



Celtic

Programme No. 15

v Dundee Utd



Scottish Premierleague
Celtic Park, Saturday Dec 18, 2004
Kick-off 3pm

£2

CARLING



Celtic 





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

LOVEFOOTBALL



CELTIC PARK houses its final game of the 2004 calendar today with Dundee United being our visitors.

Much has happened to the club during the past 12 months and there have been a few highlights along the way.

A quarter-final UEFA Cup place was achieved on the back of the UEFA Cup final appearance the previous season, and then in May the club regained both the SPL Championship and the Scottish Cup.

In July we lost a couple of major players, Johan Mjallby and Henrik Larsson, to the Spanish league, but as we close the year down we are still at the top of the table.

Last Tuesday evening's draw against AC Milan at Celtic Park was not enough to secure European football next February so we are somewhat disappointed.

But I think most people realised just how difficult the task was going to be to emerge from a group containing AC Milan and Barcelona, along with a strong Shakhtar Donetsk who spent much money strengthening their team during the summer.

We played very well indeed against AC Milan but eventually had to settle for a draw against one of the favourites to win the Champions League.

Our last three results in European competition, including drawing against Barcelona in the Nou Camp stadium, yielded five



points so we actually finished quite strongly in the group but earlier results had dictated that it was going to be an uphill task, and so eventually it proved.

'A quarter-final UEFA Cup place was achieved on the back of the UEFA Cup final appearance the previous term and in May we regained both the SPL title and the Scottish Cup'

The players quickly got over the disappointment by going to Dunfermline on Sunday afternoon and winning a very difficult game by 2-0.

Chris Sutton gave us an early lead with a splendid header from Alan Thompson's delivery and Stilian Petrov rifled in a magnificent goal to win the game.

The artificial surface at East End Park added to the difficulty so it was particularly pleasing to put in a good performance and win the game.

We are back on league duty today and we welcome Dundee United to Celtic Park.

Ian McCall's side will come here with a spring in their step after last week's 3-0 victory over Kilmarnock, which not only took them off the bottom of the table, but will undoubtedly instil confidence in their ranks.

Their result last week proves that we cannot rest on our laurels and we will have to be alert in ensuring that we show the proper attitude to capture the three points available.

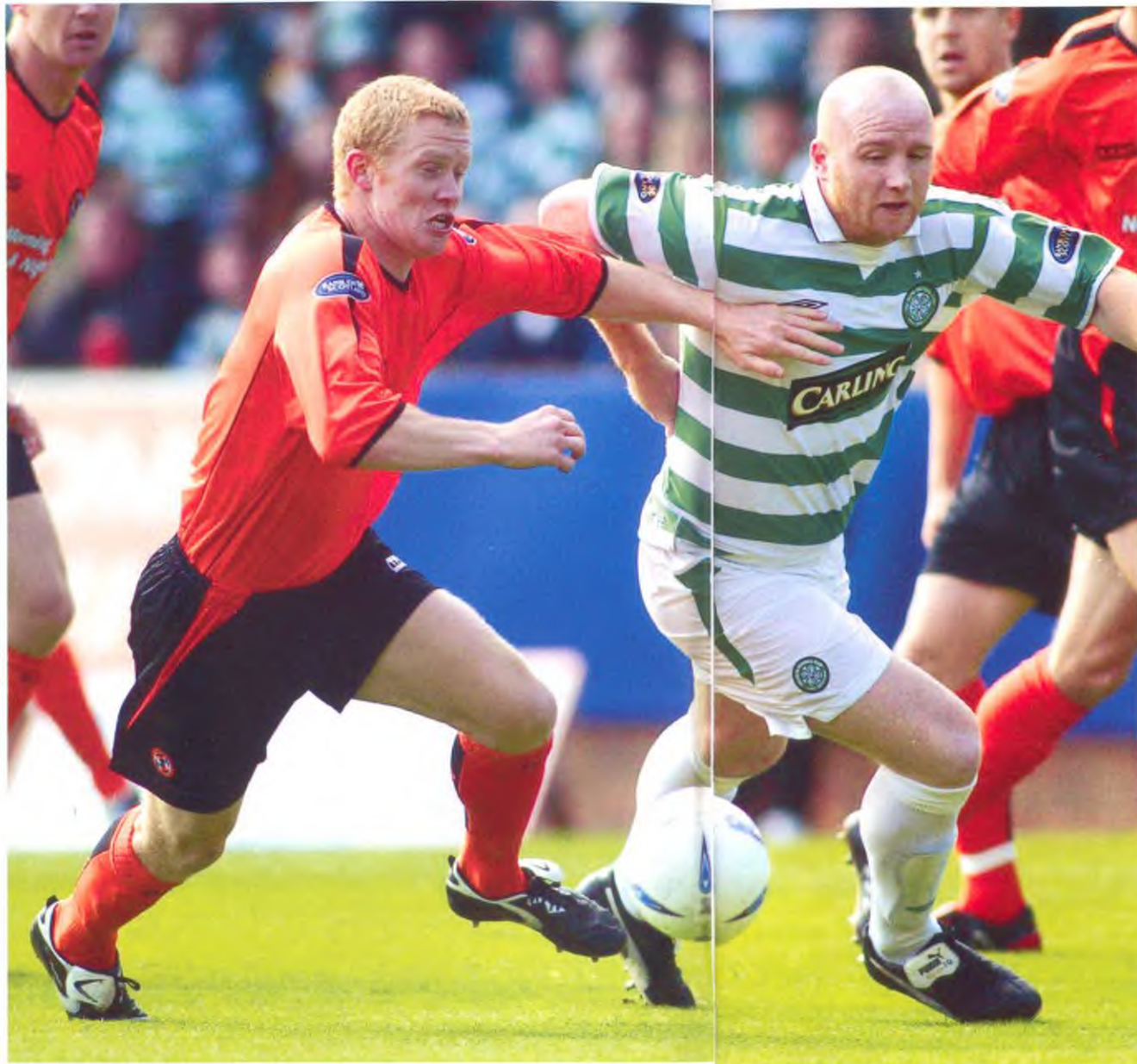
Finally, as this is our last home match of the year, I would like to wish every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you all back here in 2005.



Formed: 1888
Stadium: Celtic Park (capacity 60,506)
Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks
Away strip: Green shirts, white shorts and green socks
Third strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with gold trim
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 (32)
 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 0845 671 1888

CELTIC

DUNDEE UTD

| | | | |
|------------------|----|----|-------------------|
| Momo Sylla | 3 | 1 | Tony Bullock |
| Jackie McNamara | 4 | 2 | Mark Wilson |
| Joos Valgaeren | 5 | 3 | David McCracken |
| Bobo Balde | 6 | 4 | Derek McInnes |
| Juninho | 7 | 6 | Scott Paterson |
| Alan Thompson | 8 | 7 | Mark Kerr |
| Chris Sutton | 9 | 8 | Grant Brebner |
| John Hartson | 10 | 9 | Collin Samuel |
| Stephen Pearson | 11 | 10 | Jim McIntyre |
| David Fernandez | 12 | 11 | Barry Robson |
| Paul Lambert | 14 | 12 | Stuart Duff |
| Ulrik Laursen | 16 | 14 | Billy Dodds |
| Didier Agathe | 17 | 16 | James Grady |
| Neil Lennon | 18 | 17 | Lars Hirschfeld |
| Stilian Petrov | 19 | 20 | Jason Scotland |
| Robert Douglas | 20 | 21 | Karim Kerkar |
| Magnus Hedman | 21 | 23 | Paul Ritchie |
| David Marshall | 22 | 24 | Paul Jarvie |
| Stanislav Varga | 23 | 25 | Chris Innes |
| Henri Camara | 27 | 26 | Steven Bell |
| Shaun Maloney | 29 | 28 | Stephen O'Donnell |
| Ross Wallace | 33 | 29 | Barry Callaghan |
| Paul Lawson | 35 | 33 | David Robertson |
| Craig Beattie | 37 | 36 | Greg Cameron |
| Rocco Quinn | 38 | 39 | Gary Kenneth |
| John Kennedy | 41 | 44 | Ross Gardiner |
| Stephen McManus | 44 | | |
| Kevin McBride | 45 | | |
| Aiden McGeady | 46 | | |
| Michael McGovern | 47 | | |
| Scott Cuthbert | 49 | | |

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: **Charlie Richmond**
 Assistant Referees: **Alan Cunningham**
Neil Brand
Martin Sproule
 Fourth Official:

RECENT FORM

Scottish Premierleague, Dec 12, 2004
 DUNFERMLINE 0 v 2 **CELTIC** (Sutton, Petrov)
 UEFA Champions League, Dec 7, 2004
CELTIC 0 v 0 AC MILAN
 Scottish Premierleague, Dec 4, 2004
CELTIC 2 v 1 HIBERNIAN (Hartson2)
 Scottish Premierleague, Nov 28, 2004
 DUNDEE 2 v 2 **CELTIC** (Hartson, Camara)
 UEFA Champions League, Nov 24, 2004
 BARCELONA 1 v 1 **CELTIC** (Hartson)

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Scottish Premierleague
 HEARTS v **CELTIC**
 SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER 3pm
 Scottish Premierleague
CELTIC v LIVINGSTON
 SUNDAY 2 JANUARY 3pm
 Scottish Cup 3rd Round
CELTIC v RANGERS
 SUNDAY 9 JANUARY 12.15pm
 Scottish Premierleague
 ABERDEEN v **CELTIC**
 SUNDAY 16 JANUARY 3pm

CLUB SPONSORS





Chris Sutton was on fire the last time a reeling Celtic side made United pay

ANOTHER WIN AND TONIC?

Interview: GREGOR KYLE

THERE'S something about Dundee United and Euro heartache, and today Celtic will again be hoping to take out their frustrations on a Tannadice side that has proved tough to beat in recent seasons.

The last time Celtic faced the Arabs in Dundee they were returning to Scotland fresh from the cruel disappointment of a late 3-1 defeat by AC Milan in the UEFA Champions League.

This afternoon United will now arrive in Glasgow for Celtic's first home game since elimination from that same competition and the subsequent failure to qualify for the UEFA Cup.

At the last meeting in Dundee, it

could be said that the home team bore the brunt of Celtic's disappointment. And today, with that blow only compounded, the Celtic support will be hoping for a similar backlash from the players.

While the match had its occasional moments of controversy, three first-half goals – two from Chris Sutton and one from Stilian Petrov – saw Celtic return to Glasgow with the three points to add to their domestic tally and the opportunity to make amends in their next European game. With the UEFA outlet now

removed, the Bhoys are entirely focussed on the domestic prizes and, as Chris Sutton explained, they have been working hard to prepare for what he fully expects to be another hard encounter.

"It will be a tough game," said Sutton.

"I seem to remember last year we had a very close game at Parkhead against them and we were a bit fortunate to come out on top.

"They've had a good result in beating Kilmarnock last weekend and have got some players who can cause a lot of problems."

That result, Sutton believes, will

"THEY'RE AN ORGANISED SIDE AND WE HAVE HAD SOME VERY HARD GAMES AGAINST THEM IN RECENT YEARS"



have reinvigorated the confidence of a squad presently lying in the bottom six of the SPL and, looking back on the last match at Tannadice, he says that, while the score was comprehensive, it was only achieved through toil and endeavour.

The strike ace explained: "We had a good start in that game and got some early goals that made the game comfortable in the end.

"But they are a well organised side and we have had some very hard games against them in recent years. They also got a point at Ibrox this year and yeah, every game is difficult, but they have some very good players."

For this reason Sutton believes the Arabs will be a real threat as they come to Glasgow looking to build on their successes and claw their way out of a pack of five sides separated by just three points.

He said: "I think they've got one of the stronger squads. At times you don't get the run of the ball or the breaks, but they have got the sort of players who can cause any team problems.

"Every game is tough, but I've had some very tough games against United. We just have to go out every week, prepare ourselves and do the best we can."

Celtic's exit from European competition was sore for the players and supporters alike. But as he looked back on the UEFA Champions League campaign, Sutton is philosophical about what could really have been taken from a group that included the giants of AC Milan and Barcelona plus a Shakhtar side that cost over £20 million to assemble.

"I was very disappointed," said Sutton.

"When we had the draw it was obviously a very exciting one but, realistically, we would have had to have been doing very well to qualify.

"We had a good realistic chance to get into the UEFA Cup, so that's been a disappointment but, having said that, in previous years we have



OUT OF LUCK: Sutton and his mates were gutted at Euro exit, but he has praised Juninho and Camara (below) and knows domestic success is now crucial



punched well above our weight in Europe.

"From a player's point of view, we would have liked to have done better. We were a little patchy but they've been good games to play in and it just wasn't to be in the end.

"We've just got to look forward to next season and knuckle down hard, try to win our league games and get a chance to play in the competition again."

A tight domestic competition at home is more than enough to occupy the thoughts of the 31-year-old – and he observed: "At the start of every season we expect it to be tight at the top between us and Rangers and this year it is tighter than it has been in recent years – but we're not even halfway through the season.

"We'll drop points and I am sure they'll drop points as well. We just



SET PIECE OF MAGIC:

Aiden McGeady is much-respected in the dressing room thanks to his outstanding performances, says experienced hitman Chris



“HE’S COME ON LEAPS AND BOUNDS. AIDEN’S ALWAYS SEEMED CONFIDENT TRAINING WITH US BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE REALLY MATURED”

have to keep working hard and hopefully we will come out on top.

“Every player in the dressing room knows how hard that will be to achieve but hopefully we’ll do it.”

Sutton has also been impressed with the form of young Aiden McGeady this season, and watched last week as he again produced another excellent performance against Dunfermline

Chris added: “He’s come on leaps and bounds from the start of the season. Aiden’s always seemed confident when he’s trained with us but he seems to have really matured in recent months.

“It’s not easy for young players to break into the side, but he’s done it

and he’s there on merit. He gives us that something extra.

“I thought at Dunfermline he was outstanding, running the ball up the pitch, and he’ll go right to the top. He does seem to have his feet on the ground and is a tremendous asset to come in this season and play alongside. I think everybody in the dressing room appreciates how good a player he is.”

Sutton also had words of praise for new arrivals Henri Camara and Juninho and believes that, given time to settle, both will prove to be quality additions to the Celtic squad.

“I think Henri has done well,” Sutton said. “He got the bad injury

at Livingston and he was on fire that game. He really won us that one before he went off – he scored two important goals and looked sharp.”

The Englishman also believes the Celtic squad have a job to do in helping Juninho settle in to his new home at Celtic Park, and has an obvious respect for the World Cup winner.

Chris reasoned: “It’s been difficult for Juninho.

“I thought he did well in the first game against Rangers and he’s shown quality in other games.

“He’s a different sort of player but everybody’s got to work hard to help him mix in.

“However, you don’t play for the clubs he’s played for, and in the Brazilian national side if you are not a top player, and he certainly is that.”