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Saturday

22nd December 2001
Kick Off 5.35pm



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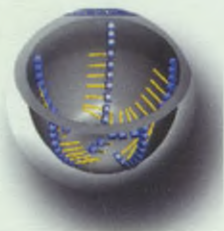
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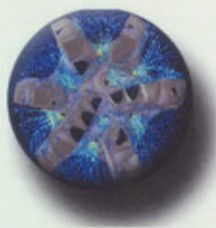
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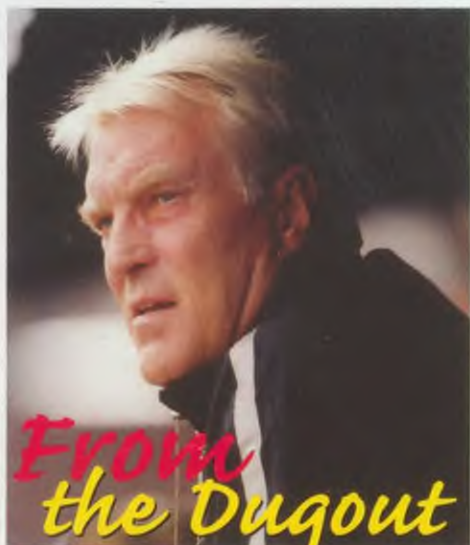
There should be an absolutely fantastic atmosphere within the ground for this evening's match with Celtic, our last game before Christmas. I believe the television coverage of the match is even more widespread than normal for a Sky game and it is a chance for us to show what we can do to supporters throughout the world.

In addition to that, there is always something of a carnival feel about games at this time of year and the fact that it is Celtic we are playing will only add to that today. We have been playing well at home in terms of results in recent weeks and that is definitely something we wish to continue.

In last week's match at Tannadice I felt that a share of the honours was just about the correct result as neither side really deserved to lose. I was not particularly pleased with the amount of time the ball was spending in the air though and I am looking for more football on the deck in today's game.

As far as team news is concerned, obviously Darren Mackie has missed the past couple of games due to knee ligament problems. At the time of writing, I am hopeful that Darren will be available but it is likely to be a fairly late decision on his readiness to play.

This will be a severe test for our young squad tonight as Celtic appear to be almost invincible in the league this season. Dundee showed last week that they can be broken down although they were unable to capitalise after taking the lead. We will need to be patient and also make sure that, when chances do present themselves to us, we take full advantage. It is a game I know everyone is looking forward to and one we believe we can do something in, provided we play to the levels we are capable of.



**From
the Dugout**

We currently sit fourth in the league table and it is important that we keep the gap between ourselves and the teams below us, particularly during the Festive period which is always an extremely busy one. We do not have too much time to recover from tonight's game as Dundee are here on Wednesday afternoon and again I would expect a big crowd in attendance for that one.

Finally, I would like to wish our supporters everywhere the compliments of the season and let's hope we can give you what I know would be the ideal present, namely a victory today! Enjoy the game!

EBBE SKOVDAHL

In this Issue

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Your chance to play in front thousands of people

The Final Whistlep47
The Pittodrie Revival?? Kevin Stirling debates the question.



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

We welcome Celtic to Pittodrie today as we look to extend our excellent recent home form, I hope those of you who purchased your match ticket for today's game at the ticket office, through the call centre or by e-mail found the service to efficient and helpful. The call centre is open Monday-Friday until 8pm to make purchasing tickets easier. We are currently working on phase 2 of the new Internet site, which will enable you soon to also purchase tickets online.

I would be happy to reply to any feedback or suggestions you have relating to the Customer Services Department and can be contacted on 01224 650428 or by e-mail on ticketoffice@afc.co.uk.

PETER ROY, Customer Services Manager

The ticket office will be re-open immediately after the Celtic game and tickets can be purchased for all home games

upcoming fixtures

Aberdeen v Dundee

26th December 2001, Kick Off 3.00 PM.

Bank of Scotland Premier League.

This will not be an all ticket match

Cash turnstiles will be in operation

Dunfermline v Aberdeen

29th December 2001,

Kick Off 3.00 PM.

Bank of Scotland Premier League.

This will not be an all ticket match

Aberdeen v Livingston

2nd January 2002. Kick Off 3.00 PM. Bank of Scotland Premier League.

Grade B Game. Season Tickets are valid

HALF SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW VALID FROM 22nd DECEMBER 2001

After the huge success of the half season ticket last year we have again introduced it for the crucial second half of the season at the prices noted below.

Please contact the Ticket Office on 01224 631903 to book yours.

ADULT HALF SEASON TICKETS

Main Stand Centre	£158.00
Main Stand Wing	£140.00
South Stand S-X	£110.00
South Stand Y	£80.00
RDS Upper & Lower Front	£118.00
RDS Lower Rear Centre	£133.00
RDS Lower Rear Wing	£133.00
Merkland Family Stand	£95.00

SENIOR CITIZEN HALF SEASON TICKETS

Main Stand Centre	£95.00
Main Stand Wing	£80.00
South Stand S-X	£63.00
South Stand Y	£40.00
RDS Upper & Lower Front	£63.00
RDS Lower Rear Centre	£133.00
RDS Lower Rear Wing	£70.00
Merkland Family Stand	£55.00

UNDER 18 HALF SEASON TICKETS

Main Stand Centre	£95.00
Main Stand Wing	£80.00
South Stand S-X	£63.00
South Stand Y	£40.00
RDS Upper & Lower Front	£63.00
RDS Lower Rear Centre	£133.00
RDS Lower Rear Wing	£70.00
Merkland Family Stand	£28.00

UNDER 12 HALF SEASON TICKETS

Main Stand Centre	£68.00
Main Stand Wing	£28.00
South Stand S-X	£28.00
South Stand Y	£28.00
RDS Upper & Lower Front	£45.00
RDS Lower Rear Centre	£95.00
RDS Lower Rear Wing	£50.00
Merkland Family Stand	£10.00

Ticket Office Opening Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 09:00 – 17:00 (18:00 before a match day) / Thursday 10:00 – 17:00
Saturday (non match days) 09:00 – 12:00 / Saturday (match days) 09:00 – 15:00 and open after the game

Xmas and New Year Ticket Office and Call Centre Opening

Monday 24th December: 9 – 5pm, Tuesday 25th December: Closed,
Business as usual from 26th until Saturday 29th December, Monday 31st December: 9 – 5pm,
Tuesday 1st January 2002: Closed, From Wednesday 2nd January business as usual.

Opening Times may vary depending upon fixtures. Check local press and www.afc.co.uk for details. All information correct at 22/12/01. May be subject to change.

Red Army Members

Did you know that by being a member of one of the Red Army Membership Schemes entitles you to a whole range of benefits including *Discounted prices for 'Grade A' games, ticket priority for Home and Away all ticket games, Official Away Match Travel with AFC, and much more.*

There is a scheme to suit all ages, joining costs only £10 per season, (£8 for renewals) for more details or to join please call into the Ticket Office at Pittodrie or contact our Call Centre on 01224 63 1903.

AWAY MATCH TRAVEL – RED ARMY MEMBERS

Thanks to all Red Army members who traveled with us for the recent game at Dundee United. Coaches will again be available for the upcoming game.

DUNFERMLINE - 29th of DECEMBER

The coach will depart Pittodrie at 11.30am direct to East End Park Stadium check in time is 11.15am at Golf Road, outside the Richard Donald Stand. The coach will depart Dunfermline immediately after the game and arrive back at Pittodrie at approximately 19.30pm. Bookings close Friday 28th December at 12.00pm or until all tickets are sold.

Coach Prices are £13 per Adult and £5 per under 18.

To purchase tickets visit the Ticket Office at Pittodrie, e-mail us at ticketoffice@afc.co.uk or contact our Call Centre on 63 1903.

We've got a good **INTERVIEW** home and away support **INTERVIEW** **INTERVIEW**

Robbie Winters

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Dundee United

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ABERDEEN'S PERFORMANCE SO FAR THIS SEASON?

We're playing well at home as you can tell. We need to carry that form away from home and become consistent. Then, we'll make the top 6, maybe pushing for Europe but at the moment, we're just happy the way we're playing.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOUR CONTRACT?

There are talks about it. I've got until the end of the season to see what happens. I think the club wants it sewn up before Christmas but I'm happy here at the moment so we've just got to get something organised.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

Hopefully to get into the new Scotland squad with the new manager, and score goals.

HOW BIG A PART DO THE FANS PLAY IN YOUR GAME?

They're good to us. We've got a good home and away support. They're very encouraging to us, especially with the young boys so I hope it continues.

ARE THERE ANY IMPROVEMENTS THAT YOU FEEL THAT YOU COULD ADD TO YOUR GAME?

There's always room for improvement and you can't be content with your form at the moment. I score goals but I'm playing in a wide position and I've got to get into the box more, and work up and down the park. If you've got weaknesses, you work on them in training and get them straight.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE GAME TO PLAY?

I think it has to be the first game I played at Dundee United. I've scored a few hat tricks but in that game, I did an overhead kick and that's always stuck in my mind.

WHO HAVE BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE PLAYERS TO PLAY ALONGSIDE?

I played with Kjell Ollasen at Dundee United up front and he was good to play with. At Pittodrie, Darren Young is good in midfield. He works hard and gets the ball.

WHO ARE YOUR FOOTBALLING IDOLS?

I like skilful players who can score goals. Kenny Dalglish and Ally McCoist are players who I like.

CRAIG BROWN HAS TALKED ABOUT YOUR RESURGENT THIS SEASON

AND HAS COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU IN THE SCOTLAND SQUAD. WHAT ARE THOUGHTS ON THAT?

Well, I've pushed back into midfield and have been scoring goals from the left and the right. If you play well for your club, there is the chance that you will get called for the national team.



SPL MATCH REPORT

SPL MATCH REPORT

SPL MATCH REPORT



1/12/01

Aberdeen 1 St Johnstone 0

Better EIGHT than never!

A crowd of over 17,000 was attracted to Pittodrie as the Dons embarked on their quest to make it eight home wins in a row. Around one quarter of the home support had benefited from free entry as part of a promotion run by the Club entitled "Take a sinner to see the Saints". The promotion aimed to entice lapsed fans back to Pittodrie which, on the day, proved to be an undoubted success. However, all at the Club were well aware that a positive result was essential to ensure that all those repenting 'sinners' did not head home to relapse into their old ways.

Aberdeen manager Ebbe Skovdahl made three changes to his starting line-up following his side's narrow defeat at the hands of Motherwell the previous Saturday. In what was an attack-minded line-up, Ben Thornley, Cato Guntveit and Hicham



Striker Hicham Zerouali controls the ball.

Zerouali all came in for the home side with Fergus Tiernan, Derek Young and Eugene Dadi all dropping to the bench. Darren Young completed the final game of his two-match suspension. St Johnstone boss Billy Stark included the experienced Willie Falconer in his starting eleven however the former Dons favourite was deployed in the unfamiliar role as a centre back due to the Saints crippling injury list.

Roared on by the vociferous home crowd the Dons pressed forward in an attempt to make an early breakthrough. Ben Thornley was first to threaten for the home side when he got on the end of a Kevin McNaughton cut-back before drilling a shot straight at Alan Miller in the St Johnstone goal.

Despite their early pressure Aberdeen could have found themselves behind in the 12th minute thanks to some slack defending. Saints Paul Hartley took possession wide on the left of midfield. The winger hit the by-line before cutting the ball back across goal for Paddy Connolly. The Saints striker completely mistimed his shot, the ball running through to the unmarked Craig Russell who, with the Dons defence static, ballooned the ball high over the bar when he should have scored.

Two minutes later St Johnstone were forced to replace Benito Kemble after the influential defender suffered a painful facial injury whilst attempting to block a shot from Darren Mackie.

Youngster David McClune replaced the dazed defender.



Robbie Winters strikes the ball

St Johnstone again caused Red Army hearts to skip a beat when they came within inches of taking the lead. Thornley was penalised for handball on the edge of the Dons penalty area. Paul Hartley's resultant free kick left goalkeeper Peter Kjaer rooted to the spot as the ball rocketed towards the top corner only to rebound off the goal frame.

Having survived these early scares, Aberdeen pushed forward and snatched the lead through a sublime strike from Robbie Winters. Kevin McNaughton fed Mackie wide on the left, the

talented forward measured a cross for Robbie WINTERS who took a touch then magnificently lobbed the ball over Alan Miller to send the home crowd wild.

Aberdeen, galvanised by their goal, pressed for a second. Darren Mackie came close in the 33rd minute with a 22-yard strike which went narrowly wide with Miller scampering across his goal. The Dons continued to dominate for the remainder of the first half, but despite all of their possession, they could not convert their numerous chances into goals.

Half Time: Aberdeen 1 St Johnstone 0

Fergus Tiernan replaced the injured Cato Guntveit at the break, the Norwegian midfielder having picked up a knock at the tail end of the first half.

Saints keeper Alan Miller was forced into the first of several fine second-half saves within two minutes of the restart. Dons winger Ben Thornley found Zerouali in space on the edge of the visitors penalty area. The Moroccan International wove his way through the Saints defence before unleashing a 15-yard shot, which Miller did well to beat away.

Five minutes later Darren Mackie came close

to adding to the Dons lead. The forward raced past Willie Falconer, cut inside and fired a low shot goalward, which was again well held by the Saints on-loan goalkeeper.

The Dons pressure was incessant but could not break down the resolute Saints rearguard, Ben Thornley and Darren Mackie again coming close for the home side midway through the second half.

St Johnstone could have equalised in the 70th minute through Paddy Connolly. The striker intercepted the ball in midfield and raced towards the Aberdeen goal with the Dons defence desperately shuttling back to halt the forward's advance. Under pressure from Phil McGuire the Saints striker could only shoot weakly past Kjaer's right-hand post.

Three minutes later Kevin McNaughton raced back upfield and let fly with a 25-yard shot which rebounded off of the base of the post with Miller well beaten. The Saints did attempt to rally near the end, but it was too little too late as the Dons ran out worthy winners.

Final Score: Aberdeen 1 St Johnstone 0

Att: 17,369



Ben Thornley gets the ball past his opponent.



Kevin McNaughton fires a shot.

PREVIEW & MATCH STATS

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Recent form suggests today's meeting could be a classic. Aberdeen on a roll at home and Celtic likewise, wherever they seem to play. Indifferent away form has caused concern for Ebbe Skovdahl as his young side seem to thrive on a rejuvenated atmosphere at home, yet struggle on their travels. Last season the Dons gave Celtic a real battle in both Pittodrie meetings. Robbie Winters seemed to have handed Celtic their first defeat of the season until a late Larsson header preserved the Bhoys unbeaten record. No doubt the game today will be won or lost in the midfield. Aberdeen seem to have struck a rich blend with Darren Young finally coming into his own, ably supported by Roberto Bisconti who is enjoying a superb start to his Aberdeen career. Celtic of course are strong in this department with the experience of Lambert and Lennon backed up by the natural ability of Petrov. An intriguing prospect awaits. It remains to be seen if Ebbe Skovdahl will go for the direct approach in Eugene Dadi, fast becoming a cult figure at Pittodrie or the sublime skills of Hicham Zerouali. Whatever formation the Dons boss goes for you can be assured that they would really test their illustrious visitors today.

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORD V CELTIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Pittodrie	52	17	17	18	68	72
Celtic Park	52	11	15	26	52	87
Total	104	28	32	44	120	159

Website: www.afc.co.uk



HAVE YOU WON THE CHANCE TO SEE THE DONS FREE FOR THE NEXT DECADE?

As you know, www.thisisnorthscotland.co.uk have teamed up with www.afc.co.uk to give you the fantastic opportunity to win **A PAIR OF SEASON TICKETS FOR THE NEXT 10 SEASONS!**

SO HOW DID YOU GET ON AND WHO WON THE PRIZE?

ANSWERS:

AFC Website:

- Pic1: Alex McLeish
- Pic2: Doug Rougvie
- Pic3: Bobby Clark
- Pic4: Rachid Belabed
- Pic5: Steve Archibald
- Pic6: Roberto Bisconti

T.I.N.S. Website:

- Pic1: Eoin Jess
- Pic2: Bobby Connor
- Pic3: Joey Harper
- Pic4: Cato Guntveit
- Pic5: Derek Whyte
- Pic6: Russell Anderson

The lucky winner will be presented before today's kick-off

Many thanks to our

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competition sponsors

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UNION STREET, ABERDEEN

Come for a drink

before

or after the game!!