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# Dons

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SEASON 2001-02



Celtic



Scottish  
Premier League  
Sunday

12th May 2002  
Kick Off 3.00pm



PROGRAMME of the YEAR  
SPL 2001/02 - PROGRAMME MONTHLY

# We don't just hang around!



## Our global services include:

### NDT Inspection

Reel offer a full range of non destructive testing inspection services. Standard techniques include MPI, DPI, Eddy current and ultrasonic inspection. Other more specialist tests include borescope inspection, hardness testing, proof load testing up to 200 tonnes.

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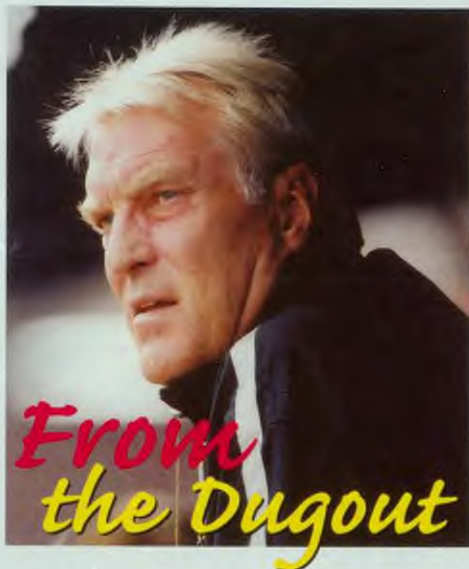
**A**lthough in many ways it has been a long season, it also does not seem very long ago that we were preparing for our opening match against Rangers here in Aberdeen. Following the game today, we will have the summer break before starting over again at the beginning of August.

These are difficult times for Scottish football and the recent upheavals, and with it much uncertainty, have meant that it is more difficult than normal to plan ahead for the next campaign. However, what we do know is that we will be back in the UEFA Cup and that is something to look forward to.

Before that, we do have an important game to play against Celtic and we know that if we win, it is likely that we will finish the season in third position which would be a tremendous achievement. Despite the fact Celtic have had the league sewn up for some time, I know Martin O'Neill will be wanting to end the season with a victory so I do not expect anything other than a very hard ninety minutes.

We have several players who will be leaving the Club following this afternoon's match and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution and to

wish them all the very best for the future. To all the players and staff I would say 'thank you' for helping to make this season one of progress.



With a couple of weeks since our last match, we are in a fairly healthy position as far as injuries are concerned although obviously Robbie Winters and Cato Guntveit are both out. Peter Kjaer missed the Ibrox game and if he is not one hundred percent fit, he will not play with Ryan Esson continuing between the sticks.

To all our supporters, a huge thank you for the reception

both Peter and myself received on 'Danish Day', it really was much appreciated. The fans have been wonderful throughout the season and it seems to me that each year, they seem to make more noise than the previous one. On that basis, I will need ear plugs come August! To each and every one of you, I wish you a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you back here in three months time.

**EBBE SKOVDAHL**

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Thanks to the best fans in Scotland!

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Former Don - Arthur Graham.

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The final of the season!

### SPL League Table 2001-2002

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	37	32	4	1	93	18	100
Rangers	37	25	9	3	81	26	84
<b>ABERDEEN</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>55</b>
Livingston	37	15	10	12	47	45	55
Hearts	37	14	6	17	50	54	48
Kilmarnock	37	13	9	15	42	52	48
Dundee Utd	37	12	9	16	36	57	45
Dundee	37	12	8	17	40	53	44
Dunfermline	37	12	8	17	40	63	44
Hibs	37	9	11	17	50	56	38
Motherwell	37	10	7	20	47	68	37
St Johnstone	37	5	6	26	24	61	21

**TICKET OFFICE****TICKET OFFICE****TICKET OFFICE**

## AFC season ticket prices 2002/03

### Buy early to save as family friendly structure announced

Aberdeen Football Club is encouraging fans to maximise the benefits of season tickets through buying early as it aims to make the matchday experience at Pittodrie a more family-orientated event.

Existing season ticket holders have until the first of July to renew their tickets, while new buyers can enjoy significant savings if they take advantage of our Early Bird scheme.

Should we play 19 home games in the SPL next season, the saving to this group of customers could equate to seven free matches. Even if fans wait until after the cut off point to buy their passes, they will still enjoy five games free of charge compared with those who pay at the gate each match.

Full details of all prices will be sent to all season ticket holders and to all fans who have bought tickets for matches at Pittodrie during the 2001/2002.

New season ticket sales began on 1st May 2002.

### 2002/03 Early Bird Season Ticket Prices and Categories

	£ Adults	£ Concession	£ Under 12	£ Family (Additional Child/Concession)*
Main Stand	300	150	N/A	100
RDS Centre Padded	325	325	325	325
RDS	240	120	N/A	60
South Stand	215	100	N/A	50
Merkland	180	65	30	50 concession 20 under 12

\*Family groups must have at least one paying adult to qualify for discounts

### 2002/03 Post Early Bird Season Ticket Prices and Categories

	£ Adults	£ Concession	£ Under 12	£ Family (Additional Child/Concession)*
Main Stand	325	168	N/A	100
RDS	260	135	N/A	60
South Stand	233	110	N/A	50
Merkland	200	75	30	50 concession 20 under 12

\*Family groups must have at least one paying adult to qualify for discounts

To purchase your Season Tickets for 2002 / 2003 please simply call into the Ticket Office or phone the Call Centre on 01224 631903.

Ticket office hours are 9am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 12.00pm on Saturdays.

Call Centre for all telephone enquiries is open 9.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 12.00pm on Saturdays

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# It's a pleasure to work with Ebbe

**INTERVIEW**  
**INTERVIEW**  
**INTERVIEW**

## ON THE SPL SPLIT:

### WHAT'S THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY?

The ten clubs are very united. We're working towards handing in our resignations and that'll be before the start of next season. We're planning to work on a new structure for a new league that'll be fair and equitable. The Old Firm will be invited to join under that new structure. We are working towards a voting system where two-thirds have to be the majority and that way, the Old Firm cannot control and block any areas of future progress.

### DO YOU THINK THE DONS WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE EXIT OF THE OLD FIRM?

I think it's important that we have our destiny in our hands as we move forward and that the agenda of the Old Firm is different from that at Aberdeen. We have to move forward and do what's right for Aberdeen and for Scottish football as a whole.

## ON THE STADIUM AT BELLFIELD FARM:

### WHAT STAGE ARE WE AT WITH THE PLANS?

We're waiting for the public hearing on the planning permission which should be sometime in June. If that is successful,

we will be moving ahead with the plans and hope to be kicking the first ball in 2005/06.

### TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE EXPANSION OF PITTODRIE BEEN DISCUSSED?

We have looked at expanding but there isn't the land that allows us to expand as much as we would want. If we did stay, there wouldn't be the Soccer Academy or the other facilities. It would mean investing in a piece of land which would give us less opportunities in the future rather than lots of opportunities.

## ON THE CLUB:

### WE ARE LOSING A FEW PLAYERS AT THE END OF THE SEASON AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO EUROPEAN COMPETITION. HOW DOES THE CLUB AIM TO COMBAT THAT VOID?

Resources are very tight just now. It's all about managing what resources we have more effectively. That's what Ebbe's managed to do over the last couple of seasons. We're not able to throw money at the problem and compared to other clubs, we're better off.

### ARE OTHER PLAYERS GOING TO COME IN?

If they do, it'll be under very cost effective circumstances.

### WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE CLUB'S PERFORMANCE THIS SEASON?

I'm absolutely thrilled. Since I've arrived, it feels like I've hardly seen the team lose. I have been so impressed by the energy and the commitment from everyone at the club.

### AND EBBE?

It's a pleasure to work with Ebbe who knows so much about the game. He has the knowledge and the ability to maximise resources. He's not looking to buy his way out of trouble and he knows we've got to produce our own talent. Players will come and play for Ebbe. A lot of clubs don't have that kind of figurehead as a manager.

## AND THE FUTURE:

### HOW FAR DO YOU LOOK INTO THE FUTURE AND WHERE DO YOU SEE ABERDEEN IN THAT TIME?

Different tasks have different time horizons. For the stadium, I'm looking at 2005. For players, you're looking week to week. For the club and its financial stability, every hour, I'm looking for new revenue opportunities and every minute, I'm trying to find a way to save costs.

If we get the new stadium up and we're winning on the field, then my job will have been done.



**Keith  
Wyness**

# SPL MATCH REPORT

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20/4/02

## Aberdeen 3 Livingston 0

Danish flags and Viking helmets were evident in abundance as Dons fans celebrated 'Danish Day' to demonstrate their affection and appreciation for boss Ebbe Skovdahl, as well as World Cup Finals bound keeper Peter Kjaer.

And if there was a party atmosphere prior to kick-off, then that continued into the game itself as Aberdeen got themselves off to an absolute flyer of a start with two goals inside the opening eleven minutes!

Leon Mike and Darren Mackie celebrate with the fans.



The Red Army was on its feet in the 8th minute when the Dons took the lead. Darren Mackie did the spade work down the left before sending a good ball into the box. Broto and Marvin Andrews got themselves into an awful tangle allowing Leon MIKE to tap the ball home from close range.

Three minutes later, Livingston's misery was compounded when Aberdeen doubled their lead. Robbie Winters floated in a free kick on the left that was met by the head of Darren Mackie who sent a looping header towards the goal. Broto managed to turn the ball away, only for it to fall to Phil McGUIRE who showed great control to drive a volley into the net.

Phil McGuire is chased by Darren Young and Russell Anderson for scoring the second.



Stung by the way things were going, the visitors raced up the field forcing Peter Kjaer into a fine 12th minute save. Three minutes later, referee Dougie McDonald, perhaps mindful of the scoreline, saw nothing wrong when Darren Mackie

couple of occasions before the Dons again regained the upper hand. Twice Robbie came close, firstly allowing the ball to get tangled in his feet and then seeing Broto pull off a save down to his left.

Leon Mike then set up Darren Mackie but his shot was saved at the second attempt by the Spanish keeper. With 58 minutes on the clock, Darren should have grabbed his second when he fired wide after excellent work from Kevin McNaughton.

Roberto Bisconti was next to attempt to supply Darren with a scoring opportunity, but his attempted pass fell behind the striker and the Livi defence cleared their lines. Roberto then played a ball through to Leon Mike when both Darren and Robbie were in more likely positions.

With a minute remaining, Darren Mackie, who had arguably enjoyed his best afternoon in a red jersey, received a standing ovation when he was replaced by Chris Clark.

Sixty seconds later the final whistle signalled confirmation of the return to European football of Aberdeen and the supporters trooped out of the stadium with the strains of 'European Song' ringing in their ears.

*Final Score: Aberdeen 3 Livingston 0*



Darren Mackie fires in goal number 3.

was sandwiched inside the area.

With 24 minutes on the clock, Leon Mike did well to find space for himself but couldn't direct the ball through to Darren Mackie, who was looking in the mood every time he was in possession. The youngster came close when Kevin McNaughton and Robbie Winters combined to set him up but Andrews did enough to clear the danger. Shortly afterwards, Darren beat Broto to the ball but couldn't direct the ball between the sticks.

The Dons did receive a let-off with twelve minutes of the half remaining when David Fernandez, who had already been booked, had what looked like a good goal chalked off for offside. Five minutes later, the match was effectively over as a contest when Robbie Winters hit a long through ball for Darren MACKIE who fired an unstoppable shot past Broto.

*Half Time:  
Aberdeen 3  
Livingston 0*

David Bingham, on as an interval replacement for Tosh, almost brought the visitors right back into things just after the restart when he curled a free kick on to Peter Kjaer's post. Spurred by that, the Almondvale side came close on a



Roberto Bisconti creates space for himself.



# PREVIEW & MATCH STATS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Pittodrie	53	18	17	18	70	72
Celtic Park	53	11	15	27	52	88
Total	106	29	32	45	120	160

The curtain comes down today on a season that has certainly provoked some heated debate in the SPL. It seems that there is as much going on off the field as on it. Season 2001-02 has arguably left more questions than answers and no doubt there will be much activity in the corridors of power in the summer. The Dons can look back on the season with justified pride having recovered from a poor start to confound their critics and qualify for next seasons UEFA Cup. As other SPL clubs take stock and react with alarm at the uncertainty over the proposed TV deals that may or may not come to fruition, the Dons seem to be on the right road in many aspects. With the clubs Centenary looming ever closer, and with European football returning to the North East in August, there is much to look forward to. This season's renaissance has also seen the Aberdeen support return in droves as the home attendance average has now gone through the 14,000 barrier. In the final game of the SPL today the Dons have a remarkable opportunity to end the season with a flourish. Visitors Celtic's only defeat in this season's championship came at Pittodrie in December and Aberdeen have the chance to complete a remarkable double over the Celts. Celtic will no doubt be licking their wounds after losing their grip on the Scottish Cup last week to bitter rivals Rangers. It is unusual that the last game of the domestic season is not the Cup Final so perhaps today's game will give Celtic the opportunity to sign off their season on a high. There will be no easy ride from the Dons though who want to finish the season in third place.

## Aberdeen FC Honours

- 1946-47 Scottish Cup
- 1954-55 League Championship
- 1955-56 League Cup
- 1969-70 Scottish Cup
- 1976-77 League Cup
- 1979-80 League Championship
- 1981-84 Scottish Cup
- 1983 European Cup Winners Cup
- 1983 European Super Cup
- 1983-85 League Championship
- 1985-86 League Cup, Scottish Cup
- 1989-90 League Cup, Scottish Cup
- 1995-96 League Cup

## BELLS LOUNGE

UNION STREET, ABERDEEN

●

*Come for a drink  
before or after the game!!*