



Rangers v Celtic

TENNETT'S SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL TIE



125
YEARS
1873-1998



Celtic Park, Glasgow
Sunday, 5th April 1998
Kick-Off 5.00 pm

MATCH PROGRAMME £2.00

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The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years.

Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementation of the Taylor Report recommendations.

The Trust has distributed over £67m of pools derived income for the benefit of Scottish football at all levels. Four new grounds have so far been built and over 50 new and refurbished stands have been made possible thanks to the vital

contribution of the Trust and the determination of clubs throughout the Scottish Football League.

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing CCTV and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators to enjoy. The Government's commitment to the vital work of the Trust will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game.

The Football Trust will continue to support football in Scotland.



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THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB

So much at stake

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Scottish Football Association, to welcome everyone to Celtic Park for this evening's Tennents Scottish Cup Semi-Final tie between Rangers and Celtic.

Already this season's Tennents Scottish Cup has produced moments of high drama for the Old Firm. Celtic have had difficult away ties against Premier Division opposition, and only a last minute own goal from a Dundee United defender saw them into the semi-final. Rangers, meanwhile, have had to endure two replays, against Motherwell and Dundee, on their way to tonight's tie.

The tension generally associated with a semi-final tie will no doubt be much in evidence tonight, with not only a place in Scottish football's top event of the year to be won, but also the intense rivalry that is always experienced at Old Firm matches.

Both teams have shown this season that they are capable of great achievements, and their challenge for the Scottish Football League title, alongside that of Heart of Midlothian, looks set to continue right to the last day of the season – particularly as tonight's teams are due to meet again at Ibrox Stadium next Sunday on League business.

A thrilling Cup tie is anticipated this evening, watched not only by the capacity crowd here at Celtic Park, but also by watching millions throughout the rest of the country and elsewhere.

I hope, therefore, that the players in both teams will rise to the occasion and provide a match that is both exciting and enthralling, and that football will be the winner.

It is a particular pleasure to welcome the representatives of the tournament sponsor, Tennent Caledonian Breweries, and their guests to tonight's match. This is the ninth year of Tennents' enjoyable and beneficial sponsorship of the competition, and such has been the success of this partnership that a new deal was struck earlier this season to take it into the new millennium.

The Scottish Football Association is most appreciative of the support which our sponsor has provided for Scotland's top cup competition over these nine years and we all look forward to enjoying their continued support in the years ahead.

The Association is grateful to Celtic FC for making Celtic Park available this evening, and I would like to thank the club's Directors and staff for their assistance in staging this important fixture.

Above all, I am sure that this evening's spectacle will be a credit to Scottish football, and continue in the exciting tradition of the Tennents Scottish Cup.

Enjoy the match, and may the better team win!



JACK MCGINN,
President,

Scottish Football Association.

TITANIC!

It's the name on everyone's lips and Scottish football hasn't been slow to jump on the bandwagon.

The epic movie which landed 11 Oscars may be considered as the motion event of the year down Hollywood way.

But try telling that to Scottish fans.

They've been enjoying their own box office smash since the season kicked-off last August.

Celtic, Heart of Midlothian and Rangers have packed them in with their epic three-way battle for the title which threatens to run and run.

Now, just when you thought the tension was unbearable, along comes the Tennents Scottish Cup to grip the nation and produce its own titanic tale.

Celtic and Rangers collide head on tonight in a tie which will have more dramatic impact than any Hollywood blockbuster.

There are sure to be thrills, spills and enough action to satisfy the most demanding audience.

Which pretty much sums up the story of how the teams got here.

Celtic were able to call on their own personal superman for their third round home tie against Greenock Morton on 24th January.

Clark Kent lookalike, Harald Brattbakk, arrived in a £2 million deal from Norwegian champions Rosenborg with a reputation for superhuman scoring exploits.

However, Scottish defences had



Morten Wieghorst

obviously looked out the Kryptonite.

The new arrival to the Metropolis of Glasgow

failed to score in his first five

appearances.

So it must have come as a relief to Celtic head coach Wim Jansen when Clark... sorry, Harald,

chose the Tennents Scottish Cup to display his special powers for the first time.

Whether the striker changed with his team-mates in the home dressing room or a nearby telephone booth isn't known.

What isn't in doubt is that he sent his reputation soaring after six minutes when he stroked Alan Stubbs' pass beyond John Hillcoat to open his Celtic account.

The floodgates were expected to open but remained stubbornly shut as Henrik Larsson smacked a penalty off the crossbar before Darren Jackson finally killed off Morton seven minutes from the end.

In an otherwise unremarkable game it didn't take special x-ray vision to spot Celtic fans had found a new super-hero in Brattbakk.

Rangers meanwhile looked anything but invincible as they

kicked off their cup campaign against First Division Hamilton Academical at Fir Park.

Being drawn against the lads from Lanarkshire is always liable to bring the Ibrox stars out in a cold sweat.

After their shock 1987 Scottish Cup exit who could blame them?

Steve McCormick set the alarm bells ringing again after 33 minutes when he fired Accies into a shock lead.

But when Brian Laudrup set up Gordon Durie to equalise ten minutes later it looked as though Hamilton would be humbled.

Not a chance!

In the end it took a superhuman effort from Rangers' own man of steel, Richard Gough, to save Light Blue blushes.

His deft flick with the outside of his right boot, two minutes into injury time, sent plucky Hamilton spinning into cup oblivion and 'Gers into the next round.

Having ground out that result Rangers really should have expected to end up at a certain Lanarkshire venue.

Their fourth round clash with Motherwell ensured their fourth visit to Fir Park by mid February!

'Well hardly had the ideal preparation.

Three days earlier manager Alex McLeish quit to take over from Jim Duffy at Hibernian - leaving assistant, Andy Walker to see out the tie.

The match was played on St. Valentine's Day but it was to mark the beginning of the end of a beautiful relationship.

On a day of shocks and sensations the first bombshell landed before a

ball was kicked as Walter Smith dropped Brian Laudrup for the first time in his Ibrox career.

Controversy surrounding Laudrup's move to Chelsea had erupted after the Dane met with Gianluca Vialli and Gianfranco Zola on the day Ruud Gullit was sensationally sacked.

The shockwaves sent tremors all the way to Fir Park, where Walter Smith decided Laudrup wasn't in the correct frame of mind to play.

Without him Rangers went behind to a goal from Tommy Coyne after 18 minutes before Marco Negri thundered in his 34th goal of the season, seven minutes later.

As nerves began to jangle Rangers cracked first when Richard Gough headed into his own net with just 13 minutes to go.

As the seconds ticked away Walter Smith's dream of leaving Ibrox in May with the cup tucked under his arm seemed set to end abruptly.

But with seven minutes remaining Rangers found themselves out of the woods following a bizarre blunder.

Motherwell 'keeper, Stevie Woods failed to find Kevin Christie with a sloppy pass and to his horror Gordon Durie pounced on the gift to make it 2-2.

Laudrup was re-instated for the replay but Paul Gascoigne was relegated to the bench, leaving Jorg Albertz to put Watson's Well to the Hammer.

The German powerhouse smashed in a trademark volley after 36 minutes and two minutes later the Steelmen buckled as the midfielder set up Gordon Durie for Ranger's second. Albertz then wrapped up a convincing win with his second and Rangers' third four minutes from the end.

By then Celtic had already booked their place in the quarter-finals thanks to the Monday night live TV triumph over Dunfermline Athletic at East End Park.

The Hoops had never lost a Scottish Cup tie at the Fife ground

and they forged ahead after 50 minutes with a touch of French flamboyance.

Full-back Stephane Mahe rifled a left foot shot past Ian Westwater to notch his first goal in Scotland.

Despite finding the net in the previous round Harald Brattbakk hadn't managed to repeat the feat in his next seven hours of football.

But the Norwegian eased the pressure when he blasted home Celtic's second after 67 minutes.

Bert Paton's Pars battled back gamely to score through David Bingham nine minutes from time but Celtic held out.

That set up a Sunday showdown with Dundee United at Tannadice in the quarter-finals and a repeat of the Coca-Cola Cup final which Celtic had won 3-0.

This time, however, Jansen's men needed a rub of the green to squeeze through in a dramatic tie.

Celtic hadn't lost a Scottish Cup quarter-final for 12 years, so when Brattbakk maintained his goal-a-game cup record after 11 minutes, things looked bright for the Bhoys.

However, stung by four earlier defeats at the hands of the Hoops, Tommy McLean's men hit back.

Swedish striker, Kjell Olofsson's double after 18 and 53 minutes seemed to have swung the tie in the home side's favour.

But Morten Wieghorst responded within two minutes to set up a frantic finale. With the tie heading for a replay United defender, Erik Pedersen then blundered deep into injury time to send Celtic through.

The Norwegian had dashed straight to Tannadice from hospital after attending the birth of his son.

And when Henrik Larsson's cross bounced off the hapless defender's knee, into his own net, the headlines summed it up succinctly - IT'S A BHOY!

The only black spot for the Hoops was the second booking which will keep Morten Wieghorst out of tonight's semi-final.



Jorg Albertz

'Gers found it just as tough against Tayside opposition and needed a replay to overcome First Division pacesetters Dundee.

Jocky Scott's side took all the plaudits after bringing out the boos at Ibrox to celebrate a creditable 0-0 draw.

And Rangers were in danger of suffering a severe hangover when James Grady shot the Dark Blues in front after 10 minutes of the replay.

Rangers needed a miracle cure and their favourite miracle worker, 35-year-old Ally McCoist, provided it.

Super Ally flew to the rescue with an inspirational double to take his Rangers goals tally to a staggering 350 and set up tonight's mouth-watering semi-final.

The stage is therefore set for a super cup-tie, with a super atmosphere guaranteed at a super venue.

All we need now is a Superhero to fly to his team's rescue and settle this titanic tussle.

Whether he'll be clad in green or blue is anybody's guess!



TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP 1997/98

TENNENTS, THE CHOICE OF THE FANS

Tennent's Lager, the Official Beer of Scottish Football, is Scotland's leading supporter of the game in this country.

With a tradition and heritage almost as old as the Scottish Cup, Tennent's Lager is now in the ninth season of a partnership between two of Scotland's most famous names.

Our support of the game, through Scotland's premier tournament, benefits the 48 competing clubs and our promotions and incentives are designed to reward entertaining players and make the game, in general, more enjoyable to football supporters.

Today the Tennents Scottish Cup has reached the Semi-Final stage, a phase of the tournament which many have described as the most heartbreaking moment in the cup.

Win, and your club enjoys the memory of playing in the Final, whatever the result; lose, and your team's appearance in today's match is merely recorded in the history books.

The Semi-Final must produce a loser but we hope that the game and its supporters are the real winners with an entertaining contest provided by both teams.

Both sides have their eyes set on the Tennents Scottish Cup Final on May 16th. The venue is yet unknown but what is certain is that the match will be another major occasion in Scottish football.

Tennent's Lager and the national game are enjoyed by millions of Scots each year. Our support for football will continue to allow supporters throughout the country the chance to play their part in the country's premier football competition.

TENNENT'S LAGER • BREWED IN SCOTLAND SINCE 1885



How the teams reached the semis

FIRST ROUND

6th December, 1997

Inverness Cal. Thistle 3 Whitehill Welfare 1

East Fife 2 Stranraer 3
Cowdenbeath 0 Montrose 0

Replay: Tuesday, 9th December

Montrose 2 Cowdenbeath 1

13th December

Fraserburgh 1 Clyde 0

SECOND ROUND

3rd January, 1998

Inverness Cal. Thistle 2 Queen's Park 0
Peterhead 0 Alloa Athletic 2

Annan Athletic 3 Vale of Leithen 1

Lossiemouth 0 Dumbarton 1

Ross County 3 Brechin City 1

Forfar Athletic 1 Albion Rovers 2

6th January, 1998

Arbroath 1 Queen of the South 1

7th January, 1998

Livingston 2 Berwick Rangers 1

10th January, 1998

Stenhousemuir 4 Deveronvale (1994) 0

East Stirlingshire 1 Edinburgh City 1

Stranraer 2 Fraserburgh 1

12th January, 1998

Clydebank 6 Montrose 0

Replays: 12th January

Queen of the South 4 Arbroath 0

Edinburgh City 0 East Stirlingshire 0

AET (Edinburgh City won 4-3 on penalty kicks)

THIRD ROUND

24th January, 1998

Hamilton Academical 1 Rangers 2

Inverness Cal. Thistle 8 Annan Athletic 1

Dundee United 1 Aberdeen 0

St. Johnstone 1 Partick Thistle 0

Heart of Midlothian 2 Clydebank 0

Livingston 3 Albion Rovers 3

Hibernian 1 Raith Rovers 2

Dumbarton 1 Motherwell 1

Airdrieonians 2 Ross County 2

Queen of the South 1 Stirling Albion 3

Stenhousemuir 1 Falkirk 3

Celtic 2 Greenock Morton 0

Stranraer 0 Kilmarnock 2

Alloa Athletic 0 Ayr United 3

Dunfermline Athletic 7 Edinburgh City 2

25th January, 1998

Dundee 4 St. Mirren 2

Replays: 27th January

Motherwell 1 Dumbarton 0

2nd February

Albion Rovers 0 Livingston 0

AET (Albion Rovers won 6-5 on penalty kicks)

4th February

Ross County 1 Airdrieonians 0

FOURTH ROUND

14th February, 1998

St. Johnstone 3 Stirling Albion 1

Raith Rovers 1 Falkirk 3

Ayr United 2 Kilmarnock 0

Heart of Midlothian 3 Albion Rovers 0

Ross County 1 Dundee 1

Motherwell 2 Rangers 2

Dundee United 1 Inverness Cal. Thistle 1

16th February, 1998

Dunfermline Athletic 1 Celtic 2

Replays: 17th February

Rangers 3 Motherwell 0

Dundee 3 Ross County 0

18th February

Inverness Cal. Thistle 2 Dundee United 3

AET

FIFTH ROUND

7th March, 1998

Heart of Midlothian 4 Ayr United 1

Falkirk 3 St. Johnstone 0

8th March, 1998

Dundee United 2 Celtic 3

9th March, 1998

Rangers 0 Dundee 0

Replay: 18th March

Dundee 1 Rangers 2

Marco Negri – unqualified success

If manager-in-waiting Dick Advocaat were to listen to a taxi driver on his next whistle-stop visit to Glasgow, he would probably be told by his unwitting driver that 'yon new fella at Rangers is on the lookout for new players'.

Fact or fiction, one suspects that Advocaat will want to keep the meter running for some time yet on Marco Negri

the Ibrox career of Marco Negri.

Indeed when the curtain falls on Walter Smith's seven-year reign as boss next month and the self-

appointed experts complete tabloid checklists of his record in the transfer market then they will assuredly know which box to tick for the Italian.

Negri, to Smith's relief in a difficult campaign, has been an unqualified success since arriving from Serie A strugglers Perugia.

The 27-year-old's goals have largely kept Rangers in the hunt for two trophies, even if he enters tonight's semi-final contest with Celtic here looking for his first goal in the Tennents Scottish Cup.

The Premier Division, however,

has been his killing field since the season's opening night against Hearts at Ibrox after Rangers unfurled their ninth successive league flag.

Goalkeeper, Gilles Rousset, might argue to this day that Negri's first goal in this country didn't actually cross the line but there have been few debates about the thirty-something goals which have followed.

Within minutes of losing that controversial first, Rousset fell victim to a superbly-executed chip but it was on August 23 when Dundee United visited Govan that the striker really came alive. Or rather, five alive.

Sieb Dykstra was beaten from every angle in a 5-1 win for Rangers with Negri's personal tally of scoring all five matching a Premier record held by Paul Sturrock.

Dave Bowman suffered like everyone else in tangerine that afternoon and suggests Scottish football shouldn't have been taken aback at the Italian's remarkable impact.

"Marco's goalscoring record has been exceptional but perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised," said Tannadice's former Scotland international.

"He's come from Serie A after all and you have to be a certain standard of striker to get goals there. I think he scored 15 or something last season and that wasn't for one of the top-rated outfits.

"But it is not just the number of goals he has scored for Rangers which impresses you but the way he gets them.

"We went back up the road from Ibrox that day knowing we had been

given a harsh lesson.

"Everybody will recall the second goal that afternoon when he lifted the ball over a defender then lobbed Sieb from outside the box. Sieb is something like 6ft 5ins yet Negri was able to chip him which tells you about his ability.

"Each of his goals was different that afternoon but thankfully we were able to put the shackles on him a couple of weeks later when we went back there and won in the Coca-Cola Cup."

Movement on and off the ball would be the coaching manual advice for those trying to perfect the art of goalscoring even if with Negri it seems to come naturally.

"It is bad enough trying to watch him like a hawk when he is in possession but we found out the hard way that you have to watch him even more carefully when he's off the ball," added Bowman.

"He's constantly on the move, which makes him a nightmare for defences to pick up.

"It reminds me of when Brian Laudrup first arrived at Ibrox and we had to become aware of where he was even when we were attacking. You could be taking a corner yourselves then suddenly it breaks down and these guys are off in full flow.

"Negri is in that category and that's how he scores a lot of his goals, with off-the-ball runs."

Following in the footsteps of a legend like Ally McCoist was never going to be easy for any Ibrox striker and, argued Bowman, comparisons are fruitless. McCoist, no doubt, would agree and point out Negri remains 300-odd goals adrift of his scoring tally in blue!

"He's maybe a little like the Ally of a few years ago but not all that much," said Bowman.

"Marco is more typical of a continental striker and, while Rangers fans might not like it, the one I'd say he's closest to that we all remember would be Jorge Cadete.

"Cadete scored more than 30 goals for Celtic last season which was a brilliant effort and like Marco much of his game came down to movement, speed and finishing."

Cadete, of course, became a Parkhead cult hero in a 15-month sojourn and Negri has quickly won the same status at Ibrox even allowing for headlines at the start of the season about his low-key goal celebrations.

As ever with a high profile foreigner, there were rumours too of how long he would stay in Scottish football if Premiership, or other, predators come prowling.

That very question will surely be high on Advocaat's agenda given all the other dressing room turmoil as Smith's departure upstairs sparks a full-scale exodus.

But incredibly the biggest threat to the £3.75m striker's Rangers career so far came from nothing more sinister than a squash ball.

What players get up to on their day off has been a managerial headache since long before the days of current stars, but Smith can hardly have expected his tolerance level to be tested when Negri went to play squash with team-mate Sergio Porrini.

The eye injury which followed after being hit by the ball kept him out of four matches and left Negri revealing that

there could yet be a long-term side

effect from that apparently innocent exercise.

"I was scared of going blind in one eye and I know it could have been much worse – I count myself lucky," said Negri after returning to action.

"If I had another job it would be no problem but now I have to watch out for the elbow in the face and other accidents on the park.

"Maybe when I am 40 or 50 I will have a problem with the eye. That has been made clear to me as the retina is gelled together."

Worrying words but for the moment Negri will have the blinkers on as he attempts to repeat his feat of scoring against Celtic at Parkhead last November when he linked with Gordon Durie before firing beyond Jonathan Gould in a 1-1 draw.

That was even before the Glasgow rumour-factory hit on the name of Advocaat as his prospective new boss. All the indications are the Dutchman won't tolerate passengers

– so Marco Negri should be along for the charge on new boundaries.



Ally McCoist