

RANGERS

B & Q League Premier Division **RANGERS v CELTIC** Tuesday 3rd January 1989 PROGRAMME PRICE 70P



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SNAPSHOTS

AN 'OLD FIRM' MEETING WITH A DIFFERENCE - AT THE 1989 TENNENTS SIXES TOURNAMENT DRAW



FIFTY YEARS AGO

Few in today's crowd would have been at Ibrox for the Old Firm New Year fixture of 1939, but those who were made history.

On January 2, 1939, a crowd of 118,567, the highest attendance ever for a British league fixture, watched Rangers gain revenge over their city rivals, beating them 2-1 after Celtic had recorded a 6-2 victory earlier in the season.

A member of the side that day was Willie Thornton (pictured right), who is still involved at Ibrox, conducting tours of the Stadium for hundreds of visitors a year.

Willie doesn't have too many memories of the actual game itself, but recalls how overwhelming the crowd was.

"I remember the huge crowd greeting us as we ran out," said Willie.

"This was by far the highlight of the season, and it was the only occasion during the year that crowds were segregated at Ibrox. Despite this, there were no incidents of crowd trouble at that game."

"This was my first Old Firm game at centre-forward, although I had played against Celtic at outside-right when they beat us 6-2 at Parkhead earlier in the season. At 18, I was the youngest Rangers player to play at centre-forward in an Old Firm game, and that record stayed until Derek Johnston came along."

The game took place only nine months before the Second World War broke out, but as Willie recalls, the players didn't realise that their careers would be so abruptly interrupted.

"We all knew something was going on, but none of us really realised the full extent of it."

Rangers goal-scorers at the historic game were Dave Kinnear and Andy Ventners, and their goals helped Rangers to the league title that season.

"Our title win gave me my first league winners medal in the same season as Bob McPhail got his last."

"In the Celtic game, I played against Willie Lyon, the Parkhead captain. The next time we met was in Italy, when we were both in the Army!"

As Willie recalls, there was no special reason for the crowd to be so large, apart from the obvious fact it was an Old Firm game.

"There was nothing special about the game, although Celtic's large victory earlier in the year had set up an interesting return match."

"Football was the only outlet for people in those days, and as there was no TV, you had to come along to see the action."

Unlike games today, Willie remembers also that there was no trouble on the park.

"We didn't have any bookings as such in those days, as the card system wasn't used, and players would get a warning and a ticking off from the referee instead of a yellow card."

Willie believes that 50 years on, Rangers can repeat that victory of 1939 at Ibrox today, and go on to take the title.

"I honestly think Rangers will win today, as their recent win over Hibs, and Celtic's defeat by Dundee United should have given them a psychological advantage."

"They must, however, watch out for Aberdeen and Dundee United. It's going to be dog-eat-dog at the top of the league for the rest of the season, but as Rangers are on top, their own performances will decide their final destiny."





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INSIDE IBROX

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BUTCHER ALL-CLEAR

Rangers captain Terry Butcher (pictured below) has been given the official all-clear on his left leg, which was broken in November 1987.

The big English International defender travelled down to the Lillieshall Rehabilitation Centre at the beginning of December for the final tests on his trusty left leg.

Head physio at the centre, Graham Smith, expressed his delight at the success of Terry's comeback, and assured Terry, who has been an ever present in the Light Blues side this season, that everything was now fully healed.

Terry said: "There wasn't really any doubt that the leg had healed properly and I've felt great this season.

"But it was wise to ensure that there was no problems and Graham Smith told me I was 100 per cent again.

"My leg has healed perfectly and is now back to full strength, the way it was before it was broken.

Terry was a bit apprehensive about a return to the centre, but he enjoyed meeting up with everybody again.

"It was nice to go back to Lillieshall and meet the staff there again. I was able to thank them all for they did for me during my time there.

"I hope I never have occasion to see them again, mind you!"

RANGERS VIDEO

If you weren't lucky enough to receive one of the new videos released by the club, then you're strongly advised to get a hold of your's soon - they could soon (hopefully!) be out of date.

Called 'Rangers 1988-89 - Volume One', the hour-long tape has all the games and goals from the first quarter of the season.



It's main features are the thrilling Skol Cup triumph over Aberdeen at Hampden, and that memorable day in August when today's opponents Celtic were beaten 5-1 in a truly amazing game.

It's a tremendous addition to any video collection, and at just £9.99, it's great value too.

The tape is available at all three Rangers Shops, and has been selling like the proverbial hotcake.

Let's hope today can be one of the highlights in volume two!

5-A-SIDES

An eight-man squad of reserve players travelled to East Kilbride on Sunday, December 4 to take part in the annual Land-Sec Five-A-Side tournament at the town's John Wright Sports Centre.

Under the watchful eye of player/coach Jimmy Nicholl, the young, but experienced side, found themselves in the same round-robin section as Hamilton Accies, St Mirren and East Kilbride, with the top two sides qualifying for the next stage.

Rangers made an impressive start, defeating Hamilton Accies 3-1, and then St Mirren 2-0 to virtually assure themselves a semi-final place.

In their final group match, they faced local side East Kilbride Thistle, and in a match which had the crowd at fever pitch, a 2-2 draw was all Rangers could manage against a plucky home side.

In their semi-final tie, Rangers faced Clyde, and in a hard match of end to end football, Rangers couldn't quite overcome the "Bully Wee", and bowed out of the tournament with a 3-2 defeat.

Jimmy Nicholl said that it had been a good night of indoor football, and that 18-year-old goalkeeper Colin Scott had been impressive throughout. Davie Kirkwood was Rangers top scorer with four goals.

The full squad was:- Colin Scott, Alex McEwan, Scott Playle, Shaun Rouse, Steven Dunn, David Kirkwood, John Spencer and Gary McSwegan.

SEASON TICKET

Rangers Operations Executive Alistair Hood has asked all season ticket holders to note that their tickets are not, under any circumstances, transferable to other supporters.

This message comes after the recent home match with Dundee United, when it became very evident that their were three 'intruders' in the McEwan's Govan Stand.

When Dundee United scored the only goal of the game, these three fans couldn't contain themselves, and expressed their

RAY'S THE MAN

The player-of-the-year awards have begun in earnest, and one of the first Ibrox stars to receive a supporters club's award was Ray Wilkins.

The English International midfielder star, who has been in constant form throughout this season, was the recipient of Thornhill Loyal's player-of-the-year award, which he received from club members Robert Smith, John Ferguson, Derek Oram and Willie Slider in early December.



joy in no uncertain terms, much to the displeasure of those seated around them.

Following complaints made by Premier Club members, enquiries were made, and it was learned that three season ticket holders had, for the day, given their tickets to other people who, it would appear, were supporting the visitors.

The season ticket rules clearly state that the books are not transferable under penalty of forfeiture.

On this occasion the three ticket holders have been warned, and made fully aware of their obligations.

On no account should Season Ticket books be passed on to others to enable them to attend matches.

THREE UNWISE MEN

Three 'supporters' have incurred the wrath of Rangers' Operations Executive Alistair Hood after separate incidents in November.

All three have been banned from Ibrox indefinitely for their misdemeanours.

On November 5, Mr Hood made enquiries into two cases where 'fans' were found in possession of knives.

He has now traced one of the offenders, and after a meeting at Ibrox, the man, who comes from Coatbridge, has been threatened with a civil action should he attempt to enter Ibrox Stadium during his ban.

The other two incidents took place on November 26, and both involved supporters club's buses coming to Ibrox for the visit of Aberdeen.

The first incident occurred on the Kingston Bridge, where a passenger at the back of coach was seen to 'drop his trousers and bare his bottom' in full view of a following female motorist.

This gentleman was traced, and banned for an indefinite period, with the club, The Newmans Rangers Supporters Club, being warned over their future conduct.

A 'fan' who threw a beer bottle from a double-decked bus and struck a passing mini-coach has been banned.

The offender was travelling on a coach run by the Poltonhall R.S.C on the M8, and the coach which the bottle struck contained, amongst others a group of children.

Alistair Hood said: "These 'fans' are out of touch with the vast majority of Rangers supporters, who always receive my full backing."

NEW STAR

Rangers have again beaten their rivals to sign up the best young footballers in the country.

The successful Ibrox youth network, set up by Gordon Neely, goes from strength to strength, with the latest signing, Larkhall youngster John Martin, a major coup for the club.

The news that he had signed for Rangers came as a blow for many top clubs, including Celtic, Dundee United and Manchester United, who had all shown an interest in the youngster.

The under-14 star had trained with Dundee United for the past two seasons and has travelled to Old Trafford for trials with Manchester United.

Old Firm rivals Celtic also asked him to sign when the 'Decision Day' came last month.

John and his parents came to Ibrox, and were so impressed by the set-up after meeting Gordon Neely and Walter Smith that they were left in no doubts about where John's immediate footballing future lay.

John, who is rated one of the most outstanding players in his age group, has been involved in trials for Scotland at under-15 level, a year higher than his own age group.

A further eight youngsters signed for Rangers at the same time as John.

At under-15 level, Neil Inglis, Craig Fenton, Lee Robertson and Neil Edwards were all signed, while Craig Flanagan, Barry Moffat and Neil Murray all joined the under-16 pool.

DIARY

DAY BY DAY WITH RANGERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

A bad day for Rangers as they lose their second successive Premier League fixture, going down 2-0 to Hearts at Tynecastle. Mark Walters is sent off along with Hearts' Mike Galloway. Galloway and former Ibrox star Iain Ferguson score the goals which sink the Light Blues.

Rangers reserves beat Hearts 3-0 with goals from Jimmy Nicholl, Alex McEwan and John Spencer.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Ally McCoist and Graeme Souness take part in training in preparation for their comeback match against Queen's Park.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Over 1,000 fans are at Lesser Hampden for a challenge match against Queen's Park. Graeme Souness plays successfully but Ally McCoist has to leave the action at half-time having scored a goal. Mark Walters is also on target in a 2-0 win.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Ally McCoist is doubtful for the Premier League match against Hibs, having aggravated his hamstring injury against Queen's Park.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Graeme Souness is in England to watch Chelsea defeat Birmingham City 4-1 in a Second Division match.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Rangers end their 1988 Ibrox programme in winning style, Ian McCall's brilliant 67th minute goal earning a 1-0 victory over Hibs at Ibrox. Graeme Souness comes on as a 52nd minute substitute for the injured John Brown.

Rangers reserves draw 1-1 with Hibs at Easter Road with John Spencer scoring from the penalty-spot.

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KIND OF PULL.**



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SEASON 1988/89



BEHIND THE SCENES

A REGULAR LOOK AT THE PEOPLE AND THEIR JOBS WORKING OFF THE PARK AT IBROX

STAN HOLLOWAY

Anyone visiting Ibrox and calling in at reception during the week will no doubt have met Rangers first English signing - Stan Holloway.

Stan is the club's head commissionaire, and when he began working for Rangers eight years ago, he was the only Englishman at Ibrox - how things have changed since then!

"When I first started at Ibrox, I was the first Englishman here, but since then I've seen many players come and go" said Stan, who was born and brought up in Hull.

"All my fellow Englishmen have been a nice crowd of lads, like everyone here at Ibrox."

Stan, as Commissionaire, is responsible for manning the reception area at Ibrox, as well as directing visitors and advising callers when they come round to the stadium.

"I'm also on main door duty at matches, so I rarely get to see a full game, only snatches of action if things are quiet."

Before coming to Scotland, Stan spent 22 happy years in the RAF, most of that time as an Air Quartermaster with Transport Command.

"I was responsible for looking after any passengers and freight on RAF flights, as well as supervising the on and off-loading of freight."

"I also spent time working in the RAF stores, but I never piloted an aircraft during my years in the Service."

Having joined the RAF in 1943, Stan was involved in



the latter end of World War II, but he was never involved in active service.

"I was involved with landing operations in France in 1944, but I never saw any enemy action."

Stan's long service saw him receive the good conduct and long service medals, as well as campaign ribbons.

He left the RAF in 1969, and moved north, to Paisley, where he began work in an engineering plant.

After ten years there, he became interested in becoming a commissionaire, and as he was an ex-serviceman, he was qualified to apply to the corps of commissionaires.

"They accepted my application, and looked for a work near to my Paisley home" said Stan

"A vacancy came up at Ibrox,

and I quite happily accepted the post."

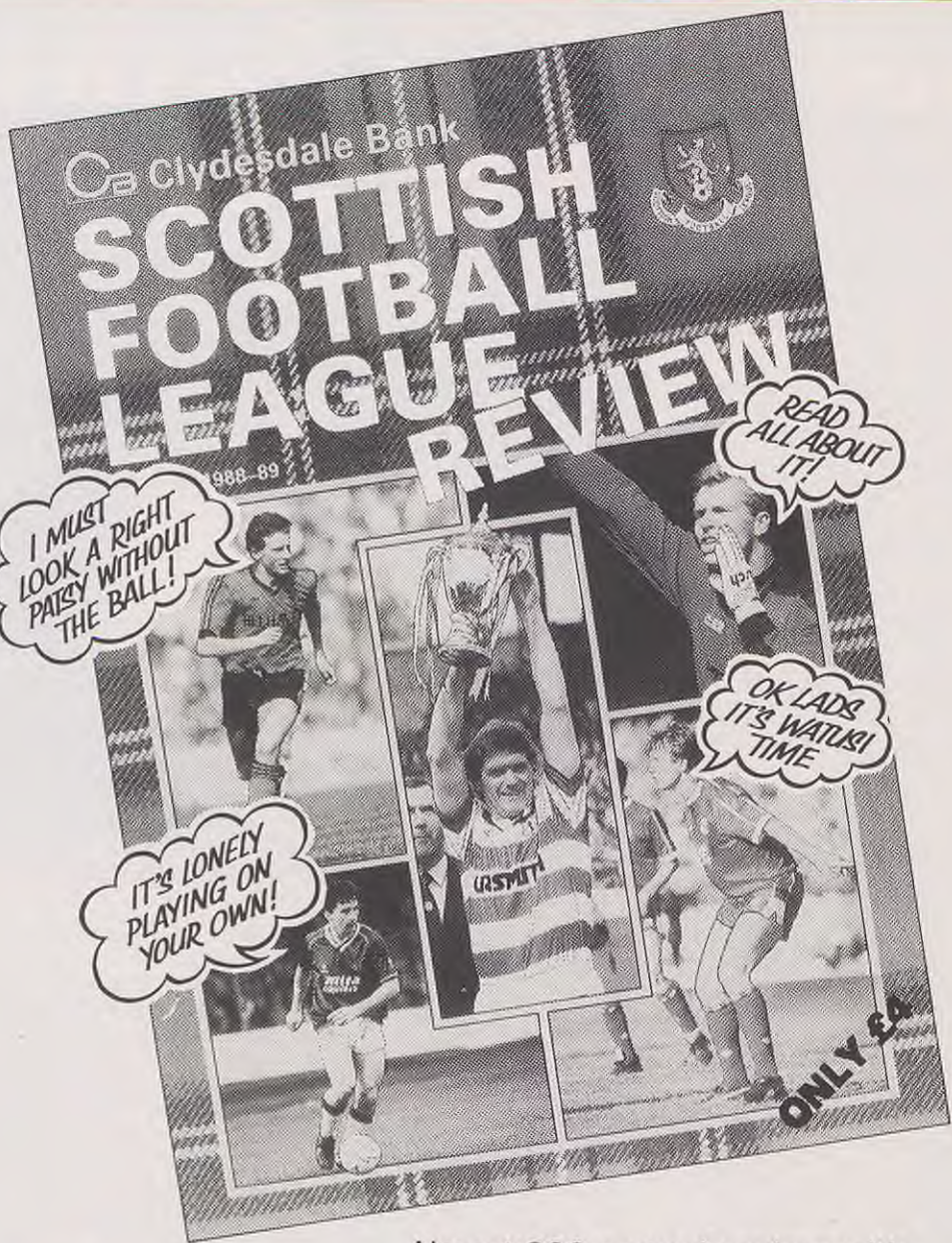
Since he arrived at Ibrox, Stan has seen many changes, not just in personnel.

"When I first arrived, I only had a small office area at the main door, but since May this year I've been in this bigger reception area, which is far more comfortable."

Stan's job means he has a lot of contact with the players and management, and he has shared in the triumphs and traumas of recent years.

"The League Title win under Graeme Souness was a great time, out-of-this-world in fact."

"I really hope that they can regain the title this year, as everybody at Ibrox, especially Graeme Souness and Walter Smith, have worked really hard and put a lot of graft in."



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N O W A V A I L A B L E

RESERVE REPORT

SECOND TEAM AND YOUTH RESULTS, MATCH REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS

RANGERS 3 HEARTS 0

A classic first-half performance on Saturday, December 10 by the Ibrox reserves disposed of Hearts, and kept the Rangers title drive ticking over nicely.

It was a defensive double and some John Spencer magic that gave Rangers their three goal half-time advantage, which, although failing to add to it in the second-half, was more than enough to ensure the two league points.

Rangers started well, and a Sandy Robertson corner in the 9th minute was flicked to the feet of player/coach Jimmy Nicholl at the far post, and he couldn't fail to score from one yard.

Rangers kept up the pressure, but did allow the visitors some room, and a Scott Crabbe free-kick from the edge of the area cannoned off the crossbar to safety.

With ten minutes to go until the break, some fine interplay between Alex McEwan and Gary McSwegan gave right-back McEwan a free run at goal from 30 yards, and he kept his head to round the keeper for a well taken goal.

Right on half-time, Rangers won a free-kick on the edge of the area, and little John Spencer lofted a swerving shot over the wall in at the near post Diego Maradona style.

The second-half was much tighter, and Rangers managed to stay tight at the back, an area which had caused problems in the past.

Rangers had only the one player booked - Sandy Robertson, for persistent fouling.

With this victory, Rangers moved into fourth place in the league, and Dundee United's lead is getting shorter and shorter.

RANGERS: L. Hamilton, McEwan, Munro, Nicholl, Howard, Kirkwood, Robertson, Spencer, McSwegan, McCall, Rouse.

Subs: Dunn (for McEwan) and Playle (for Rouse)

QUEEN'S PARK 0 RANGERS 2

A long arranged friendly challenge match against Queen's Park at Lesser Hampden finally took place on Tuesday, December 13, and the fans who came along were certainly treated to an unexpected surprise.

In the Rangers line-up were player/manager Graeme Souness, and Ally McCoist, both players returning to action after injury lay-offs.

Both these players, along with winger Mark Walters, were very much involved in first-half action, and between them they set up the opening goal.

A perfect Souness pass to Mark Walters split a stuffy Queen's defence, and the winger took the ball to the edge of the area before firing a low drive which came back of the post, and there was Ally McCoist to slam home the rebound to the delight of most of the 1000 crowd.

The game was not a spectacle by any standards, but the second goal, early in the second half, certainly brought the game to life.

Mark Walters received the ball inside the Queen's area, and with some great skill and trickery, beat five defenders in a space of a couple of yards before flicking over the keeper.

Walters was later substituted, as were McCoist and Souness, but all three had come through the game unscathed.

There were very few goal chances for either side, but Queen's can count themselves a little unlucky not to have scored, only their finishing letting them down at the crucial moments.

RANGERS: L. Hamilton, Dunn, Munro, Souness, Nisbet, Williamson, Mackay, Spencer, McCoist, Kirkwood, Walters.

Subs: Howard (for Williamson), McSwegan (for McCoist), McEwan (for Dunn), Morrow (for Kirkwood), Robertson (for Souness) Kirkwood (for Walters).

PREMIER RESERVE LEAGUE FIXTURES

AUGUST

13 HAMILTON	2-0
19 Hibernian	3-0
27 Celtic	1-2

SEPTEMBER

10 DUNDEE UTD	0-0
15 MOTHERWELL	0-1
17 HEARTS	2-3
24 St Mirren	0-2

OCTOBER

1 Dundee	3-3
8 ABERDEEN	3-2
22 Hamilton Accies	2-2
29 ST MIRREN	2-0

NOVEMBER

5 Motherwell	1-2
12 CELTIC	3-2
19 DUNDEE	2-1
26 Aberdeen	1-0

DECEMBER

3 Dundee Utd	3-2
7 HIBERNIAN	1-2
10 HEARTS	3-0
17 Hibernian	

JANUARY

7 MOTHERWELL	
14 ABERDEEN	
21 Dundee	
28 Hearts	

FEBRUARY

4 HAMILTON	
11 DUNDEE UTD	
18 Celtic	
25 St Mirren	

MARCH

4 DUNDEE	
11 Hamilton Accies	
18 Aberdeen	
25 Hibernian	

APRIL

1 CELTIC	
8 Motherwell	
15 Dundee Utd	
22 ST MIRREN	
29 Hearts	