**Presentation**

**Radio Commentary**

**Poster:**

* Split the poster into sections, each having out own parts.
* Past 🡪 Future, meeting in middle with use of Hillsborough memorial.
* Quotes, very striking, elaborate.

**Pres:**

Fourteen years before Heysel and 18 before Hillsborough, the Ibrox disaster rocked football. Now, four decades on, the most horrific of Glasgow derbies is still remembered – and so too are the 66 people who lost their lives, each of them with their own story to tell, each not being able to share it. Within this presentation we will look at what exactly happened on that infamous day in 1971 and look at what could have been done to avoid similar disasters such as the one in which took place nearly 20 years later in England. We will look to link this in to how collective memory is the result of the continuous convergence of media forms and the construction of history. As well as this, we will look at how the event was reported in the media, and finally look at how it is remembered not just by those in Glasgow, but across the nation of Scotland as a whole.

You don’t have to be a fan of football to know that rivalry runs throughout the beautiful game. Much like in any aspect of life, rivalry exists, it runs through the backbone of the sport, including in Scotland, where the country’s two biggest rivals met back in 1971, unlike many of the other fixtures involving the sides, this game will forever be remembered as the darkest day in the countries sporting history.

It was believed initially – and in fact, it is still believed by some today that upon hearing the roars of home supporters, Rangers fans attempted to run back up the steps into the terraces, those coming up the steps collided with those coming down, however it should be made clear that this claim was dismissed in the official enquiry.

The official enquiry ruled that the tragedy occurred after one or more departing supporters had fallen on their way down the stairs, triggering a ‘domino effect’.

When the magnitude of the disaster became clear, the whole of Scotland went into a state of shock, but there was no public outpouring of grief – mourning in 1970’s Scotland was significantly different – it was more about respect and dignity, the clubs made sure a player was representative at every funeral, of all 66 fans.

A lot of people outside of Scotland will not have heard of this disaster, after all it was over 40 years ago now, but it is important that the event is remembered, the scenes which unravelled in the Copland Road stand of Ibrox that day played a huge part in uniting two sides of Glasgow, Rangers and Celtic.

This is not the first time that a disaster has taken place at Ibrox... **MATT**

The fact that the event took place so many years ago means that media coverage was scarce, there was no such thing in those days as rolling news coverage, mobile phones, the internet, etc, so most people initially had no idea what had happened or to what extent.

This leads us on to how the event was covered that day through the media...**ASH**

On January 2nd 1971, world football was rocked with the second major football disaster to occur at Glasgow Rangers famous Ibrox Park Stadium, now called simply 'Ibrox'. Focusing on the second event at the Ibrox, here is how the media reacted.

On the day the disaster occurred, the BBC was one of the first media outlets to cover the story. The BBC negated the use of flashy headlines, instead creating sombre imagery with the use of adjectives such as 'tradgedy' and 'disaster'. The report tells of how some of the Rangers fans began to head to the exit late on in the match believing that Celtic had won the game, only for Rangers to score a dramatic late goal, which sent the fans rushing back, only for a clash to occur on the stairs.

The report highlighted amongst other things, concerns for the safety of the fans. The disaster prompted the conversion of the stadium into an all-seater, a move which was followed through by many teams across the globe. The report also uses quotes from witnesses, one of whom, described the scene which he so narrowly escaped.

"Everyone was struggling to get out, suffocating - it was essentially a fight for survival. After 10 or 15 minutes I was dragged out by a policeman and brought to hospital by ambulance".

The Celtic View, a newspaper for Glasgow's Celtic supporters, held an interview with then Celtic manager Jock Stein, and ran with the headline "Black Saturday" followed by the tagline of "The old firm match which didn't matter". By labelling the match as such, the Celtic newspaper attempted to disregard the event as a football match, and instead focused on it being the national tragedy that it was.

The newspaper detailed of how manager Jock Stein, assistant manager Sean Fallon, and many other Celtic staff members went and gave what aid they could to those who were affected.

The headline at the top of the newspaper spoken by Jock Stein, read "This terrible tragedy must help to cure the bigotry and bitterness of Old Firm matches. When human life is at stake, this hatred seems sordid and little. Fans of both sides will never forget this disaster".

The overall media reception, called for an overhaul in health and safety in football stadia, a move which has seen stadiums across the world comply.

40 years on from the tragedy, the Old Firm united for a tribute to those 66 who perished in the disaster. In an event attended by both Rangers and Celtic fans, the event saw 5,000 people turn up and pay their respects for those who tragically lost there lives, embracing the words of unity spoken in the media by Jock Stein all of those years ago.

The media coverage of this was as respectful as it was 40 years ago, with The Sun leading with the headline "We'll support you evermore". The event was also attended by people affected by the 1989 Hillsborough.

**It was one of the greatest games that you had ever seen,**

**when half the park was blue and the other half was green,**

**and little did we realise that we were soon to see**

**the worst football disaster in Scotland’s history.**

**It was a day we stood and watch those hard men cry,**

**that new years day at Ibrox when all those people died.**

**That made the score one each as the final whistle went.**

**Then the concrete stairs they broke and the iron rails they bent.**

**We were unaware as we headed for the station,**

**That we left behind was a trail of death and devastation.**

**“For someone to go to a football match and not return, it’s a terrible, terrible thing.”**

 **- John Greig (Rangers Captain)**

**“Every society uses some past event as a focus point of collective memory”**

 **- Barry Schwartz (Philosopher)**

**"Memory is life, born by living societies founded in its name. ... History, on the other hand, is the reconstruction, always problematic and incomplete, of what is no longer." - Pierre Nora (Philosopher)**

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Collective Memory is the way in which we remember the past. It is important that it is not confused with history and the differences must be acknowledged. Maurice Halbwachs stated that:

“History has no organic link to the present. Collective memory is the active past that forms our identities”. He also stated that collective memory is different to a normal memory as “collective memory is shared, passed on and also constructed by the group, or modern society.”

Parts of the past that can form our identities are not events in history as such, but what has come from those events. In this case, the history behind the event is the disaster itself, but the parts of the past that help to form our identities are the ways in which we remember the disaster. For the Ibrox Disaster, there are a number of ways in which it has been remembered.

The concept of collective memory has a lot of relevance to the Ibrox disaster.

A quote that helps to pinpoint it’s exact relevance is the following quote from Barry Schwartz:

“Every society uses some past event as a focus point of collective memory”.

This is very relevant in this instance. Rangers and Celtic are the two best football teams in Scotland and are both situated in Glasgow. They are more renowned as “The Old Firm” and there has always been a bitter hatred and rivalry between the two clubs. However, the Ibrox disaster put this aside. It brought the two clubs together at the time and once a year, it still to this very day brings the clubs and there fans together. Rangers and Celtic become one; the colour of a jersey becomes unimportant. Glasgow United.

Beneath the statue are three plaques. One that defines what the statue is and two others which list the names and ages of the 66 people that tragically lost there life.

- The John Greig Memorial Statue. John Greig was the captain of Rangers at the time of the disaster and the statue was built of him to commemorate the disaster. Greig was voted Rangers best ever player and inducted into the hall of fame. Staute unveiled on 2nd January 2001 at exact time of disaster.

- Floral Tributes. Every year floral tributes are place beneath the statue in remembrance of those who lost there lives. It is also common for scarves to be placed around railings near the ground.

- On the 40th anniversary of the disaster a massive remembrance service was held at Ibrox. Thousands of people were in attendance, including the players and there families.

- There are also a number of banners/flags that have been made to commemorate the event, one in particular was flown at the remembrance service and another was linked to the Hillsborough Disaster. It had an edge to it, one that illustrated “Fans United”, once again colours were irrelevant.

- Poetry/Text – Stairway 13 book, James McKenna Gills ‘Ibrox 71’.

Emile Durkheim: “Society displays and requires a sense of continuity with the past and that past moulds our indentity and allows individuals/groups to see collective memory as a key form of social life”.

Social memory > Commemorative Rituals

Pierre Nora - Quote on Poster. Discuss.

Philosopher Jeffrey Olick also defined collective memory. He said:

“Memory is a matter of how minds work together in society, how their operations are structured by social arragements”.