

Paul Hanlon believes testimonial was a good test ahead of European campaign



Hibs' popular defender Paul Hanlon believes that his testimonial game against Blackburn Rovers provided a good workout ahead of Thursday's match against NSI Runavik at Easter Road.

In a game of two halves, Hibs dominated the first period and passed up a number of good chances but Tony Mowbray was able to put on a completely fresh eleven at half time and that made the difference in the blazing heat.

Two early goals secured the victory, but the real winners were the local charities including CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) who will benefit financially thanks to Hanlon's generosity.

Hibs fans also had the chance to watch new signings, Adam Bogdan who played the first half and Stevie Mallan who

replaced John McGinn on the hour mark. Both did enough to suggest that they will be valuable additions to the squad.

After the game Paul told Cliff Pike from Hibernian TV: "I'd like to thank the fans for turning out and the committee for making it possible. I thoroughly enjoy it. Obviously the match didn't go as I wanted it but it was a good test and good run out ahead of Thursday night.

"I'm still quite young and have plenty years ahead of me and have just signed a new contract which see me here for another few years. Obviously I was delighted to sign it and I will try and play as long as I can and see where that takes me.

"I think we needed the test today, especially in that heat. It was tough at times and Blackburn were able to put on a fresh eleven at half time. They had quality all over the pitch.

"When I left school and arrived at Easter Road, the 'golden generation' team was still here. I used to come and watch Tony Mowbray's side and some of the football his team played was amazing. To be in and around that environment was great.

"I was gutted when he left as was every Hibs' fan. What he brought to the club was different class.