

Local 2175

Scotland V Ireland International

5th November 1954

At Hampden Park, Glasgow, Scotland and Ireland came out together for their Diamond Jubilee International encounter... Scotland kicked off - and in the resulting mid-field play - the Irish skipper, (wing-half Danny Blanchflower) was soon living up to his forty-thousand-pound price label... Ireland, by the way, are the team in white-topped stockings, so this is Scotland attacking.

Prolonged pressure now, on the Irish line. Johnstone heads towards goal. A defender gets it away - and Ireland eventually clear their lines. Cheers from visiting fans, as the green shirts sweep upfield. Bingham gets over a dangerous centre. A goalmouth scramble, and Scotland concede a corner.

Then, after twenty-two minutes, Johnstone was pulled down just outside the penalty area... Anxious moments, and then, centre-half Jim Davidson rams the ball home. Scotland one-up.

Great delight among the home fans; but not for long, two minutes later, Bingham gathers a ball thrown out by goalkeeper Fraser - and bangs it in. The scores were level.

Fresh heart for Ireland - now they're attacking with fire and fervour, and the home defence reels under the terrific onslaught.

Then, just before half-time, came a picture goal for Ireland. Bingham gets away a fierce shot. Fraser does well to punch away; but McAdam is there to tap it home.

Ireland leading two-one, so no wonder the congratulations. They haven't won on this ground for twenty years.

The second half - Ireland determined to hang on to their slender lead. Uprichard punches away in grand style, and Len Graham clears off the line. Then injury disorganised the visitors' ranks; - Danny Blanchflower receives attention on the touchline. But still Ireland attack; - wing-half Peacock makes a grand effort.

With Blanchflower now limping on the wing, Scotland slowly get on top - yet still that green-shirted defence keeps them out.

Then - disaster, as M'Cavana deflects a shot from Johnstone past his own keeper.

The goals each. Scotland had saved the day

Scotland V Ireland (continued)

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Two goals each. Scotland had ~~saved the day~~. But more important than the result are the final handshakes - that have enriched sixty years of international soccer..