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CELTIC v HEARTS

Celtic Park, Saturday 3 April 2004, Kick-off 3.00pm

Scottish Premierleague 2003/04

Programme No.25



CARLING

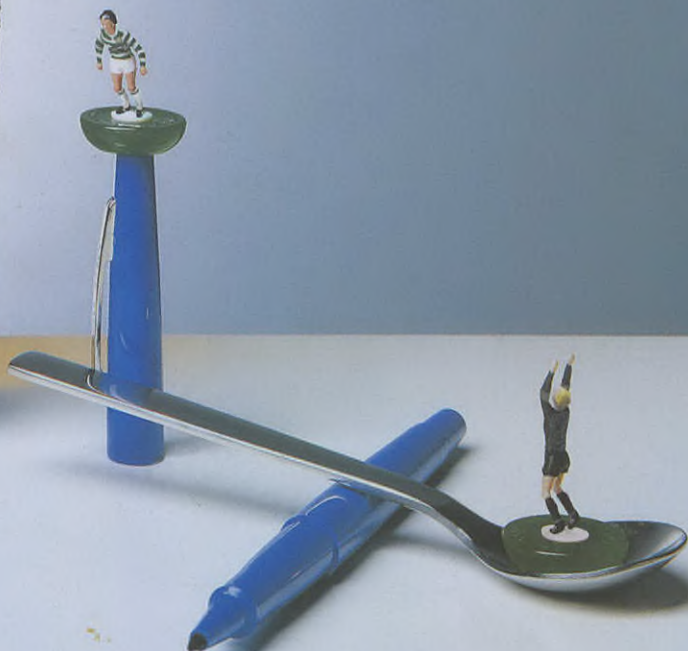


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CARLING ARE PROUD TO BE SUPPORTERS OF CELTIC FC. LOVEFOOTBALL



“Preventing Barcelona from scoring a goal in 180 minutes of football is an extraordinary achievement”

JOHN KENNEDY'S injury at Hampden Park on Wednesday night has overshadowed the recent wonderful events at the football club.

A terrible challenge by the Romanian player loan Ganea just 15 minutes into the friendly match between Scotland and Romania left John to be stretchered from the field.

This has put the rest of the season for the lad in serious jeopardy and the irony is that John was a late call-up to the full squad from the under-21s partly because of withdrawals but mostly because of his wonderful displays for Celtic, both domestically and in Europe.

We are all feeling for him at the moment and hopefully he will make a full recovery.

We return to Celtic Park this afternoon after two away games which only reinforced everything I have been saying for some time now about this group of players.

The result in the Nou Camp Stadium, when we held Barcelona to a 0-0 draw to go through to the next round of the UEFA Cup, was a wonderful occasion. It was a fantastic arena in which to perform against one of the top teams in Europe, and the courage, determination and resilience we showed was properly rewarded.

To have prevented Barcelona from scoring a single goal in 180 minutes of football is an extraordinary achievement and every one of the players deserved all the praise which

was levelled at them after the game.

I said after the first leg that, regardless of the outcome in the Nou Camp, the victory at Celtic Park had made every one of us proud, but to have actually knocked Barcelona out of the UEFA Cup is something we will all remember for a very long time.

The supporters, as ever, played a magnificent part in the occasion. Thousands of you turned up to cheer on the team and Barcelona has become another city which has been left with a good impression of the Celtic support.

We had barely enough time to savour the enormity of our achievement before we were back in league action and it could not have been a more difficult game.

The team arrived back in Glasgow in the early hours of Friday morning knowing they faced an Old Firm game at Ibrox just two days later.

As the players have shown before in similar circumstances last season, they were fully prepared and focused for the game and the victory was fully merited.

I read that Sir Bobby Robson mentioned the rigours of European football as a possible reason behind Newcastle's defeat last weekend against Bolton and I know that it does take a lot out of the players.

I also know, however, that the group of players we have at this football club have a steely resolve and determination to win football matches which was called upon to

great effect at Ibrox. They were exhausted by the end of the game but their efforts had ensured we took a step closer to winning the championship.

The break for international football this week has allowed some of the players a few days' rest, although quite a few were playing for their respective countries.

I've said many times before that the biggest worry for a club manager is in hoping all your players come through these games unscathed. Sadly that was not the case for young John Kennedy. And Alan Thompson made his debut for England against Sweden, a reward for the consistency he has shown here over a number of seasons.

Today our focus returns to league football and the visit of Hearts to Celtic Park. Games between the clubs are traditionally very competitive and Craig Levein's side will be intent on cementing third spot in the league which will give them European football next season.

We will have to be at our very best to win the game and your backing of the players, who have already provided so many great memories this season, will be essential.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB FACTFILE

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park
(capacity 60,506)

Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts,
white shorts, white socks

Away strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with
gold trim

Third strip: Gold shirts, green
shorts, gold 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 (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory,
1935/36

Most Premier/SPL goals (1 season): 35, Brian McClair
1986/87, Henrik Larsson 2000/01

Website: www.celticfc.net

HONOURS

Scottish League (38)

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,
2000/2001, 2001/2002

Scottish Cup (31)

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

League Cup (12)

1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68 1968/69,
1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98,
1999/2000, 2000/2001

European Cup (1) 1967 **Coronation Cup (1)** 1953

CELTIC FACTS

● On March 21, 1925, Celtic had their best-ever win in an Old Firm semi-final of the Scottish Cup when they won 5-0 at Hampden Park. It was the first match in the history of Scottish football to attract a six-figure attendance.

● Against Airdrie, on March 22, 1958, Sean Fallon played his last match for the club. He had made 254 appearances in total.

● On March 23, 1966, Joe Baillie drowned in the River Kelvin. The former left-half had played 154 times for the club between 1945 and 1954.

● After 10 games with Celtic, Wayne Biggins was sold to Stoke City for £125,000 on March 24, 1994.

● In New York, on March 27, 1938, former keeper Charlie Shaw died of pneumonia at the age of 52; and on the same day, in 1963, Jimmy Johnstone made his debut against Kilmarnock, when the Ayrshire men won 6-0 at Rugby Park!

● In Moscow, Paul McStay won his 72nd and last cap for Scotland in the 0-0 draw with Russia on March 29, 1995.

● Jo Cassidy scored the only goal of the 1923 Scottish Cup final against Hibs, on March 31. It was his 11th of the cup run.

● And on April 1, 1933, Jimmy McGrory scored both goals as Scotland beat England 2-1 at Hampden. On the same day in 1970, a George Connelly goal in 40 seconds gave Celtic victory over Leeds United at Elland Road in the semi-final first leg of the European Cup.



HEARTS FACTS

● The 1890s was a good time to be a Hearts fan, as they won two league championships. The first came in 1895, when they finished five points clear of Celtic; and again in 1897, two points ahead of Hibs.

● In 1906, Hearts rose to the challenge and won the Scottish Cup for the fourth time in 15 years. At Ibrox, before a crowd of 25,000, they beat Third Lanark by the only goal of the game., having knocked Celtic out of the competition in the quarter-final.

● The biggest fee received by Hearts for a player was the £2,100,000 from Rangers for Alan McLaren in October 1994.

● The largest outlay by Hearts on a player was £750,000, paid to Rangers for Derek Ferguson in July 1990.

● For Hearts fans, the 1950s was a happy decade. They won the Division One title in 1958, four points ahead of Kilmarnock and 12 in front of Rangers.

● In 1956, Hearts won the Scottish Cup by beating Celtic at Hampden before 133,339 spectators.

● And Hearts were very successful in the League Cup during that decade, winning the trophy three times. In 1954, against Motherwell (4-2; 55,640 present); in 1958 v Partick Thistle (5-1; 59,960); and in 1959, against Third Lanark (2-1; 57,974).

● Since then, Hearts have picked up only two trophies. They beat Kilmarnock 1-0 in the final of the 1962 League Cup; while, in 1998, they won the Scottish Cup, beating Rangers 2-1 in the final.





TODAY'S VISITORS - HEARTS
MANAGER - CRAIG LEVEIN

CELTIC



HEARTS

Momo Sylla	3	1
Jackie McNamara	4	2
Joos Valgaeren	5	3
Bobo Balde	6	4
Henrik Larsson	7	5
Alan Thompson	8	6
Chris Sutton	9	7
John Hartson	10	8
Stephen Pearson	11	9
David Fernandez	12	10
Paul Lambert	14	12
Bobby Petta	15	13
Ulrik Laursen	16	14
Didier Agathe	17	16
Neil Lennon	18	17
Stilian Petrov	19	18
Robert Douglas	20	19
Magnus Hedman	21	20
David Marshall	22	21
Stanislav Varga	23	22
Shaun Maloney	29	23
Ross Wallace	33	26
Johan Mjallby	35	27
Craig Beattie	37	29
Jamie Smith	39	
John Kennedy	41	
Liam Miller	43	
Stephen McManus	44	
Michael McGovern	47	

Teuvo Moilanen	
Alan Maybury	
Austin McCann	
Steven Pressley	
Kevin McKenna	
Andy Webster	
Scott Severin	
Phil Stamp	
Mark de Vries	
Andy Kirk	
Steven Boyack	
Craig Gordon	
Neil MacFarlane	
Robbie Neilson	
Dennis Wyness	
Paul Hartley	
Stephen Simmons	
Patrick Kisnorbo	
Graham Weir	
Neil Janczyk	
Robert Sloan	
Joe Hamill	
David Dunn	
David McGeown	

CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERLEAGUE 2003/04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CELTIC	30	28	2	0	95	16	79	86
Rangers	30	21	4	5	62	25	37	67
Hearts	29	15	7	7	43	31	12	52
Dunfermline	29	11	9	9	31	39	-8	42
Dundee Utd	30	11	7	12	36	45	-9	40
Motherwell	29	10	8	11	35	35	0	38
Livingston	29	8	9	12	34	42	-8	33
Kilmarnock	29	9	4	16	37	61	-24	31
Hibernian	29	7	9	13	28	48	-20	30
Dundee	30	7	8	15	35	50	-15	29
Aberdeen	30	7	7	16	33	49	-16	28
Partick Thistle	30	3	6	21	29	57	-28	15

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FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Uefa Cup 5th Round 1st Leg	
CELTIC v VILLARREAL	THU 8 APRIL 8.00pm
Scottish Premierleague	
CELTIC v ABERDEEN	TBC
Scottish Cup Semi-final	
CELTIC v LIVINGSTON	SUN 11 APRIL TBC
Uefa Cup 5th Round 2nd Leg	
VILLARREAL v CELTIC	WED 14 APRIL
Scottish Premierleague	
KILMARNOCK v CELTIC	SUN 18 APRIL 3.00pm

RECENT FORM



Scottish Premierleague, March 28, 2004
RANGERS 1 v 2 CELTIC (Larsson, Thompson)

Uefa Cup 4th Round 2nd Leg, March 25, 2004
FC BARCELONA 0 v 0 CELTIC

Scottish Premierleague, February 22, 2004
HIBERNIAN 0 v 4 CELTIC (Agathe 2, Larsson 2)

Scottish Premierleague, March 17, 2004
DUNDEE 1 v 2 CELTIC (Larsson, Petrov)

Scottish Premierleague, March 14, 2004
CELTIC 1 v 1 MOTHERWELL (Larsson)

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:	Dougie McDonald
Assistant Referees:	Alan Cunningham Ricky Mooney
Fourth Official:	Jamie Downie

Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, Glasgow G40 3RE 0141-556 2611

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman

CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney

MANAGER Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Wolford

HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns **YOUTH TEAM COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark



CHASING THE DREAM

Neil Lennon would love to win the championship next weekend at Rugby Park but the influential midfielder says there is still a lot of hard work ahead

Exclusive Interview: ALISON McCONNELL

CELTIC go into this afternoon's game against Hearts knowing that three points would take them within one tantalising step of putting their hands on the Championship.

The massive chasm at the top of the table reflects the consistency of Celtic this season and although the past few months have been spent stretching that gap, Neil Lennon has insisted that there will be no slacking off as the domestic season careers towards its climax.

Should Celtic defeat Craig Levein's side this afternoon and Motherwell win against Rangers tomorrow at Fir Park, the Hoops would go to Rugby Park next weekend as champions.

Given what happened in Ayrshire on the final day of last season, Lennon has revealed that he would rather that the title was collected against Kilmarnock, although he has maintained that before thoughts drift to that encounter Celtic must focus on beating Hearts today.

"Winning the league at any time would be great but the most important thing is that we go out and concentrate only on the

game and getting the three points this weekend," explained the midfielder. "That's the attitude we have for every match and I don't see it being any different over the next few weeks.

"Whatever happens on Sunday is out of our hands but the main thing is to get the points and then take it from there.

"If we can beat Hearts today there is a chance that we could go to Rugby Park knowing that a victory would clinch the league for us. That would be poetic justice after what happened there last season, but as I say, our concentration has to be on focussing on Hearts and winning the match.

"It would certainly be nice though to win it at Rugby Park after last season, but there's still a bit of work to be done and we're not about to start underestimating anyone."

That Celtic have gone through the league campaign unbeaten is testimony to the commitment and sheer desire to win that has characterised the side for the last four seasons.

A 19-point lead at the top of the table is the reward for that consistency and Lennon



"It would certainly be nice though to win it at Rugby Park after last season"



has pointed out that those who expected the UEFA Cup final side to disintegrate this season have been forced to reassess their point of view.

"To get to this stage of the season without being beaten in the league takes a lot of commitment and a lot of hard work so credit has to be given to everyone involved," he stated.

"At the start of the season a lot of people seemed to think that it was the beginning of the end for this team but instead we seem to have got better. To me it doesn't matter what age you are. Whether you are

"Barcelona are a brilliant side and to go into the tie with key players missing and keep a clean sheet takes some doing"

19 or 35, if you are good enough then you should be in the team.

"Anyone who has come in this season has made a positive contribution and the kids that are coming through auger well for the future, but the old guard that have been here for a couple of years have shown tremendous consistency.

"I'd put it down to the players, the manager, the good backroom staff we have here and the fact that we prepare ourselves well for every single game that we play in. We have a great mental approach to matches which I think is important but obviously ending last season with nothing has been a great incentive to go on and achieve bigger and better things.

"There were suggestions that there might be a bit of a hangover after Seville but at a club like this there is always an incentive to achieve something. Our only blip has been the exit from the



BHOYS FROM SEVILLE after the disappointment of Seville, Celtic have regrouped and are now a better side according to Neil Lennon



CELTIC LEGEND replacing Henrik will tough but with young players coming through and experienced hands such as Alan Thompson in the squad, the future is looking bright

Champions League which to me was down to a refereeing decision with four minutes of the final game left, but aside from that it has been a great season for us again.

"I'd like to think I've got at least two or three good seasons at the top left. Henrik will take some replacing and that will be down to the manager and whoever he decides to bring in to replace him, but the likes of Alan (Thompson), Jackie (McNamara) and Bobo (Balde) are all at the peak of their years and I think that was overlooked by some people."

The last week has allowed the 32-year-old to reflect on what was a momentous week for the club and also recuperate from a minor thigh strain sustained in the first

leg win over Barcelona. The hectic fixture calendar meant that Lennon couldn't afford to give the niggles a couple of days rest, something he had the luxury of doing over the past few days.

It also gave the former Northern Ireland international time to reflect on the performances and results enjoyed against Barcelona and Rangers last week and inevitably he has taken enormous satisfaction from Celtic's position.

"Barcelona are a brilliant side and to go into the tie with a lot of key players missing and keep a clean sheet in both games, especially given the form they have been in recently in La Liga, takes some doing," he said.

"It tells you a lot about the character in the side that we came

"I would like to think I still have at least two or three good seasons left at the top level"



MIDFIELD MAESTRO Lennon has been a key player in the Celtic side this season



back from that in the early hours of Friday morning and then went and won an Old Firm game. People talk about resilience but we also have a lot of ability and we can mix it up when we need to."