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CONTENTS



04 | STEVEN GERRARD



06 | JAMES TAVERNIER



38 | DAVID MASON

14 | MATCH FAST FACTS

52 | HALL OF FAME:
HAROLD DAVIS

16 | PREVIOUS LEAGUE
MEETINGS

58 | ON THIS DAY – AUGUST 29

20 | IAN DURRANT

64 | RWFC: KIRSTY HOWAT

26 | HALF-TIME QUIZ

70 | B TEAM: ROBBIE FRASER

30 | BRIAN LAUDRUP

76 | JUNIOR GERS

80 | FIXTURES AND RESULTS



— v —
CELTIC



MANAGER'S NOTES

STEVEN GERRARD

I am absolutely delighted to be able to welcome everyone back to Ibrox today as we get ready for the first Old Firm match of 2021/22.

After a long period where fans have been unable to attend the Glasgow derbies – or any games at all – due to Covid-19, it will be great to walk down the tunnel this afternoon and see four packed stands and also hear the incredible noise that these famous fixtures create.

Our supporters will have a big part to play in the 90 minutes coming up by getting behind the team as they always do, and our aim on the pitch is to give something back by producing a strong home performance that will get them out of their seats.

This summer we have brought in several new players who could get their first taste of an Old Firm derby this afternoon if selected. We also have guys with great experience such as Allan McGregor and Steven Davis, who have both played against Celtic over 30 times, while James Tavernier has now featured in over 20 of these games.

They will be important in the dressing room pre-match with the knowledge they can pass on, but once the action starts it is all

about controlling your emotions, staying focused and trying to win the battle.

Last season I thought we did that very well and this afternoon we have to maintain those standards and have the same intensity and confidence in our play while also being ruthless in front of goal.

So far this term I have been pleased with our league form but, of course, we always want to improve and look at what we can do better.

Last weekend against Ross County it was much more like us as we were organised and dangerous, and we perhaps should have scored one or two more goals.

However, it was nice to see four different players get on the scoresheet at a tricky away venue and what was most important was that we secured all three points.

Today, of course, it goes without saying that we want three more but to do that we will have to be at our best in a match which I'm sure will have everything we have come to expect from one of the world's great derbies.

Enjoy the game,
STEVEN GERRARD



Interview: Nick Thomson

HUNGER GAMES

Having enjoyed success in last season's Old Firm battles, Rangers captain **JAMES TAVERNIER** is fired up and looking forward to today's derby clash in front of a full house at Ibrox


CASTORE



32



JUST about every single one of you lucky 50,000 who will pack into Ibrox this afternoon will have, at some stage or another, dreamed of playing in this fixture, the biggest derby in football.

It is only natural, and it is one that through time everyone approaches differently. From the nervous supporter who will hate every minute of it until the final whistle, to the more stoic fan who loves every single second of the action and has the date ringed in their calendar months in advance.

These are habits which develop through experience – and experience is something Rangers captain, James Tavernier, certainly has when it comes to this particular match.

If selected today, it will be the 23rd time he has faced the other half of the Old Firm, and like everyone else he learns more and more about it every time he lines up in one of these clashes.

Pretty early on, however, one thing was clear to the 29-year-old full-back, now in his seventh season with the club. "I think I learned early doors just how much it means," said Tavernier, "and when you are on the winning side, you can see how much it means and how proud the fans are.

"Ultimately, it is the bragging rights of the city that the fans want. We know this is going to be a tough game but we are going to try and do it for ourselves and the club to give our best performance.

"Winning is an unbelievable feeling and a lot of the boys have had a taste of that, but we know that is last season and it is done now, so it is about resetting ourselves and being hungrier to get the result that we want."

If you're reading this either pre-match or at half-time, you'll likely be going

IBROX ROCKS: TAVERNIER CELEBRATES HIS EARLY GOAL DIRECT FROM A FREE-KICK ON 12 MAY 2019, WITH SCOTT ARFIELD ALSO SCORING IN A MEMORABLE 2-0 DERBY WIN

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“Having the supporters in will be such an unbelievable experience again. I know quite a few of the boys have never experienced that and I am sure they are looking forward to it.”

through some of those aforementioned emotions and they were experienced twice by Tavernier last season.

He missed both the 1-1 draw in March at Parkhead and the 2-0 Scottish Cup win in April through injury, having to watch on from the stands where he still kicked every single ball.

He continued: “It was frustrating but you could see more of the game and the dynamics of the game and how it was unfolding.

“I thought the boys did a fantastic job last season in those two games that we played. Nathan [Patterson] stepped in and did a great job.

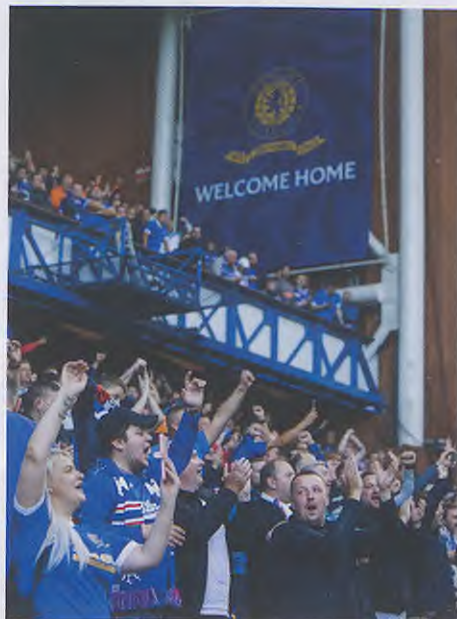
“It is one of those where we know it is going to be tough, but I am thoroughly looking forward to the first Old Firm match of this season being at Ibrox.”

Today will be the first derby in almost exactly two years to have been played at Ibrox with supporters in the stadium – and there have been numerous additions to the home squad since that day with many set to feature this afternoon.

Those players will have experienced a full Ibrox at the recent European matches but the Old Firm is a different level and one Tavernier reckons they all cannot wait to experience.

The skipper said: “It will change the dynamics of the game compared to last season and you will see the intensity rising with the fans getting right behind you.

“Having the supporters in will be such an unbelievable experience again. I know quite a few of the boys have never experienced that and I am



sure they are looking forward to it.

“They have had a taste of what Ibrox is about and certainly in the European games it was an unbelievable feeling having the crowd right behind us, especially with them having not been there in such a long time.

“We experienced it too against Dunfermline and they were really behind us in that one, but I think the Old Firm is a different sound from the fans and I am sure it is one the boys are looking forward to.”

The noise during the game is one thing, but it tends to hit stratospheric levels when the ball ripples the back of the net.

In his Rangers career, Tavernier has hit many memorable goals, not least his Old Firm strike from May 2019 when his curling free-kick to the back post was so accurate it continued its trajectory





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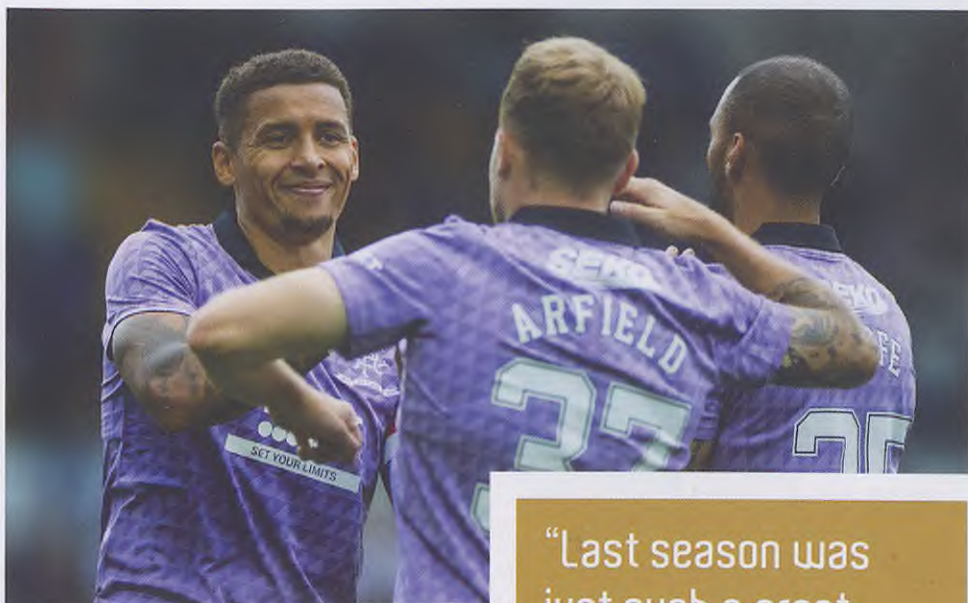
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and found the back of the net.

To this day, Tavernier continues to insist he very much meant it, smiling: "That is one of my favourite goals. I have tried for a long time to get the ball in the back of the net and I have had a few chances over the years.

"To finally get one in an Old Firm game and with it being a game we won was an unbelievable achievement and I am sure you could see the emotions in my face when I scored.

"That was obviously a special day and I will cherish that goal forever, and hopefully I can notch a couple more.

"You have got to aim for the back post and if anyone gets a touch on it it is a bonus. But if you get it on target there is always that chance of it going in the back of the net."

For as much as today there are likely to be many reminders from the stands of last season and the success achieved there, and while the players remain incredibly proud of what they achieved, for them it is now all about making new history.

The need to kick on not only in this fixture but in every competition Gers take part in is certainly there in spades, and that message

"Last season was just such a great achievement for the boys, for the club and obviously for the fans, but we know that is in the past and we can't live in the past."

is one often reiterated by Tavernier.

He concluded: "Last season was just such a great achievement for the boys, for the club and obviously for the fans, but we know that is in the past and we can't live in the past.

"We have just got to work harder and demand more from each other as we are the champions and we want to retain that.

"It is going to take a lot more hard work on the training field and hard work on the pitch to get that back again. So the boys know the job in hand and we are fully focused - it is just about applying it onto the pitch."

FAST FACTS

MATCHDAY

RANGERS V CELTIC

BY ROBERT CARMICHAEL

W125
D88
L109

This will be the 323rd meeting between the sides in regular league matches with Rangers having **won 125** of the previous 322 matches, **drawing 88** and **losing 109** times. In the process, Gers have scored 456 goals and conceded 431.

Rangers are currently on a five-game undefeated streak in league matches against Celtic and will be looking to extend that to six for the first time since a run between January 1999 and March 2000 which comprised of four wins and two draws. Since then, Gers have not lost in five straight matches on three occasions, from December 2006 to March 2008 (four wins, one draw) and from February 2009 to February 2010 (three wins, two draws) as well as the current run (four wins, one draw).

The two league clean sheets that **Allan McGregor** kept against Celtic last season, in the 2-0 win at Celtic Park in October and in the 1-0 home victory in January, means that he has become the Rangers

goalkeeper with the most clean sheets against Celtic in league matches with 10 in total, surpassing the previous record of nine held by **Andy Goram**.

A clean sheet today, however, would mean Greegsy would also hold the record, on his own, in all competitive matches, which he currently shares with Goram and **Billy Ritchie** on 11 clean sheets apiece.



The first Old Firm league encounter of the season has only ended in a draw in two of the past 23 seasons that the fixture has been played, dating back to August 1994 - a 0-0 draw at Ibrox in September 1998 - and a 3-3 encounter at Celtic Park in October 2002. Over this period, Rangers have won 11 of the opening meetings of the season to Celtic's 10. In contrast, between 1989 and 1993 the first Old Firm league match of the season ended even in four of the five years.

Having won the two Old Firm league matches at Ibrox last season, Rangers will be hoping to win three consecutive home league matches against Celtic for only the third time this century, having previously achieved this between May 2007 and March 2008 and then again between May 2009 and February 2010. Including the Scottish Cup victory in April, a victory today would be the first time Rangers have recorded four consecutive wins over Celtic at Ibrox since the run between September 1996 and April 1998.



No fewer than seven Rangers players have featured in the last five league meetings with Celtic. Allan McGregor, Borna Barisic, Glen Kamara, Connor Goldson, Alfredo Morelos and Ryan Kent have started on each occasion while Joe Aribo has made four starts and also made one late substitute appearance. In total, **Alfredo Morelos** has featured in the last 14 Old Firm league encounters, starting on 11 occasions, while Connor Goldson has started the last 10 meetings.



MOST LEAGUE APPEARANCES V CELTIC

- 43 Ally McCoist, **Sandy Jardine**
- 40 Davie Cooper
- 38 John Greig
- 37 Derek Johnstone
- 35 Richard Gough



MOST LEAGUE GOALS V CELTIC

- 18 **Ally McCoist**
- 9 Derek Johnstone, Kenny Miller
- 8 Derek Parlane, Mark Hateley
- 7 Alec Venters, Andy Cunningham, Davie Wilson
- 6 Jimmy Bowie, Jimmy Duncanson, Jimmy Smith, John McPherson, Jorg Albertz, Mark Walters, Nacho Novo, Sandy Archibald, Willie Reid



0-1

17 October 2020

Celtic Park

Celtic 0

Rangers 2 (Goldson 9, 54)

Celtic – Barkas, Frimpong, Laxalt (Taylor 84), Duffy, Ajer, Welsh (Turnbull 84), Ntcham (Rogic 67), Brown, Elyounoussi (Ajeti 56), McGregor, Klimala (Griffiths 67)

Rangers – McGregor, Tavernier, Barisic, Kamara, Helander, Goldson, Barker (Jack 62), Arfield (Aribo 90), Morelos (Itten 86), Davis, Kent



1-0

2 January 2021

Ibrox Stadium

Rangers 1 (McGregor 70og)

Celtic 0

Rangers – McGregor, Tavernier, Barisic, Kamara, Balogun, Goldson, Roofe (Hagi 45), Aribo (Barker 90), Morelos (Itten 77), Davis, Kent (Zungu 87)

Celtic – Barkas, Frimpong, Laxalt, Soro (Brown 73), Ajer, Biton, Christie (Abd Elhamed 73), Turnbull (Elyounoussi 65), Griffiths (Duffy 65), McGregor (Rogic 84), Edouard



PREVIOUS LEAGUE MEETINGS 2020/21



0-2

20 March 2021

Celtic Park

Celtic 1 (Elyounoussi 23)

Rangers 1 (Morelos 38)

Celtic – Bain, Kenny, Laxalt, Welsh, Ajer, McGregor, Turnbull (Forrest 78), Brown (Soro 88), Edouard (Griffiths 88), Christie, Elyounoussi (Rogic 27)

Rangers – McGregor, Balogun (Patterson 56), Barisic, Kamara, Helander, Goldson, Hagi (Arfield 65), Aribo (Wright 77), Morelos (Roofe 77), Davis, Kent



1-1



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2 May 2021

Ibrox Stadium

Rangers 4 (Roofe 26, 57, Morelos 33, Defoe 90)

Celtic 1 (Edouard 30)

Rangers – McGregor, Tavernier, Barisic (Wright 79), Simpson, Kamara, Goldson, Roofe (Defoe 86), Aribo, Morelos (Hagi 84), Davis, Kent

Celtic – Bain, Kenny, Taylor, Welsh, Ajer, Turnbull, Forrest (Christie 60), Brown (Soro 60), Edouard (Johnston 75), McGregor, Elyounoussi



DERBY DAZE

Ian Durrant remembers putting five past Celtic in one August encounter – and being annoyed that it wasn't more

Interview: Graeme Macpherson

THERE'S no such thing as going easy on your opponent in an Old Firm derby. No matter how big the lead there is never any notion of taking your foot off the pedal and coasting to the full-time whistle.

The fans demand that the team keeps going, especially if there's a chance to really rub your rivals' noses in it for a few months at least.

The first derby of the 1988/89 season also came at Ibrox in August and it was a memorable one as far as Rangers are concerned.

Celtic got their consolation goal in first through Frank McAvennie and after that it was all Rangers as Graeme Souness' men piled on the pressure and racked up the goals.

Ally McCoist got a double, Ray Wilkins scored a screamer and there were goals too for Kevin Drinkell and Mark Walters.

By full-time the Ibrox scoreboard read Rangers 5 Celtic 1, a result that still resonates with Rangers supporters to this day.

Ian Durrant remembers the match well but reckons Celtic got off lightly. By the end of a pulsating 90 minutes, the former midfielder

recalls walking off the Ibrox turf delighted with the win but wishing Rangers had taken more chances to make it six, seven or even more.

He said: "My favourite Old Firm memories are just all the times we beat them. And I was fortunate enough to score a few goals in that fixture as well and every one of them was special.

"The cup finals and the other big games against Celtic always stay with you. That 5-1 game in 1988 is a particular favourite.

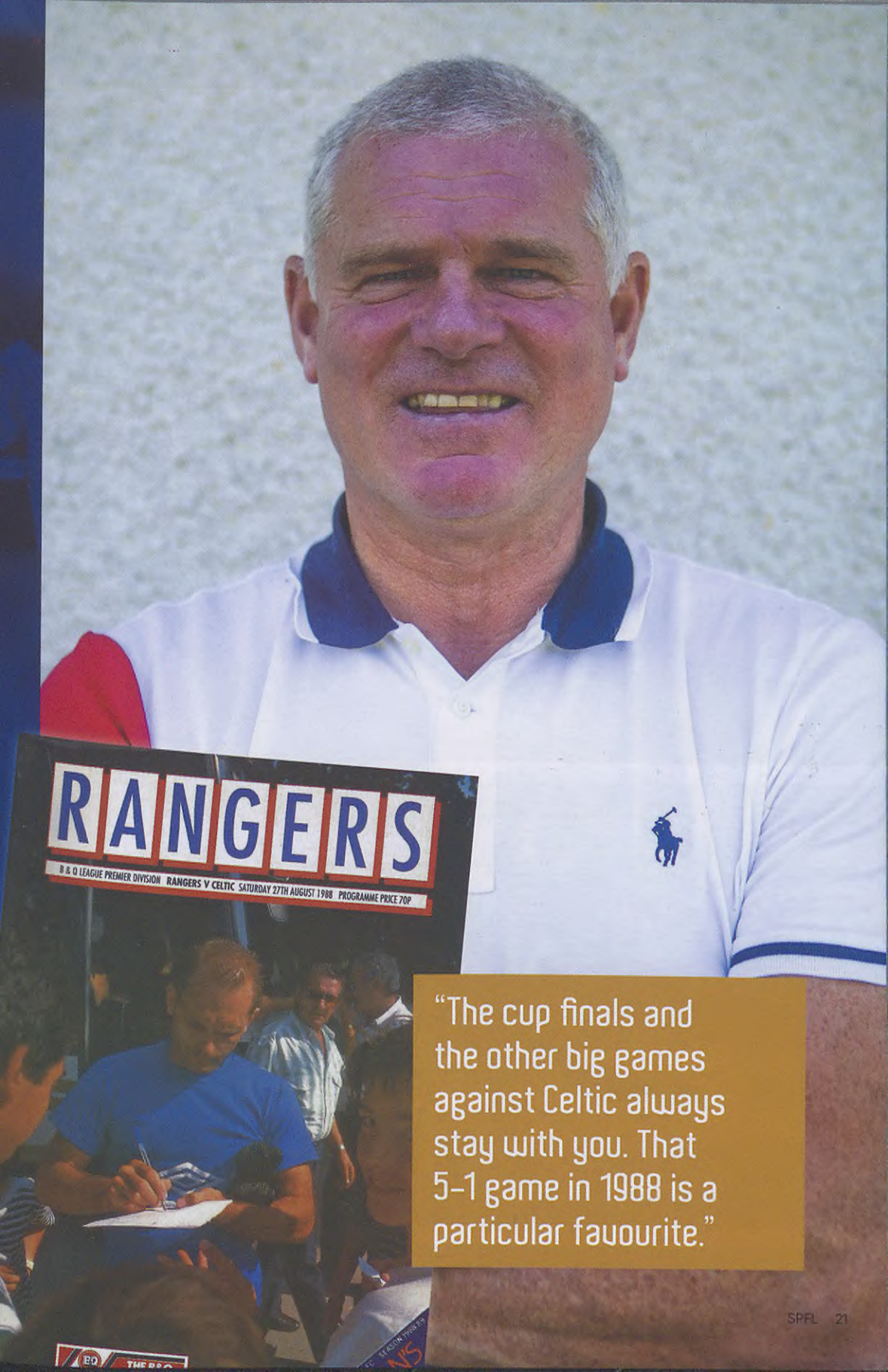
"If we're being greedy I thought we could have scored a few more that day and I still wish that we had! We were outstanding that day.

"I remember Ray Wilkins and Mark Walters both had absolute stormers and tore them apart.

"The funny thing is Coisto was pulled down for what should have been a penalty which he would have wanted to take for his hat-trick.

"But the referee waved play on as the ball had fallen for Mark who rolled it in. Coisto was raging! That was how much he wanted to score against Celtic.

"We had actually got off to a shaky start with McAvennie scoring early doors but we



“The cup finals and the other big games against Celtic always stay with you. That 5-1 game in 1988 is a particular favourite.”

“When you’ve got 50,000 Bears back inside Ibrox roaring you on then that’s all the incentive you need to go out there and put in a good performance.”



WHAT A DAY: RAY WILKINS (TOP), KEVIN DRINKELL (MIDDLE) AND MARK WALTERS (ABOVE) WERE ALL ON TARGET IN 5-1 HOME VICTORY OVER CELTIC ON 27 AUGUST 1988

steadied the ship and just came back at them.

“We had a lot of good experience in the team and that helped us get over that wee blip and go on to win comfortably.

“We had Rangers fans in the dressing room at that time like Coisty, Bomber, Ian Ferguson, the gaffer and myself who all knew what it meant to beat Celtic - and we let all the other players know about it too!

“It was just the third game of the season but we hadn’t started that well and if we had lost there would have already been a wee gap at the top.

“So it was important we won and it stood us in good stead to go on and claim the title that season and get the ball rolling on Nine in a Row. Beating Celtic that day was what started it all off.

“At one point it was looking like the scoreboard was going to blow up with the amount of goals we were scoring

and it should have been more!

“Rangers fans are always reminded of the time we lost 7-1 and that was the chance to avenge that as Celtic were on the ropes.

“We were really dominant in the second half and it looked like we were going to score with every attack.”

This afternoon’s derby opener should be another thrilling encounter with both teams vying for supremacy at the top of the table. And putting down an early marker could make all the difference.

Durrant added: “It’s vitally important to get off to a flier if you can in the first derby and just get that upper hand early in the season.

“It will be a tough one for Rangers after the long journey back from Armenia but this is the perfect game to come back to as you don’t need to lift yourself to play Celtic. The occasion speaks for itself.

“They were absolutely dominant at home in the league last year and they’ll want to keep that up by taking care of Celtic again and put down an early marker for what is hopefully going to lie ahead.

“And when you’ve got 50,000 Bears back inside Ibrox roaring you on then that’s all the incentive you need to go out there and put in a good performance.

“The fans have been watching from afar over the past year and a half and they’ll all be desperate for this one to roll around and get back inside the stadium to support the team in person.

“The Old Firm atmosphere is second to none and that could make all the difference to Steven Gerrard and his players and hopefully it sees them over the line to a good win.”

Durrant was as delighted as any former player to see the league trophy finally returning to Ibrox last season.

And he felt it was a special moment in particular for the younger fans who had waited a long time to see the team crowned as champions once again.

He added: “It was great, more so for my kids who are now starting to see Rangers winning things again.

“They were fairly young when I was at the tail end of my career so it was great to see the delight on the faces of the younger generation of Rangers fans



BLUES BROTHERS: DURRANT AND STEVEN GERRARD AT THE RANGERS AND LIVERPOOL LEGENDS MATCH AT IBROX IN OCTOBER 2019



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at the title coming back to Ibrox.

"They've not seen that before and to stop 10 in a row just added to the feeling.

"I was really pleased for Steven Gerrard as well. For a player of his calibre and class, he can now look at his CV and see a league title on there which is thoroughly deserved.

"He's got umpteen cups and European honours from his playing days but to finally be a league winner too – you could see the delight on his face and what it all meant to him.

"But Steven will know at Rangers there's no time to rest on your laurels. You need to move on to the next thing and this season it will be about defending the title and getting number 56."

Durrant is now the assistant manager at Lowland League outfit East Kilbride and recently got a close-up look at the Rangers Colts team who ran out 2-1 winners thanks to goals from Tony Weston and Adam Devine.

Durrant reckons there's plenty to be optimistic about with regards to the Rangers Academy and he was pleased to see some of those he coached at the club

a decade ago now pushing through.

He added: "We had a bit of a shaky start to the season at East Kilbride with injuries but we're getting things back on track now.

"It was good to play the Colts the other week and see the likes of wee Alex Lowry and Bud in goals (Lewis Budinaukas) who were in the academy when I was there. They're playing against men now and looking the part."

The former Scotland cap is still in touch regularly with McCoist and the man he still calls the gaffer, Walter Smith.

But he hopes the easing of lockdown restrictions will soon mean a long overdue reunion with more of his former teammates.

He said: "I still see Coisty and the gaffer a fair bit and speak to the likes of Bomber, The Goalie and Charlie Miller from time to time.

"It's been hard obviously over the past wee while because of Covid. But the likes of Jorg Albertz, Arthur Numan and big Amo are all due to come back over soon.

"I'm sure we'll blow the froth off a few cold ones and reminisce about the old times again."



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RANGERSMIND

HALF-TIME QUIZ

1.

At which ground did Alfredo Morelos bag his first Old Firm goal?

2.

Which substitute netted his first Old Firm goal when he hit Rangers' fourth in the 4-1 win over Celtic in May this year?

3.

Who was the first Gers player to convert a penalty kick this season?

4.

Which member of the current Light Blues squad wears No.11?

5.

Only two Old Firm goals were scored in the calendar year 2020. Who netted them both?

6.

John Lundstram opened his Rangers scoring account in this month's League Cup tie against Dunfermline. Who provided the assist?

7.

Gers were 4-0 up at half-time in the tie against Dunfermline. Who were the opposition when the Light Blues previously hit four goals in the first half?

8.

Why was Allan McGregor yellow-carded in this month's match against Malmo at Ibrox?

9.

Who was the first Glaswegian to manage Rangers?

10.

Former Rangers academy star **Billy Gilmour** is currently playing at which club on loan from Chelsea?

11.

In November 2000, **Tore Andre Flo** scored against Celtic on his Light Blues debut, having just been signed for what sum - £8 million, £10 million or £12 million?

12.

In which country did **Fashion Sakala** play immediately before joining Oostende in 2018?

13.

Can you name the Welsh international who made five substitute appearances for Rangers during 2019/20?

14.

What are the dimensions of the penalty area in yards?

15.

Which is the first ocean mentioned in the Rangers song 'The Blue Sea of Ibrox'?

16.

Name the father and son who both played for Rangers between 1983 and 2016.

17.

Which former Ranger and current SPFL Premiership player comes first in an alphabetical list of all Scotland internationals?

18.

Which Spanish team did **Jock Wallace** manage after leaving Ibrox in 1986?

19.

Name the former Rangers star who played for Holland in the 2010 World Cup Final.

20.

Which team will Gers face in the quarter-finals of this season's League Cup?

ANSWERS 1. Celtic Park 2. Jermolain Defoe 3. Kemar Roople 4. Cedric Ifeni 5. Connor Ross 6. Calvin Bassley 7. Cove Rangers 8. For handling outside his area 9. William Wilson 10. Norwich City 11. £12 million 12. Russia 13. Andy King 14. 18 yards x 44 yards 15. The Wild Atlantic 16. Sandy and Nicky Clark 17. Charlie Adam 18. Sevilla 19. Giovanni van Bronckhorst 20. Livingston



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A promotional banner for Rangers' 150th anniversary. The background is a collage of blue and yellow images, including a crowd, a goal, and a player. On the left, it says "1872 5 2022". In the center is the Rangers Football Club crest with "150 YEARS" below it. To the right, the word "MYGERS" is written in large white and yellow letters. Below that, it says "SIGN UP NOW FOR YOUR 21/22 MEMBERSHIP". At the bottom right, the website "RANGERS.CO.UK/MYGERS" is listed.



FOUNDATION SUPPORTS REFUGEE TOURNAMENT

THE Rangers Charity Foundation showed its support for the 2021 Refugee Festival Football Tournament this month by sending community coaches to help at the event and organising for Rangers legend Alex Rae to present the medals.

As champions for diversity and inclusion, the Foundation was proud to support the most diverse event of its kind in Scotland, involving players from 50 nations. The annual tournament unites people from different cultures, religions and countries – New Scots, asylum seekers and those whose families have been here for generations. It's the flagship event from the Scottish Unity

Football League and Glasgow Afghan United, which work to break down barriers between communities, overcome prejudice and help people reach their potential – whatever their background.

The Foundation also helped local team PAH Dreams by providing training kit and football boots.

Tournament organiser Abdul Bostani of the Scottish Unity Football League commented, "We very much appreciate all the support and dedication of the Rangers Charity Foundation. You can't underestimate the power of sport to boost health and wellbeing, helping people overcome troubles and reach their potential. Quite simply, it changes lives."



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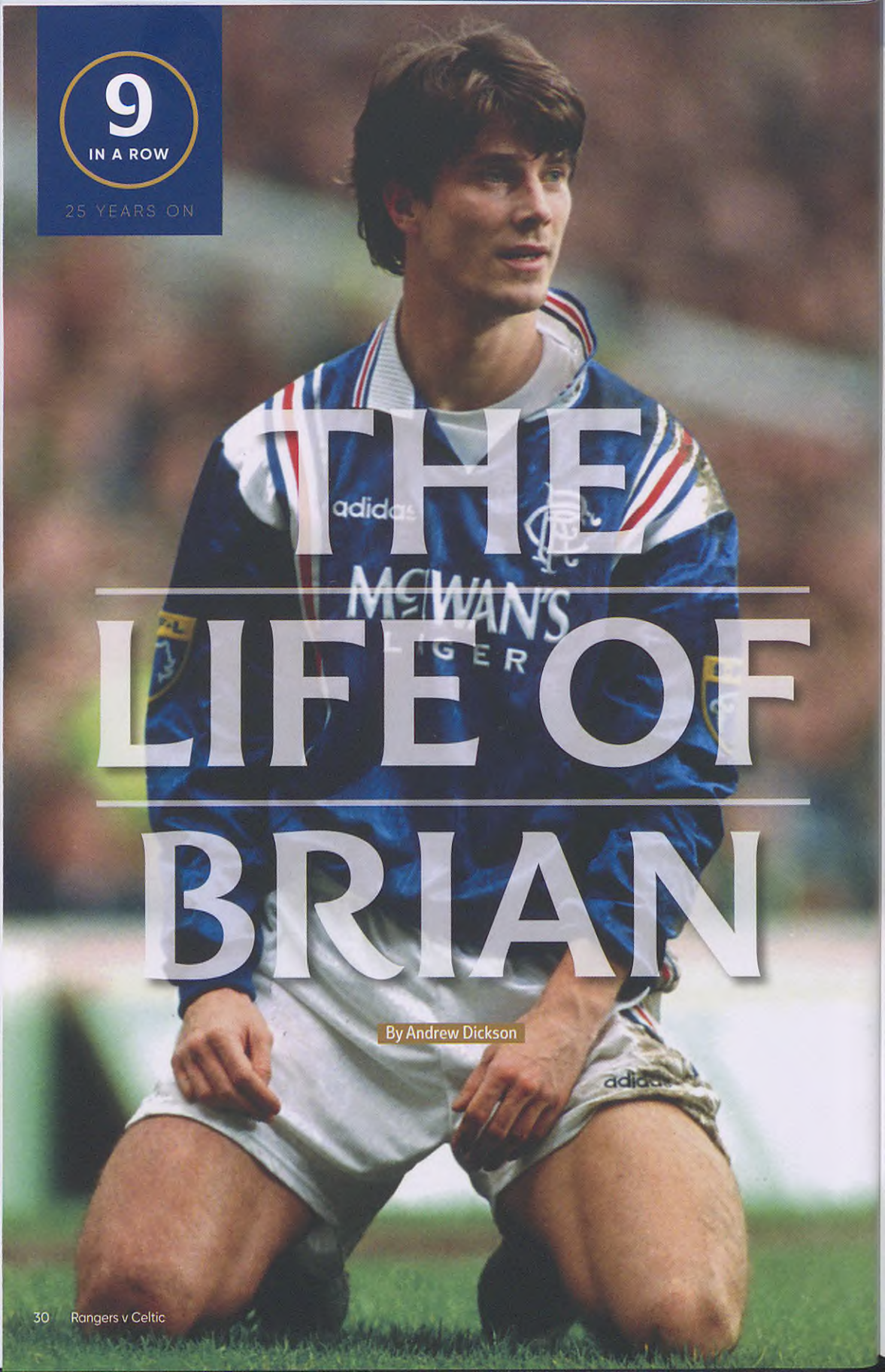
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9
IN A ROW

25 YEARS ON



THE LIFE OF BRIAN

By Andrew Dickson

As Rangers celebrate their 150th birthday in the 2021/22 season, the campaign is also the 25th anniversary of another important landmark in the club's history – Nine in a Row.

A quarter of a century on from Gers' greatest string of consecutive league successes, we are marking it in the matchday programme by speaking to some of the men who made it happen.

This month, in part two of the series, **Brian Laudrup reflects on his Old Firm winners which went a long way to securing the historic final title...**



LAUDRUP JOINED RANGERS IN JULY 1994



PARTY TIME: BRIAN AND HIS RANGERS TEAMMATES CELEBRATE AT TANNADICE AFTER CLINCHING THEIR NINTH TITLE IN A ROW



IT'S rare that a Rangers player should score not one but two Old Firm winners in the same season and still not count either of them as their most important goal of the campaign.

Step forward Brian Laudrup: double slayer of Celtic in 1996/97, whose bullet header against Dundee United outshone both derby efforts as it sealed Nine in a Row.

One of the club's greatest imports, Laudrup scored four times against the Light Blues' biggest rivals and never lost to them when he netted.

In fact, his goals were always crucial. His first, the clincher in a 3-1 Hampden win in October 1994, rounded off a wonderful individual performance which gave a taste of things to come.

Even Laudrup's second – in a 3-3 draw 13 months later – ultimately helped keep Gers four points clear at the end of that season when losing instead would have had the sides level.

It was in the year Rangers needed their best players to deliver most that the Danish winger made his biggest impact.

First, his decisive goal after Brian O'Neill's slip on a night unlike any other in November 1996 gave Walter Smith's men the spark they needed to push on in the title race.

Andy Goram also saved Pierre van Hooijdonk's penalty, Paul Gascoigne missed his as well and Peter van Vossen famously put the ball over an open goal in an unforgettable match.

Four months later, another dramatic encounter at Celtic Park led to the same outcome: a 1-0 away win with Laudrup striking for the injury-ravaged visitors in a vital step towards Nine.

The 52-year-old said: "Going into that season, we were under huge pressure to deliver the title and we all knew we had to do that.

"When I had joined Rangers in 1994, all we were talking about then was getting Nine in a Row over the line. It was clear even at that point it would mean everything to the club.

"For me, it was a mission we had to complete and thankfully we got there. It was a relief to do it because we knew Celtic would do everything they could to stop us.

"I can remember it was so close in that season and even though we beat Celtic four times, we were behind them going into the game in November.

"When I had joined Rangers in 1994, all we were talking about then was getting Nine in a Row over the line. It was clear even at that point it would mean everything to the club."

"We knew we had to win and my goal came out of nothing really. The defender lost his feet and I suddenly found myself all on my own so I ran straight for goal and took my shot.

"It ended up being the winner but that in itself was incredible because we created so many other chances.

"Gascoigne missed a penalty, Andy saved another from van Hooijdonk and, of course, there was the miss from Peter as well.

"To this day, I've never seen anything like that again. Van Vossen was a very good footballer but to miss the way he did that night was incredible.

"It could easily have been 5-2 to us instead. What a game it was. It was a great advert for Scottish football and a cracking match to be part of.

"That was the turning point in the season to some extent. From there, we went into the lead and we just kept marching towards the title.

"In the other game at Celtic Park, Mark Hateley had come back to the club and that lifted us because in the weeks leading up to the match, we were really struggling.

"We had so many injuries and especially with our strikers. Gordon Durie was out, as was Ally McCoist, and I was playing on my own up there for many parts of the campaign.

"Mark fought as hard a battle as you can to help us win on the day and the goal itself came when Ian Durrant lobbed the ball beyond the goalkeeper and I was able to get there first.

"It was a great win but we really had to dig



50TH ANNIVERSARY

BARCA BEARS DINNER

FRIDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2022
DOORS AT 6:30PM

DOUBLETREE BY
HILTON GLASGOW



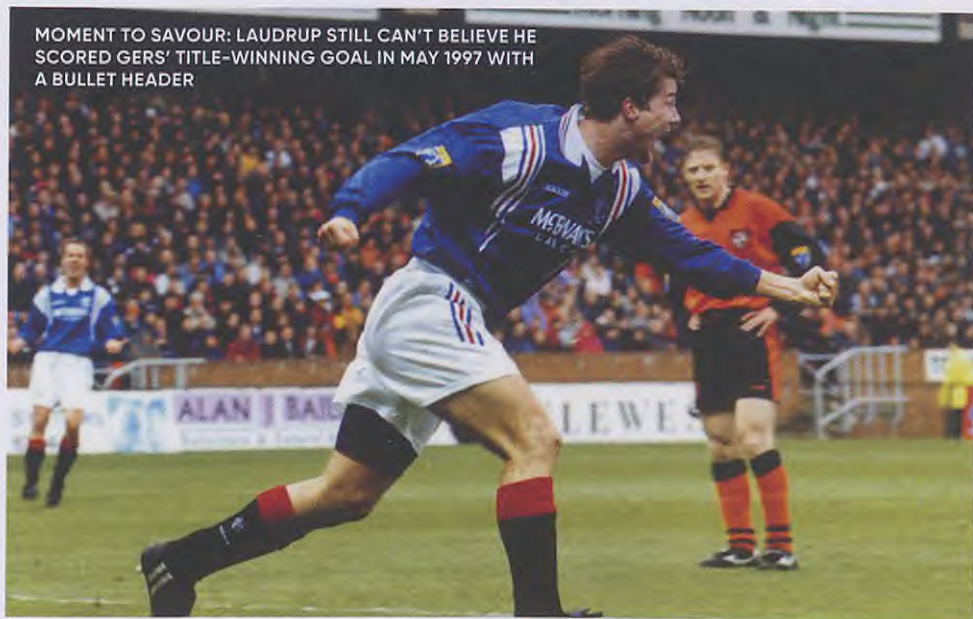
x



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MOMENT TO SAVOUR: LAUDRUP STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE SCORED GERS' TITLE-WINNING GOAL IN MAY 1997 WITH A BULLET HEADER



deep to get it. I have to say that Celtic were fantastic in those games – but we were better.

“Defensively, we were so solid and then in attack we were clinical when our chances came. That was the difference between us back then.”

Of course, those victories gave Rangers a platform to become champions once again and, after missing an opportunity at home to Motherwell, they did just that at Tannadice.

The fact it was Laudrup who was the difference between the teams in another 1-0 win wasn't surprising at all – but the way he made his mark undoubtedly was.

He added: “Even now, I have to tell people at home in Denmark to go on YouTube and see the goal because they don't really believe I scored a header.

“I remember a fantastic left-footed cross from Charlie Miller, which was sensational in itself. I ran into it and it went into the top corner. It just hit me but that goal meant everything.

“It was meant to be. I only scored something like three headers in my career and it just happens that one of them was one of the biggest goals in Rangers' history.

“It was a relief and brought joy which is almost impossible to describe. When we came back to Ibrox later that night, there were scenes I will never forget.

“There had been a lot of pressure and I think

“Even now, I have to tell people at home in Denmark to go on YouTube and see the goal because they don't really believe I scored a header.”

that really showed after we won it. Richard Gough crying the way he did at Tannadice was as much about the intensity we had faced.

“He'd been there through it all and you could see what it meant to those who had been at the club for such a long time.

“They had been dreaming about getting over the line, creating history and giving the fans something that could never be taken away from them.

“It really was an honour for me to be at the club in that period. It was such a short time in the bigger picture, but a very special spell of my career.

“When any foreign player joins Rangers,



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2

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he is told straight away what it means to the club, the city and the fans to beat Celtic.

"You are aware very quickly of how important these games are so to be able to score goals against your biggest rival is tremendous and it certainly was for me.

"These goals were so vital in that particular season - I know that - but then the goal against Dundee United made it possible to celebrate their meaning more."

Like Laudrup, a number of players from outside Scotland in Steven Gerrard's current squad have been able to make their mark in the derby too.

Alfredo Morelos found a taste for Old Firm goals in the latter part of last season, while Ryan Kent and Kemar Roofe are among those to have made key contributions.

But as for who does it in this afternoon's encounter, Laudrup isn't looking for one person in particular to impress. After a challenging first month



"Having been the chasers for so many years, Rangers now find themselves as the team being chased and that's a psychological factor you have to live with."

of the season, he'd take real satisfaction from a good team performance as much as anything.

Laudrup said: "Sometimes you are asked about one or two players stepping up in this fixture but I think right now it's about everybody doing it as one.

"The management will be keen to see a team performance. If you are defensively strong, you will usually see your attacking players do their bit and that's what Rangers are striving for.

"Having been the chasers for so many years, Rangers now find themselves as the team being chased and that's a psychological factor you have to live with.

"It's partly what makes the Old Firm games so important. We're not just talking about three points in these fixtures, there's a chance to take a psychological edge as well.

"Especially in the first game of the season between the two, it is immensely important to try to swing that in your favour.

"If you can win that, you set an early tone and know you have the upper hand early. We saw that last season and hopefully we can see that happen for Rangers again now."

A SOUVENIR of a MEMORABLE DAY



By club historian **David Mason**

THE souvenir programme that Rangers handed out to guests on 1 January 1929 has become something of a collector's piece. It was issued to commemorate the opening of the club's new grandstand and, in some ways, it was fitting that the fixture that day was the biggest in the Scottish calendar – the Ne'erday Old Firm clash.

The two teams had first met on New Year's Day back in 1894, when Rangers won 3-2 at Celtic Park. The Light Blues went on to replicate their win in the Scottish Cup final just six weeks later that year, taking the trophy for the first time.

By the time the clubs faced each other that day in 1929, the Light Blues were unquestionably the top team in the land under manager Bill Struth's stewardship. They had won seven of the last 10 encounters, were league champions and the Scottish Cup sat proudly with red, white, and blue ribbons inside the Ibrox boardroom. However, the day was all about the official unveiling of the new stand by Sir David Mason. He was a local man, born in Tradeston, and had made his name in business before becoming Glasgow's Lord Provost in 1926. A year earlier he had opened the new

King George V Bridge in the city, which was long the thoroughfare for many travelling from the north and making their way to Ibrox.

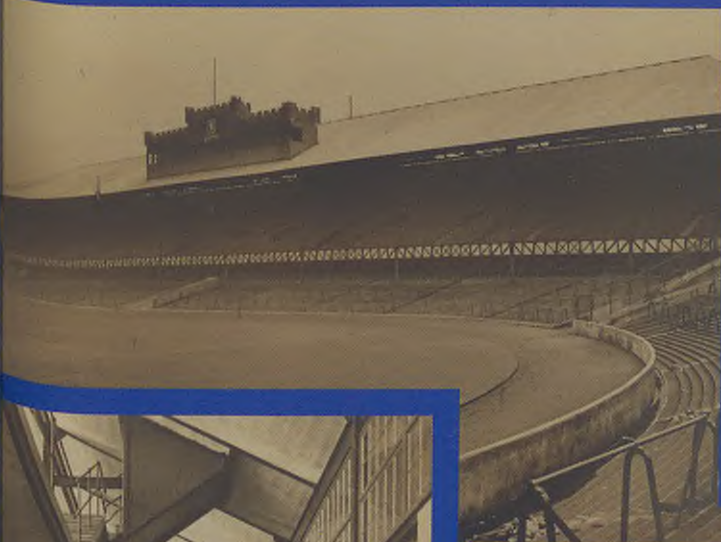
The new grandstand, now known as the Bill Struth Main Stand, was as impressive then as it remains today. It provided 19 rows of tip-up seating for 10,500 people. The stand was designed by Archibald Leitch, who had a long association with the club and who had been the designer of the fateful 1899 ground. A collapse in the timber lattice west terracing precipitated the first Ibrox disaster in 1902. His career had taken a dip, but Leitch had emerged to become the authoritative figure in stadia design across the UK.

Manager Struth, who was rightfully proud of the stand, said: "It's all good

Welsh brick (1,018,000 in all) and it cost £95,000 to build. Moreover, it will be here long after the others have gone." It was a defiant response to those who believed that the structure was too ostentatious and grandiose for a football club. They were indeed quite prophetic words as the building is now Category B Listed, while most of its contemporaries have long since disappeared.



SIR DAVID MASON

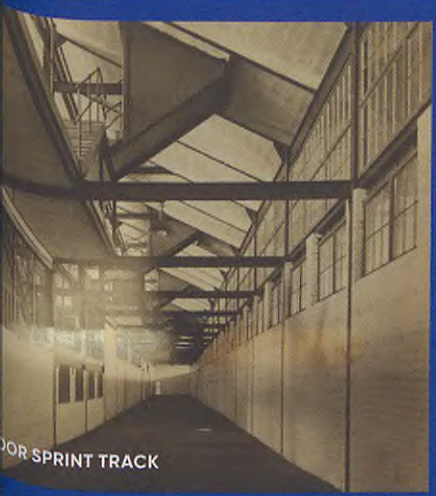


The "IBROX STAND"
in course of construction

Architects and Consulting Engineers
ARCHIBALD LEITCH & PARTNERS
London and Glasgow
CONSTRUCTIONAL ENGINEERS

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INDOOR SPRINT TRACK



TEAM BATH ROOM



DRESSING ROOM



ARCHIBALD LEITCH



ELEVATION TO EDMISTON DRIVE.

1028 / 381

INDEX No. 1028 / 381
This and the accompanying elevations show the Plan referred to in the Decree of the Court of Session of this date in the Petition of the Trustees of Glasgow Football Club Limited against Thomas Struth, and Lord Curzon, Lord Macmillan and Lord Macdougall.

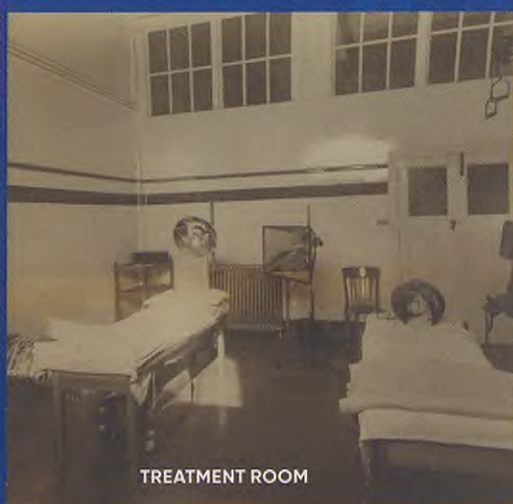


HALLWAY AND MARBLE STAIRCASE

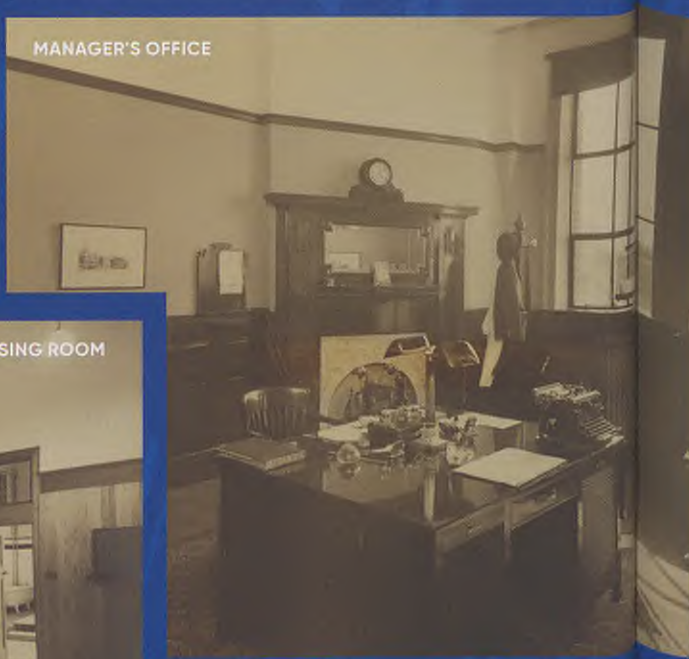
Although the official opening took place that New Year's Day in January 1929, the new grandstand was in operation as early as October 1928, when Scotland faced Wales. However, the Old Firm fixture saw it in all its glory and it had the press corps in raptures. Daily Record reporter Waverley described 'everything that mere man can think of has been brought in by the Ibrox people to make their administrative and training block the most sumptuous thing extant'.

The magnificent Hallway and Marble Staircase certainly provided a sumptuous entrance to the ground, but in the engine room it was more than functional. The home dressing room is now quite iconic and when it was opened it included a plunge bath measuring 12½ by 6½ feet and three feet deep. The water was heated by a special boiler in the basement which remains today. The visitors to the inner sanctums this afternoon will see the Blue Room largely as it was back then and the Manager's Office remains much like the room Struth used. The Billiard Room was replaced in 1959 with the Trophy Room and both the Cocktail Bar and Tea Room have sadly gone, but the stand remains impressive with magnificent corporate facilities.

The opening ceremony took place at the interval when Sir David Mason unveiled a plaque in the hallway commemorating the occasion and it remains there today. Tom Vallance, one of Rangers' original founders, was also a special guest at the game. Afterwards, all the directors were presented with a timepiece and Struth was given a diamond ring to mark the occasion. Director Jimmy Bowie acknowledged the 'unceasing' role that Struth had played in the work and



TREATMENT ROOM



MANAGER'S OFFICE



TEAM DRESSING ROOM



PLAQUE FOUND IN THE MAIN STAND ENTRANCE HALL

the manager responded by highlighting that 'everything at Ibrox is done by example. We try to lead, not be driven. We may not always succeed, but it is our method, our road to greatness to whatever we have earned'.

When the niceties of the opening ceremony were over and with the teams level at 0-0 at half-time, Rangers set to work in the second period. In foggy conditions that made it difficult for the 64,000 crowd to see the play let alone the new stand, the Light Blues eventually ran out 3-0 winners with goals from Sandy Archibald and a Jimmy Fleming double. The result left Rangers with a top-table lead of five points with two games in hand. It would be unassailable and they went on to regain the title.

The scoreline was hardly a fair reflection of the game as the Ibrox side could well have added more, but it was business done on and off the field. Today, Celtic will not want to be reminded of their performance that day, but they did share a little bit of history with that souvenir programme. It will be one of the items on display in the new Rangers Museum which will be unveiled next year on the club's 150th anniversary. Lord Provost Sir David Mason will not be there, but hopefully I will be in attendance!

Over the next eight pages you can read the official matchday programme from 1 January 1929 >>



SANDY ARCHIBALD



JIMMY FLEMING

Rangers Football Club Limited



SOUVENIR

OF THE OPENING OF
THE GRAND STAND

BY

The Right Hon. SIR DAVID MASON, O.B.E.
Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow.

1st JANUARY,
1929.

Rangers Football Club

Limited.

OFFICIALS 1928-29

Directors.

EX-BAILIE JOSEPH BUCHANAN, J.P. (*Chairman*).

EX-BAILIE DUNCAN GRAHAM, J.P., O.B.E.

JAMES BOWIE.

R. G. CAMPBELL.

Secretary.

W. ROGERS SIMPSON, C.A.

Manager.

WM. STRUTH.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP.

RANGERS

v.

CELTIC.

1st January, 1929.

RANGERS.

T. HAMILTON

D. GRAY

R. HAMILTON

J. BUCHANAN

D. MEIKLEJOHN

T. CRAIG

T. MUIRHEAD or

A. CUNNINGHAM

J. FLEMING

R. McPHAIL

A. ARCHIBALD

A. L. MORTON



J. CROZIER

J. McGRORY

P. CONNOLY

A. THOMSON

J. REILLY

J. McFARLANE

J. McSTAY

D. WILSON

W. McGONAGLE

W. McSTAY

J. THOMSON

CELTIC.

Kick-off 2 p.m.

Referee: A. H. LEISHMAN.

Linesmen: C. B. McCUTCHEON and J. BURDON.

The present Ibrox Park is the fifth ground on which the Rangers Football Club have played.

On 15th July, 1873, a match was played on Glasgow Green between two sides known as "Argyle" and "Clyde." These teams did not represent clubs, but later on the Argyle team formed the genesis of the Rangers Football Club. They continued to play on the Glasgow Green for two seasons.

They then unsuccessfully endeavoured to obtain a ground at Shawfield, before removing to the Burnbank ground, off Great Western Road, but here they only remained for one season (1875-76).

They returned to the south side of the river, and at Kinning Park they became possessors of a beautiful green playing pitch, formerly the property of the Clydesdale Club.

The Kinning Park ground is now the site of Anderson & Henderson's saw-mills. It lay close to the railway, which formed the boundary on the south side, while the east and west sides were bounded respectively by Broomhall Street and Craig Street. On the north side a grand stand was erected at the back of the tenements situated in West Scotland Street. The Pavilion was placed in the south-west corner.

Kinning Park ground was closed on 26th February, 1887, having served its day and generation.

More commodious premises were essential, and, with the city showing a tendency to move "westwards," the club found suitable accommodation at Ibrox, their ground there being opened on 20th August, 1887.

Twelve years later—on 30th December, 1899—the present ground was occupied. Since then the wooden terracing has been replaced by solid earth; the Pavilion in the south-east corner has given way to a suite of executive offices, etc., below the Grand Stand, which is being officially opened to-day, and which provides seating accommodation for 10,500 persons, as against 4,500 in the old structure.

"The old order changeth, and giveth place to the new."

RANGERS POSITION ON TABLE Since beginning of League.

| | | | | | |
|--------|----|---------|---------|----|--------|
| 1890-1 | .. | First* | 1909-10 | .. | Third |
| 1891-2 | .. | Fifth | 1910-11 | .. | First |
| 1892-3 | .. | Second | 1911-12 | .. | First |
| 1893-4 | .. | Fourth | 1912-13 | .. | First |
| 1894-5 | .. | Third | 1913-14 | .. | Second |
| 1895-6 | .. | Second | 1914-15 | .. | Third |
| 1896-7 | .. | Third | 1915-16 | .. | Second |
| 1897-8 | .. | Second | 1916-17 | .. | Third |
| 1898-9 | .. | First | 1917-18 | .. | First |
| 1899-0 | .. | First | 1918-19 | .. | Second |
| 1900-1 | .. | First | 1919-20 | .. | First |
| 1901-2 | .. | First | 1920-21 | .. | First |
| 1902-3 | .. | Third | 1921-22 | .. | Second |
| 1903-4 | .. | Third | 1922-23 | .. | First |
| 1904-5 | .. | Second† | 1923-24 | .. | First |
| 1905-6 | .. | Fourth | 1924-25 | .. | First |
| 1906-7 | .. | Third | 1925-26 | .. | Sixth |
| 1907-8 | .. | Third | 1926-27 | .. | First |
| 1908-9 | .. | Fourth | 1927-28 | .. | First |

* Joint Champions.

† Runners-up after rubber match with Celtic.

RANGERS' TROPHY RECORD.

| |
|--|
| Winners of Scottish Cup (five times), 1893-4, 1896-7, 1897-8, 1902-3, 1927-28. |
| Winners of Glasgow Cup (seventeen times), 1892-3, 1893-4, 1896-7, 1897-8, 1899-1900, 1900-1, 1901-2, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1917-18, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1924-25. |
| Winners of Glasgow Charity Cup (thirteen times), 1878-9, 1896-7, 1899-1900, 1903-4, 1905-6, 1906-7, 1908-9, 1910-11, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1924-25, 1927-28. |
| Winners of Scottish League Championship (sixteen times), 1890-1 (Joint), 1898-9, 1899-1900, 1900-1, 1901-2, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1917-18, 1919-20, 1920-21, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1924-25, 1926-27, 1927-28. |

Plumber Work.

JOHN IRVING & SONS LTD.

PAVILION.

The Home Team Plunge Bath, which is below floor, measures 12' 6" × 6' 6" × 3' 0" deep, and is heated by a special boiler in basement.

The Home Team have also got two ordinary Plunge Baths, which are used by the players when training during the week; they have also a range of Lavatory Basins, one Urinal, one W.C., and Combination Overhead Shower.

GRAND STAND.

On the first floor, at the east and west end of Stand, there are Lavatories for Ladies and Gents.

At each side of the Stand, in centre outside Pavilion, there are also Ladies' and Gents' Lavatories.

Drinking Fountains are fitted in passages of Stand, also outside of Stand. In the Athletes' Room, overhead Showers are fitted.

There are also seven Tea Bars fitted in Stand, where the public can have tea during the game.

In connection with the Domestic Supplies, over 3,000 feet of copper pipes are fitted.

There are also 4,500 feet of cast iron soil, waste, and rain water pipes fitted.

Architect and Supervisor of Work.

ARCHIBALD LEITCH & PARTNERS, Consulting Engineers and Factory Architects, 18 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Contract.—CONTRACTOR.

Terracing.—WM. BAIN & CO. LTD., Lochrin Iron Works, Coatbridge.

Sheeters.—BELL'S POILITE & EVERITE CO. LTD., 65 Renfield Street, Glasgow.

Seating.—BENNET FURNISHING CO. LTD., 121 Avenue Street, Glasgow.

Steelwork.—CLYDE STRUCTURAL IRON CO. LTD., Clydeside Iron Works, Scotstoun, Glasgow.

Sashes.—CRITTALL MANUF. CO. LTD., 28 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow.

Turnstiles.—W. T. ELLISON & CO. LTD., Irlams o' th' Height, Manchester.

Steelwork.—GLASGOW STEEL ROOFING CO., North Western Works, Possilpark, Glasgow.

Plumber.—JOHN IRVING & SONS LTD., 328 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow.

Flooring.—KLEINE PATENT FIRE RESISTING SYNDICATE LTD., 133 Holborn (High), London W.C.2.

Joiner.—LAWSON & CO., Albion Street, Govan, Glasgow.

Joiner.—HAMILTON, MARR & CO., Govan Saw Mills, Govan, Glasgow.

Builders.—WILSON BROS., 110 Pinkston Road, Glasgow.

Tiles.—JOHN YAUDEN & SONS LTD., 131 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

Electricians.—T. M. COLQUHOUN & CO., 497 London Road, Glasgow, S.E.

Plasterer.—A. C. WHYTE & CO., 170 Hope Street, Glasgow.

Plasterer.—P. WHITE & CO., 26 Paul Street, Glasgow, C.4.



Season 1927-28.

Winners of
Scottish Cup
Scottish League
Championship
Glasgow Charity
Cup



Bailie DUNCAN GRAHAM, J.P., O.B.E. Bailie Jos. BUCHANAN, J.P., O.B.E. JAS. BOWIE, Director. W. R. SIMPSON, Secretary.
A. ARCHIBALD. J. FLEMING. D. MEIKLEJOHN. A. CUNNINGHAM. R. HAMILTON. J. BUCHANAN.
W. STRUTH, Manager. D. GRAY. T. CRAIG. T. MORTON. R. MCPHAIL. A. L. MORTON. JAS. KERR, Trainer.



Season 1927-28.

Winners of
Scottish 2nd XI.
Cup
The Alliance
Championship



EPIC FEATURES OF THE NEW GRAND STAND.

Steel.

THE GLASGOW STEEL ROOFING
CO.

Length of Stand - 476 ft.
Height to Eaves - 60 ft.
Span of Roof - 79 ft. 6 ins.
1,000 Tons of Steel have been used.
Longest Girder 106 ft. Weight 24 tons.

Mason Work.

WILSON BROS.

Total number of Bricks, 1,018,000.
Cement, 536 tons.
Concrete Steps, 6,500 lineal feet.

Joiner Work.

LAWSON & CO.

Approximate figures of Timber used
in construction of New Stand.

Battens, etc.—50,000 lineal feet,
which equals about $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Floor-
ings, linings, etc.—10,000 square yards,
which equals about 2 acres, and if
boards were placed end to end would
stretch about 200,000 lineal feet, or
almost 38 miles.

Kleine Patent Flooring.

6,000 Square yards.

THE BENNET FURNISHING CO.

19 rows of Tip-up Seats, numbering
10,500.

Electric Lighting.

T. M. COLQUHOUN & CO.

2 miles of Cable used throughout the
building.

Painting.

M'KENZIE & M'ARTHUR.

Painting and Distempering, 17,000
square yards.

Bell's Roofing Sheets.

6,500 square yards Roofing.

Glazing.

G. & J. RAE.

11,600 square feet of Steel Windows.

Sashes.

CRITTALL MANFG. CO. LTD.

10,000 square feet of Steel Sashes.

Plastering

(In Administrative Block).

P. WHITE & CO. LTD.

7,800 square yards.

Plastering

(In Grand Stand).

A. C. WHITE & CO., NEWLANDS.

2,450 square yards.

Joinering

(In Administrative Block).

HAMILTON, MARR & CO.

Mahogany Panelling, 2,000 square feet.

Oak Panelling, 3,000 square feet.

Port Orford Cedar, 3,000 square feet.

Steel

(In Administrative Block).

CLYDE STRUCTURAL CO. LTD.

Amount of steel used, 123 tons.

Turnstiles.

W. T. ELLISON & CO.

44 in Grand Stand and Enclosure.

Terazzo Work.

TOFFOLO, JACKSON & CO.

370 square yards of Terazzo Work.

Marble and Tile Work

(In Administrative Block and
Grand Stand).

JOHN YODEN & SONS.

1,850 Square feet.

Reinforced Enclosure Terracing.

W. BAIN & CO.

21,610 feet.

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HALL OF FAME

HAROLD DAVIS





HAROLD DAVIS

BORN 1933, Cupar, Fife

RANGERS APPEARANCES

(1956-1964) 261

GOALS 13

**HONOURS WON WITH
RANGERS**

League titles (4) – 1956/57,
1958/59, 1960/61, 1962/63

Scottish Cups (1) – 1961/62

League Cups (2) – 1960/61,
1961/62

THE machine-gun fire from North Korean forces ripped into Harold Davis's body in no-man's-land and he was lucky to survive, somehow crawling 200 yards with blood pouring from his wounds to reach a first aid post. An American 'bubble' Bell H-13 helicopter – like the ones made famous in the TV series *M.A.S.H.* – led him to safety and the next thing he knew he awoke in a British military hospital in Japan.

He had suffered terrible abdominal injuries and shrapnel wounds to his legs and foot. He spent the next two years in hospitals and rehabilitation centres as surgeons and physiotherapists fought to repair the massive damage that had been caused. It is therefore incredible to think that this hero of the Korean War – a largely forgotten conflict – became a stalwart player of not just one great Rangers side but two.

It was a link with Scot Symon that proved to be the catalyst for Davis's career as Symon had signed the youngster when he was manager of East Fife, although he was soon called up for National Service and sent to the Korean War in 1951 where he was a corporal with the Black Watch.

He recalled the fateful moment when he came close to making the ultimate war-time sacrifice: "Night-time was when most of the shelling and shooting took place. I just happened to be in a place I should not have been. A flare went up and I got caught in no-man's-land...I was hit by machine-gun fire in the abdominal area and on the leg

RFT TOKEN



RFT Token
available on
Bitci.com



Bitci.COM

and the foot. They missed my Achilles by inches.

"The first thing you think about is survival. I was strong enough to drag myself back a couple of hundred yards and I was pulled into a first aid post. An American helicopter then picked me up and took me back behind the lines to an emergency hospital. It was the Yanks who saved my bacon."

Although born in Fife, Davis had been brought up in Perthshire and it was during his rehabilitation at Bridge of Earn that he met Davie Kinnear who took a vested interest in the young war veteran. Kinnear had won championship medals with Rangers in 1936/37 and 1938/39 and he had become one of the leading physiotherapists in the country. He returned to the club to work for Symon soon after he had replaced Bill Struth as manager in 1954. He mentioned Davis to the manager, who clearly remembered the young half back, and when Davis returned to playing for East Fife - they had kept him under contract during all that time - Symon moved in to sign him for £1,750 in October 1956.

Davis said of his early days at Ibrox: "I was in awe because I was joining men like Ian McColl, George Young and George Niven. Young was a giant in every sense and he could kick a leather ball just about as far as they can kick these lightweight balls now.

"I also played with Ian McMillan and Jim Baxter and they were great to play with. McMillan was clever and thoughtful and Jim was just a class act. He might have two or three bad games and then he



RANGERS 1957:
(BACK ROW, L
TO R) SHEARER,
CALDOW,
NIVEN, MCCOLL,
DAVIS (FRONT
ROW) SCOTT,
MORRISON,
MURRAY,
YOUNG, BAIRD
HUBBARD



would go out and win a game on his own."

Davis was tough but he was also very quick. No one at Ibrox could beat him over 100 yards. He worked harder on his fitness than any other player because of the injuries he had suffered in action and he was a vital player in a defensive-midfield role. Not many won tackles against him. He won the title in his first season and he went on to claim three more in his time at Ibrox.

Davis was also involved in Rangers' first tentative ventures into European football, first playing OGC Nice in the European Cup in October and November 1956 but losing in a play-off. There was much better



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RANGERS MUSEUM LOTTO



signed up to our new weekly Museum Lotto Draw. Our museum will show many items never before viewed by fans and some of these items will require professional repair to restore them to their former glory.

"We will also undertake a major digitisation project to ensure documents of significant social, economic and football history are professionally conserved. We will also conserve and protect old film and thousands of photographs and artefacts of great interest to fans.

"This restoration and digitisation work will rely on Museum Lotto profits. If you sign up to play the Museum Lotto then you do so with the knowledge and comfort that you are contributing

to the conservation and protection of many items of true Rangers history for future generations of Rangers fans.

"A museum showcasing our rich history, as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations, is fantastic news. Thank you again to everyone for their backing. The more supporters who play our new Museum Lotto, the more we will be able to support and conserve our rich history."

The Rangers Museum Draw costs £1 to play. To sign up please visit rydc.co.uk, call 0141 427 4914 or email rydc@rangers.co.uk. The top prize is £2,500, second prize is £500 and there are 10 prizes of £20 each week.



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COLIN STEWART

Kirsty Howat

MY STORY

TODAY WE CONTINUE OUR MY STORY SERIES AS WE LEARN ABOUT THE JOURNEY TO PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL FOR THE PLAYERS IN THE RANGERS WOMEN'S SQUAD. **KIRSTY HOWAT** IS FIRST THIS SEASON AS SHE TELLS US ABOUT GROWING UP IN DUMFRIES, HER CAREER SO FAR AND HOW HER REHAB IS GOING AFTER SHE SUFFERED AN ACL INJURY IN APRIL

BY LOUISE SHAW • PHOTOS: LUKE NICKERSON

KIRSTY Howat describes the moment she signed for Rangers as a professional as a 'dream come true' as she gave up a career in teaching to put her full focus into football.

Growing up on the outskirts of Dumfries, the 24-year-old always had the ambition to make it as a professional but says at that time there weren't many opportunities

for female players in Scotland.

Starting off playing in her hometown, the striker was signed by Rangers at the age of 15 and made it into the Light Blues first team before she went on to enjoy a successful two and a half years at Glasgow City. However, Kirsty is now delighted to be back in blue.

She said: "Growing up I played with the local side, Dumfries Girls, and we



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used to play against Glasgow teams. From there I actually moved to Rangers for a few years, got into the first team and then played for a few clubs after that before moving to Glasgow City.

"I had a successful two and a half years there and I really loved it. It was really competitive and the Champions League was great as it really tested us.

"It showed us where we wanted to be and the pace and physicality of the big European sides is something that we can only aspire to be like. Especially here at Rangers, with the set-up that we have, we really want to push on and show that we could be one of the best sides in Europe.

"I do remember coming to Ibrox for the first time when I was about seven or eight, my dad brought me up.

"That was my first experience at a big stadium, but in terms of playing I just remember always wanting to play football and kick a ball about.

"One of my main inspirations was actually my

dad. He played football and rugby but he was the one that pushed me all the way and took me to all my training.

"He still comes to all the games that he can, so for me it was my dad inspiring me to go all the way."

After finishing school, Kirsty studied at the University of Edinburgh before spending just over a year as a PE teacher at Renfrew High School.

She admits it was difficult to leave the school as she committed to full-time football.

"If I didn't have football, it was always going to be PE teaching so I am really glad I got that under my wing and it is something I would like to go back to in the future after my football career," Kirsty added.

"It was a really great experience - I loved working there and the staff and the pupils were amazing. It was actually really difficult to leave but the balance was difficult, trying to train after having a full day at work.

"I ended up missing



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some strength sessions and stuff as well just because it was far too much and it was really busy, but it was what I loved to do. It is great to now be able to focus fully on my football and I am loving it."

As a full-time professional in Scotland, Kirsty says it is great there are now role models for the next generation of female footballers.

She continued: "When I was younger I always wanted to be a footballer. I think it is the dream for a lot of people when they are really small but as you mature and grow up you kind of realise that it is maybe not something you are able to do, especially as a female and living in Scotland.

"There weren't that many role models either in the women's game growing up and you didn't really hear of that many Scottish professional women footballers.

"It's great that younger girls now can see there is a pathway and an opportunity for people to become professional players in the Scottish league.

"It is great to see young girls stepping up within our team and also the younger ones having people to look up to and coming to watch our games and seeing that that's where they could be one day."

After the high of becoming a professional with Rangers in December 2020 and getting off to a dream start with a hat-trick on her debut, Kirsty suffered an ACL injury in an Old Firm match in April ruling her out for at least nine months.

Having had a successful operation and now working her way back to full fitness, the striker says the support of the club, staff and her teammates is helping her through this difficult time.

She said: "I kind of

knew straight away when I was at Celtic Park - I turned and knew it wasn't looking good for me. I felt a pop in my right knee and then just instant pain.

"There was always a little bit of hope. I tried to walk off the park and kind of run it off but it was a really gutting moment. It was a big game and a big occasion and I couldn't believe it. I was absolutely gutted.

"It was a really tough time but I was in the best place in terms of facilities and staff and all the girls were amazing and really got around me at that time.

"I spoke to Demi Vance and other girls within the team who have suffered ACL injuries and the main thing they spoke about was setting goals and taking the small wins because it is obviously a long process.

"For me, I really focused on setting small targets and trying to achieve them and feeling a sense of achievement when reaching the targets - literally things like being able to straighten my leg again.

"I always try to get out at the end of training when I have done my rehab or go and see the girls before training, just to stay as part of the team and stay in the environment.

"It can definitely get very lonely just doing rehab on your own so I am just trying to stay involved as best as possible.

"I can't wait to get back on the pitch and back into training. It has been a really long time and it has been a really difficult time, but I can't wait to get back on the pitch and start playing competitive games again."

You can watch Kirsty Howat's full My Story feature on RangersTV.



SUN, rain, wind or snow, no matter the weather, a young Ted continually fired footballs past his older brother looking to be like his favourite player Andres Iniesta and hoping that one day he would pull on a light blue shirt and represent his boyhood club.

From those heady youthful days, to driving through the gates of the Rangers Training Centre every morning, Robbie Fraser really is living his childhood dream.

The 18-year-old has been involved within the Rangers family or connected to the club in some way since the age of five - whether it be cheering his heroes on as a fan from the stands or playing as a defender on the pitch.

The talented Ibrox prospect has watched his team's journey back to the Premiership from the Third Division and the unforgettable 55th title success in season 2020/21 - and he wants a piece of the action.

Following the signing of a contract extension in June 2021, Fraser has become a regular in David McCallum's B Team and is embracing the mental and physical challenges that the Lowland League delivers.

The club's second string have enjoyed an excellent start to their league campaign and continue to learn from playing against experienced players and senior teams. And Fraser is adamant the boys are looking to improve after every fixture no matter the result.

He said: "Football excites me, it's what I love to do. It's the only thing I'm really good at!

"It gives you immense pride to drive through the blue gates at the training ground every day. It's almost fortunate in a way, but it is also through the hard work you put in to be here.

"When we first heard we were going to play in the Lowland League this season with the B Team it really excited me and the full squad.

"It's a challenge we've never really had before going into a men's league; it was playing friendlies here and there against big teams but not really having regular games against men's teams.

"We couldn't wait to start and we've begun very well so it's even better.

"At this stage, starting regularly is massive for me. You need to be playing often to show what you can do, and I feel that I am really benefitting from the game time that I am getting."

As the Light Blue left-back strives to break into the first team and grab the shirt off Calvin Bassey



or Borna Barisic, he continually examines the style of play from the senior defenders to incorporate into his own game development.

He said: "I will look at clips of Borna Barisic and Calvin Bassey to see how they are playing and what they are doing. I'll then look at my own footage to see if there are any small changes that I can implement to make a difference to my own game.

"I want to get their shirt soon, but I am concentrating on my football at the moment.

"I feel like we are dealing with the mental and physical challenges very well this season, you can see from the results we are flying.

Robbie Fraser

BACKGARDEN to B TEAM

"As a team we are never satisfied, we always want more and every day we are learning, we're looking at our own games and trying to improve and get better every single day.

"The message of being relentless is always getting spoken about. We must be striving to get better every day and we feel like we are doing that at the moment.

"It's benefitting us a lot now and it took us some time to get into the rhythm of it. When you watch our games and then the first-team's matches you can see that we are starting to play like them now."

If you want to see the young Gers compete this season, visit the club's website to see how you can watch and support the future stars of Ibrox.

By Heather Miller

TODAY'S MASCOTS



Jay Reilly

Age 13
From Glasgow
Hobbies Playing football and gaming
Favourite Player
Kemar Roofe

Mya Chadwick

Age 8
From Darwen, Lancashire
Hobbies Playing outside with friends and playing Roblox
Favourite Player
James Tavernier



Kyle Glen

Age 12
From Ayr
Hobbies Football, snooker and all things Rangers
Favourite Player
James Tavernier



Jay Smith

Age 11
From Dunbar, East Lothian
Hobbies Playing football with his friends or his team
Lothian Colts
Favourite Player
Joe Aribo



Lewis Govan

Age 11
From: Motherwell
Hobbies Football and boxing
Favourite Player Ryan Kent



Kiera Duncan

Age 15

From Glasgow

Hobbies Supporting the famous Glasgow Rangers, cheerleading and listening to American rap music

Favourite Players Nathan Patterson and Alfredo Morelos



Kyle Montgomery

Age 11

From Falkirk

Hobbies Playing football, watching Rangers and playing on my PlayStation 5

Favourite Player Alfredo Morelos



Euan Dunsmore

Age 7

From Livingston

Hobbies Playing football and golf

Favourite Player Alfredo Morelos



Fraser MacKintosh

Age 11

From Moodiesburn

Hobbies Playing football and cycling

Favourite Player Joe Aribo



Maisy Chadwick

Age 3

From: Darwen, Lancashire

Hobbies Swimming and playing on my tree swing

Favourite Player Scott Arfield





2021

July

3-0 31 SPFL Livingston (h)

August

1-2 3 CLQ Malmo FF (a)

0-1 7 SPFL Dundee United (a)

1-2 10 CLQ Malmo (h)

5-0 13 SLC Dunfermline (h)

1-0 19 ELQ Alashkert (h)

4-2 22 SPFL Ross County (a)

26 ELQ Alashkert (a) - 4pm

29 SPFL Celtic (h) - 12 noon

September

11 SPFL St Johnstone (a) - 12.30pm

18 SPFL Motherwell (h) - 3pm

22 SLC Livingston (h) - 7.45pm

25 SPFL Dundee (a) - 3pm

October

2 SPFL Hibernian (h) - 3pm

16 SPFL Hearts (h) - 3pm

23 SPFL St Mirren (a) - 3pm

27 SPFL Aberdeen (h) - 7.45pm

30 SPFL Motherwell (a) - 3pm

November

6 SPFL Ross County (h) - 3pm

20 SPFL St Johnstone (h) - 3pm

27 SPFL Livingston (a) - 3pm

December

1 SPFL Hibernian (a) - 7.45pm

4 SPFL Dundee (h) - 3pm

11 SPFL Hearts (a) - 3pm

18 SPFL Dundee United (h) - 3pm

26 SPFL St Mirren (h) - 3pm

29 SPFL Aberdeen (a) - 7.45pm



2022

January

2 SPFL Celtic (a) - 3pm

26 SPFL Livingston (h) - 7.45pm

29 SPFL Ross County (a) - 3pm

February

5 SPFL Hearts (h) - 3pm

9 SPFL Hibernian (h) - 7.45pm

19 SPFL Dundee Utd (a) - 3pm

26 SPFL Motherwell (h) - 3pm

March

2 SPFL St Johnstone (a) - 7.45pm

5 SPFL Aberdeen (h) - 3pm

19 SPFL Dundee (a) - 3pm

April

2 SPFL Celtic (h) - 3pm

9 SPFL St Mirren (a) - 3pm

Last updated Tuesday August 24

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee

Kevin Clancy

AR1

David McGeachie

AR2

Frank Connor

Fourth Official

John Beaton

21/22

FIXTURES



HONOURS

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP (1)

Winners 1972 (Runners-up 1961, 1967)

UEFA CUP Runners-up 2008

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CHAMPIONS (55) 1891, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902,

1911, 1912, 1913, 1918, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929,

1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1953, 1956,

1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991,

1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2009,

2010, 2011, 2021

SPFL CHAMPIONSHIP (1) 2016

SPFL LEAGUE ONE (1) 2014

SFL DIVISION 3 (1) 2013

SCOTTISH CUP (33) 1894, 1897, 1898, 1903, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934,

1935, 1936, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1953, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1973,

1976, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003,

2008, 2009

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP (27) 1946/47, 1948/49, 1960/61, 1961/62,

1963/64, 1964/65, 1970/71, 1975/76, 1977/78, 1978/79, 1981/82,

1983/84, 1984/85, 1986/87, 1987/88, 1988/89, 1990/91, 1992/93,

1993/94, 1996/97, 1998/99, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2004/05, 2007/08,

2009/10, 2010/11

SCOTTISH CHALLENGE CUP (1) 2015/16



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32Red

FROM
CHAMPIONSHIP
TO
CHAMPIONS





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| 23 | Scott WRIGHT |
| 24 | Nnamdi OFOBORH |
| 25 | Kemar ROOFE |
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| 27 | Stephen KELLY |
| 28 | Robby MCCRORIE ^(GK) |
| 30 | Fashion SAKALA |
| 31 | Borna BARISIC |
| 33 | Jon MCLAUGHLIN ^(GK) |
| 37 | Scott ARFIELD |



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