

# Celtic

v DUNDEE

Scottish Premier League  
Saturday 21st December 2002 k.o. 3.00pm



PHOENIX HONDA

*Merry Christmas*

# Christmas past.



# Christmas present.



Don't waste your money on a wooly jumper or a three pack of socks that will never be worn. These new Celtic gift certificates are ideal for every Celtic supporter.

So versatile, they can be used in all official Celtic stores, the ticket office, restaurants and even for corporate hospitality.

So, whoever receives them can choose exactly what they want. They come in values of 5, 10 and 25 pounds as well as 5, 10 and 25 euros.

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**Celtic**





“We remain alive in every single competition and that is great news for everyone”

**SO much has happened since our last game at Celtic Park against Motherwell at the very beginning of December.**

We have won our way through to the last 16 of the UEFA Cup after defeating Celta Vigo over two legs in the previous round, which was a massive achievement for us.

To overcome a team who are competing in one of the strongest leagues in the world and holding their own against the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia every other week took a fantastic effort from everyone and I am delighted that we have another European tie to look forward to in the New Year.

Stuttgart will be another severe test for us, but between now and then our full attention will be on our league campaign.

Last week's draw at Rugby Park was obviously a disappointment, but to be honest I could not fault any of the players for the effort that

they poured into the match.

On reflection it was a game that we ought to have won comfortably after hitting the post a couple of times, and we could only imagine how the game would have progressed had Bobo Balde's 'goal' stood.

The result leaves us four points off Rangers at the top of the table, but there is no way that anyone here will be relinquishing anything at this stage of the season.

We remain alive in every single competition and that is great news for everyone.

We will not give up the Championship easily, and at the minute our destiny remains very much in our own hands.

We have 18 games in which to overturn the deficit and we will endeavour to start by getting full points this afternoon against Dundee.

There are no illusions that we will have another demanding 90 minutes as our festive calendar begins, but as is always the

case, everyone will do their utmost to win the match.

Dundee are a good side who have caused us problems in the past and we will need to be at our best if we are to achieve what we want.

The players have given their utmost in every single game that we have played so far this season and we all face a busy few weeks before we break in January.

It is an exciting period for us and, as always, I urge you to give us your full vocal backing this afternoon. It is always welcome.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the very best for the festive period.



# Celtic FC Factfile

**Formed:** 1888

**Stadium:** Celtic Park  
(capacity 60,506)

**Home strip:** Green/white hooped shirts,  
white shorts, white socks

**Away strip:** Gold shirts, green  
shorts, gold socks

**Third strip:** White shirts, black shorts and 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 (38)

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

### 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

### 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 FACTS

**1.** On December 15, 1973, Celtic suffered a shock defeat in the Scottish League Cup final when they lost 1-0 to Dundee. With the entire country suffering from heavy snow-fall, only 27,974 were present, the second lowest ever attendance for a final in the competition's history. Due to a power crisis which prevented the use of floodlights, the match kicked off at 1.30pm. Interestingly, the Dundee captain on the day was ex-Celt Tommy Gemmell.

**2.** Inside-right Jim Rowan joined Celtic from Shettleston Juniors in 1952 and spent the next two years in the reserves. He went with the senior players to the World Cup in Switzerland in 1954 before making his debut against Dundee on December 18, scoring the third goal. He played just once more before moving to Airdrie, then spells as player-coach at Falkirk and Clyde, SPFA Chairman and manager of East Stirling followed.

**3.** When Celtic hammered Leith Athletic 6-0 at Parkhead in the League on December 19, 1931, Jimmy McGrory scored four goals, the third time that season. This was also Peter Scarff's last game for the club due to an illness later diagnosed as TB, from which he died on December 9, 1933. Jimmy was injured against Rangers in the Ne'erday match and didn't play for the following 10 weeks.

## DUNDEE FACTS

**1.** Dundee FC was founded in 1893. The club has had several successful periods in both Divisions One and Two during the years but their most memorable side was the League Championship-winning team of 1962. The following year they went all the way to the European Cup semi-final, beating Cologne, Sporting Lisbon and Anderlecht before being squeezed out by AC Milan.

**2.** On October 26, 1895, at Parkhead, Celtic recorded their biggest-ever win when they crushed Dundee 11-0. The rather bewildered visitors lost one player before the interval and another at half-time, having only nine for the second-half. It should be said, though, that Celtic were six-up at that point! Most unusually for those days, the two full-backs, Peter Meehan and Dan Doyle, both scored.

**3.** Although Dundee achieved 32 points from 38 matches in Division One in 1937/38, they were relegated? One more point and they would have finished 14th instead of 19th. There were six clubs on 33 points, only one of whom had a better goal average than Dundee. They also managed 32 points when relegated from the Premier Division in 1975/76, this time on poorer goal difference to two other clubs, one of which was Dundee United!



# TODAY'S SQUADS

TODAY'S VISITORS **DUNDEE**



SEASON 2002/03

## CURRENT LEAGUE POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
5. Hibernian	20	9	2	9	28	29	29
6. Kilmarnock	20	7	5	8	20	32	26
7. DUNDEE	20	6	7	7	25	30	25
8. Partick	20	5	6	9	21	32	21
9. Aberdeen	20	4	7	9	18	34	19

TEAM SPONSOR: JSEARCH.CO.UK

	MANAGER <b>JIM DUFFY</b>	STADIUM <b>DENS PARK</b>	CAPACITY <b>11,200</b>	PREVIOUS RESULT <b>DUNDEE 0 v CELTIC 1</b>	
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## CELTIC

JONATHAN GOULD	1	1
TOM BOYD	2	2
MOMO SYLLA	3	3
JACKIE McNAMARA	4	4
JOOS VALGAEREN	5	5
BOBO BALDE	6	6
HENRIK LARSSON	7	7
ALAN THOMPSON	8	8
CHRIS SUTTON	9	9
JOHN HARTSON	10	10
DAVID FERNANDEZ	12	11
PAUL LAMBERT	14	12
BOBBY PETTA	15	13
ULRIK LAURSEN	16	14
DIDIER AGATHE	17	15
NEIL LENNON	18	16
STILIAN PETROV	19	17
ROBERT DOUGLAS	20	18
MAGNUS HEDMAN	21	19
COLIN HEALY	24	20
PAUL SHIELDS	26	21
JON PAUL McGOVERN	27	
SHAUN MALONEY	29	
STEVE GUPPY	30	
SIMON LYNCH	32	
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34	
JOHAN MJALLBY	35	
JAMIE SMITH	39	
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40	
JOHN KENNEDY	41	
LIAM MILLER	43	

## DUNDEE

JULIAN SPERONI
JAMIE LANGFIELD
DAVE MACKAY
MARCELLO MARROCCO
BETO CARRANZA
LEE WILKIE
FABIAN CABALLERO
JONAY HERNANDEZ
GAVIN RAE
JUAN SARA
NACHO NOVO
JAVIER ARTERO
GIORGI NEMSADZE
ZURA KHIZANISHVILI
STEVEN MILNE
LEE MAIR
BARRY FORBES
STEVEN ROBB
DEREK SOUTAR
MARK ROBERTSON
GAVIN BEITH

## CLUB SPONSORS



## RECENT FORM

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 15 DECEMBER, 2002  
**KILMARNOCK 1 v CELTIC 1** (Valgaeren)

UEFA CUP 3rd Round 2nd Leg 12 DECEMBER, 2002  
**CELTA VIGO 2 v CELTIC 1** (Hartson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 7 DECEMBER, 2002  
**RANGERS 3 v CELTIC 2** (Sutton, Hartson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 4 DECEMBER, 2002  
**HIBERNIAN 0 v CELTIC 1** (Petrov)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 1 DECEMBER, 2002  
**CELTIC 3 v MOTHERWELL 1** (Valgaeren, Larsson, Leitch og)

UEFA CUP 3rd Round 1st Leg 28 NOVEMBER, 2002  
**CELTIC 1 v CELTA VIGO 0** (Larsson)

## FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE  
**CELTIC v HEARTS** THURS 26 DECEMBER 2002

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE  
**CELTIC v DUNFERMLINE** SUN 29 DECEMBER 2002

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE  
**ABERDEEN v CELTIC** THURS 2 JANUARY 2003

## TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: DOUGIE McDONALD  
ASSISTANT REFEREES: ANDY DAVIS  
DAVID DOIG  
FOURTH OFFICIAL: BRIAN McGARRY



**CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB**  
CELTIC PARK,  
GLASGOW  
G40 3RE  
**0141-556 2611**

**CELTIC plc DIRECTORS** Brian Quinn, Ian McLeod, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Sir Patrick Sheehy, Kevin Sweeney, Tom Allison  
**CFAC DIRECTORS** Ian McLeod, Eric Riley, Jim Hone, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** Ian McLeod **MANAGER** Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford  
**PLAYER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER** Tommy Burns **HEAD YOUTH COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall  
**PHYSIOTHERAPIST** Brian Scott **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark



WORDS: *Stephen Sullivan*


# Friendly Fire

Sylla is up for the fight to dislodge pal Didier Agathe from Celtic's right wing-back slot

**BY RIGHTS, Momo Sylla should be sick of the very sight of Didier Agathe.**

After all, it was during the former Hibs and Raith Rovers star's injury-enforced absence earlier this season that Sylla enjoyed his first sustained run in a Celtic jersey.

Since then, and despite impressing during that spell in the first XI, Agathe's return to full fitness has resulted in the likable Guinean finding himself increasingly marginalised. Yet, despite having good reason for resenting the presence of his rival wing-back, Sylla is adamant that he and Agathe are the best of friends.

He said: "The competition between me and Didier is good, and I think it helps us both improve as footballers. And although we are rivals, we are also big friends. Whenever he does well in a game, I am always happy for him because he is a good friend to me. After training, we go out to restaurants together and have a

**"With someone challenging for your place, you progress as a footballer"**

good time. Also, sometimes I will phone him, or he will phone me, and we will go out.

"I am never angry when I am not playing. I want to be in the team, but I respect the manager, and I respect Didier. If I don't play, I just work hard and hope



## MOMO SYLLA

### WING MAN

Momo is working hard to ensure he has got the energy to run the flank for 90 minutes





“This is a great club with great people, and I think any player would love it here”

to get back in the team.

“When you have a challenge with competition for your place, it helps you progress as a footballer. I’ve always said that me and Didier are different players. I can’t do some of the things he does, and can’t do some of the things I am good at. The manager knows this.

“But we always try and do the job he wants us to do. If the manager says to me: ‘Momo, do this,’ I do it, no problem. But he knows the things I can do well; he understands me as a player.”

‘Understanding’ features fairly regularly in conversations between Sylla and Agathe at present. Both know only too well the uniqueness of football’s most physically demanding position, and the latter in particular has found cause to plead for patience from supporters who perhaps don’t understand the problems associated with running the flank.

Sylla has certainly looked on in empathy as Agathe endured the moans and groans of the Celtic faithful and, while he has not yet suffered to the same extent, the Guinean echoed his friend’s appeal for consideration.

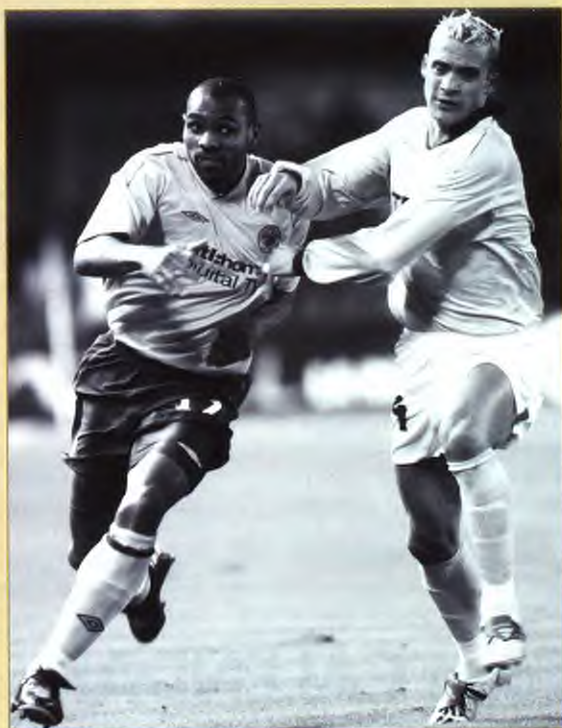
He said: “People need to understand that the wing-back position is very difficult to play. You’re expected to attack all the time, but also always be there to help in defence, and that is not always possible. That is the system we play at Celtic and

Didier and myself always give everything to play well.

“Everyone knows that me and Didier are both fast players, and because of that they think it must be easy for us to run away from defenders and cross the ball in. But it’s not that easy. A lot of the time, teams will put two defenders up against us, and that means that beating the first man is not enough. But me and Didier know that it is important that we find a way to deal with this, and we are working on it every day in training. In life, you don’t get anything without working hard.

“It’s important that the fans understand that we can’t have a good game every week. But most of the time they are very good, and personally I am happy with the support they give me. They can affect a player’s confidence a lot, and when I hear them cheering me, it gives me the energy to keep running, even when I’m tired.”

Sylla certainly appears to be thriving on the pressure associated with representing one of Scottish



football’s two superpowers. Indeed, while he admits that expectations surrounding he and his Hoops team-mates are often overwhelming, the easy-going 25-year-old insists he wouldn’t have it any other way.

“It is always exciting at Celtic,” he said. “Every game here is a big one because the players know that they are expected to win every time they play. It is a big pressure, but a good one. Everyone is focussed on being successful, and it is important we play well for our supporters. I am enjoying it a lot here. This is a great club with great people, and I think that any player would love it here.”