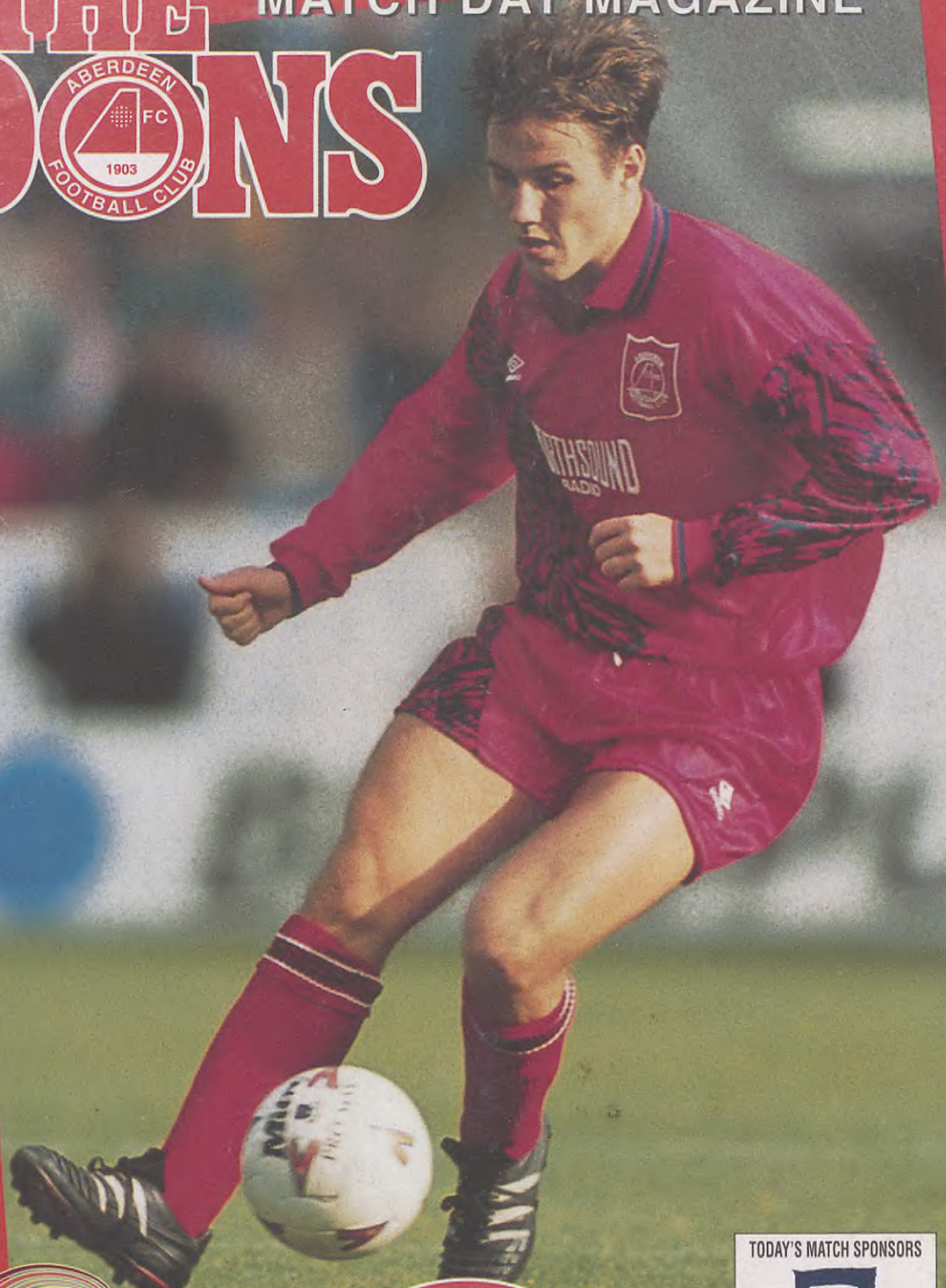


# THE DONS

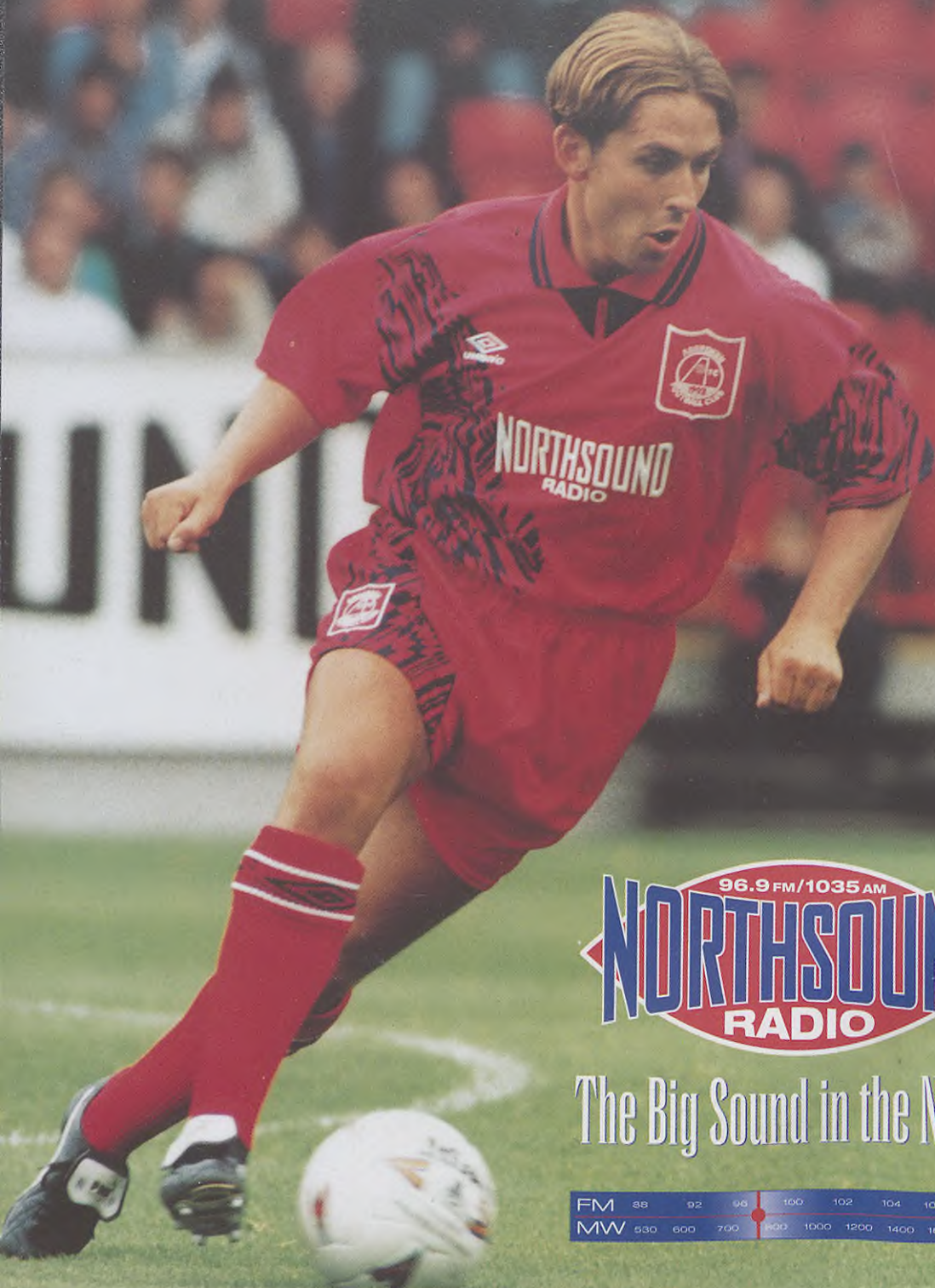


MATCH DAY MAGAZINE



Bell's League Championship Premier Division • ABERDEEN v CELTIC • Monday 26th December, 1994 • Price £1

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# MANAGERS

## column



### ABERDEEN FOOTBALL CLUB

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Vice-Chairman: Denis J. Miller

Directors:

Gordon A. Buchan and Stewart Milne

Manager: Willie Miller M.B.E.

Assistant Managers:

Roy Aitken and Drew Jarvie

Player/Coach: Neil Cooper

Trainer: Teddy Scott

Physiotherapists:

David Wylie and John Sharp

General Manager: David Johnston

Secretary: Ian J. Taggart

Club Doctor: Dr. Derek Gray

SFA Community Officer: Chic McLelland

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European Super Cup: 1983

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1979-80, 1983-84 and 1984-85

Scottish Cup: 1947, 1970, 1982, 1983,

1984, 1986 and 1990

Scottish League Cup: 1955-56, 1976-77,

1985-86 and 1989-90

Drybrough Cup: 1971 and 1980

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I would like to welcome you all to Pittodrie today and hope you had a very enjoyable Christmas. The festive spell is a particularly hectic one for the club with five games between now and the 14th January, with four of these at home.

Looking back to the start of December, we suffered a defeat at home to Kilmarnock in what was a disappointing display. We had a lot of possession but created no clear chances and lacked a genuine goal threat. We had spoken before the game about the importance of getting off to a good start, but then completely upset that by losing a goal in the first minute. Despite our efforts, we were not able to break down the defence to get back into the game.

Many people said that a visit to Motherwell was the last thing we needed at the time. I felt exactly the opposite and looked forward to the game at Fir Park as we have tended to play well against the better teams this season. This proved to be the case on a miserable day when the team put in an excellent performance and came away with a 1-0 victory. I thought Motherwell were fortunate to lose only 1-0 as we created many good chances and perhaps should have scored at least once again.

Peter Hetherston, Joe Miller and Stephen Glass played important roles in a good overall team per-

formance which some of the media described as 'gritty', but I felt the effort was combined with a high degree of skill. Once again, the backing the team received from our fans was outstanding.

The Winter shutdown allowed us to set up a training and morale boosting camp in Newcastle for four days. Newcastle United kindly let us use their training facilities and we all felt the trip was a very positive experience and we hope to enjoy the rewards of this exercise in the coming weeks.

The next series of fixtures begins today with the visit of Celtic. We are looking forward to this one and feel confident going into the match, to add three points to our tally and establish a solid foundation to look forward to our next home game against Hearts.

I am delighted to have Duncan Shearer and Brian Irvine available for selection again after injury absences. Both played at Elgin earlier in the week and Brian came through very strongly while Duncan scored four to confirm the great ability he has around the box and show a little of what we have been missing.

Continue your great support by getting right behind the team from the start today and help encourage them on to the result we all want.

**WILLIE MILLER**

**Previous clubs:**

I was signed from Deeside B.C. whilst I was on an 'S' form with the club. When Brian Clough was at Notts Forest he had me down 4 or 5 times and showed me a contract. I'd been training at Pittodrie for 5 or 6 years at this time. Ian Porterfield started the ball rolling for me and the Dons just before he left. It was left to Alex Smith to sign me.

**Favourite Role/Position:**

I really like the centre forward position and I love scoring goals. I want to score as many as I possibly can for the Dons and hopefully earn the right to do the same for Scotland.

**Pre Match Meal:**

Chicken and beans.

# Scott Booth

**Schoolboy/Representative Honours:**

I've now got the quartet: Under 18, Under 19, Under 21 and now full International caps.

**Any of your contemporaries at Deeside Boys Club make the grade in professional football:**

Two spring to mind, Alex Ferguson's son Darren now with Wolves and Shaun Rouse who is now with Raith Rovers via Rangers and Bristol City.

**Favourite ground:**

It's got to be Ibrox not just for crowd atmosphere but for the excellent facilities available to players. Mind you, Kilmarnock's Rugby Park dressing rooms are up there amongst the best I've encountered.

**Influences on career:**

Not so much influences but certainly great supporters and sources of encouragement, my mum and older brother Terry. They seldom miss a game.

**If not a footballer what would you have wanted to be:**

I was very keen and reasonably good at art. Therefore I'd have probably gone for something like Graphic Design. No! I didn't design Angus the Bull!!

**Other sports:**

Most things (other than cricket!!) involving a ball. Duncan Shearer might argue that point when it comes to my golf.

**Hobbies:**

When my mother in law moved house, we "inherited" her piano. I'm now polishing up my striking ability on the black and white notes.

## fact file

Name:  
**Scott Booth**

Age: **23**

Date of Birth: **16-12-71**

Place of Birth: **Aberdeen**

Height: **5'9"**

Weight: **12st.2lb.**

Marital Status:  
**Married to Margaret-Allison.**

**No children (yet) but our two Lhasa Apso dogs, Gizmo and Corrie, more than make up for that as far as our time is concerned.**

**What aspect of your personality would you most like to change?**

I tend to be a wee bit stubborn. I'm certainly a worrier which at times makes me broody.

**Most exciting career moment to date?**

That recent game against Russia in the European Championship qualifier. Scoring against opposition of that standard in a fairly packed national stadium gave me a big buzz. In passing - I think the S.F.A.'s idea of giving kids tickets for games like this is a great one. After all the kids of today are the players and supporters of tomorrow.

**Personal hopes and aspirations:**

Simple! To score as many goals as I can and win as many honours as I can WITH ABERDEEN.

**Scott Booth**



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**ANGUS 'RAINS'**

Lindsey and Pauline look after Angus during a downpour at the Hibs match. It was too wet for him to take the field but he hopes to be in action again today.

**DONS YOUNGSTARS**

If you are aged between 5 and 16, and would like to join the Dons Youngstars Club, pick up an application form at the Club Shop. Cost is £7 and all members receive a starter pack consisting of poster, autographs, scarf, clock/alarm and passport, which entitles you to 10% discount at the Club Shop. Regular newsletters will follow on along with birthday cards.

**MERKLAND STAND ASSOCIATE SPONSOR**

Today we are delighted to welcome Walkers Smiths Crisps as associate sponsor within the Merkland Family Stand. Health Promotions along with the Evening Express/Green Final are joint main sponsors of the Family Stand and are joined today by Walkers Smiths Crisps who will distribute gifts in this area of the ground.

**BRISTOW BALLBOYS**

Bristow Helicopters are the sponsors of our matchday ballboys this season. Our thanks go to the company for their support. Today's ballboys come from Portlethen Primary School.

**community****YOUNGSTARS CLUB MASCOT CORNER**

The mascot for the Premier Division match against Hibs on Wednesday, 9th November, was Gavin Robertson, (7), from Bridge of Don. Gavin is pictured below with Billy Dodds.



The mascot for the last home Premier Division match against Kilmarnock on Saturday, 3rd December, was Raymond Sim, (9), from Linksfield. Raymond is pictured below with Theo Snelders.



The Dons Youngstars Club is sponsored by  
**SHELL UK**  
**EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION**

Mascot for today's match against Celtic is eight year old Mark Selbie from Aberdeen. A pupil at Hazlehead Primary School, Mark's favourite player is Stephen Wright.



Mark Selbie

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## Willie Garner remembered

Over the years there have been quite a few transfers that have seen players move from Pittodrie to Celtic Park or vice versa and for some reason, in the main those moves have tended to feature forwards. The only defender whom I can recall moving directly between the clubs (excepting manager Billy McNeill!) in recent times, is Dons former assistant manager Willie Garner.

Willie signed provisionally for Aberdeen from Campsie Blackwatch in 1973 and was "called up" by manager Jimmy Bonhronne at the beginning of the 1975-76 season. Young Garner's early days at Pittodrie saw the unsettling spell that featured club skipper Willie Young's undignified walkout and culminated in the resignation of manager Jimmy Bonhronne in October 1975. Eddie Thomson was drafted in at centre half in the wake of Young's transfer to Spurs but, in January 1976, Willie Garner stepped up to make his first team debut at Tynecastle.

Willie was still regarded as second choice behind Thomson at that stage but as the Dons slipped into the first Premier Division relegation battle he was pitched in as first choice. Over the final five games of the season Willie was the centre half as the Dons scraped vital draws against Ayr United, Rangers, Celtic and after losing at Muirton Park, he was the pivot as the Dons beat Hibernian 3-0 to avoid the drop on goal difference.

From the outset of the 1976-77 campaign Garner became a regular feature alongside Willie Miller at the heart of the Dons defence and his solid displays were a contributing factor in the Dons 1976 League Cup win.

# A LOOK BACK at the past



Willie (rear centre) enjoys the 1980 Drybrough Cup success

Willie's career looked to be going along just nicely throughout Billy McNeill's short reign at Pittodrie but early in Fergie's days at the club disaster struck. The Dons were playing in the first round of a 1978-79 Cup-Winners' Cup tie away to Marek Dimitov of Bulgaria when Willie broke a leg. Young Doug Rougvie took over the centre half berth while Willie recovered, but the season was all but over by the time Garner had returned to full fitness and was available for first team selection.

The following season Willie again started the season as the main man alongside Willie Miller but a switch to Alex McLeish just over the half way stage of the campaign proved the move that sparked the Dons to their first Premier League title.

From that point on Garner played a secondary role at Pittodrie as he struggled to force big Alex out of the side. At the end of the 1980-81 season Willie bowed to the inevitable and was allowed to move on.

A move to Hearts was all but finalised when he stepped former boss Billy McNeill to spirit him to Parkhead. Unfortunately for Willie his Celtic debut was marred by an own goal in a League Cup tie. Worse was to follow as he repeated the exercise in another game soon after to eliminate Celtic from the competition at the 'section' stage. His Celtic career never really recovered from that experience.

After a brief spell with Rochdale, in 1983 at the tender age of 27 Willie was appointed player manager of Alloa Athletic. He so impressed the Scottish soccer scene with his coaching abilities that his appointment as successor to Archie Knox as assistant at Pittodrie in February 1984 was not regarded with surprise. Garner's spell as Fergie's right hand man lasted just over two years and ended with Knox's return as co-manager.

More recently Willie has been involved with the TSB Bank in their insurance department.



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