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Celtic

Friday 13th July 2007, 7.45pm

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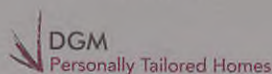
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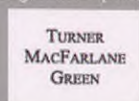
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The two bosses go head to head
Picture © FCPix & actionimages.com



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PETERBOROUGH UNITED MATCH DAY PROGRAMME

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Emergency Procedures

In the unlikely event of an emergency at London Road requiring the evacuation of all or part of the ground, spectators are requested to remain where they are, stay calm and listen for announcements over the public address system. All emergency announcements will be preceded by a distinctive chime. The announcements may direct spectators in specified areas to evacuate through exit gates to the outside of the ground, or on the pitch. Club stewards and police officers will assist in directing spectators to the safest locations. If requested to vacate a particular area in the ground, spectators should do so as calmly and quickly as possible to assist in a safe and speedy evacuation.

David Stent (Safety Officer)
John Robinson (Deputy Safety Officer)

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From the Chairman

by Darragh MacAnthony

Someone calm me down!

Those of you who have listened to or met me will know that I was not last in the queues for confidence and enthusiasm. You can imagine how I am feeling now.

I am bursting with both ahead of what I am sure are going to be an incredible few months for the Posh. We have a strong squad and excellent management and coaching staff. We have a positive feeling around the whole place right now and we need to build on that together.

Tonight's friendly against Celtic is the first of a run of glamour games against some of the most famous names in world football. These games will give us a great chance to show some new potential supporters that they have a club in their area that is going places and that they can be proud of. We all have a responsibility to show these new supporters that we can be welcoming and that London Road is a great place to watch football.

Whilst the hope is there it is important to emphasise that we have done nothing and achieved nothing so far. We have built excellent foundations on which to get success but we now need to go and make things happen. I can not emphasise enough how much we all have a role to play in our club becoming a success.

Everyone working inside the club knows what I expect from them. I could pick a number of people in the club who have visibly upped their game over the last few months and responded to a lifting of one sort of pressure from their shoulders. I get a lot of the credit when new players join, for example, but there are usually a number of people involved in the negotiations and the club has to look like one that players want to be part of. Attracting both new players and new supporters is a collective responsibility.

We will have to cope with a new kind of pressure this season. Teams will take us on knowing that we would be a major scalp for them. The bookies and their labelling of us as title favourites have made sure of that. Often this means that the players will need little motivation to play against us. Just ask tonight's opponents how hard it is to achieve excellence week in week out.

There will always be someone round the corner who tries that little bit harder or who wins a couple more crucial fifty fifties and when expectations are sky high a defeat against a 'lesser' side gives even more encouragement to the team you play next. This position calls for maximum professionalism at all times and I also believe that it calls for a siege mentality.

London Road is an old fashioned football arena where a decent atmosphere can be generated. I love the banners and things and often the support has been excellent but I call upon you all to up the vocal support a couple of notches more consistently. The



manager and players will tell you that with positive vocal support it really helps their game. On the flip side, if a player is having an off day don't make it worse by slating him out loud at the game. It really does not help.

I have stated elsewhere how important it is for me to see season ticket sales strong and attendances up. I need that adrenalin rush just like the rest of you and I can reassure you once again that the more fans and enthusiasm I see through the gate from you and the other Peterborough people the more you will see from me.

Finally, if you need a role model for how some of the best fans in Europe get behind their team then tonight and the next few weeks could provide exactly that.

I can not wait for my first full season at Posh to start.

Bring it on!

Barry Fry

A celebration of 10 years at Posh

Timeline

01/08/1996

Barry takes over the football club and the managerial hot-seat at London Road.

28/09/1996

After an indifferent start as boss, Fry masterminds a great comeback as Posh bounce back from 3-1 down to win 6-3 against Wycombe Wanderers.

Early/1997

Barry's dream of owning the football club falls through and Peter Boizot takes over as owner.

04/02/1997

Two goals from Kevin Russell (now assistant boss) helps Wrexham win 4-2 at London Road and deny Fry a trip to Birmingham in the FA Cup.

Barry Fry welcomes Gordon Strachan and his Celtic team to London Road to celebrate his 10 years at Peterborough United and recalls some of the memories from his time in the managerial hot-seat, the highs, lows and some of the best transfer dealings.

Welcome to the chairman, directors, players, officials and supporters of Celtic Football Club, especially their manager Gordon Strachan, who has worked miracles in the last two seasons since taking over at Parkhead.

To do the double in successive seasons is an absolutely magnificent achievement and I wish Gordon and Celtic all the best in their attempt to make it a hat-trick of doubles! I can't thank Gordon enough for bringing a side like Celtic that is arguably the best supported club in the World to little London Road in a game to celebrate my 10 years at Peterborough United Football Club.

It really will be a fantastic occasion and I hope all of the supporters sit back and enjoy a feast of football before Celtic play Queens Park Rangers on Sunday and fly off for their American tour. Thanks a million Gordon for your support, it really is much appreciated.

To have Gordon bring his star-studded double-winning team to London Road to celebrate my 10 years here at Peterborough United along with the recent testimonial game against Manchester United to celebrate my 31 years in football management, is a truly miraculous accomplishment. It was also a magnificent achievement to attract Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal to London Road in recent seasons.

These special occasions give the families that live in our great city an opportunity to bring everyone to watch their heroes at close quarters rather than watching them a million miles away on the television screen.

Looking back at those matches and photographs you will see smiles on so many faces. In my opinion that is what football is all about, enjoying entertaining, exciting, end to end football with the kids adoring their idols with the parents looking on.

Sir Alex Ferguson did me proud by bringing every available star from Old Trafford he could to London Road and I will never forget Wayne Rooney signing autographs for 40 minutes and who could forget Cristiano Ronaldo, Ryan Giggs, Rio Ferdinand and the many other world class stars coming out of our tunnel.

Tonight's game will be the same because if you think Manchester United supporters were good, wait to you see and hear the Celtic fans! I will never forget the time I took Peterborough United to Scotland for a week's pre-season tour.

We played three matches, but in between them, I

hired a coach to take the players to watch Celtic v West Ham United in a friendly. This friendly attracted 52,000 people who cheered, gave encouragement and willed their team on for 90 minutes.

It was a wonderful experience watching those Celtic fans enjoying their football. It really opened my eyes and there is not a set of fans in the world as passionate and committed as the Celtic supporters and I thank them all for coming down tonight.

Over the 10 years there have been many lows. The first low came in my first year at Peterborough. Despite the financial turmoil that I found the club in and the fact that I had to sell our best players, we still reached the Southern Section Area Final of the Auto Windscreen Shield. Our first leg was against Colchester United and we won 2-0. It would have been 3-0 but the linesman disallowed a fine Mick Bodley header, which was a massive blow.

However, we still felt confident going into the second leg at Layer Road, but unfortunately our captain Ken Charlery was sent-off for two rash bookings and Colchester sent the tie into extra-time. At that time it was the golden goal and we conceded a long-range goal to lose 3-2. We were so close to Wembley and it was major disappointment to miss out.

I always wanted to take a side back to St. Andrews to face Birmingham City where I spent two and a half fantastic years. During that time we won the double, winning the Second Division Championship, earning promotion (the only side to achieve automatic promotion that year) and the Auto Windscreen Shield at Wembley in front of 78,000 fans. That was more than the FA Cup Final that season.

In my time at the 'Blues' I was reported to have 46 professional players in my squad, despite this I am proud to say I made over £13 million profit in transfer sales. We had the ideal opportunity to face City when we were drawn against them if we could beat Wrexham at London Road. Wrexham and our assistant manager today Kevin Russell spoiled our day by scoring twice and Bryan Hughes was outstanding that day. We ended up losing 4-2 despite taking the lead.

We also missed out on the opportunity to play Manchester United at home as we were defeated by Walsall at London Road. Again we took the lead, but we lost out on a trip to Old Trafford. Only two years ago we missed out on another clash with the Red Devils after losing to non-league Burton Albion after drawing the initial game 0-0. We were very poor that day and didn't really deserve the opportunity to take on Sir Alex Ferguson's men.