

# MOTHERWELL v CELTIC

HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW  
WEDNESDAY, 3rd APRIL, 1991  
KICK OFF 8.00 p.m.



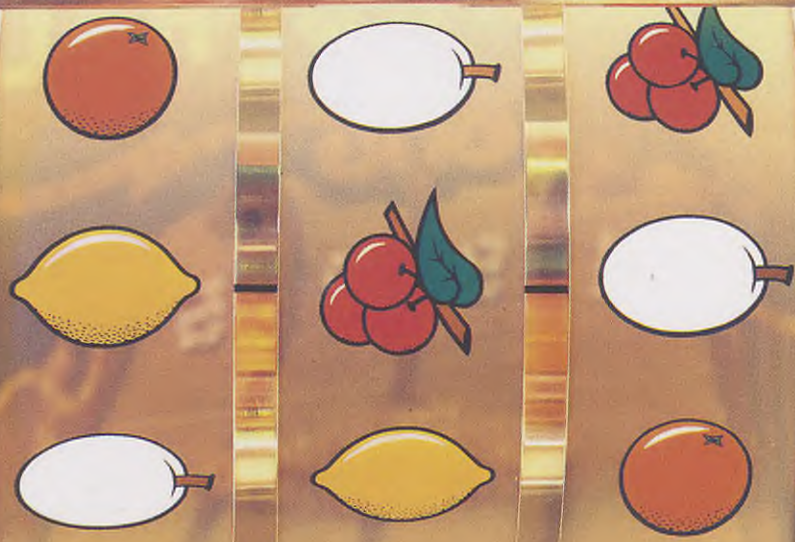
SEMI-FINAL TIE



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**O**N BEHALF of The Scottish Football Association, and the tournament sponsor, Tennents Caledonian Breweries, I am delighted to welcome Motherwell and Celtic to Hampden Park tonight for the first of this season's Tennents Scottish Cup Semi-Finals.

Semi-final ties are generally tense affairs, with both teams desperate not to make an error which could lead to their missing out on the most glamorous day in the Scottish football calendar—Cup Final day. However, both teams in tonight's match are capable of producing exciting, entertaining football and hopefully, the supporters present and the armchair fans watching on television, will be treated to an exhilarating match.

This year's competition is the second year of Tennent Caledonian Breweries sponsorship of Scotland's major Cup competition and I am sure that they have been enthralled by the drama and spectacle of some of the ties in this year's Tennents Scottish Cup. Clubs from as far north as Dingwall and as far south as Dumfries, in the shape of Ross County and Queen of the South, respectively, have contributed to the success of the tournament and reflect the national nature of the competition.

The Association is grateful to Queen's Park F.C. for readily agreeing to make Hampden Park available for tonight's match and for the co-operation and assistance which has been given to the Association's staff in organising the tie. Motherwell and Celtic are just one step away from the Tennents Scottish Cup Final on Saturday, 18th May.

May the best team win!

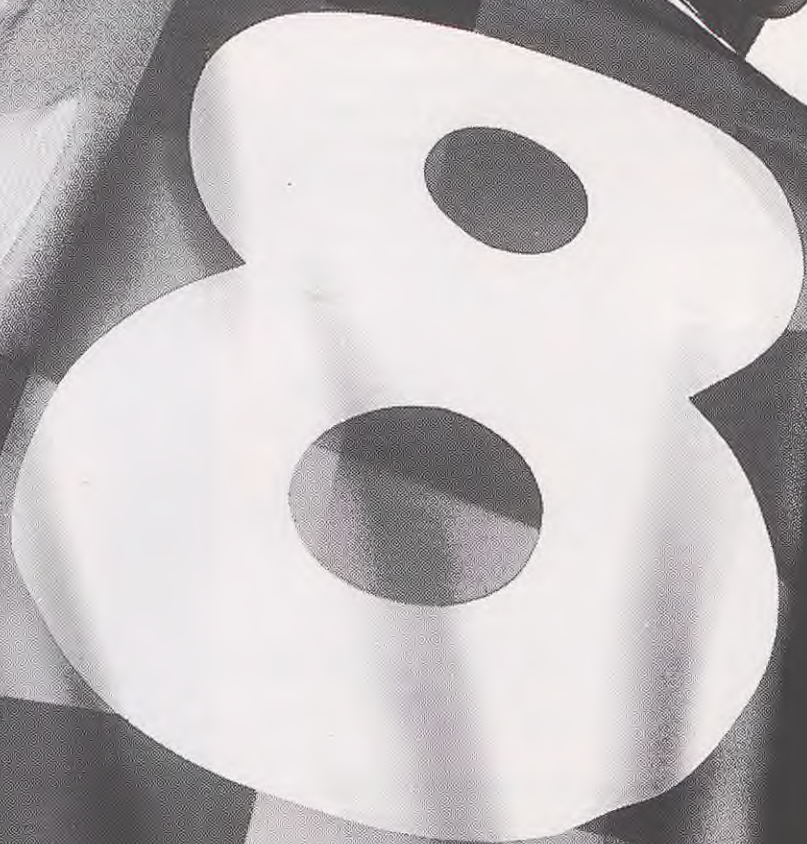
**Front Cover:**

- ANTON ROGAN (Celtic)
- LUC NIJHOLT (Motherwell)



**PETER GARDINER, President**  
The Scottish Football Association





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# TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP 1991



 Tennents created football history last season when the Scottish Cup carried the company's name in its title for the first time in the 118-year history of the trophy.

 The company, founded in Scotland

in 1556, teamed up with the Scottish Football Association to sponsor the Tennents Scottish Cup – a tournament steeped in history, excitement and passion for over 100 years.

 Who will forget the drama of last season's Final when




TENNENTS AWARD

Aberdeen won the Cup after a thrilling 9-8 penalty shoot-out with Celtic?



Alex McLeish held the trophy aloft and also collected the Tennents Award, a magnificent sculpture created for each year's winners of the Tennents Scottish Cup, and theirs to keep permanently.

 These prizes await the winning team at Hampden in May and much football has to be played before then, generating discussion and debate whenever football supporters meet.

 The company is proud to be associated with the trophy as sponsors of the Tennents Scottish Cup. We wish the players and officials of both clubs good luck in the match today and hope to welcome you at the end of the long, exciting road to Hampden – at the Tennents Scottish Cup Final, May 18th, 1991. Good luck.

**T**HEY say that in some ways it's worse to lose in the semi-final than the final of a big competition.

But that mega disappointment is what's in store for either Celtic or Motherwell after the business of playing this crunch tie is sorted out.

And it will be even sorer for the loser after the amount of hard work put in, in getting to this season's last four.

Celtic have taken a route via Forfar and a couple of home fixtures against Premier League opposition while 'Well have travelled successfully to Pittodrie and Cappielow and negotiated a difficult hurdle at their own Fir Park.

Neither has found Hampden tonight an easy place to get to!

Billy McNeill's team, though, have undoubtedly been impressive in their stride towards the national stadium.

Pat Bonner has not yet had the misfortune to pick the ball out of his net and the big Irishman would be happy enough to see that record continued.

He watched from the other end of Station Park as Celtic opened their campaign with a solid 2-0 victory over Forfar.

Tommy Coyne and Dariusz Wdowczyk did the damage that cold January afternoon as the Parkhead club repeated last season's success in bridge country.

It was a good result at a difficult venue and at a good time for McNeill whose team had suffered an indifferent run of results through the winter months up until then.

It also gave them the first whiff of Tennents Scottish Cup glory and although St. Mirren looked awkward Parkhead opposition in the fourth round

## 'WELL SPOT ON —CELTS STILL TO LOSE A GOAL

they were seen off with the minimum of fuss and bother.

A Norrie McWhirter own goal put the skids under Saints and Gerry Creaney and Joe Miller's goals merely emphasised Celtic's superiority.

But if that was expected to be difficult, then their quarter-final took on even more significance.

Celtic v Rangers. It could be a five-a-side on Glasgow Green and it would be important.

Come to think of it, the numbers weren't eventually that much greater after a torrid 90 minutes highlighted by a golden Creaney goal and a Wdowczyk rocket that flew off Terry Hurlock past Chris Woods.

The "lowlights" of that afternoon, though, gained more publicity much to McNeill's understandable annoyance and red cards for Peter Grant, Terry Hurlock, Mark Walters and Mark Hateley left the tie remembered for all the wrong reasons.

But at the end of it all, it meant Celtic were ready for yet another semi-final and, although they had to wait a couple of days for Morton and Motherwell to sort themselves out, it was the Fir Park side who eventually triumphed.

The fact that Tommy McLean's team needed a replay to get past the Greenock team belied their previous Cup form.

Few gave them a hope when they travelled north to Aberdeen for the third round but a splendid late strike from substitute Steve Kirk edged them through and had Tommy McLean feeling 10 feet tall.

'Well and Falkirk then put on a fourth round spectacular.

Nick Cusack set the tie alight with an early opener and he, too, had the final word with a glorious last-minute effort.

In between, however, Sam McGivern and Alex Taylor scored for the spirited Bairns with Joe

**It will be worse for the loser after  
the amount of hard work  
put in getting to the last four.**

## SEMI-FINAL TIE



■ Above: DARIUSZ WDOWCZYK (Celtic)  
■ Below: TOM BOYD (Motherwell)



McLeod and that man Kirk keeping the Motherwell show on the Cup road.

Yet after two outstanding results like them, the bandwagon nearly came to grief at home to Morton in the last eight.

Allan McGraw's troops drew 0-0 to force a Cappielow replay and even then it needed penalty kicks to establish Celtic's semi opposition.

Tom Boyd and ex-Fir Parker John Gahagan scored in normal time, no-one did anything in extra time and after that it was in the lap of the gods.

As it turned out they favoured 'Well or, more importantly, they didn't favour young Mark Pickering.

He was the only one to miss from the spot while Davie Cooper, Iain Ferguson, Steve Kirk, Bobby Russell and Colin O'Neill all netted to make it 5-4.

Now they must compete with Celtic for the right to return here next month for the showpiece event of the season.

Both teams have done well to get thus far but one is about to be forgotten. No-one ever remembers semi-final losers.



# A HAMPDEN FIRST FOR MAXWELL

**A LASTAIR MAXWELL** tonight will play his first competitive match at Scotland's national stadium.

That is a surprising statistic for Maxwell, still only 26, will have completed 10 years with Motherwell in November this year after joining the Lanarkshire club from Fir Park B.C.

Maxwell agrees and adds: "Most people playing that length of time with a Scottish club would have expected to have played at Hampden Park in some sort of game before now, but I have not even been involved here in a reserve match.

"But, having said that, can I quickly point out that I am no stranger and know my way around due to my involvement with Scotland at international level. Through being in the international squad I have worked at Hampden Park in the training sessions put in here by the squad".

Season 1990-91 is proving to be a memorable one for the 'keeper who has not had it easy and has had to strive to prove that he is one of the best in his position in Scotland.

The early years saw more than one heartbreak as he jostled to establish himself at

Motherwell. "For some time I did not have a consistent run in the first team but I retained the feeling that if I could just stay in for, say 10 competitive games I could prove that I was worthy of my place".

Ultimately, Maxwell saw off the challenges of others for his jersey, and he has since blossomed, a fact emphasised when national coach Andy Roxburgh called him into the international scene as one of the Scotland squad goalkeepers.

"That was a great delight to me, says Maxwell, "and I enjoy working at that level. My aim now is to progress further to a seat on the bench as the next step in my development,

for it has been a thrill to be named in the international squad".

This season has seen also the birth of his daughter and while Maxwell considers that his form may have been a little shaky momentarily in the early days after her arrival, he is now confident that he is back to top form.

By the time he trots out onto the Hampden Park pitch tonight he will have gone through his pre-match routine to prepare himself mentally and physically for the strictures ahead.

"Two days before any match I like a hard training session and, at Motherwell, that is always enjoyable as we do group work and everyone is involved.


"Then, the day before the game is set aside more for relaxation and a gentle limber up. But that evening I spend part of the time watching videos of previous matches and, in particular, a couple of goalkeeping technique videos so that I can run everything over in my mind. That is important to me.

"On the day of the game time is spent relaxing and getting into the correct frame of mind. Then it is on with the action".





INTERVIEW BY **BILL MARWICK**



It was great  
to be called  
into the national  
team squad . . .

My aim now is to  
progress to a seat  
on the bench—  
its the next step in  
my develop-  
ment . . .

