



ABERDEEN v CELTIC

Sunday 16th August 1998

Kick off 6.05pm



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MILLER'S ANGLE

We certainly could not have wished for a more mouthwatering game to kick-off our home campaign for the new season. And with this evening's visit of league champions Celtic being beamed across Europe and beyond by Sky Sports, we are well aware that the eyes of the footballing world will be upon us.

Prior to the Dundee game I stated it was vital to get ourselves off to a winning start and the players responded with a thoroughly professional performance to take the three points. Again, we displayed character last weekend to achieve the desired result up in Inverness, a match which was never going to be easy. We now, of course, face our biggest test to date this season, and it is one we have been meticulously preparing for all week.

Since my last column, we have added to the squad with the arrival of Craig Hignett, Mark Perry and Andy Dow. All three have settled in very well and those of you who have not seen them play as yet will, I am certain, agree that they are valuable additions to the squad. As I have said on numerous occasions, we are still looking to add to the playing pool and as soon as there is anything definite to report, I will let the supporters know.

Several players have also moved on to pastures new and, on behalf of everyone at Aberdeen Football Club, I would like to take the opportunity to wish them all the very best for the future.

Returning to the task in hand this evening, it is crucial that we approach the match properly and I believe we will. Whilst Celtic began the defence of their title in the style of true champions with the big win against Dunfermline, it is vital




that a club such as ourselves, if we really have aspirations to mount a concerted challenge, stays in touch.

Our fans also have a huge part to play tonight. In our two matches away from home this season, they have been absolutely brilliant, as indeed they have been since my arrival at this club. Getting behind the lads throughout the ninety minutes, can have a direct bearing on the outcome, and I have no doubts whatsoever, they will out-shout and out-sing the visiting support!

This evening's game is a home one for us and we will certainly be out to lift the three points on offer. Although we are by no means the finished article, I do believe we are improving all the time. Tonight's clash will give a fair indication of how far we have come.

Here's to an enthralling ninety minutes!

ALEX MILLER



JIM LEIGHTON

**“Scottish fans have
always been in a
league of their own.”**

Now, the top Scottish clubs
are in a league of their
own as well.”

SPL
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE



CAPTAIN'S LOG

Wait a minute! Nobody told me when I accepted the position of team skipper that I would have to write a column in the match programme. Actually, it's going to be every alternate programme as club captain Jim Leighton will pen the others.

As I've already said in the press, I was both surprised and honoured to accept the captaincy here at Aberdeen Football Club, although before I did so, I sounded out Jim to see how he felt regarding the situation. Fortunately, he was perfectly happy about it, although on the field, other than leading the side out, nothing has really changed, as both Jim and myself have always made our feelings known during a game and are forever shouting and encouraging our teammates.

It's a case of so far, so good in our games this season, with competitive wins at Dundee and Inverness Caley Thistle which were, from a defender's point of view, especially satisfying, as we kept a clean sheet on each occasion. I was also particularly impressed by the number of our fans at both games and by the amount of noise they managed to make!

Tonight, of course, we face my former club and league champions Celtic in a game which I just can't wait to start. This is a real opportunity for us to show we really do mean business this season and everyone at the club is most definitely up for it!

The manager has introduced a new training regime this season which involves us arriving at the ground before breakfast and often not leaving until around about five o'clock. Whilst it's



been a bit of a culture shock, not to mention hard work, there's little doubt we are reaping the rewards in terms of our level of fitness.

And with the games beginning to come thick and fast, fitness is going to be a key factor. On Wednesday, we are away to Hibernian in the next round of the League Cup and then on Saturday we are at Tynecastle to face a Hearts side who really fancy their chances of capitalising on the success gained last season. However, if we are to harbour any genuine hopes of achieving anything this season, these matches, along with tonight's encounter, are ones in which we have to stand up and be counted.

DEREK WHYTE

NEWS & GOSSIP

Community Events ...

Forthcoming Community Events
in The Richard Donald Suite:

Country Edition

Monday 24th August - 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm
Tuesday 25th August - 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm

Garioch Blend Dance Band

Tuesday 29th September - 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm
Wednesday 30th September - 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm
Thursday 1st October - 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm

Graham Geddes and The Band

Monday 19th October - 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm
Tuesday 20th October - 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm
Wednesday 21st October - 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm

All events feature: Mini Bingo, Grand Raffle and
Licenced Bar

Tickets for the above event are available from Pittodrie two weeks before the concert.

For further details contact George Cadenhead on
(01224) 650425.

Pittodrie honour

The selection of Pittodrie Stadium as the venue for Scotland's European Championship qualifying match against the Faroe Isles in October is further recognition of the Aberdeen ground as an attractive setting for representative football, offering, as it does, handy access to Scotland followers from all over the North and North East of the country.

The Faroes game will be the ninth full international staged at Pittodrie, the latest in a list stretching back to 1900 when Wales paid the first of three successive visits. Scotland's success rate in these games has been fairly high, the only setbacks being a 3-1 defeat by Egypt in a friendly international in 1990 and a 1-1 draw against Ireland in 1937.

Scottish victories have included a 1-0 success against Belgium in a European championship game in 1971 and World Cup qualifying wins over Estonia (3-1) in 1993 and Belarus (4-1) last year.

Pittodrie has, over the years, also been the stage for seven Under 23 and six Under 21 internationals.

Hearts Match sponsors ...



The Match sponsor of the Hearts game were the Stewart Milne Group who are pictured with Man Of The Match, Jamie Buchan.

Hearts Matchball ...



Mr Chips, the Matchball sponsor at the Hearts game, are pictured receiving their signed AFC football from David Rowson.

Red Army Bonanza ...



Steven Still from Aberdeen won £1660 in the 50/50 half time draw at the Hearts match and he is pictured receiving his cheque from Dean Windass.

Big Day Out



As mentioned in the final programme of last season, Aberdeen Football Club had four very special guests dining before the Hearts game. As you can see from the photo, all four ladies had a great time! Pictured from L-R the Secretaries are: Margaret Reaper (KPMG), Linda MacDonald (AFC), Karen Catto (Stewart Milne Group), Karen Duncan (Aberdeen Asset Management).

Ball Squad Presentation



Stephen McConnachie from Kingswells celebrated his birthday in the week leading up to the Hearts game last season. Unfortunately, Stephen is now too old to be a member of the Ball Squad and his mum wanted to present Stephen with a memento for his final day. Jamie Buchan was only too happy to present Stephen with his signed strip after the match.

Looking Ahead

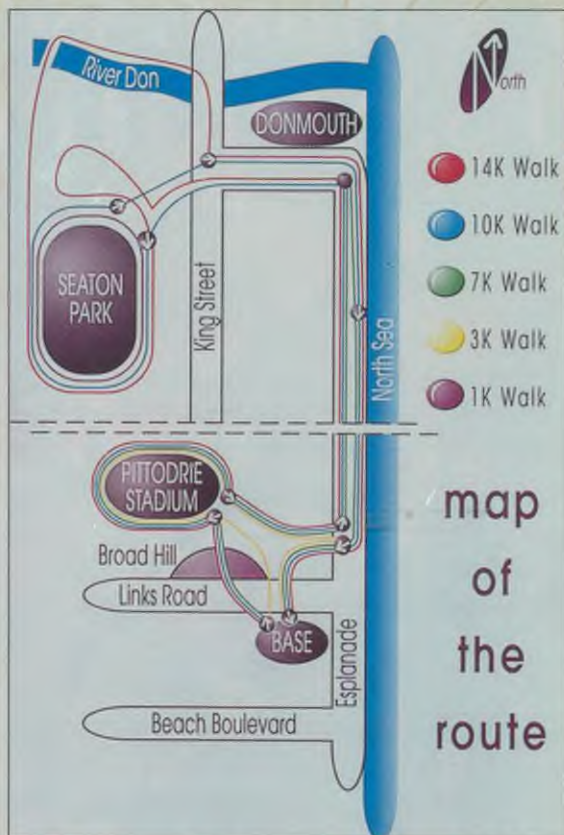
After today, it will be into next month before the Dons find themselves playing before a home crowd at Pittodrie again following three successive away fixtures — a League Cup third round tie against Hibs at Easter Road in midweek leading into Premier League games with Hearts at Tynecastle on Saturday and Dunfermline at East End Park on Saturday week.

Aberdeen's last League Cup meeting with Hibs was 10 years ago when the Pittodrie side went to Easter Road in a quarter final tie and won 2-1 after extra time, thanks to goals by Charlie Nicholas and Brian Grant. The Dons went on to reach the final before going down 3-2 at Rangers.

The Easter Road quarter final was the fourth time in 23 League Cup meetings between the clubs that extra time had to be played.

Returning to league business after the cup-tie, Aberdeen face trips to two grounds where they had contrasting fortunes, as their Premier Division records there indicate:

Tynecastle	P3.B	W14	D12	L12	F53	A43
East End Park	P13	W6	D6	L1	F26	A15



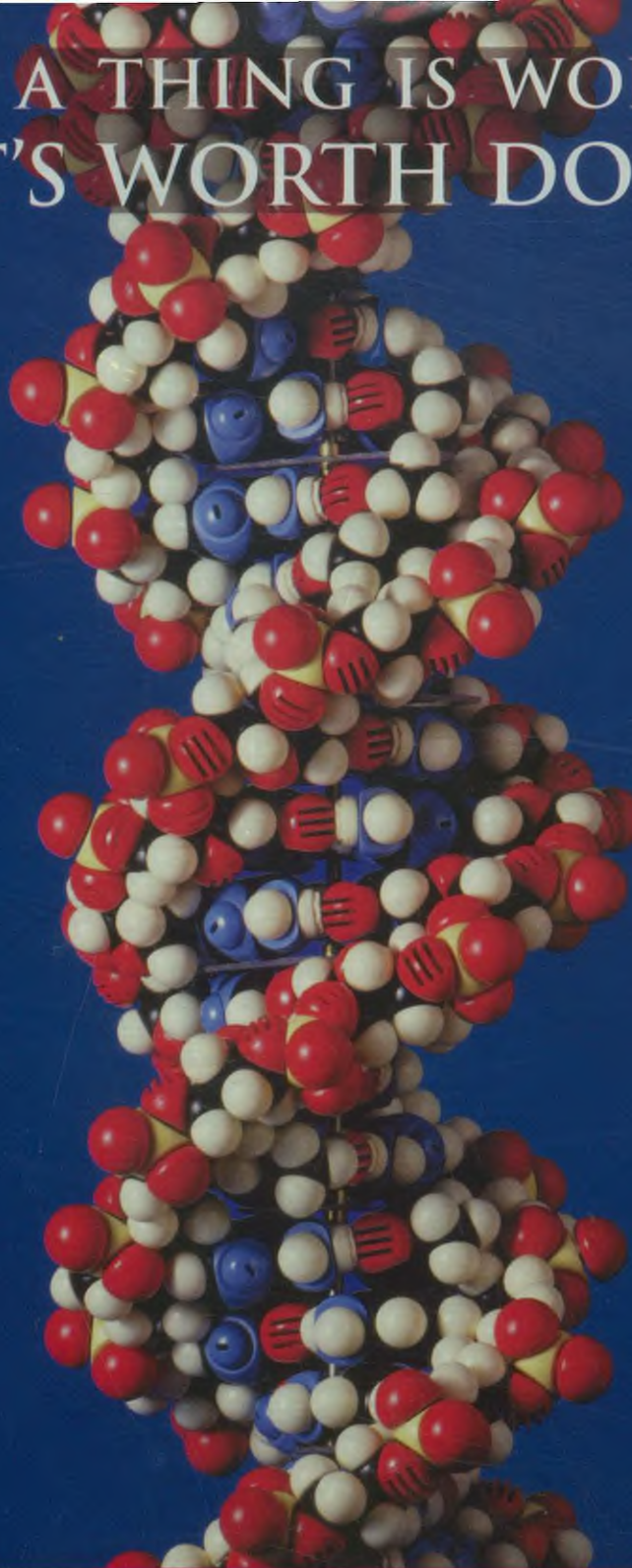
Walkathon Aberdeen

Here is your chance to get fit and healthy, have a great day out, help local charities and take part in the first ever Aberdeen Walkathon. Walkathon Aberdeen takes place on Sunday 6th September and with a variety of walks, the event promises to have something for everyone. All entrants receive a sponsorship form and further information is available from the Walkathon Helpline, telephone number 01224 522913.

WHY LEAVE IT TO OTHERS?

Aberdeen City Children's Panel needs volunteers from all occupations and backgrounds who have an interest in the well-being of children who are at risk or in trouble. A Children's Hearing comprises three members who decide what is best for the child. Members are asked to attend two Hearing Sessions per month. Full training is given and out of pocket expenses paid. For more information contact Aberdeen City Council, Town House, Aberdeen on 522101.

IF A THING IS WORTH DOING IT'S WORTH DOING WELL



*In 1953
Watson and Crick
announced to the
world their discovery
of the molecular
structure of DNA.
Their years of
painstaking and
meticulous work led
to a Nobel prize.*

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