

# THE GALLANT FEW

ISSUE 7 - SEPTEMBER 2024



## THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN MAN

**PLUS**

COLIN  
MILLER

JOHN  
GILLIGAN

IBROX  
DEVELOPMENTS

NEDMI  
BARJAMI

2002/03  
REWIND



# CONTENTS

6

## The almost forgotten man

by Steven Harrigan

20

## Miller time

by Alistair Aird

32

## Gilligan

by David Legatt

36

## Ibroxonia & Home Sweet Home

by Steven Harrigan

44

## Nedim Bajrami

by Redian Ara

46

## 2002/03 season rewind

by Andrew McKellar



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Editor-in-Chief

**Adam Robertson**  
@atrobbo

Acknowledgements

**Photography:**

Rangers FC  
Pitch Publishing  
Hearts  
Sky Sports  
Colin Miller  
Albanian FA

**Video:**  
YouTube

Our Contributors

**Steven Harrigan**  
@steven\_harrigan

**Alistair Aird**  
@AirdBooks

**Andrew McKellar**  
@AMcKellar89

**Redian Ara**  
@ALBfootball

**David Legatt**

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# EDITOR NOTES

Dear Readers,

Welcome back to The Gallant Few Magazine! After a brief hiatus, we're excited to return with a fresh issue filled with engaging content that we hope you'll enjoy. Your continued support means the world to us, and we're grateful to have such a passionate community of readers.

In this issue, we delve into the legacy of Willie Waddell, an almost forgotten figure in our football history, through Steven Harrigan's insightful exploration. Alistair Aird takes us on a journey through Colin Miller's impressive career, while David Leggat provides an in-depth look at the pivotal role of interim Chairman John Bennett.

Additionally, we cover the ongoing developments at Ibrox, share insights on Old Firm away fans, and feature a captivating piece on Nedim Bajrami by Redian Ara. Plus, don't miss our nostalgic look back at the 2002/03 season with Andy McKellar.

We value your feedback immensely and encourage you to share your thoughts on this issue and what you'd like to see in future editions. Thank you for being a part of our community.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together!

Warm regards,

*Adam Robertson*

**Editor-in-Chief**







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# WILLIAM WADDELL: THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN MAN

BY STEVEN HARRIGAN

Every time I venture on holiday, for as long as I can remember I'm always ready to go home, back to home comforts, familiar surroundings and welcome voices after a few weeks. Well, it's already been 4 long games at Hampden and like every other Rangers supporter, I'm more than ready to go home. This is one trip to (Mount) Florida, that

has failed to excite or captivate the senses.

Hampden is a poor, substandard national stadium, the awful sight lines, its running track that make the seats behind the goals seem in an entirely different postcode to the pitch, eroding facilities that include mass leaks every time it rains (which in Glasgow is often

and frequent), the lack of meaningful or serviceable transport links, then on top of that add in the council parking attendants looking to fill the councils coffers in a time of austerity and punish hard working families further at the expense of anyone who dares drive to matches, swooping in like thieves in the night handing

out fines safe in the knowledge that the unassuming victims are inside the ground cheering on their hero's. This is what happens when you fail to develop a stadium football fit to call itself a national stadium.

Our recent residency in Glasgow's south side was one entirely of our own making, but we cannot forget or lose sight of the reasons why. Making our home a better, more comfortable stadium for our disabled supporters, a section of fans who face hardships on a daily basis most of us can't even begin to comprehend or understand is long overdue move by the power brokers and no matter how long the timescale is or how frustrated we got at not being back at Ibrox during construction works, this reason alone should be at the forefront of our all of our minds. This is the single most important factor in all of this upheaval.

Our home in at 150 Edmiston Drive was reshaped and rebuilt after the tragic events of 2nd January 1971. Led by Chairman John Lawrence and manager Willie Waddell, who personally took it upon themselves to ensure no such future event would ever darken our clubs' doors again.

Like myself, Waddell was a BB man, and like myself, his family has ties in the building trade (roofing I believe), so perhaps

it's just as well the great man is no longer around to witness the shambolic nature of recent events at the club he loved and served in every capacity at the highest level.

A quick walk around Ibrox today pays tribute to the fallen and the past greats, John Grieg has his statue that serves a visual a poignant reminder to why Ibrox is more than merely bricks and mortar, but a resting place to all the soles who went to a game of football and never came home in 1902, 1961, 1969 and 1971.

The club's most successful and longest serving manager Bill Struth now has the Main Stand he was instrumental in bringing to life with famed architect Archibald Leitch named in his honour, Sandy Jardine rightly has the old Govan stand carrying his name, but Waddell, whose vision and drive gave our club its finest crowning achievement at Barcelona in 72, plus, dragged the club through its darkest hour, his response to the tragic events setting the table for Rangers to endure the demands of modern football for generations to come has somehow seen the great man passed over when it has come to public recognition. It is without question or debate that a long overdue and fitting more public tribute is needed (I know a suite bears his name), one that's not just to the man himself or his family but the supporters

he served in almost every role.

In my eyes, one such accolade would be to rename the Copland Stand 'The William Waddell Copland Rd Stand' in appreciation for all his years of service to the club, after all it was the tragic events at the back of where that stand now sits in 1971 that gave Waddell his longest and most important lasting legacy.

As a player, his bulldozing style, with shoulders looking every inch of those of a man formed in a Lanarkshire miners town struck fear and terror into defenders with his wide play, not via tricks or flicks, Waddell didn't waste time with that sort of thing, tough as old nails The Deedle wasn't a flair wide man, he was a player formed in the mould of aggressive play, power, acceleration and determination, with a great ability to play the ball across the box for attackers to feed off (a modern Rangers comparison might be that of Neil McCann), none more so than Willie Thornton, who owes many of his 248 Rangers goals to Waddell's wide play. All done while his otherwise always perfectly Brylcreemed hair flopped down around his forehead, but Waddell was no poster boy, more Roy Keane than David Beckham in his personality.

Making his Rangers Reserve team debut at the tender age of

15, the iconic Struth saw his talent, Struth, ever protective of young players under his tutelage knew Waddell required bulking up and to learn the other side of the beautiful game, so off he went to Strathclyde Juniors, before finally turning professional at 17. His first season as professional, is something straight off the pages of Roy of The Rovers, in May 1938 he scored the only goal against the legendary Herbert

Chapmans Arsenal at Ibrox in a 1-0 win. From that moment on Rangers had solved the right wing position for 16 years, if only we could get a Willie Waddell now!.

These weren't just mere kick arounds or friendlies either, after all rangers don't do friendlies, only challenge matches. Started in 1933/34 this was billed and marketed as 'The game of Champions' as the two biggest

sides on each side of the border came head-to-head, playing to claim the unofficial British Title, this would continue to be a regular fixture until 1968, with the only interruption coming as Britain kept calm and carried on thwarting the fascist uprisings during the outbreak of World War II. The prestige and respect in which these games were played were of such that Rangers were the chosen visitors as Highbury turned on





new floodlights in 1951.

Fomented by the friendship and fiercely competitive nature of both managers, Bill Struth and Harold Chapman, (evidence of this respectful rivalry played out as far back as Struth and Chapman vying for the signature of Sam English) two pioneers of the game, whose methods reached far beyond their time, then carried forward and continued by those who worked under them grew the levels of respect shown towards one another, so much so that it even saw Arsenal hang a black and white picture of that floodlight 1951 Challenge match between the sides high in the marble Hall at Highbury, and hopefully one that still occupies such a prominent position at the Emirates today.

A week after facing up against Arsenal, Waddell would make his league debut in a resounding 4-1 win over Ayr United, before the season was out his stats would show 27 appearances and goal haul of seven, quite what his numbers in terms of assists would have been can only be imagined but what has never been up for debate was his impact on the team, Rangers were champions.

1938 was a busy time, Ibrox Park was renamed Ibrox Stadium following a royal visit from King George VI and the

Queen as 100,000 packed the ground for the opening of the 1938 Empire Exhibition in Glasgow.

The German invasion of neighbours Poland on September 1st, 1939, seen Britain once more be called into action, just 21 years after the conclusion of the great War, but the need to stand up and be counted no matter how challenging the situation appeared was the only course of action, as Britain set out to defended more than just our land but our way of life and values that goes with it.

Many were understandably hesitant once more, so soon to enter the pathway of combat, something the weak attempt at peace under a policy of appeasement by PM Neville Chamberlain showcased, bullies and aggressors will never be reasoned with or talked down, they can only be defeated by a coming together and a nations collective will, a resolve simply hardened after it changed, altered and continued to impact the lives of every single citizen from His Majesty's commonwealth.

War, it's impact and devastation can never be sugar coated, nor should it be, so many once again as they had done in the great war paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting for the kind of freedom we all take for

granted today.

Back in Glasgow Clydebank was lit up with an orange glow that could be seen for miles away, as the riverfront along the Clyde served as a smoke and mirror distraction tactic to keep the munitions factories at Linwood constantly producing vital supplies in the war effort, as the Luftwaffe unloaded their bombs, dropping death and devastation from the skies above, while children were afforded just 30 minutes longer in the morning as their school start time if the air raid siren had sounded the night before.

Today, we live in the present clinging but comforted to the hope that those who experienced the second world war endured and suffered so that we might never face the same complete call to arms again.

Life was tough, the rationing made supplies scarce, blackouts was the first real effect to come into force on September 1st 1939, where even lighting a match could result in a fine!. football was not a priority, many of the grounds around Britain bore witness to their corrugated steel roofs being stripped in order to supply the war effort, woman were forced then to take on many of the more traditional male roles working in factories as it became very much a team game off the park.

Waddell would win 6 of his league medals during war time, a feat that shouldn't be dismissed or undermined as the League went to a more regionalised format, while the need to fill up calendar spaces left by the 30-game structure of the Southern League was behind the formation of the Southern League Cup. It took the form of four sections of four teams (Northern League teams weren't allowed to compete in it until 1945-46) to decide semi-finalists. This is what we now call the League Cup, first played for in 1946-47 and has brought great success and happy moments to our clubs' players and fans alike since, even if my modern view is that the cup should be omitted for sides who have qualified to Europe in order to free up space in a now overly congested calendar before vital early European games.

Rangers would win all seven league titles played for during this time period, and while being

more compacted and not being able to be described as First Division titles, they are still titles nevertheless, earned, not awarded away from the field of play.

These were full seasons, completed to a conclusion, not as our recent history shows where we have witnessed titles awarded of late for less!

There are some sides who elect to attempt to erase or downplay the achievements earned during this time period, such as our neighbours, who experienced a record 8-1 loss vs us on January 1st, 1943, with Waddell scoring twice, details you won't find in their record books, but they do count that 1 solitary goal.

Many of the Rangers players like Waddell's great friend Willie Thornton, traded collecting medals at Ibrox to those earned on the field of battle and the list of Rangers of players past and present who served was substantial during this time,



## BRITISH ARMY

Willie Thornton (Trooper Scottish Horse Regiment)  
Donald McLatchie (Gunner Royal Artillery)  
Thomas Souter (Captain Royal Scots Fusiliers)  
Sammy Cox (Gordon Highlanders)  
David Gray (served in Middle East)  
Archie Macauley (Army Physical Training Corps)  
Willie Paton  
David Marshall  
David Kinnear  
Torry Gillick  
Dr. Adam Little  
Eddie Rutherford  
Jimmy Galloway  
Alex McKillop  
Tom McKillop  
Joe Johnston  
Willie Knox  
R. Cowan  
P. Grant  
A. Beattie  
GDF Mackay

## ROYAL AIR FORCE

Chris McNee Flight Lieutenant  
Ian McPherson  
Eddie Rutherford  
Jimmy Simpson  
Alex Stevenson

## ROYAL NAVY

Jimmy Parlane (father of Derek)  
Billy Williamson  
Bobby Brown Petty Officer Fleet Air Arm

While Rangers continued to show their support to those who fought by staging a series of matches to raise funds,



they included,

20.04.41 v RAF (Ibrox) 3-2  
(Clydeside Air Raid Disaster  
Fund)

27.08.41 v British Army (Ayr) 2-2  
(War Fund)

01.09.41 v Preston North End  
(Ibrox) 3-1 (Lord Provosts  
Central Relief Fund)

25.09.45 v Newcastle (Ibrox) 3-2  
(King George V1 Navy Fund).

Then with VE day secured, on 17th October 1945 Rangers left Renfrew airport and flew to Hanover, Germany for a game against the Combined Services in order to entertain the British Army who were current in occupation of the Rhine.

As much as things change, the more they stay the same. The battle for players and transfer windows are no modern innovation, during the war 'guest players' were afforded the privilege of staying for sides close to where they were based, this saw names such as the great Stanley Matthews turning out for Airdrie and Morton, before twice (including a cup win) for Rangers. Matthews, whose wife Betty was the grandchild of Tom Vallance, one of the club's "gallant pioneers" founders, despite Vallance actually joining the club one year into our existence.

Others such as Liverpool winger Matt Busby helped Hibs post war rise after being posted

with the Scottish Command. Like Waddell, Busby was born in Lanarkshire, but unlike Waddell, his allegiance was green not blue, and desperate to play for Celtic, but they would not drop their opposition to selecting army 'weekenders'. Bill Shankly played for Partick Thistle, England legend Stan Mortenson turned up in Aberdeen colours, while the 3 lions greatest ever keeper, Manchester City's Frank Swift (just as Waddell would do, Swift went onto work as a journalist after his playing career had ended), Swift who would later come to pass away along with 23 others, as Busby's Babes succumbed to slush on a runway in Munich in 1958.

Not all clubs played by the rules, and the fierce competitive nature to attract stars cost St Mirren dearly, fined and lifetime bans issued out to five of their seven directors for paying bungs to entice Everton's Jimmy Caskie and Manchester City's Leslie McDowall to Paisley, while even talk of change and drama at Dens Park isn't reserved just for the millennials as local businessmen tried and failed to turn the stadium to a greyhound track in 1943.

Links also went far beyond the football park, in the days when Ibrox had an athletics track Eric Liddle who won Gold in Paris back in 1924 and of Chariots of Fire fame was a lifelong Rangers supporter who often

trained at the ground. The Gold medal winner was even used by Struth as a coaching and motivational tool for his sides, showing just how visionary his out of the box coaching methods were.

Following competing at the 1932 Olympic games Liddell devoted all his energies to the Church and became a legend in the London Missionary Society, but in March 1943 he was interned in a Japanese concentration camp. The privations suffered in camp took their toll of even the fittest and Eric Liddell died in captivity at the age of 43.

<https://amzn.eu/d/2AU80zP>

Before the league was started up again, there was a special match at Ibrox in November 1945 when Moscow Dynamo came to Ibrox as part of a British tour which included matches against Arsenal, Chelsea and Cardiff City.

A massive 95,000 crowd watched the game, which was played midweek in the afternoon, with Torry Gillick, the (only man signed by Bill Struth twice) and a George Young (part of the famed that Iron Curtain Rangers defence) penalty (after an earlier miss by Waddell) securing a 2-2 draw with the Russians. Who themselves attempted to bend the laws of the game by playing 12 players at one stage.

When league business did conclude Rangers and Waddell picked up where we had left off as Hibs and Aberdeen became the main rivals as Celtic flirted with relegation.

The Rangers juggernaut continued in the Southern League and Struth's determination to maintain standards during the war had much to do with the domination

that the Ibrox club continued to hold when the Scottish League came back into being in 1946-47. Hearts, Hibs and Aberdeen became their principal rivals in the immediate post-war period because they too sought to develop players and their team structures.

War had cost many greats their prime footballing life, such as goalkeeper Jerry Dawson,

Dougie Gray and Big Jimmy Smith (who scored over 100 goals during this time) who sadly were more or less past it when peacetime resumed.

Gray, the longest serving Ranger with 22 years would have been the all-time Rangers appearance holder but his 385 appearances during the war are listed as unofficial.





Events on the battlefield saw that Waddell's long overdue international recognition was delayed, and it took until 1946 vs Switzerland in a 3-1 for the winger to win the 1st of his 18 caps, making his mark on the international scene as he had done with Rangers.

The Deedles career ending wing display pairing with Mason of Hibs saw Derby County full-back John Howe's international

career called to a close in a game called the biggest upset since Bannockburn as Scotland beat England in 3-1 at The Empire stadium in London (now Wembley), Scotland led by Captain George Young playing out a 2-3-5 formation lined up against an England side that included the likes of Swift, Matthews, Billy Wright, a young RB called Alf Ramsey and Mortensen with some onlookers and commentators saying the

Scots played the game of their lives (there's a film title in that).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LThcBQkpU0g\\_](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LThcBQkpU0g_)

This was the first England defeat in the Home Internationals since wartime football had ended and official competition had restarted. His brilliance made him the "pin-up" player of that Rangers team, and his priceless worth to the team was summed



"the act of pulling that Blue jersey over your head did something to you, All the talk about Tradition, about the privilege and responsibility that went with being a Rangers player definitely had it's effect."

**Willie Waddell on Rangers**

up in the great old Rangers song of the time "How Can You Buy Willie Waddell".

Waddell would have been a Hall of fame Ranger and Scotland star on his playing merits alone, his final appearance in the light blue coming in a loss at Aberdeen in April 1955, aged 34. His goals to games ratio was almost 1 in 4 and highlights in a Rangers career that stretched over 17 years, one that included a fabulous last-day strike away at Queen of The South that won the league title in 1953, plus a 75th minute wonder goal that snatched the title from the great Hibs team of the time, along with goals in memorable and historic Old Firm victories.

After his playing career had ended Waddell took over a decent Kilmarnock side in 1957, spending 8 seasons in Ayrshire where his achievements are unlikely to be ever matched. A Scottish Cup Final and two League Cup Finals followed, coupled with the clubs first participation in The International Soccer league (The famed Super league not such a new idea either) that took place in the summers of 1960-64 with games being played in cities such as Montreal, New York and Chicago, but it was in gaining Kilmarnock's only ever League victory in 1965 that his already legendary status in the Scottish game grew, capturing the league

flag on the back of a last day 2-0 win over leaders Hearts at Tynecastle on goal difference. That season also witnessed the greatest comeback in Scottish footballing history as Killie (in their first European season) thrashed German giants Eintracht Frankfurt 5-1 to overcome a 3-0 first leg deficit under the lights at Rugby Park, with Waddell's masterstroke placing his faith in a young 17-year-old winger called Tommy McLean who previously only had one top side appearance to his name.

Waddell departed Rugby Park to write about the game, taking on journalist roles at The Evening Citizen and The Daily Express, while his 55%-win ratio in 389 matches still ranks him Kilmarnock's best ever, with his accolades never being in danger of being bettered. Waddell's ferocity with a typewriter was every bit as cutting as his bark as a man, most notably his description of then Rangers manager Davie White as 'The Boy David' helped heap pressure on Whyte, a man who Waddell would have seen as an outsider unlike Symon or himself who had learned his trade under Struth, however it wasn't just Rangers managers who Waddell would reserve damning and exact analysis on as ex journalist David Leggat told myself on Heart and Hand.

*"In 1965-67 Jock Stein spent a short time in charge of the Scotland side, 7 matches as we aimed to qualify for the 1966 World Cup in England. Waddell had written a comment piece 24 hours after Scotland had lost 2-1 to Poland at Hampden in a World Cup qualifier in the autumn of 1965. I can't remember that piece at all, but I can remember being at the game and Scotland were winning one nil with about 6 minutes or so to go and Stein (in a very important game) didn't make changes, not substitutions, because they did not exist, but Stein did not make changes in the way the Scotland team was going about the game.*

*Scotland were 1-0 up, there was no need to press, no need to move forward, you wanted to try and take the sting out of the game and just retain control. Pass the ball about to no real effect other than to start running the clock down. They did not do that, and Scotland lost two goals. This led to friction between the two of them because Waddell writing in the 700,000 selling Scottish Daily Express absolutely slaughtered Stein and given his pedigree as a player and as a title winning manager and a player of enormous talent and enormous amount honours it won criticism at that time from Willy Waddell carried enormous weight.*



*People have told me that when Waddell and Stein were at functions together there was a form of banter between the two of them, but that but there was a dark edge to it. The Deedle would ridicule Stein's lack of success as a footballer and ask him how many caps he did have for Scotland (the answer was there was none because there were there were no caps). And this led to Stein retorting about the medals that he had won as a manager. "*

Whyte's dismissal at Ibrox meant there was only one man for the job, and as he addressed his new squad Waddle explained to them 'those who know me will know I am a hard man, those who don't, will get to know I am a hard man'.

In looking for an new voice (or bark) to join the coaching staff it was roles reversed as The Deedle (who got his nickname from the rhyming slang 'Deedle Dawdle' ) was provided an assist from his great friend and now assistant coach Willie Thornton, who suggested Hearts coach Jock Wallace, making the two a formidable force who some might even call grumpy in nature, though as ex NFL GM Mike Lombardi wrote in his daily coach blog, being perceived as grumpy isn't always a negative.

*The Marines have a catchy slogan: The Few, The Proud, The Marines.*

They are known as a mentally-tough fighting machine, trained to project our country with incredible bravery.

When author Stephen Pressfield joined the Marines, it wasn't on his own free will. Pressfield admits he was reluctant to go and serve, especially with a corps of servicemen who would turn baby-faced young men into trained, high-level soldiers.

Later Pressfield would learn the Marines were not as efficient as their reputation. They were tremendous at teaching you how to be miserable. Yes, miserable, to the Marines, according to Pressfield, is a wonderful trait.

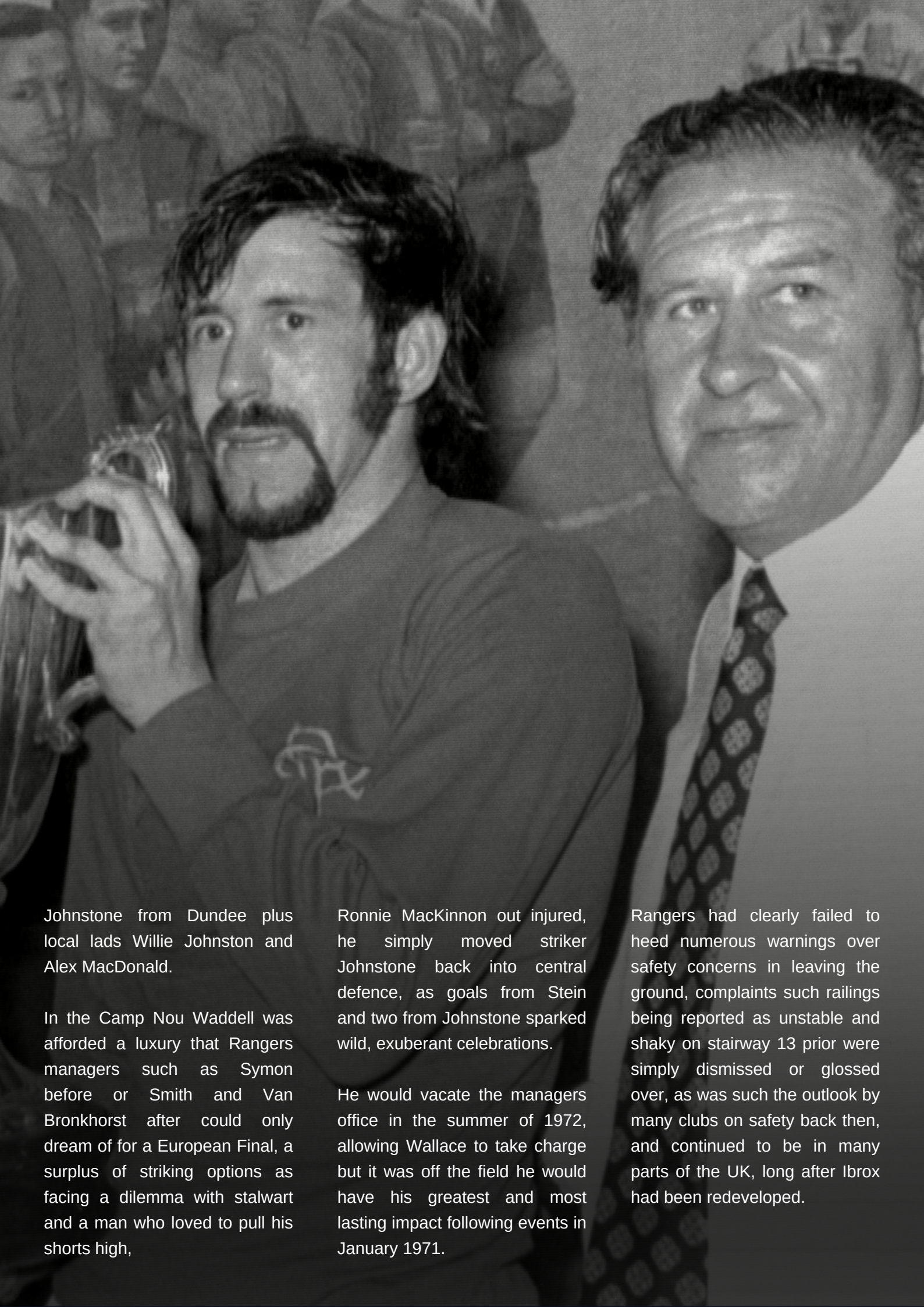
Being miserable means you can do your work when the food is cold, the climate is freezing, when the equipment breaks down, when they provide fewer men and women for an advancement.

Out went long hair, and Pedro moustaches, showboating like sitting on the ball was not to be tolerated and anyone who thinks traffic in Glasgow is slow now, clearly didn't experience the traffic light system Waddell had installed outside his office at the top of the marble staircase at Ibrox as discipline and an emphasis on standards returned, shown by the ruthless transfer of 'Slim' Jim Baxter and later on Willie Henderson

Silverware was scarce but memorable, like the 1970 League Cup win over Celtic at Hampden when again showing his faith in youth and without the services of his captain John Greig he placed a 16-year-old Derek Johnstone to play upfront, DJ scored the only goal as he outjumped Billy McNeil, there is no denying or getting away from the fact Celtic at that time were the dominant force, just as we had been during Waddles playing career, as Rangers manager he would win only one other trophy, but it was not a bad one to do so, the European Cup Winners Cup in Barcelona in 1972, beating Moscow Dynamo 3-2.

The run to the final was done with drama and skill in places such as Lisbon, long before Walters side made their own mark in Europe there, and vs a Bayern Munich side that made up the vast majority of a formidable German national team at that time.

That Rangers side Waddell led to history featured Scottish players from all over, Captain, leader and Roy Keane of his day John Greig hailed from Edinburgh along with Sandy Jardine, Colin Stien, whose hang time was Micheal Jordan esq from Linlithgow, Rolls Royce of a player, the Scottish Kaiser Dave Smith from Aberdeen, Peter McLoy from Girvan, Derek



Johnstone from Dundee plus local lads Willie Johnston and Alex MacDonald.

In the Camp Nou Waddell was afforded a luxury that Rangers managers such as Symon before or Smith and Van Bronkhorst after could only dream of for a European Final, a surplus of striking options as facing a dilemma with stalwart and a man who loved to pull his shorts high,

Ronnie MacKinnon out injured, he simply moved striker Johnstone back into central defence, as goals from Stein and two from Johnstone sparked wild, exuberant celebrations.

He would vacate the managers office in the summer of 1972, allowing Wallace to take charge but it was off the field he would have his greatest and most lasting impact following events in January 1971.

Rangers had clearly failed to heed numerous warnings over safety concerns in leaving the ground, complaints such railings being reported as unstable and shaky on stairway 13 prior were simply dismissed or glossed over, as was such the outlook by many clubs on safety back then, and continued to be in many parts of the UK, long after Ibrox had been redeveloped.



His drive and determination he showed as player and manager was channelled into the rebuild of Ibrox, out went the bowl look as he settled on Dortmund's Westfalenstadion stadium in design with safety at the forefront.

In 1981, just as the new look stadium was nearing completion, Rangers announced that Waddell was stepping down from his executive role and would remain a director. He stayed on the board of the club up until his death in 1992 at the age of 71.

What it must have been like to go inside the mind of Waddell's world at that time, as he Lawerence, Hugh Adams along with many others made the stadium as we know it now a priority (read more detail below).

<https://fourladshadadream.blog/2021/02/17/the-history-of-edmiston-house-the-rebuild-and-rangers-pools/>

As a player he scored 143 goals, in 558 competitive matches for Rangers, as our manager he brought success in Europe yet to be equalled, and as the general manger he gave us a stadium we all can enjoy in comfort to this day.

Some may even describe Waddell as a dinosaur but remember there is a reason they keep making Jurassic Park movies, dinosaurs are cool!

Waddell was a far from a perfect man, like us all, but that's why the Rangers support love him, he was in every way one of us and his desire and drive to make sure his and our club was never once again darkened with the depths of despair we were forced to endure in 1971, lives forever as his legacy, long after his passing.

His final years were gripped by sadness at the loss of his beloved wife Hilda, but as we now transition back to attending

games at our home Ibrox, if anyone deserves his name on the stadium he helped shape and made safe, it's certainly Mr Waddell, if not for us, but for those who went to the football and never came home.

**Steven Harrigan.**

Thanks to FF, Heart and Hand, 4Lads, The BB, Block 109, and David Leggat and dedicated to my gran who turns 90 in November.

As we approach the 125th anniversary of Ibrox, perhaps we should invite Wrexham to be our guests for a challenge match at the old lady, after all we did use the towns brick to build the fabulous new stand.

Using 1,01800 Ruabon Red bricks from their factory in Wrexham and as Bill Struth said "It's all good Welsh brick, and will be here long after the others have gone" how right the great man was.



## Waddle's World.

Just to show that the Waddle (different spelling I know, but we all know what the Port Authority put down as names when immigrants entered New York) still can carry sporting and journalism prowess former Chicago Bears wide receiver Tom Waddle (and his 9 touchdowns) has been a regular on ESPN in the windy city since his retirement in 1995.







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# MILLER TIME: COLIN MILLER'S STORY

BY ALISTAIR AIRD

This is an edited version of a chapter in *Rangers FC in the 1980s - The Players' Stories* published by Pitch Publishing in 2019.

Colin Fyfe Miller was steeped in the Rangers tradition from birth and dreamed of one day playing for the club he had always followed. He realised that dream when he was signed by Jock Wallace from Toronto Blizzard in July 1985, initially on a six-month contract. Unfortunately for Miller, who at the age of 20 was already a Canadian international when he arrived at Ibrox, bureaucracy and red tape meant that he ended up a victim of circumstance as a promising Rangers career was halted

before it even got started.

'I was born and raised in Scotland in a little mining town called Allanton,' said Miller from his home in Abbotsford, Canada. 'Like everyone at that time I played football in the street with jumpers for goalposts, and every Christmas I would get a Rangers strip. My dad was a fanatical Rangers supporter and was actually at Ibrox on 2 January 1971, the day that 66 supporters went to a football match and never came home. All my mum's

family were dyed-in-the-wool red, white and blue too, although my grandfather was a Motherwell supporter.'

Colin was 11 years old when the Miller family moved to Canada in 1975. And on Colin's first day of school there was bloodshed when the locals found out that it was best not to make fun of Miller's Scottish accent! The family eventually settled in Vancouver and Miller started to play football.





'School football in Canada is not as big a deal as it is in Scotland,' said Miller. 'Instead we have a very well-organised club youth system and I played for a club in East Vancouver. I got scouted there and ended up playing in the provincial programme, representing British Columbia four times. It was actually a Rangers supporter called John McMahon who came from Toronto to watch me and I got drafted by Toronto Blizzard. Vancouver Whitecaps, Tampa Bay Rowdies and Edmonton were all interested in signing me but I was delighted to go to Toronto as they gave young footballers a chance.'

He added, 'I was actually the youngest player to play in the North American Soccer League (NASL) at that time. You couldn't sign a professional contract until your High School class had graduated. I was 17 when I graduated and the following Sunday I made my debut against Portland Timbers.'

One of Miller's team-mates in Toronto would also share a dressing room with him when he went to Ibrox, Jimmy Nicholl.

'Jimmy was a huge influence on me, a fabulous professional,' recalled Miller. 'He's one of the funniest guys I've ever met and he actually stayed with me before his wife and kids came across. I was 17/18 at the time and it was such a thrill for me to

host a guy who had worn the red shirt of Manchester United and played for Northern Ireland at the World Cup. He taught me about setting standards and I was lucky enough to have the Canadian national team captain, Bruce Wilson, as a team-mate too.'

It was while with The Blizzard that Miller first came up on Rangers' radar. With Nicholl on the right-hand side of midfield and Miller behind him at right back, Toronto faced Rangers in Hamilton, Ontario on 15 June 1984. The Ibrox side had embarked on a post-season World Tour, and this was match number eight. And such was the quality of Miller's display, he was earmarked as one for the future. But this was not the first time he had caught the eye of the Rangers manager, Jock Wallace.

'The Blizzard manager was a chap called Bob Houghton and he was manager of Malmo when they lost to Nottingham Forest in the European Cup Final,' said Miller. 'He wanted me to go back to Scotland during our off season and asked who my local team was. The closest to Allanton was Motherwell and Jock Wallace was the manager there at that time. And what an education it was working with big Jock! I was at Fir Park for about a month and as I was due to go back to Toronto, Jock pulled me into his office and asked me

what I thought of Celtic. I told him I was like a bull when he sees red! He then told me he didn't want me to go back to Toronto; he wanted me to rip up my contract and start for the first team at left back against Celtic at Fir Park. Unfortunately, it wasn't as easy as just ripping up the contract, so I went back to Toronto. But Jock said to stay in touch as you never knew what might happen.'

Wallace had the foresight to see that the NASL was in trouble and would fold eventually and, when it did, opportunity knocked for Colin Miller.

'When I played against Rangers, big Jock was their manager,' remembered Miller. 'My dad was at the game all kitted out in his Rangers scarf and tammy hat. Toronto beat Rangers 2-0 and after the game my dad and I went out with Ally McCoist, Peter McCloy and all the lads. It was one of the thrills of my dad's life.' He continued, 'I saw big Jock before the game and he gave me a big hug. He was a big, hard guy but what a heart he had. He was an incredible man. At Davie Cooper's funeral, he told me to take my coaching badges and I would make a good manager one day. That was very special to me. About a year after we beat Rangers, as Jock predicted, the NASL folded and I got a call from him at 4am asking me if I wanted to come back and play for The Rangers.'

Colin and his wife, Maria, touched down in Scotland ahead of pre-season for season 1985/86. After surviving a scary ride from the airport in John Haggart's Mini Metro ['It was like an episode of The Flintstones, with feet hanging out the windows and no sunroof,' chuckled Miller] the couple initially stayed in The Bellahouston Hotel.

Miller joined a Rangers team

that was trailing behind Celtic, Dundee United and Aberdeen. The league flag hadn't fluttered at Ibrox since 1978, and Wallace was under pressure. And to sum up the predicament Rangers were in when Miller joined, the 20-year-old was part of a surprisingly small group at Ibrox. Along with Davie Cooper he was the only full international in the first team squad. Although born in Scotland, he was a Canadian international, having won his first

cap, ironically, against his birth country on 19 June 1983.

'It was a privilege and an honour to play for Canada,' recalled Miller. 'I won 61 caps and captained the team of 38 occasions. My dad's sister sponsored us to come to Canada but after a number of years you could apply to become Canadian citizens. We got our citizenship in 1982 and I





captained the Canadian youth team after that. I was never asked to come back and play for Scotland but, if I'm honest, I don't think I was at that level to play for the Scottish national side at that time. I exchanged jerseys with Gordon Strachan on my debut and when we played Scotland again [in 1992], I swapped with Coisty so I have the international jerseys of two legends of the game, both of whom have gone on to become Old Firm managers.'

It was on a pre-season trip to The Highlands of Scotland that Miller looked set to launch his Rangers career. Alas, red tape would put an end to his hopes of a first team debut.

'I had played left-back in all the games in training and I was all set to start there in the first game in The Highlands against Ross County,' recalled Miller ruefully. 'I was in my room sleeping when there was a knock at the door and it was big Jock. He told me he was sorry but I couldn't play as my international clearance hadn't come through. That was a huge setback. I was young and fit but it took seven weeks for the clearance to come through. That meant I couldn't play in the reserves either. There weren't many international transfers at that time so there must have been some serious mix-ups between the SFA and the Canadian FA.

[Rangers' secretary] Campbell Ogilvie did everything he could to speed the process up but there were no emails or social media channels then like there are nowadays.'

Stuart Munro came in at left-back and hardly missed a game for the first team thereafter. Although Miller could also play right-back ['I could give the ball away in any position,' he joked], competition for the number two jersey from the likes of Hugh Burns and Ally Dawson was also fierce, so after his clearance came through, Miller found himself starting season 1985/86 in the reserves. He was an ever-present in the second team and even got his name on the scoresheet on 14 September 1985 when he scored Rangers' seventh goal in a 7-2 win over Clydebank at Ibrox. And five days earlier he picked up his first medal when he was selected at left-back in a strong Rangers side that defeated Queen's Park 5-0 at Hampden in the Glasgow Cup Final.

'What a thrill that was, playing for Rangers at Hampden in a cup final,' admitted Miller with pride. 'People will say that it was only the Glasgow Cup, but I really don't care. Big Jock came in after the game and congratulated us all. It was a recognised first team fixture and I was just thrilled to bits that I had helped win a cup for

Rangers.'

The appearance at Hampden did not signal a change in Colin's first team fortunes. Despite working tirelessly in training on his left foot to give him more versatility, the only glimmer of a chance had come when Miller was placed on standby for the visit to Fir Park to face Motherwell in October. In the end, though, he remained with the reserves at Ibrox when Dougie Bell recovered from injury.

Miller admitted, 'I was never bitter about not getting enough chances, although I did chap the manager's door a number of times. It was just one of those things.'

Despite the lack of top team action Miller was a popular figure among the Rangers following. Having moved from The Bellahouston Hotel to The Grosvenor, Miller and his wife eventually moved in with Colin's gran in Harthill.

'Harthill is as Rangers as you'll ever get so I became the town hero,' said Miller. 'I had kids watching my car but I felt embarrassed as I wish I'd played more games and been more successful at Rangers.'

Although he had not made inroads to the first team Wallace evidently saw enough in Miller to offer him a further six-month



contract when his initial deal expired on 4 January 1986. The deal was sealed on Boxing Day 1985 when Rangers faced Celtic in the semi-final of the Reserve League Cup.

'I was at left-back that day and although we lost after extra-time, I played very well,' recalled Miller. 'Big Jock came in before the game and you can imagine the team talk he gave. It even gives me Goosebumps thinking about it now. The atmosphere was great and it was actually a very good game of football. I must have made an impression as Jock told me after the game that my contract would be extended.'

And with the ink on that contract

barely dry, Miller was making his Premier Division debut against Clydebank at Ibrox a week later. Stuart Munro had donned the number three jersey in each of the 22 league fixtures to that point but Miller was drafted in to face The Bankies.

'I believe Stuart was injured,' said Miller. 'I was always training with the first team - myself, Billy Davies, and big Stuart Beattie - and playing well in the reserves. But as consistent as I was, it still wasn't enough to get in ahead of Stuart [Munro] at left-back.'

He continued, 'Whenever you got the chance with the first team you recognised the level you had to get to. In the reserves you could get away

with things you would never get away with in the first team. I was still playing catch-up when it came to coming to terms with the pressure of playing for Rangers and was a bit naïve about the goldfish bowl that is the Old Firm. Big Jock was under pressure but, although we had good players who were all Rangers supporters, for some reason it just didn't click. Against Clydebank we went 2-0 up and the crowd started to get behind us. But Clydebank then had a good spell and a couple of players got a wee bit edgy. It wasn't a comfortable atmosphere as you could sense the frustration of the supporters.'

Goals from Craig Paterson, Dave



*McPherson, Bobby Williamson and Ally McCoist ensured Miller enjoyed a winning start to life in the first XI. He retained his place the following weekend for the 2-0 home win over St Mirren and again when Rangers travelled to Tynecastle to face Hearts in the third round of the Scottish Cup on 25 January. The 3-2 defeat that day effectively ensured a barren, trophy-less season for Rangers and increased the pressure on Jock Wallace.*

*'The pitch at Tynecastle was like a sheet of ice,' recalled Miller. 'I kicked two off the line that day but Hearts scored with the third rebound. I thought I played very well in that game too but we lost and when you're trying to make an impact and get a run in the team, it's important to win. Maybe I was the easy one to pick to drop out the side. Before the game the following weekend the gaffer asked me if I wanted to go with the first team and sit in the stand or go with the reserves. I wanted to play. I had watched enough. I was still living my dream but I realised then I was a squad player.'*

*That pressure on Wallace came to a head on 6 April 1986 when Rangers welcomed Tottenham Hotspur to Ibrox for a friendly. Although it was a painful night for Rangers, the match gave Colin Miller the most memorable moment of his Rangers career as Jock Wallace named him as team captain.*

'You can only imagine the thrill I felt that night captaining Rangers,' said a proud Miller. 'Walking out alongside Ray Clemence at Ibrox was a privilege and I am thankful to big Jock for giving me that opportunity.'

But the end was nigh for Wallace. David Holmes had been tasked by majority shareholder, Lawrence Marlborough to effect the necessary changes that would drag Rangers out the doldrums. As a result, Wallace was dismissed, and Graeme Souness took over as the club's first-ever player-manager. For Colin Miller, out of contract in July 1986, it was period of uncertainty.

'Graeme Souness was my favourite player when I was growing up and I'll never forget the day he first walked into the dressing room at Ibrox,' recalled Miller. 'I was due to leave to join up with the Canada squad for the World Cup in Mexico but Souness came in and said he was going to wake up a sleeping giant. I was in awe of him, but ended up having a good relationship with him. With the greatest of respect to Jock and the staff that were there, Graeme brought different standards with him from Italy. Jock used to take us to the sandy dunes at Gullane for training – one day coming off the bus he said I'd be first to throw

up and he was right – but training and game preparation under Graeme was completely different.'

Although he was going to make swingeing cuts, Souness wanted to have a look at the young players like Miller. Colin was therefore understandably delighted when he was offered the chance to extend his stay at Ibrox.

'As I had to join up with the Canada squad, I didn't get the chance to see out the rest of the season [1985/86] and show Souness what I could do,' recalled Miller. 'But we had had a full scale practice match on the pitch at Ibrox the day before I left to join up with the national team. After the game Graeme said he had heard good things about me and I was a young lad with potential so he offered me a one-year contract. He said he'd maybe see me in Mexico [the player-manager was in the Scotland squad] but, in the end, I was one of the four players that manager Tony Waiters left behind in Vancouver.'

However, despite the positive feedback and the security of the new deal, season 1986/87 was of a similar ilk to the previous campaign for Miller. When the first team squad went to West Germany in pre-season, Miller stayed at home and went on tour with the reserves instead. And he was an ever-present for the

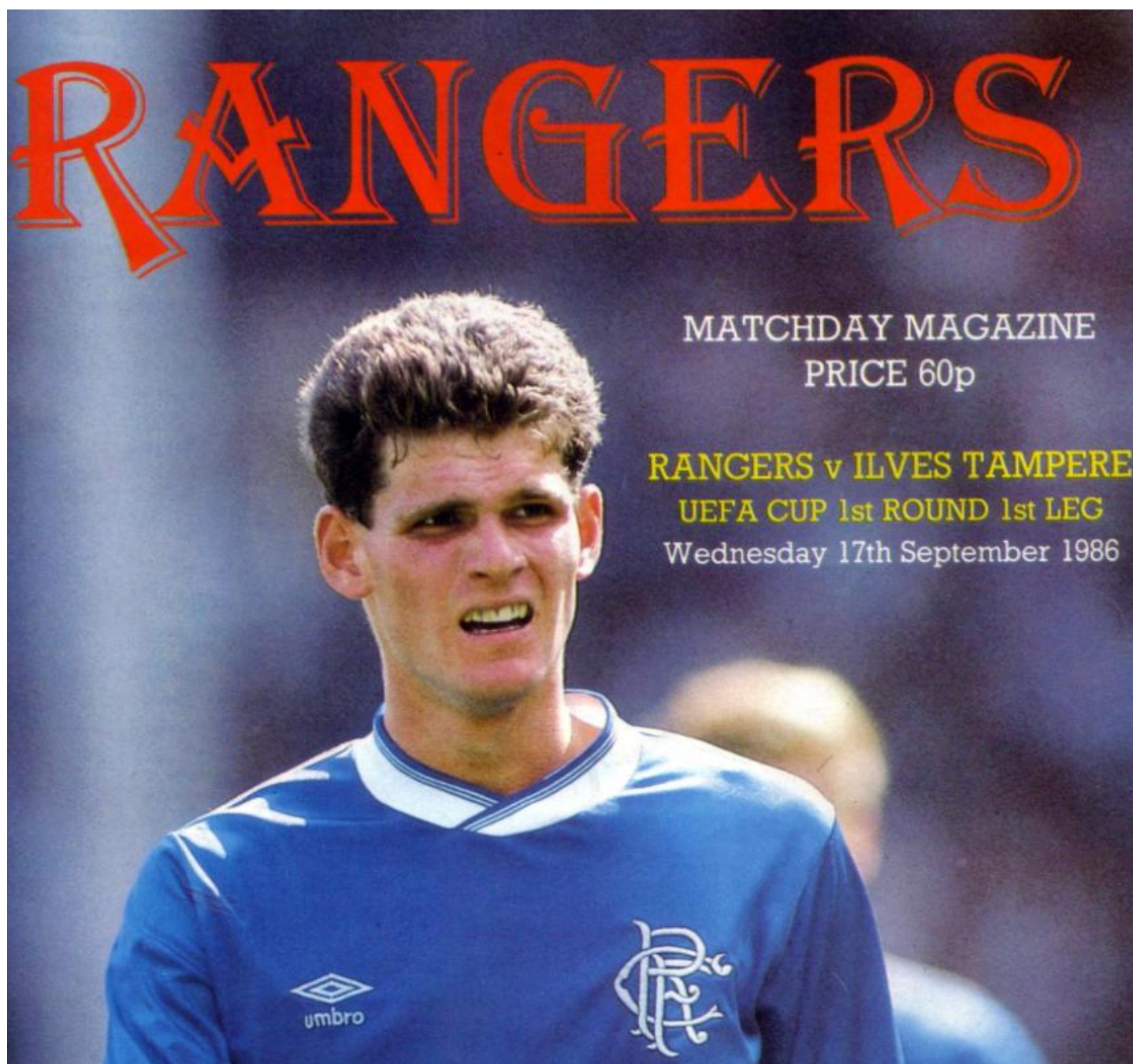
second team throughout the early months of the season too, his run of games only coming to an end when a groin injury ruled him out of a match with Clydebank. However, such was the consistency of the often-underrated but super-reliable Stuart Munro, first team opportunities on the left-hand side of a new-look defence were few and far between.

By December 1986, Miller had

just three top team appearance to his name. The most notable of those came when he pulled on the number four jersey as a much-changed Rangers side lost 2-0 to Finnish side, Ilves Tampere in the UEFA Cup in October.

'I used to wait for Graeme to go in to the sauna in the home dressing room to speak to him about playing for the first team,' said Miller. 'He told me he was

impressed with my attitude and how I'd been playing in the reserves. Ironically I used to travel through to Ibrox every day with Stuart Munro [Andy Bruce, Scott Nisbet and Craig Paterson were also in the carpool, with Colin commenting that when Nisbet drove it was frightening and that he wouldn't let him drive a supermarket trolley] but there was never any animosity. It was important for me to keep playing well, though, as I was





still wearing the Rangers jersey and it still meant the world to me.'

He continued, 'I still trained with the first team and after we beat Tampere 4-0 at Ibrox, Peter McCloy, who was now on the coaching staff, asked me if I had a passport as I was travelling to Finland with the team for the second leg. Thankfully I did and I played in central midfield and got man-of-the-match. But we lost 2-0 and the team got changed after that.'

Miller was in danger of stagnating. He played in a couple of testimonial matches after his excellent display in Finland, but the next move in his career would be sealed at Lesser Hampden on 15 December 1986. He was selected to face Queen's Park in a friendly arranged ostensibly to help Souness's first signing, Colin West, regain match fitness after he had been injured in a Skol Cup tie against East Fife earlier in the season. But for Miller it proved to be an opportunity to showcase his talents to one interested observer.

'Hearts and Motherwell were interested in signing me but for whatever reason, Rangers wouldn't let me go,' recalled Miller. 'Then all of a sudden Walter Smith phoned me in the house and asked me to go The

Grosvenor where the team stayed the night before a game. Terry Butcher had been sick all week so I thought I had a chance of being in the squad. I had dinner with the players and afterwards I was asked to go and see Graeme. He told me if he waited for the young players to come through at Rangers he'd be out of a job, he had to buy success. He said I was one of the players that he could move on to allow him to bring in his own players. He said that there was a chance to go to Doncaster Rovers as their manager, Dave Cusack, had watched me play against Queen's Park and was very impressed. I accepted at that point that my Rangers career was over. I wanted to play. I was never one of these players that just wanted to pick up his wages and go through the motions.'

The Doncaster deal was done just before Christmas 1986, with young striker Neil Woods heading in the opposite direction, and Miller would spend 18 months in Yorkshire. He was so highly thought of that Dave Cusack sought counsel with him to recommend any other Rangers players to sign on at Belle Vue.

'After a couple of games, the manager asked me to recommend any Rangers players and I said that big Stuart Beattie, a young centre-back, was a no-brainer,' said Miller.

'Stuart wore his heart on his sleeve, was as honest as the day is long, was quick and could play a bit. And I said nobody would get the better of him. Stuart came down and, before he got injured, had a terrific time. He was arguably the best centre-half in that division and Billy Bremner wanted to sign him for Leeds United. I would have recommended Billy Davies too but he had already moved on [he was given a free transfer by Souness in the summer of 1986 and had since joined St Mirren]. Myself, Billy and Stuart were always winning Player of the Year awards in the reserves and I was always surprised Billy didn't get more first team games for Rangers as I rated him very highly.'

But although he captained Doncaster, Miller was moved on by Dave MacKay, a legendary player with Tottenham Hotspur and a title-winning manager with Derby County but the poorest manager Colin played under. A brief return to Canada with Hamilton Steelers followed Miller's departure from Doncaster in 1988 – he made 27 appearances and scored two goals - before he was back in Scotland for spells with Hamilton Academical, St Johnstone, Hearts, Dunfermline Athletic and Ayr United.

And during a year-long stint with Hearts that yielded 24 appearances, he played, and

scored, against Rangers in a Scottish Cup tie at Tynecastle in 1995. And he drew praise too for nullifying the threat posed by arguably the greatest overseas player to ply his trade in Scotland, Brian Laudrup.

‘Whenever I played at Celtic Park I got booed, even during the warm-up,’ remembered Miller. ‘They would call me an orange bastard. But when I played against Rangers, I had to be professional although one

day when I was at Dunfermline we were getting beaten 5-0 at Ibrox and the fans were signing and I ended up joining in! Andy Tod, our centre-half, asked me what I was doing and I said, “Toddy, its f\*\*\*\*\*g 5-0 I’m joining in”.’

He continued, ‘I loved my time at Hearts too. For me they’re the third biggest team in Scotland. We had some former Rangers players in the team like big Slim [Dave McPherson] and David

Hagen. We beat Rangers 4-2 in the Cup-tie and when we came in afterwards the likes of John Robertson were telling the manager to fine me as I didn’t celebrate my goal! In terms of Laudrup, whatever club I played for I had to man-mark either Rangers or Celtic’s top player. I didn’t realise how big he was – I’m 5’ 7” and he must have been about 6’ 2” – so it was quite a challenge. At that time he must have been involved in about 75-80% of Rangers’ goals.



He was a frightening proposition. I was an aggressive but fair player and used to give him a couple of whacks. In one game at Ibrox, one of my best pals called me a “dirty wee bastard” after one of the challenges I put in on Laudrup.’

After finishing his playing career back in Canada with Abbotsford Mariners, Miller moved into coaching. It had always been his intention to do this after the cessation of his time as a player and he enjoyed several successful stints on the coaching staff at clubs like Hamilton Academical, Derby County and also for the Canadian national team.

‘I did my first coaching qualification at Doncaster when I was

21,’ said Miller. ‘By the time I was 27 or 28 I had all my UEFA A-Licence badges. I was still playing so everyone, including the referees, used to call me ‘coach.’ And today he is still involved in the game he loves at grassroots level in his role as Technical Director for the Abbotsford Soccer Association.

Colin Miller played eight first team games for Rangers. He won the Glasgow Cup in 1985/86 and picked up a Premier Reserve League Championship winners’ medal that season too. And although he is based thousands of miles away, his heart will always be at Ibrox. Indeed, on matchday, he will think nothing of rising in the early hours of the morning to watch his beloved team in action before returning to bed.

He concluded, ‘The Rangers result was the first result I looked for when I was playing. I played with a lot of great players and special people like Terry Butcher, Ally McCoist and Davie Cooper. Coop and I used to spend a lot of time together and would go out for dinner. He was a genius.’

‘Doug Baillie, the journalist and former Rangers player, once said to me that he knew how much the club meant to me and how I was disappointed that things didn’t work out. However, he assured me that every article anyone wrote about me would always refer to me as ‘Colin Miller, ex-Rangers’ and that remains the case to this day. Once you’re a bluenose, you’re a bluenose forever.’

### Alistair Aird

For the record, the eight games Colin played in the Rangers first XI are as follows:

9 September 1985	Queen's Park 0 Rangers 5	Glasgow Cup Final
11 January 1986	Rangers 4 Clydebank 2	Scottish Premier Division
18 January 1986	Rangers 2 St Mirren 0	Scottish Premier Division
25 January 1986	Hearts 3 Rangers 2	Scottish Cup
6 April 1986	Rangers 0 Tottenham Hotspur 2	Friendly
1 October 1986	Ilves Tampere 2 Rangers 0	UEFA Cup
13 October 1986	Cowdenbeath 1 Rangers 1	Ray Allan Testimonial
19 October 1986	Morton 2 Rangers 5	Jimmy Simpson Testimonial



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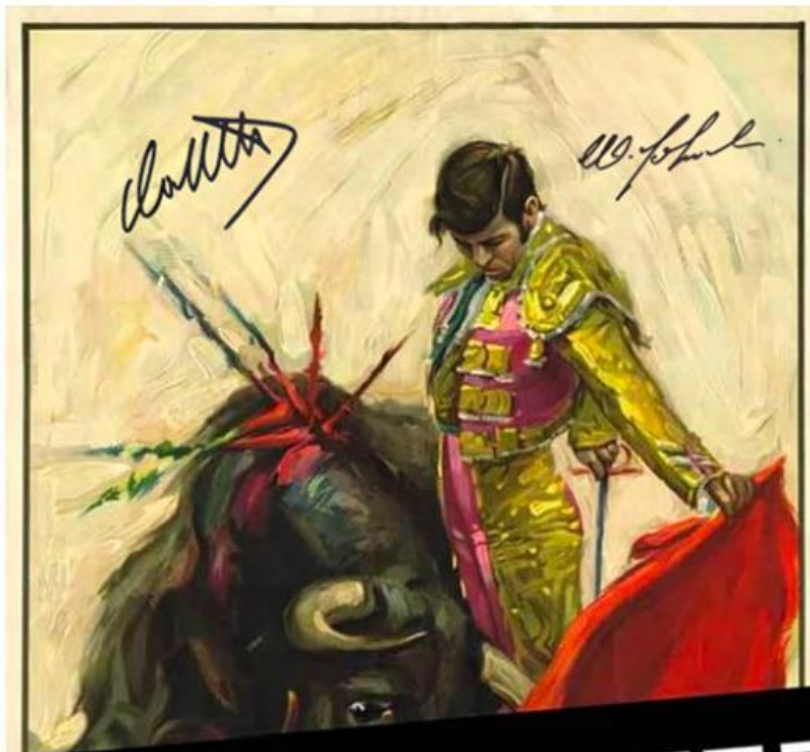
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# GILLIGAN: INTERIM CHAIRMAN

BY DAVID LEGGAT

**WHEN** the news broke that John Gilligan had been appointed as the new Rangers chairman, albeit on an interim basis, my heart soared.

For weeks I had been privy to the fact ill health was about to force John Bennett to stand down and the fear was, given so many disastrous appointments in recent years, the curse of Ibrox ill judgement would strike again. Not this time.

At which point I must declare an interest. John and I have been

pals for 15 years or so and we worked together closely from the summer of 2011 until the spring of 2015 to ensure the club we both love was wrestled from the hands of the undesirables who had wormed their way into the Blue Room and returned to proper people.

My job was to beaver away in the background giving media advice to all those involved in an alliance of bluenoses.

Many the morning at just after six when my phone was

switched on it was to immediately buzz with the message from John asking if I was up.

A pint of coffee was needed before calling John, who was then managing director of Tennents Caledonian and was on the road from Ayr to Glasgow. My ear was soon burning with a rant, or a compliment for some story I had managed to plant in the papers, but mostly his voice came over the miles bristling with ideas.



For John Gilligan is not a man who is ever short of an idea or several.

Britain's top soldier during most of the Second World War, Field Marshall Lord Allanbrook once said of Winston Churchill that he had a hundred ideas a day, with only two of them good. But, he added those two were not just good, they were brilliant.

And that sums up the fertile mind and imagination which will breath new life, new vigour and renewed morale into Rangers. That means from the folk who clean the toilets to the executive team. That morale has been at rock bottom recently.

Now John, an exuberant enthusiast and an out and out optimist will change things. His exuberance and enthusiasm will rub off on everyone who he comes into contact with – and that will be everyone inside Ibrox and Milngavie - encouraging optimism to return to the ranks of those who run Rangers.

Since he assumed the chair he and I have spoken numerous times and just afterwards I spent a marvellous lunch in Edinburgh with his great ally, George Letham.

Big George is a major shareholder, a shrewd Fifer and just the sort of man you would want beside you in the trenches.

What he also is, is someone who prefers to work quietly in the background.

John Gilligan is a man much more comfortable in the limelight. Which doesn't mean he is in any way an egotist. It is just a case of the new chairman being a comfortable public speaker who believes in leading from the front.

He has already spoken publicly, carefully and eloquently about the nature of the task he faces and what the priorities are. And he hasn't minced his words about how high the mountain Rangers have to climb actually is.

When he and I lunched in a wee West End fish restaurant just before the season started, there was an unspoken sense of foreboding which we identified in each other. Therefore, and unusually, the talk was not about Rangers, but of books, movies and politics.

On the question of politics John, the boy from up a close in Springburn and me, the laddie from a room and kitchen in a tenement in Maryhill, differ. Without revealing where John stands, let it be clear that I am an unreconstructed, dyed-in-the-wool, unapologetic, Thatcherite Tory.

However, we both agree about

the menace of Nationalism.

Plus, of course, we both agree on the urgency of getting things sorted at Ibrox. During that lunch in Edinburgh, George Letham revealed to me privately, that plans were afoot for some sort of refinancing. He was on safe ground as my knowledge of low finance, never mind high finance, could be written on the back of a first class stamp. If I could afford one.

That refinancing was made public by the chairman at a press briefing a few days afterwards.

While all of the money managing is going on, as chairman, John is already well ahead in forming a list of candidates to be the much needed Chief Executive and he gone public with some of his basic requirements.

In the past he has speculated to me on whether, among the 50,000 supporters who are Ibrox regulars, there is someone with the qualifications for the job.

If there is someone, Rangers supporters can trust John Gilligan to find him. Nobody can deny the lengthy list of awful appointments Rangers have made in recent years. But by naming John Gilligan as chairman they have got one spectacularly right.

**David Leggat**



**DAVID LEGGAT** worked as a sports journalist for over half a century. He first saw Rangers in season 1956-57 when his dad took him to Ibrox and first sat in the old press box on the roof of the Main Stand in 66-67 when working for the Evening Times. He has worked full time for the Sunday People in the West Midlands, The Sunday Mail, the Scottish Daily Express, the People in Scotland and finally the Scottish Sunday Express. He is now in his mid 70s and is retired though he writes occasional features about former Rangers players for the Herald, talks about old stars and memorable matches on Rangers Television. He also has two Memory Lane podcasts each month on Heart and Hand. On top of that he has had four books published, Struth, The Story Of An Ibrox Legend, Great Scot, the Scot Symon Story, Big Jock, The Real Jock Wallace, along with a spy thriller, The Kennedy Kill.

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# IBROXONIA.

BY STEVEN HARRIGAN

Cat vs dog, Ali vs Frazer. Blur vs Oasis, Boca vs River. Real Madrid vs Barcelona, brother vs sister, McDonalds vs Burger King, short hair vs hippies, Packers vs Bears, men vs just one pint, Pepsi vs Coca Cola, Sampras vs Agassi, Messi vs Ronaldo, myself vs grey hair, Borg vs McEnroe, Indian vs Pakistan, Ohio State vs Michigan, Palmer vs Nicklaus, Schwarzenegger vs Stallone, Manchester United vs Liverpool, Wilson vs Bristow, Man vs food, Seabiscuit vs War admiral, Argentina vs Brazil, Lauder vs Hunt, Rangers vs the world, and Scotland vs England.

History is written and shaped by great rivals, it is the games, big fights, sporting events, moments in time we remember most, because it simply means more

to us as supporters. It's not logical, it doesn't make sense, yet that's what drives and consumes us, the games we want to win more than most. It's for points, it's for pride, it's for one-upmanship, but more than that it's for bragging rights, the opportunity to go into work the next day and stand tall, as we enjoy glowing in the light of victory over friends, colleges, associates and strangers alike.

Rivalries and what makes them so special, so unique, is the people who live and breathe them through their experiences. That experience of sampling going into the lion's den has now been denied to a whole generation of Rangers supporters, due to reduced and non-allocation of away tickets in Old Firm clashes.

I loved nothing more than entering Parkhead as an away fan, walking into that stadium with a few thousand of your mates ready to help cheer your team onto victory felt in its own strange way like the scene in the Oscar winning movie Gladiator when Russel Crowes character would claim " Are you not entertained, is this not why you are here?"

To me it was purest form of encapsulating a Us vs them, siege mentality. Its what grabbed you as a supporter the feeling when your team leaves it all out there on the field of play and you get to leave the ground of your greatest rivals victorious is unmatched, nothing compares.

The current Rangers gaffers





view on this situation couldn't be made clearer, speaking ahead of this season's only Old Firm fixture to date by saying,

"I'm not involved in these talks, but I hope for football games always that there are two sets of fans. There are some things from the past, but I don't know all the details so I'm not the right person to ask or the right person to ask if it was possible now.

"I like to see football where on two sides there are fans, it's always better for the product and the players for everybody."

Philippe Clement has also reiterated the importance of the fans in relation to his team's performance consistently saying openly, and as recently as the game away at Tannadice in the 1-0 win about the effect that Ibroxonia has on his side, talking about the synergy that exists between the players and the fans in the stand helping to drive his team on in games. That has been a component that has been missing for Big Phil every time his Rangers sides have ventured to the other side of town for a fixture, and while not the biggest or most important factor when assessing in shortcomings in those fixtures back, it is still a component that factors into matters.

The issue of no away fans at Old Firm games began back in the 2022/23 season, but before that

reduction in allocations had been taken place for several seasons in the lead up to that event. In the summer of 2018 Rangers first announced that following a fan led survey the existing allocation of around 7,000 away supporters housed in the Broomloan Road stand would be cut to just 800. There is no denying, support in our fanbase was high on this move, and while there were positives such as a more guaranteed revenue stream together with the opportunity to have more of us home fans in the ground, I think what was very clear from the first game is that it took something away from the world's most special fixture.

Our rival's response was one that mirrored ours, as we saw our away tickets slashed that gave way to grave safety concerns for the small minority of fans fortunate enough to secure a ticket. The narrow walkways, policing and segregation put in place at Parkhead created a gantlet and bottleneck scenario where crushing occurred and left many Rangers supporters fearing for their safety.

Of course, Covid and the restrictions we all had to follow, made these changes almost seem like an extension of these restrictions. We all got used and accustomed to the nonsense that went with going out anywhere and the rules and

punitive reasons provided behind them.

In many ways the Rangers support is now reaping what our club sowed, reduced away allocations in away grounds up and down the country has now become the new normality.

St Johnstone are the latest Premiership club to announce changes announce in ticket allocations for visiting Rangers and supporters.

The Perth club have traditionally allowed for 4,500 away spectators when either of the Old Firm visit McDiarmid Park while moving their own supporters from the East Stand in order to accommodate them. That has now been scrapped, with just the one stand now being offered and an overspill section for disabled supporters the new arrangements.

I fully understand and appreciate the sensitivity that broaching any subject of moving anyone from their existing seats has to be handled with extreme sensitivity and care, be it at our own club, or at another, it's not a nice experience, but sometimes sadly one born of necessity at stages in order to help to create the best on screen product that can continue to drive the revenue streams needed in order for the game to grow and not just stagnate season on season.



In addition, Hearts, Hibs, Kilmarnock, St Mirren have all now cut what was our historical numbers of tickets for games away from Ibrox, and how can we really complain when we did much the same?

The frustration felt by me and others keen to attend as many away games as permitted is that many of these clubs who have taken this action, would rather have empty seats on display than filled by Rangers fans, but that is their decision and their right to do so, if they want to leave money on the table, so be it.

Its why a sensible solution would be to see a European style ruling come into force to allow

between 5-7% of visiting supporters at every ground. I would also like to see a cap in the price of an away ticket, but that would require the league and the clubs putting the interest of fans over their own first. This won't give us the numbers a club with the size and demand of our support needs at many grounds, but it would put in place a starting position that clubs and fans can work from as a base.

One stumbling block to the sizeable return of away fans to Old Firm games appears to be the club across the city's insistence that the past allocation of around 7,000 returns for these fixtures, that cannot or will not happen, aside for the awful aesthetics of it the

practicality and disregard for home supporters in asking for it is incredible. Gifting our rivals a prime view while we were shipped into a corner at their ground, many seats that have a restricted view vantage point is not parity.

Perhaps we should take a leaf from Euro 2024 hosts Germany, who only as recently as earlier this month released grided sections of away grounds, so that Ultras could better plan Tifos and the likes when in attendance. A far cry from the obscene and absurd blanket bans we experience in grounds up and down our country. In Scotland clubs simply dish out instructions, pandering to the minority in their own support,



then hide behind the police they then ask to enforce said rules at the turnstiles.

The Bundesliga 1 and 2 is a place where fan culture is embraced at every juncture, from facilities to travel, why? is it because they have a set of supporters that are more willing to endure rival fans celebrating goals in their own stadiums, or lighting up pyrotechnics in colours that don't befit the home team, of course not, its because they understand and appreciate just what each individual set of supporters bring to the party and how that image is then projected across the globe, constantly selling the league brand.

So, who just is to blame, the answer lies in both clubs boardrooms, the blame game that has persisted is petty and shameful, and as fans I'm not really sure we care too much about the statement or blame games that go back and forward like a rally on centre court.

The lack of action on this subject by the Teflon Don Neil Doncaster is about as surprising as rain in November (he is paid by the clubs to be a human pin cushion after all), a man who is only too happy to make our collective ears bleed with his nauseating drivel on national radio as he attempts time and time again to tell us what an amazing and wonderful job he is doing, all the while as he talks

down our game and continues to sell it short. Once again, he has failed the fans. In a country where we have once more been named as the number 1 supported league per Capita in Europe.

Scotland has the 8th highest number of fans that attended our top tier matches - 3.8 million! That's higher than the likes of Portugal, Poland and Belgium, yet Doncaster will continue to lecture and tell us fans that our current League setup is fine, that an expanded league (one that I think the overwhelming majority of supporters from every team would support) has no place and would be detrimental to the overall development of homegrown and youth players, all the while as he is happy to speak about supposed 'groundbreaking' TV deals he helped secure, yet on this subject and the ones supporters really care about including the pricing of tickets at away fixtures, silence, not a word.

2023/24 Top Tier attendances, league matches only, ranked by total number. Scotland had the 8th highest number of fans (3.8m)

in March 2024, it was agreed that a 5% allocation would be given to both sets of Old Firm fans for matches in the 2024/25 Premiership season.

At the time, the SPFL said:

"Following engagement with both clubs, the SPFL is pleased to confirm that Rangers FC and Celtic FC will provide ticket allocations of around 5% for away supporters, for SPFL matches between the two clubs.

"This will be effective from Scottish Premiership season 2024/25, subject to all necessary requirements being satisfied at both Ibrox and (Parkhead) Celtic Park.

This announcement should have seen 3,000 bears being able to attend Parkhead last month, with around 2,500 heading in the opposite direction for the New Year fixture at Ibrox. Instead, what we got was another round of the blame game scenario by both clubs, each pointing the finger at the other in an attempt to divert and digress from the outcome.

The message is simple, end it now, stop the nonsense, only in Scotland can you be prevented by going to a game of football in your own city by sheer pettiness on the part of those who collectively run our game. After all, football without fans is nothing.

**Steven Harrigan**

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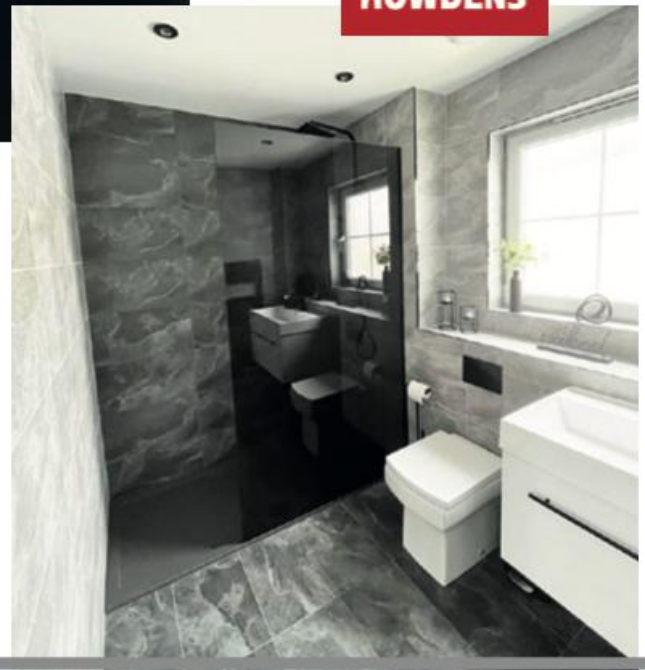
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# HOME SWEET HOME

BY STEVEN HARRIGAN

The improvements that have taken place in The Copland Road stand are highly impressive, and while as supporters we have been effectively sleeping on our neighbours' floor as the building work has commenced and overran (what building project ever runs on schedule) our long-anticipated return home is upon us, and the old lady has never looked more spectacular.

The improvements made will be ones that the vast majority of us will never see, or will hope to experience, it has been made with those most in need in mind and placed at the forefront of the

clubs thinking.

Any frustration felt by us able bodies supporters at being disbanded from Ibrox to Hampden in the short term, has to put aside and placed in perspective, any hardship and annoyance at not being able to attend matches in Govan pales into significance when you consider what our disabled supporters and their family or carers have to endure on a daily basis, like us, Rangers is a big part of their life and we finally have a stadium that can accommodate and provide the comfort levels for everyone to enjoy the light blues in action.

Taken from the Rangers website, the improvements made include the increasing the overall number of spaces for wheelchair users to 270, while 700 general access seats has also been added.

These finished works now take the overall capacity of Ibrox to be in excess of 51,500.

In addition, facilities for all supporters, with a phased programme of concourse and toilet refurbishment is also well underway.

Phase one should be now fully complete that overseen key structural works in the Broomloan and Copland Road



Stands.

This work will have included:

- Extending the concourses to create space for additional accessible toilets.
- Creating additional accessible kiosk points.
- Alterations for the installation of lifts to the accessible platforms.

Phase two was some of the more visual work that took place this close season with the improvements to those disabled facilities and the creation of new platforms to accommodate the new wheelchair spaces along

with the construction of the cantilever stand to house new, general access, as well as enclosed glass seating.

As we look towards a full opening for the first time this season, with the pitch looking in magnificent condition we most certainly have a Ibrox fit for everyone, anyone. Welcome home everyone.

Welcome and thanks.

I would like to finish by wishing John Gilligan all the best whoever long or short his tenure as Rangers chairman may be,

plus extending my support and well wishes to our outgoing chairman John Bennett, in his bid to return to the best of health, I hope he returns to full fitness soon and the stress and responsibilities of being our clubs' custodian has not taken too big a toll on him or his family. Heath is the one thing we all take for granted, until it's taken away from us.

**Steven Harrigan**



A portrait of Nedim Bajrami, a man with short dark hair and a beard, wearing a red polo shirt with a black collar. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The background is a solid red color.

# NEDIM BAJRAMI

by Redian Ara

Rangers FC have long been crying out for a new number 10 and it's safe to say the hunt for a new star wasn't exactly easy and straightforward.

It took the whole transfer window and a deadline day signature before Rangers could finally land the new number 10-signing they have been hunting.

Nedim Bajrami was signed for a €4m fee, which might seem cheap for an international player.

Bajrami spent his entire youth career at Grasshoppers before eventually securing a move to Italian side, Empoli. Bajrami would quickly become a fan favorite in Italy, as his performances won the hearts of the Empoli fans.

Unfortunately Empoli got relegated and he then ended up at Sassuolo, his time there was not exactly something great as the club were struggling on all fronts, he did however manage to score against Inter at the San Siro to hand them their only loss of their fantastic season.

With Sassuolo also getting relegated he now decided to



move to Rangers, who play much more attacking football than any of his previous sides, and that suits him very well.

But what type of player is he?

Whoscored has made a rough calculation on what type of player he is, and it certainly fits. However he possesses even more strengths as he is excellent at carrying the ball forward and generally likes the big games.

#### **Nedim Bajrami's style of play:**

Likes to shoot from distance

Likes to play short passes

Likes to cross

Does not dive into tackles

He plays as a Trequartista as the Italians call it, elegantier as the French call it and basically as a number 10 which the British call it!

Best through the middle as that is definitely his preferred position, he is capable of doing a solid job as a left-winger though.

Bajrami has not had a bad club career so far, however his most noticeable moments has certainly been with the national team, but being born in Switzerland surely he would represent Switzerland right?

Wrong! He is proud of his Albanian heritage and was willing to go to legal war in order to switch allegiance to the

Albanian national team. Bajrami wasn't allowed to play for Albania, but had his wish granted after taking his case to court through CAS and winning!

The Swiss coach at the time saying: "We tried our absolute best to keep him, but his heart beats only for Albania and he was very clear regarding what he wanted"

Bajrami played the WC qualifiers of 2022 WC with Albania but didn't manage to make a huge difference. Albania had problems with their Italian coach's negative approach and decided to hire the Brazilian Sylvinho instead, a move that made the world of difference for Bajrami!

Bajrami produced a historic european qualifier campaign, in which he scored 3 goals and got an assist. Most of his goals coming from outside the box.

His goal against Czechia away was by far his most important one though. In a game where his now Rangers team-mate Cerny put the Czechs 1-0 up, Albania had their work cut out for them.

They only managed ONE shot the whole game, the shot? Bajrami's magnificent equalizer. 1-1 FT.

<https://x.com/EURO2024/status/1700870112063226284/video/1>

Bajrami of course celebrated his goal with the fans as he quite often does. If the fans support him, he will support them! A very likable guy and a proper fan-favorite!

After his fantastic qualifying campaign he also managed to break a historic record, as he Scored after just 22 seconds against Italy in the group stages of the Euro's, and what a goal it was!

Rangers have got themselves a player that will always leave his mark on the pitch, whilst also being capable of producing moments of magic. With the old firm being such a massive fixture, it certainly helps that Bajrami loves the big games too! A player of his caliber certainly loves to play in a team like Rangers, who find themselves dominating possession of the ball for most of their games. It looks to be a rather smart signing by the Rangers board, how he ends up performing remains to be seen.

**Redian Ara**  
**@ALBfootball**



# 2002/03 SEASON REWIND

BY ANDREW MCKELLAR

I must confess that I am approaching the age when I start looking back to prior decades with the rose-tinted glasses of nostalgia firmly worn, secure in my belief that everything was somehow better and brighter back in those days. Now, while not an elder statesman by any means, it is undoubtedly enjoyable to relive those years and the periods of our lives through memories. And today I'm taking a journey back to my favourite season of all – 2002/03.

The previous campaign had started with Dick Advocaat at the helm however poor form coupled

with Old Firm defeats saw the Dutchman step upstairs to be replaced in the dugout by Hibernian manager Alex McLeish. Big Eck would go on to win both domestic cups that year, defeating Celtic in the semi-final of League Cup before emerging victorious in the Scottish Cup final. So it's fair to say that we entered 2002/03 filled with optimism.

While the summer spend was not of the levels of previous years McLeish inherited a talented group of players whom he had revived in the second-half of the previous season. The squad was littered with quality

from the likes of Stefan Klos to Arthur Numan to Barry Ferguson to Ronald de Boer to Michael Mols. And added to that in the summer transfer window was a certain young Spaniard by the name of Mikel Arteta from Barcelona, for this was a time when such transfers could still happen.

Celtic though were a strong side too and, while we had given them a bloody nose in the cups, the league is a marathon and not a sprint. The best team generally wins and this was probably the strongest both teams have been in a single season at the same time in



recent memory. But only one would emerge victorious in the end.

The season though would begin with a hiccup as a late Andy McLaren goal cancelled out Shota Arveladze's opener for a share of the spoils at Rugby Park on opening day. But for the next 8 weeks Rangers were imperious, racking up eight wins in a row including 7 clean-sheets and with a 6-0 victory against Dunfermline being a particular highlight. And then came the big one.

The first Old Firm game of the season came at Parkhead however despite Rangers' impressive league form, they exited the UEFA Cup on away goals in midweek to Czech side Viktoria Zizkov while Celtic had the luxury of resting players with their tie having being settled in the first-leg. However it was Rangers who struck first with Mikel Arteta's effort being scooped into the net by Celtic goalkeeper Rab Douglas. And that set the tone.

Henrik Larsson would equalize and then give Celtic the lead before Ronald de Boer equalized and Shota Arveladze gave McLeish's men the lead. Chris Sutton would score the final goal of the game to bring the 3-3 thriller to a close, Rangers maintaining their 1 point lead at the top of the table and the manager remaining

unbeaten in Old Firm matches against the previously dominant Martin O'Neill.

Victories would soon resume with wins over Motherwell, Dundee, Hibs and a 6-1 thrashing of Kilmarnock as revenge for the opening day draw. It was a fine start to the league campaign with the disappointment of Europe being put in the rear view mirror with Barry Ferguson and Ronald de Boer racking up goals and assists between them.

Rangers would defeat Celtic 3-2 at Ibrox Stadium on 7th December 2002 despite losing an early goal to Chris Sutton after just 19 seconds. It was the kind of mental resilience that had been displayed in these head-to-head clashes with McLeish having the number of his counterpart in the Celtic dugout. Our lead at the top had been extended.

But as is often the case big victories are soon followed by a defeat and this came in the shape of our 0-1 loss to Motherwell at Fir Park on Boxing Day. Not the belated Christmas present our fans had hoped for! But this team were no pushovers and would bounce back, winning their next 7 league games as we entered the business end of the season. And at the business end of the season anything can happen.

Celtic by this point seemed buoyed by their European adventures which by now had seen them defeat Celta Vigo & Stuttgart and so came into 8th March Old Firm encounter confident. And so they should have been as a single Hartson goal claimed all three points to crank up the pressure as we approached the final months of the season.

Rangers would win our remaining games in the lead up to the next Celtic meeting with Ferguson, Mols and de Boer all racking up a couple of goals between them. And when the teams met at Ibrox on 27th April – less than a month until the season's end – it really felt like a must-not-lose game for Alex McLeish. But lose we did.

An uncharacteristically flat first-half saw Celtic 2 goals to the good and while Ronald de Boer would pull one back with half-an-hour to go, it was not enough. It's funny in football how pendulums can swing. The gaffer had been unbeaten against Celtic until a few weeks before and suddenly he had lost two in quick time, and at a crucial time of the season. Momentum in football cannot be underestimated and it would play its part a week later.

Throughout the season Rangers had recovered from setbacks quickly and went on long

winning runs thereafter. But suddenly, as the title was within sight, nerves kicked in. Incredibly Barry Ferguson would miss two penalties at Dens Park as Rangers trailed 2-1 to Dundee. This was of course on the back of that loss to Celtic. Another defeat seemed unthinkable, were we going to hand the title to Martin O'Neill on a silver platter? Not yet.

Rangers were awarded a **THIRD**

penalty and this time the responsibility was given to youngster Mikel Arteta who duly dispatched his spot kick and salvaged what would prove to be a valuable point in the race for the title.

So this was it – a three-game shootout for the league title with both teams level on points but with Celtic sitting top courtesy of goal difference. Rangers really looked to have blown it having

shipped 5 points from 6 in their last two fixtures. As I said earlier, momentum is vital and this just felt like we were going to run out of steam, despite it being Celtic going deep into Europe.

But maybe it would swing again. Celtic secured all three points at Parkhead against Hearts on 10th May 2003 however Rangers would respond with a 4-0 demolition of Kilmarnock at Ibrox the following day.





We sat top on goal difference. Two games to play.

Celtic played first again, recording a thumping 6-2 victory against Dundee that put them 3 points clear and turned their two-goal deficit into a two-goal advantage with Rangers having a game in hand, a game in which we would win 2-0 to put Rangers back to the top of the league but only on goals scored! Yes, it was level on points and level on goal difference. This would be a final day showdown for the ages!

Four days before the league season's finale though Celtic contested the UEFA Cup Final losing 3-2 to Jose Mourinho's Porto. In a quite incredible season with such quality and drama, Celtic had lost the League Cup to Rangers and now the UEFA Cup to Porto. There were two trophies still up for grabs and with two games left to play it was enormous pressure for both sides involved. Celtic would travel to Rugby Park on 25th May 2003 meanwhile Rangers hosted Dunfermline at Ibrox. The buildup was intense with a finale, the likes of which we had not witnessed before being ready to be played out before our eyes. It was excitement, anticipation, nervous energy. This had it all.

Ibrox was electric. The atmosphere that day was

fever-pitch with the summer weather turning the stands into a sea of red, white and blue (and orange courtesy of our third kit!). This was it. This was the moment. Our 50th history-making league title was within our grasp, all we had to do was to score more than Celtic. Easy, right? No, as it turns out.

Rangers would score after only 3 minutes courtesy of a trundling Michael Mols effort which kissed the post on the way in. But there was no huge celebration, the ball was back on the half-way line as we sought to rack up the goals. But the script however had clearly not been read by our opponents who equalised after 11 minutes to silence the home crowd.

Rangers would retake the lead courtesy of Claudio Caniggia only for this to be matched by Celtic taking the lead at Kilmarnock. The tension was palpable now, both teams were no longer concerned about winning, they were concerned about how many they were going to win by!

At half-time there was nothing between the teams as Rangers led 3-1 and Celtic 2-0. Only goals scored kept Rangers top of the table with just 45 minutes to go, so this was it. 45 minutes to crown a magnificent season and put our names into the history books. But for 10 minutes

it looked it wasn't going to happen.

An Alan Thompson penalty gave Celtic the lead and the advantage, putting a finger – if not a whole hand – on the SPL trophy. But Rangers were not done. Two goals in 3-minutes from Ronald de Boer and Steven Thompson swung that advantage back to Rangers however with more than 20-minutes still to play it wasn't done.

Henrik Larsson would hit the post for Celtic and on 80 minutes Alan Thompson, having previously converted, would miss a crucial penalty. Petrov scored shortly after for Celtic to take their score to 4-0 however with Rangers winning 5-1 we were still in the driving seat, just. Fans clung onto radios to try and keep up to date with the goings on elsewhere for this was in the pre-internet age.

Both teams pushed and threw everything they had at their opponents but then, as the clock struck 90, Rangers were awarded a penalty for a foul on Neil McCann. It would be left to Mikel Arteta, who salvaged that vital point at Dens Park, to step up with the weight of pressure on his young shoulders. Ibrox fell silent as he began his run-up. And then with one stroke of his right foot he nearly took the roof off the stadium as outpourings of celebration, joy,

relief all exploded from the stands.

Rangers were the champions. Rangers had done it. History was made with our 50th league title and in the most dramatic of fashions. It was a title for the history books and a victory that will forever be etched in the memories of those who were fortunate enough to have experience it.

Six days later Rangers would secure a famous treble with a 1-0 Scottish Cup final victory over Dundee courtesy of Lorenzo Amoruso. It would be the cherry on the icing of a very large cake, a season that we have not yet matched in trophy-count terms and may not do for some time.

But it was also the end of an era. The high-spending David Murray

days were coming to an end as key players like Amoruso and Arthur Numan would take a final bow and go out on the ultimate high. It's fitting that some of these names would leave as proper champions and they gave us a season we would never forget.

It wasn't just the success that made it special, nor the dramatic way in which the league was won. Throughout the season we were treated to some of the best football fans of my generation have witnessed, certainly if we look at post-9 in a row.

Ronald de Boer was simply sublime, often playing at a level unmatched by anyone else in Scotland with his intelligence and guile cutting open defences almost at will. He was joined by our captain Barry

Ferguson at the top of the performance charts in what too was his best season at the club with goals and assists coming freely. And while these two stood above the rest, we had so many huge contributions that year.

Season 2002/03 was probably the pinnacle of my footballing viewing as a Rangers fan. I witnessed players and a team the quality of which we have not seen replicated since. When else will our fans see a de Boer or a Mols again? This was a special side with special players. And a cap doff to the manager who pulled it all together and let these talented individuals express themselves as a team.

It was a truly magnificent campaign and may remain, for some time, my absolute favourite.





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