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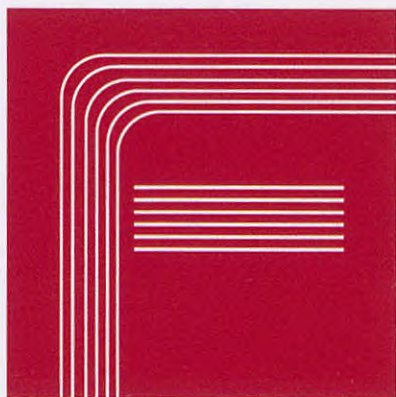
Derry City v. Glasgow Celtic

Celebrating Derry City Football Club's
80th Anniversary 1928-2008

Tuesday, October 7, 2008, kick-off 5.45pm. Programme £2

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DERRY CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

HISTORY & HONOURS

FORMED 1928

Ground Brandywell Stadium

Members of Irish League

1929 - 1972

Elected to League of Ireland

1985

Club Colours Red & White

Striped Shirts / Black Shorts

Manager Stephen Kenny

Asst. Manager Alan Reynolds

First Team Coach

Declan Devine

Physio Colm O'Neill

Club Doctor Joe McElroy

IRISH LEAGUE HONOURS

League Champions: 1964-65

IFA Cup Winners:

1949, 1954, 1964

City Cup Winners: 1935, 1937

Gold Cup Winners: 1964

Top Four Winners: 1966

LEAGUE OF IRELAND HONOURS

League Champions:

1988-89, 1996-97

1st Division Champions:

1986-87

FAI Cup Winners:

1989, 1995, 2002, 2006

League Cup Winners:

1988, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1999,

2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

Shield Winners: 1986

CITYVIEW is the official Match Day Programme of Derry City Football Club. The views expressed are, however, not necessarily those of the Board of Directors or indeed the Programme Committee.

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A hearty welcome to the mighty "Hoops"

TONIGHT it is with great pleasure that we welcome SPL champions, Glasgow Celtic, back to Brandywell to play their part in celebrating Derry City's 80th anniversary celebrations.

And everyone associated with Derry City Football Club takes great pride in the fact that two members of tonight's Celtic panel are local men who, we hope, will continue their progress at Celtic Park and, hopefully, become fully fledged members of the first team squad.

Paddy McCourt joined the 'Bhoys' from the "Candy Stripes" earlier this year and having served his home town club well during his short career at Brandywell, local supporters will, no doubt, give him a very special welcome home.

And while many of you will be aware of the Paddy's talents, it's also important that we acknowledge a youngster from the Carnhill area of Shantallow who has been contracted to Celtic for three years as a full-time professional.

Daniel Lafferty has been performing regularly at left-back in the Celtic Reserves team and the former Oxford United Stars defender joined the 'Hoops' as a 16-year-old to further his career in Scotland. The teenager appears

to be making steady progress.

We also extend a warm welcome two former members of the Celtic squad who will tonight lead the team in the absence of Gordon Strachan - Neil Lennon and Willie McStay.

Lennon, of course, is no stranger to this neck of the woods having visited the area on countless occasions while Willie McStay, having already managed a Celtic team when playing at the Brandywell, is a former Sligo Rovers boss before returning to Paradise to take up full-time duties at Celtic Park.

May we also take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all those who have supported this evening's game as this fixture ends what has been a chaotic series of matches at the Brandywell in the F.A.I. Cup, eircom League and Setanta Sports Cup games.

Hopefully, we will witness an attractive game between two great clubs and we wish Celtic every success in both their campaigns at home and abroad during the remainder of the 2008/09 season.

As usual, we would ask all supporters to be guided by our match stewards and that everyone in attendances returns home safely after the final whistle.

UEFA Ten Point Plan

Derry City Football Club is an equal opportunities club and will not tolerate any form of sectarianism or racially offensive behaviour or chanting.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the FAI backed

"Show Racism the Red Card" campaign and to equality, anyone caught making racist or sectarian comments, may be prosecuted and banned from the club. If you hear any abuse of this nature, please report it to your nearest steward.

Welcome to the game

GOOD evening and welcome to this evening's game which is in celebration of Derry City's 80th anniversary and I believe it's fitting that the mighty Glasgow Celtic are here at Brandywell to mark the occasion.

May I take this early opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the players, management and officials from Celtic Park and thank them for agreeing to provide the opposition for this special occasion in our club's history

Of course, this isn't the first occasion our two clubs have met and it certainly brings back fantastic memories of one particular game in July, 1997, when we famously beat the 'Hoops' in a five goal thriller at Lansdowne Road. Goals from Gary Beckett, an own goal by Celtic's Tommy Boyd and the winner netted by Ryan Coyle in latter stages saw the 'Candy Stripes' reach the final against Newcastle United.

That game also saw Paolo Di Canio, who scored that afternoon, play his last game for Celtic and it will live long in the memory for those who were in Dublin or watching on television. Let's hope tonight's game proves equally as memorable for those in attendance.

Excepting injury, we will also witness the return home of one of Derry City's favourite sons and one of the most exciting players ever to have graced the Brandywell, our own Paddy Mc Court.

He of the silky skills, penetrating runs and killer pass was a fantastic player for our club and an icon amongst our fans - young and not so young - and we all hope he can go on to become a big star with Celtic and fulfil his enormous potential. Some of the performances Paddy put in at this venue will be long remembered and I'm sure he'll receive a tremendous



Mr. Pat McDaid
Chairman, Derry City F.C.

reception when he runs out onto the pitch tonight.

Interestingly, this game falls in the middle of an incredible run of fixtures for Derry City which sees us competing in four different competitions and all at an advanced stage. We have secured our fourth consecutive League Cup following a top notch display away to Wexford Youths. We've also triumphed in what was a tense yet exciting penalty shoot-out against Cork City to reach the FAI Cup semi-final, competed in a series of league games and, regardless of last night's result at home to Linfield, will now for the first time, take our place in the Setanta Sports Cup semi finals which actually take place next week!

It has been a hectic experience for all concerned and to cap it all, we are set to stage a glamour friendly game against one of the worlds biggest clubs - not bad by anyone's expectations and certainly an exciting time to be following the "Candy Stripes."

The recent run of games brings me

onto something special about Derry City and just one example of the many things which go on behind the scenes to ensure the club survives - our Programme Committee.

In fact, tonight's game brings to five the number of issues which had to be produced within a period of 10 days and I must commend the efforts of the individuals concerned who have managed to produce a fantastic "Cityview" matchday programme for each game under what have been extraordinary circumstances.

Everyone of these men have their own responsibilities away from Derry City, including their family lives and their occupations, but the Programme Committee has still managed to produce the goods - this the last of four publications over a 10 day time frame. I think that must be acknowledged, so well done lads your outstanding commitment is very much appreciated by all those associated with the club.

Let's remember also that every "Cityview" programme sold goes straight to the club as the production costs are already covered via sponsorship. And to those of you reading this - thank you sincerely for supporting your local club.

We also are staging a special celebration dinner in the City Hotel after tonight's game to mark our 80th anniversary and that should prove a great night's entertainment. Those attending are very much looking forward to the occasion.

May I also take this opportunity to express the sincere thanks of the Board of Directors to all those who offer their precious time to assist Derry City on a weekly basis; to our loyal sponsors and, of course, to you, our supporters who continue to keep the club to the fore in the eircom League of Ireland.

Enjoy the game.

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A brief history of Derry City Football Club

DERRY CITY is a member of a very select band of football clubs located throughout the Continent of Europe in that the club, while resident in one jurisdiction, actually plays its football in another!

Located in Northern Ireland since its foundation 80 years ago, Derry City FC terminated its relationship with the Irish League in 1972 when the "north" had been embroiled in political unrest.

The burning of a Ballymena United supporters' bus outside Brandywell Stadium at the height of the "Troubles" in 1971 saw the club forced to play its home games 30 miles away at the Coleraine Showgrounds.

And that decision, which saw the "Candy Stripes" complete just one more campaign in the Irish League, signalled the end of senior soccer on Foyle side for a period of 13 years.

However, Derry City experienced a renaissance on September 8th, 1985 when the "Candy Stripes" officially entered the League of Ireland First Division - with the Irish League's blessing - to entertain Home Farm in a League Cup fixture.

An attendance of 8,000 watched that game and that sensational re-entry into the senior arena proved to be an amazing period in the history of the club.

The Irish League

But no history of Derry City would be complete without acknowledging the club's lengthy association with the Irish League.

Founded in 1928, Derry City played its first competitive game on 23rd August, 1929 when Glentoran

arrived in the North-West to record a 2-1 victory.

And the 44 years affiliation with the Irish Football Association also brought success with an Irish League Championship win (1964/5) plus three Irish Cup victories (1949, 1954 and 1965).

The club's first victory in European football (over two legs) was recorded by the Willie Ross managed 1964/65 team.

Never before had an Irish League team progressed in European competition but Derry City caused a major shock when defeating Norwegian champions, FK. Lyn in the European Cup on an 8-5 aggregate scoreline.

But since that dramatic rebirth in 1985, Derry have been crowned Premier Division champions twice (1988/89 and 1996/97) and have also secured the FAI Cup on four occasions (1989, 1995, 2002 and 2006).

And the local club's interesting love affair with the less prestigious League Cup competition saw them win it on no less than nine occasions - 1988, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1999, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Having secured its first Premier Division Championship under the guidance of manager, Jim McLaughlin, the club made a clean sweep of the major trophies in the 1988/89 season - League, FAI Cup and League Cup - a 'treble' which has not been repeated to date.

However, the "Candy Stripes" meteoric rise to prominence was to take a turn for the worst in the years which followed.

Indeed, financial difficulties - as experienced by the vast majority of

Irish clubs - had an almost terminal effect and Derry City's future was cast into serious doubt.

Liquidation

Having been forced into voluntary liquidation during the close season before the 1994/95 campaign, a consortium of Derry businessmen, under the leadership of Mr. Paul Diamond, formed a new company and following negotiations with the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise authorities, the club negotiated its way into a position to continue in existence.

A new share issue was floated by the new limited company and following an intake of capital - understood to be in the region of £100,000 - Derry City had been given the go-ahead to continue to operate as a senior football club.

The club enjoyed its second FAI Cup success when defeating Shelbourne 2-1 at Lansdowne Road before capturing the Premier Division title - also for the second time in its history - the following season.

However, while commerce has obviously played a significant role in the club's survival in 1995, Derry again found its way into an even deeper financial crisis when, in July, 2000, it was announced that the club faced debts of almost £200,000 and many local fans feared the worst.

But the local community responded immediately and while the assistance of teams of the calibre of Glasgow Celtic - who return to the Brandywell tonight - Manchester United, Real Madrid and Barcelona, played significant roles, the local community remained loyal and



The Derry City squad which played Home Farm in 1985 as the 'Candy Stripes' were welcomed into the League of Ireland. They are pictured with manager Jimbo Crossan and goalkeeping coach Eddie Mahon.

helped raise the necessary finance required to keep the club afloat.

Success, however, proved minimal with the club failing to compete for the major honours until the arrival of new manager, Stephen Kenny, in August 2004.

Having struggled against relegation for the three previous seasons, Kenny's first six months saw Derry not only move into the safety of mid-table but, just for good measure, the Dubliner led the club to another League Cup success. But it was his first full season in charge which fashioned major changes.

The Dubliner guided Derry City into the final game of the 2005 season against Cork at Turner's Cross requiring just a draw required to win the title but his youngsters froze in front of the 10,000 attendance when losing 2-0.

However, the following season, the 2006 campaign, saw the local club achieve great prominence in European football. Having qualified for the U.E.F.A. Cup, Derry were drawn against two times U.E.F.A. Cup winners I.F.K. Gothenburg and many

fans feared the worst.

But Sean Hargan netted a sensational late goal to give the Foyle side a remarkable 1-0 victory in the 'away' leg to shock European football and, at the same time, make history for Derry City as it was the club's first victory on away soil in any European competition.

And confirming that that experience wasn't a fluke, the 'Candy Stripes' did it again at the Brandywell two weeks later when striker, Stephen O'Flynn, lashed the ball home from the penalty spot for another 1-0 verdict against the Swedes.

Having been drawn against Gretna in the second preliminary round, Derry again rose to the challenge. In a highly charged atmosphere in Motherwell and accompanied by 2,000 travelling supporters, Derry produced the performance of the year. The club overcoming an early 1-0 deficit to record a sensational 5-1 victory and end the tie as a contest.

A 2-2 result in the second leg saw Derry then paired with Paris St Germain in the first round proper and

having held the French side to a 0-0 result at Brandywell, Derry lost 2-0 in the Parc Des Princes - the end of what had been one of the greatest seasons in the club's history.

On the local front, the League Cup had been retained and Derry again finished runners-up in the league campaign for the second successive season - this time on goal difference to Shelbourne. But an end of season treat also lay in store when the 'Candy Stripes' reached the F.A.I. Cup final against St. Patrick's Athletic winning 5-4 after extra-time at Lansdowne Road.

That game saw Kenny move to Scotland and Dunfermline Athletic but he returned to serve a second term at the start of the current campaign.

And his return brought success. The club has already won the League Cup and, just for good measure, has qualified for both the semi-finals of the Setanta Cup and the FAI Cup. The club also sits in third place in the Premier Division with six league matches remaining.

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Celts playing catch-up in City head-to-heads!

WELCOME to the final leg of what has been an enthralling ten days in the history of Derry City Football Club and whilst there is still an awful lot of work ahead, I'm sure everyone will be glad of the opportunity to draw breath and take stock.

Well, maybe the taking stock can wait 'til next time as we have the small matter of one of the biggest football clubs in the world on our doorstep this evening with the visit of Glasgow Celtic.

The 'Hoops,' of course, enjoy support from every corner of the globe but there is little doubt that Scotland apart, Irish backing for the Parkhead team is second to none.

The Celts, like ourselves, are a community club, albeit on a much bigger scale and you only need to take a walk around the City to see the affinity that they enjoy in these parts. Thankfully for us, the red and white stripes have gradually replaced the Liverpool, United and Chelsea tops on our local parks and playing fields but the lure of the green and white has never diminished.

Celtic's visit, as we know, is directly linked to the transfer of former City player Paddy McCourt and it does us no harm at all that the agreement involves another game next season. To a man, every Derry City supporter was delighted with their intervention in Paddy's transfer saga as the majority of us felt that one or two English clubs who had



The Celtic side which played Derry City at Brandywell in 2001. Derry lost the game 2-1 with Sean Hargan scoring for the home side.

been competing for the winger's signature had been less than courteous during the negotiations.

The final deal suited all parties infinitely better - City earning much needed revenue to keep the wolves from the door, Gordon Strachan acquiring the services of the most talented footballer on these shores and the player himself fulfilling the dream of every youngster who ever kicked a ball.

Form wise, the Scottish champions go into this evening's game very much the underdogs but they will take heart from the fact that our home form has been less inspiring than on the road, whilst Stephen Kenny may also avail of the opportunity to rest some weary legs and give some of his fringe players a run out.

Recent meetings between the two also favour City, Ryan Coyle's wonder goal giving the Candy Stripes a 3-2 win in Dublin just ten short years ago after Paolo Di Canio had thought he had given the 'Hoops' a share of the spoils when he beat 14 Derry players, plus two ball boys, the manager and Dr. Raymond McClean to fire his team level.

Score Irrelevant

The score tonight is almost irrelevant of course, games like this are an opportunity to see some world famous names on our own street and, more importantly, for the club, the chance to make new acquaintances.

Once again the spotlight of Irish sport will be shining brightly on the Brandywell and the more we can do that the better. In a

difficult climate for all clubs the opportunity to promote ourselves cannot be underestimated and we need to reach out to those who could prospectively help our club with their support. If the visit of Celtic brings half a dozen new fans on board the Derry City float, then it's job done.

The fact that the visitors have seen fit to venture northwards on their Irish trips these days also speaks volumes for the changing political climate here and whilst again much work remains to be done, the signs are very positive.

The irony of tonight's match of course is that whilst Celtic and Rangers set the obvious standard in the SPL, there probably isn't a great deal of difference between the rest and the standard of our own league. No doubt Stephen Kenny is the ideal person to ask about that but it will have escaped no-one's notice that former City striker, Conor Sammon, is currently wreaking havoc among Scottish defences. Big Conor was probably under-used in his time here but with the quality of options available to the manager it was difficult to disagree with his pecking order.

Still it's great to see a familiar face doing so well and it just makes you think that if the big front man can be so potent in those surroundings then there is no reason to doubt that Paddy would be a major influence as well. The player seems to be getting the fitness levels right and played quite well in the recent reserve game against Rangers, so hopefully his big chance isn't far away.

And so after four home matches in what seems like a few

hours we can now go off and enjoy a quick break before the weekend. To the players, officials and supporters of the club a big well done for the effort put in, especially during the League Cup final performance in Wexford.

It won't have been easy coming out in numbers four times this week either but your efforts will be greatly appreciated by the club.

We're in the home straight now and on the verge of completing a magnificent campaign in any circumstances so it's important that we see it through.

Special Mention

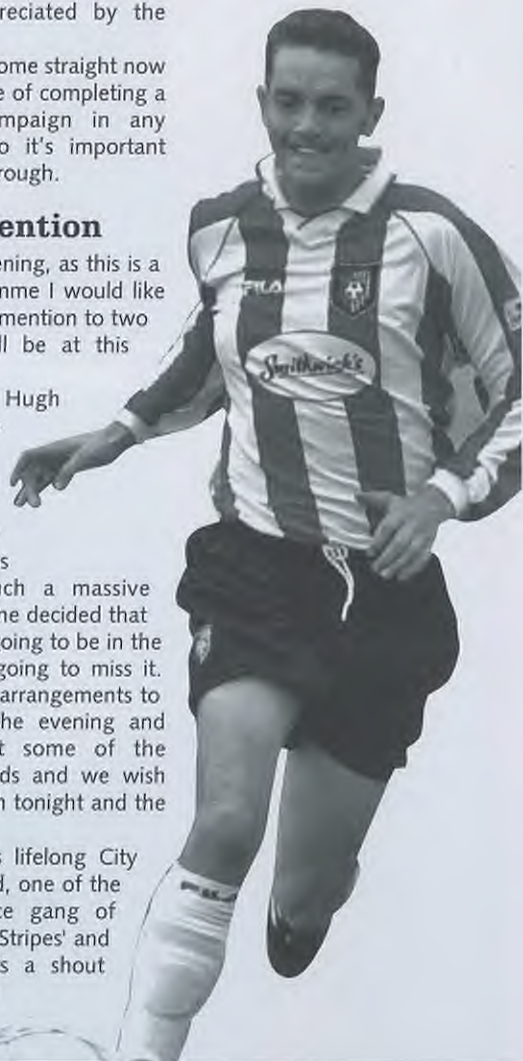
Finally this evening, as this is a souvenir programme I would like to give a special mention to two people who will be at this tonight's game.

The first is Hugh McLaughlin who has been in Spruce House at Altnagelvin Hospital for the past few months but who is such a massive 'Hoops' fan that he decided that if his team was going to be in the city, he wasn't going to miss it. Hugh has made arrangements to come out for the evening and hopes to meet some of the players afterwards and we wish him well for both tonight and the future.

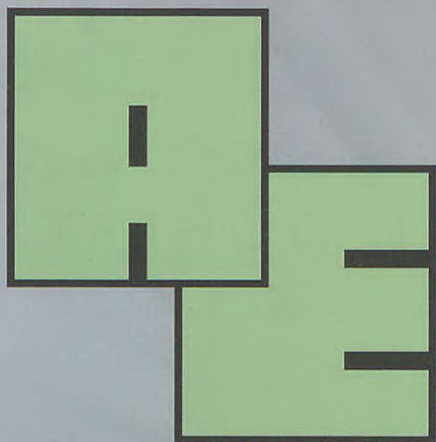
The second is lifelong City fan Tony McDaid, one of the Sunbeam Terrace gang of devoted 'Candy Stripes' and "Big Tone" gets a shout having just celebrated

his 50th birthday. Party details will be announced at half time.

BELOW — Gary Beckett who opened the scoring in the Derry v. Celtic encounter during the Irish International Club Soccer Tournament in 1997 at Lansdowne Road.



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The following welcome appeared in the "Official Match Programme" of Derry City's first ever match against Glasgow Celtic, which took place at Brandywell Stadium 78 years ago - on Friday, April 25th, 1930. In addition to the usual advertisements from Derry-based business, the piece points to Celtic's superb record before and after the turn of the century. Records going back to long before the great 'Lisbon Lions' succeeded in Europe, how things have changed ...

Welcome the 'Celts'

FOOTBALL history is being made this evening, for it marks the first visit to Londonderry of the famous Glasgow Celtic, though, it is hoped, that this is but the forerunner of many future visits.

Football followers in Londonderry and district, whose imagination is stirred by the wonderful record of this great team, extend to them a 'Cead Mile Failte.'

The 'Glasgow Evening Times' Football Guide contains some interesting details of the records of Celtic, and some of these are worth giving.

These include the following:-

- Won Glasgow Cup 16 times.
- Won the Scottish Cup 12 times (record).
- Won the Scottish League Championship 17 times (record).
- Have played 62 League consecutive games without defeat.
- In 1897-98 Celtic did not lose a match in the Scottish League.
- Hold record score in a league game - 11-0 against Dundee in 1896.
- Old Celtic Park opened in May, 1888 and the new Celtic Park in August, 1892.
- Hold record points total for 20 Club Scottish League, viz.: 67 points in 1915-16.
- Won Glasgow Charity Cup 20 times (record) - once seven years in succession, 1912-1918.
- From 20th September, 1913, until 13th December, 1913, Celtic won 13 League games in succession, scoring 30 goals and losing only 2.
- Celtic have won the Scottish Cup and Scottish League Championship in one year, three times, viz.: 1907, 1908 and 1914.

Of the original Celtic team only the Brothers Maley and Mr. James Kelly are alive.

Goal nets were first used in Scotland at Celtic Park between Celtic and Dumbarton on 1st January, 1892.

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LIMITED
Friday, April 25th, 1930.

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Celtic went through the Scottish Cup competition without the loss of a goal in season 1910-11.

From 1st January, 1914, to 21st February, 1914, in 12 successive games, Celtic never lost a goal.

Celtic hold record for lowest number of goals lost in League tourney, viz.: 14 goals in 38 games in 1914.

Celtic hold a Silver Shield presented to them by the Scottish League to commemorate their winning the League Championship six years in succession, 1905-10.

Celtic were the first Scottish Club to play two League games in one day, beating Raith Rovers at Parkhead by 6 to 0 and then motoring on to Motherwell and winning there by 3-1.

In 1907-08, Celtic won every honour competed for in first class Scottish football, viz.: Scottish Cup, Glasgow Cup, Scottish League Champions and Glasgow Charity Cup.

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ON THE BALL

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Mick McBride strolls down Memory Lane ...

The 'Bhoys' are back in town!

IT'S VERY appropriate that the visit of the world famous Glasgow Celtic to Brandywell tonight, as part of our Paddy McCourt transfer deal, coincides with our 80th anniversary, since Derry City Football Club was formed back in 1928.

For the 'Bhoys' first played at the Brandywell in season 1929/'30, which was also our very first in Irish League football. On that occasion, the Scots ran out easy winners, beating us by a 0-4 scoreline. In the Celtic side that day were Jimmy McGrory, who went on to score 397 goals for his club and his international colleague, goalkeeper John Thompson.


Sadly, Thompson was to later die on the field of play, as the result of a tragic collision with Rangers centre-forward Sam English, less than a year later.

However, it was not until 1947 that Celtic returned, but, before a packed ground of 12,000, they were beaten by a late goal from a free-kick from that other Kelly, Hugh. It was their only defeat on a short Irish tour, which saw them draw with Belfast Celtic and defeat Shamrock Rovers.

Celtic were back again in 1952, this time running out 3-1 winners. Glenavon stars, Jimmy Jones and Wilbur Cush 'guested' for City and the Derry goal was a brilliant effort by Cush, crashing the ball home after running past several tackles in a 40 yards run.

On a personal note, the first time that I first clapped eyes on the

GLASGOW CELTIC

		Bonnar (1)		
Fallon (2)			Haughney (3)	
Gonroy (4)		Stein (5)*	Peacock (6)	
Ryan (7)	Fernie (8)	Walsh (9)	Mochan (10)	Tully (11)
	Referee :		MR. M. MORRISON	
Nash (11)	Colvan (10)	F. Coyle (9)	McQuade (8)	Brady (7)
	Houston (6)	Curran (5)	Smyth (4)	
	McKenna (3)		Trevorrow (2)	
		Heffron (1)		

DERRY CITY

famous 'Hoops' was way back in 1955, when, at the tender age of nine, my father Charlie, who was a Derry City fanatic, took me along to watch them.

I had already been introduced to Derry the previous season, with the arrival of another Celtic legend, the famous Jimmy Delaney. If truth were told, I remember very little about the game itself, only that Derry defeated the mighty Celts 2-1.

I have since found out that Fay Coyle, who was then with Coleraine, and Ballymena United left-back, Eric Trevorrow were the guests for City. Amongst the stars in the Celtic side were, the great Charlie Tully, Jock Stein, who

became much more famous as the Celtic manager, and that wee man from Coleraine, Bertie Peacock.

Of course, I was to see Bertie play many more times for his club and country in later years. As for big Fay, well he scored the first goal after a mazy run past several defenders, and then laid on the winner for Hughie Colvan. That cheeky chappie, Tully, scored the only goal for Celtic.

If you buy a half-time draw ticket at tonight's game, you may well have bought it from the man who was at centre-half for Derry, that evening, Mr. Willie Curran, who also played against them in 1952. The match referee was non other than our own Matt Morrison, who

Mick McBride strolls down Memory Lane (continued)

was a wonderful character.

We were to see more of Celtic again in 1958 when they hammered Derry 7-0. The locals in the City side were Jim McLaughlin, Jobby Crossan, Frankie Campbell, Barney Travers and Eddie Nash. For Celtic, Peacock was still playing, as were Billy McNeill and Bertie Auld, who were later to write their names in soccer history as members of the famous 'Lisbon Lions.'

Fay Coyle and Jim McLaughlin were back 'guesting' once more in 1960 when Derry lost 0-3 to Celtic, with Peacock, McNeill and Auld still in their side. Derry included seven locals, eight if you count the wee Scot, Danny McLaughlin, who is still living in the city. The others were Brian Wright, Mickey McDermott, Matt Doherty, Wally Ferry and Travers again.

Little did we know then, but it would be another 35 years before another Celtic side would grace the

Brandywell, mostly due to the 'Troubles' and Derry's withdrawal from senior football for 13 years.

It was in 1995, when Derry were by now competing in the League of Ireland, that a Celtic Select recorded a 0-1 win (Paul Byrne) in a Testimonial game for long-serving Scottish stalwart Stuart Gauld.

Lansdowne Road

However, by far and away, my everlasting memory of a Derry and Celtic encounter was the occasion of an Irish International Club Soccer Tournament in 1997 at Lansdowne Road in Dublin.

The other two teams involved were Newcastle United and PSV Eindhoven and Derry were invited as League Champions. It was a simple two semi-final and Final format and Derry were drawn against the Celts in the opening game. In front of a good attendance, Derry sensationally

recorded a 3-2 victory in a thriller, with Ryan Coyle netting the winner near the finish. Gary Beckett had opened the scoring and Celtic's Tom Boyd deflected a cross from Peter Hutton into his own net for our other goal. Definitely a night to remember!

The next time that we were to meet Celtic was in 2000, when Martin O'Neill very generously brought over a Celtic side, albeit somewhat weakened by players away on international duty, to raise much needed funds to keep our club alive. We lost 1-2 with Sean Hargan scoring our goal. We owe Martin and Celtic our eternal gratitude for their magnificent gesture. The last time that we saw a Celtic side at Brandywell was when our Under-21 sides met in a friendly match in 2005, and we lost 0-2. Therefore, a warm welcome home to Paddy and his new playing colleagues!

Brandywell Layout



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Brandywell boss, Stephen Kenny, pictured with John Deery, on left, and Robert McGarrigle, directors of local company MIM, following the Maydown firm's decision to sponsor all match balls for Derry City's home games throughout the 2008 eircom League season.



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Real Derry City legend

DERRY CITY Football Club boasts many legends from the club's inception in 1928 and while many former players seem to lose their affinity with the "Candy Stripes," the same cannot be said of Willie Curran who, interestingly, has played against Celtic on new fewer than three occasions.

Now aged 78, Willie remains fit and sprightly and many will recognise the former defender who hasn't changed that much down the years. Willie still sports that heavy of mop of hair and will it has toned down a little these days, he regularly comes into contact with all Derry City supporters as he takes his place in the Brandywell before every match to sell our half time draw tickets.

Now a valuable club volunteer, Willie has etched his place in Derry City history as the only Derry-born player who represented the team in the 1954 Irish Cup final victory over Glentoran, a match which remains fresh in his memory to this day.

In a recent Derry City publication which centred on the club's cup triumphs, Charlie McLaughlin recalled that 1954 final: "Our defence was magnificent with Willie Curran, Tommy Houston and Digger Smyth playing out of their skins" and again in the replay "Willie Curran, Charlie in goals...were in defiant mood."

Indeed, Willie was considered one of the best players in the Irish League at that time and was rewarded for his efforts with an Inter-League cap when representing the Irish League against the League of Ireland on Easter Monday, 1954.

The Derry City manager of that era was Matt Doherty (snr.), a personality who Willie recalls with



Willie Curran

great affection. "Matt informed his players before every game, the importance of playing for the jersey," said Willie.

And he also recalls what he felt was an amusing anecdote prior to the 1954 final. "My cousin, the late Danno Feeney, was in the Glentoran team. When he visited our house before the match the family playfully presented him with a black arm band - they felt he would need when Derry lost!"

He has very fond memories of that cup triumph, especially those of his team-mate, the great Jimmy Delaney. To this day Willie states that it was "a privilege and an honour" to have played with Delaney.

"Jimmy Delaney had a long and successful playing career with both Glasgow Celtic and Manchester United. He won 15 international caps for Scotland," noted the local man.

"He was a very modest,

unassuming man who always gave credit to his team-mates before himself," claimed Willie who is delighted that the Derry connection with Jimmy Delaney remains to this day.

Delaney, of course, is the only man to have won cup medals in Ireland (north and south), England and Scotland during his playing career.

"The Jimmy Delaney Celtic Supporters Club make regular visits to Brandywell and I travel once a year to attend a Celtic match in their company. They are a great group of people to be involved with and it was a fabulous experience for me to travel to Scotland for one of their functions in Jimmy Delaney's home town," smiled Willie.

Of course, in Willie's day, football was very much a part-time game and while representing his home town club at weekends and training on week nights, Willie was employed by Derry Corporation.

Many commentators of the time felt Willie's strength lay in his high level of fitness and his ability to head the ball. Indeed, to this day, the 78 years old attends a local gym most days and he walks regularly to keep himself in shape.

Last Friday night at the Sligo game, Willie occupied in his usual perch in the Glentoran Stand in the company of his young grandson and, as usual, he headed and kicked every ball over the 90 minutes.

Having played against Celtic and been on the Derry team which won two of those games, Willie will again be urging on the 'Candy Stripes' but now before he sells his usual allocation of half time draw tickets!



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What's all the fuss about?

IF EVER a football team was in danger of succumbing to the dreaded malaise of failing to be recognised in its own land, then Gordon Strachan's Celtic fits the bill.

Celtic take on Derry City at The Brandywell this evening assured of the warmest of Foyleside welcomes that will resonate even louder into the Autumn air now that one of the city's most gifted football sons, Paddy McCourt, has joined the Parkhead club.

Yet, incredibly, there are those amongst the Celtic Faithful here, in Scotland and further afield, who have been heard to murmur words of discontent with the performances of the current Strachan side that last May completed the club's first hat-trick of League Championship wins since Jock Stein's all-conquering XI completed its nine-in-a-row in 1973-74.

One early season Old Firm defeat – even at home – has rarely sparked such negative comment as the recent 4-2 league loss to Rangers. It's as if the seven consecutive SPL victories – including two home wins over their city rivals – that secured Celtic's 42nd league crown last May, never happened!

That's a travesty on the current manager and his squad who will again battle it out with Walter Smith's men for league supremacy next Spring while also seeking a lengthy run in Europe. But there's a larger picture that some fans appear to happily ignore.

The facts could hardly be clearer: Celtic has won more league titles during this decade – six since 2000-

01 and seven in the past 11 seasons – than all but two Hoops' teams in the club's history, the 'Lisbon Lions' and the famous Willie Maley team of the early part of the last century.

Newry-born Maley – whose reign at Celtic Park lasted an amazing 43 years to 1940 – guided 'The Hoops' to seven titles in 10 years between 1904-05 and 1913-14 and 10 championships in 13 seasons to 1916-17.

Unprecedented Success

Correctly, the unprecedented success of the Lisbon Lions' side of the sixties and seventies remains the benchmark against which all Celtic and Scottish teams will be measured.

And in this era of television-driven income dictating the budgets of most European leagues, countries such as Scotland naturally find it hard to compete with teams from larger states.

So it's only right that the success of the teams managed by Martin O'Neill and Strachan should be hailed for what they have achieved.

And it should not be forgotten that Celtic's UEFA Cup final appearance in 2003 probably condemned them to lose that season's title on goal difference to Rangers a few days later while Scott McDonald's late double for Motherwell prevented the Celts from winning the 2005 league.

During the Jack Charlton years – between January, 1986 and December 1995 – I occasionally reminded Ireland fans to savour and

enjoy the success that the national senior team was enjoying, warning them that football's cyclical nature and the relative size of the country would inevitably lead to less heady days.

And, apart from the 2002 World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea, that's exactly what has transpired during the past 13 years although there are genuine grounds of optimism that Giovanni Trapattoni can lead the nation to a fourth appearance on football's greatest stage in 2010.

Celtic are undoubtedly in a stronger position in the SPL than Ireland is in European and world terms, but there are strong parallels between Ireland's fortunes and that of the Parkhead club when it comes to assessing the Celts' continental campaigns of recent times.

Reaching the UEFA Cup final against Porto in Seville in 2003 has been followed up by last 16 appearances in the Champions League during the past two seasons. And it can be argued with some justification that had Strachan's side avoided AC Milan (eventual winners in 2007) and Barcelona, then they might have travelled on to the quarter-finals.

In qualifying for last May's UEFA Cup against Zenit St Petersburg, Rangers also proved that the SPL can certainly continue to mix it with anybody at the business end of that competition.

So Hoops' critics should think twice before idly mouthing insults at the Celtic team that goes in search of a landmark fourth consecutive league crown this season.

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Boyle arrives at Brandywell from Celtic ...

Paddy can win his medal the other way!

DECLAN BOYLE had to go from Celtic to Derry City to win his only league medal but the Donegal man believes that Paddy McCourt can do it the other way around.

NEIL O'RIORDAN

(Irish Sun)

writes for 'Cityview'

Prior to McCourt's move a few months ago, Boyle was the last player to join Celtic from a League of Ireland club.

In July, 1995, Boyle was signed by the late Tommy Burns from Sligo Rovers after a recommendation from Willie McStay who had joined the Celtic coaching staff after a spell in charge at The Showgrounds.

However, the central defender never played for Celtic's first team before he returned home to play a part in the closing stages of Derry City's title triumph in the 1996/97 season.

McCourt has yet to be picked by Gordon Strachan for a competitive game, but Boyle is confident McCourt can fare better than he did.

Whatever happens, he is convinced that the 24-year-old will not regret his move to Scotland.

The current Finn Harps player said: "I was a bit surprised when the move happened because there had been no talk of Celtic.

"It looked that it was West Brom all the way, but I can completely understand why Paddy has gone for Celtic. It is a great opportunity for him to further his career.

"He has been one of the best



Declan Boyle pictured in action for Finn Harps against Sligo Rovers.

players in the League of Ireland for the last while. You just have to look at the way there are two or three defenders around him when he gets the ball to see how good he is. He is definitely capable of playing at a higher level," insisted Boyle.

"I think Celtic will suit him better. I know Tony Mowbray because he was at Celtic Park when I was there and he is a really good guy.

"But West Brom were probably looking for more experienced players to play in their team and it might have been more of a step-up if he had gone to England rather than the SPL."

For Boyle, moving from Sligo to Celtic was a massive step-up but -

13 years on - he does not believe the transition will be as difficult for McCourt.

Boyle recalled: "At Sligo, we trained only two times a week and played on a Saturday or a Sunday so full-time training came as a bit of a shock to me.

"It's in Paddy's favour that he has been a full-timer with both Rochdale and Derry so he will know what to expect. The fact that he was halfway through the current season with Derry, will help him when it comes to pre-season as well.

"But he will need a bit of luck. People don't understand how much an injury at the wrong time can seriously affect you as a player.



Derry City chairman Pat McDaid pictured prior to the recent 'Old Firm' game at Celtic Park with Celtic boss, Gordon Strachan, former Derry player, Paddy McCourt, Celtic Youth Development Officer, Willie McStay and Mr. John Duffy and Mrs. Marie Duffy, Ashley Martin Shopfitters, Carndonagh, who are the sponsors of tonight's fixture.

"In my second year with Celtic I was captain of the reserve team and was in the first-team squad a few times but I picked up injuries at the wrong time.

"I'm not using that as an excuse. I probably wasn't good enough to play for Celtic, but I might have gotten the chance to find out one way or the other had I stayed fit.

"That will be important for Paddy. Not only does he need to stay fit but he might need one or two others to get injured for him to get his opportunity."

Boyle is hoping to get the chance to watch Paddy play if he does get selected as the Donegal man is still the proud owner of two season tickets at Parkhead.

And he has reassured McCourt that, even if he does not make the breakthrough at the 'Boys,' it is not the end of the world.

"Of course it was a wee bit disappointing to have come home with not having played for them, although it helped that I walked straight into a Derry City team which won the league.

No regrets

"I had no regrets, though. It was my dream to play for them and I gave it my all to make that dream come through but, ultimately, it was not enough.

"I did everything right, both on and off the pitch. On my days off, I went in to train with the youth team so, in the end, I was able to look myself in the mirror and leave with my head held high because I did all I could.

"You can't do any more than that. I learned a lot while I was there. I came back as a better player, although I am sure others might

disagree! All in all, it was positive.

"I still try to keep in touch with Willie who is now reserve-team manager at Celtic. He didn't ever ask me about Paddy or anything like that, but I am sure he knew all about him. He wasn't around when I was last over in March when I brought over an Under-18 side of players with disabilities for a tournament involving Scotland and Northern Ireland.

"We brought the lads to Celtic's new training grounds one of the days and saw Gordon Strachan with the first team. The facilities are state of the art and I am sure Paddy is going to really enjoy being there.

"As I said, he will need a bit of luck to make it, but he couldn't have asked to be at a better club. I think he can make it and I really hope he does," concluded the former Derry and current Finn Harps centre-half.

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Agnes, wife of the late Jimmy Johnstone stands with former Lisbon Lions' Billy McNeil (left) and Bobby Lennox during a minutes applause in memory of Jimmy Johnstone ahead of the Bank of Scotland Premier League match between Celtic and Inverness at Celtic Park, Glasgow in March 2006.

A half century of dedication acknowledged ...

Long live 'King Billy'

HE'S remembered most fondly as the first man from these islands to hold aloft the European Cup in Lisbon in 1967, Billy McNeill is much more to Glasgow Celtic Football Club than just the captain of that magnificent side.

And his devotion and dedication to the Celtic cause was acknowledged at the recent SPL game against Falkirk when he celebrated half a century as a Celt.

Indeed many, most notably some of those who played alongside and under Billy McNeill, acknowledge him as one of the club's all-time greats.

Born in Bellshill in North Lanarkshire, McNeill joined Glasgow Celtic in 1957 and spent his entire playing career with the club, his most successful period when under the guidance of the legendary Jock Stein.

An uncompromising central defender, McNeill played in the famous nine-in-a-row side and of course, captaining the famous "Lisbon Lions." McNeill also collected nine Scottish Cup winners medals. Such was his reputation as one of the top players of his generation, he also won 29 Scottish caps.

On retiring from the game, McNeill found it virtually impossible to walk away and while he did take a sabbatical from Parkhead for managerial spells with Clyde, Aberdeen, Manchester City and Aston Villa, he twice took the hotseat at his home from home.

Indeed he was also recognised for his contribution to the game when he was awarded an MBE in 1976 and he also became one of the first members of the Scottish Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

However, while he has received many accolades down the years, Billy takes most pleasure from those

Long live 'King Billy' (continued)

given to him by those from within the game who knew the role he played.

Leader of Men

In fact, McNeill is on top of Bertie Auld's list as the greatest leader of men he's seen on a football pitch.

Auld, who played alongside McNeill, fondly remembers his skipper as "all legs, knees and elbows" half a century ago.

Speaking of McNeill, Auld said: "There was never any doubt Celtic would be the first British club to win the European Cup when Billy was captain of the side." And there was equally no doubting that Billy would commemorate Celtic's Centenary year by winning the league and cup double as manager in 1988.

"Bobby Murdoch was the best player I ever saw. Jimmy Johnstone was unsurpassed as the greatest entertainer I witnessed on a football field, but big Billy was a natural leader of men. He had presence and arrogance without being big-headed. When he walked into the dressing room in 1958, I instinctively felt it was the start of something big for Celtic.

"His father had been a soldier and his mother was a strong-minded person as well. Billy was brought up to be the type who had something to say when he started to shout and bawl. He didn't have any empty words. He was a majestic figure as a player. If those of you old enough can think back to the goal that beat Dunfermline to win the Scottish Cup in 1965, he had leapt so high he was actually above their keeper Jim Herriot and had to head the ball downwards to score.

"That trophy win ended seven barren years for Celtic and began the story of the modern-day team under Jock Stein. The goal Billy scored to beat Vojvodina in the



Lisbon Lions' Billy McNeill and Bertie Auld parade the European Cup.

European Cup semi-final two years later was even better in my estimation. It's the goal I'll always remember from my time at the club because it took us to Lisbon and the rest, as they say, is history," Auld went on. If any player at Celtic Park today wanted to look for a role model they could only look in big Billy's direction," he insisted.

Celtic paid tribute to McNeill at the recent game against Falkirk and the esteem in which he is still held within the Parkhead Faithful was evident to see. He was warmly received and acknowledged even by those who had never seen him play.

His legend will live on - great Celts are never forgotten.

Long live King Billy!

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one

Who was the first ever manager of Glasgow Celtic?

two

Celtic's biggest ever victory against Rangers was in the 1957 Scottish Cup Final. What was the score?

three

In which city did Celtic play the 2003 UEFA Cup Final?

four

Who was the founder of Glasgow Celtic Football Club?

five

Which player was voted 'Celtic's Greatest' in a fans poll in 2002?

six

In what year was Glasgow Celtic Football Club formed?

seven

Who captained the famous 'Lisbon Lions' side of 1967 which won the European Cup?

eight

Which club did the legendary Jock Stein manage before taking over as boss at Glasgow Celtic?



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Derry Journal

ANSWERS - 1. Willie Maley (he was in charge for an amazing 43 years, winning 30 trophies along the way); 2. 7-1 and it's still a record score of a British domestic Cup Final; 3. Seville; 4. Brother Walfrid founded the club as a charity to help poverty stricken Scots and Irish people living in the West End of Glasgow; 5. Jimmy 'Jinky' Johnston; 6. 1888; 7. Billy McNeill; 8. Dufferin Athletic.

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