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CELTIC v DUNDEE UNITED

Celtic Park, Saturday 14 February 2004, Kick-off 3.00pm

Scottish Premierleague 2003/04

Programme No.19



CARLING



BANK OF SCOTLAND
SPL

Celtic



CARLING
EXTRA COLD



“United appear to be on course for a top-six finish and they will come here fired up for the match”

THE players' recent performances have been nothing short of superb, and that was certainly the case on Wednesday evening at East End Park.

On a pitch that was, quite frankly, unfit for top-level football, the boys adapted superbly well to claim an excellent and thoroughly deserved victory.

That they had to come from behind to do so only made the win all the more impressive, and it was great to see Alan Thompson once again delivering crosses with the kind of accuracy that has made him such a vital player for us over the last few seasons.

As I've said almost ad nauseum, Alan's ability undoubtedly merits recognition at international level, and hopefully Sven-Goran Eriksson will recognise that fact before too long.

Alan himself would, of course, be the first to point out that he benefits from having a number of top-class players alongside him, and that was underlined once again on Wednesday, when the

aerial ability of both Henrik Larsson and Stanislav Varga ensured that his excellent crosses were not wasted.

There was even a goal for Alan, albeit with the aid of a deflection, and it was one which rounded off a terrific victory from our perspective.

The victory was also our third in succession since I last penned programme notes for a match here at Celtic Park.

Prior to visiting East End Park, we had been on Scottish Cup duty at Tynecastle, another extremely difficult venue.

It was a predictably tough and physical encounter and, once again, it was only through some excellent play from the players that we were able to make sure of victory.

Stilian Petrov, who's in terrific form right now, scored two goals for us that afternoon, with Henrik adding a third late on, and the result left everyone at the club with a fantastic quarter-final tie against Rangers to look forward to.

The fact that that match will take place at Celtic Park is undoubtedly a bonus, but as we saw in our last match here against Kilmarnock, home advantage isn't always the be all and end all.

Our 5-1 victory that afternoon eventually looked convincing enough, but at half-time - and with the score at 0-0 - I would have been happy with any result that brought us all three points.

The same will be true this afternoon against a Dundee United side which, if recent performances are anything to go by, appear to be on course for a top-six finish.

We've enjoyed a decent record against United over recent seasons, but they will come here with nothing to lose and fired up for the match.

We will need to be equally focussed if we are to secure a positive result.

Alan Thompson

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB FACTFILE

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park
 (capacity 60,506)

Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks

Away strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with gold trim

Third strip: Gold shirts, green shorts, gold 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

- On February 8, 1946, Jimmy Delaney was sold to Manchester United for £4,000. During his 13 years at the club, Jimmy scored 87 goals in 145 appearances, winning two league medals and one cup medal.
- Barney Battles died in Glasgow, aged just 30. The original 'jersey player' died suddenly of influenza on February 9, 1905. His funeral cortege was followed by a crowd of around 2,000 people.
- Against Dundee, at Parkhead on February 10, 1974, Celtic played their first Sunday league match.
- On February 14, 1920, against Albion Rovers, Jimmy McMenemy made the last of his 515 Celtic appearances. Napoleon's career wasn't finished, though. A year later, he guided Partick Thistle to a Scottish Cup win over Rangers.
- In a friendly against Woolwich Arsenal in London on February 15, 1897, Celtic staged a remarkable recovery to win 5-4, after being 1-4 down at half-time.
- Pat Crerand was born in Glasgow on February 19, 1939; and on the same day a year later, Jimmy McStay was appointed as manager, succeeding Willie Maley.



DUNDEE UNITED FACTS

- In season 1955/56 in Division 2, John Coyle scored 41 goals, a club record.
- The career best record is held by Peter McKay, between 1947 and 1954, with 158 strikes.
- Between 1974 and 1993, Dundee United lost six times in the final of the Scottish Cup, but they went on to beat Rangers 1-0 in 1994 with the only goal of the game scored by Craig Brewster.
- The club's most capped player is Maurice Malpas, with 55; while Dave Narey played in most European matches, and his total of 76 also a Scottish record.
- United's biggest-ever sale was the £4million received from Rangers for Duncan Ferguson in 1993.
- In 1956, Dundee United became the first Scottish club to have its very own pools system.
- In 1971, United became the first Scottish club to have a glass-fronted lounge for sponsors.
- Dundee United reached the UEFA Cup final in 1987 where they beaten 2-1 on aggregate by Gothenburg. United's only goal over the two legs was scored by John Clarke.





TODAY'S VISITORS - DUNDEE UNITED
MANAGER - IAN McCALL ASSISTANT MANAGER - GORDON CHISHOLM

CELTIC



DUNDEE UNITED

Michael Gray	2	1	Paul Gallacher
Momo Sylla	3	3	Jim Paterson
Jackie McNamara	4	4	Derek McInnes
Joos Valgaeren	5	5	Alan Archibald
Bobo Balde	6	7	Mark Kerr
Henrik Larsson	7	8	Charlie Miller
Alan Thompson	8	9	Collin Samuel
Chris Sutton	9	10	Jim McIntyre
John Hartson	10	11	Barry Robson
David Fernandez	12	12	Scott Paterson
Paul Lambert	14	14	Billy Dodds
Bobby Petta	15	15	Stuart Duff
Ulrik Laursen	16	17	Tony Bullock
Didier Agathe	17	18	Craig Easton
Neil Lennon	18	19	David McCracken
Stilian Petrov	19	20	Jason Scotland
Robert Douglas	20	21	Mark Wilson
Magnus Hedman	21	22	Andy McLaren
David Marshall	22	25	Chris Innes
Stanislav Varga	23		
Shaun Maloney	29		
Ross Wallace	33		
Johan Mjallby	35		
Craig Beattie	37		
Jamie Smith	39		
John Kennedy	41		
Liam Miller	43		

Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, Glasgow G40 3RE 0141-556 2611

CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERLEAGUE 2003/04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CELTIC	23	22	1	0	75	10	65	67
Rangers	23	18	2	3	48	18	30	56
Hearts	22	12	3	7	31	24	7	39
Dunfermline	23	9	7	7	28	33	-5	34
Motherwell	22	7	6	9	25	27	-2	27
Hibernian	23	7	6	10	23	35	-12	27
Dundee Utd	23	7	6	10	23	36	-13	27
Livingston	22	6	8	8	24	28	-4	26
Dundee	23	6	7	10	29	35	-6	25
Kilmarnock	23	6	3	14	26	51	-25	21
Aberdeen	22	5	4	13	26	41	-15	19
Partick Thistle	23	3	3	17	25	45	-20	12

CLUB SPONSORS



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Scottish Premierleague	PARTICKTH v CELTIC	SUN 22 FEBRUARY 3.00pm
UEFA Cup 3rd Round, 1st Leg	CELTIC v FK TEPLICE	THURS 26 FEBRUARY 7.45pm
Scottish Premierleague	CELTIC v LIVINGSTON	SUN 29 FEBRUARY 3.00pm
UEFA Cup 3rd Round, 2nd Leg	FK TEPLICE v CELTIC	THURS 3 MARCH 7.45pm
Scottish Cup 5th Round	CELTIC v RANGERS	SUN 7 MARCH 12.00pm
Scottish Premierleague	CELTIC v MOTHERWELL	SAT 13 MARCH 3.00pm

RECENT FORM



Scottish Premierleague, February 11, 2004
DUNFERMLINE 1 v 4 CELTIC (Larsson 2, Varga, Thompson)

Scottish Premierleague, February 7, 2004	HEARTS 0 v 3 CELTIC (Petrov2, Larsson)
Scottish Premierleague, January 31, 2004	CELTIC 5 v 1 KILMARNOCK (Agathe, Hartson 2, Larsson, Pearson)
Scottish Premierleague, January 24, 2004	ABERDEEN 1 v 3 CELTIC (Petrov, Larsson, Pearson)
Scottish Premierleague, January 18, 2004	HEARTS 0 v 1 CELTIC (Petrov)
Scottish Cup 3rd Round, January 10, 2003	CELTIC 2 v 0 ROSS COUNTY (Lambert, Hartson)

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:	Ian Fyfe
Assistant Referees:	Gordon McBride Robert Johnston
Fourth Official:	Martin Sproule

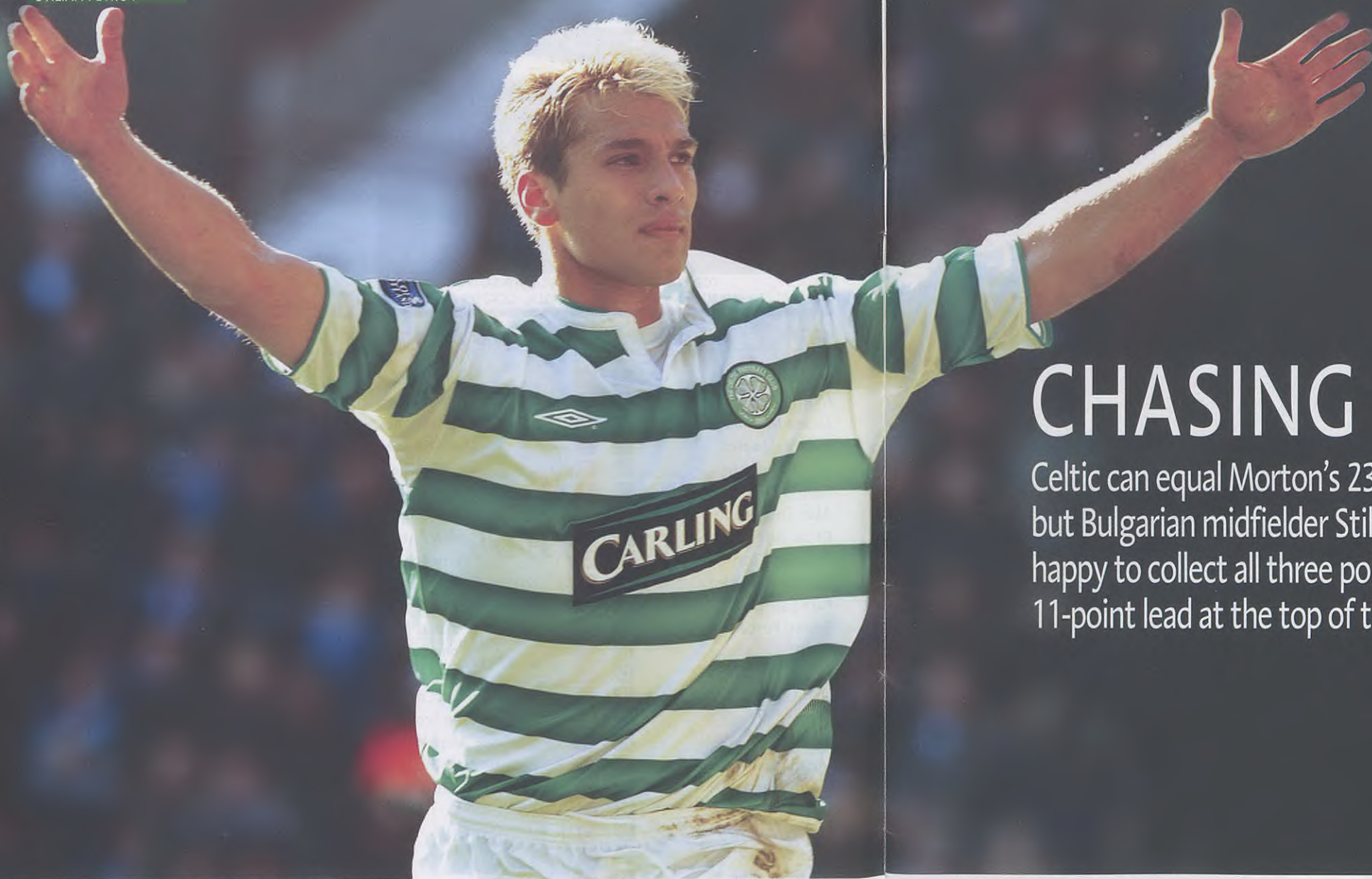
CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman

CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney

MANAGER Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford

HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns **YOUTH TEAM COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark



CHASING HISTORY

Celtic can equal Morton's 23-game winning record today but Bulgarian midfielder Stilian Petrov will be just as happy to collect all three points and maintain the Hoops' 11-point lead at the top of the table

Exclusive Interview: ALISON MCCONNELL

DUNDEE UNITED will become the latest team to attempt to derail Celtic's surge towards the record books this afternoon but Hoops midfielder Stilian Petrov has insisted that Martin O'Neill's side will be concentrating on nothing more than three points from today's encounter.

A win over the Tannadice outfit would enable Celtic to equal a 40-year Scottish football record, currently held by Morton who went on a 23-game winning run in season 1963/64, but while Petrov has

maintained that penning footnotes into history tomes is all very well, league titles are where the real prizes lie.

Celtic's force has been well documented this season and nowhere is the potency of the side more notable than on the turf at Celtic Park. Having gone 69 games

"It would be nice to win and equal the record because it's always good to be part of something like that"

unbeaten in the East End of Glasgow - the last victory enjoyed by a visiting team was by Ajax in August 2001 - Petrov is keen to ensure the run continues.

"We want to win the game to keep up our position at the top but we approach every game with the aim of winning it, whoever it is

against," explained the Bulgarian internationalist.

"It would be nice to win and equal the record because it is always good to be part of something like that, but to be perfectly honest we won't go into the game against Dundee United with that as our motivation.

"First things first, it will be great to get out and play on grass. It is always nice to play in front of our own supporters and we are a strong unit at home, everybody knows that, but we still know that we have to

work hard because Dundee United will want to come here and do well."

February has been a busy month for O'Neill's side with a fixture list that has so far included midweek league games and will also mark the return to European football in just under a fortnight's time.

Petrov has no concerns that there is any reason to doubt the regularity of the games will affect the standard of performances that Celtic have produced lately.

He said: "We coped with a lot of

fixtures last season when we were competing in the UEFA Cup and aiming for the league as well so we are used to it, and I think we will be able to cope with it.

"Every team is due to get beat at some point in the season and I am sure that it will happen to us, but the main thing for us is that we go out and give it our best shot in every game."

Petrov was absent from the scoresheet at East End Park on Wednesday evening where Celtic

“The confidence just now is high throughout the side and you can see that with different players scoring goals”

came from a goal behind to run out convincing 4-1 winners against Dunfermline but the player, who has found the net seven times so far this campaign, isn't concerned about just where the goals come from.

“The confidence just now is high throughout the side and you can see that with different players scoring goals,” he smiled. “I've scored a few lately and it is always good to have goals coming from all over the pitch.

“We always create chances in the game and we know that we have to take them. When you have a variety of players who can do that it makes things a little easier and there isn't a lot of pressure on one man.”

One thing that did worry the 24-year-old is the controversial playing surface at East End Park. Wednesday's encounter was the first game Celtic have played on the pitch and Petrov didn't enjoy the experience.

“It was very bad,” he said candidly. “I don't know how they can let players play on it every week because it is unreal. All the players feel very stiff and it's the type of surface where you can pick up injuries easily.

“It was uncomfortable for the players and very slippery. You can't play with proper boots and at



DOWN BUT NOT OUT Celtic last lost a home game against Ajax in August, 2001 but despite the loss, the Hoops progressed into the Champions League

the back of your mind is the worry about people getting injuries.

“It took us 10 or 15 minutes to get used to the pitch and by the time we got into our stride Dunfermline had taken the lead. We got ourselves back through a couple of set pieces and then we started to adapt.

“Everybody was sore after the game and in the last 15 minutes of the game we could hardly move because our legs were so stiff. All the players feel the same and I don't understand why FIFA are making players go through this.

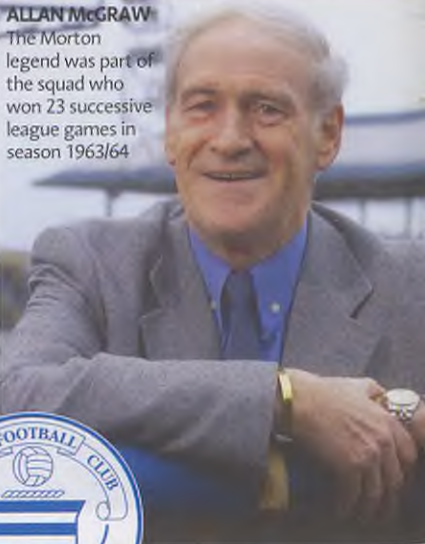
“It was a great result for us and a great win when you think of all that,” he continued. “We knew that it was going to be hard for us to go to Dunfermline and get the result that we wanted because this is always a difficult game and also we knew we

SURFACE TENSION

The East End Park pitch was almost unplayable on Wednesday night

ALLAN MCGRAW

The Morton legend was part of the squad who won 23 successive league games in season 1963/64



were playing on the artificial surface.

“We were up there on the first game of the season but this is a different stage in the league and that wasn't on our minds. All we wanted to do was go and get the three points because that is always the most important thing for us.”

A case of same old, same old will do again this afternoon for the midfielder and his colleagues.



