

£2



CELTIC v ABERDEEN

Celtic Park, Saturday 25 October 2003, Kick-off 3.00pm

Scottish Premierleague 2003/04

Programme No.09



CARLING



BANK OF SCOTLAND
SPL

Celtic 



CARLING ARE PROUD TO BE SUPPORTERS OF CELTIC FC. LOVEFOOTBALL



“The best way to get a disappointment like the one we suffered against Anderlecht out our system is to get back on the pitch and show exactly what we are capable of”

WE all experienced a disappointing evening in Brussels on Tuesday when we were defeated 1-0 by Anderlecht in the Champions League.

We didn't play half as well as we have done in the two previous Champions League games, against Lyon and Bayern Munich, but we should still have been able to have taken something from the game.

The irony of it all is that although we played brilliantly for long periods against Bayern Munich, we had less clear-cut chances than we did against Anderlecht. Had we taken just one of those opportunities it would probably have been enough to secure a point.

However, it wasn't to be and so we must try to rectify the situation at Celtic Park when Anderlecht visit.

This afternoon, however, all thoughts of the Champions League have to be put to one side as we concentrate on continuing the domestic form we have shown over the last few weeks.

Aberdeen are our visitors this

afternoon and there is no doubt that they would love the chance to capitalise on any sluggishness on our part, given the midweek exertions in Brussels.

It is up to us to ensure that does not happen and to do so we will need to be at our best.

Last week's performance against Hearts here at Celtic Park was superb and there is no question that we would all enjoy a similar display today against Aberdeen.

To do that requires everyone to be at their optimum form again but after a disappointment like the one we had against Anderlecht, the best way to get it out of our system is to get back on the pitch and show exactly what we are capable of.

It hasn't been an easy few days since we returned from the game in Belgium, but there is little point dwelling on what is now in the past.

We have to give our full attention now to the games against Aberdeen and then Kilmarnock before we allow

ourselves to re-focus on the Champions League.

Last weekend's results have put three points between ourselves and Rangers at the top of the table, but we are under no illusions that there is plenty of hard work still in front of us, and at this stage of the season it probably doesn't count for a lot.

It is a nice position to be in, but our aim is to ensure that we occupy the same spot in May next year.

I'm sure we are all pleased to be in this position but I'm equally sure that it will mean little unless we win today.

This afternoon we expect a difficult encounter against an Aberdeen side who have caused us problems in the past and it is up to us to ensure that we go out and win the match.

Celtic Football Club 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: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with gold trim

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

- Jimmy McGrory died in Glasgow on October 20, 1982, at the age of 78.
- On October 23, 1948, Bobby Evans won the first of his 48 caps when he played in Scotland's 3-1 win over Wales in Cardiff.
- At Lansdowne Road, on October 24, 1994, Packy Bonner captained the Republic of Ireland in his 78th appearance as they beat Liechtenstein 4-0.
- On October 25, 1919, Patsy Gallagher made his international debut for Ireland against England at Windsor Park, Belfast, the game finished 1-1. It had been rumoured that Gallagher refused to play unless he received appearance money; it was confirmed later that he had been paid a record fee.
- On the same day, in 1970, Bertie Auld scored the winner as Celtic beat St Johnstone 1-0 in the League Cup final. Steve Chalmers broke his leg in this match.
- Back in 1895, on October 26, Celtic recorded their biggest-ever victory, an 11-0 league defeat of Dundee.
- And in 1963, also on the 26th, John Hughes and John Divers both scored hat-tricks as Celtic romped to a 9-0 win over Airdrie at Parkhead. Goalkeeper Frank Haffey missed a penalty.

ABERDEEN FACTS

- Aberdeen had a fairly late start in the Scottish game, their foundation in 1903 followed by an entry into Division Two of the league in 1904.
- Pittodrie Stadium is 110 yards long by 72 wide. It was the first-ever ground to have dugouts, so coach Donald Coleman in the 1920s could study his players' footwork.
- The team was originally nicknamed 'the Whites', then 'the Wasps' after their early strips. The more enduring one of 'The Dons' was due to some of their founder members being professors at Aberdeen University.
- Aberdeen's record victory was the 13-0 win over Peterhead in the Scottish Cup on February 9, 1923. The record defeat came on January 30, 1965, when Celtic won 8-0 at Pittodrie.
- Aberdeen reached their first national trophy final in 1937, when Celtic beat them 2-1 at Hampden before a European record crowd of 147,365.
- Since 1975, Aberdeen have had 11 managers, Ally McLeod, Billy McNeill, Alex Ferguson, Ian Porterfield, Alex Smith, Willie Miller, Roy Aitken, Alex Miller, Paul Hegarty, Ebbe Skovdahl and Steve Paterson.



TODAY'S VISITORS - ABERDEEN
MANAGER - STEVE PATERSON ASSISTANT MANAGER - DUNCAN SHEARER

CELTIC



ABERDEEN

Michael Gray	2	1	David Preece
Momo Sylla	3	2	Michael Hart
Jackie McNamara	4	3	Jamie McQuilkin
Joos Valgaeren	5	4	Eric Deloumeaux
Bobo Balde	6	5	Russell Anderson
Henrik Larsson	7	6	Philip McGuire
Alan Thompson	8	7	Leigh Hinds
Chris Sutton	9	8	Steve Tosh
John Hartson	10	9	Scott Booth
David Fernandez	12	10	Paul Sheerin
Paul Lambert	14	11	Darren Mackie
Bobby Petta	15	14	Chris Clark
Ulrik Laursen	16	15	Kevin Rutkiewicz
Didier Agathe	17	16	Fergus Tiernan
Neil Lennon	18	17	Kevin McNaughton
Stilian Petrov	19	18	Richard Foster
Robert Douglas	20	19	David Zdrilic
Magnus Hedman	21	20	Michael Bird
David Marshall	22	21	Stephen Payne
Stanislav Varga	23	22	Scott Muirhead
Shaun Maloney	29	23	Ryan Esson
Steve Guppy	30	24	Scott Morrison
Ross Wallace	33	25	Duncan Jones
Johan Mjallby	35	26	Kevin Souter
Craig Beattie	37	27	Alexander Diamond
Jamie Smith	39	28	Stephen Tarditi
Stephen Crainey	40	29	Markus Heikkinen
John Kennedy	41	30	Murray McCulloch
Liam Miller	43	43	David Hutton

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

CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERLEAGUE 2003/04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CELTIC	9	8	1	0	24	3	25
Rangers	9	7	1	1	27	8	22
Dundee	9	4	2	3	12	10	14
Hearts	9	4	2	3	11	13	14
Livingston	9	3	3	3	10	10	12
Motherwell	9	3	3	3	10	12	12
Dunfermline	9	3	3	3	8	10	12
Hibernian	9	3	2	4	8	13	11
Kilmarnock	9	3	2	4	11	17	11
Dundee Utd	9	2	2	5	6	16	8
Aberdeen	9	2	1	6	9	16	7
Partick Thistle	9	0	2	7	7	15	2

CLUB SPONSORS



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Scottish Premierleague	KILMARNOCK v CELTIC	SAT 1 NOVEMBER 12.30pm
UEFA Champions League	CELTIC v ANDERLECHT	WED 5 NOVEMBER 7.45pm
Scottish Premierleague	CELTIC v DUNFERMLINE	SAT 8 NOVEMBER 3.00pm
Scottish Premierleague	DUNDEE UTD v CELTIC	SAT 22 NOVEMBER 3.00pm
UEFA Champions League	CELTIC v BAYERN MUNICH	TUE 25 NOVEMBER 7.45pm

RECENT FORM



UEFA Champions League, October 21, 2003
ANDERLECHT 1 v 0 CELTIC

Scottish Premierleague, October 18, 2003
CELTIC 5 v 0 HEARTS (Miller, Larsson, Varga, Stamp o.g.)

Scottish Premierleague, October 4, 2003
RANGERS 0 v 1 CELTIC (Hartson)

UEFA Champions League, September 30, 2003
CELTIC 2 v 0 LYON (Miller, Sutton)

Scottish Premierleague, September 27, 2003
HIBERNIAN 1 v 2 CELTIC (Thompson, Larsson)

Scottish Premierleague, September 20, 2003
CELTIC 3 v 0 MOTHERWELL (Sutton, Larsson, Maloney)

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:	Charlie Richmond
Assistant Referees:	Jim Lyon Robert Johnston
Fourth Official:	Crawford Allan

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Kevin Sweeney, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman

CFAC DIRECTORS Eric Riley, Jim Hone, 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

Top of the class

After dropping points at the start of this season's campaign, Celtic now find themselves top of the table looking down on the rest of the SPL and that's exactly the way Bobo Balde likes it

Exclusive Interview: ALISON McCONNELL



TUESDAY night might not have gone according to plan, but so far as Bobo Balde is concerned the defeat to Anderlecht will not be interfering with Celtic's date with Aberdeen this afternoon.

Having put a bit of daylight between themselves and Rangers last weekend, Balde is determined that when domestic duty takes precedence again today, Celtic will continue their assault on the league campaign.

The only points that Martin



"Being top is nice, but it's too early to think about anything just yet"

O'Neill's side have dropped to date in the league have been on the opening day of the season at East End Park when a 0-0 draw signalled the arrival of a fresh calendar.

Since then Celtic have recovered from those lost points to take their place at the top of the pile and Balde is adamant that is where he wants to stay. Last year the excitement was relentless with a thrilling campaign that went all the way to the last kick of the ball and the Celtic defender knows that the margin for error always remains minute.

"It is a nice position to be in, but at the same time it is too early to think about anything just yet," said Balde. "The most important thing for us to make sure that we keep winning our games and we have to make sure there are no mistakes.

"Before the Old Firm game a



couple of weeks ago we knew that there was a possibility we could end up five points off the top, had they won the match. We went to Ibrox and got a 1-0 win that put us a point ahead and as we go into the game against Aberdeen we are at the top of the league by three points.

"I think we deserve to be at the top of the league because we have been playing well recently and we have been working hard, but if we want to stay in this position then we have to keep our concentration.

"Last season there wasn't a lot between the sides because both

Celtic and Rangers won most of their games, and it looks as though it will be tight again this year."

Understandably frustrated at the manner of Tuesday's defeat in Brussels, Balde knows that Celtic can ill afford to dwell on what might have been.

Aberdeen would love the opportunity to capitalise on a jaded Celtic side tired from their midweek exertions, but Balde has maintained that nothing is more important now than taking full points from the Dons side.

"In football anything can happen," he said. "We had a difficult game on Tuesday night



HEADS UP

Stanislav Varga grabbed a goal for the Hoops last Saturday and Balde is looking for more goals from the defence as the season goes on

but we can't complain of being tired because we want to play in the Champions League and that means getting yourself ready for the next game straight away.

"We are playing well at the minute and are passing the ball and moving well off it, and over the last few weeks we have scored some excellent goals.

"That is always a good thing, but it is something that comes when you are confident. We also know each other very well because we have played together so

often now and we always know what to expect from our teammates."

Meanwhile, Balde is anticipating Celtic to utilise their aerial threat more often as the season goes on. With strong and powerful defenders at the back who can make their way into opposition penalty boxes, the colossal stopper is looking to add to his tally the longer the season goes on.

"Stan (Varga) scored a brilliant goal last week for us and he has done excellently since coming into the side. I noticed

last week against Hearts that we had something like 13 corners and I was a little bit disappointed that we scored only once from that.

"Because there are a few big players in the defence who can go into the opposition penalty box for the corners it gives us an extra threat, and that can be very important. If a game is tight you need to use everything you can to try and get in front and that is something that we have worked on over the last few seasons.

"Set pieces are a good way to get an advantage and being strong in the air works well at both ends."

