

BEYOND THE BANDSTAND

***The Matchday Magazine of
Stranraer Football Club***



Stranraer v Celtic

Stair Park, Stranraer

Sunday 10th January, 2016



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BANDSTAND BANTER



Welcome to Stair Park for our William Hill Scottish Cup 4th round tie with Glasgow Celtic.

Wearing my club hat when a draw is made I obviously have to think of the financial benefits that hosting one of the big guns will bring as opposed to the cost incurred should we draw Wick Academy away but ultimately as a fan I know that it's still believing in the dream that hey it could be us to be the headline makers as giant killers that comes to the fore.

One of my childhood memories was Billy Collings scoring against Celtic at a packed Stair Park to give the blues the lead in the League Cup and as a naive primary school kid you believe games like this will be a regular occurrence. In some ways sadly they are not but in another that way because of this they don't lose their magic to those of us who watch league matches at the coal face of football week in week out.

Fast forward sixteen years and Celtic's centenary season as Sanny McAnespies team languishing at the foot of the table nearly gave me a birthday present to remember a day early and cause one of the biggest upsets the cup had ever seen. A missed penalty and similar fate with an open goal late in the game consigned it to another hard luck, what if, story but it is when the whistle sounds the thought of come on this time that makes the cup despite its detractors that wee bit special. The Cup propels the club, the players and indeed the town into the limelight, national coverage from newspapers mean stories for copy are being sought from all the red tops to broadsheets giving our players star billing pre match and the dream is there for them all that it could be their name and picture splashed across the back page should the unthinkable happen today.

Much has been made in recent weeks about injuries to our opposition players and no one is doubting how it affects each team but we haven't had our problems to seek on that front this season, the latest Div Barron; the only luck he gets is bad luck suffering back problems that have ruled him out and last week Scotty Rumsby who is the bravest of the brave in every match suffering a broken nose and our last line of defence David McGurn stretchered off with a broken big toe that will see him absent for a number of weeks. Scott will reach a milestone today if fit to play and selected in chalking up his 100th appearance for the blues since his original loan deal from Aberdeen a superb landmark for a player, sometimes unsung that has given 100% in every one of his 99 previous matches.

While we are well aware that Celtic fans both local and from further afield will in some number, however small, have been able to purchase tickets to the home area be aware that anyone wearing opposition colours or spoiling the enjoyment through over exuberant demonstration of their loyalties will be removed, that being said we hope all supporters inside Stair Park today enjoy the game and occasion.

Allez Les Bleus

Iain Dougan

GOOD LUCK

TO BOTH TEAMS



— IN TODAY'S —
FOURTH ROUND MATCH
— #UNRIVALLED —



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WHEN THE **FUN** STOPS **STOP**

gizbleawara

18+



REID ALL ABOUT IT

Welcome everyone

I'd like to start by extending a warm welcome to Ronny Deila and John Collins and their Celtic squad to Stair Park this afternoon. It's a pleasure to have the Scottish Champions here on William Hill Scottish Cup duty and we've enjoyed the build up to the game this week and being a bit more in the public eye than normal. Come kick off time though, we'll be switched on and ready for what we hope will be a great occasion for the club and town.

There is no greater incentive for any of our players today than to get the opportunity to test ourselves against the best. All players relish this and we're no different. The atmosphere in training has been fantastic and everyone is buzzing to be involved against Celtic in front of the Sky Sports cameras and a big crowd here at Stair Park and watching at home.

It's good that we can take some better form into this game too. I always felt that we had good performances in us and once again we showed against Ayr United last weekend a great level of desire and professionalism to gain another good result. We looked threatening going forward and solid at the back while dominating midfield for long periods. The only real down side was the foot injury to Davie McGurn who will be out for a few weeks as a result.

I have been saying that I would continue to look to strengthen the squad if possible and I hope you'll agree with me that Willie Gibson returning to the club is a great signing. It was also were pleasing to be able to tie up Liam Dick for the rest of the season. We have allowed Liam Rowan and Jamie McCluskey to leave the club and I would like to wish them both well in the future.

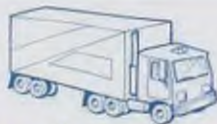
Anyone who doubts that the Scottish Cup is still special will hopefully be persuaded otherwise today as we pit our skills against the best in the country. We're certainly ready for the challenge and with any luck we'll give you an occasion to remember.

Enjoy the game.

Brian Reid

Reid all about it! is sponsored by

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TODAY'S MASCOTS



Jordan Mills

Age: 7 years old

School: Park Primary

Hobbies: Football, Playing xBox & Drawing

Favourite player: Andy Stirling

Prediction: A 1-1 draw



Rhys Paterson

Age: 8 years old

School: Mossend Primary, Bellshill

Hobbies: Tae Kwondo, Playing Football
& not listening to his dad, David

Favourite player: Jamie Longworth

Prediction: A 1-1 draw

Christopher Collings

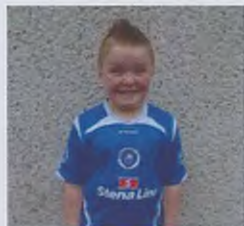
Age: 8 years old

School: Park Primary

Hobbies: Karate, Playing Football & xBox

Favourite player: Jamie Longworth

Prediction: A 2-2 draw




McMillan
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LAST TIME OUT



Stranraer 1 Ayr United 0

Scottish Professional Football League - League One

Stair Park - Saturday 2nd January 2016, 15:00 KO

By Cameron Ritchie



Stranraer fans could have been forgiven for coming into the 'derby' clash with mixed feelings last weekend. The Blues had thumped Stenhousemuir 5-1 just seven days previously but also had the worst home record in League One. In contrast, Ian McCall's Ayr sat second in the league and a full 20 points in front of Brian Reid's Blues. However, they had come



unstuck against Cowdenbeath in their last game and had picked up only three points from a possible 12. It meant all was to play for in damp conditions at Stair Park. Reid made two changes with David McGurn back between the sticks after Max Currie had deputised for him at Ochilview. David Barron had failed to shake off a back injury, which meant Liam Dick came in at left back, while youngster Calvin Kemp was named on the bench for the first time. The hosts started well with the ever-improving Paul Cairney floating in a free-kick from the left. Scott Robertson managed to get his head to it at the back post but could only nod it down

and wide when he probably should have hit the target. It took until the 20 minute mark for McGurn to be called into action at the other end. Once again, it came from a set piece as Ryan Stevenson delivered the ball into the box. Ex-Stranraer man Gerry McLauchlan got his head to it but could not generate any real power and steered it into the arms of the

goalkeeper. That was a rare attack from the Honest Men though as Stranraer started to seize control, with Cairney pulling the strings in the middle of the pitch. Craig Pettigrew collected the ball at right back before crossing the halfway line and switching the play to Sam McCloskey. The midfielder brought the ball down on his chest and played it to Cairney, who exchanged passes with Craig Malcolm on the edge of the box. Cairney then slid the ball into Mark McGuigan but his low shot somehow spun off Greg Fleming's leg and over the bar. Jamie Longworth would then seize the ball deep in the Stranraer half as the Blues once again made inroads towards Fleming's goal. The striker shook off a tackle on the halfway line before finding



former Ayr man Pettigrew. He shrugged off a half-hearted tackle from Andy Muir to find fellow former Ayr man Craig Malcolm. Jamie Longworth was waiting at the back post but Malcolm elected to go it alone and his shot was tipped round the upright by the impressive Fleming. Malcolm was to turn creator just a minute later when he set up McCloskey. The little winger rode a tackle on the edge of the box but his low drive was a little too close to the Ayr number one, who collected the ball at the second attempt. Still, Ayr did provide a timely reminder that they were in the game ten minutes before the break. Jordan Preston had just enough



time on the edge of the box but a brave block by Dick saw the ball spin behind for a corner. The Blues had been well on top in the opening 45 minutes but had nothing to show for their domination in possession and chances created.

The game would ultimately be decided within the space of two minutes just before the hour mark. Stranraer had once again been on the attack before substitute Alan Trouten collected the ball in his own box.

Cairney forced him towards the corner flag before Trouten thumped the ball up the touchline in the direction of Preston. The clearance seemed straight forward for Scott Rumsby but he misjudged the flight of the ball, which saw the on-loan



striker clean through on McGurn's goal. However, the shotstopper stood up well and made the save before Steven Bell thumped the ball to safety. The save would prove vital as Stranraer grabbed the only goal of the game soon after. McGuigan won the ball wide on the right and found Longworth, who escaped from McLauchlan's tackle. That saw Stranraer faced with a two on one as Longworth rolled the ball into the path of McCloskey. Fleming did well to get a hand to the shot but he was left helpless as **Jamie Longworth** rifled the rebound into the roof of the net. Stranraer could have doubled their lead just four minutes later against an Ayr side who were looking increasingly bereft of ideas. Again, Longworth was involved as he hooked the ball wide for McGuigan.

The ex-Albion Rovers man looked second favourite in the race to the ball with Michael Donald but shrugged off the attention to once again sting Fleming's palms. There was to be late drama and worry for Stranraer though as McGurn was carried off on a stretcher. Robertson's attempted back pass was not the best and McGurn and Preston slid in for the ball. The



goalkeeper got there first but came off the worse and was stretchered off with a suspected foot injury. That saw Currie come on for the final nine minutes plus stoppage time but the substitute, making his Stair Park debut, had little to do, with McCall's men increasingly failing to hit the target from distance. Brian Reid was delighted with his side's battling spirit, which also saw Rumsby suffer a suspected broken nose, as they fought to keep a clean sheet. In contrast, Ian McCall was left to rue missed chances and also a series of injuries, which saw his side without a number of key players.

Stranraer: David McGurn (Max Currie 81), Craig Pettigrew, Liam Dick, Steven Bell, Scott Rumsby, Scott Robertson, Paul Cairney, Sam McCloskey (Andrew Stirling 76), Mark McGuigan (Kyle Turner 85), Craig Malcolm, Jamie Longworth. Subs not used: Dale Keenan, Calvin Kemp, Peter McGill, Luciano Nequecaur.

Booked: Malcolm, Cairney.

Goal: Longworth 57

Ayr United: Greg Fleming, Nicky Devlin, Andy Muir (Alan Trouten 46), Peter Murphy, Gerry McLauchlan, Ryan Stevenson, Michael Donald, Robbie Crawford (Sean McKenzie 84), Jordan Preston, Ross Caldwell, Alan Forrest (Andy Graham 64). Subs not used: Craig McCracken, Shaun Newman.

Booked: Muir, Stevenson, Devlin, Preston.

Referee: C Steven

Attendance: 1178

Photos: G Coulter LBIPP & W McCandlish



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Wha Ir Ye?

CELTIC



Compiled by Shaun Niven



Celtic Football Club was formally constituted at a meeting in St. Mary's church hall in East Rose Street (now Forbes Street), Calton, Glasgow, by Irish Marist Brother Walfrid on 6 November 1887, with the purpose of alleviating poverty in the East End of Glasgow by raising money for the charity Walfrid had instituted, the Poor Children's Dinner Table. Walfrid's move to establish the club as a means of fund-raising was largely inspired by the example of Hibernian who were formed out of the immigrant Irish population a few years earlier in Edinburgh. Walfrid's own suggestion of the name 'Celtic' (still pronounced Seltik, the standard pronunciation in the 19th century), was intended to reflect the club's Irish and Scottish roots, and was adopted at the same meeting. The club has



the official nickname, "The Bhoys". The extra 'h' imitates the spelling system of Gaelic, where the letter B is often accompanied by the letter H. On 28 May 1888, Celtic played their first official match against Rangers and won 5-2 in what was described as a "friendly encounter". Neil McCallum scored Celtic's first ever goal. The derby between the two rivals became inescapably linked with the slogan:

the Old Firm. The actual origins of the term are unclear; some believe it

relates to a newspaper comment made that the players in their first meeting

got on so well that they appeared to be "old firm friends", whilst others believe it to be a cynical observation of the commercial benefits that the two

clubs enjoyed as their rivalry grew. Celtic's first kit consisted of a white shirt with a green collar, black shorts, and emerald green socks. The original club crest was a simple green cross on a red oval background. In 1889 the club adopted a strip of white and green vertical stripes before finally taking up the now famous green and white hoops in 1903. The first Celtic Park was opened in the Parkhead area in 1888. The club moved to a different site in 1892, however, when the rental charge was greatly increased



and they have remained there to this day. The new site was developed into an oval shaped stadium, with vast terracing sections. The record attendance of 83,500 was set by an Old Firm derby on 1 January 1938. The terraces were covered and floodlights were installed between 1957 and 1971. It is an all-seater stadium with a capacity of 60,411 which makes it the largest football stadium in Scotland and the sixth-largest stadium in the United



Kingdom. It is also commonly known by Celtic fans as either Parkhead or Paradise.

Celtic have won the Scottish League Championship on 46 occasions, most recently in the 2014-15 season, the Scottish Cup 36 times and the Scottish League Cup 15 times. The club's greatest season was 1966-67, when Celtic won every competition they entered and became the first British team to win the European Cup, also winning the Scottish League Championship, the Scottish Cup, the Scottish League Cup, and the

Glasgow Cup. This achieved by the legends now known as The Lisbon



Lions, all of them hailing from within 30 miles of Celtic Park and led by the great Jock Stein. Celtic also reached the 1970 European Cup Final, and the 2003 UEFA Cup Final. Celtic had a couple of legendary managers before Stein in the shape of Willie Maley and Jimmy McGrory but when Stein succeeded McGrory in 1965 he guided Celtic to nine straight Scottish League wins from 1966 to 1974, equalling the then world record and a feat which was not

matched again in Scotland until 1997 by Rangers. He won the Scottish Cup with Celtic in his first few months at the club and then led them to the League title the following season. The glorious finale to the 1966/67 season was when they defeated Inter Milan 2-1 at the Estádio Nacional in Lisbon, on 25 May 1967. Celtic thus became the first British team, and the first from outside Spain, Portugal and Italy to win the competition. They remain the only Scottish team to

have reached the final. The players that day subsequently became known as the "Lisbon Lions". Captain Billy McNeill and team-mates Jimmy Johnstone, Bobby Lennox and Bobby Murdoch formed part of that famous side, and now rank among the greatest ever Celtic players. Celtic reached the European Cup Final again in 1970, but were beaten 2-1 by Feyenoord at the San Siro in Milan. The club continued to dominate Scottish football in the early 1970s, and their Scottish Championship win in 1974 was their ninth consecutive league title, equalling the joint world record held at the time by MTK Budapest and CSKA Sofia. Celtic enjoyed further domestic success in the 1980s, and in their Centenary season of 1987-88 won a Scottish League Championship and Scottish Cup double but not without a little difficulty and luck along the way!



With such a collection of silverware accumulated over the years it's still easy to pick out the highlight which it's hard to imagine will ever be beaten as winning the European Cup is the highest club honour. The path to the final saw them beat FC Zurich (5-0 on aggregate), Nantes (6-2) and then Vojvodina 2-1 in the quarter final which saw defeat in Yugoslavia overturned by Steve Chalmers and a last minute Billy McNeill winner in Glasgow and brought a tie against Dukla Prague in the semi final. Jimmy Johnstone opened the scoring and 2 from Willie Wallace secured a 3-1 home win and a goalless draw in Czechoslovakia saw the club through to the final. Inter Milan were the overwhelming

