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# RANGERS NEWS



No. 78. WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31, 1973

The official newspaper of Rangers Football Club

## \* CENTENARY SPECIAL

*Dateline Amsterdam*

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# 100,000 REASONS!

## Rangers, Ajax lead the way for Super Cup

**THERE is a distinct possibility that an annual European Cup winners versus European Cup Winners' Cup champions match will be staged—and officially recognised by the European Union.**

And there was also a feeling in Amsterdam after last week's game that such a match might replace the annually ill-fated game with the champions of South America.

People in high places have been impressed with the organisation behind the two-leg affair and it has been very well received by the press and public all over the world.

The secretary of the Union of European Football Associations, Dr. Hans Bangarter, seems ready to lend his considerable support to making a match between the winners of the two premier European trophies an annual affair.

For although Dr. Bangarter has not committed U.E.F.A. to anything, he has indicated his committee's pleasure at the way the things went and has suggested his executive council will be looking at the situation with a view to making it official.

The newspaper behind the idea in the first place, Amsterdam's *de Telegraaf*, is delighted with the success of the venture and would certainly not stand in the way of a 'take-over' on an official basis.

And both Rangers general manager Willie Waddell and Ajax president Van Praag have expressed thoughts that the game could take place every year between the winners of the two premier trophies in Europe.

But the most important thing to remember is that the facts to support the idea are there for all to see.

A TOTAL of very nearly 100,000 fans watched the two games along with millions in various countries throughout the world on television.

Nine GOALS were scored—four in Glasgow and five in Amsterdam—and that is, after all, what the game is all about.

The QUALITY of the football played throughout was of the very highest standard and the sporting behaviour of both teams was one of the best features.

RANGERS received a beautiful antique Dutch clock at a presentation ceremony in Amsterdam last Wednesday.

Ajax president Van Praag handed the gift over to Rangers director George Brown in return for the wonderful amethyst the Ibrox club gave Ajax at the first game in Glasgow.



### Willie wins an Oscar

**WILLIE MATHIESON** received the Partick Loyal Supporters Club annual 'Oscar Award' while he was 'absent' in Holland last week.

Young Ranger George Hunter accepted the statuette on Willie's behalf at a ceremony in the Lesser Partick Hall on the Monday night.

But there is an unlucky story behind the award for along with it the player is meant to receive a large cake.

Unfortunately, as the cake was being taken to the presentation, the car carrying it was in a collision.

But Willie has been assured he will get another!



● Alex MacDonald, arm raised in salute, turns to acknowledge Alfie Conn's congratulations after putting Rangers in front against Morton.

### ANNEHE'S AN AJAX STUNNER

**TWENTY-YEAR-OLD** hotel receptionist Annehe Rubbens (above) delighted Derek Parlane and his Ibrox team mates when she posed for the *News* in an Ajax strip.

The strip was supplied by courtesy of the young Rangers striker so it seemed only right to let him be photographed with Annehe. And he enjoyed every minute.

Annehe is a receptionist at the Esso Motor Hotel where the Rangers party was staying but she isn't a football fan.

In fact, she told the *News* that she had only ever been to one football match in her life—Ajax versus F.C. Amsterdam two years ago—and she couldn't remember the score!

But, regardless of her apparent disinterest in the world of football, she certainly caused a stir in the Rangers camp.

The strip, incidentally, was provided by Derek who had bought it for his young brother. He would be the first to agree it fits Annehe better.

**BELL'S THE SKILFUL BLEND**

**SCOTLAND'S NUMBER ONE SCOTCH WHISKY**



# CENTENARY

DATELINE AMSTERDAM



## The 'News' goes Dutch

RANGERS NEWS, the paper no Light Blue fan can afford to be without, brings you yet another exclusive edition.

For, as usual, our writer and photographer travelled with Rangers to Amsterdam to bring you inside stories and pictures you won't find in the national press.

And, following the tremendous success of our special centenary edition, this week we bring you SIX colourful, action packed pages devoted exclusively to Rangers Dutch trip. It's all in the paper that puts YOU first!



General manager Willie Waddell is met at the airport by Ajax President Van Praag and the manager of the Olympic Stadium.

\* SPECIAL \*

### RANGERS NEWS

The official newspaper of Rangers F.C.

Season '72-'73



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Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow

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#### The Honours

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP CHAMPIONS—1972  
RUNNERS-UP 1961, 1967  
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS (34)  
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.  
\* In 1891 the championship was shared with Dumbarton.  
SCOTTISH CUP WINNERS (19)  
1894, 1897, 1898, 1903, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1953, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1966.  
LEAGUE CUP WINNERS (7)  
1947, 1949, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1970.  
OTHER STATISTICS  
Glasgow Cup holders 37 times, Charity Cup (32) Southern League (4), Southern League Cup (4), Emergency War Cup and Scottish Regional League (1939-40), Victory Cup 1946 Reserve League champions (25), 2nd XI Cup (23), Reserve League Cup (5).

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# WE WERE LUCKY

# TO BEAT RANGERS!

—And even the great Pete Keizer says so

IF AJAX made a big hit when they played in Glasgow, then 'Gers made an equally big impact with Dutch players and supporters in Amsterdam. One supporter said he had not seen any side play so well against Ajax for a very long time and that view was echoed by two of the Dutch team's stars, Piet Keizer and Horst Blankenberg.

Said Keizer: 'The Rangers played very well and I think we were a bit lucky to beat them.'

'You have a good young side and players like Johnstone and Parlane will do very well when they are a bit more experienced. They were good in the two games we've had so they should get better.'

Keizer's team mate Horst Blankenberg—a frightening sight for any forward with his black beard—agreed.

### Sporting

'It was another good game between two very good teams. All the Ajax players enjoyed the tie and I think the Rangers men did too.'

'These were two of the best games we have had for many months. They were both sporting and full of good football.'

Both Keizer and Blankenberg spoke, too, of the fans both at Ibrox and at the Olympic Stadium—but for different reasons.

Said Keizer: 'The fans at Ibrox in the first game were incredible. They made so much noise and were a great boost for Rangers.'

'OUR SUPPORTERS TONIGHT DID THE SAME FOR US—HELPED US—BUT WE DO NOT USUALLY GET AS

**'These were two of the best games for many months'**

NOISY A CROWD AS THAT. WE ARE LUCKY USUALLY IF WE GET HALF THAT NUMBER.'

Talking about the fans means talking about the infernal horns every Dutchman seems to take to a game.

And in the vast Olympic Stadium the noise seemed to echo and this was a tremendous support for the Ajax players. But for foreign supporters the noise is a nightmare.

The game attracted considerably more spectators than was originally expected and about 40,000 was the unofficial figure.

And they generated an atmosphere like the European Cup Final, itself. But, to their credit, the Dutch fans always applauded Rangers at the right time.



How about this for a new fashion craze in Scotland. They may not be much use on the football field but George Donaldson reckons the clogs would turn more than the odd eye in the street.

## Roaring success —Dutch newsman!

TOP Dutch sports columnist, Anton Witkamp, said in the *Telsport*—the sports equivalent to *De Telegraaf*, 'This was the final of finals.'

The match organised by *De Telegraaf* for the Europa Cup was a great success. More than a hundred thousand enthusiastic fans watched in Amsterdam and in Glasgow. Spectacular football was played in both countries.

However, the world club champions took the lion's share of the nine goals scored—the final score was 6-3 on aggregate—and as far as goals are concerned the fans certainly got their money's worth.

'Much has been said about this super cup since we inaugurated it. The point of all the talk was that

U.E.F.A. did not recognise it. But there was no preconceived intention from us. *Telsport* made it quite clear at the start that we would hold the competition this year and that if it was a success it could well be adopted by U.E.F.A. in the future.

The only thing that U.E.F.A. said about the cup was that the matches played were not under any of its laws—so they were not invited to the first games—but the success of these two games could well make them change their minds.'



How'd you like to carry this cup round the track... **YOURSELF**

'The best keeper in Scotland'—Wallace

# Dutch fans just wild about Pete



\* SPECIAL \*



PETER McCLOY chose the perfect setting—the Olympic Stadium, Amsterdam, and a game against the World Champions—to turn in one of his best-ever performances.

The big Rangers 'keeper has seldom, if ever, played with such assurance and agility. A great display which had even the partisan Dutch fans on their feet—and had manager Jock Wallace acclaiming him as another Lev Yashin.

Peter made a good start to the match when he saved well from Keizer twice in the space of four minutes and this always helps a goalkeeper settle down.

But after that, he had a number of saves from shots which seemed sure to find the back of the net.

A fine save from Neeskens... a brave dive at Cruyff's feet... a wonderful double save from Hulshoff and Blankenberg... palming over a Keizer rocket—and that was all in the first half!

The big man played out of his skin in the second half as well and had fine saves from a Neeskens header and Cruyff and Keizer efforts.

He certainly got the crowd right on his side for as he saved shot after shot, they broke into applause time and again and even, on occasions, rose to their feet while clapping!

## Enthusiastic

But worthy of mention, too, is the fact that Dutch reporters were also enthusiastic about his display and rated him as highly as any foreign 'keeper to play in Holland.

Peter himself was naturally less talkative about the game and his own performance than the people who were praising him but he did say: 'I was quite pleased with the way I played in both the games against Ajax but remember I let in six goals.'

Big Jock Wallace was delighted with the player's form—as he has been most of the season.

'They were going daft about him over there. I'm very pleased with his form at the moment.'

'I predicted a while ago that he would be the best 'keeper in Scotland and I have been proved right, I think,' said the Boss.



● A great game behind him... big PETE looks at a boat on a shopping trip.

## Look out Brando—It's 'Godfather' Greig!

MARLON BRANDO had better start looking over his shoulder for there is a new 'GODFATHER' after his title.

And the man in question is none other than Ibrox skipper John Greig.

The story starts when Ajax were in Glasgow and Greig and Dutch star Horst Blankenberg had a talk through a third party at the reception after the game.

Then when Rangers were in Amsterdam, the pair met up again at the after-the-match buffet and had a really good chat.

'Horst asked me to be godfather if his wife Rosita has a son,' said Greig. 'They want to call him—if the baby is a boy—Thomas John Blankenberg and that's why they asked me.'

'Rosita is expecting the baby in about three and a half weeks time so

Horst said he would keep in touch and let me know what happens.

'I think he wants me to go over but I certainly won't be able to for a while because of Rangers' commitments.'

'The next few months are going to be fairly hectic what with Cup and League games so I don't know at the moment when I will manage over but I'd like to go.'

'At the reception in Amsterdam he made me an offer I couldn't refuse,' cracked John.

Blankenberg, of course, is the only foreigner in the Ajax team and comes from Germany. He played in The Three versus The Six match at Wembley recently and has since been included in a West German national squad.

## AJAX ACE SAYS 'YES' TO ALFIE'S HOLIDAY

THE roles of Rangers player Alfie Conn and Ajax star Johnny Neeskens were reversed in Amsterdam last week.

For at Ibrox in the first game, Alfie played and Neeskens was a spectator because of injury and in Holland it was the other way about with Alf on the sidelines while Johnny played.

And all the while, the two players were renewing a friendship they struck up together two years ago in a youth international.

'We played against each other a couple of years back in a Scotland-Holland international in the European Youth Cup at Ibrox.'

## The best

'Scotland lost 1-0 that day and the player who scored the goal was another Ajax star, Johnny Rep. Rep came on as substitute and went on to score the winner!' said Alfie.

'But I got to know Johnny Neeskens then and when he was over for the first leg of the Rangers-Ajax game we had a natter. Then when Rangers went to Holland we got together again and this time I invited him over for a holiday with me in Scotland. He's accepted and is coming over for a week during the summer. And he's asked me back to stay with him for a while.'

'We get on well and I think a lot of him as a player. He admits he's the strong man of the Ajax side but he can play a bit as well. He's very skilful, like the rest of that team.'

'He raves about Holland and Ajax. He's been there for three years and he's only 20 now—21 in a wee while and he reckons they're the best.'

'He was very impressed with Ibrox, though, when they were over. And he thought the crowd was fantastic. He told me he enjoyed the trip to Scotland.'

## SOME FACTS ABOUT AN AMAZING TROPHY

● The giant, gleaming Europa Cup the 'Super Cup of Europe', is valued at 16,000 guilders, which works out at around £2,500. The Ajax players decided to do a lap of honour with the monster cup, but not long after they realised what a mistake they had made, for the trophy weighs in at a far—from—light FOUR STONES, and the players had quite a job lugging the giant cup round the track. Said coach Stefan Kovacs afterwards, 'From now on if we need the cup moved we'll get big Barry Hulshoff to move it!' And the Rangers players quipped that if THEY had won the cup, wee Tommy McLean would have had his hot bath after the match INSIDE IT!



How's this for a couple of 'mugs'... DEREK JOHNSTONE and DEREK PARLANE pose for the 'News' with their colourful Holland hats during a shopping expedition.

# NO PENALTY!

## CENTENARY

—Even top U.E.F.A. referee says so . . .

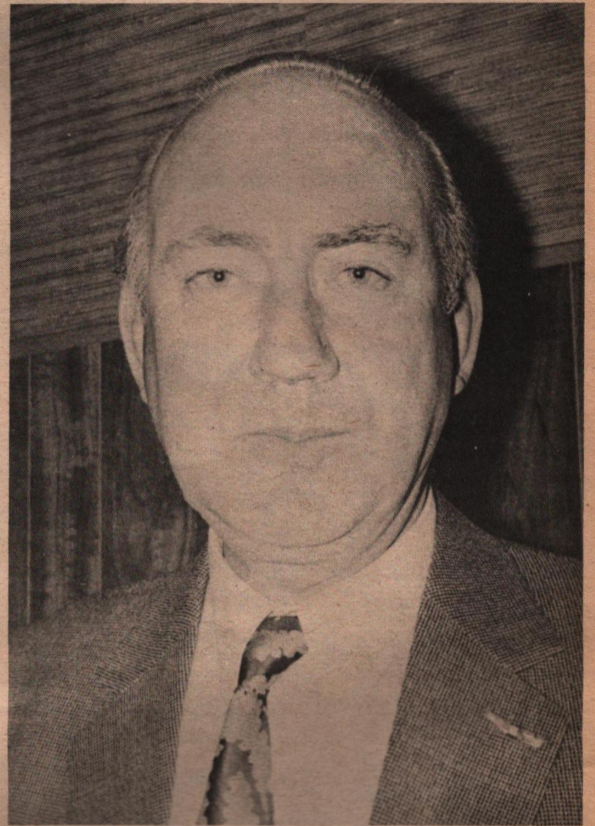


CHAIRMAN of the Dutch professional referee's association and unofficial observer from the Union of European Football Associations (E.U.F.A.), Mr Jan Martens was at the game and criticised many aspects of the West German referee's handling of the game.

Mr Martens made it clear, however, that the views were purely personal ones and that he was not at the game in an official capacity.

But he did tell the *News*: 'I thought it was a bad decision to give that penalty. The linesman had his flag up for offside against Neeskens and the tackle itself was not a bad one.'

'Apart from that incident, though, the referee also didn't make full use of the advantage rule. On one or two occasions he whistled when he should have let play run on.'



● Jan Martens . . . 'a bad decision'.

## \* SPECIAL \*

□ DATELINE AMSTERDAM

# 'If that was a penalty then I'm a Dutchman!'

Says Tom Forsyth



THE goal which brought Ajax from the brink of possible defeat to a 2-2 scoreline near the end of the first half was a cruel blow to Rangers.

For few people in the vast bowl of the Olympic Stadium agreed with West German referee H. J. Weiland that Tom Forsyth tackled Johnny Neeskens unfairly.

But the ref stood by his decision to give a spot kick although the Rangers players wanted him to consult a

linesman.

Muhren duly scored and the general feeling amongst Dutch and Scottish players and pressmen alike was that it proved to be the turning point of the game.

It obviously came at a critical time for Rangers for at that point they were more than holding their own against the World Champions.

TOM FORSYTH, himself, was naturally disappointed about the incident. 'I thought I

had got the ball cleanly away from Neeskens,' said Tam. 'It wasn't far inside our area and as far as I was concerned I tackled fairly. If that was a penalty—I'm a Dutchman!'

'It was probably the turning point in the game for we had them rocking beforehand,' he added.

The other players, of course, attached no blame to the big defender and all were adamant that it was a poor decision—a view echoed by one or two of the Ajax players and most of the press contingent at the game.

The Scottish press was unanimous that Neeskens was OFFSIDE anyway, and that view was substantiated by a linesman.

And a Dutch reporter from Rotterdam disagreed vehemently with the penalty decision. In fact, from that time—in the 37th minute—until half-time he talked of nothing else!

These things happen in football but there is no doubt it was a blow from which Rangers never fully recovered—try as they might.

Mr Martens is well qualified to comment on referees' performances for he was one himself for 12 years!

And one of the games he was in control of, back in season 1961-62, was between Rangers and Vorwaerts Berlin in the European Cup.

'I remember that game well for I was very impressed with Rangers then, as I am now. It was a good match in Berlin and I think Rangers won 2-1.'

'Gers eventually won that tie 6-2 on aggregate but went out of the Cup to Standard Liege in the quarter final.'

## Sorry

And, again on the game in Amsterdam, Mr Martens added: 'It was a very good game with plenty of excitement for the supporters.'

I am sorry now that I missed the game in Glasgow because I have heard so much about it. You have a very good young side and they will surely become even better. Playing Ajax is good experience and they will learn a lot.'

## Observer

Mr Martens retired from refereeing some time ago and became chairman of the Dutch Professional Referees' Association. He is also an observer for E.U.F.A.

And on his E.U.F.A. trips he has often met Scottish referee Bobby Davidson and, he said, 'gave him good marks for his handling of the games!'

Mr Martens asked us to pass on his regards to Bobby and wish him all the best. Happy to oblige!

★ ★ ★

BIG Tam Forsyth, who has settled down so well at the back after his injury problems, celebrated his 24th birthday in Amsterdam.

At night, Tam was joined for a while in the Esso Motor Hotel by his brother who had flown over for the game.

## What the Dutch say

UNLIKE every Rangers player and official, and every member of the Scottish Press present at the game, top Dutch paper, *De Telegraaf*, who donated the cup, felt that Tommy Forsyth's tackle on Neeskens, which resulted in great controversy, was a foul, and did warrant a penalty.

Said *De Telegraaf*, 'Forsyth put a stop to Rangers' 2-1 domination of the game when he fouled Neeskens as he tried to shoot for goal. The West German referee was right to point to the penalty spot.'

After the game, Rangers skipper John Greig said, 'I thought the penalty award was ridiculous. It should never have been.'

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CENTENARY

DATELINE AMSTERDAM



GOOD CRUYFF! IT'S JOHAN THE DRIVER

\* SPECIAL \*

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

Rangers, you were just fantastic!

THE squad of Scottish journalists who accompanied Rangers to Amsterdam all agreed it was a super show from the Light Blues. Here's what they said in print the next day:

'Rangers rose to the occasion and gave Ajax the fright of their life. . . . They were unlucky to lose, a draw would have been a more just result. . . . This display was typical of the form Rangers showed when clearing the way for their European Cup-Winners' Cup victory in Barcelona.'—JIM BLAIR, Evening Times.

'Rough justice on Rangers who were denied a draw after giving Ajax as close a European match as they've had for four years in their own country. . . . Rangers gave a much higher level of play than anyone could have expected, twice taking the lead before Ajax equalised with a highly controversial penalty. . . . The Dutch side never looked happy when Rangers took the match to them—and that was often.'—BOBBY MAITLAND, Evening Citizen.

'The measure of Rangers' achievement is in the record book, because since Ajax reached the magnificent peak they now sit on, no other European side has scored twice against them at home. . . . Not for a second did this fighting and surprisingly confident Rangers team allow the frightening Ajax machine to run smoothly.'—JOHN MACKENZIE, Scottish Daily Express.

'This was the Rangers who had performed so magnificently in Lisbon, in Turin, in Munich and in Barcelona. . . . And here, at the Olympic Stadium where so many of football's great names have been humbled by these Dutch destroyers, Rangers pushed them to the limit.'—KEN GAL-LACHER, Daily Record

'Rangers refused to bow the knee to Ajax in the thrilling second leg of this European Champions' clash. . . . An early goal gave them heart and settled them to play some fine football. In the style Ajax reminded them they could play at Ibrox.'—BRIAN SCOTT, Daily Mail.

THE official team bus driver made a terrible mistake when he welcomed the Rangers party on arrival at Amsterdam Airport! He told the players and officials that his name was Johan, added with a laugh that his surname wasn't Cruyff—and then invited everybody to call him 'Jonah!'

The name really stuck but nobody claimed he was bad luck for Rangers!

Johan, in fact, was thrilled to be the official driver for Rangers. 'I have driven for Liverpool and they were happy with me and now I'm driving for Rangers.'

'I am really an Ajax supporter and always go to their games but I think I would like the Glasgow Rangers to do well this time.'

Johan—his real surname is Beziugen—watched the team at training and was particularly impressed with 'the long one'—Peter McCloy.

'This long one, he is a good goalkeeper, ja?' he kept saying.

And he was never more pleased than when he was talking to John Greig. Johan pronounced Greig's name 'Greeje' which caused some hilarity!

But Johan did say that he had never driven for a happier team. 'I have a radio on the bus but it is not needed because you are singing and shouting all the time.'

'They are all very happy and it is a good thing. I have never seen a happier team.'

After the match, Johan—very near to being a confirmed Rangers fan—said: 'You were very unlucky. I think that it was not a penalty and so it was too bad.'

It certainly was too bad but Rangers won over another fan during their stay in Amsterdam—even if his name is Jonah

★ ★ ★

RANGERS can take a great deal of credit from the game in Amsterdam for they achieved something no other team has done since 1969.

For that was the last time Ajax had lost two goals to a European side, other than in their own league, when Benfica won 3-1 in the European Cup.

That's a fair indication of just what Rangers achieved and add to that the last time they lost in the Olympic Stadium was two years ago to Feyenoord—again by 3-1—and it shows Rangers did Scotland proud.

★ ★ ★

ONE of the first things pointed out to the Rangers party in Amsterdam was a giant zeppelin-type balloon flying high above the Olympic Stadium.

The balloon was a publicity stunt to advertise the Super Cup of Europe by the newspaper 'de Telegraaf'.

'de Telegraaf', of course, is the paper which originally thought of the idea of matching the European Cup winners and the European Cup-Winners' Cup champions.

A LARGE poster hung down from the balloon and on it was written: "'de Telegraaf' have organised something again—the Super Cup of Europe."

The paper's leading sports journalist, Jan de Deugd, told the 'News': 'My paper is delighted with the success of this venture and, naturally, we hope it will become an annual affair.'

The two games were very good and everybody who saw them and played in them enjoyed the matches.'

ALEX MacDONALD continued building up his collection of 'Rembrandts' when he bought another painting in Amsterdam.

Doddie always buys a painting when he is away with Rangers and, as usual, there were a few wisecracks about it when he came through Customs at Glasgow Airport.

★ ★ ★

WHILE fans in Scotland had to wait until after the final whistle in Amsterdam before seeing Rangers on television, viewers in Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia watched the game live!

Viewers here were given recorded highlights and the same thing happened in Holland—places where interest was highest!



Graham Fyfe and John Greig with Johan, the Ajax fan who supported Rangers.

THE excellent crowd of 40,000 showed that the proposed boycott because of the high prices failed miserably—and that's a tribute to the drawing power of Rangers.

And they all seemed to enjoy the match judging by the horns and bangers which went off during and after the game.

But after the Ajax winner, they really went to town by throwing cushions onto the park. These cushions can be hired before the game and even people at the back of the stand let fly . . . caring little that they usually landed on somebody's head a bit further down. Fortunately, they're quite soft!

A JOURNALIST sitting next to the News reporter in the Olympic Stadium press box told him that he had been taking a crash course in English specially for the game!

The reporter was from Rotterdam's The Three People newspaper and he said: 'I have been learning English all last week for the match. I could speak a little before but now I am much GREATER!'

He may have made the occasional slip, but he spoke considerably better English than the Scots journalists spoke Dutch!

★ ★ ★

ANOTHER small incident from the game itself. Again in the second half, Derek Parlane chased a ball out to the right touchline and in his efforts to reach it, he slid over the line and into a large camera right at the edge of the park.

Derek had to receive treatment and it wasn't hard to guess what manager Jock Wallace was telling the television crew as he helped Derek on to his feet.

You see this happening a number of times—particularly abroad—and it could so easily cause a player a really bad injury.

RANGERS took the traditional continental 'bow' at the end of the game when the whole team went to the centre circle and saluted to the fans.

And they received a tremendous ovation from the sporting Dutch crowd who applauded them loud and long for several minutes.

WHEN Peter McCloy was injured after a clash with Ajax substitute Johnny Rep midway through the second half, it was interesting to note that coach Stan Anderson wasted no time in getting Gerry Neef off the bench and warming up.

As Tom Craig treated the injured McCloy, Stan kept Gerry going on the touchline by throwing balls at him and generally getting his circulation moving in case he had to go on.

Big Peter recovered O.K. but it shows the 'Bench Boys' were on their toes.

'LIGHT BLUES CAME TO WIN'—BY JOHAN



AJAX superstar Johan Cruyff has his own column in the Amsterdam sports paper Telesport, and he had this to say about the game. 'The public really had value for money in this competition. Look at the first half at Ibrox . . . it was a brilliant demonstration of football.'

'But the Scots changed things when they came over here. They allowed us to play a bit in Glasgow, but over here they didn't just come for a game. They came to win and they tried very hard.'

'The game was hard, sometimes very hard, but this was the proof that the games were a real inter-Europe Champions Cup, and that was how it should have been.'

'I'm glad we started this competition, because it has been an excellent exercise for everybody concerned . . . players, officials and fans. Both games were just great and the publicity for football at the top has been first class.'

## CENTENARY

## Dateline Amsterdam



## \* SPECIAL \*

**The goals that rocked Ajax aces . . .**

● Here they are . . . the goals that twice put Rangers in front of the world champions on their home ground. **RIGHT**—Ajax 'keeper Stuy looks back in anguish as a tremendous shot by **ALEX MACDONALD** rips past him and into the net.

● **BELOW**—A great free-kick from Tommy McLean eludes the diving Parlane and Horst Blankenberg but **QUINTON YOUNG** is ready and waiting. The Rangers winger hurled himself forward and headed low down into the corner of the net.



# RANGERS EUROPE

**RANGERS**, with a display reminiscent of their European Cup Winners Cup run last season, came so very, very close to upsetting all the odds in Amsterdam last Wednesday.

Manager Jock Wallace promised a 'go for goals' attitude from his players and they responded with a fabulous, fighting display of real class and character.

From the magnificent Peter McCloy to Quinton Young, these eleven Rangers did Scotland proud.

The ideal start for a visiting team abroad is an early goal and the Scots fans among the 40,000 fans—a tribute to Rangers' drawing power—in the seething Olympic Stadium drowned the horn-blowing Dutch supporters as they urged on Rangers from the whistle.

And the Light Blues got the start they dreamed of. After only three minutes of play, Dave Smith picked up a loose ball in midfield and pushed the ball through to the edge of the Ajax penalty area. Derek Parlane failed to connect properly and the ball broke loose to Alex MacDonald.

Wee Doddie steadied himself and from fully 20 yards sent in a glorious shot that even the acrobatic Stuy scarcely saw.

A great goal, and it gave the confident Ajax side the biggest fright they had had for a long time. Before they settled down again, Rangers came storming back looking for a second.

Quinton Young went down the right and sent over an inviting cross. There seemed no apparent danger to the Dutch defence at that point but Suurbier elected to kick wildly for a corner just before his keeper reached for the ball.

But world champions like Ajax learn to take punishment and come back with their own superb brand of skilful, attacking soccer.

That is exactly what they did and hereabouts Peter McCloy decided a match against Ajax was as good a time as any to go through his full repertoire of amazing saves. He brought even the wildly-partisan Dutch folk to their feet as firstly, he got down well to a Keizer shot, then dived

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● ABOVE—Derek Parlane shoots past Blankenberg brilliant save.

● LEFT—Parlane again threatens danger to the Dutch ball with Suurbier.

● RIGHT—Krol has to look lively to dispose of the front of goal.



# EXCLUSIVE — Best of the big match action

# S HAVE THAT LOOK AGAIN

## en the Dutch natics salute e Ibrox men

the feet of the same player before  
ard-man Neeskens with another mag-  
gan to show the form which makes  
of thousands, and after 12 minutes he  
qualiser. He took a through ball down  
ng and his swerving cross was met  
aan, whose shot thundered past big  
py.  
though, as they did in Europe last  
so often before, braved the Ajax on-  
a comforting assurance and began  
ng dangerous attacks of their own.  
Donald had a chance but shot well  
on a mix-up between Dutch defenders  
d Blankenburg let Derek Parlane in.  
ugh, was well blocked by Stuy.  
th, too, came forward and his clever  
ly stopped by a magnificent Krol  
ers went ahead again after 35 minutes  
sure, it was deserved.  
g set this one up with a 'Cruyff-like'  
nishing accuracy to Tommy McLean  
d little alternative but bring the wee  
n. Tam took the free kick himself and  
ung scored a picture goal with a  
ng header.  
ort lived joy for the Glasgow men,  
the way in which Ajax pulled them-  
f a potentially match-losing situation  
made them sick.  
eeskens moved forward and into the  
y area but was stopped by what the  
y of people in the Olympic Stadium—

Dutch included—thought was an excellent  
Forsyth tackle. A linesman, too, had his flag up  
for offside.

The West German referee thought otherwise,  
however, and amid Rangers protests, gave a  
penalty. Muhren duly beat Peter McCloy, but it  
was tragic for Rangers that this incident was  
probably the turning point of the game.

With only four minutes to go to half-time, John  
Greig 'scored' for 'Gers but, rightly this time,  
the referee disallowed the goal because the  
skipper played the ball with his hand.

The second half was something of an anti-  
climax after that first brilliant forty-five minutes  
but nevertheless, there was plenty to keep the  
fans warm.

Ajax brought on Johnny Rep for Swart after the  
interval but it was still Rangers who made the  
running. Another dubious decision by the referee  
stopped Tommy McLean in full flight when the  
advantage rule might have been applied to better  
effect.

Then with ten minutes of the match left, that  
footballing genius Cruyff put Ajax ahead for the  
first time in the game with a typical goal. He  
picked up a pass from Muhren, beat Johnstone  
and shot low past McCloy. It was a goal out of  
nothing, yet had the stamp of Cruyff all over it.

Rangers came so close just after that to squaring  
the game again when Stuy touched over a fierce  
Dave Smith shot after a fine 1-2 between McLean  
and Cutty Young.

And in a final flurry, Willie Mathieson shot just  
past as the Ibrox men finished on top.

So ended another classic match—one that  
Rangers didn't deserve to lose. The Light Blues,  
though, served warning that when they go back  
into Europe they will be a force to be reckoned  
with. Teams:

**AJAX:** STUY, SUURBIER, HULSHOFF,  
BLANKENBURG, KROL, HAAN, NEESKENS, G.  
MUHREN, SWART, CRUYFF, KEIZER. SUBS—  
WEVER, SCHILCHER, A. MUHREN, REP.

**RANGERS:** McCLOY, JARDINE, MATHIESON,  
GRIEG, JOHNSTONE, SMITH, McLEAN, FOR-  
SYTH, PARLANE, MacDONALD, YOUNG. SUBS—  
NEEF, DONALDSON, FYFE, DENNY, MILLER.



● ABOVE—The Rangers goal that never was. The ball's in the net and the 'scorer' John Greig looks back to see the reaction. The 'keeper seems in no doubt that an offence has been committed.

● BELOW—And the referee is just as sure that the goal shouldn't stand. He demonstrates to the Rangers skipper how he used his hand to help the ball into the net as Krol and Young look on.



ut Stuy brought off a  
goal as he goes for a  
ung Rangers striker in



● ABOVE—MacDonald in the thick of the action as he leaps with Johnny Rep to a high ball.

● RIGHT—Young has just put Rangers 2-1 in the lead . . . so it's no wonder that John Greig and MacDonald in background turn to salute their teammate.





# CENTENARY

DATELINE AMSTERDAM

● The News photographer, as always, was on the spot to bring you these exclusive, behind-the-scenes pics.

# Picture Parade



TRAINING for an important game can be a serious business but there's always time for some comic relief and (right and below) John Greig is the target for the mirthmakers who take great delight in poking fun at his 'elephant ears'.

● PIC ONE—The skipper takes it all in good fun but hands out a friendly warning to his team-mates.

● PIC TWO—John 'gets the boot in' as Tommy McLean and Quinton Young beat a quick retreat.

● PIC THREE—'Ear, ear', says Gerry Neef, who just won't take a telling from Greigy.

● PIC FOUR—'Stand and fight like a man', says big John as Gerry tries to turn away.

● PIC FIVE—'OK then, you've asked for it', as Gerry stuns the skipper with a surprise attack.

● PIC SIX—'Get out of that one, then,' Gerry gains a definite upper hand.

● PIC SEVEN—'Greigy the elephant' packs his trunk... and says goodbye to the circuit!



## \* SPECIAL \*



### Derek shops around

● Derek Johnstone took a fancy to this miniature working replica of a Dutch windmill during a shopping expedition in the capital.



### Cruyff's hot rod

● Every soccer superstar has a car to match his image and it's little wonder Johan Cruyff's Citroen Maserati was the centre of attraction for these Rangers players.



### Blow that horn

● Come blow your horn... for Rangers. And this band, led by some leggy dollies, helped brighten up half-time.



### Roll out the barrel

● Roll out the barrel... and let Derek Parlane have a barrel of fun as he struggles a wee bit with a street organ.



# TROPHIES GALORE



● The resplendent Victory Cup which Rangers won by beating Hibs.

## A great final— and 'Victory is ours to keep!

THE years following the Second World War meant radical changes in the football set-up in Scotland.

Out went the Scottish Cup and the Scottish League and in came the Regional League, succeeded by the Southern League, then the Southern League Cup—a trophy presented by the S.F.A. who recalled it when war ended to make it the Victory Cup.

And it's the Victory Cup we're going to tell the story of in our second feature on the trophies in the Ibrox Trophy room.

Rangers progress to the final of the Victory Cup was spectacular enough. They beat Stenhousemuir 4-1 in each of the two games, Airdrie 4-0 away, Falkirk 2-0 after a 1-1 draw and Celtic 2-0 after a no-scoring draw.

These games were played during May, 1946 and the early part of June with the final—against Hibernian—in the middle of that month.

The game was at Hampden and it turned out to be a great match. The Rangers team that day will surely bring back some happy memories for the older Ibrox supporters:—

Brown, Cox, Shaw, Watkins, Young, Symon, Waddell, Gillick, Thornton, Duncanson and Caskie. Three of these players are still at Ibrox in some capacity.

We won that game 3-1 with two goals from Jimmy Duncanson and the other from Torry Gillick. Aitkenhead scored for Hibs.

During that tournament, in fact, Duncanson and Billy Arnison were our leading marksmen with four goals apiece.

The trophy, itself, is a handsome affair. It's silver and is an imposing sight standing in one of the glass showcases in the Trophy Room.

The card lying beside it says it was competed for in May and June of 1946 and is to be held in perpetuity.

The winning of it should certainly stir some memories.

**CONTINUING  
OUR GREAT  
SERIES ON  
THE Ibrox  
TROPHY ROOM**

# WHO THRASHED THE DANES?

## LIGHT BLUE QUIZ

1—Ronnie McKinnon has a brother in football but can you name him and the club with whom he plays?

2—Rangers are on top of the league but an ex-player, now a manager, is struggling at the bottom. Can you name him?

3—George Miller is manager of which Scottish Second Division Club?

4—If Rangers travelled to the Baseball Ground which club would they be playing?

5—John Hamilton is a forward with which Scottish First Division side?

6—Who scored Scotland's goals against Denmark in the World Cup tie in Copenhagen?

7—If the 'Red Lichties' played the

'Shire' which two teams would be playing?

8—Ajax are going for their third successive European Cup win, but who do they meet in the next round?

9—Rangers' reserve 'keeper Bobby Watson stepped up from which Junior club?

10—Joe Mason, signed from Morton, once played for the same club as Tommy McLean. True or false?

11—Which English club, admitted to the league this season,

caused a sensation in the F.A. Cup last term?

12—Liverpool and Stirling Albion have something in common, but do you know what?

13—Clyde manager Archie Robertson was boss of another Second Division club. True or false?

14—Eddie Thomson plays for which Scottish First Division club?

15—If John Martis played against Gordon Marshall which two teams would be playing?



● Joe Mason . . . see question 10.

## \*SHOOT TO THE STARS\*



DEAR JOHN GREIG,

Do you think Rangers have a good chance of winning the Scottish Cup? —Alan Dewar, 41 Causwayside Street, Glasgow.

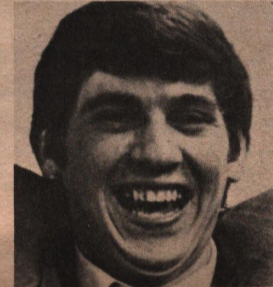
\*\*\* We must be in with a real shout, Alan, especially if we keep playing the way we've been doing.



DEAR TOMMY McLEAN,

Who was your favourite player in the Ajax team?—Gordon Boyd, 149 Chisolm Street, Glasgow.

\*\*\* Obviously it had to be Johann Cruyff, but I was also very impressed with Horst Blankenburg, Gordon.



DEAR TOM FORSYTH,

Has it been difficult for you to adjust to the 'big-time' with Rangers? —Jean Symons, 'Meadowview', Duke Road, Hamilton.

\*\*\* At first it was difficult, Jean, but everybody helped me and was so friendly. Now I'm settled in.



John Hamilton . . . see question 5.

## IT'S FREE

# Win Six seats in stand

## Just name the stars pictured on the right

HERE'S another great chance in the *Rangers News* Stand Seat competition for Light Blue fans up to the age of 17 to win FREE seats in the Stand, this time for the Rangers v Motherwell game on February 10.

The *News* is giving away SIX seats for the clash. There will be three lucky winners who will each get two tickets and they can bring along their Dad, brother, uncle or a friend to watch this game.

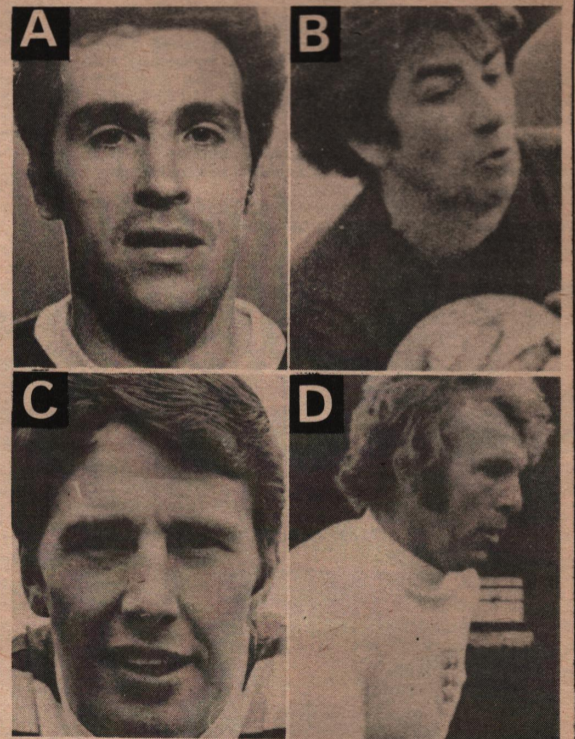
All you have to do is identify the players (pictured right) and their clubs.

Then fill in the coupon below, stating clearly the answer, your name, address and age in ballpoint pen.

Send your entries to 'Name the Stars', *Rangers News*, 104 West George Street, Glasgow, G2 1PS, to arrive not later than first post Monday, February 5.

The first three correct entries opened after all the entries are in will receive two stand tickets each for the clash with Motherwell.

The Editor's decision in all matters is final.



### ENTRY FORM

The players and their clubs are:

A .....  
 B .....  
 C .....  
 D .....

Name: ..... Age: .....

Address: .....



# 'TANGERINE TERRORS'

## PLEDGE ALL OUT ATTACK

### *United they stand for a cup cracker*

JUST about now, Dundee United manager Jim McLean, brother of Rangers' own Tommy, will be halfway to success in a job he considers one of his most important ever since becoming the Tannadice boss last year.

For Jim is ultra-confident his men can come to Ibrox and march on to the next round of the Scottish Cup. But as far as he's concerned, there's one proviso he must get sorted out before Saturday's third round Ibrox clash—making his players as confident as he is!

McLean, you see, is delighted with his side's form this season, in patches, at least. He feels he has the makings of a top class squad around him, but the big drawback is that some of his players don't believe enough in their own ability.

So he's been spending this week trying to get the players into exactly the right frame of mind to take on Rangers, even although the Light Blues have been turning on the style in the past couple of months.

The 4-1 defeat by Rangers at Tannadice at the end of the year doesn't worry him either.

### Steamrollered

He told the *News*: 'We've forgotten about that result, because in many ways it shouldn't have happened. The ground was brick hard but wet on top, so getting a foothold was an effort. We lost our first goal through our goalie slipping on that surface and after that Rangers just steamrollered all over us.'

'I'm not taking anything away from Rangers' performance that day, of course. I was very impressed with them and I don't think any team could have stood up to them. But we were a bit unlucky.'

A blow to Tannadice hopes is the mystery illness of star wing-half Jim Henry. Boss McLean tells us he'll be out for the rest of the season.

### SCOTTISH CUP



\* SPECIAL \*

Jim is the ideal player to have in the kind of game it'll be at Ibrox. He loves the big-time, the excitement and glamour of cup-ties. He also loves playing against either of the 'Old Firm'. It is a bit of a blow. Still, we must soldier on.'

The biggest problem for McLean this season has been trying to get his team to play consistently. One week they're going great guns, the next they hit rock bottom.

### Really well

'As a result,' said the United boss, 'we lack confidence. We're never certain whether we'll be able to turn it on or not. What I'm trying to do is to get the players to play well every week, because if they can do it once they can do it all the time.'

One person manager McLean hopes he doesn't see on the Ibrox turf on Saturday is his young brother—because he feels that if wee Mac plays, he could be the man to wreak destruction on the Tangerines.

'I'm not saying this just because Tommy's my brother, but he is definitely one of the best players around today. He's subtle, clever, and has a tremendous brain. I hear he's been playing really well recently and that can only mean trouble for us.'

However, as far as Jim's concerned, this will be one time when family loyalty goes by the boards. 'It would be even better if we could beat Rangers at Ibrox with Tommy IN THE SIDE!'—is how he puts it.

Jim pledges that his men will attack at Ibrox. There won't be any defence-in-depth stuff from the Tannadice side.



● Up goes Derek Johnstone as United 'keeper McAlpine and defender Markland try to stop him.

'We'll go to Ibrox and have a real go at Rangers. I have the greatest respect for them, but I feel that by not showing fear and by going right at them all the time, we can win.'

Certainly Jock Wallace will be handling the United cup game with the greatest of care, for there's no doubt that, on their day, United can be a very potent attacking force.

There's Kenny Cameron, who seems to have been banging 'em in for years, and Pat Gardiner, who built up a goal-scoring reputation with Dunfermline and has enhanced it at Tannadice. Ex-Heart Tommy Traynor, fast and dangerous on the left, also packs a solid shot.

At the back, McAlpine is one of the safest 'keepers in the league, Andy Rolland plays consistently, the inevitable Doug Smith is still bang in form and Stuart Markland is one of the toughest defenders.

Which all builds up to a cracking cup-tie in prospect. And what makes it all so exciting are Jim McLean's brave words. For it takes two teams to make a game and with United obviously all-out for Light Blue scalps, the expected big crowd will have plenty to shout about.

### MEET THE YOUNG ONES

## 'Gers are best

## —Leeds United

LEEDS UNITED, hot on the trail of 14-year-old Alistair Dawson, told the youngster: 'You couldn't sign for a better club than RANGERS!'

The Elland Road side told the Johnstone High pupil, after learning he wanted to stay in Scotland, he had made the right decision joining the Light Blues.

And you can't get a better recommendation than that!

Alistair signed on an 'S' form last week but he will continue to play for the club he turns out for on a Saturday afternoon, Eastercraigs Boys Club under-15s.

Centre-half Alistair plays for his school on Saturday mornings and the Boys Club in the afternoon. Now he joins his Eastercraigs team-mate Gordon Boyd at Ibrox.

With this latest signing, Rangers have beaten a number of top clubs again. Leeds United, Manchester United, Celtic and St. Mirren were all reported to be interested in him.

Alistair was spotted playing for Paisley and District and has been training at Ibrox for the past couple of months. Naturally, he's delighted but he will continue to play for Eastercraigs meantime.

His dad told the *News*: 'Alistair has been down at Leeds twice and they seemed quite keen to sign him. We also heard that Manchester United, Celtic and St. Mirren were interested.'

'But we decided he should sign for Rangers after we listened to Willie Thornton, assistant manager at Ibrox. He told us that if the lad is to make the grade he would do it with Rangers.'

'We were very impressed with him and Leeds United, too, said he couldn't be going to a better club and that's a fair recommendation for anyone.'



● It's Rangers third goal at Tannadice last month as Alfie Conn and Derek Parlane salute, despite objections from the United defence.

## SUPPORTERS CORNER

THE supporters' club had a great win over their Celtic counterparts last week. For they got their heads in front in a real cliffhanger of a snooker match to win 3-2. Keep up the good work, lads!

INSTEAD of watching the Sunday film, why not go along to the club for some real entertainment. For from February 1, there will be a cabaret show every Sunday evening.

Among the many artists appearing are Kim Saxon, Benny Tunn and Hugh Ferris. And these three alone make for super entertainment.

DUE to family trouble, world famous organist Ernest Broadbent will NOT be appearing at the club on February 4.

Ernest's wife has been ordered to take a two-month break and like any good husband the Blackpool Tower organist wants to make sure his wife has the best of everything while she's poorly.

However, the man who plays the Wurlitzer Organ—one of the biggest in the world—has promised he will fulfill his date at the earliest opportunity, which will probably be around April. He's certainly worth waiting for.

THE ever-popular Ivor Jones Show is once again on in the club on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. He'll be at the club for another couple of months and once his stint is over he's sure to prove one of the biggest ever attractions.

### YOUR BUS TIMES

**HOLYTOWN:** Bus for Dundee United game leaves 1.45 p.m., for Motherwell match on February 10 at 2 p.m. and for Arbroath on February 17 at the same time. Next meeting on Sunday, February 18, in Masonic Hall, Holytown, at 5.30 p.m. All please attend.

**CARNWATH:** Bus for Saturday leaves 12.45 p.m., Forth 1 p.m. and Bellshill 1.45 p.m.

**EDINBURGH JARDINE:** Meet Saturday 11.45 a.m. Bus leaves 11 Albany Street 12.15 Waterloo Place 12.30. Non-members welcome.

**NITHSDALE LOYAL:** Bus v Dundee United leaves Albert Bar, Langside Road, 2.15 p.m. and New Regent 2.25 p.m., returning to both after match.



### Your Rangers Pools Guide

IT'S bonanza week in the Rangers Pools where two lucky winners shared the first pool, each receiving £4468.32p.

And one of them—a Yorkshire man—has never seen Rangers play!

His agent is his mother, who joined the pools after hearing about it from a friend at the bingo.

It's the first big win the pools have had in England!

Meanwhile, Pool Two was shared between another pair, who each won £279.27p.

Pool Three was split between 346 winners, each receiving £1.61p.

Pool Four was won outright—the winner got £558.54p—and nine winners in Pool Five received £650.06p.



● Acrobatics from Cutty Young as he tries an overhead kick with Murphy and Hayes watching.



● Willie Mathieson runs to greet Cutty Young after the winger put Rangers two up.

## Leading Marksmen

QUINTON YOUNG and Alex MacDonald have both made a big impact on our marksmen's table with three goals each in the space of a fortnight.

But centre-forward Derek Parlane is still right out in front—despite missing Saturday's game with Morton because of suspension.

### HOW THE TABLE STANDS:

Parlane	17
Conn	14
Young	10
MacDonald	8
Johnstone	8
Greig	6
McLean	5
Fyfe	4
Smith	1
Mason	1
Jardine	1

## Social Club Spotlight

BALLAD singer John Bell started in show business as a vocalist with a dance band when he was 13.

But after that he had to wait a considerable time for his next break. Since then, though, it has been 'all go' for the Annan man.

John bounced into the spotlight with a spot on Border Television's 'Cock o' the Border' show and then won a place in the final of the People's national talent contest at Butlin's.

That led to an appearance at the New Victoria Theatre in London, but the most rewarding opportunity up to that point was undoubtedly being invited to represent Scotland in the first Opportunity Knocks international show with Hughie Green.

After that spell down south John decided to spend more time nearer to home apart from a 'Come Thursday' broadcast for Ben Lyon and two L.P.s with Max Houlston and his band!

With all these credentials behind him, John should really brighten up the Social Club, he has his own decorating business!

### PICTURE OF THE YEAR

ON JANUARY 3 we published a photograph of Tommy McLean—voted News Picture of the Year by our readers—said to be taken by Eric McCowatt. The picture was, in fact, taken by Steve Gibson.

# RANGERS IN CAPPIELOW THRILLER!

FRESH from their magnificent performance against Ajax in Amsterdam on Wednesday, Rangers went to Greenock on the more mundane business of collecting league points on Saturday.

And they left Cappielow with full points and even happier in the knowledge that their main top-of-the-table rivals had struggled. Celtic, of course, were beaten by Airdrie and Hibs could only manage a draw with Dundee at Easter Road.

The Ibrox side had Alfie Conn at centre for the suspended Derek Parlane with Graham Fyfe on the bench.

As has happened so often recently, Rangers took an early lead. After only six minutes, they gained a corner taken by Tommy McLean. The wee winger swung the ball over, it was nodded on by Quinton Young and Alex MacDonald was on the spot to head home.

Gers applied considerable pressure through some fine football and it was really no surprise when they went further ahead after 22 minutes.

A long throw-in by John Greig found Alfie Conn and the young centre raced down the right wing. Although he was fouled, the referee correctly let play go on and Alf's cross was hammered home by Cutty Young.

Alfie was taking some rough treatment from the home defence but minutes after the second goal, he set up another chance. This time he let McLean in and Tam's shot cracked off the bar and rebounded to safety.

Just before the half-hour, Alf was on the receiving end of another hard tackle and this time

## —Alex, Cutty Dump Morton

he struggled badly as he attempted to play on. Seconds later, he was substituted by Graham Fyfe.

Morton tried hard to get into the game at this point and Peter McCloy had to look sharp to save from Lavelle and then Townsend.

After the interval, it was still Morton—with Christensen on for Lavelle—who were on top. But Townsend aroused the wrath of the Ibrox following when he gestured towards a section of them and was promptly booked.

The Greenock side, however, did pull one back after 65 minutes. Tom Forsyth handled a Gillies shot inside the box and the same Morton player scored from the spot.

Rangers appeared slightly upset by this and Cutty Young was booked soon after the Morton goal.

With 13 minutes of the game remaining, Derek Johnstone was in the right place at the right time to kick a Murphy shot clear as Morton pressed hard for the equaliser.

Rangers finished the match as strongly as they started and in the dying seconds were again swarming round the home goal.

In this last assault, in fact, Willie Mathieson went close with a shot which whistled past the post.

The two points were well-earned, though, and took on increased significance in view of the other results.



● A nod's as good as a wink as Alex MacDonald heads Rangers first goal.



● Daddy again, this time forcing Baines into a hasty clearance.



● Alfie Conn took heavy stick on Saturday and here physio Tom Craig attends the young striker.



● Alfie Conn and Cutty Young rise for the ball as Clark and Anderson cover.

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# DUTCH RED CARPET FOR IBROX SUPPORT

- And one fan gets a birthday surprise!

IF THE SCORES of Rangers fans who followed the team to Amsterdam were a bit apprehensive about the reception they would get on their first trip abroad since Barcelona their fears were soon dispelled when they arrived in the Dutch capital.

For far from trying to avoid them, the Dutch folk really took them to their hearts!

And the *News* heard a story this week that proves beyond doubt that the name of Rangers, and everything associated with them, still commands the greatest respect on the continent.

For one party of fans, exiled Scots now living in London, were entertained in style wherever they went on their three day stay in Amsterdam.

And one of them, Mr. George Currie, who celebrated his birthday on the day of the match, was presented with a silver tankard, on a visit to the famous Heineken Brewery.

George takes up the story: 'We were absolutely knocked out by the reception we received wherever we went.'

The real highspot of the trip, apart from the match itself, of course, was a visit to the Heineken Brewery where everything was laid on for us.

The manager there invited us all to stay on after the Brewery closed for normal working hours and he showed us all round the place. Then, when he learned it was my birthday, he presented me with a silver tankard.

## Still Tops

'It was a wonderful gesture and I can tell you not only I, but the whole party, appreciated the way we were treated. It was great to know that Rangers fans are still the tops on the continent.'

After the match the London boys visited Amsterdam's equally well-known tourist spot, the Scotch Bar, where they got the red carpet treatment from the manageress, a lass from Prestwick.

George left Scotland after national service in the early 50's and, after a while, got together with some more exiled Scots to form a Welwyn Garden City branch of the Rangers Supporters' Association.

Said George: 'Naturally, because of the distance involved in travelling, we have to pick and choose our games.'

'We didn't come up for the first game against Ajax since we wanted to save as much as possible for Amsterdam but we read all about it in the *News*.'

'But that trip to Holland was really something and we would be grateful if you would pass on our thanks to all the Dutch people who made our journey so memorable.'

We're only too happy to oblige, George!

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1—Donnie McKinnon (Partick Thistle); 2—Ian McMillan (Airdrie); 3—Dunfermline; 4—Derby County; 5—Hibernian; 6—Lou Macari, Jim Bone, Joe Harper and George Graham; 7—Arbroath and East Stirling; 8—Bayern Munich; 9—Ardrrossan Winton Rovers; 10—True, they both played for Kilmarnock; 11—Hereford United; 12—Brothers Bill and Bob Shankly are managers of the respective sides; 13—True, he was boss of Cowdenbeath; 14—Hearts; 15—East Fife and Arbroath.

## AMSTERDAM — WHAT OUR READERS' SAY ...

# THIS COULD BE THE START OF SOMETHING BIG

RANGERS proved beyond doubt in Amsterdam that far from being a purely physical side, as many people believe, they *do* have the skill and ability to play football at its highest level.

Sure, they were beaten 3-2, but this display against the world club champions, regarded by many as a cakewalk for Ajax, showed that Rangers can match the best in the world.

They may not exactly be world beaters yet but Jock Wallace has certainly put them on the right road. If they stick to playing football—and there was a lot of it to be seen in Amsterdam—Rangers can regain their place at the very top of the soccer tree. Mr G. McLeod, Hawthorn St., Possil, Glasgow.

IT TAKES a great team to learn from defeat, rather than dwell on what might have been, but that's exactly what Rangers have done over their two meetings with Ajax.

The experience of playing against the very best in the world must help bring on the young players but, even more important, Rangers have learned that to succeed you must play *as a team*.

There were many signs, watching the second leg on television,

that the Light Blues had learned even from the first game against Ajax at Ibrox.

They played for each other in the Olympic Stadium and, although beaten, their performance was as good as I have seen for a long time. Mr B. Bridges, Paisley Road West, Glasgow.

RANGERS grew up in Amsterdam by playing football at its very best. Even though they lost the Super Europa Cup they won a new respect as a team that can play together and match the best.

They may not be ready to win the League this season but if they continue to play as they did in Amsterdam who's to stop them next term. Mr L. Lawson, Ardenraig Road, Castlemilk.

I KNOW I speak for thousands when I say what a great night's entertainment Rangers provided at Ibrox when they brought over the world champions.

And if Ajax showed us in the first leg why they are holders of the European Cup, the Light Blues certainly displayed Cup Winners' Cup qualities in Amsterdam.

I would like to make special mention of the new boys, Forsyth and Young, who are proving to be a real asset and what can one say about Messrs. Parlane, Johnstone and Conn.

With so much going for the club now, I am confident that the next hundred years will be just as wonderful, and glorious, as the last 100. Mr. A. Grey, 18 Carrick Drive, Spittal, Rutherglen.

I WAS VERY impressed by the envelope drawn by Robert Watt of Greenock, shown in issue No. 76 of the *News*. I would like to contact Robert through the *News* and ask him if he could possibly make a similar envelope for me, to help decorate my barrack-room wall. I would be prepared to pay for his work if necessary.

I get the *News* sent every week and I think it is superb. Just the stuff to give the troops. Keep up the good work, plenty of match reports and tons of pictures. I look forward to the next 100 years of Rangers to be as proud and glorious as their first century. Rangers for ever! 24195965 Sig. Howat Hr., 4th Guards Armoured Brigade, B.F.P.O. 17, West Germany.



● OFF to sunny Italy in just over three weeks' time are a pool of youth players picked from the impressive array of talent above.

The Rangers youths are to play in a tournament in Via Reggio. A party of 20 will make the trip, including assistant manager Willie

Thornton and trainer Stan Anderson.

The pool will be picked from (back row): R. Graham, D. Burke, G. Donaldson, R. Adams, P. Bonnyman, R. Lowrie, G. McCallum, I. Thomson, C. McDade, A. Cuthbertson.

(Front): Willie Thornton (Assistant manager), Stan Anderson (Trainer), G. McCluskey, A. McVake, H. Ford, D. Young, G. McDougall, D. McNichol, G. McDonald, D. Steel, D. Muir, D. Scott, Joe Craven (Assistant trainer).

## DEREK IS TOPS!



● DEREK JOHNSTONE may not have managed to get his hands on the Super Cup of Europe but he still has a new trophy for his sideboard. He received the trophy as the first 'Player of the Year' to be nominated by the members of the Cumbernauld Branch of the Rangers Supporters' Association. Derek received the award from the president Robert McAree (right) at the branch's first annual dinner-dance.

Picture by courtesy of the 'Cumbernauld News Studio'

## Rangers daft—in S. Africa!

WE EMIGRATED here in March last year and within a month my boys, John (7) and Graham (6), started playing for the Virginia under-8 football team.

At the end of the season they were each presented with a cup. As both my sons are Rangers daft, they didn't want their picture taken in the Virginia strip—because it's green and white! Instead they were taken, as you can see (pic. right), in their Rangers strip as they were so proud of Rangers' success in the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

Sometimes we manage to hear the B.B.C. Overseas Service here

and the other week we listened to the Rangers-Celtic match. We all went daft when Alfie Conn scored the winner!

We are the only Scots people here, so there is no one to talk football to. But my mate in Glasgow always sends me the *News*. It's a great paper, full of all that's happening over at Ibrox. Here's hoping you can print the photo in the *News* as we lived in Glasgow ourselves and all our relatives and friends over there are Rangers fans and all read the *News*. Graham Laughlan, 31 Blesbok Avenue, Virginia, Orange Free State, South Africa.

