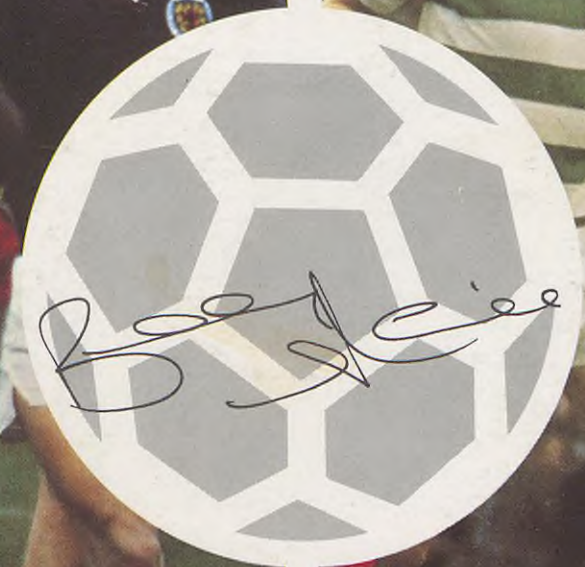


BILLY MCNEILL TESTIMONIAL GAME CELTIC • LIVERPOOL

Celtic Park Glasgow
Monday 12th August 1974 at 8:00 p.m.





Billy pictured at home, at Newton Mearns, with his wife Liz and daughters, Carol, Paula, Susan and Elizabeth.



Billy McNeill

Testimonial Committee

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THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



It is doubtful if there is any person in Scotland, from schoolboy to pensioner, remotely interested in football, who has not heard of Billy McNeill. This great sportsman has, during the past sixteen years, made an impression on the Scottish (and international) soccer scene that few can emulate.

We now have the opportunity to pay tribute, not only to Billy's great skill as a footballer, but to show our appreciation of the loyal and devoted service he has given to his club during a period when transfer requests are not infrequent.

On behalf of the Testimonial Committee I would like to thank all who have helped to make this event possible, and in particular the Chairman, Directors, Managers and Players of both Liverpool F.C. and Celtic F.C. who have provided the two great teams for this match.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Photographs in this brochure are used by courtesy of Scottish Daily Express, Daily Record, Glasgow Weekly News and Mr. H. Birt, official Celtic photographer, whose assistance is much appreciated.

Congratulations To Billy McNeill, M.B.E. ON A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL CAREER

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Our Captain

by Jock Stein

What makes a great player? It is a question I am often asked and the answer is always the same. He is one who brings out the best in others and when I say that I am describing Billy McNeill. It is this quality of bringing the units of a team together and inspiring them to play for each other and for the club which has raised our captain above all others over the past decade.

Others have been more flashy, some more publicised. Many have been acclaimed for their individualism, and those are the kind who are usually hiding when the work has to be done, but Billy McNeill has always been there to provide leadership on the field and an example to young players.

Billy McNeill came to Celtic Park in 1957 when I was coach. From the start we considered him, what the army would call, officer material. We saw him then as a future captain of the club and we groomed him to be just that.

The Celtic Football Club considered the captaincy of supreme importance and over the years we have had many great and inspiring men to lead our teams. From the day that Billy McNeill came to the Club we were sure that he was going to be yet another great Captain.

He joined us from Our Lady's High School in Motherwell and we sent him to Blantyre Vics for a season. He came into the team at an awkward period. The double winning team of 1954 was getting old and breaking up and there were remnants of the 7-1 League Cup team.

Things were changing, we were running into the bad times and winning nothing. There were rumours that Billy McNeill would go to England but that was never on. We listened to the talk knowing well that in the future he was going to be an important part of the team.

At this time I left Celtic Park to return later

as Manager. We then finished building the team and for the past nine years have enjoyed unprecedented success. Who could measure Billy McNeill's contribution to that success?

I have listened tolerantly as time after time he has been written off, he was past it, he was too old, and then he would have his best season and the talk would start all over again. Those who talked thus did not appreciate the professionalism of the man.

He has always kept himself fit and treated his body as an athlete should but above all he has retained his tremendous enthusiasm for the game. He has won more honours in football than any other Scottish player but he was still as keen in the last cup final as he was back in 1965 when he won his first Scottish Cup medal.

He has not been recognised at international level as often as I thought he should have been but he has always been there to be chosen and, when he has been, he has played for Scotland as he would for Celtic.

His story is the story of Celtic over the past nine seasons and the recurring picture is of him holding cups aloft for the acclaim of our supporters. Will we ever forget him at the top of the great stepped terracing in Lisbon with the European Cup in an upraised hand or the more frequent sight of him on the less splendid steps before the stand at Hampden?

Cups are marvellously exciting but the big test has been in maintaining consistency over a stretch of games to win a league championship and that calls for teamwork and for character, nursing and carrying off form players and much of the work falls to the captain.

We have now won nine league championships in a row and many young players have been brought into the team since those early days when Billy McNeill was introduced. There has been a heavy responsibility on him to start them off in the right way shielding them from early pressure, impressing on them the Celtic ideals, leading them by example, making them Celtic players. He has done his job well.

And now the Queen has honoured him with the M.B.E. and we are happy for him. He is the first active Scottish Player to be honoured by Her Majesty and that is good for him and for the Club.

And he brings me a special pleasure. There is nothing gives me more satisfaction than seeing a young lad coming to the Celtic Club and making his way as a player and then being married and having a good wife and a healthy family and a nice home. Billy McNeill has given me that great pleasure. I wish him and his family well.

Danny McColgan of
McCOLGAN BROS.

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Pleased to have been associated with you, Billy

**Best of Luck
in your Testimonial Year**

In his right hand a Cup...

by John Rafferty, *The Scotsman*.

The sun shone and the great green mass on the terracings throbbed but if the rain had spilled in heavy soaking sheets it would not have dampened the heavenly ecstasy. In two magical moments Paradise had been transported from Janefield to Lisbon. The lordly, cynical Inter Milan had led and swaggered, been caught and faltered and then in one memorable thrust laid low on the turf and there they panted in their death throes.

Jock Stein turned away unable to watch those last moments and made for the pavilion. The Celtic training squad held each other anxiously and watched the clock. Thousands of lips pursed in suppliant whistles willing the referee to sound the end.

And then it was all over and relief was unrestrained and players raised hands in exultation and the crowd spilled on to the field and it was carnival but in the excitement one important fact had been forgotten—the cup.

Billy McNeill was rescued from the tightly packed throng which danced and chanted towards the pavilion. Someone shouted, "The presentation! The presentation!" and he understood and looked back in dismay. Between him and the dias was the breadth of the field and then the many steps of the terracing and every yard of the way packed with victory happy friends all wanting to lay congratulatory hands on him.

A few willing ones gathered round him and fought a way across the ground. They shepherded him up the steps shielding him from the excesses of happiness and then wearied by a journey which was more arduous than ninety minutes of football he was at the top and had the cup and held it aloft and the moment was caught in cameras and he was frozen in the triumphant pose like a Greek god.

Such moments are not for many men and those for whom they are reserved are special.

But those who rejoiced had seen only what was on the surface. Some others of us had been privileged to see a bit more, the leadership at training and in the camp and in a memorable moment on the team bus.

There had been singing and banter and nerves were eased and there was team spirit even in the fun. They were all in it together. And then they reached the ground and in the bus all went quiet until the voice of the captain rang out, "Come on boys. Let's do a job." It was the call to battle and never better expressed.

The triumph of Lisbon should have been enough for any man but even seven years later the dip in the McNeill graph has been so astonishingly slight that the line is still higher than most players achieve.

In May he played in his 22nd cup final for Celtic. He had led them to their ninth successive league championship. Will any player equal such a record? And yet Billy McNeill does not see the cup triumphs as a group for in his mind all the cups are different and that is why he retains his enthusiasm so that the



One of Billy's proudest moments—
Celtic's European Cup win in Lisbon 1967.

last Scottish Cup final was to him as important as the first.

His creed is that no final is just another final. Each one is different. There was the Scottish Cup of 1965 and that had to be won and there was the Scottish Cup of 1974 and that had to be won. He sees each one as new and different and equally challenging and so he has not become blasé with success.

And maybe last season was the most satisfactory for him. Since he turned thirty there have understandably been whispers that a great career was in its last stages. He was getting on. Celtic had better find a successor quickly. He could not go on for ever.

And then last year these heavy prognostications had been choked in many throats as a coltish freshness was seen in his play and the spring in his legs still gave him mastery in the air and he played with authority and assurance and had maybe his best season for the club. The league and cup double were won with the inevitableness which has marked Billy McNeill's captaincy of The Celtic Football Club.

Now as in Lisbon the supporters gather but not to acclaim a single achievement but instead a decade of success. This captain has led their team to such success in the past ten years as their forefathers could not have imagined.

And as he has done so he has stayed the same Billy McNeill who was first noticed while playing for Our Lady's High School, a big man, a fair man, a normal man. Some in sport annoy by the intensity of their dedication. They become soulless automatons.

Billy McNeill has led a healthy moderate life. He is raising a fine family. He is successful in business. He is everything his father and mother must have wanted him to be. But more important to those who crush on to the terracings tonight he is all that they would want a Celtic captain to be.



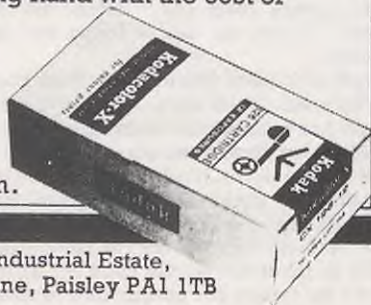
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Billy

Honestly, it doesn't seem like 16 years since I walked through the doors at Parkhead for the first time... a vastly different Parkhead now from then, of course.

I can still remember it clearly. There had been a number of other clubs after me while I was playing for my school, Our Lady's High at Motherwell. But I kept putting them off, hoping for Celtic.

Then after I played for the Scottish Schools Under-18 team in 1957 against England at Parkhead (we won 3-0) it all came true. I was signed (the day after I left school) by the then manager Jimmy McGrory and farmed out to Blantyre Vics for a season.

In April 1958 Celtic went on a close-season tour of Ireland, and with people like Bobby Evans, Willie Fernie and Bobby Collins away with Scotland for the World Cup in Sweden, I was taken along for my first real taste of what being a Celtic player was all about.

I must have showed enough promise to impress, for in the very next season I was in the first team more than 20 times. I was raw, just 18—but I was determined. And I had help from some superb players who nursed me through my beginnings.

Over the next season I was in and out the team playing in different positions in defence while I was learning my trade from some of the best teachers in the country. I was also working at that time with a firm of Glasgow insurance brokers, a job I maintained for three years until I finally decided to plunge into full-time football.

It is a decision I have never regretted. Just as I have no regrets about waiting for Celtic to come for me as a youngster. And just as I have no regrets about my 16-year career with the club when I watched many other players leave for the richer (or so they believed) pastures of England.

Celtic has been my life. And it has been a good life. Rich in triumphs and success, of course... nine League championship wins... that unforgettable 1967 European Cup victory... six Scottish Cup medals and five League Cup honours. International honours as well, 28 full caps in all.

But I have tasted disappointment quite often, too. Indeed, at the start of my career I was beginning to wonder if I would ever get to know what success was all about.

MY FIRST international appearance was at Wembley in April, 1961. The result was one which had Scots round the world hiding their kilt in a cupboard and speaking with a cockney accent—yes, it was the horrifying 9-3 debacle. I was shattered.

MY FIRST Scottish Cup Final followed a couple of weeks later. And to my sheer despair, we were beaten 2-0 by Dunfermline after a 0-0 draw. Manager of the Fifers was one Jock Stein, a name which is threaded through the fantastic pattern of triumph which Celtic have weaved in the past decade.

Jock was reserve team coach when I arrived at Parkhead, and his influence on all the youngsters at that time was tremendous. His impact on the whole of Scottish and indeed British football has since become just as fantastic. He is undoubtedly the greatest

manager this country has ever known. And his return to Parkhead in 1964 was the turning point not just in my career, but in Celtic's history.

Above all he taught us that just PLAYING football wasn't enough. For a club like Celtic success was necessary. Within months of his arrival, the team got the first sample of the staggering success which was to follow. And of all my honours I still cherish that 1965 Scottish Cup Final medal best of all. That 3-2 win over Dunfermline signalled the start of the most incredible years of my life.

When my friends on the organising committee for this testimonial match told me that Liverpool had agreed to come to Parkhead tonight—I was doubly delighted.

For a start, Bill Shankly's men are English Cup holders and one of the most attractive, aggressive sides in Britain. They will make sure the fans are given full value for money. Secondly, the 'Pool' are old rivals. Indeed, it was a DEFEAT from them back in 1965-66 which convinced me that Celtic were on the way to the top.

We met Shankly's men in the semi-final of the European Cup Winners' Cup. On the way to the semi we beat Go Ahead of Holland 7-0 on aggregate; Aarhus of Denmark (3-0) and Dynamo Kiev of Russia (4-1).

Then came the big one. In the first leg at Parkhead, we pulverised Liverpool... but only beat them 1-0, with the goal coming from Bobby Lennox. We could easily have had four more, and it took magnificent performances from two Scots to help keep the score down—centre half Ron Yeats and goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence. I doubt if they have ever played better. Even so, we still felt confident for the return game, and when half-time came with the score still at 0-0 we still looked likely winners.

It was our turn to defend, of course, and we withstood the same kind of pressure Liverpool suffered in the first game—with the aim always to grab another goal on the break. Then in the second half, Tommy Smith banged in a free kick which cannoned off our defensive wall into the net with the unlucky Ronnie Simpson going the wrong way and this was followed by a second from Geoff Strong. We were shocked, of course, but fought back in such a way that it was then the first signs were shown of the great things which lay ahead and if a Bobby Lennox goal hadn't been disallowed for no apparent reason, the success might have come in that season. As it was, however, the portents were confirmed when in the very next season we brought off the big one—the European Cup win over Inter-Milan in Lisbon.

Of course, it's only a couple of months since we played Liverpool again, in entirely different circumstances this time. It was Ron Yeat's testimonial game. It was a real gala night... and a win for a Celtic side which included the great Bobby Charlton as a guest.

I'm hoping for a night of the same sparkling splendour. I thank Liverpool for coming... and the committee for their shrewd choice.

And while I'm on the subject, I'd like to thank sincerely all the players who have helped make my life and times with Celtic so enjoyable and rewarding. The list is too great to recite. Let me just say to them all—thanks, Bhoys.

Billy's list of honours

The long, long honours list of Billy McNeill, M.B.E.—1974

Scottish international caps

- v. England (1961, 62, 64, 65, 68, 69, 72)
- v. Wales (1964, 69, 72)
- v. Republic of Ireland (1961 (twice), 63)
- v. Czechoslovakia (1961, 62)
- v. Northern Ireland (1962, 66, 72)
- v. Spain (1963, 65)
- v. West Germany (1964, 70)
- v. Poland (1965, 66)
- v. Finland (1965)
- v. Russia (1967)
- v. Cyprus (1969)
- v. Uruguay (1962)
- Total—28

League international caps

- v. English League (1961, 62, 64, 65, 67)
- v. League of Ireland (1962)
- v. Irish League (1962, 64, 66)
- Total—9.

Under-23 international caps

- v. Belgium (1960)
- v. England (1961, 62)
- v. Wales (1962, 63)
- v. The Army (1961)
- Total—6.

Under-18 Schools cap

- v. England (1957)

European Cup 1967

Scottish League Championship—1966, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74.

Scottish Cup—1965, 67, 69, 71, 72, 74.

Scottish League Cup—1965, 66, 67, 68, 69.

By the end of last season Billy had played in a staggering 783 first team matches for Celtic. He has played in a British record number of major Cup finals—22 in all.

And he holds another British record—with 68 appearances in European Cup football.

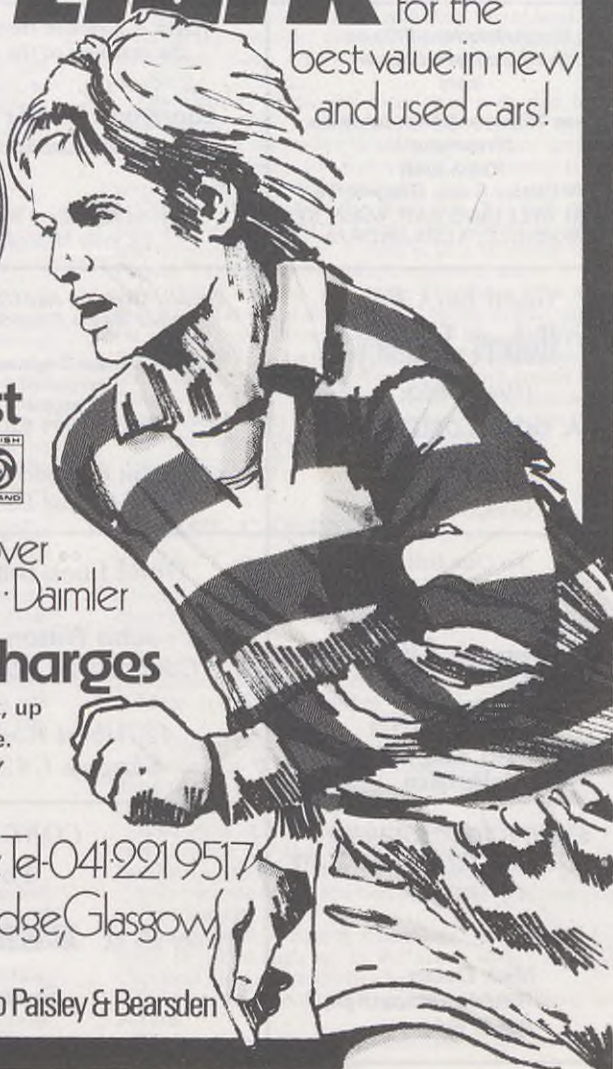
PERSONAL DETAILS

<i>Date of Birth</i>	2.3.1940
<i>Place of Birth</i>	Bellshill, Lanarkshire
<i>Wife</i>	Elizabeth (nee Callaghan)
<i>Children</i>	Susan age 9 years
	Elizabeth age 8 years
	Carol age 8 years
	Paula age 4 years
<i>Date signed for Celtic</i>	Provisional 1.7.57
	Called up 30.6.58
<i>Height</i>	6ft. 1 in.
<i>Interests</i>	Golf, Reading, Music



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Billy McNeill
on his testimonial

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<p>THE MEMBERS OF THE Celtic Social Club</p> <p>extend their Best Wishes to Billy McNeill on the occasion of his testimonial.</p>	<p><i>Congratulations to Billy McNeill</i></p> <p>The Management and Staff</p> <p>Williamwood Service Station</p> <p>Clarkston Road G44</p>	<p>Good Luck Billy John Walsh</p> <p>POSSIL BAR 342 Possil Road, Glasgow G4</p> <p>REUNION BAR 1051 Gallowgate, Glasgow G40</p>
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<p>EVERY SUCCESS AND GOOD LUCK TO THE FUTURE Billy</p> <p>From:</p> <p>Mick Ducey, Ritchie Fitzpatrick, Bill O'Brien.</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS BILLY <i>You've got it all sewn up</i></p> <p>from all at REMNANT KINGS</p> <p>Sword Street, Glasgow G31 (and branches)</p>	

THE MAN THEY CALL CAESER

by James Sanderson, *Daily Mirror*

There have been many great captains in football, both at club and international level.

And yet today it would be realistic to say that many captains, on and off the field, do not have the mystique or the character that makes them a breed apart.

The game is certainly the worse for that.

Billy McNeill epitomises in most eyes what a captain should be. He is the fulcrum around which so much must revolve and from which so much must evolve.

Nature has ensured he looks the part. Tall, straight and fair. Hard work has been allied to intelligence and he has soaked up atmosphere as a sponge does water.

He is the ideal captain because of a natural modesty as well as an equally naturally competitive spirit. These two qualities, smoothly, carefully blended make a rare spirit.

It is true, too, that great captains are often good public figures. I know Billy McNeill as a captain, a player and as a neighbour and that is an amalgam in which one really gets to know a man.

It is when he can be seen leading a team out to a European final with all the pomp and pageantry it involves or sparing the time to lead a horde of children, like a soccer Peter Pan, to kick a ball on ground a free-kick distance from his home.

Football has been good to Billy McNeill: giving him many of the good things of life and harnessing wealth to health and happiness. But the man fellow players call "Caesar" has put so much into it that the sport has been immeasurably the richer for his being in it.

BILLY McNEILL

by John Blair, *Sunday People*

The one natural asset inherited by Billy McNeill is that he's never lost the place. Whether it be in the busy city street or half an hour before a big game, Billy always has the time to recognise.

While no one will ever dispute that the major share of the McNeill success has been gained on the field... what happens off, has never been forgotten.

In his 17 great years as a Celtic player, and indeed in his 28 appearances for Scotland, he has kept the priorities right. He's never too busy or too occupied, not to say hello or listen to what you have to say.

My personal memory however—as for so many people in football—was Lisbon 1967. When the champagne laden European trophy was being passed round the dressing rooms, everyone was invited to join... including the press.

Like any other player he has moments of heat in a game but that is only a reflection of his great desire and sincerity to see Celtic win.

In these modern years, the name of Jock Stein has been synonymous with Celtic and success... Billy McNeill will always be connected in a similar manner... that is why he's being honoured tonight.

McNEILL—the glowing example

by Hugh Taylor, *Daily Record*

He has been a superb player, Billy McNeill, a centre-half to compare with Woodburn, Young, McStay, Cullis and Wright. He has been an inspiring captain. He has scored goals as dramatic as any in football's long history.

We are apt to forget that for the average Scottish boy, the footballer is the No. 1 hero. And players are apt to forget that they have much more to do than perform on the field. When they snarl and foul, kids feel they should do just that, too.

McNeill has set a new standard. He could be the hero of a boys' magazine story, captain of the school, head prefect. But he is no priggish Harry Wharton or Tom Merry. He is not faultless—as many a referee will tell you after coming to the conclusion that Billy himself was really refereeing the game!

Nevertheless, Celtic have never had a better centre-half. And certainly he should have received more caps than he did.

All I can wish Celtic is that their next centre-half and captain is only half as good as Billy McNeill. Even at that, they'll have the best in the land!

THE GAME BILLY MISSED

by Ian Archer, *Glasgow Herald*

According to football's enduring mythology, goalkeepers are candidates for Gartnavel and those mazy little inside forwards tend to lead personal lives as peculiar as any of their dribbles on the park. You can only trust your daughters with a centre half.

Centre halves are solid and enduring, their blood pressure stays on the low side, they are uncomplaining, stoical and have hearts of oak. All that—and more—can be said of Billy McNeill.

His value to Celtic for more than a decade has been incalculable. Who else has been big enough and strong enough to lift above his head that enormous monstrosity of a football trophy the European Cup. Jimmy Johnstone could have taken a bath inside it.

Others will mention the great matches and moments. But McNeill's worth to Celtic was shown in one Final where he did not play. I confess to a sneaking fancy for Partick Thistle, my own neighbourhood team.

In 1971 I took my seat in the Hampden Park stand for that was a day when no Maryhill correspondent could have sat among the unbiased in the Press Box. Minutes before the match Billy came in and sat three rows in front of me—the first time we knew he was injured and would miss the League Cup Final. "We'll win now," I said and so we did. But would the first trophy in fifty years have come our way if he had played. In all honesty I think not.

FINEST CAPTAIN

by Alex Cameron

There is no doubt that the finest captain in the grand history of Celtic Football Club is, and has been, Billy McNeill.

His example on and off the field and especially to the youngsters on the Parkhead staff has been exemplary.

Many indelible memories of him stretch over several years.

In April 1961 when he made his first international appearance at Wembley and simultaneously made up his mind to give up a job in an insurance office in Glasgow and concentrate full time on football.

Like most of his decisions it was wise despite the fact that it came on the day he played centre half in the Scotland side hammered 9-3 by England.

Billy was one of our few heroes as Johnny Haynes ripped our team apart.

And in 1967 there was that superb moment in Lisbon when he stood high up in the stand with the European Cup held high above his head.

He was, as I recall it, like a latter-day Caesar on the Forum.

Truly a great player and a fine man whom we should all be proud to acclaim tonight.

Billy McNeill, first gentleman of football

by Jim Rodger, *Daily Mirror*

Billy McNeill's name is synonymous with that of sportsmanship.

In an era when being a gentleman and a player do not go hand in hand, he has combined both qualities with rare distinction.

McNeill's name, of course, is inextricably linked with Celtic's greatest triumph, the winning of the European Cup that humid and unforgettable night in Lisbon in 1967. It would

also be true to say that the names of McNeill and Stein go together rather like water and Scotland's national drink.

All over the world, from Montevideo to Motherwell, Tel Aviv to Inverness, the tall, commanding figure has engendered the spirit of Celtic, the club proud of its tradition but which has always looked to the future, unshackled by successes in the past.

Much of Celtic's incomparable success has been due to McNeill but I know him, not as the idol of thousands, but as a youthful star who showed all the qualities of greatness very early. Even as a raw boned schoolboy, McNeill had the ability and the charisma, that stuck out like Ben Lomond.

I watched him play for Our Lady's High School, Motherwell, Scotland's schoolboys under 18's, ironically at Celtic Park, and as a junior with Blantyre Victoria. It was not difficult for anyone who knows football to see that here was a boy who as a man had success at his fingertips.

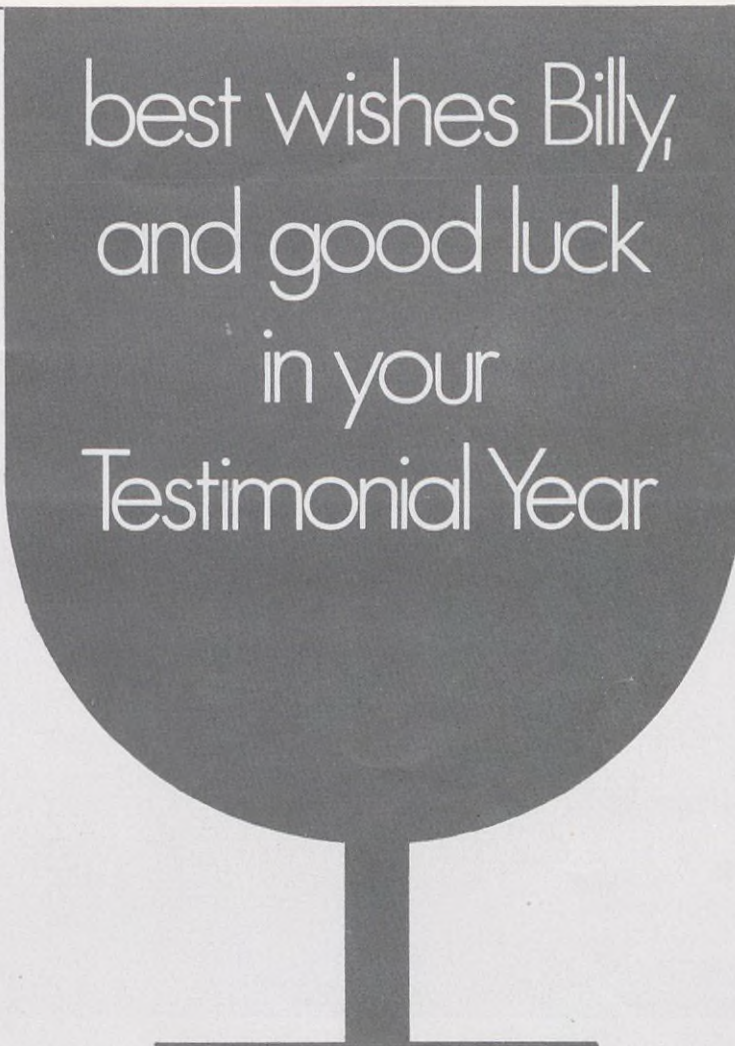
Often, the essence of greatness is simplicity, and, perhaps, that is McNeill's greatest attribute. The ability, as an individual, to be an inspiration to himself and others without being dictatorial. To dictate without dominating; to coax as well as cajole. McNeill, as many greats of the past, showed all these attributes at a very early age. Time has only added to these qualities, with experience the catalyst.

And yet the fair haired boy who attracted so many clubs, as a moth does to a flame, has not changed. Neither the adulation nor success has affected him. That is something to be as proud of as the battle honours around the football fields of the world.

McNeill remembers the days when as a youngster he was encouraged and coached. He does it in a practical way by reciprocating in the same fashion... putting into our game as much as he has taken out. And that is the measure of the man.



Billy scores the magic goal that started Celtic's run of success. Scottish Cup Final, 1965, won by Celtic against Dunfermline (score 3-2).



best wishes Billy,
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Billy the businessman



It is typical of Billy that, whilst at the top of his football career, he should consider his future upon retirement from the game. With consideration and planning, similar to that expended prior to an important game, he set about finding a position that would give him sufficient challenge and interest, and would go some way to compensate for the loss of full time football, in addition to providing the opportunity to maintain the level of security that soccer has established.

Fortunately, Celtic F.C. support the view that it is natural for a player to look to his future on retirement from the game as the Club reason that security at such a time is an important consideration for young players contemplating entering professional football.

Billy found the position he was seeking some seven years ago and he took up a directorship

in Milnrow Development Co. Ltd. He has played an active part in developing the Company's interests in the Hotel and Catering industry and has acquired a positive flair for assisting the expansion of the Company's activities in the provision of hire purchase finance and mortgage facilities.

Switching from football strip to office "business grey" has not proved too difficult, although Billy has always ensured, over the years, that his football commitments have at no time been impaired and maintained the proper balance between his obligations to Celtic and the future security of his family and himself.

His integrity, coupled with his determination to succeed, will ensure that he makes a success of his business life.

meet the men from Merseyside



LIVERPOOL 1974 F.A. CUP WINNING TEAM

Goalkeeper Ray Clemence. Joined Liverpool from Scunthorpe United in June 1967 for £18,000 and became first team choice two years later. Now one of Britain's best and a challenger to Peter Shilton of Leicester for the England job. Born in Skegness, he's 5 ft 11½ in and weighs 12 st.

Defender Tommy Smith. Strong man of the Anfield team, although he was out of the side for a spell last season. Former captain, he's a long-service man having made his debut in May 1963. From Liverpool, he has won Youth, Under-23 and full honours. 5 ft 10½ in and 11 st 7 lbs.

Defender Alec Lindsay. Made 126 appearances for his home town team Bury before joining Liverpool in March 1969 for £60,000. Strong player who loves to get going up in attack and can grab a vital goal. 5 ft 8 in, 10 st 10 lbs.

Defender Phil Thomson. Local-born youngster who joined the club as an apprentice player from school and turned professional in January 1971. England Youth cap he stands 6 ft tall and weighs 10 st 7 lbs. Made his breakthrough last season and looks there to stay.

Defender Emlyn Hughes. Joined Liverpool from Blackpool in March 1967 for £65,000. Currently the England and Liverpool captain, he can play in defence or midfield. From Barrow, he is 5 ft 10½ in, 11 st 13 lbs.

Midfield man Peter Cormack. Brilliant Scottish internationalist who was playing for Hibs at 15. Was a first-team regular at Easter Road for many years and a Scottish Under-23 and full cap when he signed for Nottingham Forest for £85,000 in March 1970. Liverpool paid £25,000 more than that to get him two years ago and never regretted the deal. 5 ft 8 in, 10 st 12 lbs.

Forward Kevin Keegan. Shot to stardom after joining Liverpool from Scunthorpe for £35,000 in May 1971. Scored on his First Division debut and kept on getting vital and spectacular goals. Fast, skilful and a tremendous player in the air for his size he has won England Under-23 and full honours and become recognised as the most exciting forward in England. Born near Doncaster, he's 5 ft 8 in and 10 st 10 lbs.

Forward Brian Hall. Tricky little Glasgow-born winger or midfielder man. He signed for Liverpool in June 1968 after gaining a science degree at the local University. Small but alert and aggressive. 5 ft 7 in, 10 st 6 lbs.

Forward Steve Heighway. Another University graduate, this Dublin born Eire international striker was signed in May 1970 after a fine career with amateurs Skemersdale United. Likes to break up the left and has a tremendously long, deceptive stride which carries him at great pace. 5 ft 10½ in, 11 st 7 lbs.

Forward John Toshack. Welsh international striker who cost £110,000 from Cardiff in November 1970. Tall, awkward looking he makes and takes the goals, being particularly dangerous at the far post when the high crosses come in. 6 ft, 11 st 7 lbs and born in Cardiff.

Forward Ian Callaghan. Can play on the wing or in midfield. Vastly experienced player with more than 600 senior appearances to his credit since his debut at 17 in April 1960. Has won a couple of England full caps and also Under-23 honours. Won three League medals and two Cup badges. 5 ft 7 in, 11 st 11 lbs.

the teams

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Mr. A. Macewan (Glasgow)
Mr. J. Dearie (Uddingston)

Shanks

"Ee-ay-adio, we've won the Cup." The famous Merseyside chant swept round Wembley on May 4—just about the same time as the Celtic fans were recording their approval for a similar feat at Hampden.

Pool were winning the trophy for the second time when they beat Newcastle United. For Celtic, the victory over Dundee United was the 23rd triumph.

But despite this vast gap in the success 'score' there can be no doubting the right of Liverpool to be rated among the great clubs in Britain.

Their full record reads:

First Division Champions—1900-01, 05-06, 21-22, 22-23, 46-47, 63-64, 65-66 and 72-73.
Second Division Champions—1893-94, 1895-96, 1904-05 and 1961-62.
F.A. Cup winners—1964-65, 1973-74. (Beaten finalists in 1914, 1950 and 1971)
U.E.F.A. Cup Winners in 1972-73
European Cup Winners Cup finalists in 1965-66
European Cup semi-finalists in 1964-65
Fairs Cup semi-finalists in 1970-71.

It's an imposing list. And the man who has guided Liverpool to much of that success in the past 15 years is the legendary Bill Shankly.

'Shanks' has spent most of his life in England, yet in magical contrast to some others who become Anglicised within a few months he retains an accent as thick as steeped oatmeal.

His rasping voice has delivered some of the most-quoted humorous and penetrating remarks.

But his record is as big as the legend. Under Shanks Liverpool have won three First Division titles, one Second Division crown, two F.A. Cup finals and the U.E.F.A. Cup.

Formed in 1892, when they took over their present ground after Everton—the original tenants had moved to Goodison Park—Liverpool spent their first season in the Lancashire League, though not by choice. Immediately following their formation they applied for membership of the Football League's Second Division but the Management Committee of those days turned them down, suggesting they should first prove themselves worthy of League membership. This Liverpool quickly proceeded to do, for they topped the Lancashire League at the first time of asking and also won the Liverpool Senior Cup.

Although relegated from the First Division on four occasions, three times they regained their status in a season. Although it took the club eight years to win promotion the last time they suffered relegation, only once during those eight years did they finish lower than fourth in the Second Division.

Liverpool were the first Football League club ever to top the Second and First Division in consecutive seasons, which they did in 1904-05 and 1905-06. Only three other clubs have since equalled this performance.

During the last eight years three new cantilever stands have been erected at Anfield. The Liverpool club's ground is now one of the best and most up-to-date in the country, with a capacity of approximately 56,000, the vast majority of whom are under cover.

From 1905-06 to 1953-54 the Liverpool club maintained an unbroken association with the First Division, a run of almost half a century in the top flight of football. Only Sunderland can boast of a longer unbroken senior membership.

Billy in action



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<p>CONGRATULATIONS BILLY</p> <p>Michael Heraghty</p> <p>HERAGHTY'S INN 188 Oxford Street, Glasgow.</p> <p>GOLDEN STAR BAR 708 Pollokshaws Rd., Glasgow.</p>	<p>Congratulations to Billy and Good Luck in the Future</p> <p><i>Bobby & Kathryne Lennox</i></p> <p>BOBBY'S BAR Countess St., Saltcoats</p> <p>SALON 70 (Hairdressers) Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats</p>	<p><i>Wishing you every success in the Future Billy</i></p> <p>JOHN HUGHES (Proprietor)</p> <p>THE GREAT BEAR CALDER STREET COATBRIDGE</p>
<p>Tommy Bradley</p> <p>(John Classic)</p> <p><i>Extends his best Wishes to Billy McNeill in his Testimonial Year</i></p>	<p><i>All the very best to Billy McNeill</i></p> <p>John Boyle</p> <p>Dixon's Blazes Bar 371 Crown Street Glasgow G5</p>	<p>Bertie and Liz Auld</p> <p>SHAWLANDS HOTEL AYR ROAD by LARKHALL STONEHOUSE 445</p> <p><i>Congratulate Billy on his long and successful career with Celtic.</i></p>
<p><i>Congratulations Billy</i></p> <p><i>Norrie & Mary Douglas</i></p> <p>THE GLEN BAR 190 POLLOKSHAWS ROAD GLASGOW G41</p>	<p>Tommy Cairns</p> <p>EAST-BANK SERVICE STATION 1592 SHETTLESTON ROAD GLASGOW G32</p> <p><i>wishes Billy McNeill The Best of Luck in his Testimonial Year</i></p>	<p>John & Penny Armstrong</p> <p><i>"Well Done Billy"</i> <i>The Best of Luck</i></p> <p>THE DRY DOCK BAR 4 Plean Street Scotstoun Glasgow G14</p>
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Billy

by Allan Herron, *Sunday Mail*

If there is any credit going for the remarkable career of Billy McNeill, then I am claiming a piece of it right here!

On a wet miserable afternoon on the ground of Blantyre Victoria Junior F.C. it was yours truly who unleashed Billy McNeill on the world of football. An extravagant claim perhaps, but true—though I didn't realise it until many years later.

It was around 1957 when I went to report a Junior football match at Blantyre while I was working for a Glasgow evening newspaper which no longer exists.

The Vics' centre half was A. N. Other. Must find out who he is later, I muttered to myself. He was tall, pale, and all legs. I didn't reckon he'd make half-time in the cold, rainy, muddy conditions, never mind finish 90 minutes. But he did. The one thing that impressed me, was his timing in jumping for a high ball.

When the game was over I asked the Blantyre secretary John Fleming who the boy was: "William McNeill, a schoolboy. But don't worry he's going to Celtic," he told me.

I wrote a few paragraphs about the Blantyre 'trialist' and reckoned that as his christian name was William, his pals must call him Billy. So I gaily referred to him as Billy McNeill—AND THE NAME STUCK.

It was many years later that the Celtic skipper told me that he had had to change his signature because of what I had written. Unknown to me his family



Billy the 'Crew-Cut Kid'

called him Willie, and he was known at school as such.

When I called him Billy, the name stuck. Other journalists picked it up, the Celtic manager Jimmy McGrory called him Billy, and he has never been known as anything else. He even had to change his signature from Willie, to Billy.

I apologise here to his dad, but let's be honest, doesn't Billy McNeill sound better than Willie McNeill? I think so, and did so 17 years ago.



Billy relaxes with his parents



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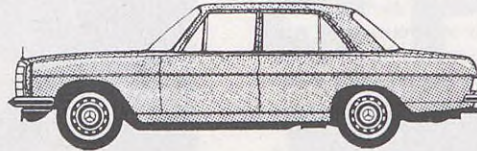
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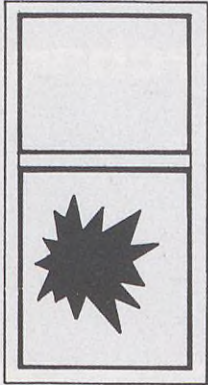


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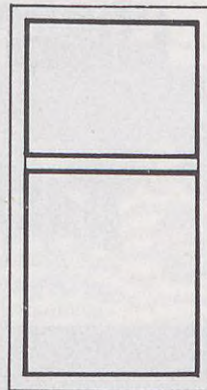
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