

The

NEWS

£2.00

SEASON 2001-02



Celtic



**Tennent's
Scottish Cup
5th Round
Monday**

**25th February 2002
Kick Off 7.45pm**

Today's programme
sponsored by

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Stable Services Limited

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Web Site: www.stable-services.co.uk

STABLE SERVICES Ltd.

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Stable Services Ltd. was established in 1977 and has remained independent through self financed expansion and a lot of hard work.

The company deals primarily with the manufacture and repair of down-hole drilling equipment including stabilisers, core barrels, drilling subs, drill bits and Drill Pipe.

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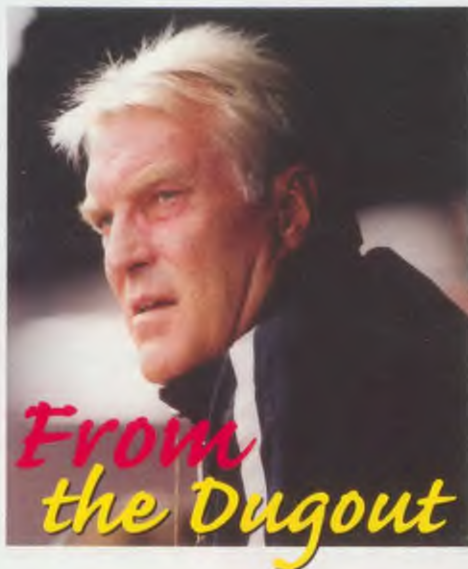
There is no doubt that our preparation for this evening's game could not have been better with a fantastic team performance against Dundee United last weekend in which every single player displayed total commitment and a tremendous attitude.

A similar approach is an absolute must tonight for a game that I am sure will be an extremely entertaining cup-tie. We put on a great performance back in December to defeat Celtic and there is no doubt whatsoever that they will be out to get their own back for that one.

The prospect of a semi-final spot is a huge incentive for both sides and having reached the final a couple of seasons ago, there is nothing I would like better than to repeat that feat. However, Celtic are, of course, a massive hurdle to overcome!

I was delighted with the promise shown by Leon Mike during the short spell he was on the field against United and he did enough to demonstrate that he will be a useful asset to the squad. Unfortunately, because a player has to be signed by a fortnight prior to a Tennent's Scottish Cup match, he is ineligible to play tonight.

Darren Young, who has been missing through injury for the past three games, should be available again, as should Ben Thornley, who also sat out the United game because of a knock.



This is a crucial period for us and while a top six finish looks likely, following tonight's game, we have to go to Celtic Park at the weekend and then Dens Park a week later. We are then at home to Dunfermline before our last game prior to the split, against Livingston at Almondvale. A lot can change over the course of these matches!

And, of course, victory in tonight's clash would give us a huge lift ahead of that run in but, as I have already stated, it is going to be extremely difficult. However, we will most definitely give it our best shot and if we perform at the same level as we did in our last match then we certainly have a chance.

Enjoy the game!

EBBE SKOVDAHL

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The 12-team SPL must remain!!

SPL League Table 2001-2002

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	29	26	2	1	72	14	80
Rangers	29	20	7	2	66	22	67
Livingston	28	13	8	7	39	28	47
ABERDEEN	29	13	5	11	42	40	44
Kilmarnock	29	10	8	11	33	36	38
Hearts	29	10	6	13	38	39	36
Dunfermline	29	9	7	13	34	51	34
Dundee Utd	29	8	8	13	29	51	32
Dundee	28	8	7	13	27	42	31
Motherwell	29	8	6	15	39	53	30
Hibernian	29	5	10	14	34	48	25
St Johnstone	29	4	4	21	20	48	16

TICKET OFFICE

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We welcome Celtic to Pittodrie today. 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 be efficient and helpful. The Call Centre is open Monday-Friday until 8pm to make purchasing tickets easier.

Phase 2 of the new Internet site is now up and running. We hope you find this service of interest and we welcome any feedback that you may have.

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

upcoming fixtures

Celtic v Aberdeen

2nd March 2002. Kick Off 3.00pm Bank of Scotland Premier League.

This will be an all ticket match

Dundee v Aberdeen

9th March 2002. Kick Off 3.00pm

Bank of Scotland Premier League.

This will not be an all ticket match

Aberdeen v Dunfermilne

16th March 2002. Kick Off 3.00pm

Bank of Scotland Premier League.

This will not be an all ticket match

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 - Until kick-off and open after the game

Opening Times may vary depending upon fixtures.

Check local press and www.afc.co.uk

for details. All information correct at 25/2/02. May be subject to change.



BRING YOUR PARTY TO A PARTY

Aberdeen Football Club presents a brand new concept designed to make your birthday truly memorable

- Birthday Meal • Gift for birthday person
- Player and Angus the Bull appearances
 - Disco • Games
- Photograph of your birthday group

Celebrate your birthday at Pittodrie where others who celebrate their birthday around the monthly date bring their friends to meet your friends.

£9.99 per person (minimum 8)
5.30-7.30 p.m. 2nd Thursday
of every month

Why not ask for more details? Phone Julie Finn on our Birthday Hotline, Tel. (01224) 650420.

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 travelled with us for the recent game at St Johnstone.

Coaches will again be available for the upcoming game.

CELTIC - 2nd MARCH 2002

The coach will depart Pittodrie at 11.00am direct to Celtic Park check in time is 10.45am at Golf Road, outside the Richard Donald Stand. The coach will depart Celtic Park immediately after the game and arrive back at Pittodrie at approximately 8pm. Bookings close Thursday 28th February 2002 at 12.00pm or until all seats 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.

Consistency for me is to stay in the top 5 for ten years ... Ebbe Skovdahl

INTERVIEW
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WHAT WILL A WIN TODAY MEAN TO YOU, THE PLAYERS AND THE CLUB AS A WHOLE?

It will be a tough task for us but it is possible to win. I think it would be good financially but also for the reputation of the players and the club as a whole.

HOW DID YOU ENCOURAGE THE PLAYERS FOR A GAME LIKE THIS?

We didn't do anything different. Always, when we play, we have a rest the next day to recover. Then, we start focusing on the next game- all the way up to that match.

HOW DOES THE VICTORY OVER CELTIC AT XMAS TIME- EQUALLING FERGIE'S 9 WIN HOME RUN-RATE IN YOUR TIME AT PITTODRIE SO FAR?

First of all, I am pleased about the points. That win gave us 27 points in a row at home and that has had a big influence on where we are at the moment.

It is always interesting making history and I am pleased we at least reached the same level as the team in the 80's. But at that time they maybe had some better away results to go with the home run.

HOW MUCH, IF ANYTHING, WILL YOU TAKE FROM THAT GAME TO THIS ONE?

It's a different game and we have to expect a team on full alert after the last game at Pittodrie. There is no doubt that it will not make this game easy.

LAST SEASON, CELTIC WERE SCORING QUITE A FEW GOALS AGAINST US. THIS HAS BEEN ALTERED GREATLY THIS SEASON. WHAT'S CHANGED?

I think games make people improve. We have been working hard and concentrating on getting as well organised as we can. Altogether, it has given us more consistency.

When you're more disciplined and organised, you work better as a unit. That is what I would call improvement.

WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES AT THE CLUB?

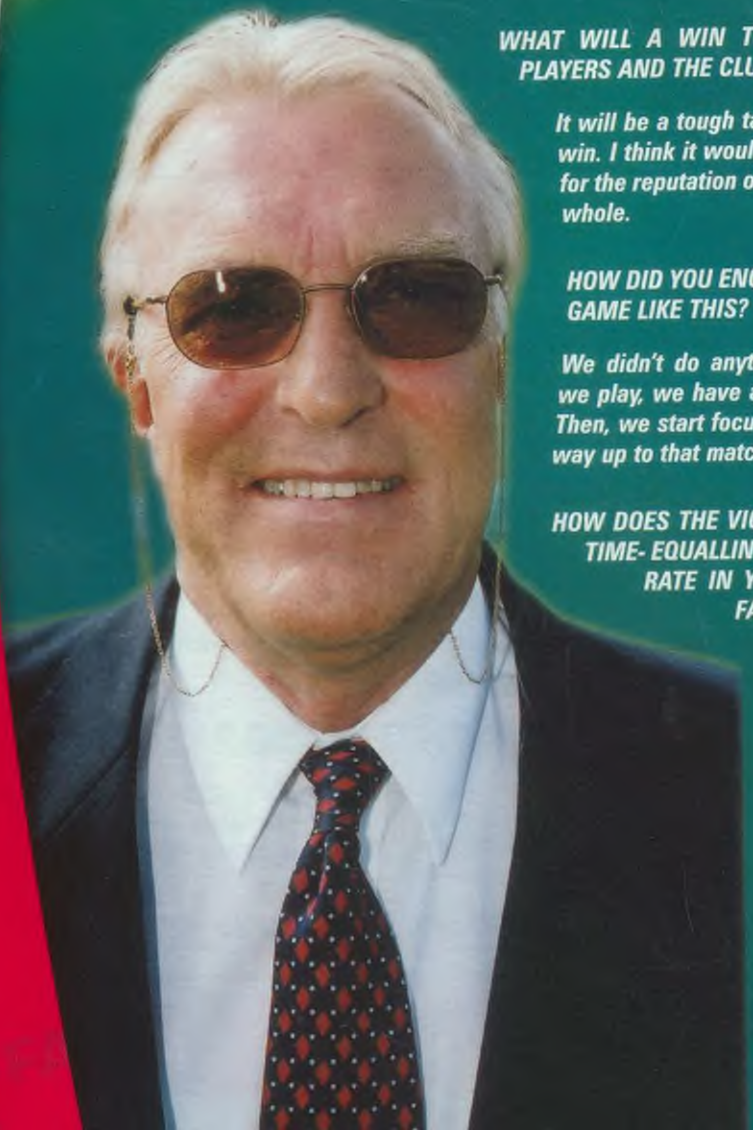
There are times when we are solid in defence and then there are periods when we let goals in. We are the fourth top scoring side in Scotland and that is good. I am happy at the moment.

WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN GOALS FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON AND LONG TERM?

Long term is to continually improve. This season, it is entirely up to us to stay in the top 6. Consistency for me is to stay in the top 5 for ten years. Then, you can talk about stability.

DO YOU EVER GET TIRED OF WAVING AT THE FANS?

No, never. Sometimes, it takes me a little time to hear what the supporters are cheering, because you are so focused on the game. I really enjoy that very much.



SPL MATCH REPORT

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16/2/02

Aberdeen 4 Dundee Utd 0

*United
untied by
rampant
Dons!*

If this had been a boxing match, the 13,612 crowd would have been making their way home before the interval, such was the dominance of the Dons over a very poor Tannadice outfit.

It took the home side just ninety seconds to open their account when Darren Mackie nutmegged Hasney Aljofree on the right



Darren Mackie's shot is saved.

before shooting low at Paul Gallacher. The United keeper spilled what should have been a routine save and, as his defenders dithered, Robbie WINTERS stepped in to shoot home for his thirteenth goal of the season.

With eight and a half minutes on the clock, the Dons doubled their advantage. Again Darren started the move, with a cross from the right.

Danny Griffin's

attempted clearance flew high into the air and was headed on by Robbie to Derek YOUNG who fired a fierce angled volley past the helpless Gallacher.

The shell-shocked visitors were struggling to get into the game in any shape or form and on the quarter hour mark the Pittodrie side nearly added number three when Eugene Dadi's cross was met by Derek Young, who headed tamely into Gallacher's arms.

In nineteen minutes, Jamie Fullarton picked up the game's first yellow card, for persistent fouling, and from the resultant free kick, Phil McGuire sneaked in at the back post but failed to get enough on his effort to trouble Gallacher.

At the other end, a Steven Thompson

header in the 27th minute was comfortably dealt with by Peter Kjaer.

Four minutes before the break, the United defence had to look lively to thwart Eugene inside the box and just before the half-time whistle, Thompson missed a great opportunity when one to one on Peter, shooting weakly into the keeper's arms.

Half Time: Aberdeen 2 Dundee Utd 0

There was no doubt that the Tangerines needed a quick goal to have any chance of getting themselves back into the game and there was indeed an early strike, but it was a third for the Dons.

Cato Guntveit started the move with a pass to Darren Mackie, whose long diagonal ball was just too strong for Eugene. Jim Lauchlan and Jamie McCunnie inexplicably left the ball for Derek YOUNG to nip between them and stab the ball home.

A couple of minutes later Darren Mackie came close to making it four with a powerful shot that Gallacher did well to touch round the post. From the resultant corner, Cato Guntveit's netbound shot was cleared off the line by Fullarton.

In the 62nd minute, debut boy Leon Mike received a tremendous ovation when he came on for Eugene Dadi and the young Englishman almost netted within four minutes of his arrival when he shot over the bar following a corner.

Four minutes later, United substitute Stephen Carson came close with a shot that flew inches past the post.

The final goal action came with eight



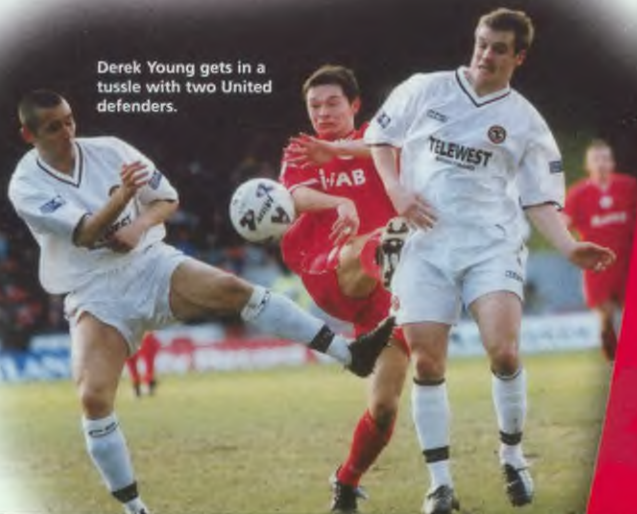
Leon Mike celebrates his first goal for the Dons.

minutes remaining with new boy Leon MIKE capping a fine debut when he cracked the ball into the net after great work from Robbie Winters.

To be fair to United they never gave up and there was still time for Derek Young to clear off the line and Peter Kjaer to save from youngster Marc Cocozza.

Final Score: Aberdeen 4 Dundee Utd 0

Att: 13,612



Derek Young gets in a tussle with two United defenders.

PREVIEW & MATCH STATS

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SCOTTISH CUP RECORD V CELTIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Pittodrie	7	2	3	2	9	8
Parkhead	9	2	2	5	3	14
Neutral	9	4	0	5	9	10
Total	25	8	5	12	22	32

It is perhaps fair comment to suggest that tonight's Scottish Cup-tie against Celtic is the Dons biggest game of the season. However, last week's results have offered the Dons the chance to go on and push for a third place finish in the SPL with a slot in the UEFA Cup the prize. Unlike last season, Aberdeen now have it all to play for in the closing third of the campaign. Last week the Dons warmed up for the Celtic clash with an impressive display against Dundee Utd who were simply swept aside. The Dons also had the added bonus of giving a debut to new signing Leon Mike from Manchester City. Mike certainly acquitted himself well in the short spell he was on the field, and his first goal for the Dons augurs well for his future. The new Dons striker is not eligible to play tonight but the onus will fall on Eugene Dadi and Robbie Winters to see Aberdeen through. Winters is in lethal form these days and will be a threat to Celtic tonight. It is that kind of form and commitment that will be required in abundance. Celtic are strolling to retaining the SPL title and will be desperate to make Cup Final day after losing out to Rangers in the CIS Cup. The visitors were also on the end of a defeat the last time they visited Pittodrie at Christmas. The Dons really set about their task and were deserved winners in the end. It was certainly a throw back to the days when Celtic did not relish a visit north. Martin O'Neill has adopted a cute sense of praising teams he is about to play, but no one really pays that much attention to that these days. Celtic, as ever, will present a formidable obstacle. No doubt they will be smarting from their last visit here, and perhaps the Celtic manager has every reason to look upon the draw as being unkind to his side. It is up to all the Dons players to prove that is indeed one observation that O'Neill has got spot on.

Aberdeen FC Honours

1946-47	Scottish Cup
1954-55	League Championship
1955-56	League Cup
1969-70	Scottish Cup
1976-77	League Cup
1979-80	League Championship
1981-84	Scottish Cup
1983	European Cup Winners Cup
1983	European Super Cup
1983-85	League Championship
1985-86	League Cup, Scottish Cup
1989-90	League Cup, Scottish Cup
1995-96	League Cup

BELLS LOUNGE

UNION STREET, ABERDEEN

●

*Come for a drink
before or after the game!!*