

Derry City FC v. Celtic FC

CITYVIEW



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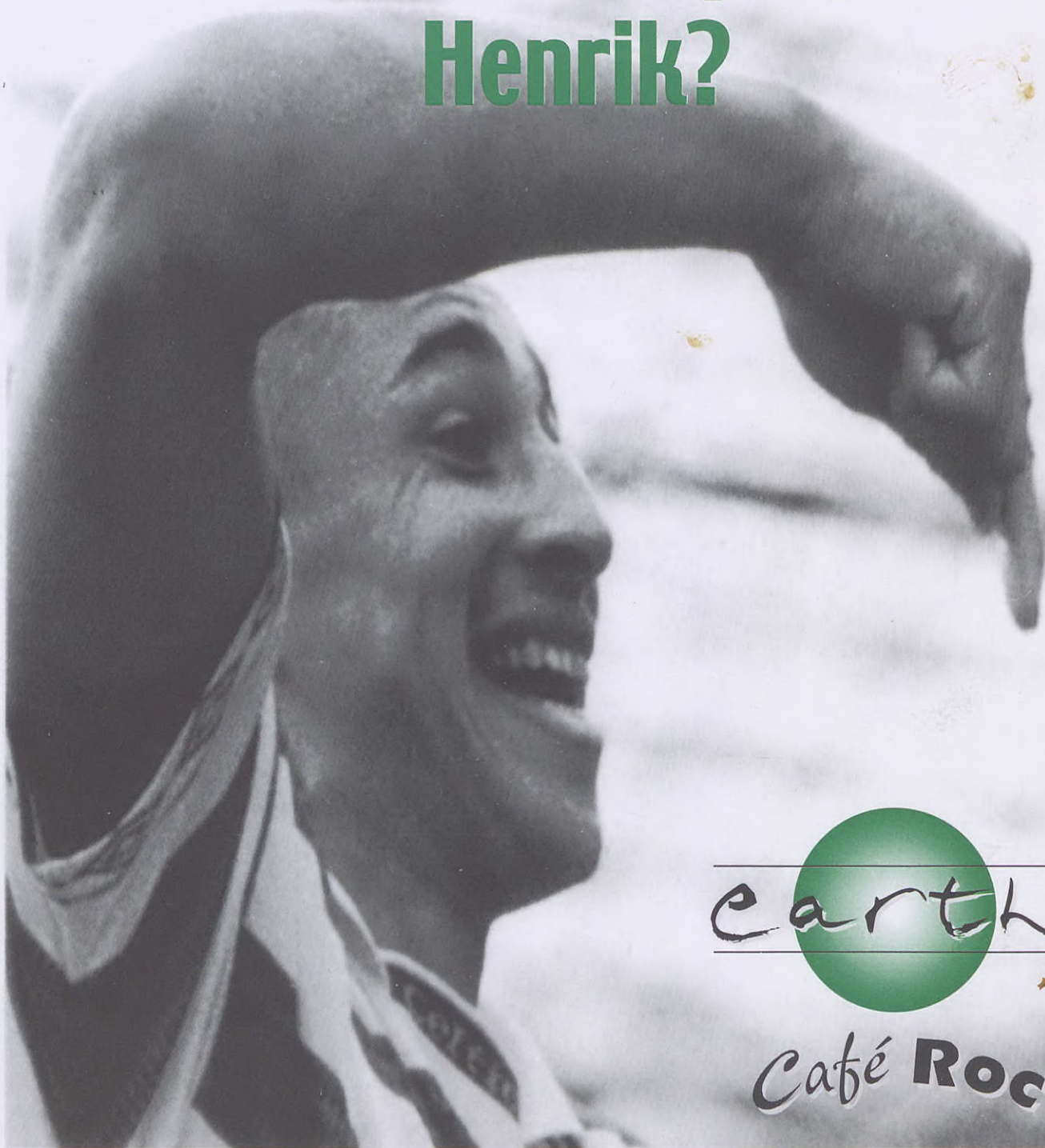


SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Monday 2 October 2000

Brandywell Stadium - Kick Off: 7.30pm

Where's Derry City's No.1 Nitespot, Henrik?



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A Message from ...



Cllr. Pat Ramsey - *Chairman of Development Committee*

May I open by thanking each and every one of you for attending tonight's game and supporting our local club.

Derry City has gone through a turbulent few months following the untimely death of chairman, Kevin Friel and without the support of the local community, the club would most certainly not have a future.

However, we must not overlook the massive contribution of Glasgow Celtic Football Club and, in particular, its manager, Martin O'Neill for the part they have played in guaranteeing our survival.

Martin's tremendous generosity in bringing his team to Brandywell this evening cannot be under-estimated. As a Derry man, Martin is fully aware what the club means to the city. Not only Derry City fans, but football fans throughout Ireland owe him a deep debt of gratitude for this magnificent gesture.

Throughout the eighties and nineties Derry was a wonderful place for soccer. We had rejoined the senior soccer ranks after almost two decades in the wilderness. Who can ever forget the visits of Benfica, Vitesse Arnhem, Manchester United, Spurs and those other great clubs to Brandywell?

Who could forget the huge crowds week after week as Derry City travelled the length and breadth of Ireland breathing fresh life into League of Ireland football. Only the youngest of tonight's supporters will not recall those heady days, I just hope they witness similar occasions in the future.

Those were great times for this club. Derry was in the news for all of the right reasons, young people throughout the city had a focus and the candy-striped shirts were more common in the city centre than those of Manchester United and other top clubs.

However, the introduction of live televised football and the growth of other attractions led to the dwindling away of the support and the exodus, which slow at the beginning, gathered pace to such an extent that the club had to fight to stay in existence.

The experiences of the past months indicate fully Derry City's trauma. But the Derry people have again come out to support the team. There is a focus and determination to survive and with the help of Martin O'Neill and Glasgow Celtic we are well on our way to securing the immediate future.

The revival of Derry City is gathering pace, let's hope we can get back to the days when the club was sweeping every honour before them.

Tonight is only the first step, but it is an appropriate occasion to serve notice that Derry City is once again on the way up. Maybe this game will give supporters a flavour of what they've been missing and spur them to return to the terraces.



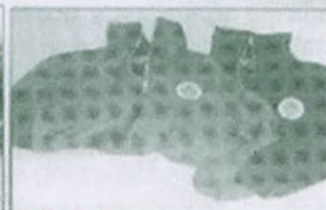
Pat Ramsey



*Ceadh Mile Failte to Martin O'Neill
and Celtic Football Club*

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Glasgow Celtic and Derry City . . .

A SEVENTY YEARS RELATIONSHIP

When tonight, the present-day players of Glasgow Celtic Football Club step onto the turf of Brandywell, they will be further cementing a 70-years-old relationship with Derry City Football Club.

Glasgow Celtic played for the first time here in April 1930. They brought to the north-west of Ireland a team packed then with players of international stature such as John Thompson, Jimmy McGrory and others who are legends in the history of the Glasgow club which had a tremendous Irish influence when it was born.

By former "Derry Journal" editor, Frank Curran



It was particularly apt that a friendship between Celtic and Derry should happen for, from Derry's docks year after year for generations, Irish people from the north-west of Ireland sailed to Glasgow, some as migrant workers, others to make a new life and put down their roots in the great Scottish city.

On that day in 1930, Celtic won 4-0; but the score was less significant than the links between Derry and Glasgow that

were forged then, and have never since been sundered. Indeed, they have been strengthened as the years passed, because over the decades more and more Scottish footballers played a definitive part in the history of Derry City F.C. and, from time to time, Celtic returned to play at the Derry venue.

In that initial match in back in 1930, over 5,000 spectators attended, and by the mid-1950's Celtic visits attracted attendances of over 12,000.

CREATION OF TRADITION

But for Derry the dividend was the creation of a tradition of Scottish players whose influence in the development of senior soccer in Derry was immense.

Look back to the 1930's and the names come readily to memory - John Wallace, Willie Ross, Hugh Carlyle, Harry Duffy, Archie McLeod, Jock Grant - as Derry pioneered their way toward becoming one of the great clubs of Northern Ireland.

In 1936, when the Irish League Selection defeated an English League team containing most of the current top English internationals 3-2 at Windsor Park in Belfast, Scot, Hughie Carlyle skipped the home team and local player, Jimmy Kelly, scored an imperishable hat-trick.

In 1949, when Derry won the Irish Cup for the first time, five Scots were in the City side - Tommy Muir, Jackie McCready, Willie Aitken, Barney Cannon and High Colvan.

Five years later came what is always referred to as "the Delaney era" in Derry football lore, the famous Jimmy Delaney, winner of Scottish Cup medals with Celtic and an English Cup medal with Manchester United, inspired Derry to their second Irish Cup success.

Derry won the Cup after three colossal battles with Glentoran, winning the third match 1-0, with a goal created by Delaney and scored by Irishman Con O'Neill. The three finals attracted an aggregate attendance of 93,000 fans, a figure never remotely approached in Irish football since.

SO CLOSE FOR DELANEY

While Delaney won three cup medals in Scotland, England and N. Ireland he was within an ace of adding an F.A.I. Cup medal two years after playing for Derry. On that occasion, he was representing Cork Athletic against



Shamrock Rovers in the final. It was an intriguing game, with just 12 minutes remaining Cork led 2-0 but, incredibly, Rovers scored three late goals to Delaney him a unique quartet.

And ten years later, another distinguished Scottish international, Johnny McKenzie, was the inspirational figure as Derry swept to another Irish Cup win, to be followed by the Irish League Championship the next year.

There is another Derryman, rather a County Derryman, who became a legend in the annals of Glasgow Celtic, who cannot be ignored. Bertie Peacock, for twelve years, graced the Parkhead pitch and he still lives in his native Coleraine, 30 miles from Derry.

And of course, no survey of the Celtic-Derry relationship would be complete without mention of presiding Parkhead boss, Martin O'Neill.

Alas, Derry memories of Martin are not happy, for in 1971, he was the architect of a 3-1 Derry defeat in the Irish Cup final of 1971, when he masterminded Belfast club, Distillery's victory as "man of the match." Now, we shall readily forgive him for that, as we warmly welcome and applaud his gesture in bringing his team to Brandywell this evening.

HISTORICAL ALLUSION

Might I make just one more historical allusion, as the person who was a spectator and historian of the Derry club for more years than I care to remember.

One of the elements which created the alliance between Derry and Celtic was the Derry and Celtic was the friendship between the legendary former Celtic chairman, Sir Robert Kelly and the equally eminent former Derry City chairman, George Sidebottom.

Mr. Sidebottom was a native of Motherwell, who came to Derry to become a prominent figure both in football and the business life of his adopted city. His son, Dr. Desmond Sidebottom, also became a Derry City chairman and he still lives in the city and, doubt, he will be delighted at this most recent return to Brandywell of the men from "Paradise."