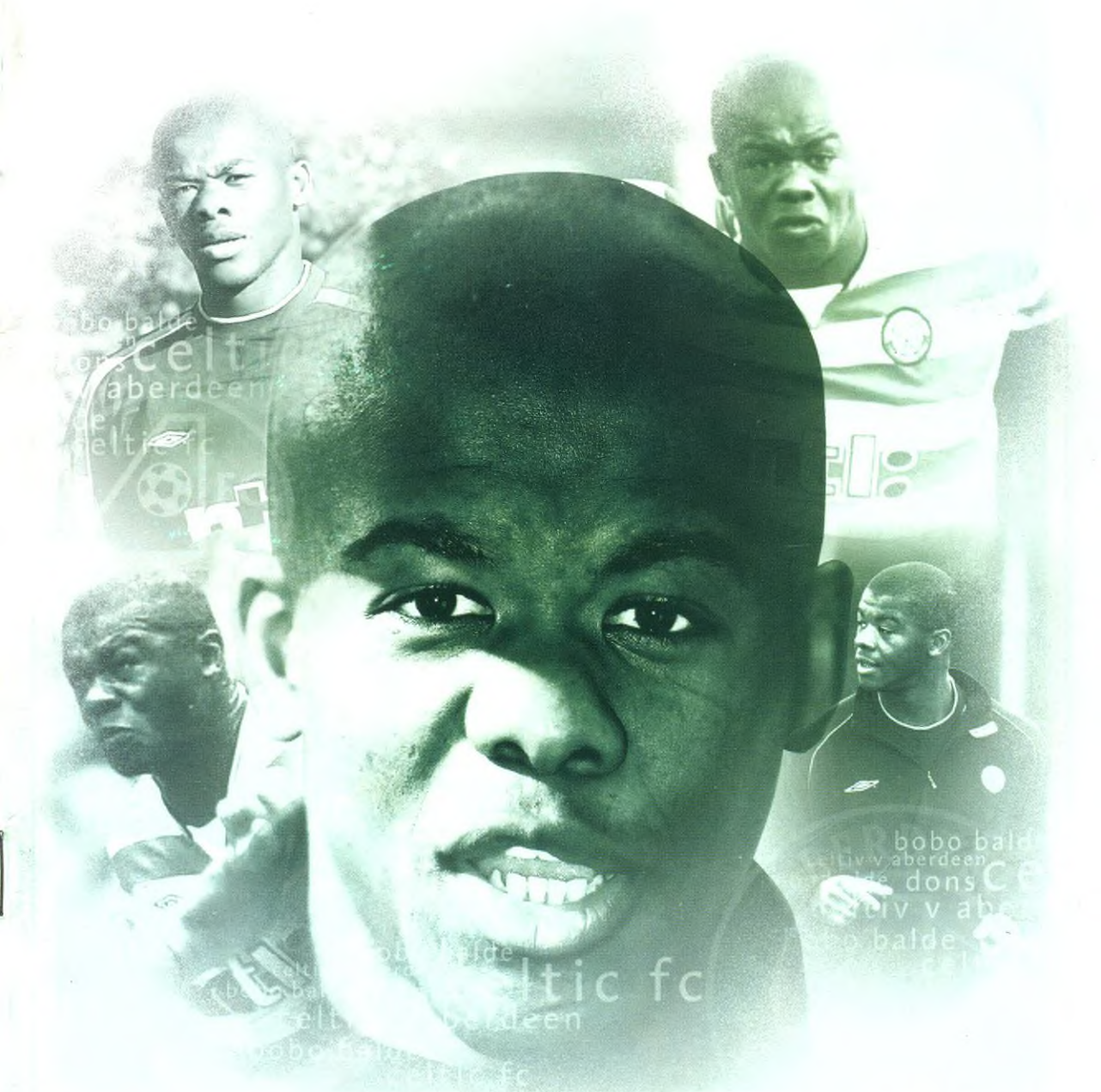


Celtic

v ABERDEEN

Scottish Premier League
Sunday 3rd November 2002 k.o. 3.00pm



ntl:



PHOENIX HONDA

Dick Whittington at Celtic Park

Saturday 23 November, Sunday 1 December
and Monday 23 December

Adults: £8 Children: £5

Under 16s Celtic World Huddle Members: £3

Family Ticket (2 adults/2 children): £23

Family Ticket (inc Under 16s Celtic World Huddle Member): £20

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Celtic 



“Against Blackburn we started to impose our own will and purpose in the second half and I believe Henrik’s winning goal was well merited.”

WE go into this afternoon’s match against Aberdeen here at Celtic Park on the back of an outstanding UEFA Cup result against Blackburn Rovers.

We started the game rather tentatively, yet despite that, Stilian Petrov forced Brad Friedel into a quite magnificent save to prevent us from taking an early lead.

Blackburn, on the back of stunning victories over Newcastle United and Arsenal, played very well in the first half, but I think we contributed to our own frustration by giving the ball away needlessly.

To our eternal credit, we started to impose our own will and purpose in the second half and I believe Henrik Larsson’s winning goal was well merited.

The return leg is nicely poised and we believe we can, and will, play much better for longer periods at Ewood Park, so we

will go there with plenty of confidence.

By the way, that goal by Henrik gave him the record of being Scotland’s most prolific European goalscorer. He overtook Ally McCoist’s record of 21 goals, and while it may not be of any great concern to him at the moment, I’m sure it will be something for him to savour when he stops playing professional football.

However, we cannot afford to get too carried away and take our eyes off the SPL.

Retaining the Championship will inevitably always be our priority and so it is important that we go out in the right frame of mind against Ebbe Skovdahl’s side this afternoon.

Aberdeen’s CIS Insurance Cup tie against Motherwell had to be called off earlier this week because of illness in the Pittodrie camp, and that

probably isn’t the most ideal preparation for them ahead of today’s game.

Nevertheless, adversity can often be an incentive to draw a squad together and there will be no room for complacency on our part.

We have enjoyed a couple of excellent away victories at Tynecastle and East End Park in recent weeks from games that were big occasions for us, and Aberdeen, either home or away, is another big occasion for us.

This is our first game at home in the SPL since the Old Firm match at the beginning of last month and it is one that I am looking forward to.

Aberdeen have a number of promising young players and I’m sure we will be in for an exciting encounter this afternoon.



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. In 1971 against Sliema Wanderers in Malta, Tommy Gemmell played his last game for Celtic. In 418 appearances, Tommy scored 64 goals. He scored in both the European Cup finals of 1967 and 1970 and also scored in the 2-1 defeat in the World Club Championship in Buenos Aires.

2. November 5, 1887 was the day it all began. Under the chairmanship of John Glass, a meeting of football fans in St Mary's parish hall voted in the idea of forming a club in the city. Glasgow Hibernian was the favoured name, but at the request of Brother Walfrid, it was agreed to call it Celtic Football Club.

3. There were many good players among the 'Kelly Kids' of the late '50s and early '60s. Dunky MacKay, for instance, ranks as one of the most talented players to wear the number two shirt. He was one of the first full-backs to adopt an attacking philosophy. Dunky played 236 times for Celtic before leaving for Third Lanark on November 6, 1964.

ABERDEEN FACTS

1. Aberdeen were founded in 1903 and joined the league in 1904. They spent the first season in the Second Division but won promotion and from 1905 have always been in the top division. Their fans had to wait until 1947 to win the Scottish Cup, the League in 1955 and the League Cup in 1956.

2. In 1985/86, Aberdeen were unbeaten in all their cup-ties yet only won two of the three major competitions. They won the Skol Cup without conceding a goal and won the Scottish Cup. Although they finished undefeated in Europe after six matches, they lost the quarter-final tie to IFK Gothenburg on away goals.

3. The 1980s were great times for Aberdeen. The Dons, under the managership of Alex Ferguson, became a major player not only in Scotland but in Europe too. The list of honours was very impressive for a so-called 'provincial' team. Premier Division Champions in 1980, 1984 and 1985; Scottish Cup winners in 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986; League Cup in 1986; and, of course, the European Cup-Winners' Cup win in 1983.

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TODAY'S SQUADS

TODAY'S VISITORS **ABERDEEN**



SEASON 2002/03 - SPL

CURRENT LEAGUE POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
6. Dundee	12	4	5	3	13	15	17
7. ABERDEEN	12	3	5	4	11	15	14
8. Kilmarnock	12	3	4	5	12	25	13
9. Livingston	12	3	2	7	17	20	11
10. Motherwell	12	2	3	7	14	24	9

TEAM SPONSOR: A-FAB

	MANAGER EBBE SKOVDAHL	STADIUM PITTDORIE	CAPACITY 21,634	PREVIOUS RESULT ABERDEEN 0 CELTIC 4	
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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	22
SHAUN MALONEY	29	23
STEVE GUPPY	30	24
SIMON LYNCH	32	26
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34	30
JOHAN MJALLBY	35	
JAMIE SMITH	39	
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40	
JOHN KENNEDY	41	
LIAM MILLER	43	

ABERDEEN

PETER KJAER
KEVIN McNAUGHTON
JAMIE McALLISTER
FERGUS TIERNAN
RUSSELL ANDERSON
PHILLIP McGUIRE
ROBERTO BISCONTI
DARREN YOUNG
LEON MIKE
DEREK YOUNG
DARREN MACKIE
BEN THORNLEY
MARK PEAT
CHRIS CLARK
KEVIN RUTKIEWICZ
ROSS O'DONOGHUE
ROBBIE HEDDERMAN
ERIC DELOUMEAUX
LAURENT D'JAFFO
NICOLAS FABIANO
ROBERT DUNCAN
SCOTT MICHIE
RYAN ESSON
STEPHEN PAYNE
PATRIZIO BILLIO
DAVID PREECE

CLUB SPONSORS



RECENT FORM

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 27 OCTOBER, 2002
DUNFERMLINE 1 v CELTIC 4 (Larsson, Sutton, Thompson, Petrov)
 CIS CUP, 3RD ROUND 23 OCTOBER, 2002
CELTIC 4 v INVERNESS CT 2 (Thompson, Fernandez 2, Maloney)
 SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 20 OCTOBER, 2002
HEARTS 1 v CELTIC 4 (Larsson 2, Sutton, Petrov)
 SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 6 OCTOBER, 2002
CELTIC 3 v RANGERS 3 (Larsson 2, Sutton)
 SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 28 SEPTEMBER, 2002
CELTIC 5 v KILMARNOCK 0 (Larsson 3, Sutton 2)
 SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 22 SEPTEMBER, 2002
DUNDEE 0 v CELTIC 1 (Larsson)

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

CIS CUP 4TH ROUND
CELTIC v PARTICK THISTLE WED, 6 NOVEMBER 2002
 SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
DUNDEE UTD v CELTIC SUN 10 NOVEMBER 2002
 UEFA CUP, 2ND ROUND, 2ND LEG
BLACKBURN v CELTIC THU 14 NOVEMBER 2002

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: HUGH DALLAS
 ASSISTANT REFEREES: JIM McBRIDE
 STUART MacAULEY
 FOURTH OFFICIAL: JOHN GILMOUR



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

No ● pain No gain

AS the fixture calendar becomes ever more congested, fatigued footballers, we're continually told, are heading for burnout.

Hardly a day passes, in fact, without one top player blaming an overabundance of matches for their indifferent form, complaints which generally receive short shrift from the general football public.

Bobo Balde, however, represents a notable exception to this rule. Celtic's defensive colossus clearly thrives on the excitement and emotion that only competitive football provides and, speaking as Celtic negotiate a particularly hectic period of matches, he claimed the last thing he wants is a rest from competitive action.

"I like to play a lot of games

"I like to play a lot of games because, if you are fit, there is nothing better in football than playing all the time"

Bobo's got plenty of fuel left in the tank as he prepares to take on Aberdeen

because, if you are fit, there is nothing better in football than playing all the time," he said. "Training is not the same, and when you are playing well - as we are - you just want to keep going until the end of the season.

"Obviously we had a very tough UEFA Cup game on Thursday night against Blackburn, but we know we have been playing well in the league for quite a long time now. Our last four league games, against Kilmarnock, Rangers, Hearts and Dunfermline, have seen us score many goals, and everyone is

playing with a lot of confidence.

"I'm also very pleased personally that the defence is playing with more strength these days. That is important to me because, with the good forward players we have, I do not want the defence to be seen as a weakness in our team."

Currently, Balde has turned out in all but one of Celtic's domestic matches this season - a record matched only by Henrik Larsson and Joos Valgaeren - games which have seen him cement his reputation as a fans' favourite with a series of typically uncompromising showings. Yet the former Toulouse centre-half admits that there remain significant chinks in his armour, and insists he won't be satisfied until these imperfections are removed from his game altogether.

He said: "I'm happy with how

BOBO BALDE



CELTIC v ABERDEEN 3 NOVEMBER 2002 7

“Henrik is one of the best players I have ever seen”

I'm playing just now, but I don't think you can ever be completely satisfied. I know there are things I need to improve on, and I want to become a better footballer every week. I don't look to become another player, though. I am me, and I will always be me no matter how I try! I just have to be happy with myself, and just try to work hard on my weaknesses to make sure I get better.”

Improving alongside Balde recently has been Ulrik Laursen, the man preferred by Martin O'Neill to Stephen Crainey for the role on the left side of Celtic's three-man central defence. Indeed, having endured a sticky start to his Hoops career which saw him blamed by many supporters for the 2-1 defeat at Fir Park, the Dane appears to have battled back to earn the respect of his team-mates.

“Ulrik's a good player and he's getting better,” enthused Balde. “I didn't really think he had a very bad start- it was just that the team was not right at that point. Now everything is right and we are playing much better as a team, so that makes it



easier for him to enjoy his football. So far he has settled in well, and that's good news for everyone.”

However, no matter how well they perform in keeping Aberdeen's strikers at bay this afternoon, Balde and his defensive colleagues are well aware that it's almost inevitable that the headlines will be hogged by the men at the other end of the field. Fortunately, the Guinean has no desire to muscle in on the limelight, admitting he's more than prepared to join in singing the praises of Celtic super Swede.

He said: “We have many good forward players, but I think what makes Henrik Larsson

special is that he can score at any time. It doesn't matter where the game is being played or what team we are playing against - he is always there for us with a goal.

“I used to play against some great players in France like Sonny Anderson, who was with Lyon. But Henrik is one of the best players I have ever seen on a football pitch. He is incredible.

“But it's good for us that it is not only him who is scoring just now. Against Hearts and Dunfermline, four different players scored, and that is what we need: Henrik scoring goals, but other people helping out as well.”



HAPPY BOY:

Balde is pleased with the way that Laursen and Larsson have been playing recently

