



THE HAMPDEN CHARITY CHALLENGE

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Sun 63

Deflection sure came in Andy

JAMES RUSSELL will spend the rest of his days telling people how he scored past Andy Goram.

So what if it took a wicked deflection that sent the ball spinning over the Rangers legend? They all count.

The 27-year-old Scotmid worker, *celebrating below*, smiled: "It was an amazing feeling, especially given Andy Goram is one of my heroes. I wondered how I could possibly beat someone of his standard – and a world class deflection was probably my best bet."

Bidding

"I should say I meant it! I'm a Rangers man so that's my claim to fame."

Russell wanted to thank pal Stuart Simpson for successfully bidding for his place in the team, even though Stuart missed out himself!

He explained: "I was nervous going through the whole bid –

ding process. I would like to thank Stuart, for bidding on my behalf because I was working when it got down to the wire.

"In the end I got in and he lost out."

Team-mate Rob Morton's targets were a lot simpler. He said: "That was one of the best experiences of my life. I fulfilled both my goals – I'd a shot on target and crunched Michael Stewart!"



Fans raised game for kids

BIG-HEARTED Scotland fans who won the chance to play at Hampden raised over £3,000 for kids' charities.

The Tartan Army Children's Charity teamed up with Carling to allow supporters to bid for the chance to play at the national stadium this month in aid of good causes.

The money will be split between TACC, who help disadvantaged children in Scottish cities, and Whizz-Kidz, who assist disabled kids in living more independent lives.

TACC secretary John Deans said: "On behalf of TACC, a huge thanks goes to Carling for giving Scotland fans the chance to play at Hampden and raise money for charity."

"We raised over £3,000 which is fantastic. It'll be split with Whizz-Kidz."

"It's clear this was a special night that

A REAL GLOVE AFFAIR

Kieran modelled himself on boyhood hero Goram



TWO OF A KIND . . . fan Duncan with his hero Goram

KENNY MILLAR



AT HAMPDEN

Scotland Home 1 Scotland Away 3

KIERAN DUNCAN grew up with posters of Andy Goram plastered across his bedroom walls.

He never dreamed he'd get to go toe-to-toe with his idol, never mind hear words of praise from the childhood hero ringing in his ears.

Boyhood Rangers fan Duncan, 22, was one of 15 punters-turned-players who bid for their place in the Carling Hampden Charity Challenge with all funds raised going towards the Tartan Army Children's Charity and Whizz-Kidz.

They took on a *SunSport* select, featuring columnist Goram, and familiar faces like Rab McKinnon, Bob Malcolm, Michael Stewart and Alan Mahood.

The ringers had too much class for the have-a-go heroes in the end, with a brace from Kevin Wilson and composed finish from Mahood enough to seal success.

James Russell replied for the home side late on, but the real winners were the charities involved and the regular Joes who got to live like pros for a night.

Saves

Fifer Duncan – who plays amateur football with Hearts of Beath – smiled: "It was one of the best nights of my life. I'll never forget it."

"I grew up admiring Andy Goram. I modelled myself on him as a keeper. It was surreal to look across the tunnel and see him standing there."

"I put that out of my mind during the game and tried to concentrate on the football. It was good for my confidence to make a few early saves."

"Afterwards Andy couldn't have been nicer. He talked to me after the game and said how well I'd done and that he wished he'd had a game like that at Hampden."

"I got my picture taken with him and an autograph. To do all that and run out on the Hampden pitch is very, very special."

"I was so desperate to play the full game that I bid for both goalkeeping slots!"

Goram himself was full of praise for the young shot-stopper.

He said: "Kieran was brilliant from start to finish and the man of the match without a doubt."

"It's not an exaggeration to say we could have scored 20 if it wasn't for him. I wish I'd had a game like that at Hampden to look back on!"

"His team had it tough and they'll learn a lot from the old pros on show."

"Bob Malcolm is a tremendous passer of the ball and I don't think he broke sweat. And no one can tell me Michael Stewart shouldn't still be playing at SPL level."

"What a waste at 32 years old that he's decided to stop playing. It's ridiculous."

"He could play for anyone in the country easily – and I include Celtic in that."

Cause

The Goalie rolled back the years to deliver a no-nonsense performance between the sticks.

It took a wild deflection to beat him and the 43-times-capped 49-year-old was delighted to do his best for a cause close to his heart.

He added: "It was a great night for everyone, especially for the boys in the home team who bid a lot of money for charity to claim their place."

"It's a privilege to play at Hampden, whatever the game or level, but I don't think some of them realised how big that pitch is. There would have been a few heavy legs the next day."

"The Tartan Army Children's Charity deserves all the plaudits going. When I was a Scotland player we were always fully aware of the tremendous support the Tartan Army gave us and they raised money for all sorts of good causes wherever they went."

"They're a credit to the country and, for me, the best fans in the world."

SCOTLAND HOME: Kieran Duncan, Paul Robertson, Gary Innes, Cameron McLure, Derek Foley, James Russell, Ross McLaughlin, John Ramey, Willie Barrett, Kevin Lynch, Rory Holmes, Scott Burling, Rob Morton, Neil Grant, Andrew Halkett.

SCOTLAND AWAY: Andy Goram, Paul Tierney, Rab McKinnon, Scott Woods, Craig Duncan, Bob Malcolm, Kevin Wilson, Iain King, Craig Young, Michael Stewart, Alan Mahood, Robert Grieve, Kenny Millar, Peter Martin, Ross McKinnon.

CHALLENGE



DUFF'S DELIGHTS . . . Jim Duffy celebrates with his winning SunSport XI

My magic mavericks

By KENNY MILLAR

THE Hampden heroes were in safe hands with two real football men in the dugouts.

Craig Brown, the last Scotland boss to make a major finals, took the home team while Clyde gaffer Jim Duffy had a job on his hands coaxing the best out of the SunSport XI.

Unique

Duffy's used to dealing with all sorts – cult hero Chic Charnley is his Broadwood No2 – but *SunSport's* chief football writer Robert Grieve and radio star Peter Martin presented a unique challenge.

Duffy, *right*, laughed: "Those two were the hardest to manage, uncontrollable mavericks."

"They like a trick or two,

what I asked them to do was great."

"They were 3-0 down at half-time and they could have been disheartened but they more than deserved their goal."

Pest

"I was really proud to be part of this."

SunSport's Kenny Clark, ref for the night, said: "Everyone behaved, apart from Alan Mahood. He was a pest who just wanted a blether."

"He had the cheek to dummy the goalie for his goal, though he did say it was his first for 10 years."



BROON'S BOYS . . . Craig Brown was proud of his squad despite 3-1 defeat

KYLE'S BIG HIT WITH RECORD

By BARRY GRAHAM

KYLE COETZER made history when he hit the highest score by a Scot in first-class cricket.

The Northants opener smashed 219 yesterday to put Leicestershire's bowlers to the sword.

The Scotland skipper's seventh first-class ton not only passed his own previous highest score of 172 in 2010, it

also eclipsed notorious countryman Douglas Jardine – of 'Bodyline' infamy – who hit 214 for England against Tasmania 85 years ago.

Scotland coach Pete Steindl said: "I'm delighted for Kyle – it's a marvellous effort by a very good batsman."

AROUND THE WORLD.. IN 80 WORDS

COPENHAGEN: Where did that come from? Denmark's last World Cup results had been a brilliant 3-0 win in the Czech Republic and a draw with unbeaten Bulgaria. A stick-on win here against Armenia – beaten at home by the hitherto-pointless Malta on Friday – would've boosted their challenge. Instead, they were hammered 4-0 to smash their hopes. Morten Olsen, Danish coach for 13 years, called it "the worst evening of my football life." Many fans called for it to be his last.

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