



Scottish Premier League

Celtic

versus

Aberdeen

**CELTIC PARK
SATURDAY,
3rd MARCH, 1979
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.**

PROGRAMME 10p

Spot the successful team.



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Match fitness is the critical factor



TWO games in a week . . . It's an experience Celtic are enjoying after the frustrations of the freeze-up. Mark you we were just a wee bit apprehensive at one point that another blank Saturday was to be our lot.

Celtic's need for matches is critical if we are going to realise the club ambitions. I'm not worried about the general fitness of the players. It is match fitness that is the urgent requirement.

The weather has curbed our activity more than most clubs and we haven't played too often in the last three months. In that situation players lose a wee bit of sharpness and accuracy. I hope this game today with Aberdeen will bring it all back to them.

It is hardly necessary to stress how dangerous opponents Aberdeen are. And don't forget they are "match-hardened" compared with Celts. They've been playing while we were idle.

A joker on the staff piped up before the midweek game against Berwick Rangers: "Hope the fans know the road to Parkhead now."

He had a point. For our Scottish Cup tie was the team's first appearance at home in the Premier League since we played Dundee United on December 16 last year. In other words — a ten-week football blank at Parkhead.

But that's over and we look forward to this afternoon's test with Dons and I anticipate it will prove the stimulant for the team in the bid to get back into contention in a championship race that is wide open.

BILLY McNEILL

CELTIC



FOUNDED 1888

Directors:

Desmond White, C.A.
(Chairman)

Thomas L. Devlin

James M. Farrell,
M.A., LL.B.

Kevin Kelly

Manager:

Billy McNeill

Address:

Celtic Park,
95 Kerrydale Street,
Glasgow G40 3RE

HONOURS:

League Champions (30 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, 1974, 1977.

Cup Winners (25 times)

1892, 1899, 1900,
1904, 1907, 1908,
1911, 1912, 1914,
1923, 1925, 1927,
1931, 1933, 1937,
1951, 1954, 1965,
1967, 1969, 1971,
1972, 1974, 1975,
1977.

League Cup Winners (8 times)

1957, 1958, 1966,
1967, 1968, 1969,
1970, 1975.

Empire Exhibition Cup
1938

Coronation Cup 1953

European Cup 1967



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Congratulations, Andy

An extra cheer, please, this afternoon for Andy Lynch.

Not specially for maintaining his successful penalty-kick record against Berwick Rangers in the Scottish Cup this week . . . but because it is the Celtic left back's birthday.

One of the presents he would like to mark the occasion . . . a couple of points from Aberdeen!

Incidentally, Andy's penalty counter against Berwick lifted his goals tally for the season to ten which brought him into second place to Tom McAdam who has 15.



OUR VISITORS

Eyes on the flag

WHEN Aberdeen were at Celtic Park in December last year they were in second place in the Premier League.

Three months later they are still main challengers though the team ahead of them was changed from Dundee United to St. Mirren.

The Dons slipped into second place in midweek when they defeated Partick Thistle 2—1 at Pittodrie, a match in which they revealed some of their player pool strength when fielding young defender Alex McLeish for club captain Willie Miller who was under suspension.

Aberdeen have been tipped all season to take the title, an honour that has eluded them since 1955. Last campaign they were just two points adrift of winners Rangers.

This most unusual season, with wholesale postponements leaving the programme in an uneven situation, about two-thirds of the clubs look to be in with a chance of the Premier League.

Aberdeen are sure they have stronger claims than most. They've taken three of the four championship points that have been at stake in games with Celtic so far this season and are perfectly well aware of the fact that their 4—1 win over the Park-head men at Pittodrie in October still rankles a little.

While the Dons have won just one of 11 matches away from home, they have finished level in seven others . . . in short they

are a pretty formidable company in all stadiums.

Their TEAM sense has been honed to a fine edge and if their fast-breaking from defence has opposition fans shouting about an offside tactic, it should be remembered that the Dons aren't breaking any of football's laws.

Clubs know all about this Aberdeen "charge" from defence . . . and its accuracy and efficiency has to be admired, though most times most reluctantly by opposition fans.

Manager Alex Ferguson's squad is the highest scoring outfit in the league — thanks to the deadly finishing of the highly-experienced Joe Harper.

Joe and his fellow strikers like Steve Archibald hunt the goals on a build up from a solid defensive bloc that includes internationalists Bobby Clark and Stewart Kennedy and people like Willie Miller who is rated Scotland material by a lot of football folk; and a midfield that has the knowledgeable Drew Jarvie plus John McMaster and Dom Sullivan who have contributed to the team's goal tally this season.

The team reflects the club ambition. The board is intent on providing a modern stadium with modern facilities. And everyone connected with Pittodrie feels that a League championship flag flying over the ground next season would provide the stimulus to greater things . . . in Europe, for instance.

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MATCH TEAMS

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(from)

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ANDY LYNCH
ROY AITKEN
RODDIE McDONALD
JO EDVALDSSON
DAVIE PROVAN
MURDO MacLEOD
GEORGE McCLUSKEY
TOMMY BURNS
JOHNNY DOYLE
TOM McADAM
BOBBY LENNOX
JOE FILIPPI

Re
Mr J. R. S
 (Cowd
 Line
Mr D.
 (Gar
Mr J. R
 (Grang

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(from)

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STEWART KENNEDY
DOUG CONSIDINE
JOHN McMASTER
DOUG ROUGVIE
WILLIE MILLER
DOM SULLIVAN
STEVE ARCHIBALD
IAN SCANLON
DREW JARVIE
GORDON STRACHAN
JOE HARPER
CHIC McLELLAND
DUNCAN DAVIDSON

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J	RAITH ROVERS CLYDE		N	IPSWICH NOTTS FOREST	
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SIDELINES

TITLE RUN "FROZEN"

When Aberdeen played at Parkhead on December 8 last year, it was Celtic's 16th Premier League fixture of the season. This afternoon Celts have their 19th championship game which represents just two title matches in almost three months . . . Dundee United (December 16) and Morton (December 23). Then came the freeze-up and a little flooding to make life difficult for footballers, clubs and the fans!

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POSTPONED GAMES

Today's fixture with Aberdeen is the clubs' April 21 game which has been advanced. Celtic now have ten postponed championship matches . . . St Mirren (a and h), Hearts (h), Rangers (h), Motherwell (a), Hibernian (h), Partick Thistle (a), Aberdeen (a), Dundee United (a), and Morton (h).

A NEWCOMER?

Manager Billy McNeill has made several visits to Ireland recently checking on recommended players. He travelled there again this week and by this afternoon there could be an announcement about a signing!



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Jo Edvaldsson hasn't been getting among the goals so often this season . . . but he is still a man who has to be watched at Celtic set-pieces. Willie Miller of Aberdeen is his "policeman" here.