

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

CELTIC

versus

PARTICK THISTLE

KICK-OFF — 7.30 p.m.

SEMI-FINAL
IBROX STADIUM
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER, 1st, 1958

Thumbnail Sketches of Celtic

DICK BEATTIE—Goalkeeper. 5 ft. 11 in., 11 st. 2 lb. Was taken to Parkhead from Duntocher Hibs in 1954. Came into Celtic's first team when John Bonnar was injured and held the position. A keeper of outstanding ability.

DUNCAN MACKAY—Right-back. 5 ft. 9 in., 11 st. 1 lb. From Maryhill Harp in 1955 as a right-half, he has won his first-team place at right-back by his distinguished performances. A studious defender, sure in the tackle and the kick, he ever contrives to start an attack from deep in defence by his accurate, low service to those in front.

NEIL MOCHAN—Left-back. 5 ft. 7 in., 12 st. Went to Middlesbrough from Morton and then brought back by Celtic in 1953 to prove himself possessed of one of the strongest shots in the country. But we now find him at left-back, and a thoroughly good job he is making of that demanding position.

ERIC SMITH—Right-half. 5 ft. 6 in., 11 st. 8 lb. It was in 1953 that this strongly-built lad arrived at Parkhead from Benburb as an inside-right. He had a spell there as well as playing at outside-right, and has now taken over at right-half, thus allowing Willie Fernie to step into the attack. A resolute, persistent middleman.

WILLIAM McNEILL—Centre-half. 6 ft. 1 in., 11 st. 2 lb. From Blantyre Victoria in 1957, he got his chance when Bobby Evans was compelled to lie off with a back injury, happily on the mend. McNeill's graduation to the first team proved the wisdom of his signing, for he has given a number of superb displays.

ROBERT PEACOCK—Left-half. 5 ft. 8 in., 10 st. 10 lb. Came from the Irish club Coleraine in 1949. Fast-moving, astute schemer, who knows the passes his forwards like to take on the run. Has been "capped" for Ireland against England and Scotland, for Great Britain against the Rest of Europe, and also excelled for Ireland in the World Cup series in Sweden. Has never bettered his present form.

CHARLES TULLY—Outside-right. Born Belfast. 5 ft. 8 in., 10½ st. From Belfast Celtic to Parkhead, June 1958. Can hold the ball to advantage. An Irish League honour before joining Celtic, he has since collected six full "caps" for Ireland against Scotland, England and France. One of the game's dazzling personalities.



BERTIE PEACOCK
who is playing brilliantly this season.
Was a World Cup player for Ireland.

WILLIAM FERNIE—Inside-right. 5 ft. 7 in., 10 st. 10 lb. Brought from Kinglassie Colliery to Parkhead in 1949, his promise as a junior came to fruition and is now accepted as the true ball master. Artistic ball worker who can go in and take a goal on his own.

JOHN COLRAIN—Centre-forward. 5 ft. 11 in., 10 st. 10 lb. It was in 1953 that this deadly scoring forward was signed from Ashfield. Gave an impressive exhibition against Kilmarnock when asked to take over the centre-forward berth, although an inside-forward when signed. Since then, he has steadily shown himself one of the brightest of this season's newcomers to the top grade.

SAM WILSON—Inside-left. 5 ft. 8 in., 10 st. 10 lb. Taken to Parkhead on a free transfer from St. Mirren in 1957, this right-half became a prolific scorer at inside-left. Scored four of Celtic's eight quarter-final goals against Cowdenbeath, at Central Park, on September 17.

BERTIE AULD—Outside-left. 5 ft. 8 in., 10 st. 10 lb. Joined Celtic from Ashfield in 1955, and after a period of waiting, won his place in the premier eleven and kept it by his sterling work and ability to snap a goal.

Pen Pictures of Partick Thistle

TOMMY LEDGERWOOD—Goalkeeper. 5 ft. 10 in., 11 st. Born Coldstream. Arrived from Coldstream in 1947 and quickly proved the soundness of the signing. Stops most of them. Is keen on fishing and shooting. Served four years in the Far East as R.A. sergeant. Was twice wounded in Burma.

FRED RENUCCI—Goalkeeper—5 ft. 8 ins., 10 st 6 lbs. From Petershill in 1958, he was a much sought after player but Manager David Meiklejohn won the race. An alert, safe-handling 'keeper.

JOE HOGAN—Right-back. 5 ft. 8 in., 10 st. 10 lb. Arrived from Newtongrange Star as a centre-forward in 1954, and played in that position for a time. Has, however, recently been at centre-half. Extremely fast. Plays from a low handicap as a golfer, and was the Bathgate boy champion before moving into the Senior class.

DOUGLAS BAIRD—Left-back. 5 ft. 8 in., 10 st. 6 lb. Went to Firhill from Armadale Thistle in 1954. Has justified his graduation to the first team by sterling defensive displays. An unflinching, eager defender who, even when harassed, schemes to find a colleague when clearing. This looks like being his best season.

DAVID MATHERS—Right-half. Born Glasgow. 5 ft. 10 in., 10 st. 9 lb. A Govan High School product who signed for Partick in 1947 and is recognised as a shrewd, thoughtful half-back who schemes to get his forwards on the move without delay. His service to those in front is as graceful as it is effective. Can operate with telling effect on either of the wing-half positions.

JOHN HARVEY—Centre-half. 5ft. 11½ in., 11 st. 6 lbs. Was signed from Victoria Park School as an inside forward, but now takes over the pivotal berth for the injured Jimmy Davidson. Has been eight years at Firhill during which time he has had spells of consistency when he held his first team place, and many weeks of misfortune. Played last Saturday against Queen of the South in this position.

FRANK DONLEVY—Left-half. 5 ft. 8 in., 11 st. 2 lb. Was discovered in Army football as a left-back, but on being switched to left-half, continued to show a resolve and assurance so valuable to Manager David Meiklejohn's demands.

JOHN MCKENZIE—Outside-right. Born Glasgow. 5 ft. 10 in., 12 st. Became a Thistle player in 1944 when he left Petershill to take the Senior plunge. During his Army service was loaned to Bourne-mouth and became one of the most profitable wingers in the South.

ALEC WRIGHT—Inside-right. 5 ft. 9 in., 11 st. 5 lb. Was signed when a schoolboy at Lambhill. Was loaned to Dalry Thistle and after being called up to Firhill, he went to the Army on National Service. A non-stop attacker who brings his colleagues into action with head and foot and can go in alone and snap a goal as he has proved more than once.

ANDREW KERR—Centre-forward. 5 ft. 10½ in., 11 st. Signed from Lugar Boswell in 1952. This strong and skilful leader has emphasised the shrewdness of Manager David Meiklejohn's signings. Since taking over at centre, has caused a stir by his clever displays and punch in the final thrust.

GEORGE SMITH—Inside-left. 5 ft. 10 in., 11 st. Was signed from Torpichen Juniors as an outside-right, but had a spell at centre. A restless, industrious young forager who can win a game on his own.

DAVID McPARLAND—Outside-left. 5 ft. 8 in., 10 st. 2 lb. From Larkhall Thistle in 1953, this fast, attacking winger has become a Firhill favourite. Was at inside-left until Tommy Ewing met with an injury.



THE LINE-UP FOR THIS EVENING'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL AT IBROX

SOUTHERN LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

- 1940-41 Rangers 4, Hearts 2 (after draw 1-1)
- 1941-42 Rangers 1, Morton 0
- 1942-43 Rangers 1 goal 11 corners, Falkirk 1 goal 3 corners
- 1943-44 Hibernian 6 corners, Rangers 5 corners
- 1944-45 Rangers 2, Motherwell 1
- 1945-46 Aberdeen 3, Rangers 2

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

- 1946-47 Rangers 4, Aberdeen 0
- 1947-48 East Fife 4, Falkirk 1 (after draw 1-1, after extra time)
- 1948-49 Rangers 2, Raith Rovers 0
- 1949-50 East Fife 3, Dunfermline 0
- 1950-51 Motherwell 3, Hibernian 0
- 1951-52 Dundee 3, Rangers 2
- 1952-53 Dundee 2, Kilmarnock 0
- 1953-54 East Fife 3, Partick Thistle 2
- 1954-55 Hearts 4, Motherwell 2
- 1955-56 Aberdeen 2, St. Mirren 1
- 1956-57 Celtic 3, Partick Thistle 0 (after draw 0-0, after extra time)
- 1957-58 Celtic 7, Rangers 1

The ball used in this match is the THOMLINSON Improved "T" ball. It is supplied by The Sportsman's Emporium, 103 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, and manufactured by Wm. Thomlinson Ltd., Glasgow.



WILLIAM W. WATERS,
Scottish League President

IN the event of a draw at the end of 90 minutes, an extra half-hour will be played. If still drawn, the replay date will be announced through the Press.

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J. McGrory, The Record-Maker

JAMES McGRORY was recently honoured in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, as "the greatest Celt alive." How worthily earned! Because the Celtic manager, who, his favourite pipe going nicely, enjoys nothing better than a quiet stroll around Braemar seeking only the beauty of the landscape, was indeed one of soccer's immortals—a great Celt, and a great leader of Scotland on the International field.

He was acclaimed for his record-making feats, but he will tell you his proudest day was when he was signed by the late Willie Maley. He dreamed of such a day and he was just a little bit bewildered when he realised his boyhood ambition was a reality.

As a member of the St. Roch school team, Jimmy played at outside-right. He had never seen Celtic play, but it was always his ambition to wear the famous green and white and lead the attack.

He had earned a reputation as a goal-scorer with the St. Roch Junior eleven, and it was with them (playing at inside-right) that he first revealed his heading craft. He won a Scottish Junior Cup medal in his last season with St. Roch.

Celtic signed him as an inside-right, loaned him to Clydebank (then in the First Division) and recalled him to begin his record scoring achievement as a centre-forward.

Unbeaten Record

His record of 410 League goals still remains unbeaten in Britain. All told, he scored 550 goals in first-class football, most of them with his head.

He was "capped" seven times—twice against England, four times against Ireland, and once against Wales. On five occasions he represented the Scottish League against the English League.

In his first season as manager with Kilmarnock the team reached the final of the Scottish Cup.

When his old player colleague, James McStay, vacated the managerial post at Parkhead, the choice of successor fell to the man who has led Celtic to so many famous victories.

Like Jimmy Quinn

Jimmy McGrory had something in common with a former redoubtable Celtic centre-forward, none other than Jimmy Quinn, whose fame travelled round the world, even to countries where soccer was little known. He was all energy, ever on the watch for a dash through at top speed to connect with the balls coming across from either wing. Jimmy Quinn was just like that.

His inspiring leadership turned many a game that looked like going the wrong way for Celtic. Balls went off his head with such speed that goalkeepers, although on the alert, had little or no chance of getting their hands to them.



Manager James McGrory

One of his happiest International recollections must be the 1931 game at Hampden when an All-Tartan eleven, which he led, beat England 2-0, Jimmy notching one of the goals. The team had gone on to the field that day with scant praise from the critics. England reckoned that their team for height, weight and skill was one of the best ever.

Great Goals

At half-time, with no scoring on the board, captain David Meiklejohn told his colleagues "We are all right so far. We have a chance. Get stuck into it, and everything will work out fine." And so it was.

Just fifteen minutes of the second-half had gone when the Hampden Roar rose in terrific volume. Bob McPhail and Alan Morton originated a movement which pierced England's outfield defence and with a gliding shot, George Stevenson had the ball in the net.

Scarcely had the "Roar" subsided when it rose again like to split the heavens. Alan Morton got the ball over and Jimmy McGrory "the fiery Celt" as an English commentator dubbed him at the time, was on it like a bird. Scotland became two goals up and stayed there.

This McGrory goal was the type with which he thrilled Celtic's followers and so greatly contributed to his wonderful record which still stands as a monument to his unrelenting endeavour.

He could narrate many another dramatic incident in his illustrious career, but nowadays his pre-occupation runs in a different groove.

He Was a Captain Bold and True

TO write of David Meiklejohn is to at once thrill in the memory of this master tactician as Scotland's captain in some of the toughest International clashes—tough, that is, in the challenge from England's great teams, not in physical combat, although David could meet brawn with brawn without giving way.

And on the field where tonight's League Cup semi-final is being decided, he proved himself one of the finest skippers Rangers ever possessed. There are those who maintain they never had his equal or Scotland a more telling half-back. Nowadays, however, Davie likes nothing better than guiding Partick Thistle to victory over his old club for whom he played 17 seasons, and won six Scottish Cup medals.

13 League Titles

He also won 13 League Championship medals, was "capped" four times against England, five times against Wales, five times against Ireland and played five times for the Scottish League against the English League.

He captained Scotland against England in 1930 and 1931, an honour greatly prized by the select band of Scots who have gained it. He was "capped" both as a right-back and centre half-back.

These are rich memories for David Meiklejohn to recall, but the event which he is least likely to forget occurred on April 14, 1928. Rangers had not won the Scottish Cup for 25 years. They had been in five finals, but a hoodoo seemed to haunt them.

Fateful Penalty

They were in the final again, faced by Celtic, their historic rivals. No scoring at half-time. "Who scores first, wins," was the conviction of the 120,000 crowd.

Eleven minutes after half-time, Willie McStay, Celtic right full-back, pulled down the ball as it was entering the net. As captain, David Meiklejohn felt he could not evade the responsibility of taking the penalty.

"It was a moment of agony for me," he recalls, "for I knew if I failed to convert the effect on our boys would be terrible! In a haze, I walked up to the ball, hit it and scored.

"The change was magical. We romped through the rest of the game, knocked the hoodoo flat and in later years made the winning of the cup look easy."

Those Cup-winning days have since departed from Ibrox.

Sporting Duel

Another recollection which he values was his duel with the renowned Dixie Dean in the International at Hampden in 1931. Both were strong men who could—and did—use the shoulder.

It was a private contest of their own, and at the end they felt tired and sore, but each was happy to have met an opponent worthy of his prowess. They shook hands on it.

His Debut

Young players might learn something from his experience on entering the testing arena of high-grade football. In his first game for Rangers, after having come from Maryhill Juniors, the strain on him quite naturally affected his freedom in action. He was conscious when the teams went in at half-time that he had not made an immediate name for himself.



Manager David Meiklejohn

Tommy Cairns, seasoned campaigner who was never burdened with anything of an inferiority complex, noticed that the young recruit was worried. "Cheer up, youngster. You're all right. Never mind if I do a bit of shouting—it's all for your good. You'll be a player some day."

Tommy was a true prophet. Long before he had handed in the key of his locker, he had seen David Meiklejohn fulfil his assessment of the youngster who had, almost in fear and trembling, taken his first step that day in what was to become the prelude to one of the most distinguished careers in Scottish football.

Now Davie, as Firhill manager, sees the inner problems of striving for success, and he wonders if the player, after all, has not the better of it.



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