

**TT No.036: 27/02/05 Club/Ground Focus: *Mike Latham* - Rangers (BoS Premier League).**

Rangers 2-1 Kilmarnock, SPL, Sat 26 Feb 2005

Ibrox Stadium has a reputation of being one of the most intimidating in the UK but a cold and sunny late February afternoon the welcome was warm as Rangers extended their lead at the top of the SPL to six points with a 2-1 win over Kilmarnock (att -48,575).

Extensively modernised in the late 1970s and early '80s Ibrox is a magnificent stadium with steep rows of seats giving a fine view of the action from every vantage point. A third tier was added to the main stand in 1994 and entry to this was £22 adults with £20 charged elsewhere- cheap by Premiership prices.

The stewards and police were friendly, as too were Rangers fans in the stand with the lady in the next seat explaining how she had watched Rangers' victory over Celtic last weekend while on holiday in China.

Rangers' win- courtesy of first half goals by Prso and Novo was marred by a suspected broken leg to Alan Hutton. Kilmarnock threatened an upset with a Boyd goal 14 minutes from time but Rangers could have won by a wider margin, their patient, passing style of football impressing.

It was noticeable that few Kilmarnock fans had made the short journey from Ayrshire- they were located in the far corner of the Broomloan Stand.

The atmosphere was largely muted though the fans occasionally broke into sustained chanting and was far less intense and fervent than anticipated.

The stairways were clean, bright and well-marked and the refreshment floor on the top tier gave wonderful panoramic views over Glasgow.

A colourful programme with plenty of reading material but precious little information on the opposition sold for £2 and the prices in the well-stocked souvenir shop were considerably less than English comparisons. The journey north via the M74 and M8 was uneventful and the ground is easily found off J23 of the M8 with a choice of street parking or paying a whopping £8 to park in the massive carpark near the ground.

The red brick façade of the main stand- a listed building- makes Ibrox one of the most distinctive in Britain and the visit was thoroughly enjoyable and highly recommended- carparking charges apart.