



# STRANRAER V CELTIC

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP THIRD ROUND

STAIR PARK

SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY 2001

KICK-OFF 6.05 p.m.



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# BILLY'S VIEW FROM THE DUGOUT



Tonight we welcome the players, officials and supporters of Celtic to Stair Park. We have a great challenge in this game. Martin O'Neill has transformed the team he took over at the start of the season, and has them sitting proudly at the top of the Premier League.

Our recent games have been off due to the weather and our enforced holiday was not in as pleasant surroundings as the Glasgow side have experienced in the USA.

The main aim for us this season is to be promoted.

We will, of course, give it our "best shot" tonight.

It will be a great experience for our local supporters to see international stars close at hand.

Our own young players also have the opportunity to impress against top level opposition.

Let's get behind the team, enjoy the game.

*Billy McLaren*

## STRANRAER F.C.

Ground:

STAIR PARK, LONDON ROAD,  
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Club Sponsors:



Chairman: JAMES HANNAH

Vice Chairman: ROBERT CLANACHAN

Secretary: R. A. GRAHAM RODGERS

Treasurer: GEORGE F. COMPTON

Committee:

JIM BARK, ALEX McKIE, NIGEL REDHEAD,

THOMAS RICE, JAMES ROBERTSON,

TOMMY SUTHERLAND.

Manager: BILLY McLAREN

Goalkeeper Coach: JOHN TAYLOR

Physiotherapist: DEREK KELLY

Kit Man: WILLIE MILLIKEN M. B. E.

Commercial Manager: TOMMY SUTHERLAND

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SFL Challenge Cup - Winners 1996

Scottish League Cup - Quarter-finalists 1968-69

Qualifying Cup - Winners 1937; Runners up 1946 & 47

Record home Attendance -

6,500 v Rangers, Scottish Cup 1948

Most Points in a Season: 56 1993-94 (Div. Two)

Record Victory - 7-0 v Brechin City, 1965

Record Defeat - 1 - 11 v QOS

Record Away Attendance -

41,000 v Rangers, Scottish Cup 1989

Most League Goals in a Season:

Derek Frye (27) 1977-78

Contributors:- DOUGLAS S. BROWN,

LAURENCE NELSON, GRAHAM RODGERS

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# ◆◆◆ Tonight's Visitors

## **Robert Douglas . . .**

Born 26/04/72, Lonark. Scotland squad keeper Douglas was signed by Martin O'Neill in October, and has dispossessed Jonathan Gould of the number one shirt. The keeper played his part in Celtic's four consecutive clean sheets before the winter break and is desperate to pick up a Championship medal this season.

## **Jonathan Gould . . .**

Born 18/07/68, Paddington. Gould was signed as cover for the injured Gordon Marshall and Stewart Kerr at the beginning of 1997/98, but quickly established himself as Celtic number one - and stayed there up until the arrival of Douglas earlier this season. Nevertheless, the keeper has signed an improved contract with the club and has vowed to win back his starting position.

## **Johan Mjallby . . .**

Born 09/02/71, Sweden. Johan came to public attention both here and overseas when he scored the winning goal for Sweden against England in their European qualifier in September '98. The former newspaper distribution man joined Celtic after 14 years at AIK to make his debut in the 5-1 thrashing of Rangers. Mjallby took over the Captain's armband this season in the absence of Paul Lambert and Tom Boyd and has been a revelation at the heart of defence.

## **Ramon Vega . . .**

Born 14/06/71, Switzerland. The Swiss internationalist is on loan at Celtic Park from Tottenham Hotspur until the end of the season, with a view to making the move permanent. Vega made a sensational start to his Celtic career when he netted twice in a 6-0 defeat of Aberdeen and performed impressively at the heart of defence.

## **Stephen Crainey . . .**

Born 22/06/81, Glasgow. Has made a big impact in the first team squad, and has enjoyed some fruitful performances this season, particularly in the CIS Insurance Cup. Crainey is a natural left footer who can hit a superb free-kick. He has also been involved in the Scotland Under 21 set-up.

## **Olivier Tebily . . .**

Born 19/12/75, Abidjan. African born strong defender Tebily was one of several John Barnes acquisitions on arrival at Celtic. Tebily spent only six months in England before leaving to come north - a move which even surprised the player. Is contracted to Celtic until June 2004.

## **Tom Boyd . . .**

Born 24/11/65, Glasgow. Promoted to club captain following Paul McStay's retirement, Boyd is the model professional - assured and confident and able to play in the central defensive or full-back roles. A regular fixture for both club and country, he now has over 50 Scotland caps, earning him a coveted place in the SFA Hall of Fame. Season 2000-01 sees Tom's testimonial year as a reward for his services to the club.

## **Stephane Mahe . . .**

Born 09/09/68, France. Mahe played against Celtic in the Cup Winners Cup in season 95/96 for Paris St. Germain, before missing out on the final and seeing his career slip somewhat during spells with Auxerre and Rennes. Moved to Scotland to resurrect his career, and made the left-back role his own. Has struggled with injury this season, but is desperate to get back into the first team.

## **Joos Valgaeren . . .**

Born 03/03/76, Louvain. Joos was Martin O'Neill's second Celtic signing after arrival at Celtic Park as manager. He came here on the back of a very successful spell in the centre of the Belgian defence in Euro 2000. He has been outstanding at the heart of the Celtic rearguard and settled in very quickly, becoming a favourite with the fans almost immediately.

## **Jackie McNamara . . .**

Born 24/10/73, Glasgow. A bargain buy of former boss Tommy Burns. McNamara captured the 'Players Player of the Year' award in the Championship winning season of 1997/98 with a place in the Scotland World Cup squad as his reward. Even by then, however, a persistent knee injury was restricting his appearances and season 1998/99 was spent largely on the treatment table. He has enjoyed a new lease of life this season playing in a midfield position.

## **Lubomir Moravcik . . .**

Born 22/06/65, Slovakia. Fans favourite Lubomir Moravcik arrived at Celtic Park as the second signing of Dr. Jozef Venglos after being the former head coach's protege as a youngster with the Czech and Slovakian national teams. Part of the Czech side which reached the last eight of Italia '90, Lubo is a cultured middle man with tremendous passing and vision. He delighted supporters when he signed a further one year contract, making him a Celtic player until the end of this season, and there are hopes that Martin O'Neill will persuade him to further his stay at the club.



### **Stilian Petrov . . .**

Born 05/07/79, Bulgaria. Stilian's move to Celtic was protracted due to the question over his eligibility for a Work Permit which was eventually granted. The 21 year old Bulgarian internationalist took some time to adapt to Scottish football, but has been in sensational form this season under Martin O'Neill.

### **Bobby Petta . . .**

Born 06/08/74, Holland. Petta spent three years with Ipswich Town and came to Celtic under the Bosman ruling. He had an awful first season in Scotland, but is a vastly improved player under O'Neill. The pacey left-winger has been a first-team regular throughout the current campaign.

### **Alan Thompson . . .**

Born 22/12/73, Newcastle. Alan is a powerful left-sided midfield player who came to prominence in the successful Bolton team of the mid '90's. He has been a consistent performer since his arrival at the club and scored on his debut against Raith Rovers in the CIS Insurance Cup.

### **Paul Lambert . . .**

Born 07/08/69, Glasgow. European Cup winner and Scotland internationalist Lambert is the linchpin of the Celtic midfield, but has been missing from this side through injury since November. He has returned to full fitness and may well start the match this evening. Lambert is a crucial player for the hoops and his experience at the back is invaluable.

### **Neil Lennon . . .**

Born 25/06/71, Lurgan. After controversial and lengthy transfer negotiations between Leicester and Celtic, Lennon finally joined his boyhood heroes at the beginning of December last year. The Northern Ireland internationalist has settled into the Celtic side quickly and effectively and has added some steel to the Hoops midfield.

### **Colin Healy . . .**

Born 14/03/80, Cork. Picked up by Celtic scouts in Ireland, Healy rapidly advanced through the ranks to make his first team debut in May 1999 against Dunfermline. He has forced himself into the first team squad and has been impressive in the centre of midfield.

### **Didier Agathe . . .**

Born 16/08/75, Saint Pierre. Frenchman Didier Agathe exploded into Scottish football after successful spells with Raith Rovers and Hibs. The 25 year old has featured as a winger in the Celtic team this season, and has shown a tremendous burst of pace as well as an exciting willingness to take players on.

### **Henrik Larsson . . .**

Born 10/09/71, Helsingborg. Henrik Larsson was signed from Feyenoord in 1997 by Wim Jansen, and has become a firm favourite with the Celtic fans. He has recovered magnificently from last season's horrific injury and has been in sensational form in front of goal this season. He pencilled his name into the history books before the winter break when he bagged his 101st goal for Celtic.

### **Chris Sutton . . .**

Born 10/03/73, Hartington. Moved north from Chelsea for a record Scottish signing fee as Martin O'Neill's first acquisition for Celtic. Sutton formed half of the 'SAS' partnership with Alan Shearer at Blackburn, when the Ewood Park side clinched the English Premiership in 1995. Finished joint top scorer in the Premiership with Dion Dublin and Michael Owen in '98. He had a minor foot injury earlier in the season, but has recovered and looks to have established a fruitful partnership with Henrik Larsson.

### **Tommy Johnson . . .**

Born 15/01/71, Newcastle. The most unlucky man at Celtic Park endured what seemed like a never-ending injury nightmare prior to finally returning to first team action in time for the Cup Final last season. The amiable Englishman went on loan to Everton for three months, but returned to the club to fight for his first team place. He has been unable to win a regular first-team place due to the form of Larsson and Sutton.

### **Mark Burchill . . .**

Born 18/08/80, Bellshill. The young striker was forced to move to Birmingham City for a three month loan period in order to get more first-team opportunities after becoming frustrated at his place on the Celtic bench. The move fell through and he has returned to Glasgow in an attempt to fight for a place in Martin O'Neill's side.

### **Jamie Smith . . .**

Born 20/11/80, Dumbarton. Jamie Smith has forced his way into the first team squad this season after spending a successful loan period at Livingston last year. The 20 year old midfielder has performed consistently well for the Under-21's and has been impressive when given a run out in the top team.

# NOTICE BOARD

**Our three outstanding league matches will be re-arranged from March onwards.**

**Paul Walker is available for tonight's game. He still has a one match ban to serve but this will be in an SFL match.**

*The Town has received much media coverage in the build-up to the game, in the press, radio and television. Highlight will of course be the live coverage by Sky Sports who will cover the game from every angle, doing full justice to the Tennent's Scottish Cup.*

Former Blues manager John Clark will be in the Celtic dug-out tonight. Since his departure from Stair Park, John has remained a good friend of many at Stranraer FC.



Official Stranraer F.C. website  
<http://www.stranraer.fc.co.uk>

**Keith Knox will be the only player involved tonight who played the last time the sides met.**

**The Celtic party arrive direct from the Turnberry Hotel. Our own players have had an overnight stay in Portpatrick.**

***The new League Review Book is now on sale.***