

LARSSON

7

Henrik Larsson's Farewell Fiesta

Celtic v Sevilla

Tuesday 25th May 2004

Celtic Park K.O 8pm

£5

KING



*Carling would like to wish Henrik Larsson
all the best for the future*

LOVEFOOTBALL

Henrik Larsson, Celtic Football Club, July 1997 - May 2004

TONIGHT marks the end of an era, seven years that were deemed barely imaginable in July 1997 when another intake of new arrivals took their debut bow in Paradise.

This evening we gather for the final bow of one of the class of '97, a player who passed all exams with flying colours and a name that has become synonymous with Celtic's success in those seven years – Henrik Larsson.

Henke, The Magnificent 7, King of Kings – so good they named him THRICE, let's just say that New York pales in comparison to the Big Apple in the eyes of the massive Celtic support.

He came, he saw, he conquered and now he leaves a glittering array of achievements behind him, but he also leaves with the hearts of a support that idolised him as they idolised no other.

Suffice to say that in this 84-page tribute we pay homage to each and every one of the seven seasons in which the Magnificent One plied his trade in Paradise...

Seasons when records were broken as contenders fell at the feet of a rampant Celtic inspired by the Swedish striker who struck fear into the defences of all who came up against the Celts.

Larsson himself would be the first to admit that one man doesn't make a team – but one man CAN make a team better by instilling confidence and there's no doubt that the Magnificent 7 inspired the Magnificent 11 to countless victories.

There were moments of anguish throughout the joy of the last seven seasons though, the Lyon leg break and the heartbreak of Seville to name but two.

And tonight we welcome Sevilla to play their part in this night of tribute to the King of Kings who came so close to being crowned King of Seville.

The best team won the hearts of the Sevillians a year ago this month and while the countless thousands of Celtic supporters turned the Andalusian city green and white, it was the inimitable Henrik Larsson who deserved a winners' medal more than any other man on the park that night.

Henrik Larsson we salute you ... and while we can't wrap our arms around a memory, we thank you for them nonetheless from the bottom of our hearts.

Hail, Hail Henrik – You Will Never Walk Alone.





Farewell Henrik

Bank of Scotland extends its congratulations to Henrik Larsson for a **Magnificent 7** years at Celtic Football Club, and wishes him the very best for the future.



BANK OF SCOTLAND



Always giving you extra



Henrik Larsson's
Farewell Fiesta
Celtic v Sevilla
Tuesday, May 25, 2004
Celtic Park K.O 8pm



- Momo Sylla
- Jackie McNamara
- Joos Valgaeren
- Bobo Balde
- Henrik Larsson
- Alan Thompson
- Chris Sutton
- John Hartson
- Stephen Pearson
- David Fernandez
- Paul Lambert
- Ulrik Laursen
- Didier Agathe
- Neil Lennon
- Stilian Petrov
- Robert Douglas
- David Marshall
- Stanislav Varga
- Shaun Maloney
- Ross Wallace
- Johan Mjallby
- Craig Beattie
- Jamie Smith
- John Kennedy
- Liam Miller
- Stephen McManus
- Kevin McBride
- Aiden McGeady
- Michael McGovern

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- Andres Esteban
- Francisco Javi Navarro
- David Castedo
- Dario Silva
- Zoran Njegus
- Inti Podesta
- Francisco Gallardo
- Daniel Alves
- Víctor Salas
- Francisco
- German Hornos
- Juan Miguel Juanmi
- Antonio Notario
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- Gerardo Torrado
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- Julio Cesar Baptista
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- Antonio Lopez
- Francisco Casquero
- Pablo Alfaro

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Tonight's Officials

Referee: **MIKE McCURRY**
Assistant Referees: **MARTIN CRYANS**
TOM MURPHY



CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman
CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney
MANAGER Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford
HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns **YOUTH TEAM COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark



THE KING OF KINGS

After seven magnificent years at Celtic Park, Henrik Larsson will tonight say an emotional farewell to the club he will always hold close to his heart

Exclusive Interview: ALISON McCONNELL



“THE TIME I HAVE SPENT HERE HAS BEEN FANTASTIC AND THE FANS HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUS”



FAMILY GUY: Henrik and his family have enjoyed their seven years in Scotland and will leave these shores with many happy memories

IS there anything left to say about Henrik Larsson? It's not just the glut of statistics that dance off the tongue, drumming up a list of prestigious honours with quick-fire precision, but the fact that those who have witnessed his adventures in the East End of Glasgow over the last seven years have been not only unanimous but fulsome in their praise of the Swede.

Scarcely has Scottish football heralded the exit of a foreign player with such pomp and ceremony.

From the souvenir supplements that have graced near on every newspaper in the country and the anxious countdown that has been churning away in the background among the Hoops support since the season began back in August, just how much Larsson has given to the game in Scotland has been reflected in the gifts handed out to the striker now that he has come to take his leave. A game in his honour for both player and fans to say their goodbyes prompted tales of up to a seven-hour wait for tickets, with queues snaking round the stadium for days on end as people eagerly turned out to pay their respects. By his own admission, tonight will be an emotional evening for the Swede.

Stilian Petrov confessed last week that it will be just as emotional for his team-mates, and there is no doubt that there will be a few hankies wrung in the stands when the final whistle blows against Seville and the finality of Larsson's final bow hits home. It's always a guessing game when it comes to deciphering the mind of Martin O'Neill, but he too will doubtless feel a gnawing ache as a man who is now Celtic's third best striker of all time disappears through the exit door.

Petrov will miss the opening days of training with his Bulgarian team-mates in order to take his place at what he described as a "special night", and over the last few weeks as Larsson has allowed his guard to slip a little as his departure looms, the Swedish striker has acknowledged just how much his time at Celtic has meant to him.

His six-year-old son, Jordan, resplendent in mini-Hoops kit and with little limbs mimicking the movements of his father, almost stole the show when the Championship party got underway a couple of weeks ago and it has been the fact that his family, wife Magdalena, Jordan and two-year-old Janice, settled so well off the park that allowed Larsson to flourish on it.

"We're in this country because I had a talent I was given from somebody and that's what brought me here," he said. "My wife

loves it here as do my two kids and my son is more or less Scottish.

"I have to make that decision to leave and I don't want to settle down in Scotland because I have my family and my friends back in Sweden

whom I want to see more of. I will shed a tear in my last game here. I feel that I had such a good time here but I don't want to stay another year.

"I will be 33 in September and I feel that I have a chance to go somewhere for one or two years and do something and I don't want to have any regrets.

"The seven years that I have spent here have been fantastic and the people at the club and the fans have been tremendous. It's going to be very hard for me. I think a lot of people don't understand that it is going to be so hard to leave this club

“THIS CLUB MEANS SO MUCH TO ME, IF NOT EVERYTHING IN MY ENTIRE FOOTBALL CAREER”

YOUNG GUN: Henrik takes the field for Feyenoord, the club Celtic would eventually sign the Swedish striker from for £650,000

because it meant so much to me, if not everything, in my football career."

Larsson will always have his dissenters who question his decision to play his football in the Scottish league for seven years, yet the milestones that the Swede has clocked up while playing with Celtic have been nothing short of remarkable.

Having turned down clubs during the time he spent in the Hoops – including Manchester United on more than one occasion – Larsson's philosophy appears to have revolved around an 'if it's not broken' mantra and in terms of personal accolades and individual achievements it certainly caused him no harm.

Single-minded and stubborn, the striker has always been keen to follow his own path. The son of a Helsingborg factory worker, Eva Larsson, and a sailor from the Cape Verde islands off Senegal, Francisco Rocha, Larsson's resilience was forged in his early years. It wasn't just racial prejudice in the Scandinavian

country but the fact he was told he was too scrawny to make the grade at professional level.

A late starter in professional terms, he was 21 before he turned semi-pro with Hogaborgs and in his inaugural season showed a glimpse of what was to come, with 34 goals in 31 games. A move to Rotterdam followed as well as international honours before things soured at Feyenoord and eventually, after a protracted court-room affair, he ended up at Celtic courtesy of Wim Jansen.

Such history is perhaps the reason why he stuck by Celtic when other suitors came calling, yet few could challenge his decision. No-one when based with a British club has scored more European goals than Larsson. His 35 strikes in the Continent in Celtic colours overhauled the previous record held by Peter Lorimer and Ian Rush, and there are so many such stats that to list them all risks descending into tedium.

Yet, the Golden Shoe that he collected in season 2000-01 with Celtic after a season in which he accumulated 53 goals must be one prize that the Swede treasures. He has often remarked that he is not the kind for displaying trinkets of his career in his home, but this is one memento of his football career that must allow him a quiet glow of satisfaction. The first Scandinavian to win the award and the first player to earn such an accolade when performing outwith one of Europe's major leagues since the system was weighted in favour of more illustrious leagues, it was a significant achievement.

"It would have been hard for me to reach another level," he said. "I think I have been doing OK here. It wouldn't be fair to speculate on ifs and buts. I think I have developed here and become a player with Celtic while people have started to know me outside Britain. I don't think I could have become a better player anywhere else. It's been fantastic here. You get 60,000 every week and I don't know a lot of places where you get that."



"IT'S BEEN GREAT HERE. YOU GET 60,000 FANS EVERY WEEK AND I DON'T KNOW A LOT OF PLACES WHERE YOU WOULD GET THAT"

SWEDEN AND SOUR: Henrik scores his first goal in Seville, a game which still pains him to this day, while he and Wim Jansen celebrate the 1997/98 league title

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK: Henrik will play for Sweden in next month's Euro 2004 tournament

The verdict from those supporters is that Larsson has been a privilege to watch every other week. The disastrous debut apart, the Swede took very little time to ingratiate himself to a support and the manner in which he done so – by scoring goals and working hard for those around him – contrasted greatly with those who had immediately gone before him.

The fact that so many former players and from so many different eras have been desperate to bestow their praises on a player who has taken on legendary status at the club speaks for itself. Danny McGrain, himself no stranger to success, described Larsson as *the* player of his time and insisted that there was no higher accolade he could give the striker.

Larsson will wave his goodbyes tonight with his bags already packed and plenty of silverware jostling for space in the new house that awaits the family in Sweden. Where he goes first, if anywhere at all, is something he isn't shedding any light on, but the club he is leaving behind couldn't be more different to the one he discovered when he first arrived in 1997.

Back then domestic honours had eluded Celtic for near on a decade, give or take a Cup or two, yet seven years on, the Celtic that Larsson leaves behind is a team whose name has earned respect not only at home but in the European arena too.

Three titles in four years as well as two showings in the prestigious environs of the Champions League have followed since O'Neill's appointment and Larsson has excelled in an organised and fluent side.

Yet, the player still cannot bring himself to talk with any pride of his showing at the UEFA Cup final last season and not even the eleven goals he scored in the tournament as Celtic made it

"TONIGHT WILL BE FANTASTIC BECAUSE IT GIVES ME THE CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE TO EVERYONE"

all the way to Seville are capable of providing a balm for the wounds sustained by the defeat against Porto.

"We have made a lot of progress in the last few years and even this season we improved by winning the league. Last year we did really well in Europe too but the UEFA Cup final is still a problem for me to talk about because even now it pains me. I get sick every time someone mentions it; it's still sore.

"We did something very good by reaching the final but not winning it just spoiled it for me, it really did. This season I think we did OK in Europe but again I'd have to say that I was disappointed that we couldn't get past Villarreal, but I have to think to myself that's just life; some days you are more lucky than others."

While reluctant to divulge a favourite goal or a favourite victory, Larsson cites stopping ten-in-a-row the first season that he spent in Glasgow as one of his most memorable years, while the Treble-winning season of 2000-01 will always take some beating.

"With football, winning the league in the first season that I was here and winning the Treble during Martin O'Neill's first season here have been the most satisfying times since I was here," he said "I don't know how I feel about coming back to Celtic Park after I go, though. Maybe I'll be here every other week or I might not come for a long time, it just depends on

what happens and where I'm going. I really don't know how I would feel about it."

There are few footballers in this era who remain at one club for the length of time that Larsson has. His reward will come tonight against Sevilla when he will run onto the turf at Celtic Park for the final time before he starts to turn his attention to helping Sweden at the Euro 2004 tournament in Portugal.

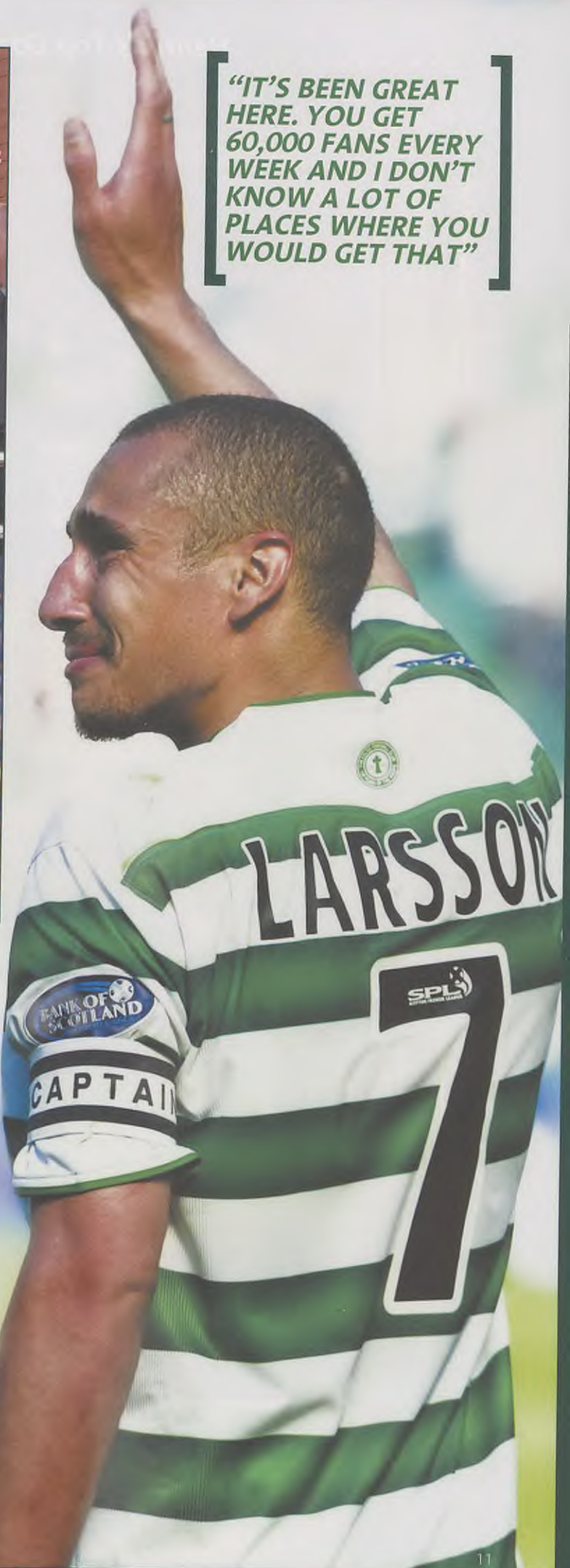
When news broke that the striker had finally bowed to public pressure – over 100,000 Swedish fans signed a petition urging him to return to the international squad – the question on every Celtic supporter's mind was whether he would commit a similar u-turn and stay in Glasgow.

It was never going to be the case, especially after a season in which his manager and every one of his team-mates have been asked on a weekly basis whether or not they have succeeded in talking Larsson into a change of heart. Tonight will be the final encore and it is bound to be a bittersweet occasion for the striker. "It's a great honour for me, I know that," said Larsson.

"Normally a player would have to be here for 10 years to get something like this. The club have honoured me with a game and that's fantastic because it gives me the chance to say a proper goodbye to everyone.

"Off the park the way people are in Scotland, and the Glasgow people in particular, have been very good to me and to my family and we appreciate that very much."

There is so little to add to the plaudits that have been emanating towards Larsson consistently over the last few weeks, but the praise that has been repeated from every quarter is liable to echo through generations of Celtic fans.



Henrik's Top Goals – Number 1



Celtic 6 Rangers 2, SPL, Celtic Park, August 27, 2000

This was Martin O'Neill's first Old Firm experience as manager and amazingly, Celtic were three goals up after 12 minutes but Rangers managed to pull a goal back before half-time. Then Henrik took centre-stage. He avoided the challenge of Tugay then nutmegging Konterman. Then with perfect execution, he chipped the ball over Stefan Klos from the edge of the box. It looked so easy and casual, yet few strikers would have attempted it, let alone pulled it off.

SEASON 1997/98



“Other clubs said they were interested but only Celtic were strong enough to make a concrete offer. I hope I can bring a lot to Celtic ... Playing in front of 50,000 fans every home game will take a bit of getting used to but they made me feel very welcome and I hope I can help bring success for them.”

Henrik Larsson, July 1997



Celtic were in turmoil while Larsson had endured an unhappy time in Holland, ending in a legal battle to leave Feyenoord. But as it turned out, club and player had come together at exactly the right time

HENRIK LARSSON arrived at Celtic Park in July 1997 from Feyenoord. Celtic's new manager, Dutchman Wim Jansen, had signed the dreadlocked Swede for £650,000, a sum that came to be seen as ludicrously low as Larsson rewarded his new club with an abundance of goals.

The two parties came together that summer after a period of respective turmoil. The striker had endured an unhappy time in Holland, culminating in a legal fight to enable him to leave Holland for Glasgow.

Celtic, meanwhile, had been unable to prevent Rangers winning the league the previous season, a situation bad enough had it not been for the fact that it meant Rangers had now equalled nine-in-a-row.

Jansen arrived in the close season as manager with one set objective - to stop the 10.

As well as Larsson, Craig Burley, Mark Rieper and Regi Blinker among others all came to Celtic Park as the Dutchman sought to quickly assemble a winning team.

Things couldn't have started any worse for Celtic or Larsson in the league campaign, however.

Celtic suffered a 2-1 defeat on the opening day of the season against Hibs at Easter Road. Larsson came on as a substitute with half an hour to go and his

first touch was a wayward pass straight to Chic Charnley who hammered the ball into the net to give Hibs victory.

Things didn't get any better in the next fixture when Celtic suffered another 2-1 defeat, this time at home against Dunfermline.

The more pessimistic of supporters could have been forgiven for planning their exile from Scotland the following May. Two games gone. Six points behind Rangers.

However, on August 23, 1997, Jansen's side gathered their first three points of the season in a 2-0 victory over St Johnstone at McDiarmid Park.

And Larsson scored his first league goal for the club - a diving header from a Simon Donnelly cross. He had already netted in the 7-0 League Cup victory over Berwick Rangers and now he was off the mark in the SPL.

Not blessed with the ability to see into the future, however, Celtic fans were unlikely to have predicted the striker would go on to break the club's post-war



record for league goals or become the third top scorer in Celtic's history.

November 1997 saw silverware return to Celtic Park when Celtic beat Dundee United in the League Cup final at Ibrox.

The 3-0 victory courtesy of goals from Rieper, Burley and Larsson was a much-needed confidence boost and was quickly followed by a Ne'erday Old Firm 2-0 win at Celtic Park.

Amazingly, for a player who would end up scoring 15 goals in 30 appearances against Rangers, Larsson did not get off the mark against the Ibrox side that season.

“VICTORY FOR JANSEN'S SIDE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO FINISH TOP OF THE LEAGUE BUT STILL IT TURNED OUT TO BE A TENSE DAY AT CELTIC PARK”

The abiding memory of 1997/98, however, is from the final day of the season. The previous week Celtic had the chance to win the league by beating Dunfermline at East End Park but a late equaliser denied the Hoops the trophy.

It would all boil down to the last day. Rangers faced Dundee United at Tannadice while Celtic were up against St Johnstone at home.

Victory for Jansen's side would still be

enough to finish top but it was a tense afternoon at Celtic Park.

That tension was relieved after just two minutes, however, when Larsson opened the scoring.

Cutting inside from the left he swept the ball into the net beyond the reach of Alan Main in the Saints' goal.

The player, in his first season with Celtic, scored 19 goals including three in the League Cup campaign, but it was to

be this goal that proved so significant and remained so memorable.

Harald Brattbakk added a second late in the game and the league had been won.

More importantly, Celtic had stopped the 10.

The previous season had been an unhappy one for player and club. But as it turned out, both had found each other at the right time and it was to be the start of a long and fruitful relationship.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

My favourite memory of Henrik is the goal against St Johnstone on the last day of the season in 1998 that stopped Rangers winning 10-in-a-row. I had just taken my seat in the Lisbon Lions Stand with my steak pie and Bovril. On with the brown sauce and pepper and I was ready to go. Two minutes in, Henrik gets the ball, jinks past a couple of defenders and ... the ball is nestling in the net. As you can imagine, the whole place goes mental. Everyone starts hugging and celebrating. The madness begins to subside as the Saints kick off and I sit down and notice something is missing. Unfortunately, in the midst of the celebrations I had lost the pie and Bovril. So this is also a belated apology to the person who ended up wearing my lunch ... SORRY.

TONY PARKER, ROTHESAY GLEN DALY CSC

(Fans' comments taken from the new book 'Thanks for the Memories: Celtic fans' tribute to Henrik Larsson')

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Ex-Celtic manager Wim Jansen returns to Celtic Park tonight to say farewell to the Swedish striker he brought to Paradise

Exclusive Interview: STEPHEN SULLIVAN



Wim Jansen

IN APPORTIONING credit for Henrik Larsson's Celtic success story, it's impossible to overlook the contribution of Wim Jansen.

The little Dutchman was, after all, the man responsible for rescuing the Swede from a Feyenoord side in which he was being mistreated by a manager seemingly unaware of his abilities, or how best to utilise them.

That he did so in exchange for just £650,000 ensured the deal legendary status, and Jansen himself the eternal gratitude of the Celtic support.

Yet, aside from that which stems from bringing him to Glasgow, Jansen seeks no credit for transforming Larsson into the prolific and world-class goalscorer the Celtic fans will bid farewell to this evening.

Indeed, while not wishing to downplay the significance of Martin O'Neill's influence on the trajectory of the Swede's career, the former Celtic boss believes Larsson is one of a rare breed of footballers who, even without the help and advice of a coach, could still survive and flourish.

"For me, Henrik is the perfect professional," said Jansen. "His desire is always to keep improving, and you see that from the way he has developed since moving to Scotland. Really, a player like that doesn't need a coach.

"He knows when he needs to train, what he needs to work on, and when he needs to rest. He also draws motivation from

within himself. For any manager, it's a dream to have players like this.

"I still remember the first time I ever saw him play. I had gone over to Sweden to look at another player, but Henrik really impressed me. I wanted to take him to Feyenoord straight away, and I always had high hopes that he would do well in Holland.

"When I arrived at Celtic, I wanted to sign him again, but I didn't think it would be possible. It was only later that I heard that there were some problems at Feyenoord, and from that moment on there was no doubt in my mind."

Yet surely even Jansen couldn't have foreseen that Larsson would go on to carve his name so indelibly in Celtic folklore?

"I knew Henrik was a good player but, no, I don't think anyone could have envisaged him making such a massive impact," he admitted. "He's been brilliant for Celtic, and very loyal too. That was important for the Celtic fans because I know they felt badly treated by some of their heroes before him."

Many would suggest that this wasn't the only way in which Jansen underestimated his star pupil. It's certainly been widely suggested that the Dutchman considered Larsson's goalscoring skills inferior to his ability to invent, and that Harald Brattbakk was bought to benefit from the Swede's creative talent.

Jansen is adamant, however, that it was not through ignorance that he opted to play Larsson in a more withdrawn role.

"I knew he could score goals," he insisted. "But I also knew that he was a lot more than just a goalscorer. His workrate and

intelligence have always meant that, as well as playing centre-forward, he can also play around the main striker and also do extremely well.

"He was a brilliant player for us in my season as manager of Celtic. It helped that, from the very first day, he and his family settled into life in Scotland very well, and he did a great job for us. His performances for us over that whole season were superb."

"THE GREAT THING ABOUT HENRIK IS HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE BALL, ALWAYS LOOKING TO PLAY"

Well, perhaps not the whole season. There was that infamous debut at Easter Road, after all, one to which Larsson has referred often - sometimes with a smile, sometimes through gritted teeth - in the years since. Jansen, for his part, admits to wondering what all the fuss has been about.

He said: "I'm surprised to hear that he mentions it a lot because, at the time, I didn't think it affected him too badly. Sure, it was a mistake, but that's part of the game. The great thing about Henrik is that, even when things aren't going so well, he's still always looking for the ball, always looking to play.

Not for one second did I worry that he might not be a success."

Nor is Jansen concerned about the apparent lack of interest in Larsson among Europe's top clubs as his contract nears its end.

"I've learned in football that you never know what's going to happen from one day to the next," he said. "Henrik might not have the offer he wants right now, but there might be a call tomorrow for him from a club he would like to play for. He's right to wait. At this stage of his career, it's important for him to go somewhere where he will be comfortable, and where there is still a challenge for him."

Jansen, meanwhile, having not exactly proved a regular visitor at Celtic Park over recent seasons, will this evening attend his second Hoops match in as many months, having also taken in the dramatic 2-2 draw with Hearts at the start of April. It is not a sentimental journey for the Dutchman, however, but rather one which will be made with the aim of helping to pay tribute to an old comrade, and his greatest ever signing.

"Yes, I am coming over for the game - and I'm looking forward to it very much," he said. "I always look forward to coming back to Celtic Park, and I'm always made very, very welcome by the Celtic fans."

"Tonight is for Henrik, though. He is someone I have a lot of respect for, and we have always stayed in contact since I left Celtic. This will be a great night for him, and also, I'm sure, a sad one because he has loved it here in Glasgow."

Glasgow, or half of it at least, has loved having him.

Henrik Stats

Season
1997/98

League: 34 app; 1 sub
16 goals
League Cup: 5 appearances
3 goals
Scottish Cup: 4 appearances
Europe: 4 appearances
Total: 47 appearances,
1 sub
19 goals

1	Aug 9, 97	LC	Berwick Rangers
2	Aug 23, 97	SPL	St Johnstone
3	Sep 10, 97	LC	Motherwell
4	Sep 20, 97	SPL	Aberdeen
5	Sep 20, 97	SPL	Aberdeen
6	Oct 4, 97	SPL	Kilmarnock
7	Oct 4, 97	SPL	Kilmarnock
8	Oct 18, 97	SPL	Hearts
9	Oct 25, 97	SPL	St Johnstone
10	Nov 1, 97	SPL	Dunfermline
11	Nov 22, 97	SPL	Dundee Utd
12	Nov 22, 97	SPL	Dundee Utd
13	Nov 30, 97	LC	Dundee Utd
14	Dec 9, 97	SPL	Aberdeen
15	Dec 20, 97	SPL	Hibernian
16	Feb 2, 98	SPL	Aberdeen
17	Feb 25, 98	SPL	Dunfermline
18	Apr 8, 98	SPL	Kilmarnock
19	May 9, 98	SPL	St Johnstone



Henrik's Top Goals – Number 2



Celtic 3 Kilmarnock 0, CIS Insurance Cup final, Hampden, March 18, 2001

This turned out to be a bruising and bad-tempered affair. The victory was the first leg of the Treble and all three goals came from Henrik. The first was a swivel and scissor-kick into the roof of the net; the second arrived when he ran on to a pass by Lubo Moravcik and sent a deflected shot high over Gordon Marshall; while the third was a thing of beauty. Henrik raced past the Killie defence and cutely rolled the ball past Marshall before prodding it into an empty net.

Tack Så Mycket



Lycka Till

Thank you very much Henrik
for 7 Magnificent Years!
Good Luck from all at Phoenix



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SEASON 1998/99



“For me, 1998/99 was great, but for the club it was a bad season because we didn’t win the league, and we lost the cup final. The players around me were brilliant, they gave me the ball because they knew what sort of form I was in.”

Henrik Larsson, May 2001



Double celebrations as Lubo scores twice in his first game against Rangers and Henrik breaks Old Firm duck with a brace in 5-1 rout – despite Dr Jo having little time to prepare for new campaign

THE euphoria of stopping the 10 quickly evaporated at Celtic Park. It started 24 hours after the title party when Wim Jansen announced he was quitting. It meant Celtic were once more searching for a new manager and he came in the shape of a doctor - Jozef Venglos.

The Slovakian coach arrived at the club with a well established reputation in European football, but such was the insular nature of the Scottish media that his appointment immediately sparked headlines such as 'Doctor Who?'

Dr. Jo had little time to prepare for the new season, though he did bring in two players who were to prove enormously influential over the coming seasons.

One was Henrik Larsson's countryman, Johan Mjallby, a tough competitor who could play in midfield or defence, the other was Lubomir Moravcik.

'Lubo Who?' the headlines screamed, but the media didn't have to wait long to find out exactly who he was.

The second Old Firm game of the season took place at Celtic Park on November 21, 1998 when Moravcik made his first appearance against Rangers and Larsson got off the mark for the first time against the Ibrox club.

Both players netted two goals apiece as Celtic destroyed Rangers 5-1. Moravcik grabbed the headlines that day while



Larsson's two goals put him on the way to an overall total of 15 against Rangers.

The two players had already combined to great effect in the Slovak's debut when Celtic beat Dundee 6-1. Moravcik's exquisite cross with the outside of his right foot found Larsson's head and the Swede finished in fine style.

Ultimately Celtic were to relinquish their hold on the SPL trophy as Rangers ran out winners by six points. It didn't help Celtic's cause that they lost three of their four meetings with St Johnstone. With all due respect to the Perth side, these were games the Hoops should have expected to win.

For Larsson, it was to be the first of

many impressive seasons as he hit 38 goals in the campaign, including 29 in the league. This included four against Motherwell at Fir Park on a night Celtic swept to a 7-1 victory.

His efforts, while not helping to bring any silverware back to Celtic Park - the Scottish Cup final was also lost to Rangers - were enough for him to be named Scotland's Player of the Year.

But while the personal accolades rained down on him there's no doubt that, for a player who has always championed the team over the individual, the lack of a trophy for season 1998/99 meant any personal satisfaction was tinged with disappointment.

"LUBO'S EXQUISITE CROSS WITH THE OUTSIDE OF HIS RIGHT FOOT FOUND LARSSON'S HEAD AND THE SWEDE FINISHED OFF IN SOME STYLE"



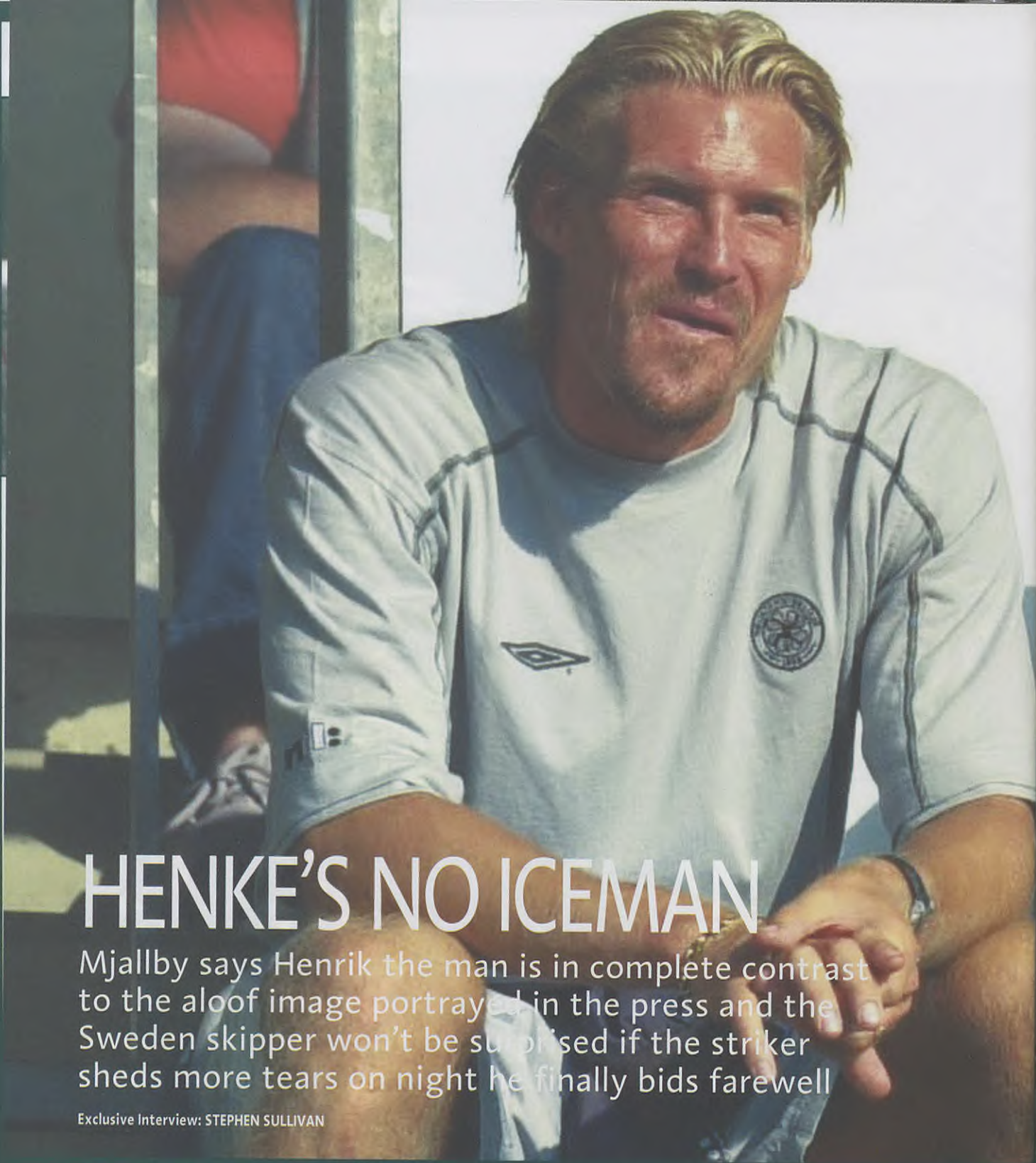
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

I think Henrik Larsson is one of the best players the game has ever seen. From his attacking presence to his all-round game, be it setting up goals, tracking back the full length of the field to win the ball or chasing a lost cause, he is superb.

His goals are always special and just when you think you have seen everything he pops up and scores another, leaving you amazed at how he did it.

I wish him well for the future and thank him for some of the best times in my life.

IAIN SCALLY, GREENOCK



HENKE'S NO ICEMAN

Mjallby says Henrik the man is in complete contrast to the aloof image portrayed in the press and the Sweden skipper won't be surprised if the striker sheds more tears on night he finally bids farewell

Exclusive Interview: STEPHEN SULLIVAN



Johan Mjallby

HENRIK LARSSON: great player, great guy. Right? That would, of course, be for those who know him best to judge, but there's little doubt that the Swede has generally been characterised as a cool, dispassionate and often aloof character, who - by his own admission - has been known to be a little awkward on occasion.

Indeed, following that unexpected and unrestrained show of emotion in his penultimate appearance at Celtic Park, one paper's report was accompanied by the headline: 'The Iceman Melteth,' reflecting not only Larsson's image, but also his frosty relationship with press.

Johan Mjallby, however, is adamant that that the media men have got him all wrong. The real Larsson, Mjallby insists, is in complete contrast to his media caricature, and if, as seems likely, yet more tears are shed tonight, the big defender wouldn't be in the least surprised.

"No, not at all," Mjallby admitted. "Henrik appreciates everything he has here, he's enjoyed it immensely, and I think it's just beginning to show how much he's going to miss it all. He might have this image as 'the iceman,' but that's not what he's like at all. That's just what people in the press see. If they knew him well enough, they'd realise he's a very different person to the way they think he is.

"He's just a very good professional who likes to keep a low profile. He loves his football, but I think that, like me, he believes that his private life should remain very much his own business. I think you have to be like that, particularly when you're as famous as he is. It's easier for the rest of us to keep quite a low profile, but Henrik is massive here and everyone wants a piece of him."

Worshipped in Glasgow, Larsson has also found himself elevated to hero status by a normally reserved Swedish football public whose prayers were answered when he announced his return from the international wilderness this year. No-one was more thrilled than Mjallby at his team-mate's U-turn, and Sweden's captain insists that,

"NATIONAL COACHES HAVE MADE A WISE DECISION TO BRING HIM BACK FOR THE EUROPEAN FINALS"

despite suggestions that one or two noses might have put out of joint by his Hoops colleague returning after exempting himself from the less glamorous qualifying matches, a hero's welcome is assured.

"Yeah, there's no question about that," he said. "Bringing Henrik back was always a decision for the national team's coaches to make, and I think they've made a very wise one. The boys have no problems with Henrik. We all wanted him back. Even the fringe men in the squad want Sweden to have the best chance of doing well in Portugal, and there's no doubt that we have a better chance of doing that with Henrik in the team rather than away somewhere on holiday."

Celtic, meanwhile, are left to plan for a future without a striker who has contributed almost 250 goals to the club over the past seven seasons.

It is, Mjallby admits, an imposing prospect, and he concedes that whoever is asked to fill his fellow countryman's goal-plundering boots will be tasked with mission impossible.

"It will be very different without Henrik, and also very difficult," he said. "I certainly don't envy whoever is asked to fill his boots because Henrik is such a popular and respected player with everyone here. In the dressing room, we'll miss him not only as a player but also as a person because he's a great guy."

Indeed, Mjallby admits that, after tonight, he'll pine more for Henrik the man than Larsson the footballer.

He said: "Henrik was brilliant to me when I first arrived, and I feel that I'm losing a very good friend as well as a brilliant team-mate. All I'll say is that he can definitely expect to have me on the phone checking on how he's doing wherever he ends up next season."

Henrik Stats

Season
1998/99



League:	35 appearances, 29 goals
League Cup:	0 appearances
Scottish Cup:	5 appearances, 5 goals
Europe:	8 appearances, 4 goals
Total:	48 appearances, 38 goals

20	Jul 29, 98	Euro	St Patrick's Ath
21	Aug 16, 98	SPL	Aberdeen
22	Aug 16, 98	SPL	Aberdeen
23	Sep 15, 98	Euro	Vit'ra Guimaraes
24	Sep 29, 98	Euro	Vit'ra Guimaraes
25	Oct 17, 98	SPL	Dunfermline
26	Nov 3, 98	Euro	Zurich
27	Nov 7, 98	SPL	Dundee
28	Nov 7, 98	SPL	Dundee
29	Nov 7, 98	SPL	Dundee
30	Nov 14, 98	SPL	St Johnstone
31	Nov 21, 98	SPL	Rangers
32	Nov 21, 98	SPL	Rangers
33	Nov 28, 98	SPL	Motherwell
34	Dec 12, 98	SPL	Dundee Utd
35	Dec 19, 98	SPL	Dunfermline
36	Dec 19, 98	SPL	Dunfermline
37	Dec 27, 98	SPL	Dundee
38	Jan 3, 99	SPL	Rangers
39	Jan 23, 99	SC	Airdrie
40	Jan 31, 99	SPL	St Johnstone
41	Feb 6, 99	SPL	Hearts
42	Feb 6, 99	SPL	Hearts
43	Feb 6, 99	SPL	Hearts
44	Feb 13, 99	SC	Dunfermline
45	Feb 13, 99	SC	Dunfermline
46	Feb 13, 99	SC	Dunfermline
47	Feb 21, 99	SPL	Motherwell
48	Feb 21, 99	SPL	Motherwell
49	Feb 21, 99	SPL	Motherwell
50	Feb 21, 99	SPL	Motherwell
51	Feb 27, 99	SPL	Dundee Utd
52	Mar 8, 99	SC	Morton
53	Mar 14, 99	SPL	Aberdeen
54	Mar 14, 99	SPL	Aberdeen
55	Apr 3, 99	SPL	Dundee
56	Apr 3, 99	SPL	Dundee
57	Apr 17, 99	SPL	Motherwell



Henrik's Top Goals – Number 3



Boavista 0 Celtic 1, UEFA Cup semi-final, Estadio do Bessa, Oporto, April 25, 2003

With 14 minutes of the UEFA Cup semi-final left, Celtic were in command but struggling. There seemed little danger in keeping the Boavista forwards at bay, but a goal was needed and, out of the blue, Henrik struck. His attempted pass to John Hartson was blocked and came straight back to him. Confronted by two defenders and off-balance, Henrik managed to get enough contact to send the ball over the Boavista keeper to take Celtic into their first UEFA Cup final.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



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SEASON 1999/00



“The season started very well. I scored seven goals in seven games and then we went to Lyon for a UEFA Cup match against Lyon and I broke my leg. Everybody saw what happened, and I suppose it’s one of those things you have to face if you’re a footballer.”

Henrik Larsson, May 2001



On a disastrous night against Lyon, Larsson was left writhing in agony after he challenged for ball and fell awkwardly. The striker had broken his leg and would be ruled out for rest of the season

WHAT had started with a dream team ended in a nightmare as Celtic's season fell apart at the seams.

On the field there were many low points - failing to beat Rangers in any of the four league games, relinquishing a two-goal half-time lead to Hearts at Celtic Park, Inverness Caley Thistle.

But the real tragedy came on October 21, 1999. Celtic faced French side Lyon at the Stade Gerland in the second round, first leg of the UEFA Cup.

Only 19 minutes had elapsed before disaster struck. Chasing back in an attempt to regain possession, Henrik Larsson challenged for the ball, fell awkwardly and lay in agony on the ground.

TV pictures suggested the injury was a

serious one and so it subsequently turned out to be. The player had broken a leg and would miss the rest of the season.

The news was a disaster for Celtic but, more importantly, a devastating blow to Henrik Larsson.

Already, in the two seasons he had spent at Celtic Park, Larsson had become a firm favourite with the fans and the previous campaign had shown just what he was capable of. Now Celtic would be deprived of his services for three-quarters of the season.

It was to be a long road to recovery for the Swede who had targeted the Euro 2000 Championships for his return.

Celtic fans were grateful to see the season draw to a close, despite a League Cup triumph. Kenny Dalglish had taken

over the managerial reins after John Barnes was sacked but was leaving at the end of the term.

His final act, however, was to give Larsson a run-out at Celtic Park on the last day.

The game against Dundee United saw several young players wearing the Hoops among them John Kennedy, Mark Fotheringham and Liam Miller.

But it was the appearance of the Magnificent Seven in 65 minutes that raised the biggest cheer in the ground.

Larsson had been keen to turn out to show Swedish coach Lars Lagerback he merited a place in the national squad for Euro 2000.

And those 25 minutes were enough to secure his selection.

Sweden had a disappointing tournament, losing two games and drawing one, though in their final match - a 2-1 defeat by Italy - Henrik hit the net, his first goal since that horrific leg break.

Celtic fans hoped the new season would bring a few more Larsson goals.

"KENNY'S LAST ACT WAS TO GIVE HENRIK A RUN AND THE SIGHT OF THEIR HERO WAS GREETED BY THE BIGGEST CHEER INSIDE PARADISE"



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

HENRIK has given me many great and satisfying moments since he came to Celtic Park in 1997. The goal versus St Johnstone to stop Rangers doing 10-in-a-row. That chip over Klos in the 6-2 game, his 50th goal of the season at Ibrox in 2001... But the one where I had a lump in my throat was his last of the 1999/2000 season v Dundee United at Celtic Park when he came on as a sub.

It was his first appearance since the leg break in Lyon. We didn't know for sure if he would ever recover but when he ran on to the hallowed turf it told us all that he was back.

What a relief, not just for us but the great man himself. He went on to play in Euro 2000 and scored against Italy; came back to a new manager in Martin O'Neill and the rest is history. Henrik, as I said when Lubo left us, thanks for the memories – and there are so many.

JOE CLARK, CHAPELHALL

Team-mates pay tribute to the striker who has it all. Larsson can score with the cheekiest of chips, be head man inside the box, hit the net when it looks impossible, be master of magic free-kicks and always find time to track back and help his defensive colleagues



"HE TALKS A LOT DURING A GAME AS HE ALWAYS WANTS YOU TO DO WELL AND IS VERY UNSELFISH"



Jackie McNamara

"IT WILL be very strange to come back for pre-season and not have Henrik there. In a way I don't know if I believe he's actually going yet.

But he seems pretty certain and I'm just grateful to have had the opportunity to play alongside such a great player for so many years. I've been very fortunate in that sense and I'll look back with a lot of pleasure on the experience of being in the same team as him.

You always knew that, if you put the ball in the box, there was a fair chance he was going to turn it into a goal. As everyone knows he's also a terrific team player – very intelligent – and we'll miss his ability to hold things up and bring other people into play. There aren't many better at that.

He's been different class, certainly the best player I've played with during my time here. He's also added so much to his game during his time at Celtic and I can't speak highly enough of the contribution he's made to this club. "



John Hartson

"AS a player, what's good about Henrik is that he's never happy to rest on his laurels. He always wants to do better and during games, if he's got a goal or two, he wants to then go on and get three or four. He's never satisfied with what he's done.

I'm not really sure what sets him apart from other players, probably his natural instinct, his eye for goal. There have been several games that looked as if they were just fizzling out to a 0-0 or 1-1 draw. But then

Henrik's just produced that little bit of magic. He seems to keep doing it time after time. We've all had our little bits of magic, including myself, when you can create something out of nothing – a great goal or whatever. But the good thing with Henrik which sets him apart is that he seems to keep doing it all the time. That's obviously what the great strikers do and that's why they are so few and far between.

It's not just his natural goalscoring ability that sets him apart. He's very good to play alongside as well because I was actually surprised at first how much of a talker he is. He talks a lot on the pitch and he helps you, he wants you to do well and another good attribute is that he's very, very unselfish. If he feels you are in a better position he will give you the ball. He's very much a team player which you don't usually see with players like him who have got well over 200 goals. "



Shaun Maloney

"IT'S difficult learning from someone like Henrik because you want to do the same things he does. At times you just fall short of that and you're so desperate to be up at his kind of standard, be up close to him.

And you want him to feel as if he's confident in you. It's like that with the rest of the team, I feel, because he is such good a player that in training you don't really learn that much. It's in the games you see his movement. The amount of chances he gets to

score goals is quite striking; he's definitely a one-off. And it's difficult for personal coaching during a game because obviously he's got to worry about his own performance. But at times, if we are leading or maybe he feels he's got something I should be

doing, he has no problem about turning around and telling me. I'm the first person to tell you I'm desperate to learn and when you have people like Henrik in the team you must make the best use of them. He's certainly got that bit extra I think all players want and, especially in my position, he's someone I have to keep learning from. As to how much I've learned from him, I don't know if I could really pinpoint one thing. But his movement on the park is unbelievable. There are defenders who think they've got him then realise he's stepped back or he's made a run across them and his finishing is top-drawer. His one-touch finishing, that's probably one of the things I need to learn from Henrik. A lot of it is instinct for him, I've asked him before if there are certain things I should be practising and a lot of the time it's just instinct and what first comes into his head. "



Alan Thompson

"I KNEW quite a lot about Henrik before I came to Celtic through World Cups, European Championships, and playing for his country.

But ironically not as a Celtic player, not a lot, it was mainly through his games for Sweden. He really measured up to what I had heard about him, though. He's everything you want in a striker. For someone like myself he's ideal with his running off the ball, it makes

my job a lot easier. He definitely makes a lot of jobs a lot easier. He's just an unbelievable individual but if you ask everyone else in the squad you'll get the same answer. In his work-rate for the team as well as his skills he's second to none.

And as for the usual talk of him not being able to produce that down in England, I don't have to even go there. Henrik doesn't

have to go shouting his mouth off and doesn't need anyone else to do it for him. His record speaks for itself against top class international defenders. His goals are so valuable to us but what sets him apart is that he's someone who can score when there's not really a chance there. Away from the pitch he's fairly independent. He keeps himself to himself – very single-minded, very positive. "



Neil Lennon

"I KNEW before I came here Henrik was good, a great goalscorer, but didn't realise just what a player he was. I'm in my fourth season now and he just appears to get better and better.

There seems to be no holding him back. Exactly what he gives to the team is difficult to quantify as he delivers so much. His goals speak for themselves but even they arrive in great variety. Headers he shouldn't have a

hope of reaching, his almost telepathic reaction in the six-yard box. He can go round keepers with ease when they are expecting a chip and can chip them when they are waiting for him to go round them. Then there are his free-kicks, a sight to behold. But it's not just his goals. He can make them as well and is an expert at laying goals off. And his tracking back is a godsend to the midfield and defence.

He absolutely hates losing the ball and will give everything in winning it back. He's the ultimate team player. Celtic will definitely miss him when he goes. The players will miss him on the park but it goes without saying the support will miss him greatly. He's such a hero to them and deserves all the adulation. Especially after coming back from injury the way he did. "

Henrik Stats

Season
1999/2000



League: 8 appearances, 1 sub
7 goals
League Cup: 0 appearances
Scottish Cup: 0 appearances
Europe: 4 appearances,
5 goals
Total: 12 appearances,
1 sub
12 goals

58	Aug 1, 99	SPL	Aberdeen
59	Aug 1, 99	SPL	Aberdeen
60	Aug 12, 99	EURO	Cwmbran Town
61	Aug 12, 99	EURO	Cwmbran Town
62	Aug 21, 99	SPL	Dundee
63	Aug 29, 99	SPL	Hearts
64	Sep 16, 99	EURO	Tel Aviv
65	Sep 16, 99	EURO	Tel Aviv
66	Sep 30, 99	EURO	Tel Aviv
67	Oct 16, 99	SPL	Aberdeen
68	Oct 16, 99	SPL	Aberdeen
69	Oct 16, 99	SPL	Aberdeen



Henrik's Top Goals – Number 4



Celtic 2 Porto 3, UEFA Cup final, Seville, May 21, 2003

Within seconds of the start, Celtic knew they were up against a quality side. Certainly, the Porto stars could infuriate any opposition with their over-the-top reactions but they also had talent in abundance. Celtic were one down at half-time but just after the break came the equaliser. Didier Agathe delivered a cross to the far post and Henrik showed astonishing spring and agility to rise above the defence and curl his header in off the post for his 200th Celtic goal.

Q11



Henrik Larsson has given us many moments of magic during his time at Celtic but how many of those amazing facts and figures can you remember? It's time to test your knowledge in our bumper Henrik quiz

- 1) Tonight Henrik Larsson will play his last game for Celtic against Sevilla, but against which Italian club did he make his first appearance in the Hoops?
- 2) Against which goalkeeper other than Stefan Klos has Henrik Larsson scored in Old Firm matches during his Celtic career?
- 3) At which stadium did Henrik Larsson net his first competitive goal for Celtic?
- 4) Against which country did Henrik Larsson score FOUR goals in a competitive international while playing for Sweden in 2000/2001?
- 5) Against which club was Henrik Larsson unfortunate to score an own goal on his home European debut for Celtic in August 1997?
- 6) How many hat-tricks did Henrik Larsson score for Celtic during his seven years at Celtic Park?
- 7) Who is the only current footballer to have netted more goals in European football than Henrik Larsson?
- 8) In which city did Henrik Larsson score for Sweden against Italy during Euro 2000?
- 9) Against which Livingston goalkeeper did Henrik Larsson score his 100th League goal for Celtic in January 2002?
- 10) Against which side did Henrik Larsson net his only European hat-trick for Celtic in September 2002?
- 11) How many goals did Henrik Larsson score in Old Firm matches while at Celtic Park?
- 12) Who famously scored against Celtic having intercepted Larsson's misplaced pass as the Swede made his League debut for Celtic at Easter Road?
- 13) Against which two countries did Henrik Larsson for Sweden score during the 2002 World Cup Tournament in Japan?
- 14) Against which Scottish club did Henrik Larsson twice miss penalties in domestic football?
- 15) Prior to the 2004 Scottish Cup final,

on how many occasions did Henrik Larsson score at Hampden Park for Celtic in only nine appearances?

16) Whose British record of thirty goals in Europe for one club did Henrik Larsson overtake when netting against MTK Budapest in August?

17) Against which two clubs did Henrik Larsson net four goals in competitive matches while with Celtic?

18) Who are the only two Celtic players to have scored more goals for the club than Henrik Larsson?



19) How many international goals did Henrik Larsson net for Sweden while with Celtic?

20) Against which club did Henrik Larsson suffer his horrific leg break in a UEFA Cup match in September 1999?

21) Against which club in March did Henrik Larsson score to become Celtic's post-war League top goalscorer?

22) Against which clubs has Henrik Larsson missed penalties in European competition?

23) Whose Premier Division goalscoring record did Henrik Larsson equal when netting thirty five league goals in 2000/2001?

24) Against which Scottish club did Henrik Larsson score most League goals during his seven years at Celtic Park?

25) How many European goals did Henrik Larsson score for Feyenoord and Celtic, establishing him as the seventh top European goalscorer of all time?

26) In which three stadiums did Henrik Larsson score in major cup finals for Celtic?

27) How many European goals did Henrik Larsson score for Celtic in 2002/2003 to establish a club record for a season?

28) With which Livingston defender did Henrik Larsson accidentally clash, resulting a broken jaw in February 2003?

29) In which two seasons did Henrik Larsson win both the Football Writers' and Players' Player of the Year Award?

30) Against which three clubs has Henrik Larsson scored for Celtic in League Cup finals?

31) Henrik Larsson is famous for his number seven jersey but which number did he wear on his shirt in his first League appearance for Celtic?

32) Against which goalkeeper did Henrik Larsson score his first competitive hat-trick for Celtic in November 1998?

33) Against which club did Henrik Larsson overtake Ally McCoist's record of 21 goals for a Scottish club in Europe?

34) How many competitive goals did Henrik Larsson score for Celtic in their Treble-winning season of 2000/2001?

35) Against which two clubs did Henrik Larsson score his first and last goals for Celtic in European competition?

1. Roma, July 1997. 2. Antti Nieminen. 3. Newcastle (League Cup). Berwick Rangers 0 v Celtic 7. 4. Moldova. 5. Tirol Innsbruck. 6. 15; 12 League. 1 Scottish Cup. 1 League Cup. 7. Raul of Real Madrid. 8. Eindhoven. 9. Nick Gulkin. 10. FC Suduva. 11. 15; 11 League. 3 League Cup. 1 Scottish Cup. 12. Chic Charney. 13. Nigeria & Senegal. 14. Dunfermline 2000/2001. 2002/2003. 15. 13 goals. 16. Peter Lorimer of Leeds United. 17. Motherwell 1998/99. Kilmarnock 2000/2001. 18. Jimmy McCrory & Bobby Lennox. 19. 15 goals. 20. FC Lyon. 21. Hibernian. 22. FC Basel & Boavista 2002/2003. 23. Brian McClair. 24. Aberdeen 25 goals. 25. 45 goals. 26. Ibrox Park, Hampden Park & Olympic Stadium, Sevilla. 27. 12 goals. 28. Gus Bahoken. 29. 1998/99. 2000/2001. 30. Dundee United 1997/98. Kilmarnock 2000/2001. Rangers 2002/2003. 31. Twelve v Hibernian 1997/98. 32. Robert Douglas; Celtic 6 v Dundee 1. 33. Blackburn Rovers; October 2002. 34. 53 goals. 35. League 9 Scottish Cup. 5 League Cup. 4 UEFA Cup. 35 St Patrick's Athletic 1998/99. Villarreal 2003/2004.



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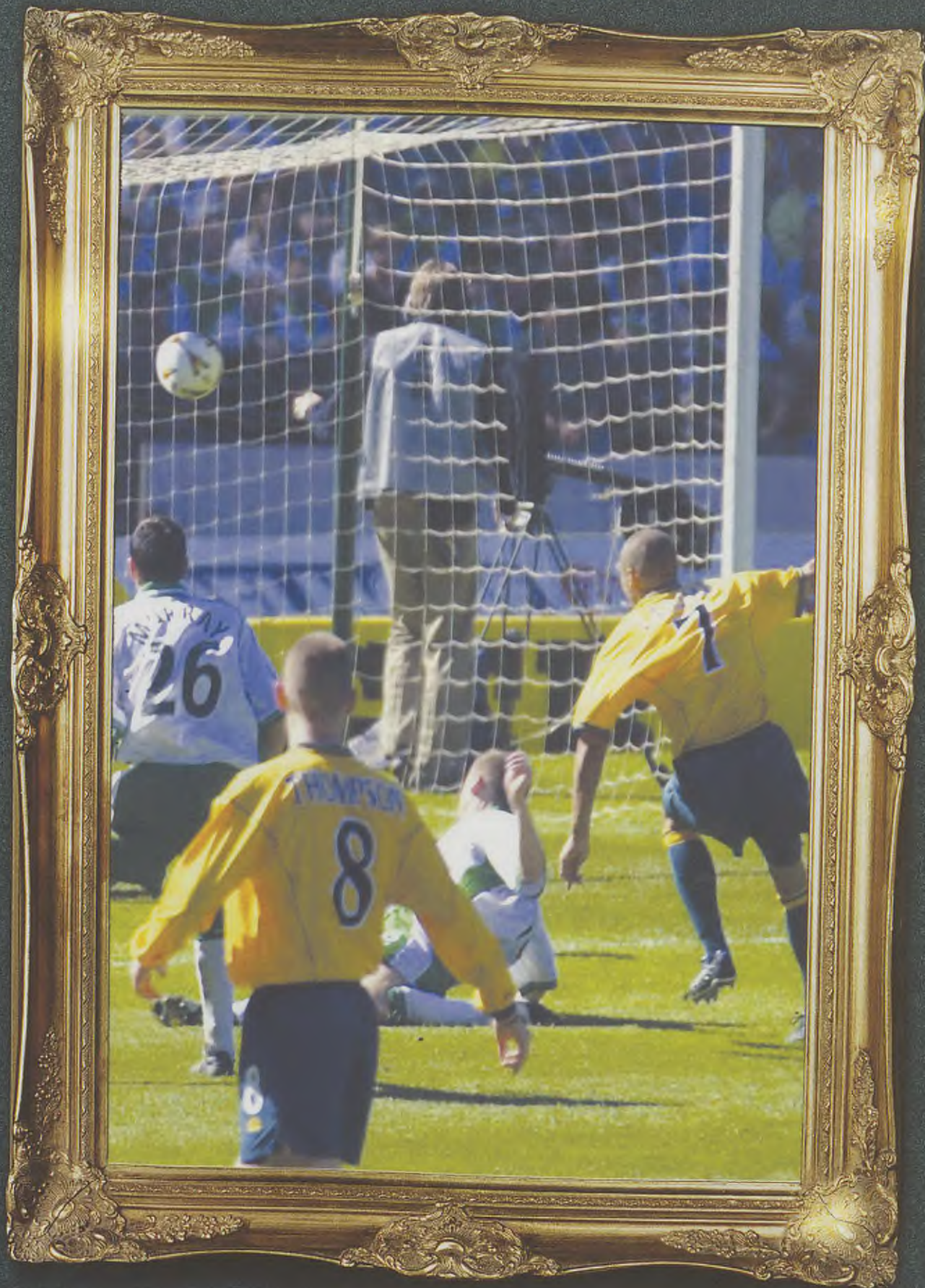
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Henrik's Top Goals – Number 5



Celtic 3 Hibernian 0, Scottish Cup final, Hampden, May 26, 2001

From the scoreline, this one might appear one-sided but Hibs did give their all and only a dedicated team performance by Celtic saw them triumph. Jackie McNamara scored a first-half opener and three minutes after the interval he was involved in the first of Henrik's two. Chris Sutton slipped the ball forward to Jackie, he squared it to Henrik, who hit a powerful shot high into the net from just inside the box. A great effort which snuffed out any possible Hibs rally.

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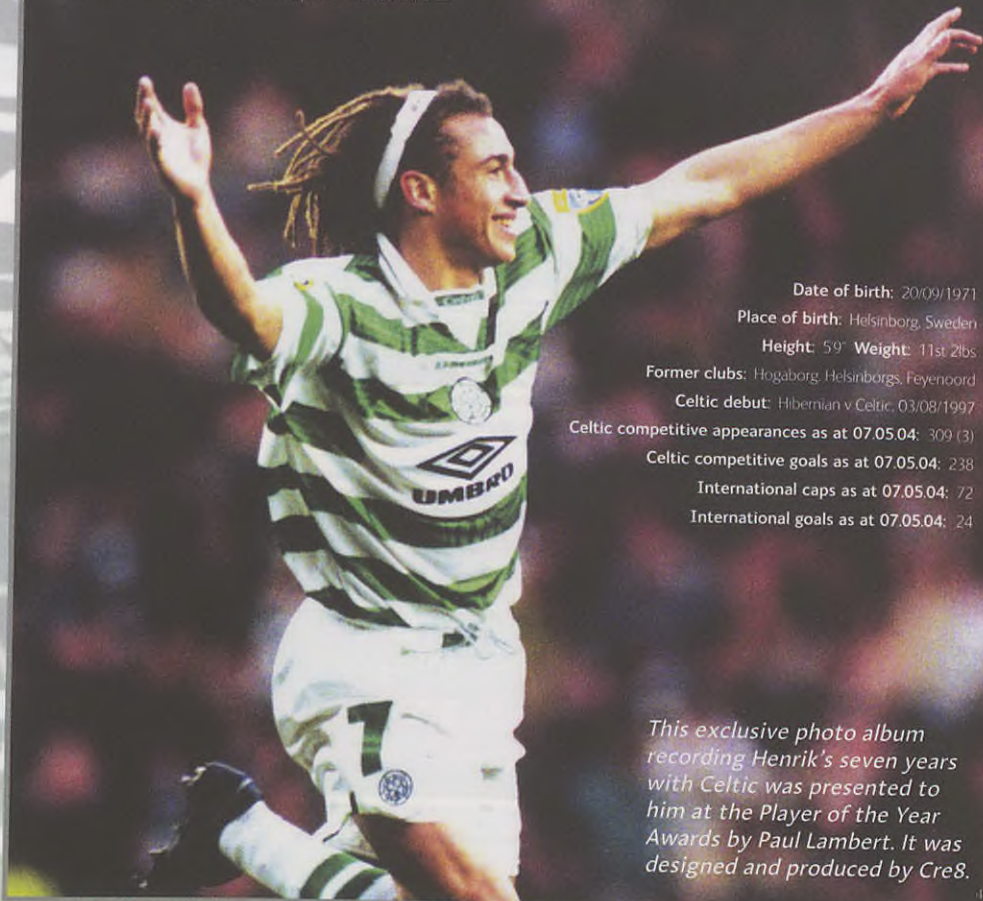
Celtic legend Jimmy 'Jinky' Johnstone who has the tragic Motor Neurone Disease, releases his charity single soon.

The CD single includes 'Dirty Old Town' featuring Simple Minds & Jimmy Johnstone and 'Road to Paradise' by Shane MacGowan from the film soundtrack 'Lord of the Wing'.

www.jimmyjohnstone.com

7 SEASONS OF MAGNIFICENT MOMENTS

Presented on 13 May 2004: Celtic Player Of The Year Awards



Date of birth: 20/09/1971

Place of birth: Helsingborg, Sweden

Height: 5'9" Weight: 11st 2lbs

Former clubs: Högaborg, Helsingborgs, Feyenoord

Celtic debut: Hibernian v Celtic, 03/08/1997

Celtic competitive appearances as at 07.05.04: 309 (3)

Celtic competitive goals as at 07.05.04: 238

International caps as at 07.05.04: 72

International goals as at 07.05.04: 24

This exclusive photo album recording Henrik's seven years with Celtic was presented to him at the Player of the Year Awards by Paul Lambert. It was designed and produced by Cre8.

THE CELTIC FANS LASTING ANTHEM TO YOU

Their Magnificent 7



You are my Larsson, my Henrik Larsson
You make me happy when skies are grey
We wanted Shearer, but you are dearer
So don't take my Larsson away.

Thanks for bringing 7 years of
glory and shine to Celtic Park.

SEASON 1997/98

Competitive appearances: 47 Competitive goals: 19



You sign for Celtic on 25 July 1997 - Life would never be the same again...



You win your 1st Celtic medal in the League Cup final and score

5

SEASON 1997/98

Competitive appearances: 47 Competitive goals: 19



You score the opening goal against St Johnstone in the title decider - 09.05.1998



Celtic 2 St Johnstone 0 - Celtic are the SPL Champions & have stopped 10 in a row

6

SEASON 1998/99

Competitive appearances: 48 Competitive goals: 38



You score goal number 2 for Celtic against Vitoria Guimarães in the UEFA Cup on 29.09.98



Celtic 5 Rangers 1 - sweet SPL win on 21.11.1998

7

SEASON 1998/99

Competitive appearances: 48 Competitive goals: 38



You scored your first 2 goals against Rangers in this match. With many more to follow!



You are presented with the Scottish Professional Footballers Association's Player Of The Year Award and also receive the Scottish Football Writers Award 1998/99

8

SEASON 1999/00

Competitive appearances: 12 (1) Competitive goals: 12



You score from the penalty spot against Hapoel Tel Aviv in the UEFA Cup, 16.09.99



You show extreme dedication and determination to achieve an inspirational recovery

9

SEASON 1999/00

Competitive appearances: 12 (1) Competitive goals: 12



Last game of the season, fans sing for you to come on "We want Larsson, we want Larsson"



Dreams are made of this... You're back!

10

SEASON 2000/01

Competitive appearances: 50 Competitive goals: 53



You celebrate the Demolition Derby - Celtic 6 Rangers 2 by scoring 2 of the goals - 27.08.00



The title winner - Celtic 1 St Mirren 0 - 07.04.2001 Champions! Champions!

11

SEASON 2000/01

Competitive appearances: 50 Competitive goals: 53



You score your 53rd goal of the season in the SFA Cup Final - Celtic 3 Hibernian 0.
The Treble has been won



Fantastic end of season celebrations. And it doesn't end there as you are awarded the coveted European Golden Shoe for being top goalscorer in Europe and pick up the SPFA and SFW Awards for the second time.

12

SEASON 2001/02

Competitive appearances: 47 Competitive goals: 35



You score twice against Juventus in the UEFA Champions League matches



You score against Valencia in the UEFA Cup match - 06.12.2001

13

SEASON 2001/02

Competitive appearances: 47 Competitive goals: 35



You score a hat-trick in the title-winning match - Celtic 5 Livingston 1 - 06.04.2002



Another milestone - the first team ever to amass 103 points in the League

14

SEASON 2002/03

Competitive appearances: 51 Competitive goals: 44



You score in both UEFA Cup ties against Blackburn in The Battle of Britain



You score the vital first goal against Celta Vigo in the UEFA Cup at Celtic Park

15

SEASON 2002/03

Competitive appearances: 51 Competitive goals: 44



You score in both UEFA Cup semi-final ties against Boavista to reach the Final



Over 80,000 fans in Seville celebrated your 200th goal for Celtic

16

SEASON 2003/04

Competitive appearances: 54 (1) Competitive goals: 37



You line up with your Celtic team mates for Champions League duty against Bayern Munich - 25.11.03



You celebrate scoring against Rangers in your last Ibrox Old Firm match - 28.03.04

17

SEASON 2003/04

Competitive appearances: 54 (1) Competitive goals: 37



You enjoy the moment as you realise Celtic are on the road to the SFA Cup Final at Hampden



You savour a special lap of honour in celebration of winning the SPL title - 02.05.04

18

SEASON 2000/01



"For me it's important the way the team plays and I'm very, very pleased that we've won the title. The support was tremendous and to play in a stadium like this in front of 60,000 fans every week is great, but we wanted to give them a bit of a party here, and I'm glad we did."

Henrik Larsson, April 2001



Season 2000/01 was a campaign to remember for Henrik Larsson. Not only did he score one of the greatest goals of his career, he also bagged a total of 53 goals, making him Europe's top marksman

WHERE do you start in looking back on season 2000/01? Martin O'Neill's first campaign in charge had brought the Treble back to Celtic Park for the first time since 1969.

Supporters had witnessed a 6-2 demolition of Rangers in the opening Old Firm encounter at Celtic Park and a subsequent 3-0 victory at Ibrox in the last derby.

The league was won by a margin of 15 points. And then there was Henrik Larsson ...

The Magnificent Seven returned after missing most of the previous season with a broken leg. He scored the first league goal of the campaign in a 2-1 victory over Dundee United at Tannadice. He produced one of the great Old Firm goals of all time when he chipped Stefan Klos in the Demolition Derby, a hat-trick in the CIS

Cup final, two goals in the Scottish Cup final and his 50th goal of the season at Ibrox.

When the season finally ended, Larsson had scored an incredible 53 goals for the Hoops, including 35 in the league. It was enough to earn him the UEFA Golden Shoe Award as Europe's top marksman.

The honour marked the end of a wonderful season for Larsson and Celtic. Galvanised by Martin O'Neill, the club took a giant leap in re-establishing itself as the dominant force in Scottish football.

And no matter the opposition, Larsson could not stop scoring.

Apart from those two memorable Old Firm goals, there was the spectacular diving header in the CIS Cup semi-final against Dundee United, his third in the final of that competition, when he rolled

the ball round Gordon Marshall with his studs and knocked it into the net. The goal which gave Celtic a 2-0 lead in the Scottish Cup final against Hibs, firing into the top corner from just inside the box.

Martin O'Neill had arrived in June 2000 promising to do everything he could to bring success to the club. The previous season, under the so-called dream team of John Barnes and Kenny Dalglish had turned into a disaster, the nadir of which was the home defeat against Inverness Caledonian Thistle in the Scottish Cup, a result which saw Barnes lose his job.

The turnaround in 2000/01 was instant. Boosted by new signings Chris Sutton and Joos Valgaeren, and the return of a fully fit Larsson, Celtic started the season strongly. And in the course of the campaign Alan Thompson and Neil Lennon joined the club, while Stilian



Petrov thrived in a more natural midfield role.

The first test for the new manager came on August 27, 2000 at Celtic Park when Rangers were the visitors. After 11 minutes, Celtic were 3-0 up thanks to goals from Sutton, Petrov and Paul Lambert. Larsson scored two that day, including the undisputed goal of the season, and Celtic were marching with Martin O'Neill.

The season was a triumph for player and club. Larsson had made it onto the pitch for the final game of the previous

"HENRIK PRODUCED ONE OF THE GREAT OLD FIRM GOALS OF ALL TIME WHEN HE CHIPPED STEFAN KLOS IN THE DEMOLITION DERBY"

season and scored for Sweden during Euro 2000. And he returned to Celtic Park an even better player than before as his rapidly rising goals tally proved. It was perhaps more than the player could have hoped for and more than even the most optimistic of fans could have dreamt of.

Where Celtic had stepped in back in 1997 to provide a proper platform for Larsson to perform, now Martin O'Neill had arrived to take the club to a higher level, one that Larsson was destined to play at. Once again, Celtic and Henrik were in harmony.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

When someone scores 53 goals in one season, or scores so many in a career for his club, it would be rude to pick even one moment as a favourite. His seven-year dedication to Celtic makes every fan proud and even a whole book can't describe that. Nowadays we can see this kind of commitment is rare, that the football is played just and only for money and not with heart and for fans. Thank you, Henrik for showing us that what makes a player great isn't his salary, it's his heart.

PINO TALLEC



A TRUE CELTIC GREAT

Manager Martin O'Neill reflects on Henrik Larsson's Celtic career and praises the way his star striker has always performed for the club

Exclusive Interview: ALISON McCONNELL



Martin O'Neill

EVEN before the season began in August, both Martin O'Neill and Henrik Larsson had been quizzed repeatedly on the Swede's decision to leave Celtic this summer.

Ever Friday afternoon since, O'Neill has been asked at the pre-match press conference whether he has succeeded in talking Larsson in an extended deal. Every week the answer has been the same. Larsson's intractability is partly what makes him such a success when he goes onto the

park, but not even O'Neill's fabled skills of rhetoric could persuade the 32-year-old to hang around in Glasgow for another year.

It is scarcely a surprise to anyone that this evening has finally come after nine months of preparing for it, but as Celtic bids its farewells to Larsson and the player parts with a club and a city he has known as home, another emotional evening is bound to lie in store.

While O'Neill's concerns about who will replace the gap left in Larsson's absence has been at the forefront of his mind for the last few months, the manager has insisted that the Swedish striker is a player who rightly leaves the club with his status secure.

"A great player is a great player, whatever the era and I think the fact that he has come here and taken his place in Celtic's history is magical in itself," he said. "He deserves his place in the order of

merit here at the club. We all accept the fact that the game has changed since the 1960s, 70's and 80s because in every decade players seem to get fitter and faster, and with all the things that accompany the modern game like gym programmes and other things that make someone a better player, it is always improving.

"Jimmy Johnstone would still be an exceptional player in today's game simply because of the sheer talent he possessed but the truth is this, we could do the reverse and throw Henrik Larsson back 40 years. He would still have been a top class player."

That Larsson's name will be stencilled indelibly on the mindset of the Celtic support is without question, but for many his display in the Estadio Olimpico in Seville will stand out as one of his best ever performances.

It is an evening that Larsson still cannot dwell on without pain, and while O'Neill is sympathetic to such sentiments, he has nevertheless maintained that in the years to come the striker will take great pride for his achievements in a European cup final.

"I thought it was a wonderful personal performance by him and had the result been in our favour it would have been a wonderful memory for him," said O'Neill. "As it turns out, it was a fantastic effort that was ultimately in vain and I can understand exactly how Henrik feels when he says it still pains him to think back to the UEFA Cup final."



Scottish football is not known as an arena in which players come to better themselves, yet Larsson himself has pointed out that his international career really took off after his move to Celtic and there can be no doubt that the player continued to improve and develop throughout the seven years he spent in Glasgow.

"I THINK THE FACT HENRIK HAS COME HERE AND TAKEN HIS PLACE IN CELTIC'S HISTORY IS MAGICAL"

Similarly, his performances have brought out the best in those who have played around him and the likes of his striking partners in particular have benefited, not only from his vision and movement but also from his unselfishness and willingness to work for the team.

Explained O'Neill: "I came up here four years ago and obviously I was aware of Henrik, but I didn't know the player at all. It's been an absolute delight to get to know him over the last four years and what he has contributed to the football club is, without doubt, exceptional.

"He might not have been all that well known at the time when he came to Celtic, as the fee would suggest, but he has developed his game and become an all-round better player than when he left Feyenoord.

"The hallmark of any great player is the fact that they score at the top level and Henrik has done that in both European and domestic football. When people ask me if Henrik would score in the Premiership or the Italian league or the Spanish league, the answer is always yes.

"We would always accept that these leagues are very strong and there might be less chances, but he is a natural goalscorer and he would take those chances."

Celtic Park hasn't been a stranger to emotional evenings, but the events of last Sunday have rarely been awarded to one specific individual. The depth of feeling towards Larsson is quite unique and O'Neill puts it down to his professionalism and attitude.

"It's testimony to his popularity," he said. "Fans take to certain players and they have taken to Henrik almost right from the start. He has been able to sustain that and you don't sustain it without doing something and Henrik has always done something.

"That endearment that the fans have of him is there because he has sustained a high level of performance here over the last seven years and he has amassed an exceptional amount of goals."

Henrik Stats

Season
2000/01



League:	37 appearances 35 goals
League Cup:	2 appearances 5 goals
Scottish Cup:	6 appearances 9 goals
Europe:	5 appearances 4 goals
Total:	50 appearances 53 goals

70	Jul 30, 00	SPL	Dundee Utd
71	Aug 10, 00	EURO	Jeunesse Esch
72	Aug 13, 00	SPL	Kilmarnock
73	Aug 19, 00	SPL	Hearts
74	Aug 27, 00	SPL	Rangers.
75	Aug 27, 00	SPL	Rangers.
76	Sep 09, 00	SPL	Hibernian
77	Sep 09, 00	SPL	Hibernian
78	Sep 14, 00	EURO	HJK Helsinki
79	Sep 14, 00	EURO	HJK Helsinki
80	Sep 17, 00	SPL	Dunfermline
81	Sep 17, 00	SPL	Dunfermline
82	Oct 1, 00	SPL	Aberdeen
83	Oct 14, 00	SPL	St Mirren
84	Oct 17, 00	SPL	St Johnstone
85	Oct 21, 00	SPL	Dundee Utd
86	Oct 26, 00	EURO	Bordeaux
87	Nov 12, 00	SPL	St Johnstone
88	Nov 12, 00	SPL	St Johnstone
89	Nov 18, 00	SPL	Hearts
90	Nov 18, 00	SPL	Hearts
91	Nov 26, 00	SPL	Rangers.
92	Dec 2, 00	SPL	Dunfermline
93	Dec 15, 00	SPL	Aberdeen
94	Dec 15, 00	SPL	Aberdeen
95	Dec 15, 00	SPL	Aberdeen
96	Dec 23, 00	SPL	St Mirren
97	Dec 26, 00	SPL	Dundee Utd
98	Jan 02, 01	SPL	Kilmarnock
99	Jan 02, 01	SPL	Kilmarnock
100	Jan 02, 01	SPL	Kilmarnock
101	Jan 02, 01	SPL	Kilmarnock
102	Feb 04, 01	SPL	Hearts
103	Feb 04, 01	SPL	Hearts
104	Feb 04, 01	SPL	Hearts
105	Feb 07, 01	LC	Rangers.
106	Feb 07, 01	LC	Rangers.
107	Feb 17, 01	SC	Dunfermline
108	Feb 17, 01	SC	Dunfermline
109	Mar 4, 01	SPL	Dunfermline
110	Mar 07, 01	SC	Dunfermline
111	Mar 07, 01	SC	Dunfermline
112	Mar 11, 01	SC	Hearts
113	Mar 14, 01	SPL	St Johnstone
114	Mar 18, 01	LC	Kilmarnock
115	Mar 18, 01	LC	Kilmarnock
116	Mar 18, 01	LC	Kilmarnock
117	Apr 15, 01	SC	Dundee Utd
118	Apr 15, 01	SC	Dundee Utd
119	Apr 29, 01	SPL	Rangers.
120	May 6, 01	SPL	Hibernian
121	May 26, 01	SC	Hibernian
122	May 26, 01	SC	Hibernian



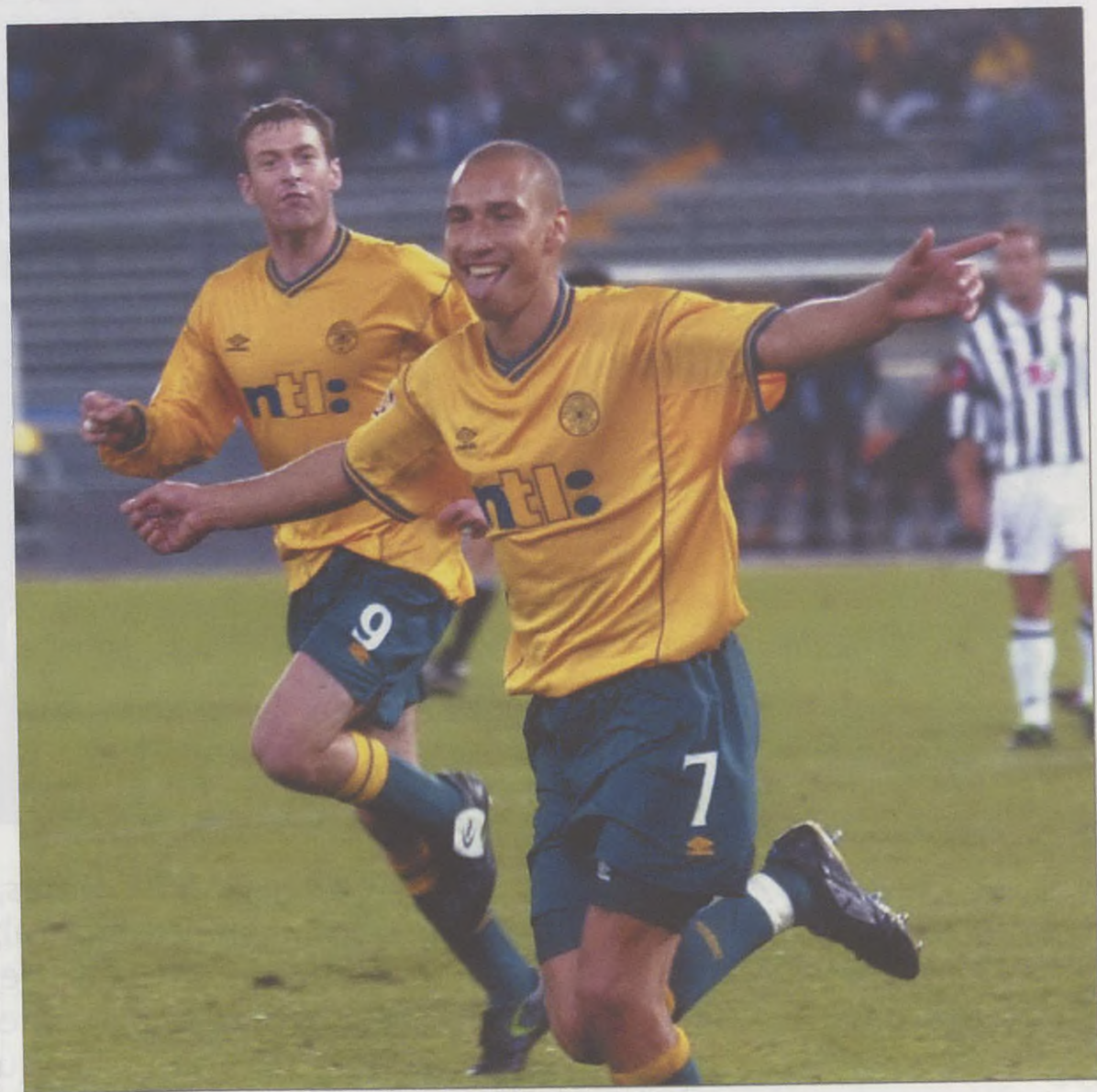
Henrik's Top Goals – Number 6



Celtic 2 Dunfermline 1, SPL, Celtic Park, August 3, 2002.

As the almost capacity crowd at Celtic Park for this game roared its approval for the raising of the SPL Championship flag, the players and management all knew they would have to start the season well. In the 41st minute Henrik got the opener from a cross by Bobby Petta and in the 65th minute the Swedish striker scored an outrageous goal. Stilian Petrov flicked the ball into Henrik's path and Henrik lifted the ball over the diving Marco Ruitenbeek.

SEASON 2001/02



"The most important thing is to concentrate on each game that comes. If you break records that's great, but it doesn't matter all that much as long as you get what you want from the season."

Henrik Larsson, March 2001



FOR the first time in 20 years Celtic won back-to-back Championships and, like the previous season, it was done in a style which illustrated just how far ahead of the opposition Celtic were.

The team finished 18 points clear of second-placed Rangers, having amassed 103 points and only losing one game throughout the campaign.

Henrik Larsson was once again to the fore, contributing 35 goals to the cause, including a hat-trick against Livingston on the day the title was secured.

But the season is probably best remembered for Celtic first foray into the Champions League group stages.

Martin O'Neill's side faced a tough qualifying tie against Ajax but an outstanding display in the Amsterdam Arena saw the Hoops triumph 3-1. The return leg at Celtic Park was a tense affair, and Celtic lost the match 1-0. However, rarely has a defeat at Celtic Park been so enthusiastically celebrated. Celtic were in the Champions League.

With Henrik Larsson netting 35 times, season 2001/02 was another memorable one for the Hoops. Along with another league title, Celtic also made it to the group stages of the Champions League

It is also worth reflecting on the fact that after that defeat on August 22, 2001, Celtic remained unbeaten at home until Aberdeen won 2-1 on April 21, 2004.

The draw for the Champions League pitted Celtic against Rosenborg, Porto and Juventus, with the opening game at home against the Norwegians on September 12.

The tragic events in New York on September 11 meant the game was postponed and Celtic travelled to Turin the following week to take on Juventus.

Two goals down, Celtic fought back bravely, with Larsson equalising with five minutes remaining from the penalty spot.

However, an inexplicable refereeing decision to award Juventus a penalty robbed Celtic of a point.

Two home games followed, with the Hoops recording 1-0 victories over both Porto and Rosenborg. Henrik Larsson provided the decisive strike against the Portuguese side while Alan Thompson scored in the game against Rosenborg.

The team's travels, however, did not prove so fruitful, with defeats following in Portugal and Norway.

The final game against Juventus at Celtic Park was one Celtic had to win, while hoping Rosenborg could beat Porto in order for the Hoops to progress.

The Juventus match turned out to be one of the great European nights at Celtic Park.

Larsson was once again on the scoresheet from the penalty spot as Celtic ran out 4-3 winners. Sadly, the result in

Oporto did not go Celtic way and the team dropped into the UEFA Cup, where Valencia were the opposition.

A Henrik Larsson strike at Celtic Park cancelled out the Spanish side's first-leg lead, and the game was decided on penalties, with Valencia going through.

The season, however, had been good for Celtic and for Henrik Larsson as the team continued to progress under O'Neill.

Larsson had once again proved that he could score on any stage, something he was to prove in the summer of 2002 at the World Cup in Japan and South Korea, while Celtic had served notice of their determination to re-establish their European reputation.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

AN interview with Henrik Larsson for the *Celtic View* a few years ago was introduced with a black and white, double-page spread with an amazing portrait photo of the man himself almost leaping out at the viewer, in his familiar expression of delight and jubilation after putting another one in the net. Alongside it was the caption 'What other people expect of me is not as important as what I expect from myself.'

This double page has been one kept precious and stuck up on my wall since the day I found it. I think it says it all. There have been few characters in the history of the game as assured, as genuine, honest and professional as Henrik Larsson, sublime, stylish and streetwise. It has been an honour and a privilege for all connected with Celtic to see this man in the Hoops, sharing his goals, his talent, his presence, his highs and his lows.

He will never be forgotten. In the same way I grew up weaned on stories of Jimmy Johnstone and the Lisbon Lions by my father, my kids will one day grow up told about Henrik Larsson, the King of Kings. Hail Hail! God bless the man.

SEAN KEARNEY, DUBLIN

"THE JUVENTUS MATCH THAT SEASON TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF THE GREAT EUROPEAN NIGHTS AT CELTIC PARK"

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

As Henrik Larsson prepares to play his last game for Celtic tonight, two of Celtic's greatest players, Jimmy Johnstone and Bobby Lennox pay tribute to the Swedish striker

By PAUL CUDDIHY



Bobby and Jinky

LONG before Henrik Larsson arrived at Celtic, the number seven already held a special place in the hearts of Celtic supporters.

The number was synonymous with the man voted the Greatest Ever Celt.

Jimmy Johnstone wore the No.7 shorts in the days before Celtic put numbers on the hooped shirts.

Henrik's exploits in the jersey these past seven years merely consolidates it as a very special number in Celtic's history.

Jinky, who is now showing the same courage and determination in fighting Motor Neurone Disease as he did on the field of the play, belying his diminutive stature, has enjoyed the past seven years as much as any Celtic fan. But he knows that it's been a mutually beneficial relationship between club and player - Henrik has been good for Celtic, and Celtic have been good for him.

"First of all, it was a bit of a coup for the club to hold on to Henrik when so many other heroes and stars have left down the years," he said. "There were obviously quite a few clubs interested in him and, because of the goals he scores, they would have been ready to pay funny money for him.

"But you just have to look at Celtic Park and say, why would you want to play anywhere else? The stadium is great and the fans are fantastic. The punters have taken Henrik to their hearts so why would he want to go anywhere else? Celtic are in Europe every year as well.

"Big Jock used to say to us when we were playing some big European team, what are you worried about them for? They aren't in Europe every year - we are. But the one thing I can say is that when you do leave Celtic, it's a sore one and Henrik will find that out when the time comes."

In his playing days, Johnstone was a unique talent and one that has not been seen again in Scottish football. He is also well-placed to comment on Henrik Larsson's reputation as a Celtic great.

"The place rises to him because he is all over the place, he chases back and the big difference is that his games aren't just about goals," Johnstone explained. "He gives 100 per cent all

over the park and the Celtic punters love that type of player at Parkhead. That is the sort of football they have been brought up to love. It's the Celtic way and they really appreciate a player with Henrik's attitude to the game.

"They love a trier and getting the head down and trying is a massive part of Henrik's game. The crowds at Celtic Park have been weaned on those type of players."

And as for that special number which is inextricably linked to two of the greatest players to have worn the green and white Hoops?

"It's a different ball game now and we just happen to wear the same number for Celtic," Johnstone said. "I was an entertainer out on the wing in the days when the numbers 8, 9 and 10 were expected to score all the goals. I scored a few goals myself right enough but the number 7 and 11 were expected to be wide men out on the wing.

"The numbers game is different these days, with Henrik being number 7 and scoring all the goals. Henrik is a striker and I did well with the number 7, so maybe it is a lucky number."

Johnstone also enjoyed an emotional night when he and Bobby Lennox shared a testimonial evening at Celtic Park. Manchester United were the opposition that night and it was an opportunity for the Celtic faithful to pay homage to two of its greats - players who, in Jinky's own words, played "the Celtic way."



Bobby Lennox's own scoring record is worthy of praise. He is the second top goalscorer in the club's history, with 273 goals, somewhat behind Jimmy McGrory whose total of 468 is unlikely ever to be surpassed.

And until recently, Lennox also held the post-war record for most league goals. That was broken when Henrik Larsson scored his second against Hibs at Easter road to take his tally to 168 league goals - one more than Lennox.

The Lisbon Lion was surprised but delighted for the player. "I didn't even know he'd broken my record until the day after,"

"HENRIK IS A STRIKER AND I DID WELL WITH THE NUMBER 7, MAYBE IT'S A LUCKY NUMBER"

JIMMY JOHNSTONE

admitted Lennox, "but records are there to be broken. If Henrik's scoring goals and breaking records, it means the team's doing well and I was absolutely delighted for him.

"Henrik's amongst the best players we've ever had at Celtic. He's been great for the club and the club has been great for him.

They both just came together at the right time.

"And his family has been happy here as well, which is important, because if your family's happy that's a big help.

"There's been so many goals to choose from but I'll never forget the two goals in the UEFA Cup final that kept us in the game and made us believe that we could go on and win it.

"The first goal just after half-time gave everyone a huge lift and it was an absolutely amazing goal. I know what he means when he talks about his disappointment at losing the game, even though he had scored the two goals, but at the precise moment he scored it was fantastic."

Along with every other Celtic fan, and indeed, anyone who professes to love the beautiful game, Lennox is looking forward to tonight and the chance to pay tribute to a great player. He won't be surprised if there a few tears shed.

"It was a really moving day at the Dundee United game," he said. "I don't think there was a dry eye in the house, and I'm sure beforehand Henrik was thinking that he'd love to go out and score a goal on his last league game for Celtic.

"It's going to be a great night for Henrik tonight. I remember when me and wee Jimmy had our testimonial against Manchester United. It was a wonderful feeling, knowing that everyone was there for you."

Henrik Stats

Season
2001/02



League:	33 appearances 29 goals
League Cup:	1 appearance
Scottish Cup:	3 appearances 2 goals
Europe:	10 appearances 4 goals
Total:	47 appearances 35 goals

123	Aug 4, 01	SPL	Kilmarnock
124	Aug 11, 01	SPL	Hearts
125	Aug 11, 01	SPL	Hearts
126	Aug 25, 01	SPL	Hibernian
127	Sep 15, 01	SPL	Dundee
128	Sep 15, 01	SPL	Dundee
129	Sep 18, 01	EURO	Juventus
130	Sep 22, 01	SPL	Aberdeen
131	Sep 25, 01	EURO	Porto
132	Oct 13, 01	SPL	Motherwell
133	Oct 31, 01	EURO	Juventus
134	Nov 3, 01	SPL	St Johnstone
135	Nov 17, 01	SPL	Hearts
136	Nov 25, 01	SPL	Rangers.
137	Dec 6, 01	EURO	Valencia
138	Dec 15, 01	SPL	Dundee
139	Dec 26, 01	SPL	Livingston
140	Dec 26, 01	SPL	Livingston
141	Dec 29, 01	SPL	Dundee Utd
142	Jan 2, 02	SPL	Motherwell
143	Jan 19, 02	SPL	St Johnstone
144	Jan 23, 02	SPL	Hearts
145	Jan 23, 02	SPL	Hearts
146	Jan 26, 02	SC	Kilmarnock
147	Jan 30, 02	SPL	Livingston
148	Feb 8, 02	SPL	Dunfermline
149	Feb 8, 02	SPL	Dunfermline
150	Feb 8, 02	SPL	Dunfermline
151	Feb 17, 02	SPL	Dundee
152	Mar 19, 02	SPL	Motherwell
153	Mar 19, 02	SPL	Motherwell
154	Mar 23, 02	SC	Ayr Utd
155	Apr 6, 02	SPL	Livingston
156	Apr 6, 02	SPL	Livingston
157	Apr 6, 02	SPL	Livingston



Henrik's Top Goals – Number 7



Blackburn Rovers 0 Celtic 2, UEFA Cup, Ewood Park, November 14, 2003.

After the first match at Celtic Park, Graeme Souness had tried to assuage the pains of defeat by praising his own team for their performance. Unfortunately, he didn't expect Gary Flitcroft to inform the press that Souness' exact words were "it was like men against boys." That made the Celtic players all the more determined to show Blackburn what they could do. After 15 minutes, a defensive slip let Henrik in and he casually flicked the ball over Brad Friedel.

See the hoops in style!

CELTIC fans are in for a real treat. The Direct Group of Limousines (Scotland's largest limousine company) and The Dhabba, (Authentic North Indian Diner in Glasgow and winner of the best newcomer restaurant 2003/4 by The List magazine) are offering a fantastic package for Celtic fans which gives them the opportunity to watch their team play in style.

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To Henrik

**"Cead mile go Raibh maith agat"
(A hundred thousand thanks)**

Your jersey will always hold No1 place of prominence in

our Celtic corner! from all your fans and supporters at the

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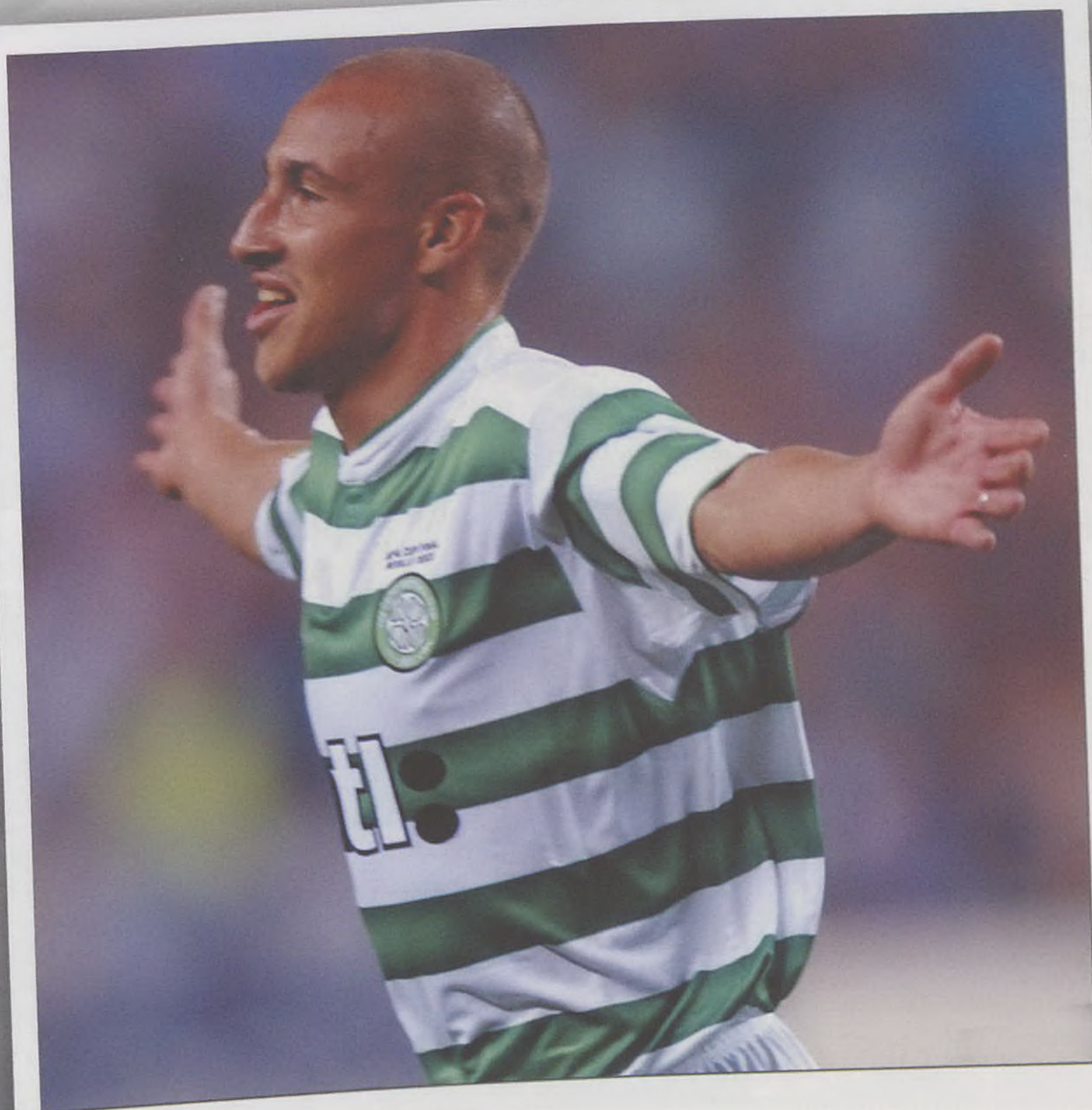
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SEASON 2002/03



"I wouldn't have dreamed that it would go like this for me after I left Holland. I couldn't have written the script; it has been absolutely fantastic. The UEFA Cup final is the only thing that is still a problem for me to talk about because even now it pains me but overall my time here has been brilliant."

Henrik Larsson, May 2004



Henrik Larsson's 12 goals in Europe in season 2002/03 helped propel Celtic to their first European final in 33 years. Although the Hoops were to fall short, the memories of that night in Seville will live on for years to come

THE history books will record that Celtic won nothing in season 2002/03 while their city rivals secured a treble. Yet there is not a Celtic supporter who would swap the memories of that season for any piece of domestic silverware.

Because this was the season that will be remembered for one word - Seville.

Celtic reached the final of the UEFA Cup, sparking a movement of supporters that had never been seen before and probably never will again.

Over 80,000 Celtic fans made their way to the south of Spain for the final on May 21, 2003.

More than half of them didn't have a ticket for the game between Celtic and Porto, nor did they have much of a chance of getting one, but they didn't care. It was all about being there, being part of a mass gathering of the Celtic family.

It was the first time in 33 years that Celtic had reached a European final, and Henrik Larsson's 12 European goals went a long way to ensuring the dream became a reality.

The European campaign had started disappointingly, when Swiss side FC Basel knocked Celtic out of the Champions League qualifier, denying Martin O'Neill's side a second crack at Europe's premier tournament.



The fact that the first opponents in the UEFA Cup were the unknown Lithuanian side FK Suduva only served to emphasise what Celtic were missing out on.

Yet Suduva were to fall by the wayside, beaten 8-1 at home with Henrik hitting a hat-trick, while Blackburn Rovers, Celta Vigo, VfB Stuttgart, Liverpool and Boavista also failed to stop the Hoops.

There were so many great memories of that European run.

Winning 1-0 at home to Blackburn Rovers courtesy of a Larsson goal, then going down to Ewood Park and making a mockery of Graeme Souness' 'men against

boys' jibe, made after the first leg.

Beating Celta Vigo - again Larsson gave Celtic the vital 1-0 home win - ensured European football after Christmas for the first time in 23 years.

Stuttgart were eliminated without Henrik's help - he was out injured with a broken jaw - but he returned for the Liverpool game, scoring inside the first couple of minutes at Celtic Park.

And then there was the Boavista game. The score was tied at 1-1 from the first leg, Henrik equalising after the Portuguese side had taken the lead.

The second leg in Oporto was a dour



game, with Boavista apparently happy to hold on for a goal-less draw.

Just 14 minutes remained when Henrik Larsson took over. His attempted through ball to John Hartson was played back into his path and he managed to hook the ball beyond the Boavista keeper with his left foot as their defender closed in on the Swede. Celtic were through to the UEFA Cup final.

Yet, if the memories of that occasion remain fond ones for the supporters, for

the players, including Larsson, remembering the UEFA Cup final is a painful indulgence.

The game, after all, was lost. Porto lifted the trophy and the Celtic players, who had given so much on the night, had to walk past the cup with only their losers' medals as a reminder of their participation in the final.

Larsson, whose two goals had given everyone so much hope that 'our name was on the cup' still talks of the occasion

with a sense of hurt and regret. If ever a man deserved to win a game then that was it.

The following weekend, Celtic lost out on retaining the league title by a single goal but the absence of silverware could not take away from what the players had achieved.

Celtic were back as a European force and Henrik Larsson had proved once again that he could score goals at the highest level.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Trying to find a single moment that means more than any other is exceptionally difficult. However, I have to say that the goal that reduced me to tears was struck in Oporto against Boavista.

That goal meant so much to us all, I'm sure this is echoed a thousand times. I've never seen Henrik celebrate a goal in the manner he did. He is normally quite reserved in his revelry, but on this occasion he simply exploded with emotion. It was a terrible game, as semi-finals so often are, but as usual the player who combines sheer quality with the most outstanding teamwork ethic got us through. Again.

MARK QUINN, DUNFERMLINE

"CELTIC WERE BACK AS A EUROPEAN FORCE AND HENRIK ONCE AGAIN PROVED HE COULD SCORE GOALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL"

TEARS IN PARADISE

Paul Lambert was given an emotional farewell when he left Borussia Dortmund, and the Celtic captain reckons Henrik will cherish his memories from tonight's game for a long time to come

Exclusive Interview: JOE SULLIVAN



Paul Lambert

PAUL LAMBERT readily admits that when he arrived at Celtic in November of 1997, he knew little or nothing of his new club's emerging hero who arrived a few months earlier.

Just in the door from Borussia Dortmund, the former Motherwell and St Mirren midfielder was delighted to be back in his homeland following his German jaunt but had barely heard of his new Swedish team-mate, never mind the 10 goals the striker had already scored before Lambert arrived.

So the new Bhoys would have been unaware of the now infamous debut when Henrik Larsson teed up Celtic-daft Chic Charnley to score a dramatic and decisive goal for Hibernian at Easter Road on August 3, 1997.

Fast forward seven full seasons to May 16, 2004 and the Swede's final competitive game at Celtic Park – the game that newborn babies were carried papoose-like to by eager parents so that, in 20 years time their offspring will be able to say – “I was there!”

Lambert, no doubt embroiled in the substitute routine of limbering up the muscles, was again oblivious to the fact that the unlikely Easter Road pairing were once more combining – but this time to close a chapter rather than open it.

With less than five minutes remaining of Larsson's final hurrah, the bedlam eventually simmered down to mere mayhem following his second goal against Dundee United and the comparatively staid South Stand was lagging behind the rest of the stadium in acclaiming the Swede's astounding scoring salute.

However, one solitary white-shirted figure in the front stand refused to sit down, he stood there alone, arms aloft chanting the Paradise variation of *King of Kings* at the top of his voice

until the rest of his surrounding standees rose to acclaim their hero – that solitary Choir Bhoys was Chic Charnley.

As the final whistle went, though, and another three points were safely in the bag, Lambert's thoughts may have turned to who was going to make the pre-training coffee the following morning – him or Larsson.

Lambert explained: “I don't know how the daily pool game actually materialised at first but when the pool table first arrived in the Green Room we would play a first-to-three game every morning. Whoever lost had to go and make the coffee the following morning. When the table was in the green room you had to actually go and make the coffee but now it's not so bad.

“The pool table is upstairs and there is now a coffee machine, you still have that wee bit of competitiveness but now the loser

“YOU ALWAYS THINK, AND THIS IS THE BEAUTY OF HENRIK, THAT HE'LL PUT AWAY ANY CHANCE”

only has to press a couple of buttons rather than physically make the stuff – the coffee machine does all the work for you.

“As I said, the competitive edge is still there which is good fun and we still play the first-to-three every morning before training – we're always the first to play.”

And who is the best player?

“Me, absolutely!” Said Lambert, “To be honest, he's been getting better at pool. I don't know if it's a popular game back in

Sweden but it's been good fun and there's been the odd granny here and there, he's done it to me and I've done it to him. But it's murder losing the first to three although somebody's got to win.”

And will there be a final frame or maybe even an annual game between the two?

“I don't know. Last week was obviously the final full week, for myself as well as Henrik, but it looks like Friday may have been the last one for now. I'm sure we'll keep in contact and see how he is getting on and vice versa as we've been here a long time together. Henrik arrived just a few months before me so we've been here a long time together and it will be nice to keep in touch.”

Emotions ran high before, during and after Larsson's final home competitive match and Lambert feels that memories can mean much more than aesthetic baubles.

He said: “If you ask me, that will probably mean an awful lot more to him than maybe medals and other such things. I know that sounds a silly thing to say but I think the emotional thing will be with him for a long time. Time is a great healer and it does heal, but to get that accolade is a great thing. I went through the same thing at Borussia Dortmund.

“I said that at the time, I had the pitch to myself that night and people were crying and singing, there were banners and God knows what. I had hundreds of people at my car that night crying. It was terrible, it really was.

“But to have that memory is fantastic. I can always go back there and be really welcomed and it will be the same with Henrik here. I know what he will be going through but you just leave him to it, but it's an unbelievable thing to get from any club.

“There were a few tears shed in the dressing room after the United game which I think is totally understandable, it does

bring a tear to your eye without a shadow of a doubt. It's an emotional thing, it really is when you see your team-mate and you know it's his last game.

“It's definitely an emotional experience and I'm sure his wife and family were feeling it but a lot of people did and it will probably be even more so against Sevilla. Tonight will be a big thing for him as well.

“But before the United game he wasn't noticeably different. He was just treating the game the exactly same as any other. There was nothing untoward or any different. I don't think it actually hit him until after he had scored but you know that the emotion thing is going to come – whether it would be at the United game, the cup final or the Sevilla match, it was always going to come. But that is a great thing to have outwith all the medals.”

In typical Larsson style though, he had the crowd on the edge of their seats as the entire Celtic End physically tried to suck every Henrik effort into the net until he finally struck in the last 10 minutes.

“He did leave it late,” said Lambert, “but you always think, and this is the beauty about him, you always feel he'll stick away a chance. To be fair, he had one or two chances before he scored but he never managed to take them but you just know that somewhere along the line, if something falls for him, he will be on the end of it.

“I don't think tonight's match will be any different to the United game – he's had the initial blast of singing but it will obviously still be a great and touching experience. Whether he is more emotionally charged because he has already been through it, I don't know – you'll have to ask the man himself but it will be a great night for him.”

Henrik Stats

Season
2002/03



League: 35 app's
28 goals

League Cup: 2 appearances
2 goals

Scottish Cup: 2 appearances
2 goals

Europe: 12 appearances
12 goals

Total: 51 appearances
44 goals

158	Aug 3, 02	SPL	Dunfermline
159	Aug 3, 02	SPL	Dunfermline
160	Aug 14, 02	EURO	FC Basel
161	Aug 17, 02	SPL	Dundee Utd
162	Aug 24, 02	SPL	Partick Thistle
163	Sep 1, 02	SPL	Livingston
164	Sep 19, 02	EURO	FK Suduva
165	Sep 19, 02	EURO	FK Suduva
166	Sep 19, 02	EURO	FK Suduva
167	Sep 22, 02	SPL	Dundee
168	Sep 28, 02	SPL	Kilmarnock
169	Sep 28, 02	SPL	Kilmarnock
170	Sep 28, 02	SPL	Kilmarnock
171	Oct 6, 02	SPL	Rangers
172	Oct 6, 02	SPL	Rangers
173	Oct 20, 02	SPL	Hearts
174	Oct 20, 02	SPL	Hearts
175	Oct 27, 02	SPL	Dunfermline
176	Oct 31, 02	EURO	Blackburn Rvrs
177	Nov 3, 02	SPL	Aberdeen
178	Nov 14, 02	EURO	Blackburn Rvrs
179	Nov 17, 02	SPL	Partick Thistle
180	Nov 24, 02	SPL	Livingston
181	Nov 24, 02	SPL	Livingston
182	Nov 28, 02	EURO	Celta Vigo
183	Dec 1, 02	SPL	Motherwell
184	Dec 21, 02	SPL	Dundee
185	Dec 26, 02	SPL	Hearts
186	Dec 29, 02	SPL	Dunfermline
187	Jan 2, 03	SPL	Aberdeen
188	Jan 25, 03	SC	St Mirren
189	Jan 25, 03	SC	St Mirren
190	Jan 29, 03	SPL	Dundee Utd
191	Feb 6, 03	LC	Dundee Utd
192	Mar 13, 03	EURO	Liverpool
193	Mar 16, 03	LC	Rangers
194	Apr 10, 03	EURO	Boavista
195	Apr 13, 03	SPL	Kilmarnock
196	Apr 19, 03	SPL	Hearts
197	Apr 24, 03	EURO	Boavista
198	May 3, 03	SPL	Dunfermline
199	May 14, 03	SPL	Dundee
200	May 21, 03	EURO	Porto
201	May 21, 03	EURO	Porto



Henrik's Top Goals – Number 8

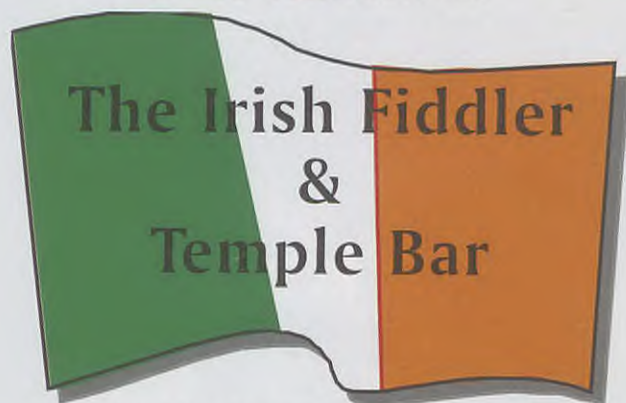


Rangers 0 Celtic 3, SPL, Ibrox, April 29, 2001.

With the League already won, this final meeting was a chance for Celtic to show their superiority. And they did! After a 20-minute spell of good Rangers play, Celtic took charge and never let go. Goals by Lubo Moravcik in 61 and 74 minutes gave the Hoops' fans plenty to shout about; the third proved the icing on the cake. With four minutes left Henrik latched on to a clever Jackie McNamara pass, rounded Stefan Klos and scored from an acute angle for his 50th of the season.



TENERIFE



Wishing Henrik Larsson and his family
all the best for the future.

Thanks for all the memories.

TENERIFE C.S.C

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SEASON 2003/04



"It has been a fantastic period for me here and the supporters have been unbelievable to me. I'm going to miss all this but, as I have said many times, it is time for me to go. I'm going to miss it, I know I will, because it has been a fantastic experience for me."

Henrik Larsson, May 2004



As a star who made us happy when skies were grey bows out, the sadness will be overshadowed by the gratitude felt for a player who has shown loyalty and dedication for seven magnificent years

IT'S been the longest countdown to a goodbye that football has ever seen. Since the opening day of the season Celtic fans have known this is Henrik Larsson's last campaign in the green and white Hoops. After seven magnificent years he has decided to move on.

For supporters there is sadness but it is overshadowed by the gratitude felt for a player who has shown a loyalty and dedication to the club in an era when this is in short supply in football.

And it is appropriate that the man who'll forever be known as the Magnificent Seven should bow out after seven magnificent years.

But not only has he stayed with the club, Larsson has also given the best seven years of his career to Celtic - and what years they were!

He is the third top scorer in Hoops

history, holder of the post-war record for most league goals. He has scored more goals for a British club in Europe than any other player. He's hit 15 in 30 appearances against Rangers, scored 53 goals in a season that saw him crowned Europe's top marksman ... the list goes on.

When Henrik notched his second against Dundee United on his final competitive appearance at Celtic Park, the tears began to flow - not only from the player but from the fans as well.

And tonight promises to be another emotional occasion as we finally say farewell to Henrik Larsson.

This season his contribution has been as vital as ever as Celtic regained the league title lost in such cruel circumstances last year.

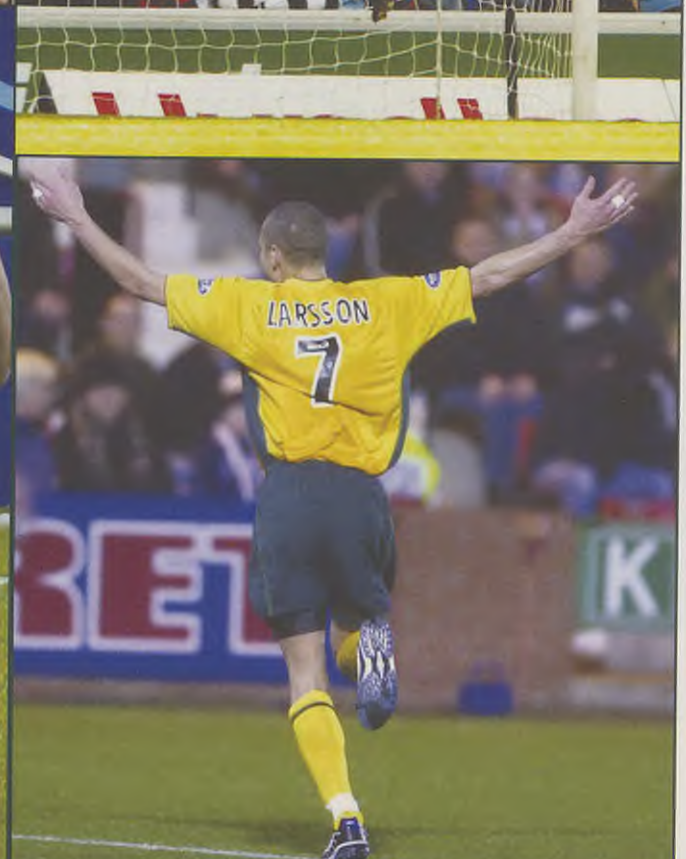
His league goals, 30 of them, helped the Hoops triumph in the SPL and it was also fitting he should grab the last two of the season and his last two league goals for Celtic against Dundee United.

Every supporter will have their own favourite memory of Henrik. And there are so many to choose from.

Tonight is a night to pay homage to a Celtic legend, a player it has been our privilege to have watched in the green and white Hoops these past seven years.

And as we bid that final, tearful farewell it will be with thanks to a star who made us happy when skies were grey.

"EVERY HOOPS SUPPORTER WILL HAVE THEIR OWN FAVOURITE MEMORY OF A LEGEND... AND THERE ARE SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM"



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

THIS tale epitomises what all us Bhoys and Ghirls out there think of Henrik: Diego Maradona, Eric Cantona and Henrik Larsson are standing in front of God at the throne of Heaven.

God looks and them and says: "Before granting you a place by my side I must first ask you what you believe in."

Addressing Maradona first he inquires: "What do you believe in?"

Diego looks God in the eye and states passionately: "I believe football to be the food of life. Nothing else brings such unbridled joy to so many people, from the slums of Buenos Aires to the bright lights of Barcelona. I have devoted my life to bring such joy to people who stood on the terraces supporting their club."

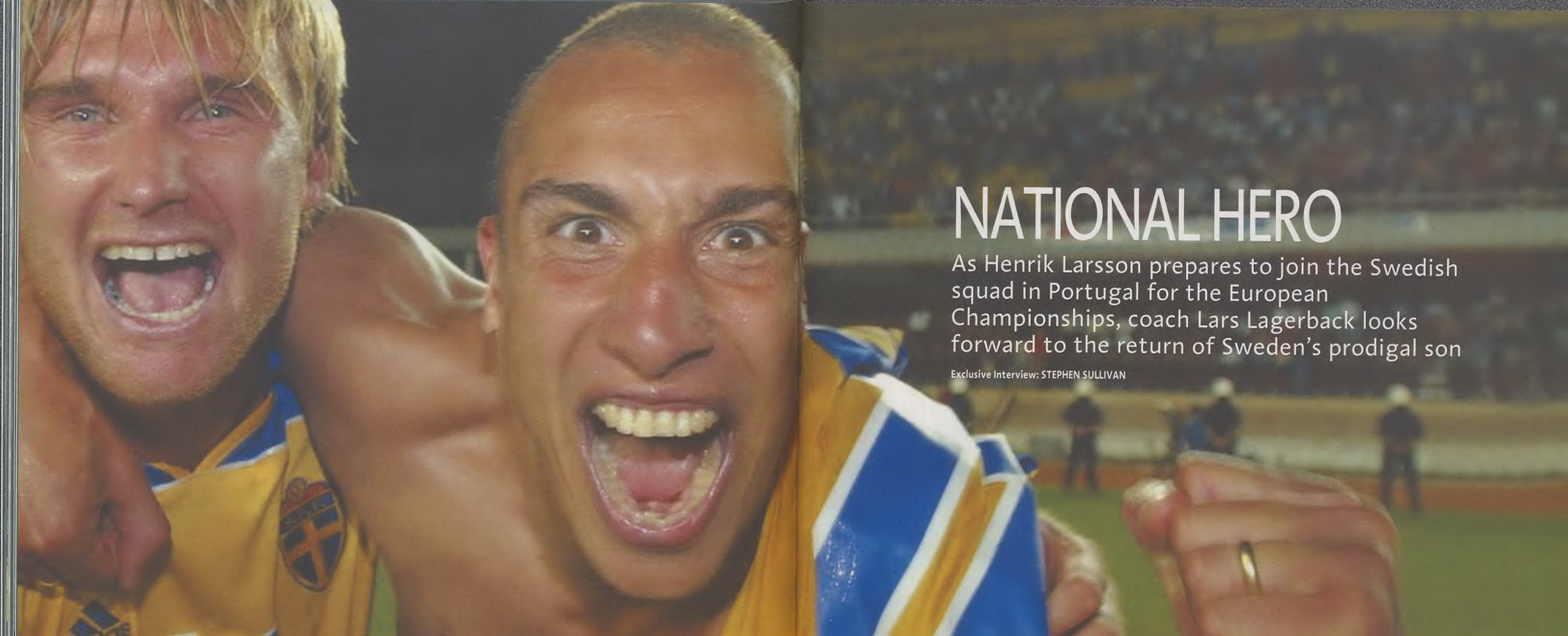
God looks up and offers Maradona the seat to his left. He then turns to Cantona: "And you, Eric, what do you believe?"

Cantona stands tall and proud: "I believe courage, honour and passion are the fundamentals of life and I've spent my whole playing career providing a living embodiment of these traits."

God, moved by the passion of the speech, offers Eric the seat to his right. Finally he turns to Larsson: "And you, Henrik, what do you believe?"

"I believe", says Henrik, "that you're sitting in my seat."

MARK SCANLON



NATIONAL HERO

As Henrik Larsson prepares to join the Swedish squad in Portugal for the European Championships, coach Lars Lagerback looks forward to the return of Sweden's prodigal son

Exclusive Interview: STEPHEN SULLIVAN



WHEN I last spoke to Lars Lagerback, just seven short months ago, it was to offer condolences on Sweden's loss. Now it's his turn to console.

Lagerback, having been left by Henrik Larsson after the last World Cup, is now, with Euro 2004 just weeks away, preparing to welcome Sweden's prodigal son back into the international fold. Celtic's loss, on the other hand, looks certain to be permanent. There is to be no U-turn on Larsson's club future.

Instead, there will be tears – and, judging by the experience of the past fortnight, plenty of them – as the curtain is brought down on seven magnificent years which have seen the Swede carve his name into Celtic folklore. So synonymous have Henrik and the Hoops become, in fact, that many fans leaving this evening's match will doubtless find it difficult to believe that never again will they see him grace the green-and-white.

But how do others look upon this prolonged, tearful and, in Celtic's case, fearful farewell? Does Lagerback, for example, as a man who has loved and lost Larsson before, consider the furore over the striker's impending departure from Celtic Park to be a touch mawkish and over-emotional?

"No, I don't really, and I can't say that I'm surprised at all by it," he insisted. "Everyone knows how much people in Scotland love their football, and when you have a player like Henrik, who's skilful and who also works hard for the team, it's not difficult for supporters to take him to their hearts. He's had a great career with Celtic, and it's nice that the club and the supporters are grateful for what he has done for them. I know he has certainly

loved his time in Glasgow. I'm sure his match will be a great night for everyone, and an emotional one for him.

"Of course, speaking as the Swedish national coach, I am just delighted that Henrik has decided he is motivated again to play international football, and in that respect, yes, a lot has changed in our situations in the last few months. I suppose Celtic always knew that Henrik would be leaving, but – like me – I'm sure Martin O'Neill held on to some hope.

"I wouldn't say I was always confident Henrik would come back, but I made sure to leave the door open. When you're a small country like Sweden, players with Henrik's skill and influence don't come along very often, so it was vital that we made every effort possible to bring him back.

"We were always in contact, and I have always found Henrik to be a very nice character anyway. He is someone who I have a lot of respect for, both as a player and as a person, and it was a big boost for everyone in Sweden when he told us that he wanted to play."

Lagerback's sympathy for O'Neill and Celtic is entirely genuine, and founded on knowledge of what Larsson brings to a team, and of the void he creates in leaving it. His joy stems from the fact that, while Celtic are bidding farewell to one of their all-time greats, Sweden are welcoming back a player justifiably considered their finest ever.

He said: "Sweden has produced some great players, but if you look at what Henrik has produced during his career – with Celtic and with the national team – I think he has earned that right to be called our best ever. For me, what makes him unique among other great players is that he does not play like the star; no-one works harder. I don't know what he's like in the Celtic dressing room, but if he's anywhere near as influential as he has been

"IT'S NICE THAT THE CLUB AND SUPPORTERS ARE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE AT CELTIC"

with us, he'll leave a very big space. With Henrik, you have someone who is always focused, always preparing – the perfect professional."

It's this same peerless professionalism which will also, Lagerback believes, ensure a universally warm welcome for Larsson when he returns to the Swedish camp for the first time. Certainly, while many might have suspected that, for example, Marcus Allback – having performed the donkeywork against Latvia, Poland and San Marino to help ensure Sweden's progression – might be less than enamoured at the prospect of Larsson swanning back in for the finals, the team's coach does not anticipate any resentment whatsoever.

"I don't think there will be any problem with the other boys' attitude towards Henrik," said Lagerback. "This is a very positive thing for Sweden as a team, and Henrik is a player who is respected and liked within the squad. We are not a big enough country or a good enough team to do without our best players, and a fit, motivated Henrik Larsson will be a massive asset to us."

Everyone, it seems, but those in charge of the teams in the upper echelons of Spain's Primera Liga, all of whom have remained perplexingly unmoved by the prospect of recruiting on a Bosman this proven goalscorer. Lagerback nevertheless

believes it's inevitable that a flood of offers will, in time, come the striker's way.

"I'm not actually too surprised that there haven't been too many great offers for him so far," he said. "I think a lot of clubs will just be getting around to planning for next season at the moment, so I wouldn't get too worried about it. I'm sure Henrik will have some good offers during the summer."

Smiling, the Sweden coach also admits that his star striker could hardly wish for a more high-profile shop window than the one in which he will shortly be placed, and acknowledged that, by assisting his country in Portugal, Larsson will also be helping to secure the move he craves.

He said: "Euro 2004 is a tournament everyone will be watching, so I think the benefits for Henrik are obvious. If he produces some great performances against some of the best teams in Europe, it can only be good for him – and for us."

Lagerback certainly has high hopes for the strike partnership Larsson will all but certainly form with Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Ajax's tall, skilful and much sought-after frontman.

"Everyone in Scotland will know all about Henrik, but I would say that Zlatan is one of the most talented players I have ever worked with," he said. "We will have to wait and see who plays, but I believe they could make a very good partnership. The thing about Henrik, though, is that he makes it easy for whoever is beside him."

Simple to play alongside, during his time at Celtic, Larsson has also proved more than a little easy on the eye. As Martin O'Neill said of the club's departing hero: "The privilege has been all ours."



Henrik Stats

Season
2003/04



League: 36 appearances, 1 sub
30 goals
League Cup: 1 appearance
Scottish Cup: 4 appearances (excluding
Scottish Cup final)
3 goals
Europe: 15 appearances
6 goals
Total: 56 apps,
1 sub
39 goals

202	July 30, 03	EURO	FK Kaunas
203	Aug 13, 03	EURO	MTK Hung'ra
204	Aug 16, 03	SPL	Dundee Utd
205	Aug 30, 03	SPL	Livingston
206	Aug 30, 03	SPL	Livingston
207	Aug 30, 03	SPL	Livingston
208	Sep 20, 03	SPL	Motherwell
209	Sep 27, 03	SPL	Hibernian
210	Oct 18, 03	SPL	Hearts
211	Oct 25, 03	SPL	Aberdeen
212	Oct 25, 03	SPL	Aberdeen
213	Oct 25, 03	SPL	Aberdeen
214	Nov 5, 03	EURO	Anderlecht
215	Nov 8, 03	SPL	Dunfermline
216	Nov 22, 03	SPL	Dundee Utd
217	Nov 22, 03	SPL	Dundee Utd
218	Nov 29, 03	SPL	Partick Thistle
219	Dec 13, 03	SPL	Dundee
220	Dec 27, 03	SPL	Hibernian
221	Jan 24, 04	SPL	Aberdeen
222	Jan 31, 04	SPL	Kilmarnock
223	Feb 7, 04	SC	Hearts
224	Feb 11, 04	SPL	Dunfermline
225	Feb 11, 04	SPL	Dunfermline
226	Feb 26, 04	EURO	FK Teplice
227	Feb 26, 04	EURO	FK Teplice
228	Feb 29, 04	SPL	Livingston
229	Mar 7, 04	SC	Rangers
230	Mar 14, 04	SPL	Motherwell
231	Mar 17, 04	SPL	Dundee
232	Mar 21, 04	SPL	Hibernian
233	Mar 21, 04	SPL	Hibernian
234	Mar 28, 04	SPL	Rangers
235	Apr 8, 04	EURO	Villarreal
236	Apr 11, 04	SC	Livingston
237	Apr 21, 04	SPL	Aberdeen
238	May 2, 04	SPL	Dunfermline
239	May 16, 04	SPL	Dundee Utd
240	May 16, 04	SPL	Dundee Utd



Henrik's Top Goals – Number 9



Celtic 2 St Johnstone 0, SPL, Celtic Park, May 9, 1998.

For nine years, Celtic fans had to cope with the jibes of their rivals as Rangers dominated the league. Thankfully, 1997/98 proved different. Under Wim Jansen, Celtic's sole task was to prevent Rangers from winning 10-in-a-row. It all boiled down to the last match against St Johnstone. And it was Henrik who relaxed the nerves with a goal in two minutes, cutting in from the left wing and curling an unstoppable shot into the net. It was time to say cheerio to 10-in-a-row!

Jim Craig takes a look at the players who have received the European Footballer of the Year award and finds it strange that Henrik Larsson's name hasn't even been mentioned in dispatches

SOMETIME towards the end of December, the magazine *France Football* announces the name of its 'Footballer of the Year'.

This is a prestigious award - the Golden Ball - the winner decided by a panel of journalists, one from each of UEFA's 52 member countries. Until 1995, nominations had to be European players plying their trade in Europe; since then, non-European stars have also been eligible.

The list of winners comprises almost every big name since the mid-1950s and to be honest, not even someone as pernickety as myself can find fault with any of the choices.

YEAR	NAME	NATIONALITY
1956	Stanley Matthews	England
1957	Alfredo Di Stefano	Spain
1958	Raymond Kopa	France
1959	Alfredo Di Stefano	Spain
1960	Luis Suarez	Spain
1961	Omar Sivori	Italy
1962	Josef Masopust	Czechoslovakia
1963	Lev Yashin	USSR
1964	Denis Law	Scotland
1965	Eusebio	Portugal
1966	Bobby Charlton	England
1967	Florian Albert	Hungary
1968	George Best	Northern Ireland
1969	Gianni Rivera	Italy
1970	Gerd Muller	West Germany
1971	Johan Cruyff	Holland
1972	Franz Beckenbauer	West Germany
1973	Johan Cruyff	Holland
1974	Johan Cruyff	Holland
1975	Oleg Blokhin	USSR
1976	Franz Beckenbauer	West Germany
1977	Allan Simonsen	Denmark
1978	Kevin Keegan	England
1979	Kevin Keegan	England
1980	Karl-Heinz Rummenigge	West Germany
1981	Karl-Heinz Rummenigge	West Germany
1982	Paolo Rossi	Italy
1983	Michel Platini	France
1984	Michel Platini	France
1985	Michel Platini	France
1986	Igor Belanov	USSR
1987	Ruud Gullitt	Holland
1988	Marco Van Basten	Holland
1989	Marco Van Basten	Holland
1990	Lothar Mattaus	West Germany
1991	Jean-Pierrre Papin	France
1992	Marco Van Basten	Holland
1993	Roberto Baggio	Italy
1994	Hristo Stoichkov	Bulgaria
1995	George Weah	Liberia
1996	Matthias Sammer	Germany
1997	Ronaldo	Brazil
1998	Zinedene Zidane	France
1999	Rivaldo	Brazil
2000	Luis Figo	Portugal
2001	Michael Owen	England
2002	Ronaldo	Brazil
2003	Pavel Nedved	Czech Republic

SADLY, no Celtic player has ever won it. Even more surprisingly, perhaps, is that only one Celtic star has ever made the top five, Jimmy Johnstone finishing third in 1967, although Celtic Football Club could take some of the credit for the development of Kenny Dalglish, who finished second while with Liverpool in 1983.

However, while having little argument most years with the winning choice, I certainly do have some serious reservations about some of the names in the other placings. There are a number of names conspicuous by their absence, of which Henrik Larsson is one.

1967

1. Florian Albert (Ferencvaros)
2. Bobby Charlton (Man U)
3. Jimmy Johnstone (Celtic)
4. Franz Beckenbauer (B. Munich)
5. Eusebio (Benfica)

1983

1. Michel Platini (Juventus)
2. Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool)
3. Allan Simonsen (Vejle BK)
4. Gordon Strachan (Man U)
5. Felix Magath (Hamburg)

THE Swede's Celtic career is well-documented. At the time of writing, with only one Scottish Cup Final appearance to go, Henrik has scored 240 goals in 314 appearances. It is an excellent record yet he has never finished in the top five in this particular competition.

I have listed below the top five for each year of Henrik's Celtic tenure; alongside are his stats for that season. The winner of the Golden Ball is announced towards the end of December but, as the voting procedure must begin sometime in the autumn, I should imagine that every judge will base his thoughts mainly on their choices' form during the previous season.

Henrik - season 1997/98, 48 matches-19 goals

1. Zinedine Zidane (Juventus)
2. Davor Suker (Real Madrid)
3. Ronaldo (Inter)
4. Michael Owen (Liverpool)
5. Rivaldo (Barcelona)

Henrik - season 1998/99, 48 matches-38 goals

1. Rivaldo (Barcelona)
2. David Beckham (Man U)
3. Andriy Shevchenko (Milan)
4. Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina)
5. Luis Figo (Barcelona)

Henrik - season 1999/00, 13 matches-12 goals

1. Luis Figo (Real Madrid)
2. Zinedine Zidane (Juventus)
3. Andriy Shevchenko (Milan)
4. Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
5. Alessandro Nesta (Lazio)

Would you not have put Henrik's name ahead of a few on that list? Remember, I have only provided his goal-scoring stats. What about his availability, consistency, link-up play, enthusiasm, teamwork and sheer talismanic presence? If you take all those factors into account and add them to his goal-scoring ability, could it be that Henrik Larsson has been hard done by?

Henrik - season 2000/01, 50 matches-53 goals

1. Michael Owen (Liverpool)
2. Raul (Real Madrid)
3. Oliver Khan (B Munich)
4. David Beckham (Man U)
5. Francesco Totti (Roma)

Henrik - season 2001/02, 47 matches-35 goals

1. Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
2. Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid)
3. Oliver Khan (B Munich)
4. Zinedane Zidane (Real Madrid)
5. Michael Ballack (B Munich)

Henrik - season 2002/03, 51 matches-44 goals

1. Pavel Nedved (Juventus)
2. Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
3. Paolo Maldini (Milan)
4. Andriy Shevchenko (Milan)
5. Zinedane Zidane (Real Madrid)

Henrik's Top Goals – Number 10



Celtic 1 Liverpool 1. UEFA Cup quarter-final, Celtic Park, March 13, 2003.

This much-anticipated clash went ahead at Celtic Park on a fine, crisp night. The fact it was a Scotland/England encounter rather overshadowed its importance as a UEFA Cup quarter-final. No sooner, it seemed, had the sounds of "You'll Never Walk Alone" died away than Celtic took the lead. The goal typified the art of a great striker. Henrik using all his experience to be at the right place at the right time and then using the nearest part of his body to force the ball home.

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Henrik Larsson has given seven magnificent years to Celtic Football Club since he signed back in 1997. There have been so many goals, so many great memories, and recently, so many tears as the time comes to say goodbye to the man who made us happy when skies were grey ...