



RANGERS Report

BY PAUL BOYLE

GLASGOW RANGERS CHAMPIONS

"Ha Ha Samaras say Ha Ha Samaras"
Nacho Novo 24th May, 2009

Dundee United vs Rangers

SPL
24th May, 2009

Rangers deservedly took the Scottish Premier League crown after a barren four years following a convincing 3-0 victory over Dundee United at Tannadice. Needing all three points to ensure the championship was in the bag, they went about the game in a manner expected of a team needing to win and one desperate to halt Celtic's domination of the league, and also making Celtic's striker Georgios Samaras eat his words. With so much at stake, they began like a train and it was no surprise that after Kenny Miller had missed an easy chance in the third minute, the light blues took the lead two minutes later with a fortuitous goal from Kyle Lafferty. Spurned by this setback, the Tangerines then set about creating a number of chances themselves before they were hit by the sucker-punch from Pedro Mendes on the stroke of half-time. David Goodwillie was too slow with a lay-off from on-loan Celt Paul Caddis as his shot spun off the legs of David Weir and into the safety of Neil

Alexander's arms. As United pushed for the equaliser they were always vulnerable to the quick break and the warning was there in the 38th minute when Sasa Papac pulled away down the wing and crossed for Boyd. The striker twisted past Darren Dods but, as he pulled the trigger into the top corner, up popped Mihael Kovacevic to head the ball off the line. But the warning was there and after taking advantage of the clearance from a foul, Mendes hit a tremendous second with a 14-yard left-volley to settle the nerves of the travelling support. And it was both game and championship over in the 51st minute with the best goal of the game. Breaking up a United attack, the champions threw men forward in a fast moving four-man attack. It began with Mendes who then fed Davis for the overlapping Steven Whitaker to cross low for Boyd to run in at the far post and flick the ball in.

Scottish Cup Final Falkirk vs Rangers 30th May, 2009

Rangers completed the double as a superb finish by sub Nacho Novo 30 seconds into the second half decided the Scottish Cup final against Falkirk at a sunny and extremely hot Hampden Park. Twice Falkirk came close, with Neil McCann's shot clipping the bar and then a scrambled shot by Steve Lovell coming back off the post near the end. Falkirk went close early on when McCann found space before unleashing a shot which clipped the top of the bar on its way over. Falkirk wasted an even better chance minutes later when Darren Barr's cross eluded Madjid Bougherra, but McCann placed his right-foot shot just wide. Just before half-time Rangers nearly took the lead when David Weir's net-bound header from a Steven Davis free-kick was headed clear by Lovell. Rangers boss Walter Smith took Kris Boyd off at half-time as the heat was getting too much for him to handle and what an immediate impact his replacement wee Nacho had on the game. From Sasa Papac's throw-in Novo spun and volleyed his shot from 30 yards which went over keeper Dani Mallo before dipping under the bar. An absolute wonder goal which would compete for goal of the season with Pedro Mendes strike against Celtic back in September. Falkirk looked stunned and Gerard Aafjes did well to keep out Kyle Lafferty as the striker forced his way through on goal. Thomas Scobbie's runs down the flank were dangerous all afternoon and the wing-back saw his header drift narrowly wide following Jackie McNamara's cross. A header by Higdon was held by Neil Alexander before Rangers nearly increased their lead. A superb break by Kenny Miller led to his cross being deflected just over the bar by Novo. Falkirk came so close to equalising against a tired looking Rangers team late on. Lovell's shot ran along the line with Bougherra stretching to touch it away before it hit the post. It was a valiant effort by Falkirk but in the end it took one flash of inspiration from wee Nacho Novo to keep the Scottish Cup at Ibrox, and secure Rangers their 2nd double in successive seasons.

George Best Community Cup 2009

East Belfast 2009

The idea for this Prestigious Competition has been brewing for over two years and we are glad to say the time has arrived. The three day event playing host to two Cups, one being the U17 and the other U13 opens the window for a variety of age groups. Our aim is to make this cross-community and cross-border football tournament as professional as possible. Continuous preparation and training has been imposed behind the scenes by our committee and volunteers to ensure the experience for all those taking part will be a remembered one. Our goal is to make this an annual event just like the Milk Cup and Foyle Cup which are two of Northern Ireland's most prestigious youth tournaments. We feel with the resources we have at our disposal and with the local community behind the tournament 100%, we have the right foundation to make 2009 the birth of something special and what better name for the Cup than the legend that is George Best.

Our unique Tournament will be holding 30 minute educational periods which we will call workshops. The areas we will be covering are Anti-racism, Anti-Sectarianism, Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Arts. Our aim is to make everyone fully aware of what is taking place on a day to day basis throughout all our communities at the hope of making this experience a fantastic sporting event, but also an educational learning curve for up to 480 youths. The feedback we have received from the surrounding community has been totally positive and has given all involved a real boost leading up to the opening of the tournament. The overall view seems to be that there was a real gap for this tournament to be held in Belfast, in that we already know of the Milk Cup and the Foyle Cup and how successful they've become and we are of the view we have the potential to be just as successful and with the support of our sponsors and community we aim to make our dream a reality.

The tournament event builds on a very successful single identity football tournament organized by Sydenham Historical and Cultural Society in 2008. The George Best Community Cup will encourage children of all cultural and religious backgrounds to participate and will supply a new and effective way of addressing sectarianism and division in our society. The Cup will take place in conjunction with the Titanic Festival in East Belfast at the aim of having something for everyone. With a range of Cultural, Historical and family events; what better way to polish off a memorable experience. So if you're playing, supporting a relative or maybe just a neutral spectator your sure not to be disappointed.

The George Best Community Cup will run in conjunction with the Titanic Festival on the 2nd - 6th July.

Teams playing in the Under 13's are Liverpool FC, Killester United FC, Glentoran FC, Shamrock Rovers FC, Lisburn Distillery FC, Lourdes Celtic FC, Aquinas FC, Doyle FC, Willows FC, Crusaders FC, Dungoyne FC, Ashfield FC, Tolka Rovers FC, Motherwell FC, Guirdach Utd. FC & East Antrim District FC.

Teams playing in the Under 17's are Crusaders FC, Shelbourne FC, Top of the Hill FC, Motherwell FC, Bohemians FC, Red Star FC, Sandy Row Star FC, Shamrock Rovers FC, Mayo FC, Linfield FC, Lisburn Distillery FC, Newmill Youth FC, Dundalk FC, Glentoran FC, East Belfast Utd. FC & Cregagh Wanders FC.

Visit the website www.georgebestcommunitycup.co.uk for a full list of fixtures and further information.

Pigeon Racing

BY JACKIE HENRY

West Belfast HPS

Thurles 9/5/09, 20 members sent 370 birds

		velocity:	
1st	Kinner & Potts	1853.9	
2nd	J. Lindores & son & Nicolson	1849.4	
3rd	J. Lindores & son & Nicolson	1849.0	
4th	S. Jordan	1843.3	
5th	Bell & Foy	1843.0	
6th	M. Johnston & son	1840.5	

Skibbereen North 24/5/09, 20 members sent 335 birds

		vel:	
1st	J. Lindores & son & Nicolson	2004.1	
2nd	Stockman & Robinson	1995.1	
3rd	Stockman & Robinson	1927.9	
4th	J. Lindores & son & Nicolson	1897.0	
5th	J. Lindores & son & Nicolson	1896.7	
6th	J. Lindores & son & Nicolson	1895.3	

West Belfast lofts of Lindores & son & Nicolson are the first bird timed from the Ulster Federation in the National out of Skibbereen, recording 10th Open and 8th North section. They stand to get a tidy sum as their bird was all pools and nom, £662 in the open and the north section money to come, so well done lads.

Talbeeny 30/5/09, 19 members sent 297 birds

		vel:	
1st	M. Johnston & son	1617.9	
2nd	H. Napier & son	1616.5	
3rd	Kinner & Potts	1616.4	
4th	E. Keys	1606.4	
5th	Bell & Foye	1606.1	
6th	Stockman & Robinson	1605.9	

Ligoniel & Dist. HPS

Rosscarberry 24/5/09, 22 members sent 175 birds

		vel:	
1st	Kirk & Dowie & sons	1885.9	
2nd	S. Graham & son & McManus	1881.1	
3rd	G. & L. Simpson	1878.1	
4th	ED. Heaney & son	1878.1	
5th	R., J. & K. Campbell	1877.7	
6th	Gregg bros & McCandless	1872.6	

Talbeeny 30/05/09, 33 members sent 505 birds

		vel:	
1st	Kirk & Dowie & sons	1625.8	
2nd	McMurray & Anderson	1605.9	
3rd	McMurray & Anderson	1599.6	
4th	Bingham & Seaton	1596.6	
5th	McMurray & Anderson	1589.9	
6th	R., J. & K. Campbell	1586.1	



Salute Real Champions Fellows And Stadium

POOL BY VICTOR ROWE

The final curtain is set to fall on yet another very successful and competitive season in the Wm.Hill domestic pool calendar. For those teams who have made the winning post, they can give themselves a pat on the back for their bold effort with great sweat and determination. For those who just fell short of glory remember there's next year to enhance valuable experience gained. Now the red carpet will be rolled out shortly to say welcome to all who have made the grand finals of all the competitions played this season. On cue we have the Jewel in the crown the grand final of the prestigious Wm.Hill Belfast Cup, the trophy every teams dream to capture and take center spot of their trophy cabinet. Also the Jimmy Sloan Cup a very worthy honour for all to win.

Premier Highlights

At this stage we can congratulate Premier league supreme champions wait for it three times in a row namely East Ends, Rolls- Royce team the evergreen Longfellows. Fellows captain Billy McKibben proud of his gladiators who only chalked up one defeat the Fellows intend to keep their Premier crown for a few years

more. Easts other crack side the Raven Club and East 4, made 3rd and 4th berth ahead of their Shankill rivals Heather Street and Pony Club.

Championship Up-Date

Keeping the Shankill flagship to the fore we salute worthy league champions the Stadium 'B' who in their debut gave a positive display of pool throughout the season. Giving the Stadium boys a real blast were their key players captain Mark Armstrong and mentor Stephen Harrison. Lets not forget (Shankills) other heros the up and coming starlets namely the Charleville Inn team who no doubt will keep the division alive next season.

NB: Stadium 'B' now promoted to the Premier.

Premier Division

Longfellows - 63 pts, Raven - 48, East 4 - 42, Pony Club - 40, Heather Street - 35, Ulster Rangers - 31, Ibrox - 28, Cock 'n' Hens - 27, Longfellow Regulars - 26, Hideout - 22, My Ladys Inn - 22, Shankill Pigeon - 21, Con Club - 14

Championship Division

Stadium 'B' - 37, Charleville Inn - 31,

Albert Bar - 30, Laganside - 30, Times - 27, Belvoir - 19, N.I.S.C - 14, Westbourne - 13, Stadium 'A' - 10, Longfellow Rockets - 4

Wm.Hill Belfast Cup Final

East 4 V Stadium 'B'

Sloan Cup Final

Longfellows v Laganside / Shankill Pigeon

Individuals

Past Individual winner Glen Armour (Fellows) came from behind to beat M.Pilsen (Ulster Rangers) by 3-2. The other Semi seen (Fellows) Joe Patton also a former winner bite the dust beaten in style by Stephen Pickering Stadium Bar 3-2.

Grand Final

Glen Armour (Fellows) v Stephen Pickering (Stadium)

Doubles Grand Final will be an all Shankill affair and doing battle on cue Dee Irwin/Robert Morton (Heather Street) v Stuart Aiken/S.Prichard (Stadium).

Full season report and winners plus presentation Photo in July Edition of the Shankill Mirror.