

# CELTIC



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2005/06

ISSUE 22. PRICE £2.50

**VERSUS HIBERNIAN**  
16/04/06. CELTIC PARK. KICK-OFF 2.00PM

Celtic 



# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

CARLING



THE GREAT BALANCE OF TASTE  
AND ICE COLD REFRESHMENT

SPOT  
ON

CARLING  
EXTRA COLD

The players have worked extremely hard throughout the season in order to bring success to the club and they have done superbly well, winning both the CIS Cup and the League Championship.



## GORDON STRACHAN

**A** WARM welcome to Celtic Park for this afternoon's match. The last time we played here it was as league leaders. Today we run out as Champions and that is something which everyone is rightly proud of.

The players have worked extremely hard throughout the season in order to bring success to the club and they have done superbly well, winning both the CIS Cup and the League Championship.

When we played Hearts, we knew that the victory would clinch the title and so it proved. Today, everyone at Celtic Park will celebrate that achievement and the afternoon will end with the trophy presentation.

However, for 90 minutes that will be forgotten as we go in search of another victory. We have a team of competitors here at Celtic and they do not want to lose a game of football. That attitude was on show last weekend when we played Kilmarnock at Rugby Park and it will be in evidence again this afternoon.

Some of our football was fantastic against Kilmarnock and we will be looking for more of the same today.

The last time we faced Hibernian here at Celtic Park, it turned out to be one of the most exciting and entertaining games of the season which we ended up winning 3-2. Tony Mowbray's side still have third place in their sights so will provide us with a tough test.

We know how difficult they can be and, given that all three of our matches this season have been tight affairs, we will have to be at our best this afternoon to ensure victory.

I said after the victory over Hearts that one of the great things about being manager at Celtic is the fact you can make thousands of people in the stadium and millions around the world very happy. That is what makes this job and this club special.

Hopefully, this afternoon will be another happy one for our supporters, both during and after the game.

**CLUB DIRECTORY & HONOURS**

Celtic Football Club  
 Celtic Park Glasgow G40 3RE  
**Telephone:** 0845 671 1888  
**Website:** www.celticfc.net  
**Formed:** 1888  
**Stadium:** Celtic Park  
**Capacity:** 60,506  
**Home strip colours:** Green / white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks  
**Away strip colours:** Green shirts, green shorts, green socks  
**Record attendance:** 92,000 v Rangers, 1938  
**Record victory:** 11-0 v Dundee, 1895  
**Record defeat:** 0-8 v Motherwell, 1937  
**Most league goals in 1 season:** 50 - Jimmy McGrory, 1935-36  
**Most Premier/SPL goals in 1 season:** 35 - Brian McClair, 1986-87  
 35 - Henrik Larsson, 2000-01

**CLUB HONOURS**

**Scottish League Winners [ 40 times ]**

1892-93, 1893-94, 1895-96, 1897-98, 1904-05, 1905-06, 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1909-10, 1913-14, 1914-15, 1915-16, 1916-17, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1925-26, 1935-36, 1937-38, 1953-54, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74, 1976-77, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1985-86, 1987-88, 1997-98, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2003-04, 2005-06

**Scottish Cup Winners [ 33 times ]**

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1995, 2001, 2004, 2005

**League Cup Winners [ 13 times ]**

1956-57, 1957-58, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1974-75, 1982-83, 1997-98, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2005-06

**European Cup Winners 1967**

**Coronation Cup Winners 1953**

**CELTIC PLC DIRECTORS**

**Celtic plc Directors:**

Brian Quinn  
 Peter Lawwell  
 Eric Riley  
 Dermot Desmond  
 Tom Allison  
 Eric Hagman  
 Brian McBride  
 Brian Wilson

**CFAC Directors:**

Peter Lawwell  
 Eric Riley  
 John Keane  
 Michael McDonald  
 Kevin Sweeney

**Manager:**

Gordon Strachan

**Assistant Manager:**

Garry Pendrey

**Coach:**

Tommy Burns

**Head of Youth:**

Tommy Burns

**Youth team Coach:**

Willie McStay

**Reserve Coach:**

Kenny McDowall

**Physiotherapists:**

Tim Williamson &  
 Gavin McCarthy

**Club Doctor:**

Roddy Macdonald

**Kit Controller:**

John Clark

**CELTIC MATCHDAY MAGAZINE**

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**CLUB SPONSORS**



**FIXTURES**

Sunday, April 23  
 Scottish PremierLeague  
**CELTIC v Rangers**

Sunday, April 30  
 Scottish PremierLeague  
 Hearts v **CELTIC**

Wednesday, May 3  
 Scottish PremierLeague  
**CELTIC v Kilmarnock**

Sunday, May 7  
 Scottish PremierLeague  
 Aberdeen v **CELTIC**

**TODAY'S OFFICIALS**

**Referee:** Kevin Toner  
**Assistant Referees:** Francis Andrew  
 Brian McGarry  
**Fourth Official:** Martin Sproule

**CELTIC**

- 1 ARTUR BORUC
- 2 PAUL TELFER
- 3 MOHAMED CAMARA
- 4 ADAM VIRGO
- 6 DIANBOBO BALDE
- 7 MACIEJ ZURAWSKI
- 8 ALAN THOMPSON
- 9 DION DUBLIN
- 10 JOHN HARTSON
- 11 STEPHEN PEARSON
- 12 MARK WILSON
- 16 ROY KEANE
- 18 NEIL LENNON
- 19 STILIAN PETROV
- 22 DAVID MARSHALL
- 23 STAN VARGA
- 25 SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA
- 29 SHAUN MALONEY
- 33 ROSS WALLACE
- 35 PAUL LAWSON
- 37 CRAIG BEATTIE
- 38 ROCCO QUINN
- 40 MICHAEL GARDYNE
- 41 JOHN KENNEDY
- 42 MICHAEL McGLINCHEY
- 43 DIARMUID O'CARROLL
- 44 STEPHEN McMANUS
- 46 AIDEN McGEADY
- 47 MICHAEL McGOVERN
- 48 DARREN O'DEA
- 49 SCOTT CUTHBERT
- 50 GARY IRVINE



**HIBERNIAN**

- 1 SIMON BROWN
- 2 STEVEN WHITTAKER
- 3 DAVID MURPHY
- 4 GARY CALDWELL
- 5 GARY SMITH
- 6 MICHAEL STEWART
- 7 SCOTT BROWN
- 8 KEVIN THOMSON
- 9 GARRY O'CONNOR
- 10 DEREK RIORDAN
- 11 STEPHEN GLASS
- 14 GUILLAUME BEUZELIN
- 15 CHRIS HOGG
- 16 ANTONIO MURRAY
- 17 IVAN SPROULE
- 18 JAMIE McCLUSKEY
- 19 AMADOU KONTE
- 20 STEVEN FLETCHER
- 22 DEAN SHIELS
- 25 HUMPHREY RUDGE
- 26 LEWIS STEVENSON
- 27 PAUL DALGLISH
- 29 OUMAR KONDE
- 31 ZBIGNIEW MALKOWSKI
- 32 GORDON MARSHALL
- 33 CHRIS KILLEN
- 34 DARREN SMITH
- 35 SEAN LYNCH
- 36 ABDESSALAM BENJELLOUN
- 41 ANDREW McNEIL
- 41 KYLE NELSON
- 42 STEVEN NOTMAN



# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

CELTIC PLAYERS GIVE THEIR REACTION TO THE TITLE TRIUMPH



"The football we've played this season is as good as anything I've been involved in up here. We have the second-best defensive record in the league, we're the leading goalscorers and we're 20 points clear. The facts and statistics don't lie. We've been the best team in the league by a distance and that's credit to the manager.

"Climbing the title on Wednesday must have been a wonderful moment for him and he showed emotion at the end that's probably not been seen since his playing days. The manager has kept a very low profile but he's shown us great desire and a will to win. He's a very clever man in a footballing sense and has the same football brain he had as a player.

"After what happened last season people said it would be three or four years before Celtic would win the league again. They reckoned it would take that long because the manner in which we lost it was so psychologically damaging.

"However, we've shown tremendous resolve. The likes of Stan Petrov, Alan Thompson, Bobo Balde and John Hartson have shown an unbelievable level of consistency. The new lads have brought a fresh zest to the team and we have a really good mix."

**NEIL LENNON**

"We were in a different situation this time because we were 17 points ahead so we could relax more than the last season. It was very hard last season. It was very painful for us and for the fans as well. You could see by the celebrations at the end with Lenny, Thommo,

Stan Varga and John Hartson, that there was relief, if you want to put it that way. That's why we worked so hard to win it this season.

"We knew if we won the game that the league was over and that we would take the title, so the players were all motivated. I think we started quite nervous but we had a great guy in goal in Artur Boruc, he made a lot of saves and kept us in the game by keeping a clean sheet.

"The manager didn't prepare us any differently than to how he has been preparing us all season. He just said to try and do what we've been doing all season and that's been winning games. But it wasn't just a matter of definitely winning, because he said to us, if we go and enjoy ourselves and show what we can do then, we would win the game. So that's what we tried to do.

"The team has improved a lot under Gordon Strachan. He has a lot of young boys in the team and he gets the best out of them. At this level it takes a lot and the manager has done well to get the best out of all the boys."

**STILIAN PETROV**

"Winning the league was my plan at the beginning. We wanted to win the championship and that would allow us to play in Europe the next season. That's very important for us and we are delighted to have achieved that.

"I feel that we have grown in understanding throughout this season and although it's not perfect yet, we are playing much better. We are defending as a team and it's not just down to the four guys at the back, we defend as a team from the strikers, right back to the goalkeeper.

"I think we have improved as a team throughout this season. We play the kind of football that you can enjoy when you are watching it and that's great, because that's what the game is about – nice, exciting football. And we are winning and that's the most important thing."

**ARTUR BORUC**

"Obviously it was a special evening because it was my birthday and it was the goal that won us the league, but irrespective of all that, it didn't really matter where the goal came from.

"I said before that I thought it was only a matter of time before we got over the line and won the league, we wanted to get the job done as quickly as we could. The whole evening was set-up for a big celebration and we managed to come up trumps against a very good Hearts side.

"But in terms of importance of goals, I don't think it was really that important, albeit, it won us the league, which will always be there for me and it may go down as the goal that won it, but I don't really think it was as important a goal as all my European ones and some of the others that I have scored before it.

"It maybe wasn't the greatest goal I scored, but I managed to get a really good, clean contact on it and I was just delighted to see it go in, especially early on in the game. I feel that goal got the crowd up and got us playing really well for a while."

**JOHN HARTSON**

"It's been a great season and it was obviously great to get the title wrapped up so quickly. Hearts came here and played great, they have been really good all season and came here at the start of the season and put up a real fight. It was hard for us at Tynecastle in January as well, but I feel over the course of the season that we've been the better side.

"I have been surprised by the number of games I've played this season. At the start I was just hoping to get a wee run of games, but it's worked out well for me.

"But like I've said before, as soon as you cross that white line and step onto the park it's all down to you and if you are not performing at that level, you won't play. I've been fortunate enough in that I've been doing alright and that I am still in the team.

"That's me now played in a cup final and also won the league and hopefully it will roll on from here.

"At a club like Celtic you thrive on success and the supporters demand it of you. The manager and the coaching staff have been great with both the younger and experienced players this year and hopefully we can carry that on next season."

**STEPHEN McMANUS**

"I didn't really feel part of things at Hampden that day. This one made up for it though and I'm sure things will begin to sink in over the next couple of days. I expected to be no more than a bit-part player when I moved here in January, but in the nine games I have played in we have drawn only one of them and won the rest."

**MARK WILSON**

"I'm glad I stayed here. It was the right decision and this year we finished as champions so I am delighted with how it has worked out. What happened in the past is over – I play my game and we won the league in the best way, so that it is how I respond to anything that is said about me.

"It's a great feeling to win three titles. I didn't know a lot about Celtic when I came here, but in five years I have learned the stories of the past and become a part of the club. I'm very proud to be involved in this."

**BOBO BALDE**



“ The team has improved a lot under Gordon Strachan. He has a lot of young boys in the team and he gets the best out of them. ”