

# THE DON

MATCHDAY MAGAZINE PRICE 60p

FINE FARE LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION  
ABERDEEN v CELTIC  
Tuesday 15th March 1988



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DR

**DAVID ROBERTSON**, the young Dons' left-back, is clearly on the road to a full international career and could well take another step on the right road in the second leg of the European Under-21 Championship tie with England at Nottingham on 22nd March. Scotland trail 1-0 from the first leg at Pittodrie.

# UP FRONT

● The visit of Celtic to Pittodrie tonight, in the fixture re-arranged from last Saturday because of our Scottish Cup-tie with Clyde, will remind everyone of the value of a good settled team and consistency of performance.

We have to take our hats off to the Glasgow club for their form in the Premier League but, having said that, we shall do our level best to slow down their bid for the Championship.

I'm not going to start making what would appear to be excuses about our own horrific selection problems this season but if you take out Jim Leighton, Stewart McKimmie and Willie Miller it is difficult to name a player who has enjoyed a truly settled, trouble-free season.

Celtic have been a little more fortunate in that regard though, like all clubs, they have had some problems concerning the loss of players, too.

However, where I personally feel they have come through with flying colours is the way in which they stuck to their guns, allowed certain big name players to leave the club brought in some fresh faces and quickly produced a winning pattern.

When I look at Celtic's results through the season I tend to believe that their Championship challenge, and the points gap they have opened up at the top, dates back to when they won here by 1-0 at the end of October.

I recall that they had to defend hard against us in that game but we

made one bad defensive slip and it let Frank McAvennie in to score. I always get the feeling that they have never looked back since then.

When they came here that day, remember, they were not top of the League. Saying 'if only...' does not get you anywhere in football but you can sometimes look back and realise how seemingly small incidents can turn things around.

Having said all this there is no disputing that Celtic have earned their position in the League by marvellous consistency of performance despite the upheavals before the season started.

Billy McNeill, well known at this club, has done a marvellous job at Parkhead but this praise will not lead to our giving them anything but a hard time tonight.

I'm sure they never relish coming here whatever the respective League positions might be at that particular time.

On this question of continuity of team selection, something I feel very strongly about as a basis for success, I'm sure I will be excused for recalling that during a difficult season we have lost the services of Davie Dodds, Alex McLeish, Peter Nicholas, Jim Bett, David Robertson and several others at various times... and Neil Simpson for what seems most of the time since I came to the club.

Happily Neil is coming through his period of seeking match fitness very well and it was good to see him make a sound contribution



including one of the goals in our winning the Aberdeenshire Cup against Peterhead at Pittodrie last Wednesday.

It would certainly be welcome to have him back for a lengthy spell in his Scottish international form.

Fans will be aware that there has been a departure from the Aberdeen playing staff, namely Gary Hackett whom we signed from Shrewsbury Town and who has now been sold to Stoke City.

Gary was never able to settle down in his change of area and I firmly believe that unless a person is happy where he lives then his professional career can be affected.

We saw some flashes of what Gary is capable of but he never earned himself a good run at first team level but taking the two transfers collectively Aberdeen came out on the right side so no harm was done.

Here's hoping we can tonight show Celtic that the title is not yet theirs for the taking.



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Maradona.**

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**JVC**

# THE A TEAM

•The Aberdeenshire Cup was placed among the Pittodrie collection of trophies last Wednesday after the 2-1 home win over Peterhead.

An early goal by Neil Simpson and another from Lee Gardner, one of the game's big successes, provided a half-time lead which Peterhead could not pull back.

Dons field a strong team including the captain Alex McLeish, Willie Falconer, Ian Porteous, Brian Grant, Paul Wright and Simpson.

Two other resounding victories in the space of three days was ample proof recently that the Reserves are none the poorer for their lean spell of fixtures in the early weeks of 1988.

First there was a 6-0 Premier Reserve League win over St Mirren at Pittodrie followed on the Monday by a 2-0 victory over Hibs at Easter Road in the Second XI Cup.

In both of these games Neil Simpson was showing his paces after injury and very well he did, too.

He scored two of the six goals on the Saturday and gave an encouraging contribution to the Cup win when Paul Wright scored both goals. Wright also scored, from the penalty spot, in the six-goal romp.

In the Saturday game Dons were on top of Saints from the start and a 2-0 half-time lead was set up by Simpson and an own goal forced by some good approach work by Ian Porteous who scored himself after the break.

Strangely the second-half started quietly for Aberdeen with St Mirren threatening to get on top and maybe

sneak a goal back but then Andy McLeod, who had come on as substitute for McArthur who had taken something of a hard time, made it 3-0 and it was all one way from then on.

McLeod was then brought down for Wright to score from the spot and Simmie got the third for a result which helped to show that the club's second team have the title in their sights.

At Easter Road, where thoughts of a reserve double were starting to take early shape, it was an even first-half for a 0-0 interval scoreline.

Ten minutes into the second-half Selbie's centre hit the post and bounced out to where Wright was waiting to nip in and net the rebound for a 1-0 lead.

Later a superb through pass put Wright clear with a chance of scoring his second when ex-Don Tommy McIntyre brought him down in the box and Wright made it 2-0 from the spot.

Dons had lost John Hewitt because of injury just before half-time and McLeod took his place while Gary Hackett was replaced by Lee Gardner.

Team changes from Saturday to Monday were in Willie Falconer taking over from Watson in the heart of the defence, Selbie taking over from Harvie, who injured his knee two days earlier, and Hackett and Hewitt coming in for Gardner and McArthur.

With the third team having hit the top of the Reserve League (East) all the signs are that the squad are doing their stuff at all levels.



**NEIL SIMPSON**

*Back in action for the Reserves*

**Saturday 5th March 1988  
PREMIER RESERVE LEAGUE  
ABERDEEN 6 ST MIRREN 0**

Scorers: Simpson (2), Wright (pen), McLeod, Porteous, Kerr (own goal).  
Team: Beckett, McRobb, Harvie, Gardner, Gregg Watson, I. Robertson, Porteous, Grant, Wright, Simpson, McArthur.  
Subs: Selbie (for Harvie), McLeod (for McArthur).

**Monday 7th March 1988  
RESERVE LEAGUE CUP 2ND  
ROUND**

**HIBERNIAN 0 ABERDEEN 2**  
Scorer: Wright (2, 1 pen).  
Team: Beckett, McRobb, Selbie, Porteous, Falconer, I. Robertson, Hackett, Grant, Wright, Simpson, Hewitt.  
Subs: McLeod (for Hewitt), Gardner (for Hackett).

**Wednesday 9th March 1988  
ABERDEENSHIRE CUP FINAL  
ABERDEEN 2 PETERHEAD 1**

Scorers: Simpson, Gardner.  
Team: Watt, McRobb, Falconer, Gardner, McLeish, I. Robertson, Porteous, Grant, Wright, Simpson, McLeod.  
Sub: Selbie (for Simpson).



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# Around Aberdeen

## END-TO-END STUFF

●The statistics provided by groundsman Jim Warrender about Jim Leighton and where his goals are conceded, which we published in the issue for Rangers' visit on 6th February, has sparked off a good deal of interest.

George Rutherford of South Anderson Drive, Aberdeen, has written in with some facts and figures of his own and recalls that he submitted similar statistics back in 1985.

George recalls that in January to December of that year our superb Scottish international keeper, conceded only four goals at the Beach End of the ground.

And, remarkably, two of the four were from free-kicks and one was from a penalty.

He adds: 'This record was very similar to the present season's figures in which only one of the five goals conceded at the Beach End was from 'open play', the other four being penalties.'

Mr Rutherford also points out that when Leighton conceded two goals at the King Street End, versus Rangers, it struck him that two goals had not been let in at the Beach End for a considerable time.

He searched back through the records and came up with 8th December 1984. During this time Jim has conceded two goals at the King Street End on four occasions (i.e.

1984-85 2-2 v Hearts and 4-2 v Dundee United, 1986-87 2-2 v Celtic, 1987-88 1-2 v Rangers).

## SO WHO'S LUCKY?

●Mr Rutherford, in his letter, has a mischievous dig at the DJ for playing 'I should be so lucky' at half-time when Dons were 2-0 down to Rangers.'

Any examples of more appropriate titles being played?

## POEM TO CHARLIE

●Thirteen-year-old fan Pamela Sneddon has taken up her pen to write an ode to Dons' signing from Arsenal, Pamela, from Dalkeith, Midlothian, calls it simply 'Charlie'.

Her seven verses are too lengthy to reproduce in full, here, but she concludes:

*On his home debut, he didn't find  
the net,*

*Not quite the full match but  
definitely game and set.*

*That wonder goal came the next  
week,*

*Just think of the glory Charlie will  
seek*

*But now I end my tribute to Charlie  
boy, the lad*

*And I would like to tell him we're all  
delighted, not sad.*

**Editor's Note:** Well thank you Pam for your effort in verse. It's not the best. But it could be worse...



## CZECH MATE

●Encouraging confirmation has arrived to prove that when foreigners contact The Don in search of pen pals they do - sometimes at least - hit the jackpot.

The picture (above) shows Josef Segeth of Czechoslovakia who wrote to us asking for a pen pal from the area.

Now we have received a nice little note from Allison Stewart of West Mount Street containing the photo of Josef proudly wearing his Dons' scarf.

She writes: 'You printed Josef's letter on 15th August and we have been corresponding since about Dons and his team Sparta Praha.'

'We have swapped posters and photographs and, as you can see, I have sent him a scarf. I now know for certain that Aberdeen FC has at least one fan behind the Iron Curtain.'

Anymore such happy pen pal stories.

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## DONS' QUIZ

Joe Miller's last League game for Aberdeen was as substitute against his present club, Celtic, last October. Can you remember the opponents when young Joe made his first League appearance - as a substitute in November 1984?

*The answer is printed at the foot of this page.*

## GRAND DONS

● The picture below of two super young fans all togged out in red-and-white gear was sent in by long-serving season ticket holder Mrs G. D. Kay of Raeden Avenue, Aberdeen.

Mrs Kay's son Brian is also an Aberdeen 'nut' who will ensure that three-year old Alison and 15-month-old Graeme follow the same path.

Mrs Kay said she would love to see the picture of her lovely grandchildren printed in The Don.

**Granted!**



## PEN PAL, PLEASE

● Tracey Page-Smith of 11 Church End Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG3 4XA is looking for a pen pal from the ranks of Aberdeen supporters.

Tracey is 16 years of age and supports Reading.

She is looking for someone in the 16-19 age group to exchange news and views with.

'Send a photograph' is all she asks.

*Over to you.*

## DONS' DIARY

**Wednesday 24th February:** The home game with Dundee coming up with Alex McLeish serving the first of a three-match suspension. Davie Dodds is suspended against St Mirren the following week. Fortunately David Robertson has recovered from the slight thigh strain which saw him leave the field in the second-half of the Hamilton Cup-tie. Willie Falconer and Brian Irvine bid for a place against Dundee.

**Thursday 25th February:** Jim Bett making good progress from injury, too, and could be ready for Dundee game.

**Saturday 27th February:** A Davie Dodds goal gives Dons the points in a difficult encounter the most promising aspect of which is the start of what could be a goal-laden partnership with Charlie Nicholas. The ex-Arsenal forward shows some encouraging signs of his old top international form. Steve Gray and Tom Jones play as wide midfield players but Dodds' goal is produced by good work from Willie Miller.

**Monday 29th February:** Dons' scheduled home game with Celtic is put back from Saturday 12th March to Tuesday 15th March because of the fifth round Scottish Cup-tie with Clyde.

**Wednesday 2nd March:** Former Dons' player and assistant manager Willie Garner, now player-manager of Keith, leads his side into Aberdeenshire Cup semi-final replay at Pittodrie and loses 5-0. Dons turn out strong team including McLeish, Dodds and Bett. Keith Edwards hits hat-trick.

**Thursday 3rd March:** In the absence of suspended Dodds, Paul Wright and Keith Edwards will be challenging for the vacant role of leader of the attack at St Mirren. Willie Falconer could also be under consideration for the job but Edwards and Wright staked their claim firmly in the 5-0 Aberdeenshire Cup semi-final victory. Bett's back injury is coming along nicely and he could be in the side at Love Street.

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# PROFILE

## NUMBER 24 - TEDDY SCOTT

● Asked to name features of Pittodrie which have not changed much since the mid-fifties even the older generations of fans would be hard stretched to come up with many answers.

Even the playing surface has had a heating system installed underneath it...!

However, there has been one important aspect which has remained constant for the past 33 years.

**THIS IS THE QUALITY OF THE SERVICE TO THE CLUB PROVIDED BY TEDDY SCOTT.**

The Aberdeen FC trainer/coach and general father figure behind the scenes arrived at Pittodrie in 1955. Since then, along with his family and a round of golf, the club has been the love of his life.

This fact is reflected every working day of the week. Anyone wishing to beat Teddy to his or her duties would have to be in very early to arrive before him.

To describe him as a 'trainer/coach' merely scratches the surface of his dedication to the cause.

The fact is that there are very few duties behind the scenes he has NOT performed in the three decades which have elapsed since he arrived as a player from junior club Sunnybank, where he was a centre-half.

History now tells us that it was never Teddy's lot to be a successful first team player with the club having been one of the traditional 'old school' of individuals who prepared himself in advance for a job outside the game, namely that of plumber.

It was his displays in helping Sunnybank to break the Glasgow - Edinburgh monopoly in the Scottish Junior Cup which landed him into the Scottish League ranks, and here he has remained in one capacity or another, despite limited first team appearances back in those mid-fifty years.

In carrying out valuable services for current boss Ian Porterfield he can look back on serving eight previous managers at the club in Dave Halliday, Davie Shaw, Tony Pearson, Eddie Turnbull, Jimmy Bonthron, Ally McLeod, Billy McNeill and Alex Ferguson.

An interesting point which will have escaped many is that there are only TWO managers in the history of the club whom Teddy Scott did NOT serve.

These were Jimmy Philip who led the club for 20 years from 1903 and Pat Travers who succeeded him until 1937 when Halliday took

over up to roughly the time that Scott checked-in in 1955 when Dons were reigning Champions.

Teddy Scott is one of those individuals who proves again and again that it is not necessary to have been an outstanding player to mould others into the demands of the profession.

There can be few characters in football who have seen so many top quality performers through important phases of their career as he has.

His list would be huge. Suffice it to say that it includes the likes of McLeish, Miller, Leighton, Black, Strachan, Bett, Archibald, Buchan, Clark, Harper, Forrest spanning a period of many years.

These are but a few of the names punctuating his lengthy spell with the club.

The highest honours have also come the club's way during his service in addition to the dozens of Scottish caps for the various individuals.

It's not all been a case of winning things though it is certainly a tribute to his help that Aberdeen FC has never been out of the top flight either in the First Division and the Premier League.

The years of 1959-60 and 1968-69 were the 'danger' spells when the club finished 15th to narrowly escape relegation. The 'credit' side is far more detailed.

The championship in 1979-80, 1983-84 and 1984-85, the European Cup-Winners' and Super Cups in 1983 and the Scottish Cup in 1970, 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986 plus the League Cup in 1955-56, 1976-77 and 1985-86.

Teddy Scott's duties have been across the spectrum of preparing players but his concentration has been, perhaps, on bringing on the new Young Dons and seeing them through the reserves and safely into the first team.

Thus, if one adds the reserve and youth trophies which have come the club's way during his time of hours, weeks and years out on the practice areas teaching kids the way to be a REAL pro, his contribution is immeasurable.

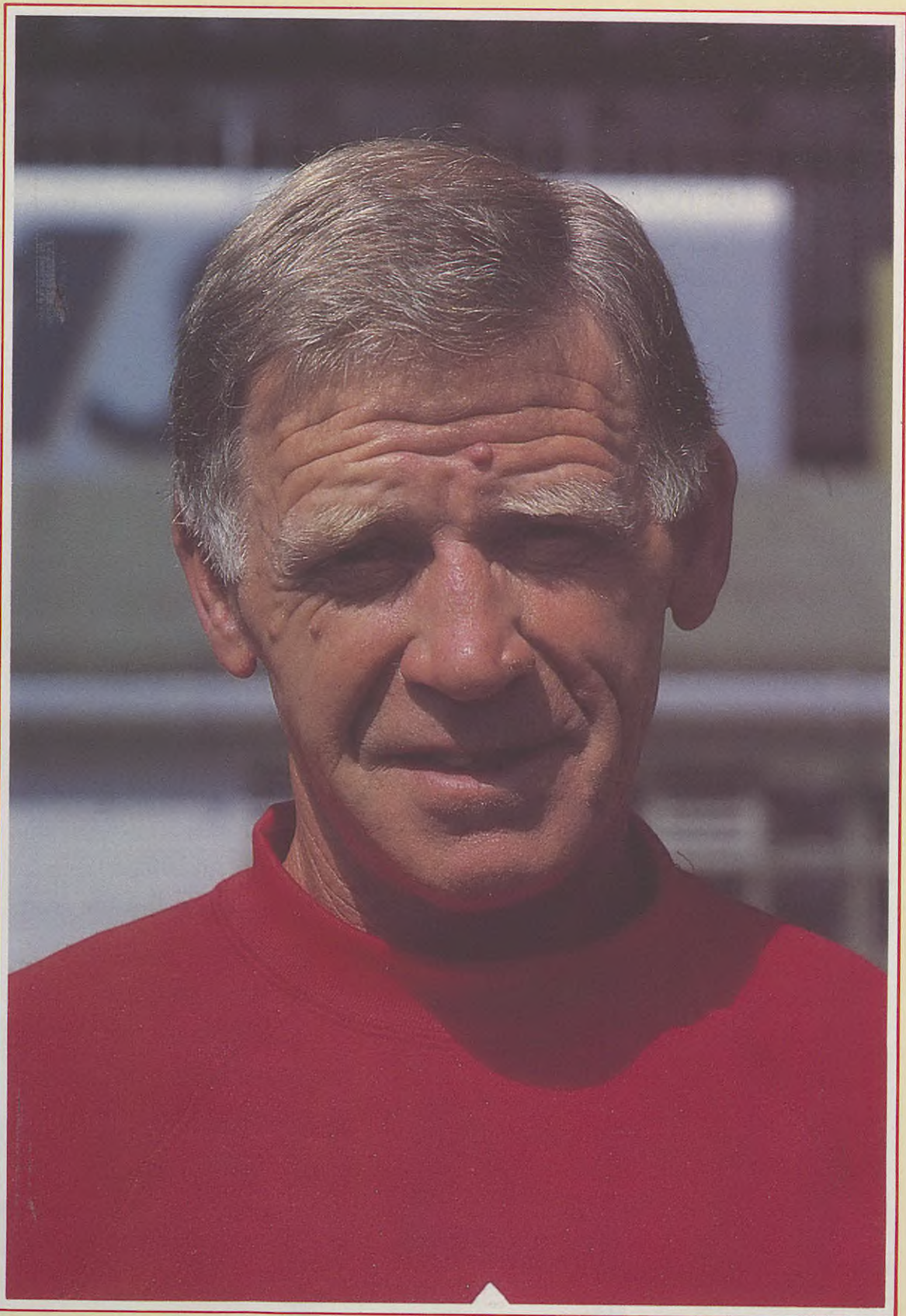
Just how much all this success has been helped by Teddy Scott's unceasing commitment is impossible to judge or define. He certainly wouldn't offer an opinion on the subject himself.

But, spread around the game (in unexpected corners when one thinks of Bryan Gunn at Norwich, Peter Weir at Leicester, Alex Ferguson in Manchester and Eric Black in France) there are those who would declare that it has been, to say the least, considerable.

Readers will note there is no comment from the man himself here. Reason? He was out with the players in readiness for a first team game, a Premier Reserve fixture, a Reserve League East commitment, an Aberdeenshire Cup-tie.

The process is unending.





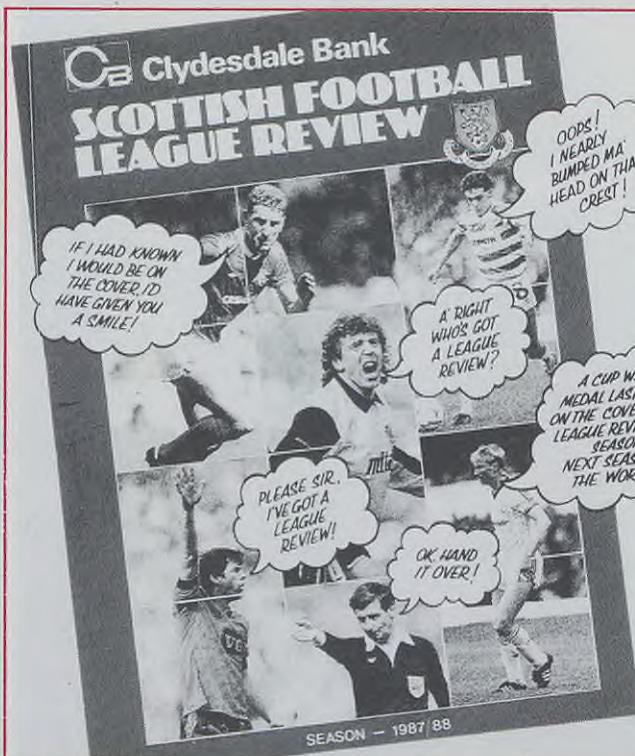
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# BACKTRACK

## JIM RICKABY LOOKS BACK FIVE - TEN - FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

### 5 YEARS AGO

With the second leg of the Bayern game only days away the Dons continued their tough March schedule with a tricky Scottish Cup quarter-final at Firhill on 12th March. The tie began well for the Dons when Neale Cooper shot the ball home through a sea of legs to give Aberdeen the lead in four minutes. Thistle refused to crumble after that early setback however and Maurice Johnston was only inches away from grabbing an equaliser following a Kenny Watson free-kick. Aberdeen more or less maintained control for the rest of the first-half but they could not convert their superior possession into goals.

Thistle opened brightly in the second-half and really had a go at their Premier League opponents. With 64 minutes gone the 'Maryhill Magyars' were rewarded for their endeavour when Ian MacDonald scored in almost identical circumstances to Neale Cooper in the first-half. Thistle had the scent of an upset in their nostrils but the Dons refused to panic. Eight minutes after Partick had drawn level Neil Simpson was sent sprawling at the edge of the box after a typical surging run. Peter Weir curled the resultant free-kick high into the Thistle net to restore Aberdeen's lead.

In the closing quarter of an hour McGhee and Strachan both came close to putting the tie beyond doubt but the closest call of all came in the dying moments when Jim Leighton had to bring off a superb one-handed save to deny Donald Park a late equaliser.

With a last fourth place in the Scottish Cup secure the Dons now faced a momentous battle for a semi-final berth in Europe.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Manager Billy McNeill had striking problems as the Dons prepared to face First Division high flyers Morton. Steve Archibald was 'Cup-tied' after playing for Clyde in an earlier round while Jim Harper was out through injury. Ian Gibson came in for the last named. Morton had injury doubts over defenders Dave Hayes and George Anderson although the latter passed a late fitness test. Aberdeen signed winger Ian Scanlon from Notts County on the morning of the game on 11th March.

The Dons began confidently with Dom Sullivan coming the closest to scoring in the early part of the match. With 12 minutes gone Andy Ritchie demonstrated his dead ball accuracy when he brought the best out of Bobby Clark from a curved free-kick.

Davidson squandered a great opportunity after a great run by Strachan but Morton came back to test Clark again. Duncan Davidson broke the deadlock in the 31st minute with a spectacular overhead kick after a nod on by Ian Gibson. Five minutes before half-time Charlie Brown cracked a terrific shot off the Dons' crossbar and on to the line with Clark beaten but the danger was cleared.

The Dons introduced Fleming for Gibson in the second period and a second goal seemed imminent for much of the half. Midway through the half Drew Jarvie had the ball in the Morton net

but the 'goal' was disallowed. With only five minutes left Jarvie appeared to have sewn it up for the home side when at last the second goal went in. However in a sensational finish Andy Ritchie got a goal back for Morton with three minutes to go and then as full-time loomed Goldthorpe levelled the scores to earn the Greenock side a replay.

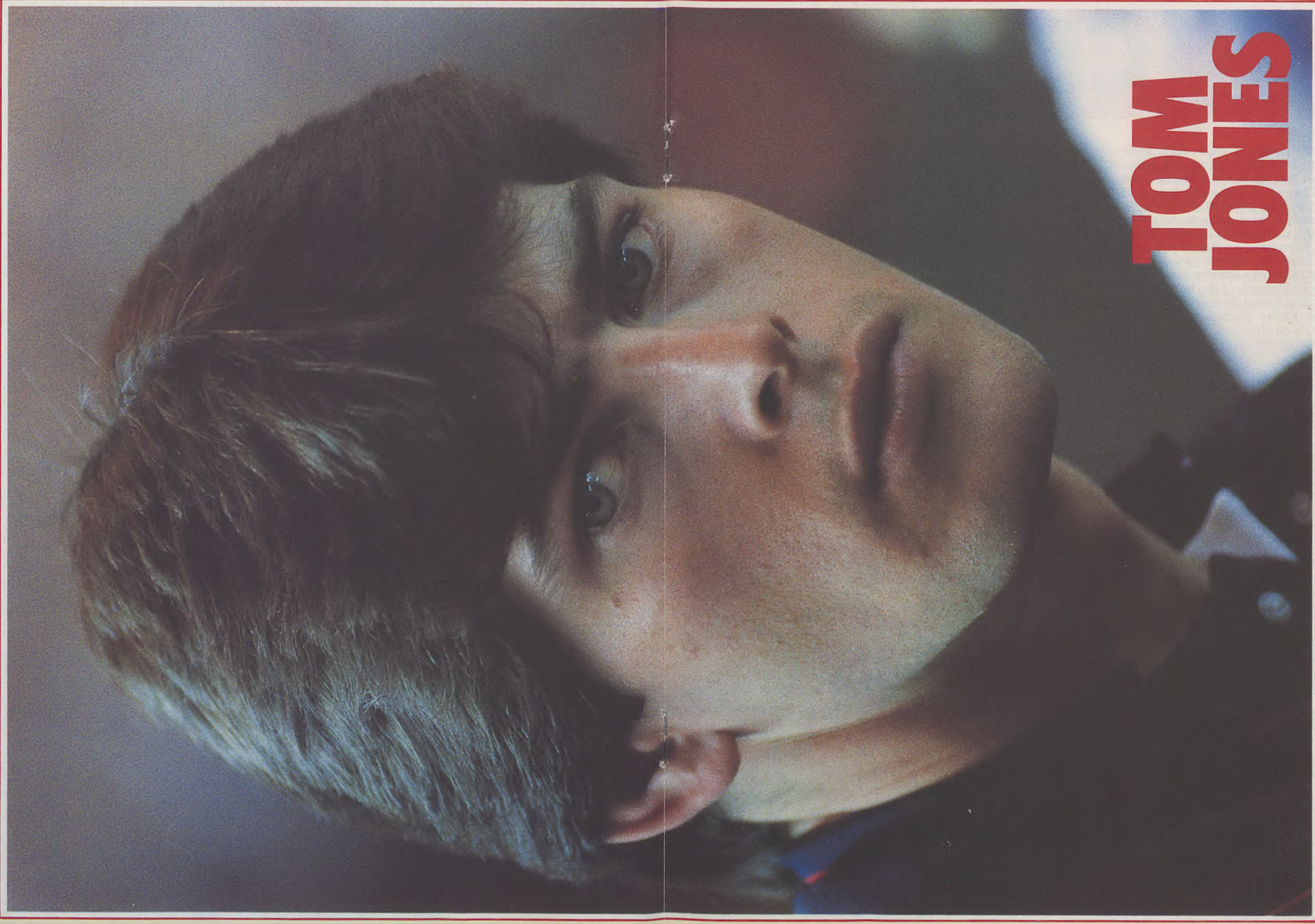
### 15 YEARS AGO

The Dons' March slump continued on 10th March 1973 when they were held to a goalless draw by lowly Partick Thistle. Scotland Under-23 goalkeeper Alan Rough was the principal reason for the shutters going up but Thistle had the woodwork to thank also. Aberdeen's loss of form put their European hopes for next season in jeopardy. On 14th March the Dons travelled to Anstruther in Fife to help prepare for the forthcoming Scottish Cup quarter-final against Celtic, at Parkhead, but it was transfer news that grabbed the headlines.

A Sheffield United offer for Steve Murray was turned down after 'The Blades' were told that there was no chance while Aberdeen were still in the Cup and then on 16th March the Dons signed Eddie Thomson from Hearts for £65,000.

Dave Robb made a sensational comeback for the Dons for the Cup-tie at Parkhead making his first appearance in four months after a cartilage operation. Robb returned as leader of the attack at the expense of Drew Jarvie who had to be content with a place on the bench but big Dave had little chance to shine as Celtic put the Dons through the hoop with a high pressure performance. However the Dons held firm throughout the onslaught and forced a replay with another goalless draw.

Jimmy Johnstone was ordered off midway through the second-half after an incident involving Aberdeen full-back Jim Hermiston.



**TOM  
JONES**

# CELTIC

●Although Celtic still have difficult away games to come against Rangers, Hearts and Hibs after tonight's game at Pittodrie, Billy McNeill's side really is beginning to run away with the Premier League title.

Rangers, Hearts and Aberdeen themselves will all say different. But you can't argue against points in the bag. And at this moment in time Celtic are far better placed than any of their challengers.

In last season's 44 game programme, Rangers lifted the title with 69 points to win the flag with six points to spare. Already Celtic have 57 points prior to tonight's game with nine games still to play.

So if last season is anything to go by, Celtic require just 12 points from these nine games to fly the flag again at Parkhead.

Not that you'll hear any talk like this from anyone connected with Celtic. Manager McNeill especially has been too long in the game to start counting his chickens too soon. All people like McNeill say in these circumstances is that they'll take things one game at a time. In Celtic's case that means looking forward to Sunday's clash at Ibrox following tonight's game.

The main reason Celtic are so far out in front of their nearest rivals is the fact they've



Joe Miller - Pittodrie return.

performed so well against the other three. In fact they've yet to lose to Rangers, Hearts or Aberdeen in the Premier League this season.

Celtic have finished their home games against this trio having taken four points from Rangers, three from Hearts and two from Dons - both draws.

Away from home Celtic have won at Pittodrie and drawn at

both Tynecastle and Pittodrie.

There is no doubt Billy McNeill's new look team has a lot to thank their new forward line of Joe Miller, Frank McAvennie and Andy Walker for. This trio cost a staggering total of £1,850,000, the break down being £650,000 for Miller, £850,000 for McAvennie and £350,000 for Walker.

Between them this trio have scored 37 of Celtic's 66 League goals so far. However don't for one minute underestimate the value of Celtic's other two former Aberdeen players - Billy Stark and Mark McGhee. They've chipped in with another 13 valuable goals despite Billy having a long spell out through injury and Mark spending more time on the bench than on the park.

Celtic have also spent heavily to shore up a defence which let them down last season. Right-back Chris Morris has been an outstanding buy at £120,000 from Sheffield Wednesday. He's extremely fast and dangerous on the overlap. In fact at the end of the day he could well emerge as the best buy of the season, anywhere in Scotland.

Republic of Ireland manager Jack Charlton hasn't been slow to spot his value anyway. A distant relative was traced and Chris is now part of Eire's squad for this summer's European

## PREMIER MEETINGS

	Pittodrie	Parkhead
1975-76	1-2 0-1	2-0 1-1
1976-77	2-1 2-0	2-2 1-4
1977-78	2-1 2-1	2-3 2-2
1978-79	4-1 1-1	0-0 0-1
1979-80	1-2 0-2	2-1 3-1
1980-81	2-2 4-1	2-0 1-1
1981-82	1-3 1-3	1-2 1-0
1982-83	1-2 1-0	3-1 3-1
1983-84	3-1 1-0	0-0 0-1
1984-85	4-2 1-1	1-2 0-2
1985-86	4-1 0-1	1-2 1-1
1986-87	1-1 1-0	1-1 1-1
1987-88	0-1 -	2-2 0-0

(Dons' score given first)

●Aberdeen's Premier League record against Celtic is:

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
51	19	16	16	73	61	54

## CELTIC'S PREMIER DIVISION RECORD 1987-88

	Home	Away
Aberdeen	2-2 0-0	1-0 -
Dundee	5-0 -	1-1 2-1
Dundee Utd	1-2 -	0-0 2-1
Dunfermline	4-0 -	1-2 4-0
Falkirk	3-2 2-0	1-0 2-0
Hearts	1-0 2-2	1-1 -
Hibernian	1-1 2-0	1-0 -
Morton	3-1 1-0	4-0 -
Motherwell	4-1 1-0	2-0 -
Rangers	1-0 2-0	2-2 -
St Mirren	1-0 -	1-0 1-1

**Appearances:** (including those made as substitute)

Aitken 35, Archdeacon 9, Baillie 5, Bonner 23, Burns 20, Grant 32, McAvennie 24, McCarrison 1, McCarthy 19, McGhee 18, McGugan 2, McGuire 1, McKnight 12, McStay 35, Miller 18, Morris 35, Rogan 24, Shepherd 6, Stark 29, Walker 33, Whyte 33.

**Goalscorers:**

Walker 20, McAvennie 15, Stark 8, McGhee 5, McStay 3, Miller 3, Whyte 3, Burns 2, Aitken 1, Archdeacon 1, Grant 1, Morris 1, Shepherd 1, Own Goals 2.

(All statistics up to and including Saturday 12th March 1988)

## DID YOU KNOW?

On the last 14 League and Cup meetings between Aberdeen and Celtic, nine have ended all square with the other five decided by the only goal of the game.

Championships in West Germany.

Celtic's other defensive acquisition is also a Republic of Ireland internationalist, centre-half Mick McCarthy. He was bought from Manchester City for £500,000 by McNeill's predecessor, David Hay. Incredibly the day before Hay was sacked as Celtic manager.

Despite spending big like this, manager McNeill has to be

praised for continuing to introduce youngsters into the side. He wasn't slow to give young Lex Baillie his chance just after Christmas and Baillie didn't let his boss down.

In the eight games he's played so far, Celtic have yet to lose. During that spell with Baillie at the heart of defence, Celtic lost just three goals, a fair indication Lex has the ability to go all the way to the top.



Roy Aitken and Pat Bonner come under pressure from Willie Falconer in our Pittodrie meeting in October.

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# CLUBS CALL

## LONDON RESPOND

● The London branch of the AASC were clearly delighted with the coverage they received about their affairs in the issue for the Dunfermline game on 16th January.

Seventeen-year-old Andrew Dewar has written back to thank the 'Clubs Call' page for telling fans in wider areas about them and he adds: 'It should be a great advertisement for other supporters down here to join the London branch.'

That's what it's all about, Andrew. Other branches please note!

London have also sent us a copy of their January Newsletter, and what an informative publication it is.

## CAPITAL NEWSLETTER

● On London's front page is a picture of Ian Porterfield 'fitting out' Charlie Nicholas with his Dons' shirt and there follows six full typewritten pages of chat about the club.

They sent up a train party to Tynecastle on 13th February to give members a chance to view Nicholas in action.

Also they have a thriving darts section and they took the trouble to publicise Jim Rickaby's book 'Aberdeen: A Complete Record 1903-1987' (Breedon Books £14.95), so that fans in the South of England would be aware of the publication which contains just about everything anyone could want to know about the Pittodrie-based club.

## HOMEWORK

● London certainly do their homework in sifting out newspaper cuttings to reproduce in order to keep fans in the picture.

They printed one about the unfortunate Frank McDougall turning out for junior club Ashfield and unhappily finding himself unable to either score a goal or finish on the winning side.

Soccer can lift you up. But it sure does dump down its unfortunates...

Keep up the good work, London.

## PETER'S CHOICE

● Welsh international midfielder Peter Nicholas was the judge for the AASC painting competition which produced a superb response of 300 entries from 40 branches, a sure sign that the younger element are not merely alive and kicking but wielding their paintbrushes in lively style, too!

Prizes for the event were kindly donated by Tom Ewing of Simpson's Sports.

The picture on this page shows Tom (extreme right) with Nicholas (centre back row).

Also on the picture, with the prize winners are shop manageress, Mrs Dorothy Fraser and AASC chairman Alex 'Boots' Hosie.

The winners chosen by Peter were Michael Park (11), from Aberlour (bottom left) and Barry Calder (15), from Granton-on-Spey (second right back) who each won AFC strips.

Runner-up was 8-year-old Jaye Williamson, Carron, who received a supporter's package for a worthy effort.

'The competition was a great success' said Alex. 'We thank all supporters for their efforts. The standard was very high in an overwhelming response. We also thank Peter Nicholas for his help.'

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# Fact File



## No. 24 STEWART McKIMMIE

**Full name:** Stewart McKimmie.

**Birthplace/Date:** Aberdeen on 27th October 1962.

**Married:** To Louise. Daughter - Melissa.

**Nickname:** Casper. (My teammates say it's something to do with the suntan!).

**Best stadium played in:** Ibrox.

**Most memorable match you've played in:** This season's Skol Cup Final against Rangers.

**Worst moment in football:** Losing the above game on penalties.

**Player for the future:** There are too many good young players about at the moment to pick one.

**Favourite other team:** Leeds United.

**Player you most admire, and why:** John Barnes, because of his ability to take on and beat opponents with so much ease.

**Your British Select XI:** The current Liverpool side.

**Best goal you've scored:** My first for Aberdeen - against Hearts at Tynecastle, the night we clinched the Championship.

**Best goal you've seen scored:** Diego Maradona's second against England in Mexico.

**If you were a manager and money was no object, which player would you buy and why:** Maradona - for obvious reasons.

**Favourite TV show:** Most sports shows and soap operas.

**Musical taste:** Any catchy numbers.

**Any personal faults:** Far too many to mention.

**The biggest risk you've taken in your life:** Not yet taken.

**If you had to choose another job what would you like to do:** I really don't know.

**If you were to host a chat show, which three guests would you invite:** Leslie Grantham, Larry Hagman and Donna Mills.

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# Teams

## ABERDEEN

- 1 JIM LEIGHTON
- 2 STEWART McKIMMIE
- 3 DAVID ROBERTSON
- 4 ROBERT CONNOR
- 5 ALEX McLEISH
- 6 WILLIE MILLER
- 7 DAVIE DODDS
- 8 JIM BETT
- 9 CHARLIE NICHOLAS
- 10 PETER NICHOLAS
- 11 WILLIE FALCONER
- 12
- 14

## CELTIC

- 1 PAT BONNER
- 2 CHRIS MORRIS
- 3 DEREK WHYTE
- 4 ROY AITKEN
- 5 MICK McCARTHY
- 6 PETER GRANT
- 7 JOE MILLER
- 8 PAUL McSTAY
- 9 FRANK McAVENNIE
- 10 ANDY WALKER
- 11 BILLY STARK
- 12
- 14

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Linesmen:

Mr S. A. Logan (Elgin)

Mr G. Black (Inverness)

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# South Of The Border

● **How you view the Manchester United 'crisis' will vary according to which newspaper you've been reading over the past week or so.**

Only manager Alex Ferguson, raging after his team's inept display at Norwich recently, knows how he plans to tackle the massive job of rebuilding United.

I've known Fergie for close on 20 years, since he was a player at Falkirk, and he plays his cards so close to his chest that you'd have to be a mind-reader to see into the future with any degree of clarity.

I can shed no light, therefore, on the widespread speculation that as many as a dozen senior players will be on their way from Old Trafford by the time next season gets underway.

What I do know is how determined Fergie has been to succeed with United – and how disappointed he has been with the contributions of players from whom he was entitled to expect an awful lot more.

Fergie could have travelled south from Aberdeen and staged a massive clear-out. I know some managers who'd have been negotiating transfer deals before they'd got their feet under their new desk.

Instead, he was preaching patience and there isn't a single United player who can claim he hasn't had a fair crack of the whip in the 17 months Fergie has been in charge.

But now, I believe, Fergie has had enough. His patience has finally snapped and that means he's reached the point of no return. It's curtains for the players who have let him down.

Who are the players on their way out? Obviously, those whose contracts expire at the end of the current season are most at risk and head every speculative list I've seen. So that could mean a quick farewell for the Scots trio of Gordon Strachan, Graeme Hogg and Arthur Albiston.

One newspaper believes Fergie's expected clear-out will mean a £3 million transfer income for United. But that's hardly a fortune if the manager is faced with the task of plugging as many as 12 gaps in the playing staff.

Also, the way fees are going down

here it's hardly enough to buy four top-class replacements. Fergie, remember, will be looking for quality rather than quantity when he sets off on his anticipated spending spree.

But wait a minute. Didn't United, admittedly under the management of Ron Atkinson at the time, pull out of the race for Terry Butcher because they couldn't meet the Ipswich Town asking price?

It's a fact of football life that United don't have the vast resources of, say, Rangers and it's a safe bet that chief executive Martin Edwards will not endorse a Graeme Souness type of raid on the transfer market.

I suspect Fergie would love to have the precious commodity of time ahead of money. That way he'd be able to raise his own players, just as he did at Aberdeen, where the youth system proved to be the lifeblood of the club.

He knows, however, that there isn't time on his hands at United. The supporters are impatient and are expressing their dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs by staying away, to the extent that crowds of less than 40,000 have been spread around the impressive Old Trafford arena for some home games.

It used to be something of a joke, only a few years ago, that United had hit crisis point if one home attendance crept below the 50,000 mark. The astute Mr Edwards will know only too well how the recent plunge is no laughing matter.

In fairness to Fergie, this is an exceptional season down south with Liverpool streaking away in the title race. Any other year and the Championship would still be wide open, with United well to the fore.

Their FA Cup defeat by Arsenal was a bitter blow, especially with Brian McClair squandering the perfect opportunity to earn his side a replay when he blasted a second-half penalty high over the bar.

With that one kick, United's season fell apart and when they turned in a woeful performance against struggling Norwich it set the whole football world buzzing with rumours as to how Fergie would put things right.

Rumours? We shall see . . .

BY MEL HENDERSON



● **Keen ornithologist George Wood has switched species, sorry clubs.**

The big goalkeeper, who won four Scottish caps in his time with Everton and Arsenal, spends all his spare time bird-watching.

Hardly surprising, therefore, that he should move from Crystal Palace to Cardiff City recently.

From the Eagles to the Bluebirds, get it?

George (35) was given a free transfer by Palace and now hopes to help his new club win promotion from the Fourth Division.

It seems like only yesterday that I saw him score a goal for his first senior club, East Stirling, against Queen of the South!

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VENUE: Inverclyde, Largs.

DATES: 2-10 July 1988.

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(Assessment Course Spring 1989)

## C - Licence Courses

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