

Fifty thousand fans at Windsor Park, Belfast - watched Ireland kick off against Scotland in the first home-international of the season...

The visitors (in the darker shirts) soon gained possession - but their final effort was well wide...

Then - after six minutes, the Irish boys celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Association in fitting style - Jackie Blanchflower scoring with a fine header.

Great enthusiasm on the terraces - and no wonder - Ireland's last victory in this match was in 1947...

Six minutes later, the "men in green" went further ahead - when Bingham collected a low centre and slammed it home.

Now there was no holding the home supporters as they scented long-awaited victory.

More attacks - with Fay Coyle harassing the Scots into.....No nearly!

After their grand performance during the close season continental tour - the Scots were disappointing - never seeming able to click into match-winning gear.

A free kick for Scotland - and here comes a chance - but once again, bad finishing mars a determined attack.

With a two-goal interval lead- those Irish fans were still sitting pretty.

Off again - Scotland in possession - and full of determination - and now Uprichard makes the first of a series of wonder saves, that won every Irish heart.

Occasionally, Ireland did come sweeping back to raid the visitor's goal but their efforts were well off target.

Then came the goal that put Scotland back into the game - a high lob into the goalmouth - Uprichard stays home - leaving Reilly to pick his spot.

Ireland Two - Scotland one - and could those "blue devils" pull the game out of the fire?

Well - they certainly tried - mounting attack after attack. But always Uprichard stood between them...and victory.

Once Irish hearts did sink when the Scots got the ball into the net; but the point was disallowed.

And the final two-one victory made it very happy birthday greetings for the Irish football Association...