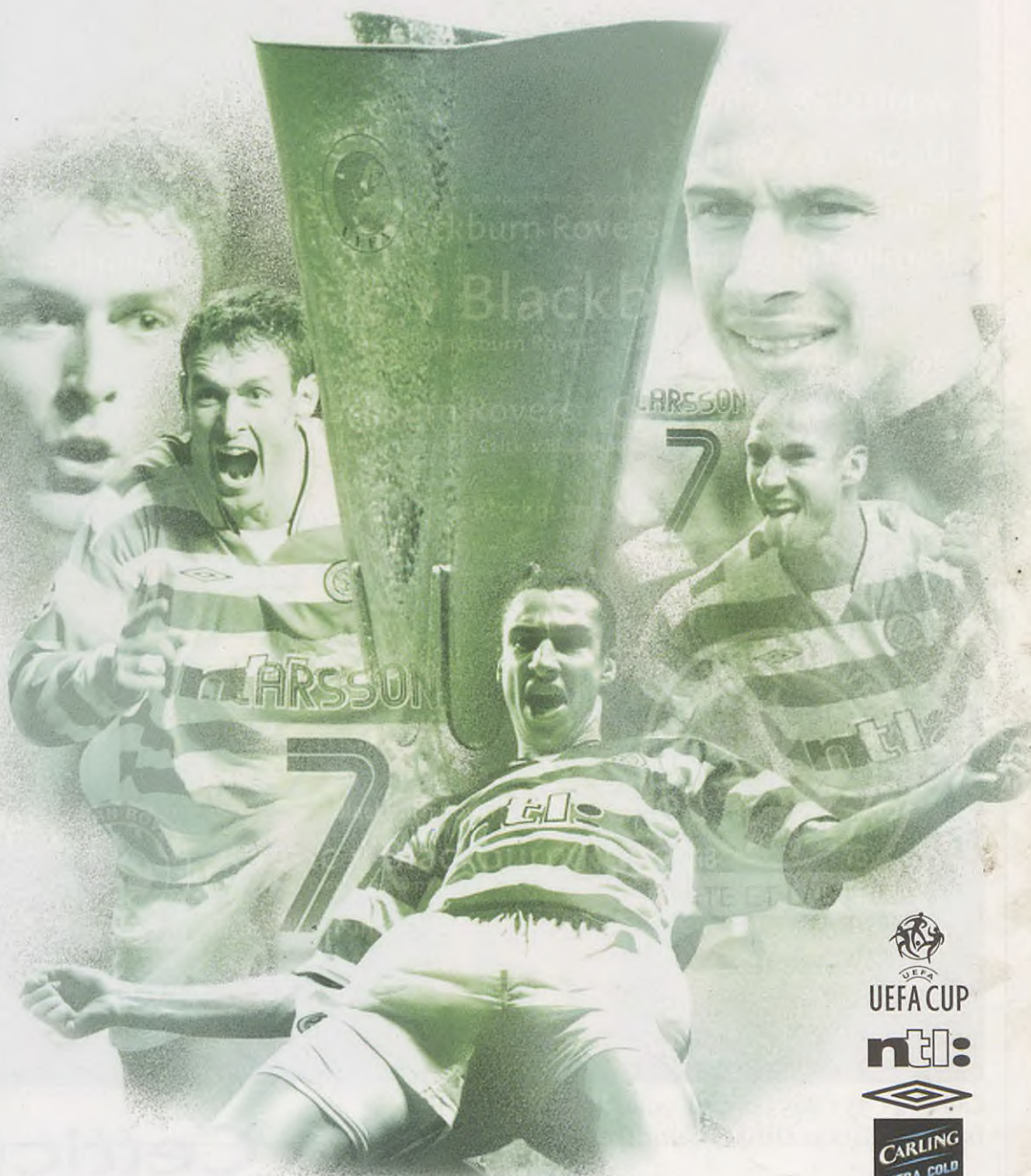


Celtic

v BLACKBURN ROVERS

UEFA Cup Second Round First Leg
Thursday 31st October 2002 k.o. 8.05pm



UEFA CUP



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Celtic 



“Blackburn are arguably the Premiership’s form team at the moment and everyone knows to expect a difficult match.”

WE enjoyed an excellent victory over Dunfermline at East End Park on Sunday.

Jimmy Calderwood’s team started very brightly indeed, and there were a few anxious early moments before we settled into our stride.

First-half goals from Henrik Larsson and Alan Thompson gave us a strong holding on the game but Dunfermline rallied in the second half to cut the deficit and, for a time, put us under some pressure. But we came back very strongly indeed and Stilian Petrov and Chris Sutton scored terrific goals to ensure we won convincingly in the end.

Sunday’s win, following our victory over Hearts at Tynecastle and the exorcising of a ghost by beating Caley Thistle in the CIS Cup last Wednesday, has given us a boost ahead of a mouth-watering, but exceptionally difficult UEFA Cup tie.

Blackburn Rovers, arguably the Premiership’s form team at

the moment, are our visitors, and everyone knows to expect a mightily difficult match.

Steve Walford and I watched them perform very well at Highbury on Saturday to beat Arsenal, one of the best teams in Europe at the moment. Their goalkeeper, Brad Friedel, was in excellent form, but the whole team played with great confidence and composure, obviously buoyed by their 5-2 mauling of Newcastle the previous week.

Graeme Souness has added class players to those already at Ewood Park since arriving at the club, and there’s no doubt that they are technically sound. Currently, they sit just one point off the third-placed team in the Premiership, widely regarded as one of the best leagues in the world, so we know that it’s going to be an exceptionally difficult task to edge them out over two legs. But we will give it everything we have.

Confidence in our own camp is high at the moment and I

have no doubt that we will create some chances this evening. We have been scoring quite liberally at the moment, as have Blackburn, so it should make for an enthralling match.

European evenings at Celtic Park, as I’ve often said in the past, are occasions to savour. I can recall last season’s Champions League games against Porto, Rosenborg and, most memorably, Juventus, and yet all three were perhaps eclipsed by that unforgettable match against Valencia.

That night, the commitment of the players was matched by that of the supporters, and we will need an effort every bit as monumental to ensure we are still in with a chance of going through at the end of tonight’s game.



Celtic FC Factfile

Formed: 1888
Stadium: Celtic Park
 (capacity 60,506)
Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts,
 white shorts, white socks
Away strip: Gold shirts, green
 shorts, gold socks
Third strip: White shirts, black shorts and socks
Record attendance: 92,000 (v Rangers, 1938)
Record victory: 11-0 (v Dundee, 1895)
Record defeat: 0-8 (v Motherwell, 1937)
Most league goals (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory,
 1935/36
Most Premier/SPL goals (1 season): 35, Brian
 McClair 1986/87, Henrik Larsson 2000/01
Website: www.celticfc.net

Honours

Scottish League (38)

1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05,

1905/06, 1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10,
 1913/14, 1914/15, 1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19,
 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36, 1937/38, 1953/54,
 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1969/70,
 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77,
 1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88,
 1997/98, 2000/2001, 2001/2002

Scottish Cup (31)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912,
 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951,
 1954, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975,
 1977, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1995, 2001

League Cup (12)

1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68
 1968/69, 1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98,
 1999/2000, 2000/2001

European Cup (1)

1967

Coronation Cup (1)

1953

CELTIC FACTS

1. After John Thomson died on 5th Sept 1931, John Falconer took over for the following four matches, followed by Joe Coen who wore the keeper's jersey for the next three. During this period Joe Kennaway was contacted and made the first of his 295 appearances against Motherwell in at Fir Park on 31st Oct 1931.

2. In a very threatening atmosphere in the Mozart y Cuyo, Avellaneda, Buenos Aires, Celtic played the second leg of the World Club Championship against Racing Club on 1st Nov 1967. Ronnie Simpson was injured by a missile thrown from the crowd and had to be replaced by John Fallon. Celtic took the lead through Tommy Gemmell in 20 minutes but goals by Raffo and Cardenas gave Racing a 2-1 win. After two games, the teams were now all square 2-2. The rules of the competition dictated a play-off.

3. The Celtic Board and management decided to go ahead with the play-off in Montevideo. Within minutes of the kick-off, the behaviour of the Argentinians worsened and the Celtic players' standards also slipped. Jimmy Johnstone, Bobby Lennox, John Hughes and Bertie Auld were dismissed. Cardenas got the only goal to give the Argentinians a 1-0 win. When Celtic returned home where their reward was a heavy fine!

BLACKBURN FACTS

1. Blackburn were founded in 1875 and almost immediately became one of the giants of the English game. The Lancashire side won the FA Cup in three successive seasons: 1884, 1885 and 1886. Before the beginning of the 20th Century, two more FA Cups, in 1890 and 1891, arrived at Ewood Park.

2. The Lancashire side was also a founder member of the English League and won the 1st Division Championship in 1912 and 1914, with the club's most famous son, Bob Crompton, playing a major role. Despite another FA Cup victory in 1928, Rovers went into a gradual decline between the wars and only the arrival of Johnny Carey in 1953 triggered off a revival. Soon, however, another slide began and the club disappointed in the 60s, 70s and 80s.

3. In the early 1990s, the fortunes of Blackburn Rovers were transformed by the money of multi-millionaire Jack Walker. He brought in Kenny Dalglish and Alan Shearer. The initial reward was a runners-up slot in the Premiership in 1993-94, followed a season later by the Championship itself, the only club apart from Manchester United and Arsenal to have done so in the 10 years of the competition.

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TONIGHT'S SQUADS

TONIGHT'S VISITORS **BLACKBURN ROVERS**



SEASON 2002/03
BLACKBURN'S PREMIERSHIP POSITION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
4. Man Utd	11	5	4	2	14	8	19
5. Tottenham	11	6	1	4	17	16	19
6. Middlesboro	11	5	3	3	15	8	18
7. BLACKBURN	11	5	3	3	18	13	18

MANAGER **GRAEME SOUNESS** STADIUM **EWOOD PARK** CAPACITY **31,367**

CELTIC

JONATHAN GOULD	1
TOM BOYD	2
MOMO SYLLA	3
JACKIE McNAMARA	4
JOOS VALGAEREN	5
BOBO BALDE	6
HENRIK LARSSON	7
ALAN THOMPSON	8
CHRIS SUTTON	9
JOHN HARTSON	10
DAVID FERNANDEZ	12
PAUL LAMBERT	14
BOBBY PETTA	15
ULRIK LAURSEN	16
DIDIER AGATHE	17
NEIL LENNON	18
STILIAN PETROV	19
ROBERT DOUGLAS	20
MAGNUS HEDMAN	21
COLIN HEALY	24
PAUL SHIELDS	26
JON PAUL McGOVERN	27
SHAUN MALONEY	29
STEVE GUPPY	30
SIMON LYNCH	32
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34
JOHAN MJALLBY	35
JAMIE SMITH	39
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40
JOHN KENNEDY	41
LIAM MILLER	43

BLACKBURN

BRAD FRIEDEL
LUCAS NEILL
TUGAY KERIMOGLU
ANDY TODD
STIG BJORNBEYE
CRAIG SHORT
GARRY FLITCROFT
DAVID DUNN
ANDY COLE
MATT JANSEN
DAMIEN DUFF
CORRADO GRABBI
ALAN KELLY
NILS-ERIC JOHANSSON
CRAIG HIGNETT
ALAN MAHON
JOHN CURTIS
KEITH GILLESPIE
DWIGHT YORKE
DAVID THOMPSON
MARTIN TAYLOR
EGIL OSTENSTAD
MARC SEBASTIAN PELZER
DARREN DUNNING
HENNING BERG
ALAN MILLER
JONATHAN DOUGLAS
GORDON GREER
RYAN ROBINSON

CLUB SPONSORS



RECENT FORM

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 27 OCTOBER, 2002
DUNFERMLINE 1 v CELTIC 4 (Larsson, Thompson, Petrov, Sutton)

CIS CUP 3rd ROUND 1st LEG 23 OCTOBER, 2002
CELTIC 4 v INVERNESS CT 2 (Maloney, Hartson 2, Thompson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 20 OCTOBER, 2002
HEARTS 1 v CELTIC 4 (Larsson 2, Sutton, Petrov)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 6 OCTOBER, 2002
CELTIC 3 v RANGERS 3 (Larsson 2, Hartson)

UEFA CUP 2nd LEG 3 OCTOBER, 2002
FC SUDUVA 0 v CELTIC 2 (Thompson, Fernandez)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE WED 28 SEPTEMBER, 2002
CELTIC 5 v KILMARNOCK 0 (Larsson 3, Sutton 2)

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
CELTIC v ABERDEEN SUN 3 NOVEMBER 2002

CIS CUP ROUND FOUR
CELTIC v PARTICK WED 6 NOVEMBER 2002

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
DUNDEE UTD v CELTIC SUN 10 NOVEMBER 2002



CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB
CELTIC PARK,
GLASGOW
G40 3RE
0141-556 2611

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Ian McLeod, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Sir Patrick Sheehy, Kevin Sweeney, Tom Allison

CFAC DIRECTORS Ian McLeod, Eric Riley, Jim Hone, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Ian McLeod **MANAGER** Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Tommy Burns **HEAD YOUTH COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPIST Brian Scott **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark

GOAL STEVE GUPPY



Countryclub

Steve Guppy vows the Scots and English players will pull together to boost Celtic's cause tonight

AHEAD of this evening's 'Battle of Britain', it probably wouldn't do a great deal of good to stoke up anti-English feeling in the home dressing room.

After all, while our national skipper Paul Lambert might manfully attempt to lead a rousing chorus of *'Flower of Scotland'*, he could easily find himself drowned out by three voices within his own camp.

Thankfully, however, while Steve Guppy, Chris Sutton and Alan Thompson all proudly admit to hailing from south of Hadrian's Wall, all are determined to battle beneath the Saltire this evening as they face up to a star-studded Blackburn side. Guppy, for one, is positively relishing the prospect of facing up to his fellow countrymen in front of an expectant nationwide audience, although he insists that no-one pulling on the hoops believe they

have a point to prove to those watching at home.

He said: "There's definitely a little English community up here, but there'll be no problem with divided loyalties, I can assure you of that. The fact it's an English club we're up against gives it an edge, but I don't think we need to prove a point to anyone. Most of the players here have already

"Everyone here is certain we could more than hold our own down south"

proved themselves in the Premiership or at the big international competitions, and I don't think anyone has the right to question our ability.

"I think everyone's interested to see how Celtic compare to a good Premiership team like Blackburn, and that's an added incentive for us to do well. But I don't really think it's fair to be judged on a one-off game because, when it comes down to it, I think everyone here is certain we could more than hold our own down south."

Guppy, like everyone at Celtic Park, is more than aware that the Hoops' reputation, developed throughout an impressive debut Champions League campaign, received a significant dent when FC Basel ensured Martin O'Neill's team fell at the first hurdle this season.

Therefore, while adamant that he and his team-mates have nothing to prove, the 33-year-old knows only too well that this season's European campaign will be dismissed as an unmitigated

“This is the strongest team Blackburn have had since Chris Sutton partnered Alan Shearer”

failure at Celtic Park should Blackburn emerge triumphant at the end of 180 minutes of football.

And while confident that such a disastrous situation can be averted, Guppy knows only too well the calibre of the team Graeme Souness will bring to Celtic Park this evening. As a Port Vale player, he admired from afar Kenny Dalglish's work in leading Blackburn to the Premiership title and, having come up against the Ewood Park side regularly in the years since, he believes Souness is building a side capable of returning the Lancashire club to former glories.

He said: “They've always been a good side in my opinion, but I think this must be the strongest team they've had since the likes of Suttie and Alan Shearer were there. Then, it was obviously the financial clout of Jack Walker which made them so formidable, although I did always think that Kenny Dalglish did a terrific job in taking them to the Premiership. Money doesn't always buy success - we've seen that at the likes of Chelsea - but Dalglish made sure he bought in top class players. It was a fantastic achievement, and I think Graeme Souness is building a similar sort of team.

“They've made some great signings of late, and Souness has

done well mixing the experienced players he's bought with some top class youngsters that have come up through the youth system. Bringing in Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke was a masterstroke as far as I'm concerned. I still remember from my time at Leicester just how good those two were when they were playing together for Man United, and I think everyone knows how important they were in making United a real force in European football.

“They've always had a tremendous understanding, and for Souness to manage to pair them up again is very clever management. And they have so much quality about them. You look at Duff, who was an absolute star for Ireland in the World Cup, and then you also have the likes of David Dunn and David Thompson, who I've always considered to be a really good player.”

Impressed thought he undoubtedly is by Blackburn's star-studded line-up, Guppy



DOUBLE TROUBLE

Steve Guppy rates Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole as the best striking partnership Blackburn have had since Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton (left)



nevertheless believes that even their most experienced players might be taken aback by the unique atmosphere inside Celtic Park. The former Leicester man made his debut in a European

match against Ajax in front of 60,000 noisy Celts, and he called upon the Hoops' 12th man to make it a special Halloween by giving Souness's boys the fright of their lives.

“If the fans here are in the mood, it can be absolutely awesome,” he said. “There are some great stadia in the

Premiership, and the Blackburn players are all used to big games, but there's still something a bit special about Celtic Park on European nights. I doubt it will knock them off their stride completely, but their players might take them a while to take it all in.

“These are really special nights,

and we want to do well for the club, for the fans and for ourselves. There's an awful lot at stake. We want to do well in this competition, and the nation's eyes are on us.

“It's a massive, massive game, and hopefully everyone can pull together to make sure we come out on top.”