

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

SATURDAY 29th MAY 1999

HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW KICK-OFF 3.00 pm

CELTIC v RANGERS



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HISTORY IN THE MAKING



It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Scottish Football Association, to welcome the officials, players and supporters of Celtic and Rangers, and the representatives of the tournament sponsor, Tennent Caledonian Breweries, to Hampden Park for this afternoon's historic 114th Tennents Scottish Cup final.

This is a momentous day for Scottish football, with the first major event at our national stadium since its rebirth. I am sure everyone here, whether they are spectators watching from the stands, players sampling the atmosphere, media, officials, backroom staff, police or sponsors, will be impressed by the venue.

It is an opportunity for Scotland to demonstrate to the world that our football is something to be proud of. A thrilling cup final is anticipated this afternoon, watched not only by a capacity crowd here at Hampden Park, but also by millions throughout the United Kingdom and around the world on satellite television.

I hope, therefore, that the players and supporters of both teams will rise to the occasion and provide a match that is exciting and enthralling, and that football will be the winner.

Today gives both clubs the opportunity to put the seal on a remarkable season. Celtic and Rangers have both shown this season that they are capable of great performances, and their challenges for the Scottish Premier League title provided some memorable moments. Although Rangers are to be congratulated on having already captured the League flag and the Scottish League Cup, I am sure everyone here recognises that past form has little bearing on any Old Firm encounter, and there is everything to play for.

This is the tenth Scottish Cup final to be sponsored by Tennent Caledonian Breweries, a remarkable record. The Scottish Football Association is most appreciative of the support which our sponsor has provided for Scotland's top cup competition over these years and we all look forward to enjoying their continued support in the years ahead.

In making this match possible, there have been considerable efforts from a huge number of people over a long period of time. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this historic event.

Above all, I sincerely hope that this afternoon's match will be a credit to Scottish football, and continue in the exciting tradition of Tennents Scottish Cup finals.

JACK MCGINN
President
Scottish Football Association.





TEN FOR TENNENTS

On behalf of Tennent Caledonian Breweries I would like to extend a warm welcome to supporters of both Celtic and Rangers for this historic Tennents Scottish Cup Final.

In a double celebration today's Final marks Tennents tenth anniversary as sponsors of the Cup and the return of the fixture to its spiritual home. The National Stadium – Hampden Park.

With the stadium having received a £50 million facelift, a capacity crowd of 52,500 and a nationwide TV audience there could be no finer backdrop for an Old Firm Final.

Tennent's Lager has a long association with Cup football in Scotland supporting events like the Tennents Sixes and the Highland League Cup through to what many consider the jewel in Scotland's football calendar – The Scottish Cup.

Both teams have lifted the Cup since Tennent's first sponsored the tournament in 1989, however Celtic and Rangers have not met in a Final for over a decade – a contributing factor to the sense of anticipation as we approach today's Hampden Final.

Celtic and Rangers will be hoping to create their own piece of history as they compete to lift the Cup in the last Scottish Cup final of the millennium.

Tennent's Lager wishes both teams and their supporters well as we look forward to another chapter in the history of the Tennents Scottish Cup.

Gordon Brown
Director of Brands
Tennent Caledonian Breweries

TENNENT'S LAGER • THE OFFICIAL BEER OF SCOTTISH FOOTBALL.

THE ROAD TO THE FINAL



169 goals, 61 matches, 51 man-of-the-match awards and a season of blood, sweat and tears have brought us to where we are today. The 114th Tennent's Scottish Cup has come down, as it has so often in the past, to a renewal of rivalries between the biggest and most successful clubs in the country.

The cup flames of the likes of Dalbeattie Star, Civil Service Strollers and Spartans have all been extinguished, glorious cup runs have fizzled and died, and worthy outsiders have seen their dreams crushed under the wheels of the Old Firm juggernaut as the Glasgow giants ground their way towards today's Tennent's Scottish Cup final. Some would say there is a certain correctness – and a measure of inevitability – that Scotland's two premier clubs collide today.

But when this tournament kicked off, 174 days ago, dreams of Hampden glory were in the minds of only the most romantically-inclined of participants. The real hope of the eight clubs who contested first round ties that day was progress into round two, and thereafter the potentially lucrative third round. As it turned out, one of the opening day battlers would indeed progress to a windfall akin to a lottery win – albeit one which took them four matches to land.

Stenhousemuir, at the time still in the care of Terry Christie and the best-known duffel-coat in football, seemed on the way out when they could manage only a first round draw at home to Alloa Athletic, veteran Albert Craig's goal earning them a replay. But the following week, second-half goals from Mickey Hall and the much-travelled Willie Watters sent Stenny into round two along with fellow first round victors, Queen's Park, Partick Thistle and Livingston.

The men from Larbert succeeded in making life difficult for themselves in the second round, Craig again having to rescue them with an equaliser after East of Scotland League Whitehill Welfare's lively performance had given them an early fright on January 2nd. However, by the time the replay arrived seven days later, both clubs knew the prize which awaited them in round three: a visit to Rangers at Ibrox. Tensions ran high as Whitehill battled to earn their day in the cup sun, but although Dougie Samuel's titanic performance earned him the Man of the Match award, two second-half goals from Kenny Miller got Stenhousemuir through and put the widest smile of the year on the face of the club accountant. Elsewhere in the second round, Albion Rovers, East Stirlingshire, Brechin City, Clyde, and Queen's Park

all saw off non-league opposition – though in Queens' case it took a replay and a last-minute winner to subdue battling Clachnacuddin. They were joined among the heavy artillery of the cup by Livingston, Partick Thistle, Ross County, Forfar Athletic and Stirling Albion, with Huntly the sole non-league qualifiers.

Stenhousemuir's adventures continued with the revelation that the Ibrox visit would be 42-year-old defender Graeme Armstrong's 1,000th senior match and it was little surprise when the veteran's steady and assured performance earned him the Man of the Match award to put alongside the gifts presented to him by Rangers and the SFA to commemorate the occasion. First-half goals from Stephane Guivarc'h and Rod Wallace ensured there wasn't to be a Premier League scalp joining his mementoes. The other half of the Old Firm made heavy weather of it at Celtic Park where those doughty cup fighters, Airdrieonians, turned in their usual stuffy display. Steve Cooper's bulleting



Graeme Armstrong holding one of the gifts presented to him on his 1,000th senior match; against Rangers in the Tennent's Scottish Cup.

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