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LEAGUE CUP

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JOCK STEIN says...

The football season gets under way officially this afternoon with the visit of Arbroath for our first League Cup sectional match.

Many people may think that this is a game which Celtic should win comfortably without much effort, but I don't think that and the players will be told not to harbour any such thoughts either.

It's vitally important from the players point of view that they put their best foot forward because they know they are playing for their place in the team. With regard to our preparations for the season, everything promised so well with our outstanding performances against Dunfermline and Dundee in the Drybrough Cup matches and in the challenge match with Penarol.

Having beaten all three teams convincingly with an abundance of flair and style, things went a bit flat on us against Hibs in the Drybrough final and in our pre-season game with Sunderland.

I still think that we played well enough in the first half against Hibs at Hampden, but we failed to turn

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Scottish League Champions (28 times)

1893, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1919, 1922, 1926, 1936, 1938, 1954, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973.

Scottish Cup Winners (22 times)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972.

Scottish League Cup Winners (7 times)

1957, 1958, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970.

European Cup 1967

Coronation Cup 1953

Empire Exhibition Cup 1938



our outfield superiority into goals. As the match progressed Hibs came more and more into the game as one or two of our players struggled to produce their best form.

The new boys in our team, Andy Lynch, Steve Murray and Brian McLaughlin seemed a bit over-awed by the occasion, but the experience will stand them in good stead for future big game occasions.

I don't intend to make any excuses for the disappointing performance against Sunderland—it's sufficient to say that there was probably a bit of depression carried over from the Hampden defeat which made the players look as if they had just finished a long hard season.

The events of the last fortnight have enabled me to learn quite a few things. Having started the season with a fresh approach which looked good, only to encounter a couple of set-backs—it is my task now to pursue the policy which will produce the best results for the club and in the meantime at least the fresh approach looks the best.

Returning to today's game, Arbroath manager Albert Henderson has managed to obtain a good blend of youth and experience which at the latter end of last season produced the results to steer clear of relegation worries.

With both teams anxious to get off to a good start, the game today has all the ingredients to produce a most entertaining match.

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OUR FIRST VISITORS

The 1973-74 League Cup competition gets under way to-day with the visit of Arbroath.

Strangely enough this will be the first ever occasion in which Celtic and Arbroath have met in a League Cup game at Celtic Park.

Just before people start reaching for their pens to inform us that they played in the same section last season, it will be remembered that the sectional game was in fact played at Hampden Park.

Celtic had already qualified for the next stage of the competition and this was reflected in the Hampden attendance of just under 5,000.

Nevertheless, Arbroath, with recent ex-Celt Gordon Marshall having a splendid game in goal,

surprised everyone by recovering from a 3-1 deficit and earning a merited 3-3 draw.

The teams on that evening at Hampden Park last year were—

Celtic—Connaghan, McGrain and Quinn, Hay, McNeill and Connelly, McLaughlin and Deans, Dalglish, Hood and Lennox. 12th man McCluskey.

Arbroath—Marshall, Milne and McAlpine, Cargill, Waddell and Winchester, Sellars and Cant, Pirie, Rylance and Payne. 12th man Robertson.

Derek Rylance of Arbroath had the distinction of scoring a hat-trick in the match and Celtic's goals were scored by Hood and Dalglish together with an own goal by right half Cargill.

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TO-DAY'S VISITORS

GORDON MARSHALL. Arbroath's goalkeeper will be no stranger to Celtic Park today because as all supporters of the club know, Gordon had a spell on the Parkhead staff a couple of years ago. Still a very capable custodian, he had some very fine games for the Gayfield Park side against Celtic last season.

JIMMY CANT. A very versatile player who plays either at the back of the defence or in the mid-field and is the Arbroath skipper. He is a local lad who has proved to be a very reliable club servant. Will most probably play in the back four today.

DEREK RYLANCE. Converted from a forward to a full back and is a product of Perth Junior club Kinnoul. His hat-trick against Celtic last season in a League Cup sectional match were the only three goals he scored last season. His displays at left-back have attracted the attention of several clubs.

CAMERON MURRAY. A very experienced player who has been a senior football player for a few years giving valuable service to St. Mirren and Motherwell before joining up with the 'Red Lichties'. His experience has considerably helped some of the younger players in the team.

TOM CARGILL. Joined Arbroath from Dundee five years ago. About 6 ft. tall he is a very strong and capable player who is equally effective either in mid-field or in the heart of the defence. Tom was unfortunate enough to score an own goal in the corresponding game with Celtic last season.

BOBBY WADDELL. A very useful centre-half who joined the club from Kilmarnock about three years ago and gave great service to the club in gaining promotion and in maintaining their place in the first division last season.

BRIAN REID. A local boy who was called up by the club last season. He

is a strong hard working forward who has impressed the Arbroath officials with the tremendous progress he has made.

ERIC SELLARS. Stepped up to the senior grade with Arbroath five years ago from Junior team Carnoustie Panmure. A very skillful player, he is considered by some people to be one of the best wingers in Scottish football at the present time.

IAN DONALD. Aberdeen youngster who was on Manchester United's books for four seasons before home-sickness unsettled him. After a short spell with Partick Thistle he joined up at Gayfield and looks like becoming a very useful addition to the Arbroath playing staff.

JOHN FLETCHER. Was born in England but now lives in Carnoustie. A very strong player, he played mostly with the reserves last season but could be pushing for a regular first team place this term. During the season the club bring him up from Newcastle where he is completing a Physical Education course.

ANDY PENMAN. Former Dundee and Rangers forward who needs no introduction to Celtic fans. Andy joined Arbroath last season and his skill and experience contributed greatly in the successful avoidance of relegation.

BILLY PIRIE. Came back to Scotland after failing to settle in South Africa and played in the Highland League with Huntly. Last season was his first full season with Arbroath and he finished the club's top scorer.

STEWART HUNTER. Only recently joined the club from Dundee minor grade team—Hillside Amateurs—a club that has recently become a prolific nursery for senior teams. Looks capable of quickly establishing himself in the Arbroath first team scheme.

PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

CELTIC

(from)

HUNTER
McGRAIN
BROGAN
MURRAY
McNEILL
CONNELLY
HAY
McLAUGHLIN
HOOD
LENNOX
DALGLISH
CALLAGHAN
LYNCH
McCLUSKEY

Referee:

W. ANDERSON
(East Kilbride)

Linesmen:

W. McLEISH
(East Kilbride)

A. D. McFARLANE
(Kilsyth)

ARBROATH

(from)

MARSHALL
CANT
RYLANCE
MURRAY
CARGILL
WADDELL
REID
SELLARS
DONALD
FLETCHER
PENMAN
PIRIE
HUNTER

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THE CELTIC SEASON SO FAR

Drybrough Cup

July 29			
Celtic	6	Dunfermline	1
(Lennox 4		(Nelson)	
Dalglish			
McLaughlin)			
July 31			
Celtic	4	Dundee	0
(McLaughlin 2,			
Lennox, Lynch)			

August 4

Celtic	0	Hibernian	1
		(Gordon)	

Challenge Matches

August 2

Celtic	3	Penarol	1
(Lennox, Dalglish		(Morena)	
Deans)			

August 6

Celtic	1	Sunderland	2
(Johnstone)		(Tueart, Hughes)	

Celtic's League Cup Record

Celtic start off their 28th League Cup campaign to-day in a section with Arbroath, Falkirk and Rangers and, as in last season's competition, two teams will qualify for the next stage of the competition.

Looking back on the history of the League Cup we find that Celtic have appeared in eleven finals and of these the last nine have been in succession. Things were not always so bright for Celtic in the competition however, because it was 1956-57 before the club reached the finals for the first time when they defeated Partick Thistle by three goals to nil.

They retained the trophy the following year by defeating Rangers by 7-1—the biggest winning margin ever recorded in a final of the League Cup competition.

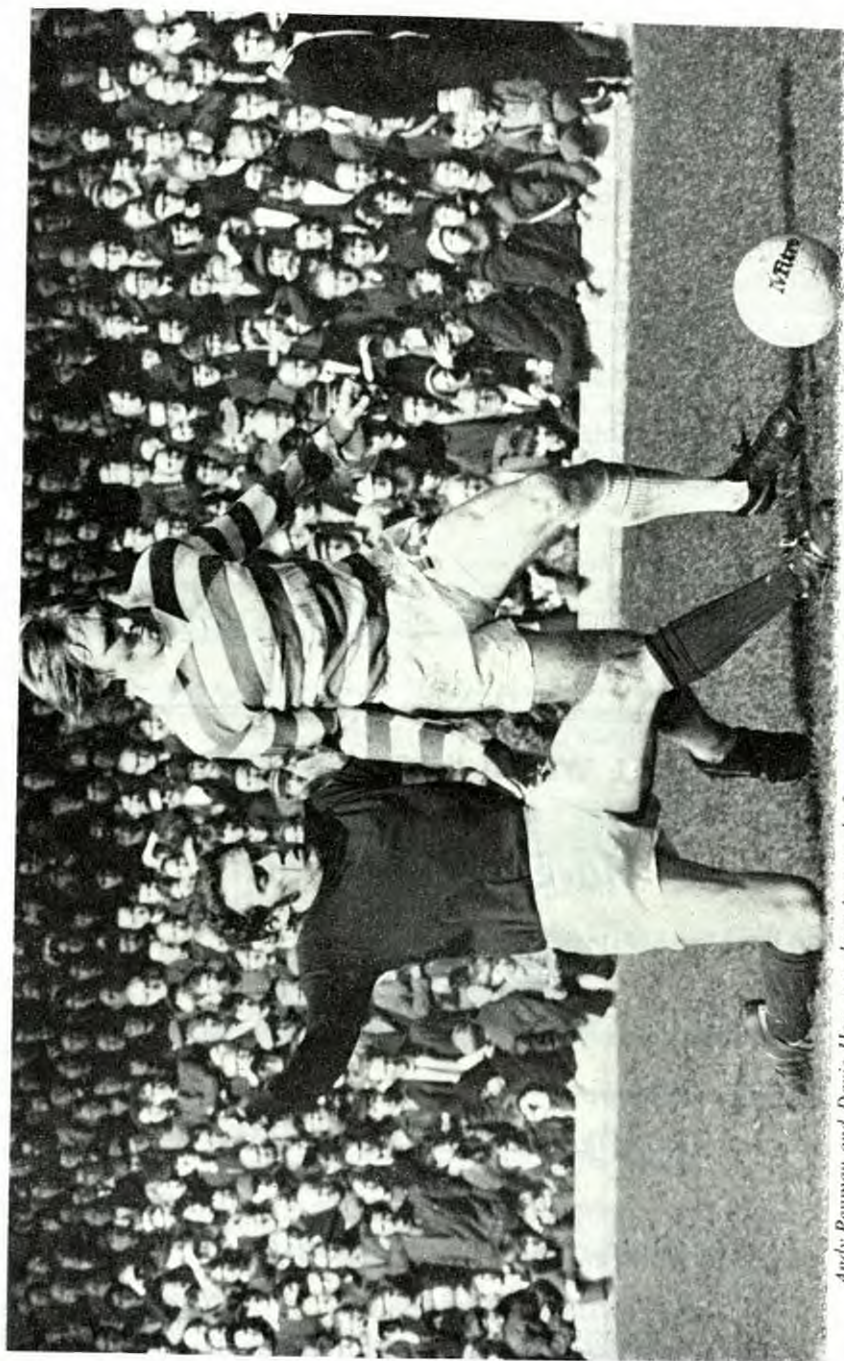
The club's greatest run of success in the tournament was in the late sixties when they won the trophy five years on the trot.

Considering that no other club has ever won the trophy more than twice

in succession it's distinctly possible that this is a feat that will never be equalled.

Only Dundee, Hearts and Rangers have won the trophy in successive seasons. Previous winners of the League Cup and the scores are:—

1946-47	Rangers	4	Aberdeen	0
1947-48	East Fife	4	Falkirk	0
1948-49	Rangers	2	Raith Rovers	0
1949-50	East Fife	3	Dunfermline	0
1950-51	Motherwell	3	Hibs	0
1951-52	Dundee	3	Rangers	2
1952-53	Dundee	2	Kilmarnock	0
1953-54	East Fife	3	Partick Th.	2
1954-55	Hearts	4	Motherwell	2
1955-56	Aberdeen	2	St. Mirren	1
1956-57	Celtic	3	Partick Th.	0
1957-58	Celtic	7	Rangers	1
1958-59	Hearts	5	Partick Th.	1
1959-60	Hearts	2	Third Lanark	1
1960-61	Rangers	2	Kilmarnock	0
1961-62	Rangers	3	Hearts	2
1962-63	Hearts	1	Kilmarnock	0
1963-64	Rangers	5	Morton	0
1964-65	Rangers	2	Celtic	1
1965-66	Celtic	2	Rangers	1
1966-67	Celtic	1	Rangers	0
1967-68	Celtic	5	Dundee	3
1968-69	Celtic	6	Hibs	2
1969-70	Celtic	1	St. Johnstone	0
1970-71	Rangers	1	Celtic	0
1971-72	Partick Th.	4	Celtic	1
1972-73	Hibs	2	Celtic	1



Andy Penman and Davie Hay, seen here in a tussle for possession during a Celtic game with Arbroath last season, will be seen in action again to-day.

Some Drybrough Cup Facts

Celtic were again unsuccessful in their third successive bid to win the Drybrough Cup at Hampden last Saturday—but they have set up one record in the competition.

Apart from the fact that they have been beaten finalists three times—they are the only club to have qualified for the Drybrough Cup Competition each season since the tournament was introduced in 1971.

It is interesting to look at the teams that competed in the first competition of 1971 and note that Celtic were the sole representatives of that eightsome in this season's competition.

The 1971 qualifiers were:—Celtic, Aberdeen, Airdrie, St. Johnstone, East Fife, Arbroath, Dumbarton and Partick Thistle.

Another astonishing fact about Celtic's participation in the Drybrough competition is that not one player in their cup final team last Saturday occupied the same position in the first ever match in the tourney in 1971.

Celtic's line up in their first ever Drybrough Cup match against Dumbarton at Celtic Park on July 31st, 1971 was:—Williams, Craig and Brogan, Callaghan, Connelly and Hay, Dalglish and Davidson, Macari, Hood and Hughes—12th man Quinn.

In the three seasons of the Drybrough Cup's existence Celtic have played in nine games scoring 28 goals and losing 16 in the process. With an average of five goals per game Celtic have certainly provided the sponsors and the fans with very good value for money.

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