



THE 'DEE

DFC Matchday Magazine



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DUNDEE F.C. versus CELTIC

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After initially intending to be back in time for Wednesday's match, I decided to stay on and check out a couple of players who have been recommended to us and so missed the draw against Dunfermline.

From what my brother tells me it was a big missed opportunity to take three points, especially getting two early goals and then missing a couple of opportunities to be even further ahead before half-time.

And Dario says that he felt sorry for the fans and was far from pleased with how we played in the second half, particularly after playing so well in the first half.

What annoyed him most was that we conceded an early goal in the second half. Had Dunfermline not scored so quickly, it would have been harder for them to get back in the game.

In the end, this was another game in which some very good displays were ruined by individual errors, but unfortunately, that is the risk you run with a number of young players in the side who find it difficult to be consistent,



Ivano Bonetti

especially with so many games in such a short spell.

At least we have an extra day to recover for the visit of Celtic this afternoon.

It is a major game and one that can't be classed as one from which three points can be expected.

In the past, and indeed this season, we have risen to the occasion against Celtic and, of course, were the only side to beat them on their own ground last season, but we saw how difficult they are to beat when they defeated us 4-0 five months ago, yet we had been the better side in the first half!

This match also should mark the start of a breather after playing two games a week almost since the turn of the year and, hopefully, by then more of our injured players will have returned to help us again claim a top six finish.

However, before then it would be nice to start the countdown to the split by taking something from this game.

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Club Honours:

Scottish League Division One
Champions: 1961/62
Runners-up: 1902/03, 1906/07,
1908/09, 1948/49

First Division Champions: 1978/79,
1991/92, 1997/98
Runners-up: 1980/81

Division Two
Champions: 1946/47
B&Q Cup Winners: 1990/91

Scottish Cup Winners: 1910
Runners-up: 1925, 1952, 1964

Scottish League Cup Winners:
1951/52, 1952/53, 1973/74
Runners-up:
1967/68, 1980/81

European Cup
Semi-finalists: 1962/63

Fairs Cup
Semi-finalists: 1967/68

Coca-Cola Cup
Runners-up: 1995/96

Photographs courtesy of
Fotopress & D.C. Thomson

Setting the Scene



Dundee will have to put on their Sunday best if they are to take anything from this afternoon's high noon (well almost) clash with Celtic.

Celtic's second domestic of the season may have cost them the treble, but in typical fashion, Martin O'Neill's roared back like a wounded lion to demish Dunfermline last Saturday and ring up the SPL's most emphatic home win of the season.

And whilst The 'Dee have raised their game when meeting the Old Firm, against Celtic in particular, performances have not matched results.

On Celtic's first visit here, the crowd of 9842 inside Dens and a Saturday evening television audience saw Celtic, undeservedly after Rab Douglas had made several great saves, sneak ahead

thanks to a Larsson header on the stroke of half-time.

But the Swedish goal-machine added another in all to similar fashion minutes shortly after the restart before a quite sensational Stilian Petrov free-kick killed off Dens hopes with Shaun Maloney rubbing salt in the proverbial wounds late on to make it four.

Celtic headed for a date with Juventus boosted by that four goal victory but Martin O'Neill wasn't kidding himself that the score had been a reflection of the whole game "I'm delighted that Rab' was so brilliant for us, because he kept us in the game without a doubt" said the Irishman.

And in the return at Parkhead, Celtic's 100% home record was under threat for the first time this season after Fan Zhiyi scored a goal any striker would have been

proud of. It was his first for the club and gave the Dark Blues an interval lead.

However, dreams of back-to-back wins at the home of the Champions were dashed by a Celtic fight back, which saw Sutton, Larsson and Hartson strike within the space of fifteen minutes early in the second half and earn the home side a 3-1 win.

Both sides' incentives for taking three points this afternoon should make for a great match.

Celtic obviously will be out to maintain their 13-point lead over Rangers (always assuming they beat Motherwell at home yesterday, whilst The 'Dee still have very realistic top-six hopes, not to mention erasing that awful statistic of having gone thirteen and a half years without a home win over the men from the East End of Glasgow!

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Dens Diary



Dear Golfer and Dundee fan Celebrity / Amateur Golf Day

Mark this day in your diary now -
Sunday 7th April, 2002.

The venue will be the new
St. Andrews Bay Resort Hotel.

The event is the inaugural
Dundee FC Business Club
Celebrity Golf Tournament and
all proceeds will be donated to
the Dundee FC Youth
development and community
schemes.

Billy Dodds, Dougie Donnelly,
Robert Douglas and Neil
McCann amongst others, have
agreed to come along and
support this event and we are
hoping that you too, will want to
participate.

The day will commence with
registration in the St Andrews
Bay Hotel, followed by coffee
and bacon rolls. You and your
team will be taken to your tee in
time for a shotgun start at
12.30pm. Teams of four will be
required to submit two stableford
scores for the team prize. There
will also be individual prizes.

Then its into the bar before
dinner is served in the hotel at
6.30pm. Dougie Donnelly is
going to comper the dinner at
which the prizegiving will take
place.

1. You can enter a team of four
at a cost of £400 for the day
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2. You can enter a team of three
and have a celebrity in your
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in teams on the basis of first
come, first served or
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fax: 01382-205530 or
e-mail: peter@pia.sol.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from
you and then seeing you on the
day.

Yours sincerely

Peter Inglis
Dundee FC Business Club

HALF TIME DRAW

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v Dunfermline
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£150 29400 - S Galloway, Dundee

FAN'S FANS

Fan Zhiyi had his own supporters club at Dens
on Saturday when over 200 Chinese guests
watched the Dark Blues beat St Johnstone.
Fan with his fans!



The Chinese fans are mainly students at The
University of Abertay, Dundee University and
St Andrews University. They were on their feet
midway through the first half when Fan rattled
a thirty-yard shot off the base of a post. They
also made a fair bit of noise in anticipation,
when he lined up a free kick from around 35
yards late on in the game - but their hero
elected to pass rather than having another
shot from distance.

The Chinese lads and lassies had several big
national flags with them and some of them
were introduced to Fan before the match. We
know that one or two had been to Dens
before, and hope that more will return to watch
Fan and the Dees in action again.

PEOPLE IN GLASS HOUSES

If you see a collecting tin passing you at Dens
today, please give generously.

We're having a whip round to help out that
poor old soul Hugh Keevins who used to be a
sports journalist, but now struggles to achieve
the objectivity required of that profession in his
occasional scribbles for the Daily Record.

Last week, from the comfort of his desk in
Glasgow, Hugh launched an attack on Dundee
Football Club, the manager and the players.
Nothing wrong with that. Our recent run of
results and performances, it could be argued,
certainly merited some criticism.

But while his colleagues in the media -
including the Record - were able to criticise
our form with fairness, firmness, and good
taste, Hugh chose a different target for his
righteous frothing - the way we look...

Under the headline "Scuff Justice", he
attacked the fact that Ivano...wait for it "wears
denims, an overcoat and Timberland boots."

"The players and management," he spluttered
"stroll about the ground like a bunch of
gypsies."

We'll leave you and the race relations
authorities to make up your minds as to the
taste, wisdom and legality of that last remark.
As a club however, we

can't let it pass without a reminder, as if any
was needed, that it was exactly this kind of
careless intolerance of other people's culture,

behaviour and dress that gave succour to
brutal philosophies like Nazism and ethnic
cleansing.

There should be no place for this kind of
xenophobic journalism in Scottish football in
the 21st Century. It doesn't matter how we
look, where we're from or what we wear - it's
how we play that counts.

We hesitate to say it, but the most successful
manager in the SPL at present favours a
uniform of baggy black tracksuit tucked into
short socks. He'd be first to admit he's got
more important things than fashion on his
mind trackside. Martin's penchant for tucky-ins
and tracky bottoms certainly hasn't done Celtic
any harm.

Far too close to home. And the whip round at
Dens today? We thought we'd club together to
get Hugh a wee mirror and a makeover.

People in glass houses.

ZURA - GOOD NEWS

There's good news from Italy on Georgian
defender Zura Khizanishvili, who is doing well
after his knee ligament operation. He's unlikely
to be risked this season though. Dario Bonetti
did confirm earlier this week, "Zura has been
doing very well in Bologna and they are very
happy with him. He thinks there is a chance he
can play again before the summer, but this will
only happen if we are sure he has recovered.
If he is only going to be able to return for one
or two games then it may be that we decide to
give him more time to get fit again and keep
him for the start of next season."

DO I NOT KNOW THAT? - DEES HAVE CHANCE

The Dundee 'Do I not know that?' team
pictured with presenter Simon O'Brien.



Viewers of ITV Digital Sports channel on
Friday evening (8th Feb) saw the Dundee FC
quiz team pull off an excellent win in the latest
match to be televised. Each match features
three teams and they saw off the challenge of
Hibs and Blackpool to go from rank outsiders
to having a chance of progress to the second
round.

A starting team of David Young, Bob Laird
(captain) and Dave Elder made a solid start on
their own club's questions and excelled in the
video round, helped by being given a Scotland
goal against England for one of their
questions. The specialist round saw David



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Dens Directory

Young score quite well on Dundee's promotion season in 1997-98 and the introduction of Andy Boyack as a tactical substitution for the final buzzer round proved a masterstroke, with a shoot on sight policy giving the Dark Blues the extra boost needed to secure their pre-match target of 35 points.

The Hibs team were the subject of a wee bit of fun early in the game when team member Alistair Tait's name was read out as Alistair Tart - Not a Jam Tart obviously though.

The final score in the match was Dundee 35, Hibs 25, Blackpool 16.

Dave Elder found out what it's like to do the post match press conference and showed all his diplomatic skills as he told the interviewer that "We've cuffed Hibs three times this season - this completes the clean sweep and Blackpool wear Tangerine so we had to hammer them. It's always nice to beat the English."

The Dundee team's final match in the group is against Rushden & Diamonds and Swansea City and will be televised on February 25th - Dundee are currently one point behind Dunfermline and with group anoraks Chesterfield certain to qualify the Dark Blues reckon it's down to them and the Pars. As the Dundee team said while winding the Filers up pre-match "Hopefully it'll be just like the race for the top six last season."

ST SAVIOURS'S FASHION SHOW

The pupils of St Saviours School are holding a Fashion show in the Bowes-Lyon Hall at Dundee University Gardens on Tuesday, 19th March from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m.

Tickets, priced £5 are available from St Saviours School or the LJ Dance Factory from the March 1st.

FOOTBALL FORUMS

Daily Record and Sunday Mail Football Forums in association with the Bank of Scotland.

Football Fans can often find themselves at odds with what they read about in the sports pages, but more often than not they are simply left to voice their discontent to their mates down the pub, than at the actual writer of the piece.

Well the opportunity may soon be arriving for those fans with issues to get off their chests as the Daily Record and Sunday Mail are to host a football Forum at Dundee Football Club on Tuesday 5 March as part of their sponsorship of the SPL this season. The Bank of Scotland are also backing the event, which will allow fans to go along and pose questions directly to journalists such as Jim Traynor, Hugh Keevins and Mark Guidi, as well as the Dundee Chairman James Marr.

The match-up of James Marr with the journalists should prove to be an interesting one with Jimmy stating, "I think it's fantastic to see the Daily Record and Sunday Mail putting their money where their mouth is, and I for one am looking forward to what should be a lively debate."

Other panelists will also be present to entertain the audience with football stories and anecdotes, and the MC for the night will be STV Peter Martin.

The night will take place in the Centenary Bar Function Suite, Clepington Road from 7.00pm until 10.00pm. Tickets are priced at £3 with a

maximum of two per person, with a cash bar available throughout the night. Tickets can be purchased by calling 0800 027 0321. There are only a limited tickets available so move fast for what should be a lively and entertaining night.

LIVE THE DREAM.....A CHANCE TO PLAY AT DENS PARK!!

Dundee Football Club and other major Clubs throughout the UK are supporting a major charity event at the end of this season, around May 2002.

Football Aid is offering a unique opportunity to live the dream and play on the pitch at Dens Park in an end of season match for Dundee fans, captained by star ex-players such as Ray Farningham and Bobby Glennie, and managed by Dundee legends Bobby Cox and Kenny Cameron.

You will have the extra incentive of knowing that the event is designed to raise funds for a variety of good causes, both nationally and locally.

As a keen fan of Dundee Football Club, YOU have the opportunity to take part. Open bidding began on 16th January through www.footballaid.com and the winning participants will relish the chance to experience what it's like to pull on a DFC jersey and play on Dens Park.

So get your boots on and visit the Football Aid website to be part of what promises to be a very special day.

Further information can also be found at the official Dundee FC website: www.dundeefc.co.uk

GET STUCK IN TO SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

We've teamed up with our friends at Panini, the world's number one sticker company, to bring you a fantastic football freebie.

The 2002 SPL Sticker Collection has just hit the shelves and you can get your hands on an album and stickers absolutely free.

Packed with a wealth of facts and stats on Scotland's top twelve teams, the collection is made up of 438 top quality designed stickers, including large format stickers and shiny glitter stickers. What's more there are more feature stickers than ever, such as International Heroes, Midfield Dynamos, Safe Hands and the Fans Favourite.

Also, look out for details of the national swap shop fun day which will be held at Hampden Park on Sunday 28th April in the back of the album.

To claim your free album and stickers, just answer this simple question:

Q Who was Dundee's Manager when they won the B & Q Centenary Cup Final in 1990?

So don't delay get stuck in to Scottish Football today!

Send your answers to:-

Dave Forbes, Programme Editor, 4 Ralston Place, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD5 1NP to reach me by Friday 1st March.



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(Away fixture)	10am-2pm

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This afternoon's game against Celtic is a match which I have been looking forward to for a long time as it is one I am bringing a friend to in an attempt to show him what Dundee are like now under the Bonetti revolution.

Despite recent results I still feel that the quality of the football and the playing staff has vastly improved at Dens in the last couple of years, and there is every chance I will be able to show how much we have improved, as we seem to save some of our best performances for matches against the Old Firm.

The friend in question who is being subjected to this trial is a former Dundee player, John Smith who I met recently through my pub The Golden Tee in Aberdeen. John, for his sins, is a Celtic fan, and because I go on about Dundee all the time in the bar, we decided we would take in the Celtic game in February so John could see at first hand what I have been going on about.

Today's game was going to be a big one for both of us as we have struck up a bit of banter about Dundee and Celtic in the build-up to it and as the match is live on BBC Scotland this afternoon, happy hour prices will apply for the rest of the day if Dundee win, to get everyone in the bar on mine and Dundee's side.

John himself has a soft spot for The Dees, (though he doesn't admit it in public but I know he does) as he was on our books in the late seventies and I have been hassling John for a while now to come down to Dens to see what the current side are like. John arrived at the club at about the same time as Gordon Strachan and Iain Redford and in fact scored his first ever goal in a Dundee shirt at Tannadice. Any man that does that can even be forgiven for supporting Celtic!

John has some good stories about his time at Dens, and it sounds as if there were quite a few characters at the club when he was here, but it is clear that the whole set up is vastly different from the one he experienced.

For example, John told me about how they used the same training kit for a good few days in a row before it was



Kenny Ross

... our man in Aberdeen

washed so by the end of the week there were a few dodgy smells hanging about the dressing room.

There is no doubt however that the pampered stars of modern day football wouldn't put up with that, and there is no doubt that the boys who were in the game at the same time as John must look on in envy at the conditions and the money that the modern day players receive.

Having talked up the team a lot in The Golden Tee, therefore, I hope I am not disappointed by the performance we put on this afternoon. There is now doubt, that overall, the results and performances have been disappointing this season compared to that of last season, and it is difficult to pin down why. If we could work out why and tell Ivano, we could get it fixed and shoot up the league.

We have basically the exact same squad as last season, give or take 'a bird' or two, so

Perhaps we just set ourselves standards that were too high and unrealistic.

Personally, I don't believe this in any way shape or form, and felt at the start of the season we had a good chance of pushing for a place in Europe.

One key factor that has definitely hampered our season that cannot be legislated for is injuries, not only to important personnel, but also long term. The loss of Giorgi has been the main blow for me and while never doubting his talent and ability, I didn't realise how much he contributed to the side until we missed him. Initial reports had suggested he would be back mid February and now that we are here and Giorgi is not yet back, I will just be glad to have him back playing before the end of the season because I am looking forward to seeing a Dundee midfield that consists of Nemsadze, Ketsbia and Rae.

Another long-term injury blow that has scuppered our plans this season has been the injury to fellow Georgian, Zura Khizanishvili. Just when it looked like Zura was striking up a defensive partnership with Fan Zhiyi, we lose Zura for the rest of the season after an accidental clash with Henrik Larsson the last time we played Celtic at Parkhead. Having looked forward to a Georgian trio playing in Dark Blue when Ketsbia signed, we have been restricted to solo performances by Temuri since his arrival due to the long-term crocks of Giorgi and Zura.

Another player who has been out for a

while that I feel we have missed this season has been Marcello Marrocco. Marrocco, I felt gave Dundee good balance down the left side and along with Ivano provided some quality crosses from the front men were able to feed off. The crossing this season from both wings has been woeful, almost non-existent at times, and there is no doubt we have missed Marcello's attacking and defending qualities.

The absence of these three key players has been a blow to Dundee aspirations, not helped by a catalogue of more minor ones.

Any team in Scotland would struggle if they lost three important players for the majority of the season and the size of the Dundee squad has perhaps made it even more difficult for us. If you were to take say Lennon, Lambert and Valgaaren out of the Celtic side for most of the season, I am sure they would struggle too.

Added to our long-term crocks, we have been plagued by shorter ones as well and have lost the likes of Sara, Caballero, Carranza, Rae, Ketsbia and Robertson for spells as well as losing Harry for the first half of the season. The front pair of Sara and Caballero has, in particular, been only shadows of their former selves from last season. Caballero I feel has never truly recovered from his horrendous injury, whilst Sara has only shown his biblical I-shirts on a handful of occasions in comparison to last, where he was the second top scorer in the SPL behind Larson.

Perhaps surprisingly, though, it is not all doom and gloom as I was astonished to discover on the club's website that we had, after the win over St Johnstone last week, the exact same number of points from the exact same number of games as at the same stage twelve months ago. Perhaps therefore, we still have a chance of making the top six after all and there would be no better game to restart that trail and rekindle the season than against the Champions elect, live on national television.

It would be great as well for me to see the Dees win in front of my guest John Smith who might not be very good company going back up the road if we win, but it would show that I haven't been talking rubbish about Dundee in the last year or so since I met him. Come On You Blues!!

KENNY ROSS