

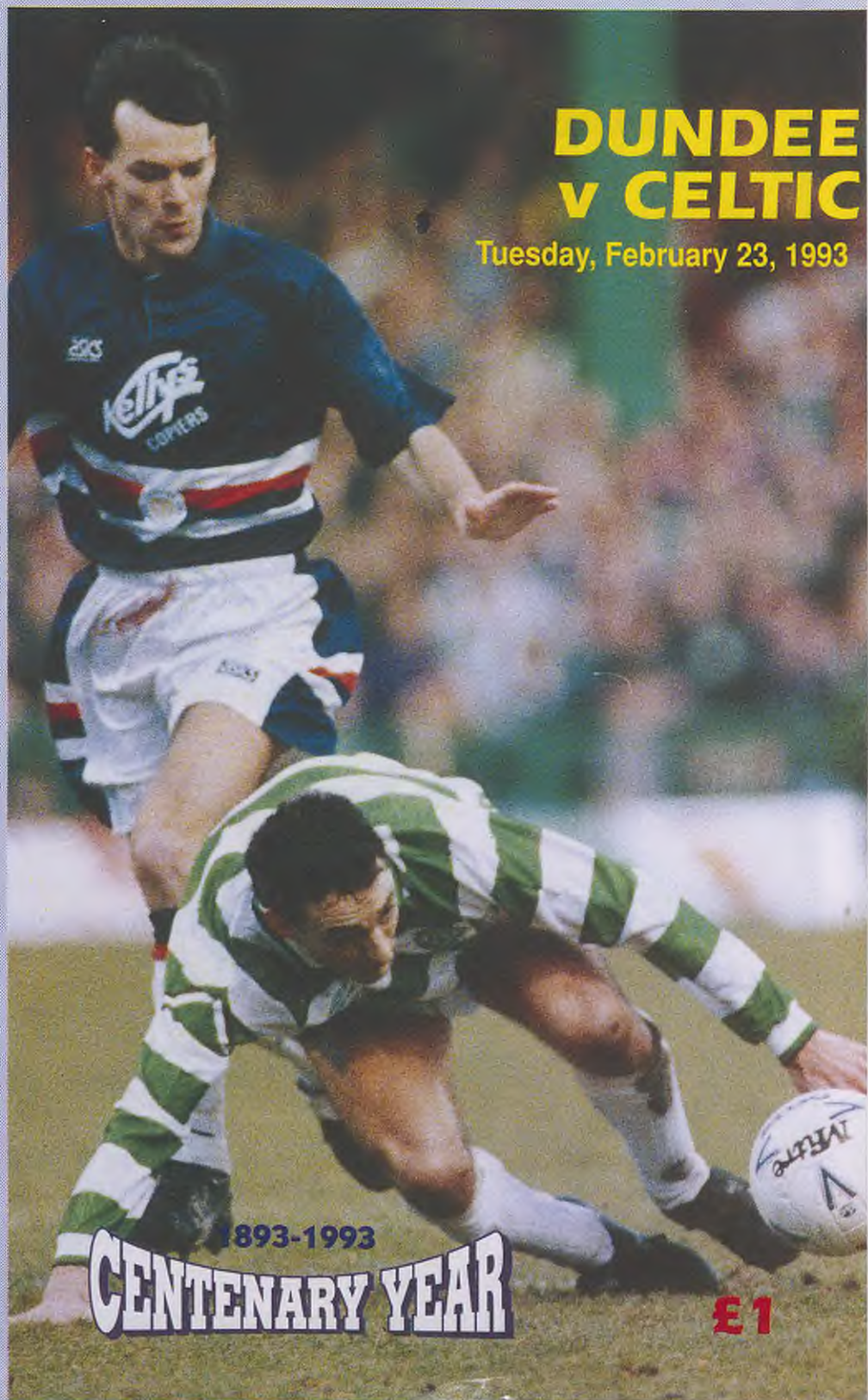
# Match Magazine



# Dark Blue

## DUNDEE v CELTIC

Tuesday, February 23, 1993



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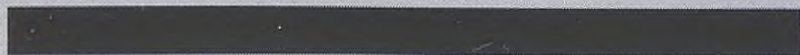
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# Simon says ..

**The 3-1 win at Easter Road was a very good result but I don't want anyone getting carried away by it.**

The conditions played a major part in the inconsistency of the game and my feeling is that given decent playing conditions we would have beaten Hibs anyway.

But the elements had such a big say in the shape of the match that in the end the deciding factor was that we were able to stick away the two chances.

It really was very difficult to get the ball down and even when it was on the deck, the wind was moving the ball.

In saying that, it still goes down as a very good away result and one that gives us further confidence to continue our climb up the table.

But the two points we brought home will not disguise the fact that we still have a lot of work to do and now is the time for more hard work and concentration to keep bringing in the points and hopefully, consolidate our position.

I am at the stage when I am now getting an accurate picture of what our best squad is and I am much happier than I have been about the level of competition for places in the starting line-up.

I had a couple knocking on my door on Friday afternoon asking why they weren't included in the travelling party for Edinburgh and, to be honest, they have a point.

**But my job as manager is to decide what is the best side for any given game and it is up to the players to do everything they can to stay in the team when they are picked.**

The idea of a successful club is based on having competition for places right through the team and I feel we have made progress in this direction.

Tonight we welcome Celtic who have won by the single goal in all three previous meetings.

We will be looking to reverse that and if we perform to the maximum of our capabilities, then I'm sure we will get the result we deserve.

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## FAT MAN ON THE SOFA . . . BIG AL

### PROVY'S NET GAIN

**S**IMON'S cracking Swinner against the Perth Saints proved the point . . .

The folks in the Provy Road end have certainly had their money's worth of the action this season.

A quick check through the Dark Blue video shows five dramatic second-half winners for us so far in the league.

And four of those have come at the Provy Road end.

Boy, would I like all the fans behind that goal to get another great Dundee winner tonight.

Can you name the four match winners. Answers at foot of this page.

### POWER CRAZY

**A**LL that carry on About Spurs cutting off the power supply to the Wimbledon ghetto-blasters before last week's live FA Cup-tie, has brought the infamous Dens tannoy system back to mind.

Rumour has been sweeping the area suggesting that the tannoy will be back at full blast for tonight's game after announcer Mike Dunn carried out some daring repairs with a roll of insulating tape.

Said a hopeful Mike: "I've done a lot of work on it this week and now I'm just keeping my fing--s cr--ed."



### ADIOS AMIGOS

⌈ The Spanish season is reaching the boil. The challengers, Deportiva La Coruna, are threatening the biggest shock for years . . . and then *Screensport* go and pull the plug on their coverage. *Mama Mia*, pass the San Miguel.

## BILLY, DON'T BE A HERO!

**I**F BILLY DODDS ever wants to test my good nature he can do so by copying those chancers we see every week on telly who think they can score penalties with a two-step run up.

The latest culprit to fail was the Atalanta player who blew the chance to terminate that annoying

unbeaten record of AC Milan.

James Richardson on the excellent Saturday morning Italian round-up (Ch 4) told us that forward-thinking Atalanta are running a unique scheme.

#### BLOOD PRESSURE

The season ticket holders are refunded 15% of their money if the club fails to win more than 35 points this season.

I shudder to think what

two-step penalty misses do to the president's blood pressure - not to mention the bank manager.

#### ☐ GEEZA JOB

**O**N *The Footballers Football Show* (Sky), Coventry boss Bobby Gould told fellow panellists, including a very attentive Malcolm Allison, that he insists on a large backroom staff at Coventry.

The chairman has apparently been told that all sorts of people require salaries if Coventry are to be a success.

Three days later and Big Mal gives another of his in-depth interviews to Martin Tyler.

Tyler: "If things don't work out for you here at Bristol is there a Premier League Club you admire enough to work for?"

Big Mal after long deliberation: "Coventry City, I like their style."

Mal's style isn't bad either.

### Jack's the lad

**T**HE most exciting TV action of the month had to be that marvellous 45 minutes which produced six goals between Blackburn and Sheffield Wednesday in the Coca-Cola cup.

Writing in the *Daily Star*, Ian Stirrup picked up on ITV commentator Alan Parry's disclosure that he had lost a contact lens prior to the game which was restricting his vision.

Said the journalist: "That meant that Alan and his unbelievable summariser Jack Charlton had only three eyes and one and a quarter brains - between them . . ."

Come on, Alan Parry is a smart chap, but surely *The Star* isn't suggesting that he has a brain and a quarter.

⌈ Provy Road winners: Vrto v Motherwell, Stainrod v Falkirk, McGowan - Hearts, Stainrod v St. Johnstone.



## CORNER BOY CRAIG

**T**HE Sports Diary in *Scotland On Sunday* has been giving us a dose of statistics that always make novelty reading but no real sense.

They tell us that Dundee have averaged 0.852 of a point for every Premier League game we have contested in 12 years of competition.

That average leaves us in 9th position in the all time list, and wouldn't you just guess we would be in that spot.

Celtic are out on their own at the top of the all time list but if their average of 1.363 points per game crashed to a paltry 1.361 after tonight it's hardly likely to have Brian Dempsey crashing through the Parkhead door on a JCB tomorrow is it?

Taking the statistics into even more outrageous territory was Craig Brown after the Under-21 international against Malta at Tannadice when he reflected on two Scotland headed goals from corner kicks.

"Normally in World Cup football you only score once from every 42 corner kicks taken" said Craig. Would that be in-swingers I wonder?

## SKI JUMPING MADE ME WILD

**D**ID you behave like a wild animal while watching that excellent FA Cup-tie between Sheffield United and Man United a couple of weeks back.

Wild animal was my description from a startled wife when the drama and tension of a superb finale was interrupted by BBC 2 pictures of ski-jumping cutting into the football coverage.

If you, too, were swearing, pushing buttons and shoulder-charging the telly when pictures were lost for 30 seconds, you should get back in your cage.

Seeing the new Man. United kit in this game makes me wonder if the current

**H**AS Gerry McNee landed a job working for the SFA?

Prior to the Under-21 game against Malta at Tannadice, Gerry was giving *Scotsport* viewers all the guff about ticket prices for this game when he should really have been asking, what on earth the working punters are supposed to do with a 1.30 kick-off.

If that point was lost on Gerry, what can you say about his total silence regarding that bizarre no-goal situation when Partick played United at Firhill.

OK, so *Scotsport* did carry film of the incident, but you would think that the studio experts would have had something worthwhile to say about it.

*Thank goodness the factory locker room on Monday morning was a bit more enterprising.*

I heard a Dundee fan tell an Arab that "the **WHOLE BALL** had to be over the line."

**Y**ES, the Firhill rammy gave me a chuckle.

But I stopped sort of a giggle when Tommy Burns lobbed the keeper and crossbar in that amazing incident during the Scottish Cup replay between Killie and St. Johnstone at

## Gerry's slip is showing

McDiarmid Park.

Killie are not one of my favourite teams but how could I gloat over Tommy's misfortune when the lucky keeper is Andy Rhodes?

**L**EEDS captain Garry McAllister was moved to admit there was a genuine mistake by the ref.

It happened after the Oldham keeper clearly punched the ball away only to have a penalty awarded against his side because the ref thought it was a defender's hand.

"I wasn't asking any questions" said Gary before slotting home the penalty kick.

How very professional, I don't suppose Gary considered rolling the ball into the keeper's hands from the penalty spot so that his team could get on with winning the game fairly.

Gary would have probably lived very well for the next 10 years because of such a gesture but then again, a 2-0 victory is a lot better than 1-0.

**T**HE *Sporting Post* TV columnist has his own opinions on the choice of games provided for weekend viewers.

Last week he described Hearts v Falkirk with a 'yawn' in brackets.

I don't understand why the yawn was attached to this fixture as both teams usually provide good entertainment and this game was no exception with lots of goalmouth incidents including a brilliant own goal by Alex Taylor.

It was quite the best o.g. I've seen since John Clark buried a 35-yarder at Dens in a reserve game a while back.

**I think he was a fisherman the following week.**

obsession with old-fashioned strips is maybe getting out of control.

How long will it be before Paul Mathers is wearing one of these yellow woolly jumpers and matching gloves all knitted by his Auntie Jean?

**B**BC's *Tomorrow's World* featured something called interactive TV and they assure us it's on it's way.

This remote control technology will enable us to watch action from a choice of camera locations with a button to re-run action replays when you the viewer wants.

But the most mind-blowing trick was to split the TV screen in four quarters and view **FOUR** channels at once. Sounds like just the thing for Sunday afternoons!





GRAHAM RIX



IVO DEN BIEMAN

**T**HE battle cry from Simon Stainrod was simple and straight to the point.

"Get mud on your shorts and sweat on your brows" was the message in the wake of that dreary performance at Firhill. It was delivered prior to the hazardous visit to Broomfield where another reverse would have been disastrous for the Dark Blues.

Given the importance of the occasion it was certain that the hosts would give their all.

A reputation as a tough, no-nonsense side has not endeared Airdrie to the general football public and if certain observations about their methods may be viewed as unfair there can be no doubting their capacity to 'bite and scratch' for points in the Premier League jungle of survival.

Far be it for such comment to be critical, my expressed view is intended more as a compliment to their character and resolve.

*They are fully conscious of their limitations and what they may lack in class and finesse on the one hand is balanced by grit and determination on the other.*

Their style is not flavour of the month with soccer purists but guarantees that the form book will surely be upset from

# Sleeves-up approach worked the miracle . .

time to time.

I arrived at the ground early and was immediately troubled by a prolonged view of the tight park which was unlikely to yield any benefit to the visitors.

As expected, this ding-dong encounter produced considerable drama, but much of it for all the wrong reasons. Match official Joe Timmons produced two red cards and seven yellow amid much controversy. Police and stewards were forced to intervene, urging the visiting support to stay calm.

Never before have I witnessed such anger on the terracing, and yet, given the number of bizarre decisions in such a vital match, I would suggest that the response was hardly surprising.

*Divine intervention further defused the issue, courtesy of Garry Paterson, whose goal not only levelled the scores but restored some sanity to the proceedings off the park.*

Despite the early departure of Den Bieman and Graham Rix, Dundee staged an historic fightback (again!) to earn a priceless point.

Indeed, the Dark Blues dominated the second half and had the Diamonds on the ropes for long spells with a new-found determination which knocked the hosts out of their stride. At the end of the day all Dark Blue fans just had to be happy with the 2-2 outcome considering the circumstances.

**VERDICT** - The manager demanded more commitment and he certainly got it. Our back-from-the-dead performances are becoming legendary and this is another which will be recalled for many years to come. If we can successfully ally such commitment to a continued emphasis on skill then better days surely lie ahead.

PS. Den Bieman and Rix must be the least likely candidates at Dens for red card treatment. I think that says it all!

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## .. STEVE SCHOPPLER REPORTS

**IT'S OFFICIAL.** The Jags from Maryhill confirmed their status as Dundee's jinx team with a 2-0 victory at damp and miserable Firhill.

Yet again, Thistle overcame the Dens challenge with relative ease and the pattern of recent encounters leads me to conclude that Dundee have not learned how to cope with the predictable style of the Glasgow club.

Why we struggle against them may be a mystery but, in my view, the reasons are there for all to see and given Simon Stainrod's post-match analysis it is clear that he, too, recognises the problems and how they should be tackled.

Predictably, Dundee dominated the early stages. But having survived the onslaught, Thistle began to grow in confidence and never looked back. In truth, the Dark Blues had no answer to the direct, hard-working style of the opposition and could not break the stranglehold once it had been established.

*It could be that I'm not giving the Jags the credit they deserve. Their committed, hard-running brand of football is a joy to behold at times and clearly Maryhill punters are getting value for money.*

Having said that, it is my belief that the Dark Blues are their own worst enemies by repeatedly failing to match the Thistle work-rate and determination.

The space and time Thistle enjoyed was at times disturbing and the absence of meaningful challenges in the midfield

**We've  
seen  
this one  
before!**

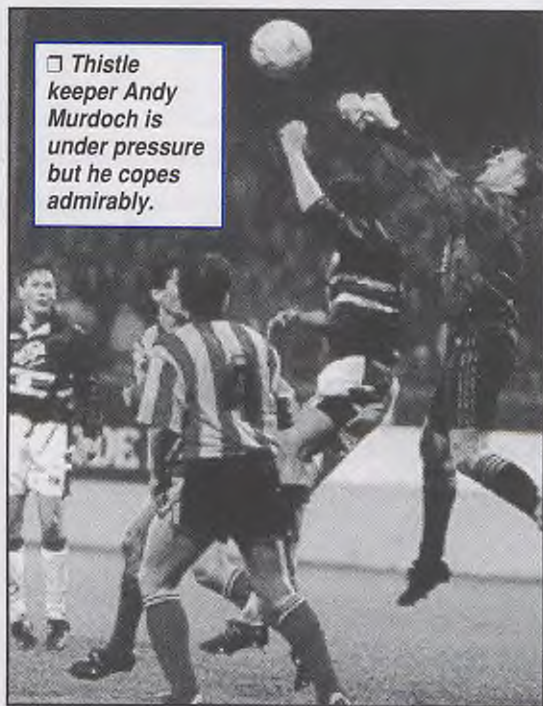
zone dictated that the Dark Blues were always going to struggle.

I have no doubts that Dundee are well capable of producing good football going forward. However, the art of defending is a requisite skill in all successful sides and until this problem is addressed at Dens progress may be hindered.

All outfield players should be fully aware of their responsibilities in defensive areas.

I am not suggesting for one moment that they hurl themselves at the opposition and kick everything that moves, goodness,

*Thistle keeper Andy Murdoch is under pressure but he copes admirably.*



our disciplinary record is bad enough!

What I do advocate is a collective effort to deny opponents freedom and time on the ball, a feat achieved successfully at Pittodrie recently.

If we can master this on a regular basis then I feel certain that we can look forward to improved performances and results at venues such as Firhill and Broomfield where the physical demands are high.

**VERDICT** - Deja vu. Lambie's red and yellow army must wish their favourites could face the Dark Blues every week.

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# EUROPE THE ONLY GOAL!

**C**ELTIC have finished on the level in their last two Premier League games.

But the vastly different complexion of these results sums up the frustrating season that it has been so far for Liam Brady and his Bhoys.

On Saturday past the Parkhead outfit showed the down side of their nature when they could only draw 0-0 at home to Partick Thistle and went off to a chorus of boos.

Seven days earlier, the players and fans had rallied to the beleaguered cause with a stirring show at Pittodrie, earning a deserved 1-1 draw which stopped the high-flying Dons in their tracks.

## CRUCIAL

*On the one occasion Celtic showed the exciting brand of attacking football that has been their hallmark for so many years.*

But on the other, they plunged to the depths of mediocrity as they failed to threaten Partick's "what-we-have-we-hold" bid for a point that may prove crucial to their survival bid.

The place in Europe via the UEFA Cup League position is all they have to strive for and the big worry down Parkhead way is that gates will suffer further if that challenge isn't sustained.

**SCOTTISH FOOTBALL WATCHES AND WONDERS HOW THE CELTIC SITUATION IS GOING TO DEVELOP.**

And if anyone out there is prepared to argue with the assertion that we all need a strong Old Firm, just check tonight's attendance which would seem a certainty



**□ BONUS**  
**BHOY . . .**  
**Scotland full-back Tommy Boyd, signed in the swap deal which took Tony Cascarino to Chelsea, has proved a big hit with the Parkhead faithful.**

to cast doubt on the decision to make this an all-ticket occasion.

Despite all the problems, there is still quality aplenty in the Green and White, men like Pat Bonner, Paul McStay, Tom Boyd, John Collins and our old boy Tommy Coyne.

Perhaps unfairly, the responsibility for rescuing something from a disastrous season lies on their shoulders.

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