



Celtic

Programme No. 2

v Motherwell



Scottish Premierleague
Celtic Park, Sunday August 8, 2004
Kick-off 2.00pm

£2



Celtic 





*Carling are proud to be
supporters of Celtic F.C.*

LOVEFOOTBALL



OUR pre-season preparations over, the players will this afternoon begin the defence of the league title they won so impressively last season.

As a final reminder of that achievement, we will also see the unfurling of the league flag, which will be a special moment for everyone here at Celtic Park.

But the game moves at such a pace these days as to leave you with little more than a day to celebrate even the greatest of achievements, and the players know that they will be taking the field this afternoon not to reflect in the glory of past achievements, but to attempt to win the first of what I know will be 38 hard-fought Scottish Premierleague matches.

Motherwell are our visitors and we know from experience, some of it painful, just how difficult the game will be for us. Terry Butcher did a phenomenal job in taking a young and talented team into the top six last season and no-one here has forgotten that we have failed to beat them in our last two attempts.

Once again, it appears that we will be asking the same core group of players who've done so much to bring success to the football club over the past few years to bring us through matches such as today's. I would concede that it's a big ask.

Come the end of the season, I think our fate will have been determined by whether those players still have the same hunger and desire that has served them, and us, so well over recent seasons. Rest assured that, if it isn't there, we'll be in real trouble.

I do feel, though, that the players might just need reinvigorated, and I'm hoping that will start this afternoon. Certainly, it's only been when the competitive games have really set in that we've seen the best



of them in the past.

That said, I think it's worth stressing how pleased I have been with the lads' efforts over the last few friendly matches, the most recent of which saw us pitted against Newcastle United on Wednesday evening. It felt like we had barely had time to draw breath since returning from the tour of

Celtic Park will once again be packed this afternoon with season book holders, it really is a testament to how well supported Celtic is.

Those who made it along on Wednesday will testify that it was also a memorable night for our only summer signing so far, Henri Camara. He played excellently in the 32 minutes he was on the field and was rewarded with a goal which, while fortuitous, represented just reward for his willingness to drop deep to collect the ball and drive at the Newcastle defence.

Having done very little serious fitness work during the month of July, Henri remains some distance behind the rest of the lads in terms of full match fitness, but I'm hopeful

"OVER THREE WEEKS REMAIN UNTIL THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DEADLINE AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO ENSURE MORE PLAYERS ARE ADDED TO THE SQUAD"

North America, but the players nevertheless put in a performance which belied the draining nature of the schedule which had preceded the visit of Bobby Robson's side.

The Celtic fans were also there, as they always are, and I can't stress enough how grateful I and the team are for their support. It amazes me that, in a day and age in which following football has become more expensive than ever, it seems that a crowd of anything short of 50,000 here is somehow deemed 'disappointing.'

I have a fair idea how much our fans spend on following this football club – some, believe it or now, even made the trip across to watch us in North America – and I thought it was a remarkable achievement that over 20,000 of them paid good money to come and watch us on Wednesday. When you consider that

that he'll prove over the course of the season to be a valuable asset.

Of course, over three weeks still remain until the Champions League deadline and it goes without saying that we are determined to ensure more players are added to the squad during that time. I mentioned earlier the burden of responsibility on the same core group of players at the football club, and I don't think there's any doubt that they want, and deserve, a bit of help.

All I can say on that is that we're working extremely hard in a number of areas and, if things don't progress as we hope, it certainly won't be for the lack of trying.

T. Adams



Formed: 1888
Stadium: Celtic Park (capacity 60,506)
Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks
Away strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with gold trim
Third strip: Gold shirts, green shorts, gold socks
Record attendance: 92,000 (v Rangers, 1938)
Record victory: 11-0 (v Dundee, 1895)
Record defeat: 0-8 (v Motherwell, 1937)
Most league goals (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory, 1935/36
Most Premier/SPL goals (1 season): 35, Brian McClair 1986/87, Henrik Larsson 2000/01
Website: www.celticfc.net

HONOURS
Scottish League (39)
 1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06, 1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15, 1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19, 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36, 1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77, 1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98, 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2003/2004
Scottish Cup (31)
 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, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1995, 2001, 2004
League Cup (12)
 1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68 1968/69, 1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98, 1999/2000, 2000/2001
European Cup (1) 1967 **Coronation Cup (1)** 1953



CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman
CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney
MANAGER Martin O'Neill
ASSISTANT MANAGER John Robertson

COACH Steve Walford
HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns
YOUTH TEAM COACH Willie McStay
UNDER-21 COACH Kenny McDowall
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy
CLUB DOCTOR Roddy Macdonald
KIT CONTROLLER John Clark

Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, Glasgow G40 3RE 0141-556 2611

CELTIC

- Momo Sylla
- Jackie McNamara
- Joos Valgaeren
- Bobo Balde
- Henri Camara
- Alan Thompson
- Chris Sutton
- John Hartson
- Stephen Pearson
- David Fernandez
- Paul Lambert
- Ulrik Laursen
- Didier Agathe
- Neil Lennon
- Stilian Petrov
- Robert Douglas
- David Marshall
- Magnus Hedman
- Stanislav Varga
- Shaun Maloney
- Ross Wallace
- Craig Beattie
- John Kennedy
- Stephen McManus
- Kevin McBride
- Aiden McGeady
- Michael McGovern

MOTHERWELL

- Gordon Marshall
- Martyn Corrigan
- Steven Hammell
- Stephen Craigan
- Gary Bollan
- Scott McDonald
- Scott Leitch
- Richie Foran
- Phil O'Donnell
- Alex Burns
- David Clarkson
- David Partridge
- Barry John Corr
- David Cowan
- Jim Paterson
- Paul Quinn
- Kenny Wright
- Shaun Fagan
- Midfielder
- William Kinniburgh
- Chris Higgins
- Marc Fitzpatrick
- Jamie Ewings

TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS

Referee: **KENNY CLARK**
 Assistant Referees: **ANDY DAVIS**
LAWRENCE KERRIGAN
IAIN BRINES
 Fourth Official:

CLUB SPONSORS



RECENT FORM

Pre-Season Friendly, Aug 4, 2004
CELTIC 2 v 1 NEWCASTLE UTD (Sylla, Camara)
 Pre-Season Friendly, July 31, 2004
CELTIC 0 v 1 AS ROMA
 Pre-Season Friendly, July 28, 2004
CELTIC 2 v 1 MAN UTD (Beattie, Sutton)
 Pre-Season Friendly, July 28, 2004
CELTIC 1 v 5 LIVERPOOL (Beattie)
 Pre-Season Friendly, July 28, 2004
CELTIC 2 v 4 CHELSEA (Beattie 2)

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Pre-Season Friendly
CELTIC v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
 TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 7.45pm
 Scottish Premierleague
KILMARNOCK v CELTIC
 SATURDAY 14 AUGUST 3.00pm
 Scottish Premierleague
INVERNESS CALEY THISTLE v CELTIC
 SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 2.00pm
 Scottish Premierleague
CELTIC v RANGERS
 SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 1.00pm



A season to be cheerful

IT seems like every day brings with it a new football experience for Stephen Pearson.

Since joining Celtic he's collected landmarks in almost as cavalier a manner as Roman Abramovich gathers multi-million pound signings.

There was his Celtic debut, his first Old Firm game, his first goal, his European debut, the first of what he hopes will be many league winners medals, to which he has already added a Scottish Cup one as well and his first taste of pre-season training with the Hoops.



Interview: PAUL CUDDIHY

Admittedly this might not remain as fond or as fresh a memory as the others, but today brings another landmark for the young midfielder when he attends his first flag day at Celtic Park.

It is the opening act of the new campaign but also the final acknowledgement of last season's achievements.

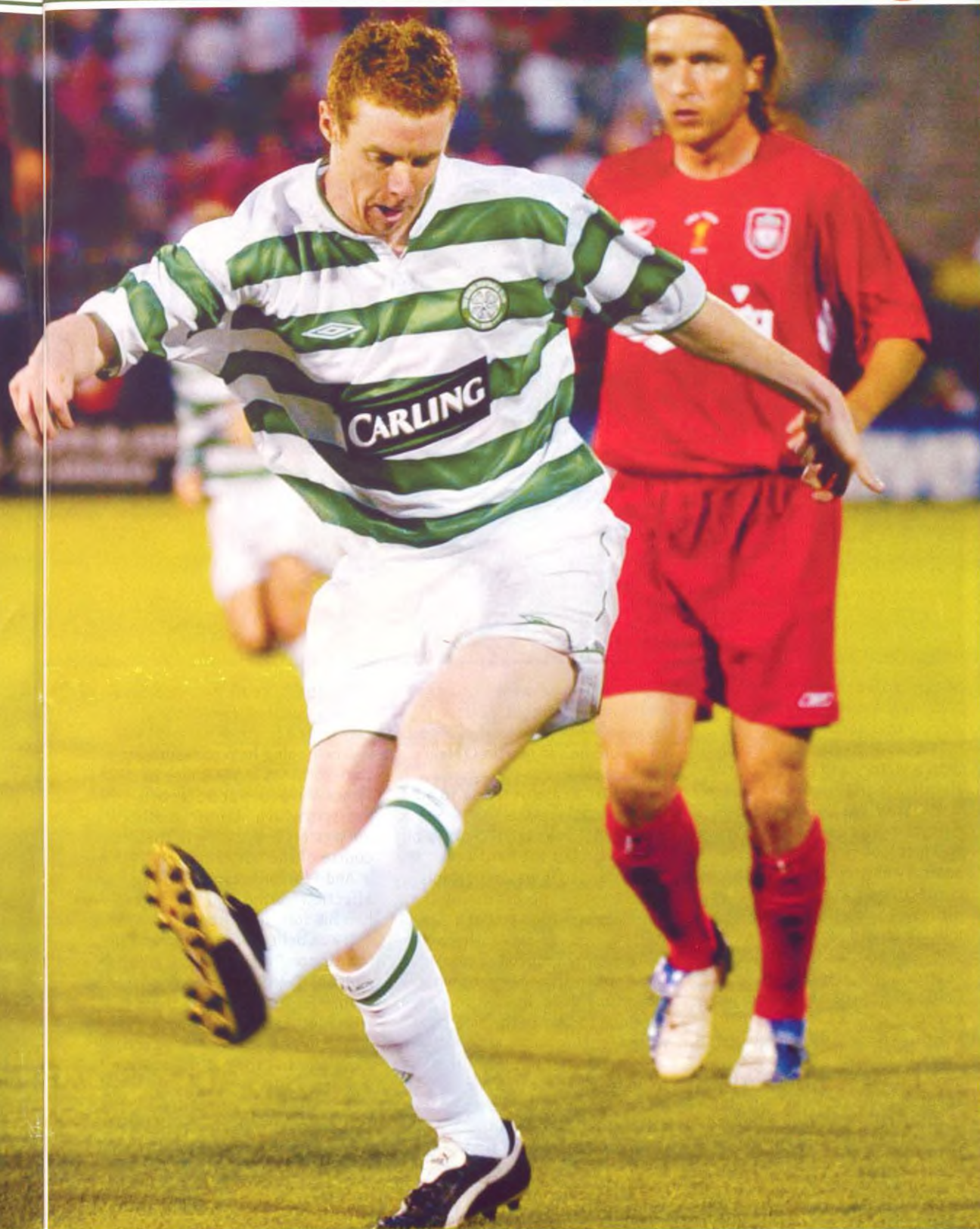
One suspects that it's something which is celebrated more by the fans than

the players. The nature of football is to look forward to the next challenge and savour the successes once the boots are finally hung up.

Pearson, however, admits today's pre-match celebration is one he and his team-mates are relishing.

"I've never been to a flag day before so this will be the first one," he said. "It'll be a new experience for me and I'm looking forward to it.

"It's an acknowledgement of what we achieved last season. Obviously the fans will enjoy the occasion and they will be looking for similar success this





BARÇA BHOY: Pearson was in impressive form last season and played well against the big name players of Barcelona

season, so we're looking forward to today's game and hopefully we can get off to a good win.

"We want to start the season with a victory and get off on the right track and continue on from last season. We can build on everything we achieved last season and just look to progress. Last season was great, winning 25 consecutive games and it will be difficult to do again but we'll be looking to win as many as we can."

It would be fair to say that Pearson's first few months at Celtic Park surpassed everyone's expectations, not least his own. Martin O'Neill had acquired one of Scottish football's bright young stars but the manner in which he adapted to his new surroundings, immediately establishing himself as an integral member of the first-team was impressive.

Having now enjoyed, if that's the right word, his first pre-season at

Celtic, which included a tough North American tour, Pearson knows a lot of hard work is ahead to ensure he's in Martin O'Neill's starting eleven.

"It's just a case of trying to hold down a regular place," he explained. "I managed to play a bit last season but the hard work starts now, so it was important that I tried to impress during the friendlies and tried to get a starting slot against Motherwell.

"This is my first full season and I'll be out to show the fans what I can do. It will be difficult to continue to play in the side but I will be looking to try and do that."

Terry Butcher brings Motherwell to Celtic Park intent on being more than mere witnesses to the celebrations. The Englishman deserves much praise for his team's achievements last season, securing a top six finish despite well-publicised financial

difficulties. The Fir Park side have already nurtured two of the players the Scottish national side will be hoping help to resurrect their fortunes in the shape of James McFadden and Stephen Pearson, with a number of other youngsters impressing in the course of the last campaign.

And Pearson retains a strong affection for the club which gave him his start in football.

"I was delighted for Motherwell last season," he said. "It's a great club and I've got a lot of good memories from my time there. I wish Motherwell all the best and hopefully they can continue and build on what they achieved last season.

"I've still got a lot of friends at Motherwell that I keep in contact with so it will be good to see them again today.

"Terry Butcher's been superb. He doesn't have a lot of money to



spend but he's spent wisely and brought all the young players through, along with Maurice Malpas and Chris McCart. They do a great job at Motherwell."

If today brings with it another new experience for Stephen Pearson, then it's difficult for him not to think about another one looming on the horizon.

Celtic's Championship success brought instant access to the group stages of the Champions League and Pearson is already relishing the prospect.

"It was a step up from the UEFA Cup which I played in last

"TERRY BUTCHER DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY TO SPEND BUT HE HAS SPENT WISELY AND HE'S ALSO BROUGHT ALL THE YOUNG PLAYERS THROUGH"

season and that was a new experience," he said, "but the Champions League is where you want to be.

"That's the top level in European football so it will be a great experience for me to come up against big players and big teams.

"There are world class teams who have won their respective leagues or

finished near the top. It will be difficult but hopefully we can progress on from last season.

"Pitting yourself against the big names and the big players is what you want to do and try and compete on the same stage."

There are no sure things in football. That is part of its beauty as well as sometimes being part of its pain.

Stephen Pearson is taking nothing for granted, but it's certain there'll be more landmarks chalked up over the coming season. What price the first goal today?

