spain.

And I am pleased to say that they all coped well and played to their usual high standard.

But we are back home now and today with the visit of Airdrie in the Scottish Cup we

# “The break was something the boys deserved”

play one of our most important games of the season so far.

There is always something special about the cup and I hope that our performance today matches the standard of play in our previous three games over the Christmas and New Year period.

If the players show the same spirit, passion and responsibility then I am sure we will be in the next round of the competition



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# cast list



- 1 Jonathan GOULD
- 2 Tom BOYD
- 3 Stephane MAHE
- 4 Jackie McNAMARA
- 5 Marc RIEPER
- 6 Alan STUBBS
- 7 Henrik LARSSON
- 8 Craig BURLEY
- 9 Harald BRATTBAKK
- 10 Phil O'DONNELL
- 11 Morten WIEGHORST
- 12 Tommy JOHNSON
- 13 Simon DONNELLY
- 14 Paul LAMBERT
- 15 Darren JACKSON
- 16 David HANNAH
- 17 Rico ANNONI
- 18 Tosh McKINLAY
- 20 Regi BLINKER
- 21 Stewart KERR
- 22 Brian McLAUGHLIN
- 23 Andy McCONDICHIE
- 24 Colin HEALY
- 26 John Paul McBRIDE
- 25 Lubomir MORAVCIK
- 27 Mark BURCHILL
- 28 Barry ELLIOT
- 30 Vidar RISETH
- 34 Tony WARNER
- 35 Johan MJALLBY



- John MARTIN
- Sandy STEWART
- Paul JACK
- Jimmy SANDISON
- David FARRELL
- Forbes JOHNSTON
- Anthony SMITH
- Gerry FARRELL
- Austin McCANN
- Kenny BLACK
- Marvyn WILSON
- Gary MACKAY
- Allan MOORE
- Paul McGRILLEN
- Steve COOPER
- Gareth EVANS
- Steve McCORMICK
- Stuart TAYLOR
- Scott THOMSON
- Stephen McKEOWN
- Darren BRADY
- Stuart EASTON
- Ian RANKIN
- Brian McCLOY
- John McCLELLAND



Referee: KENNY CLARK (Paisley)  
Assistant: ROBERT JOHNSTONE (Bonnyrigg)  
Assistant: ANDREW SEYMOUR (Baillieston)





**WALK ON:** Why 'Tosh' and not just plain old Tam?

**TOSH MCKINLAY:** That started when I was a boy, there was this other guy called Tosh and I was supposed to look like him. I was about five at the time and it's just stuck since then.

**WO:** Where does 'Valley' come into the story?

**T McK:** It's just an old family middle name. My Dad had the same middle name so it's a bit of a family tradition.

**WO:** How long did you play for Celtic Boys' Club?

**T McK:** I was there between the ages of 13 and 16. It was a good time for me as you picked up a lot of professional discipline in a well-organised set-up.

**WO:** Any well-known names from your team who also made the grade here or elsewhere?

**T McK:** In my age group there was Paul McStay and Ronnie Coyle as well as Paul Nicholas who was a cousin of Charlie. Paul went off to a soccer scholarship in the States.

**WO:** Most kids love the glory of being a striker - when did you decide to be a defender?

**T McK:** I originally played on the wing and then dropped back to defence and I found that it suited me. I was about 13 at the time so I've been playing there all of my career and it's a role I've always enjoyed.

**WO:** You left CBC to go to Dens Park while you obviously harboured ambitions to play for Celtic - was that hard to take?

**T McK:** I think Dundee made the decision for me as they invited me up for a week's trial and I knew I would have to have things settled by Christmas.

**WO:** While there you played in the championship-deciding game of May 3, 1986 when Dundee beat Hearts 2-0 and Celtic defeated St Mirren 5-0 - was that just like winning the title?

**T McK:** Not really because we were still fighting for a place in Europe at that time. We had to win and although I obviously enjoyed Celtic winning the title, I just went about that game in a professional manner.

**WO:** Apart from yourself, who else in the Dundee

Ever wondered what it would be like to have a gab with one of the Celtic players - not necessarily about football? Well, we've done it for you, so read on and find out what WALK ON discovered when we chewed the fat with THOMAS VALLEY MCKINLAY.

# time out



## Just how green is your Valley Tosh?

side celebrated that night?

**T McK:** I actually came back into Glasgow that night and met up with Maurice Johnson and a few more of the Celtic boys - they were obviously flying that night. But I suppose Albert Kidd who scored both goals and who is a big Celtic man certainly celebrated his part in the club's history.

**WO:** You eventually joined Hearts - did anyone there bring up your part in the fate of the club?

**T McK:** Not really, when you go to a new team it's just accepted that you are there to do your best and to be honest I don't think any body knew I played that day. I think it would have been different though if I had scored both of those goals!

**WO:** Then the call came from Celtic - no doubt you didn't need to be asked twice?

**T McK:** Definitely, it might have been different if I had come here when I was younger. But I was reaching my peak when I arrived and I've enjoyed my spell. I've played over 100 games for the club I've supported and there's not many people can say that.

**WO:** Any pre-match superstitions?

**T McK:** The only thing is that I like to be the last one out when the team emerges from the tunnel.

**WO:** Our moles in Lisbon tell us you modelled for a Portuguese advertising campaign - what was that all about then?

**T McK:** When we were over for the Sporting game there was these adverts for doughnuts or something and the guy in the posters was the

spitting image of me. The rest of the squad had a field day but even I have to admit that the guy looked like me.

**WO:** Have you any thoughts on a career after you hang up your boots?

**T McK:** I haven't really thought about it. I still feel I have another couple of years left in me and only then will I decide what I'm going to do.

**WO:** What is the most expensive item in your wardrobe?

**T McK:** It's a Versace coat I bought about two years ago but I'm not telling you how much I spent on it.

**WO:** Who tops your music charts?

**T McK:** I like all the old 70s stuff like the Bee Gees and Kool and the Gang - all the old Disco stuff so I've quite enjoyed the recent revival.

**WO:** So what TV programmes do you enjoy the most?

**T McK:** I used to watch all of the Soaps but when you've got kids you don't really have the time although I did love Brookside.

**WO:** And which programme would you like to appear in?

**T McK:** I would really love to appear on Question of Sport. There is a quiz show with Bob Mills on SKY Digital called Taking The Pitch which I took part in recently with some of the rest of the lads. It hasn't been shown yet so I can't tell you how we got on.

**WO:** What would you do if you won the Lottery?

**T McK:** I'm quite happy with what I've achieved in life and I've come to realise that money isn't the be all and end all - I still do the Lottery right enough!

**WO:** Do you have a normal daily routine?

**T McK:** Basically the routine now revolves around the kids. We get up early and I make sure one gets off to school while my wife takes care of the other.

**WO:** What is your favourite food?

**T McK:** It's got to be Italian. My mate has an Italian restaurant and I eat there quite often but I really fancy the whole Italian way of life.

**WO:** It's now time for the question from yourself and what can you give up for the prize?

**T McK:** I will hand over one of my old Celtic tops and I will sign it. The question is: I crossed the ball for the 1995 cup-winning goal against Airdrie - but who headed the ball in?

So if you want to win Tosh's personally signed Celtic jersey, just jot the answer down on a postcard and send it to: **Tosh McKinlay Time Out Competition, Walk On, PO Box 2413, Glasgow, G40 3YB.** The sender of the first correct entry drawn out of the hat wins.

## "I would love to appear in Question of Sport"





R

action replay

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spill the beans ...Sandy Stewart gives the lowdown on his Airdrie team-mates

# Sandy's a diamond mine of information



**T**hey used to be called the Gypsies of Scottish football did Airdrie. Then they built themselves a stadium and named it after a Five-Star hotel to change all that.

And yet the way they keep noising up the so-called bigger clubs in cup competitions, they're not likely to be invited into the Toff's Club just yet.

Remember the League Cup? That was the night Celtic's millionaire eleven were humbled by an assortment of characters who go by the name of Jock the Coalman, Bigfoot, Lumber, Mowgli and last but not least, Playboy.

Confused? You won't be after player-coach and tall-tale teller Sandy Stewart does the honourable thing and opts, in his own well-chosen words, to Spill the Beans...



DOUBLE DIAMOND... Airdrie aim to end Celtic's cup run for the second time this season

Jock, or **JOHN MARTIN** as he's known to the outside world, will have been in his element this week with a game against Celtic coming up.

He's well known for his daft picture poses in the press and, with Celtic in Spain last week, he'll no doubt have donned the old castanets and matador outfit for a few papers. Failing that we'll just get the usual old pics of Jock in a coal miner's outfit.

**PAUL JACK** is the man who marshals our back line with military precision - almost literally. 'Lumber' comes John Martin

from a military background and likes to keep smart on and off the park, with the most immaculate boots you'll ever see. We all clean our own boots at Airdrie, but he takes it to extremes.

Beside him, **JIMMY SANDISON** is the man I'm tipping to be the first ever 60-year-old professional footballer. At 33 he's already well on his way. The sweeper role he plays suits him perfectly and any day now he'll appear for a match wearing a dinner jacket and cravat, with his slippers on.

Today will present **DAVIE FARRELL**

with a dilemma. What dressing room does he go into? He's a big Celtic fan and we've had to ban him from wearing Celtic tracksuits to training. When Celtic play on a Sunday you know where Davie-Bhoy will be. The only man who travels to training via Celtic Park.

Easily the best name in Scottish football belongs to our **AUSTIN McCANN**. He's probably also got the best car. Actually, he's a quiet and unassuming guy and we're just waiting for him to do something silly or give a daft interview to the press

so we can slaughter him. It'll come.

**TONY SMITH** used to be known as 'Playboy'. I'll leave you to guess the reason for that. He's actually calmed down a bit now - but he still likes to think of himself as a Jack the Lad. He's just getting back to fitness and we're hoping he'll be up for it today - so to speak.

If there was a competition for the man with the biggest feet in Scottish football, then **KENNY BLACK** would win it toes up. People who say our oldest midfielder puts his foot in where he shouldn't at times don't realise that he just can't move it away in time - it's too damned big.

Not that Kenny would ever do any harm to **MARVYN WILSON**. Apart from scoring that penalty against Celtic in the League Cup to become a local hero, this boy also has lovely golden curls which qualify him for the nickname 'Simba'. He had them all cut off, but they grew back again and the name stuck anyway.

Our old warhorse and assistant manager is ex-Hearts midfielder **GARY MACKAY**. He's another who worries about his hair - so much so that he carries a hairdryer everywhere. He's forever trying to keep that 1980s flick in his hair - and failing miserably.

Striker **STEVE COOPER** is another barnet obsessive. He has a different hairstyle every day. He thinks he's a male model and always tries to cut the grey bits out of his hair - unsuccessfully. Give him a mirror and he's happy.

Still at least he finds something to

be happy about, unlike **PAUL McGRILLEN**. 'Mowgli' is the biggest moaner in the game, so much so that his wife must be delighted when he leaves the house in the morning. The only man who loves training in cold, wet weather because it gives him another source of complaint.

**ALAN MOORE** is a bubbly wee guy, but he likes a grumble as well. I used to travel with him and Dave McPherson to training at Hearts a few years ago and he moaned all the way there and all the way back. A professional full-time footballer moaning! I couldn't believe it either....

**GERRY FARRELL** is the joker in our pack. A real patter merchant who puts Deep Heat to bizarre uses

and leaves team-mates' trousers in the shower etc. A nightmare.

**FORBES JOHNSTON** is a lawyer to trade and great for sorting out problems. The club directors now know to duck when he walks towards them because it means he's been recruited to solve a dispute of some sort for a team-mate. He's not called Petrocelli for nothing.

And let's not forget **STUART TAYLOR** or **STEVE McCORMICK**. The latter hasn't been at the club long enough to take serious stick yet, but taking a look at him, it shouldn't be too long in coming I suspect.

Which only leaves myself, the highly respected **SANDY STEWART**. I'm known as Ted Striker cos my stories are supposed to go on a bit. I'm also the resident Statto of the dressing room, which is good news for those team-mates who can't count. Sadly there are too many of them for ME to count...

**'I'm tipping Jimmy Sandison to be the first 60-year-old professional'**



# Nine to five – what a way to make a likeness



takin' the mick

I was thinking back to a couple of seasons ago when the arguments raged about whose nine-in-a-row achievement was best and I can honestly say I'm glad it's all history now.

Ours was by far the greater achievement and that's that.

The mighty Hibernian are currently sitting on the nine league wins in a row and are being compared to the best ever Hibs team who never managed this feat even at their peak.

Methinks they have forgotten what division they play in!

My Easter Road mole informs me that the Edinburgh side have been reading up about great Hibs sides of yesteryear but in particular, the 'Famous Five' side from the 1950s.

I suppose in a way the history of a club is important because it can become inspirational for those players steeped in that club's tradition (it's enough to make your heart go-oh-oh-oh – Ed).

We asked Hibebe stalwart, Pat McGinlay, who, out of the 'Famous Five' that he's read so much about, would he

By MICK O'BVIOUS

liked to have played alongside?

Pat likes a player to be adventurous, daring and very spirited and for that reason he opted for George even though she's a girl. Uncle Quentin came a close second!

Perhaps it's all the holiday ads on the telly at the moment or it's my excitement at the introduction of the Euro currency (!) but my tiny mind keeps thinking about Europe.

If only we were still in a European competition at this time of year.

The good folk of Milan and Madrid currently have two representatives each in different competitions. Wouldn't it be great if Glasgow had two teams in Europe?

This may surprise you but I would love to watch Celtic on the Wednesday night (obviously) and if tickets were available cheer on our fellow townfolk on the Tuesday or Thursday.

It's ridiculous it being less than 12 months away from the new millennium, for us not to be able to support a team from the

same city as ourselves. After all, we have much in common, including sharing the services of a certain Maurice Johnston.

Of course for this to happen next year we have to win the league and Thistle must win the Scottish Cup. Come on ye Jags!

No names, but some of Scotland's foreign stars have been complaining about the standard of medical treatment available in this country compared to what they can get back home.

Let's examine the facts closely. We had three invalids recently or the 'Three Amigos' as they were affectionately known. All three went native when it came to their medical treatment and none ever made it back. I rest my case m'lud!

Both Celtic and our Govan Chums are spending a fortune on players and are playing in more matches where the opposition are out to stop rather than play themselves.

It would be crazy

not to have the best treatment available to allow you to get your prized assets back from injury as soon as possible.

I've checked out Scotty's place, deep in the bowels of Celtic Park and can calm the fears of any concerned Hoops fan that it's the best in Europe.

Our Physio buys in equipment from all around the world because he uses stainless steel cranial electrodes from Germany and the finest pedigree leeches all the way from Malaysia!

Guys like Billy Dodds, Sid and Gordon Durie must feel great when they hear

that Big Dunc is being approached in a bid to get him to change his mind about playing for his country.

Apparently the big man won't kick a ball for a couple of months which will snooker any comeback plan. He has a condition called Gilmore's groin.

He should consider himself lucky that he's not got the contagious condition known as Ferguson's forehead. Once you're struck down with it your career is virtually over!!!

What a ridiculous idea having a World Cup every two years is.

I reckon football's greatest event would be completely devalued. Del Amitri got it right when they sang "Don't come round too soon".

Everybody is talking about the clash with the European Championships but have overlooked an even more important worldwide event with the Olympic Games.

Can you imagine, say, a Scotland v England World Cup final coinciding with the top event in the Olympics that we all look forward to for four years?

Not even penalties would tear me away from the women's beach volley ball!!!!

The biggest laugh I had in ages was watching Killie's finest on Questionable Sport.

In Ally's team was Sam Torrance and Andy Cole. John Parrot made the quip when Andy Cole received a modicum of help from the lovely Sue Barker that he was used to getting help from referees.

Is that not like me sitting beside William Shakespeare being told that I'm dead good at writing'n' that. Gadzooks!!

The English language is changing all the time but over the last few years many new words have been introduced as a result of new phenomena coming to the fore e.g. internet.

As I peruse the latest edition of the Oxford Dictionary I see that some swear words have made it into black and white.

A clear indication of society's falling standards. More alarming is the redefinition of certain words through frequent misuse. Recently Alan



Shearer was described as a "Geordie Genius". He is undoubtedly a Geordie, he is undoubtedly a very gifted player, but he does not fall into the category of what I understand "Genius" to mean.

He's not the first to be elevated to genius status without cause. I think you can guess which famous 'genius' I refer to. Yep! You've got it! I don't think Einstein ever even played the game!



THISTLE NEVER DO... If only Mo's other Glasgow side could make it into Europe

R

action replay



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# facts facility



with David McDonald

★ Only twice before in their 111 year history has Celtic lost in their opening match of the Scottish Cup at home. In 1895/96 Queen's Park came to Celtic Park and won 4-2 and in 1967/68 Dunfermline upset all the odds by beating the holders of the European Cup 2-0.

★ Celtic's defeat by Rangers in last season's semi-final stopped a run of 19 consecutive wins at Celtic Park in the Scottish Cup, stretching back over 10 years to February 20, 1988 when they drew 0-0 against Hibernian.

★ The above defeat was Celtic's first in the Scottish Cup at Celtic Park since March 14, 1979 when they lost 2-1 to Aberdeen. In that time Celtic went 34 games unbeaten with just three ending in draws. Technically speaking though when Celtic lost to Rangers last season, Celtic Park was a neutral venue so one could argue Celtic still remain unbeaten since 1979 in home Scottish Cup ties.

★ Celtic have never lost to Airdrieonians in the Scottish Cup. In 13 previous meetings Celtic have won 10 and drawn three, winning all four clashes at Celtic Park. The first meeting took place in 1908/09 when Celtic won 3-1 at home and the last meeting was on May 27, 1995 in the final at Hampden, when Pierre van Hooijdonk headed home the only goal.

★ This was the second time the two clubs have met in the final. The first was in 1975 when Celtic won 3-1 with goals from Paul Wilson (2) and



HEAD BHOY...  
Goalscorer Pierre van Hooijdonk leads the celebrations after Celtic beat Airdrie in the 1995 Scottish Cup final. Joining the big Dutchman are Pat Bonner and Mark McNally



Pat McCluskey (penalty) with Kevin McCann scoring for Airdrie.

★ Celtic and Airdrie have met in three semi-finals: - 1954/55 (2-0 after 2-2 draw), 1960/61 (4-0\_ and 1970/71 (2-0 after 3-3 draw).

★ Celtic's biggest Scottish Cup win over Airdrie came on February 2, 1977 when they won 5-0. Joe Craig scored four goals himself with Ronnie Glavin netting the other.

★ Of Celtic's 13-man cup winning squad from four years ago only five remain at the club. They are Tom Boyd, Tosh McKinlay, Brian McLaughlin, Simon Donnelly and Phil O'Donnell.

★ The last four times Celtic have been paired with Airdrie in the Scottish Cup, the Bhoys have gone on to lift the trophy.





with David W. Potter

**T**he term "winger" is a strange one perhaps to younger readers.

It is the position sometimes referred to as a "wide man" and it is a source of regret that wingers are not more employed in modern football.

Up to the 1950s and early 1960s, every side would have two wingers.

The right winger would wear number seven and the left winger would wear number 11.

It was their job to receive a pass from the midfield, beat the full back, charge up the wing, then cross for the centre forward to finish the job.

It is indeed sad that this phenomenon seems to have dropped out of the game and is particularly sad for Celtic who were blessed with so many wingers over the years.

In the early years of the club, the line between wingers and other forwards was blurred and certain players excelled in all positions.

The first man to play on the right wing with distinction was Johnny Madden.

He actually played in the first ever game, but did not officially join Celtic until later.

He played in the three Championship winning seasons of 1893, 1894 and 1896 as a right winger.

He was fast, accurate and had a powerful shot and his ability endeared him to the Celtic faithful.

His subsequent career took a dramatic twist when he went to Czechoslovakia and played a

# Wide Bhoys wing it for the Hoops



WING KING ... Johnny Campbell

great part in the development of the game there.

He survived the rule of the Nazis to die there in 1948.

Johnny Campbell was another great Celtic forward of the Victorian era.

He was with the club twice and during the interlude with

Aston Villa helped them to their league and cup double in 1897.

He played on the left wing in Celtic's first ever Scottish Cup Final triumph in 1892.

This was no easy task for the final had to be replayed because of crowd encroachment.

In the replay however, Johnny scored twice as Celtic won 5-1.

He continued on the left wing as Celtic won the Championships of 1893 and 1894 but after his return from Villa was listed as

inside right when the cup was won in 1899 and 1900, and it was in that position that he played as Scotland beat England 4-1 in 1900.

He later went to Third Lanark and won a league medal with them in 1904.

In later years he opened a pub at the corner of London Road



HOGGING THE LINE ... The 'august and dignified' John Bell and right winger John Madden

and Boden Street which he called "The Villa Bar".

John Bell (sometimes called Jack) came to Celtic late in life.

He started off with Dumbarton (with whom he won two League Championship medals) but then chose Everton instead of Celtic in 1893.

He played for them for five years but was glad to return to Scotland in 1898, already an established internationalist.

He had an august and dignified look about him, being very tall and thin with a moustache.

The supporters loved his thrusting runs, his accurate crosses and his precision passing.

In the 1899 Scottish Cup Final Bell was badly injured following a tackle by Rangers' Nick Smith and quite clearly felt that he should come off.

But in these pre-substitute days, this would have left the team a man short and manager Maley insisted that he should carry on even with his knee bandaged.

Celtic were winning 1-0 with Bell limping to no obvious purpose down the wing.

But he still made an impact in the game when the ball came to him late in the game.

With his one serviceable foot, Bell immediately booted the ball to the other wing where John

Hodge was waiting to make it 2-0.

In 1900, Bell had two glory days - one was the 4-1 Scotland win over England and the other was the following week when he scored in Celtic's 4-3 win over Queen's Park in the Scottish Cup Final.

He left Celtic soon afterwards for reasons that were never adequately explained but it was obvious that he was not the man to kow-tow to tyranny, either of Willie Maley or anyone else, for he later became the Chairman of the Players' Union.

He returned to England where he played for Brighton, Everton (again) and Preston before he retired.

He was capped 10 times for Scotland.

**"Up to the 1950s and 1960s every side would have two wingers"**

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Q. What country did Celtic travel to for the mid-winter break?

Send your answers along with strip size (S,M L,XL) to Win & Grin, Walk On (17), PO Box 2413, Glasgow G40 3YB.

The winner from the Dunfermline Walk On was Dave Crabtree from Middleton, Manchester.

**H**enrik Larsson was delighted to meet two lucky members of the Huddle Club who were chosen to lead the team out against Dunfermline on December 19.

Barry McCabe, age nine from Coatbridge (pictured in the home kit) was over the moon at finally catching up with all the Bhoys after spending so many matchdays outside Celtic Park to update his treasured autograph book.

But Sean O'Hara, age eight from Cambuslang (in the change kit) was counting his lucky stars that he was there to meet and

## MEET THE MASCOT

greet the players, as he almost didn't make it - he was supposed to be on his way to the pantomime.

For Barry and Sean it was Christmas coming early - especially after the result!

If you would like the chance to be chosen as lucky mascot, please contact the Huddle Club, c/o the commercial department on 0141-551 4228





# just a tic

By The Bhoy In The Know

Since the long-drawn out saga known as the rebuilding of Hampden Park began many moons ago Celtic have played in two cup finals at Ibrox and numerous semi-finals.

And you know what? Even Hoops fans became a little used to it. Not fond of it exactly, just used to it.

Few, if anyone, of a Celtic persuasion would ever confess to harbouring an attachment to the home of their greatest rivals. But for semi-finals and finals it was just the ticket and, individual tastes aside, the Rangers stadium provided some fine moments for those of a green and white hue.

And what of Rangers at Celtic Park? They won the Scottish Cup semi-final last season at the home of their oldest rivals and have captured various Scottish and League Cups in the east end of Glasgow along the route to this May's Hampden Babylon.

Which leads us to ask in all seriousness. Has anyone actually MISSED Hampden Park?

Well, yes of course many have. It will come as a grave shock to some Celtic and Rangers fans to know that, outwith the at times bitter and insular world of the Old Firm, vast tracts of Scottish football supporters despise them and their stadia.

It's not mere jealousy either. Hampden Park to many is a dear green place devoid of the tribalism which attaches itself to Glasgow's big two and their palaces.

Of course, in an ideal world we would all like to see a beautiful state of the art football stadium used only for cup semis, finals and internationals.

But therein lies the rub. Scottish football is not an ideal world. Far from it. Right now the stock of the game in this country is lower than it has ever been before.

The national team is 37th in the FIFA rankings, our most expensively



FINAL COUNTDOWN...The revamped Hampden opens in May

assembled club team (Rangers) were rated only the 85th best side in Europe in a poll and there hasn't been a sniff of continental success since Margaret Thatcher's handbag was in fashion. In short, we really ought to be diverting our resources to more pressing matters than a white elephant monolith which MIGHT, just might, host a European final one day.

Wouldn't the millions devoted to renovating Hampden have been better spent in improving the technical skills of players in this country and to attracting more Playstation whizz-kids back to the game?

The New Year saw Celtic's under-18 side travel to a town near Stuttgart to take part in the DaimlerChrysler Junior Cup.

It was a well-organised and exciting event in keeping with the Tennents Sixes - only better. It certainly keeps the Germans going. At a time when we are finally admitting to the need for a winter shutdown, would it not make sense to finally build a similarly decent national indoor facility exclusively dedicated to nurturing the best Scottish talent - something we patently don't have at the moment?

It could house a school of excellence and operate coaching classes in the worst of seasonal conditions - unlike the distinctly 'summer' venue of Inverclyde. And it could host events along the lines

of the DaimlerChrysler.

Young Celts Stephen Murray and Joe Hayes admitted after the Stuttgart event that playing in such conditions improved their touch and allowed them to home in on the techniques of crack German sides, all of whom play indoors as a matter of course. Let's face it, anything which could help us emulate the Germans is good enough for us.

In recent weeks the Lottery fund has administered pots of cash to both Scottish golf and cricket for indoor coaching centres. Scottish football could surely manage something similar.

Even Ajax's Amsterdam Arena, with its retractable roof, is an example of creating a facility not readily available already, thereby utilising resources originally.

Can anyone honestly argue that rebuilding Hampden Park, complete with anti-terrorist entrance tunnel, serves the same purpose?

As long as Scottish clubs are under-performing in Europe this nation's chances of ever hosting a major international tournament are diminished regardless of how many five-star stadiums we have.

It seems to me that Scotland has managed very nicely thank you without dear old Hampden.

We're managing distinctly less well without world class players with top class ball control. Be honest, which would you rather have?

Stephen McGowan

## "Has anyone actually missed playing at Hampden Park?"



●The views expressed on this page are not necessarily those of Celtic Football Club

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# celtic stats

## Celtic first team player stats

PLAYER	PD			LC			SC			EURO			TOTAL		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Paul LAMBERT	20	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	29	-	1
Henrik LARSSON	21	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	4	29	-	19
Tom BOYD	20	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	27	-	-
Jonathan GOULD	17	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	26	-	-
Simon DONNELLY	19	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	1	25	3	6
Stephane MAHE	16	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	23	-	-
Alan STUBBS	15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	1	22	-	2
Craig BURLEY	12	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	20	-	5
Harald BRATTBAKK	9	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	2	15	6	4
Phil O'DONNELL	9	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	14	2	4
Jackie McNAMARA	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	14	1	-
Vidar RISETH	13	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	1
Marc RIEPER	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	12	-	-
Darren JACKSON	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1	9	6	1
Regi BLINKER	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	9	-	1
Lubomir MORAVCIK	9	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	5
Tosh McKINLAY	4	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	7	7	-
David HANNAH	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	7	3	-
Johann MJALLBY	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	1
Mark BURCHILL	4	8	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9	4
Rico ANNONI	3	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	7	-
Malky MACKAY	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	1
Tony WARNER	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Andy McCONDICHIE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Stewart KERR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-

### Scottish Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RANGERS	21	13	5	3	39	19	44
KILMARNOCK	21	11	7	3	30	12	40
CELTIC	21	9	7	5	44	22	34
ST JOHNSTONE	22	8	9	5	28	28	33
MOTHERWELL	22	6	8	8	21	29	26
HEARTS	22	6	6	10	22	29	24
ABERDEEN	22	6	6	10	23	35	24
DUNDEE	21	6	5	10	20	32	23
DUNDEE UTD	22	5	7	10	22	27	22
DUNFERMLINE	22	2	12	8	17	33	18



Top scorer...Larsson



Top Bhoys...Lambert

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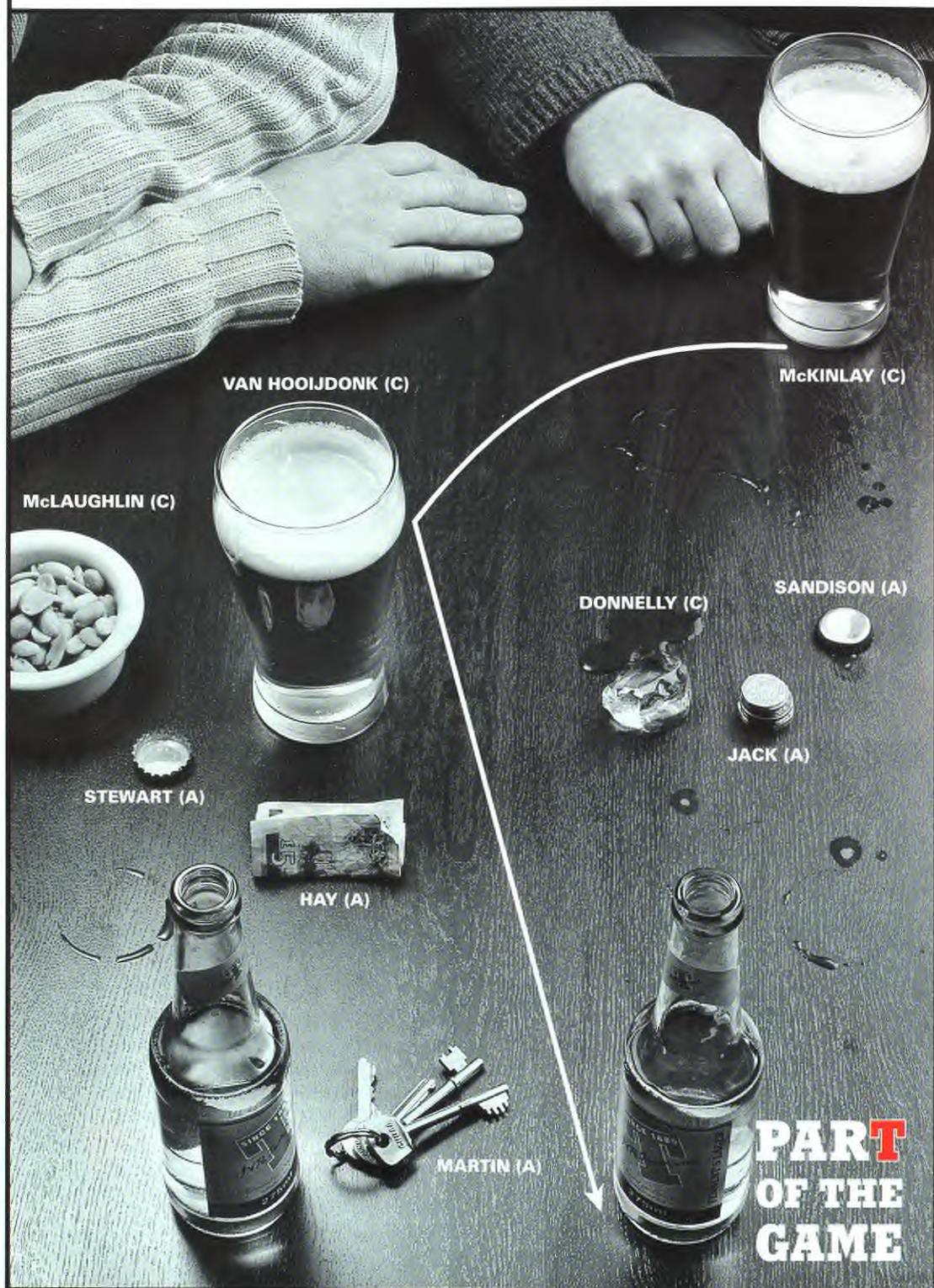
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## Picture perfect answer

The lucky winner of Henrik Larsson's personally autographed photo was Dannielle Duffy from Lennoxton who correctly answered Henrik's question: How many goals did I score for Celtic last season? The answer was of course 19.

The winner of the Dunfermline match Walk On Mystery Phrase Competition was Sarah Lauckner from Penicuik, Midlothian and the answer was 'It was a game of two halves'. Both winners will have their prizes ASAP and if you fancy your chances of winning - you know it couldn't be easier - just try!

All tickets for the Peter Beardsley testimonial have been sent out. Unfortunately, there have been some unsuccessful applicants. We apologise for any disappointment. If you have not yet received your tickets, the likelihood is that you have been unsuccessful in your application.



## Red card of the week

This week the Walk On Red Card goes to the Spanish wife who handed out bottles of brandy on the night Celtic lifted the trophy of the same name. It's not that we are complaining about the way in which the Iberian dolly bird dolled out the gifts... And we aren't climbing up on the soapbox to give a lecture on why professional athletes shouldn't succumb to the demon drink. It's just that anyone worth their salt knows that to a man the entire squad don't go near the stuff - they all drink vodka!

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