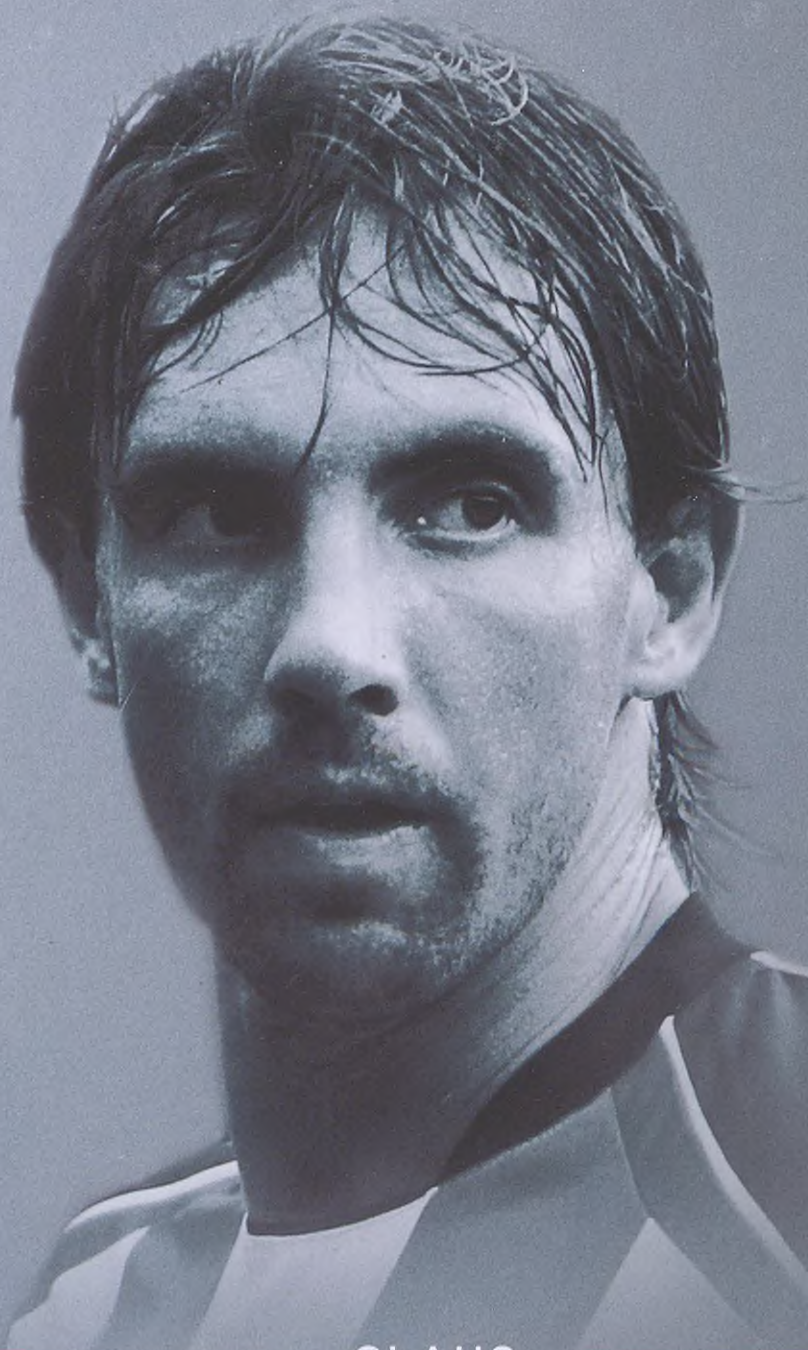


SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME



CLAUS

LUNDEKVAM

TESTIMONIAL



Southampton v Celtic

Friday 18th July 2008 Kick off 7.45pm £5.00



ivve.com



Welcome to what is a very special night for me as I get the chance to say thank you and goodbye to all of you.

It has not really sunk in yet that my career is over. I have been so distracted by this game that I have not had time to think about it. But I am sure it will hit me hard when I pull on the red and white stripes tonight for what will be the last time.

Over the years I have fractured my cheekbone three times, dislocated my shoulder and picked up countless cuts and bruises and I have never shed a tear. But I am certain I will cry tonight.

It is going to be a very emotional occasion for me. I have absolutely loved playing for this club. It has been an honour and I feel very fortunate to have been here for so long. People say it is an achievement to stay here for 12 years but why would I have wanted to go anywhere else? I was already at the best club in the country!

It may not be the biggest or the most wealthy but some things in life are more important than that - like personal happiness. I know I could not have had a better time or met better people anywhere else. I love the city and the fans and I have made so many good friends here. Although I am very sad that I have had to pack up through injury earlier than I would have wished, I am very grateful for the good times I have had.

It would have been much worse if the ankle had gone when I was in my twenties. At least I have had a good and long career and I have enjoyed every minute.

There is no way I could have continued playing even with another year of rehab so there was no option but to pack up otherwise I could have caused myself serious problems in later life.

I have been working hard though to get myself ready for tonight and hopefully I will just about manage to get through the last 10 minutes - and to play alongside Michael Svensson one last time. I am so pleased he looks to be on the road to recovery. He has worked so hard and no-one deserves it more and if he could get back and play again then it would ease my own disappointment. The aim is for us to play the last 10 minutes because both managers want this to be a competitive game - and that has always been my own intention.

I am extremely grateful to Gordon Strachan for bringing Celtic down tonight...

I am extremely grateful to Gordon Strachan for bringing Celtic down tonight. We had such good times when he was at Southampton and I loved playing for him. It took some organising to get Celtic but I really wanted him to be here for this game because I played my best football under him. We could have had lesser opposition either last year or in a few weeks time - and maybe that would have made more money. But that is not what this game is about. I just want it to be a great night for the fans, for my family and for everyone connected with Southampton Football Club.

I must thank my testimonial committee for their incredible hard work to get this game on. Lisa Buckland has worked tirelessly along with treasurer Tony Lynn and Matthew Le Tissier and Francis Benali. I really value their efforts and dedication. Of course, I must also

thank Southampton Football Club for agreeing to stage this game - and all the staff who have worked so hard to ensure it goes smoothly.

Thank you too to Leon Crouch whose Fullers Group are our shirt sponsors tonight. He has been a good friend to me and very supportive. I must thank Graeme Souness and Lawrie McMenemy for bringing me here in the first place and for giving me a chance. They changed my life and I hope I have repaid their faith. I have learned something from all the managers I have played under and it

has been a fantastic time, a real rollercoaster ride but a wonderful experience. There are so many people I need to thank, too many to name them all here but people who have made me welcome here over the years and who are the heart and soul of the club. And most of all I need to thank my family, my parents, my lovely wife Nina and our two girls Tia and Kaja - and of course every one of you for turning out tonight. I hope it will be a very special evening - I know I will treasure the memories for ever.

I feel privileged to have been part of this great club for so long and it will always have a big place in my heart.





RUPERT LOWE

he has also been a big presence around the club and throughout the city. He has done a huge amount of work for the community, giving up his own time and turning out to present cheques or to aid good causes.

He always has time for the fans who have taken him to their hearts and made him one of their own. His laid-back character is deceptive because it masks a steely determination to succeed and he epitomises the winning attitude we want from our players.

It is very sad that we are losing him because his experience would have been a huge asset, particularly to the younger members of the squad. But he has had a top-class career and he will leave us with a lot of very good memories.

He deserves a good send-off tonight and on a personal level I am very pleased that Celtic have agreed to provide the opposition.

It will be good to meet up once again with Gordon Strachan who has stayed

in touch since his time here. He called in to see me a couple of weeks ago and I know he is very much looking forward to this evening.

His team will certainly provide a competitive game for us tonight and it will be a good gauge for Jan Poortvliet, Mark Wotte and the rest of the coaching team to see where we are in our build-up for the new season.

They will also see for the first time the special family feel there is to this club so I hope you will give them and the rest of our new signings a warm welcome as we say goodbye and thank you to Claus who has been a very loyal and committed player.

We wish him and his family well for the future and look forward to seeing him whenever he wants to come back and watch a match. I hope he has a great evening. Enjoy the game.

Rupert Lowe

CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON LEISURE HOLDINGS PLC.

I am delighted to welcome you all to Claus Lundekvam's testimonial game against Celtic which will be a very emotional occasion as well as a good game.

I have got to know Claus well over the past 12 years with his arrival coinciding almost exactly with my own. And I am very pleased that we are able to stage this match for him tonight.

He has been a tremendous servant to us. Solid and dependable on the pitch,



MICHAEL WILDE

This is a big night for Claus Lundekvam and for everyone at the club as we say thank you to a great servant.

I have only had the pleasure of knowing Claus for the past couple of years but I have been hugely impressed by him as a person as much as a player.

He clearly cares very deeply about Southampton Football Club at every level and he will be badly missed both on and off the field.

It is always sad when any player has to pack up because of injury but even more so when it is someone as

talented and as experienced as he is. Over the past 12 years he has been an excellent servant to this club and he fully deserves this testimonial.

I am delighted to welcome Celtic and of course our former manager Gordon Strachan who did such a wonderful job during his time here.

I am sure it will be a good game and one which will provide a fitting tribute to a great player.

Come on you Reds.

Michael Wilde

CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL CLUB



JAN POORTVLIET

He was strong in the air and good on the ground. He was not afraid to put in a tackle or to get hurt and he added great authority and stature to the back line.

He would have been a great asset to us this season with his experience and leadership as well as his football brain - he read the game so well.

But I am also sad not to have been able to get to know him as a person as I have heard only good things about him. He has done so much for this club off the field as well as on it and he will be a big loss.

Tonight though you have chance to pay tribute to his 12 years with Southampton - and it is also an opportunity for you to see the team in action for the first time this season.

We have had a few low-key friendlies already but this will be our first major test and I am delighted that Celtic are here tonight because they are top quality opposition.

I am pleased Claus has opted for a

competitive game because that will form an important part of our pre-season build-up.

It will be great experience for some of our younger players to play against such a strong side who have not only won the Scottish title for the past three seasons but who have also begun to make a mark in the Champions League.

I would like to welcome them and Gordon Strachan who did such a good job during his time as manager here. I know he is still a very popular figure at Southampton and his team will give us a very tough game.

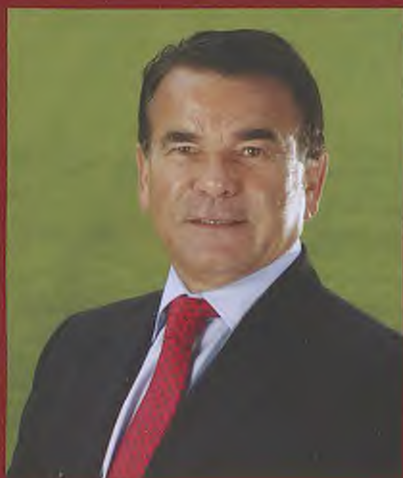
It will provide us with a good idea of how far we still have to go before the new season kicks off on August 9. But the most important thing is for everyone here to enjoy it and to take the opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to someone who has been such a great servant to the club.

Claus will always be welcome around the club and I wish him and his family well for their big night and for the future.

Unfortunately I did not get chance to work with Claus Lundekvam on the training field which is a great shame because he was a tremendous player.

Of course I knew of him through watching Premier League games on the television and through international football and I would have loved to have had him in my squad.

The fact that he has had to retire through injury is very sad both for him and for the club. It was clear from watching him play that he was a terrific centre-half with great pace and courage.



LEON CROUCH

As Chairman of the Fullers Group, I am proud to be the Saints shirt sponsor for tonight's game.

Claus Lundekvam has been a fantastic servant to the club and I hope he has a great night.

It should be a terrific game, despite the fact that I'm not playing! I did win an auction for the chance to play 20 minutes but Celtic have made it clear they want a competitive match and will not allow any amateurs, which will at least spare you the sight of my legs in football shorts!

Nevertheless I am very pleased to still be involved as the shirt sponsor tonight. I have a great respect for Claus who has proven to be a class player and during my time at the club I realised that he was a top man off the field too. He is a leader, a great character and a good person to have around the dressing room even when he was injured.

I would like to thank him for all he has done for the club and for his personal support when I was chairman.

I hope this will be a memorable evening for him and I wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

COYR!

GRAEME SOUNESS



I am very proud to have been the manager who brought Claus Lundekvam into English football - although I had no idea he would stay so long.

There is always a question mark when you sign foreigners because although they might be good players in their own country, you never quite know how they are going to adapt to the English game or fit in with their teammates. I have to say Claus has been absolutely fantastic for Southampton - a top-class performer.

It took him a season to grasp the English game but for me, he should have played his whole career in the Premiership because he was more than good enough. He had terrific pace to get him out of trouble and the older he got, the more he understood the game. He has been terrific value for Southampton - definitely one of the best signings I ever made at any club.

It was obvious he was a good player in Norway but the English game is more aggressive and quicker and there was always going to be a doubt about how he would handle it.

It took him a year to grasp the pace and ferocity of it and there were many times I was screaming at him to put the ball into Row Z. But that was Claus. He liked to play his way out of trouble and had great self-confidence that he could do it.

After a season he worked it out and he has been a top performer. His pace is deceptive but he could always recover and get back - and he was good at reading the game. He was brave - almost to the point of being too brave because he took a lot of knocks over the years, particularly to the head. But that was his whole-hearted approach. He was very popular in the dressing room too. He came in with a Norwegian mentality but settled in very quickly and won over the other lads from day one.

I would like to have worked with him for longer and in fact I tried to sign him when I was manager of Newcastle - but Southampton were not prepared to let him go. And I'm not surprised...

He had a ridiculous dress sense - and that has not got any better over the years by the way! But it endeared him to the rest of the lads. He took the banter and learned to dish it out and he was very quickly accepted.

I would like to have worked with him for longer and in fact I tried to sign him when I was manager of Newcastle - but Southampton were not prepared to let him go. And I'm not surprised. He had become a very steady centre-half in the English top level who just got on with the job. He was solid and dependable and his longevity is a mark of his quality.

He fully deserves this testimonial and I am absolutely delighted for him that he is receiving this recognition. I hope there is a big turn-out and the fans really appreciate all he has done for this club. Have a great night Claus!