

£2



# CELTIC v RANGERS

Celtic Park, Saturday 3 January 2004, Kick-off 12.30pm

Scottish Premierleague 2003/04

Programme No.16



CARLING



BANK OF SCOTLAND  
SPL

Celtic



CARLING ARE PROUD TO BE SUPPORTERS OF CELTIC FC. **LOVEFOOTBALL**



“It’s the first time for a few years that an Old Firm fixture reverts to a more traditional early January date and, naturally, it’s a game everyone is looking forward to”

**2003 ended on a high note for the club last Saturday when we scored six goals against a much-improved Hibs team to maintain our position at the top of the table.**

We started very brightly indeed with a well-worked goal from Chris Sutton, who is enjoying an extremely rich vein of form at the moment. But a spate of bookings and a sending off – all later shown by TV replays to have been warranted – threatened to spoil the game for a time.

However, John Hartson scored an excellent second goal for us just before half-time and we were able to stretch our lead in the second half. Further goals from Hartson and Sutton plus another two from Henrik Larsson and Stilian Petrov ensured that we won reasonably well in the end.

But there is little time to reflect

on recent events because today’s game with Rangers is, as always, so important. It’s the first time for a few years that an Old Firm fixture reverts to a more traditional early January date and, naturally, it’s a game everyone is looking forward to.

One thing I would stress, however, is that, while these games are very significant indeed, they do not necessarily determine the destination of the Championship.

This was proved last season when we took more points from Rangers than they did from us, yet still found ourselves pipped at the post on the final day.

We go into today’s fixture with a few points advantage, but earlier in the season we visited Ibrox and, had we lost, we would have been five points in arrears. Thankfully for ourselves, we managed to win

the game, despite the injury problems we were experiencing at that time.

Our opponents have had similar worries at times this season, but a number of major players have returned for them of late, and there’s no doubt this will be an incredibly difficult match for us. It always is. We will have to apply the highest level of concentration and focus to achieve anything from the match.

We will also need all the vocal support that can be mustered. Every Old Firm game is a unique occasion, with an atmosphere you very rarely find elsewhere in football. Today will, I’m sure, be another special event.

# 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

● In an impressive 6-0 victory over Dunfermline in a League match on December 29, 1973, Dixie Deans, Harry Hood and Kenny Dalglish each scored two goals.

● On January 1, 1898, the league match between Celtic and Rangers was abandoned after 70 minutes due to crowd trouble. The teams were level on 1-1 at the time.

● On the same day, and in a similar game in 1936, left-back Willie McGonagle played his last game for the club, after 10 years and 325 appearances.

● In 1969, in the New Year's Honours List, club chairman Robert Kelly was awarded a knighthood.

● Against Rangers, on January 2, 1899, Sandy McMahon scored his 100th league goal for the club, becoming the first player to do so.

● On the third day of the new year, outside right Paddy Connolly made his debut against Clyde in 1922; ex-player and manager Jimmy McStay died in 1974 aged 79; and Anton Rogan got his first start against Hamilton in 1987.

● Steve Chalmers scored three and John Divers got a brace as Celtic beat Falkirk 7-0 in the league on January 4, 1964. Chalmers' hat-trick was the seventh by a Celt in the last 13 matches.

● And on the 6th January 1990, against St Mirren, Roy Aitken made the last of his 667 appearances for the Hoops.



## RANGERS FACTS

● Rangers FC was founded in 1873 by a group of youths from the Gareloch area.

● The club had a fairly peripatetic existence in the first few years, starting at Flesher's Haugh at Glasgow Green, then Burnbank just off Great Western Road at Kelvinbridge, Kinning Park on the south side of the city and eventually Old Ibrox in 1899.

● The club's biggest victory was the 14-2 win over Blairgowrie in a First round Scottish Cup tie; the heaviest defeat a 2-10 loss to Airdrie in 1886.

● Rangers reached the Scottish Cup semi-finals in 1877 and 1879 but they had to wait until 1894 for their first win, a 3-1 victory over Celtic.

● That initial cup triumph was followed by further wins in 1897, 1898 and 1903. Their fans then had to endure a tortuous 25 years before winning the cup again.

● In those early days, the League Championship seemed to be much more to Rangers liking. They shared the first title with Dumbarton in 1890/91; then had a four-in-a-row run from 1898 to 1902.

● Under the management of Bill Struth, Rangers had a superb 1920s and 1930s. Apart from four wins by Celtic and one by Motherwell, Rangers collected 15 of the 20 possible League Championships.

● And once the 25-year Scottish Cup 'hoodoo' was broken in 1928 with a 4-0 win over Celtic, Rangers picked up the trophy 5 times in the following 10 years.





**TODAY'S VISITORS - RANGERS**  
 MANAGER - ALEX McLEISH ASSISTANT MANAGER - ANDY WATSON

**CELTIC**   **RANGERS**

Michael Gray	2	1	Stefan Klos
Momo Sylla	3	2	Fernando Ricksen
Jackie McNamara	4	3	Craig Moore
Joos Valgaeren	5	4	Moises Emerson
Bobo Balde	6	7	Shota Arveladze
Henrik Larsson	7	8	Christian Nerlinger
Alan Thompson	8	9	Egil Ostenstad
Chris Sutton	9	10	Michael Mols
John Hartson	10	12	Robert Malcolm
David Fernandez	12	14	Ronald de Boer
Paul Lambert	14	15	Zurab Khizanishvili
Bobby Petta	15	16	Paolo Vanoli
Ulrik Laursen	16	18	Michael Ball
Didier Agathe	17	19	Steven Thompson
Neil Lennon	18	20	Nuno Capucho
Stilian Petrov	19	21	Maurice Ross
Robert Douglas	20	22	Allan McGregor
Magnus Hedman	21	23	Mikel Arteta
David Marshall	22	25	Henning Berg
Stanislav Varga	23	26	Peter Lovenkrands
Shaun Maloney	29	27	Stephen Hughes
Steve Guppy	30	30	Chris Burke
Ross Wallace	33	33	Billy Gibson
Johan Mjallby	35	40	Steven Smith
Craig Beattie	37		
Jamie Smith	39		
Stephen Craigne	40		
John Kennedy	41		
Liam Miller	43		

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

**CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERLEAGUE 2003/04**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
<b>CELTIC</b>	18	17	1	0	59	7	52	52
Rangers	18	14	2	2	43	15	28	44
Hearts	18	9	3	6	26	22	4	30
Dunfermline	18	8	5	5	23	25	-2	29
Livingston	18	5	7	6	19	20	-1	22
Motherwell	18	5	6	7	17	21	-4	21
Dundee Utd	18	5	5	8	17	29	-12	20
Kilmarnock	18	6	2	10	23	38	-15	20
Hibernian	18	5	4	9	17	31	-14	19
Dundee	18	4	6	8	20	25	-5	18
Aberdeen	18	4	4	10	20	33	-13	16
Partick Thistle	18	2	3	13	17	35	-18	9

**CLUB SPONSORS**



**FORTHCOMING FIXTURES**

Scottish Cup, Third Round  
**CELTIC v ROSS COUNTY** SAT 10 JANUARY 3.00pm

Scottish Premierleague  
**HEARTS v CELTIC** SUN 18 JANUARY 3.00pm

Scottish Premierleague  
**ABERDEEN v CELTIC** SAT 24 JANUARY 12.30pm

Scottish Premierleague  
**CELTIC v KILMARNOCK** SAT 31 JANUARY 12.30pm

Scottish Premierleague  
**DUNFERMLINE v CELTIC** WED 11 FEBRUARY 7.45pm

Scottish Premierleague  
**CELTIC v DUNDEE UTD** SAT 14 FEBRUARY 3.00pm

**RECENT FORM**



Scottish Premierleague, December 28, 2003  
**CELTIC 6 v 0 HIBERNIAN** (Sutton 2, Hartson 2, Larsson, Petrov)

Scottish Premierleague, December 21, 2003  
**MOTHERWELL 0 v 2 CELTIC** (Hartson, Thompson)

CIS Cup 4th Round, December 18, 2003  
**HIBERNIAN 2 v 1 CELTIC** (Varga)

Scottish Premierleague, December 13, 2003  
**CELTIC 3 v 2 DUNDEE** (Larsson, Balde, Kennedy)

UEFA Champions League, December 10, 2003  
**LYON 3 v 2 CELTIC** (Hartson, Sutton)

Scottish Premierleague, December 6, 2003  
**LIVINGSTON 0 v 2 CELTIC** (Sutton, Thompson)

**TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS**

Referee: **Stuart Dougal**  
 Assistant Referees: **Wilson Irvine**  
**David Doig**  
**John Underhill**  
 Fourth Official: **John Underhill**

**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 Walford  
**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



Celtic midfielder Alan Thompson is determined to put all thoughts of an England call-up on the back burner and help guide the Hoops towards another league championship

Exclusive Interview: ALISON McCONNELL

**ALAN THOMPSON** has experienced all the highs and lows of Old Firm exchanges, including getting sent off at Ibrox in his inaugural clash against Rangers, while he has also marked the occasions with some spectacular goals.

The English midfielder has been a consistent performer in Martin O'Neill side with his displays over the last 18 months prompting a steady chorus of calls for his inclusion in his national side.

England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson is rumoured to be coming to Glasgow to watch the player this afternoon.

Thompson has so far resisted the opportunity to verbally state his case for a place in a squad who are crying out for a natural left-sided midfielder, and the player has reiterated that the most important thing for him is the domestic success he enjoys with Celtic.

Last season ended in frustration when a campaign that had promised so much ended with no tangible reward in the space of four excruciating days, but with O'Neill's side currently perched at the forefront in the race for the Championship, Thompson has set his sights on adding another title medal to his collection.

Victory this afternoon would enable Celtic to take further strides forward towards that goal, but so far as the midfielder is concerned there is plenty of work ahead.

"Everyone is looking forward to it," said Thompson. "We managed to get a win when we went to Ibrox earlier in the season and I think that Rangers might feel under a little pressure coming here this afternoon.

"We are going to have to be ready for it because obviously we want to win the match. I'm pleased with the



**SEEING RED** Thompson gets sent off in his first Old Firm encounter



way things have gone for us this season domestically and, to be honest, I hadn't envisaged that there would be a gap at this stage of the campaign given how tight it was all the way until the final day last year.

"In saying that, it is far too early to start talking about anything just yet.

"There is still a long way to go and we have to strive to ensure that we continue the form we showed in the opening half of the season.

"We have worked hard but we know that we

could easily drop points and we don't want to lose our focus.

"As for the England thing I'm not bothered about it. If it comes, of course I would be pleased, but if it doesn't happen then I can't get too disappointed about it.

"All I can do is keep playing here and concentrating on doing well for Celtic."

Having excelled in the fixture in the past, Thompson is inevitably looking forward to the match which has returned to a more traditional date this season.

Celtic's consistency in the league has led to a new record being set

**"As for the England thing I'm not bothered about it. If it happens I would be pleased but if it doesn't then I won't be too disappointed"**



for successive victories and the player is keen to enjoy another. Old Firm win this afternoon.

"I love playing in these games," he said. "This one will be no different and playing at this time of year I'm sure will have everybody buzzing, although we don't need to be told that Rangers will want to win it as much as we will.

"It's like a European game in that you know weeks in

advance that it is coming up and the build-up starts early for it.

"Everywhere you go people talk about it and it is a game that's a bit special.

"I think the season has been great so far for us. Over the last few weeks we haven't been scoring as freely as we were earlier but that was inevitable and I'm sure our fluency will come back."

The frustration of failing to make the latter stages of the

Champions League has been the most pressing regret for Celtic after coming so

close to making the last 16 of the competition, but Thompson is confident that between now and the end of the campaign, O'Neill's side can put it behind them.

"Obviously the elimination from the Champions League was the biggest disappointment but we are in the UEFA Cup and we'll start concentrating on that in February," he remarked. "There's a lot to play for and it would be nice to finish this season on a high after last year.

"My own form hasn't been superb lately. I did my hamstring at Ibrox and then I had a calf strain right after that and it interrupted my season a bit.

"Hopefully know I've done my time in the treatment room and between now and the end of the season I can stay fit and do my bit for the team."

