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# REDMATCHDAY

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF ABERDEEN FC

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**SCOTTISH CUP FEATURE:**  
**GOAL IN A MILLION**  
THE 1947 CUP WIN

**PLAYER FEATURE:**  
**JEFFREY DE VISSCHER**  
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# FROM THE DUGOUT

**O**ur last home game against Motherwell was always going to be difficult as we were up against a team that had been playing at the top of their form while conversely, we were going through something of a tough spell in terms of league performances.

To be honest, I felt we began the game displaying a few nerves but once we got the breakthrough with the goal, we started to knock the ball about a bit and we were comfortable as we went into the second half.

It was a silly challenge by Zander to give away the penalty as he's been made well aware about players

on the edge of the area but well done to Derek for pulling off a great save from Chris Porter's spot kick. That should have been that but we then lost a sloppy goal from a defensive viewpoint with a number of players between Darren Smith and the goal.

We still created chances to win the match but fair play to their 'keeper who pulled off a couple of great saves. Jeffrey put in a fantastic cross for Barry and, if anything, he hit it too sweetly and Smith managed to turn it away. In the end it was two points dropped, no mistake.

At Ibrox last weekend we could have been three or four up in the first half and I cannot remember a game there when we have created so many clear cut opportunities. We really dominated the opening period aside from the first ten minutes or so and I thought Alan McGregor was a bit lucky when he got his foot to Steve Lovell's shot when he was one on one.

We then scored a good goal through Steve and Jeffrey should have doubled our advantage shortly afterwards. We then lost our organisation and nobody picked up Dailly for what was a disappointing equaliser.

Our passing was not as crisp in the second half and Rangers scored their second at a good time, early into the restart. That left us with an uphill struggle and they got the third with the penalty, although fair play to Derek for again managing to stop the initial effort.

Today, we entertain the cup favourites in what should be an absolutely cracking cup tie. When we met in the league last month, I said at the time that I felt the scoreline did not reflect the way the game had gone and if we can perform at the levels that we achieved in the first half of last week's match in Glasgow, then we are a match for anyone. Games against Celtic take care of themselves and the prize of a cup semi final place will be incentive enough!

JIMMY CALDERWOOD





## REDMATCHDAYSTATS

Wednesday 27th February 2008

RedTV

**ABERDEEN 1 : 1**

Scorer: Diamond (28)  
 Booked: Diamond  
 Shots on target: 4  
 Shots off target: 5  
 Corners: 6  
 Possession: 50%  
**Attendance: 8,240**

**MOTHERWELL**

Scorer: Smith (83)  
 Booked: Quinn  
 Shots on target: 3  
 Shots off target: 5  
 Corners: 5  
 Possession: 50%  
**Referee: D McDonald**

**ABERDEEN:** Soutar, Maybury, Diamond, Considine, Foster, De Visscher, Nicholson, Severin, Maguire (Aluko 82), Mackie (Walker 68), Lovell (Miller 77).  
 Subs Not Used: Langfield, Touzani, Mair, Bus.

**MOTHERWELL:** Graeme Smith, Quinn, Craigan, Reynolds, Hammell, Lasley, Hughes, Lappin (Fitzpatrick 59), Porter, McCormack (Darren Smith 70), Clarkson (Jamie Murphy 79). Subs Not Used: Daniels, Brian McLean, Malcolm, Archdeacon.

**A**berdeen earned a draw at Pittodrie but at the end of the game it felt more like a defeat. Leading through a Zander Diamond goal at the interval, the Dons started well in the second half but as the game progressed Motherwell began to gain a foothold.

With ten minutes remaining Diamond went from hero to villain when he conceded a clumsy penalty. The impressive Soutar produced the 'get out of jail free' card with a fine save but he was beaten three minutes later by a long range effort from substitute Darren Smith. In between, Motherwell keeper Graeme Smith made two world class saves to deny Barry Nicholson, first diving at his feet as he looked to bury a de Visscher cross then turning a header round the post to keep his side alive.

**CALDERWOOD'S COMMENTS :**

It was always going to be difficult because

we are playing against a team which is top of their form and we are having a bit of a tough time just now. I think we started quite nervously but then when we got the goal we started to knock the ball about a bit and at the start of the second half I think we were comfortable. We had at least two chances to put the game away and all credit to their keeper he made a couple of fantastic saves. Great cross by Jeffrey and if Barry had hit it just a little less sweet, I think it would have gone in but that's the way things go.

Stupidity by Zander for giving away the penalty, I have told him before about players on the edge of the box but it happened and I thought, here we go again, but then Derek pulled off a great save and that should have been it. Their goal was very sloppy from our point of view, a lot of players around the ball made it impossible for Derek to save it.

**FORMATION: 4-4-2**



# RED MATCHDAY STATS

Saturday 1st March 2008



## RANGERS

Scorers: Dailly (38), Adam (50), Boyd (83 pen)

Shots on target: 12

Shots off target: 11

Corners: 9

Possession: 63%

Attendance: 50,066

3 : 1

## ABERDEEN

Scorer: Lovell (28)

Booked: Diamond

Shots on target: 5

Shots off target: 6

Corners: 4

Possession: 37%

Referee: K Clark

**ABERDEEN:** Soutar, Maybury, Considine, Diamond, Foster, De Visscher, Nicholson, Severin, Maguire (Aluko 53), Miller, Lovell.

Subs Not Used: Langfield, Mackie, Touzani, Mair, Bus, Walker.

**RANGERS:** McGregor, Broadfoot, Cuellar, Weir, Whittaker, Dailly, Burke (Novo 45), Ferguson, Davis, Adam (McCulloch 68), Boyd. Subs Not Used: Alexander, Naismith, Cousin, Furman, Fleck.

**S**o the record goes on. Seventeen years and counting. But in all those 17 years the Dons will never have created as many chances as they did here.

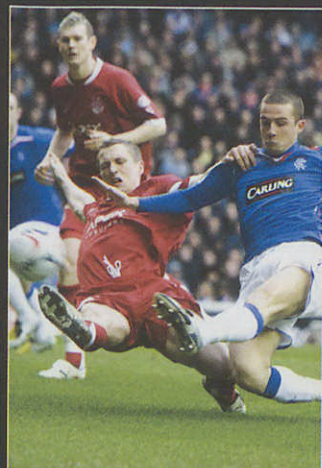
The score line may read 3-1 to Rangers but it took a string of contentious decisions including a soft penalty award to secure this win. Aberdeen can walk off the pitch with their heads held high after a great performance, particularly in the first half where they played some superb football. It took a string of good saves from McGregor in the first half to keep Rangers in this game as he was getting no cover from the men in front of him. The impressive Lovell deservedly fired the Dons ahead in the 28th minute and Aberdeen should have gone two up before Dailly levelled with the interval approaching. The home side improved after the break and went ahead through Adam. The Dons were still well in the game and Rangers looked nervous until Kenny Clark intervened when Novo went down easily inside the penalty area under a challenge

from Maybury. Soutar saved the spot kick from Boyd but the Rangers man reacted quickest and netted the loose ball.

### CALDERWOOD'S COMMENTS :

"We could have been three or four up in the first half although we didn't start too well, but after 10 minutes we took control. I thought McGregor was a bit lucky when Lovell went one-on-one with him as he just got a foot to the ball, but the lad went on to make two or three great saves after that. We finally got our goal and de Visscher had a great chance to make it two soon after. "We then lost our organisation with no one picking up Dailly and they are level. To be honest we then lost a sloppy goal in the second half, but we played a lot of good football today and even though Rangers probably weren't at their best we made them work hard for their victory. We will take a lot of confidence from this. "Darren Mackie picked up a knock in training before the game and we were unable to put him on the bench and Lovell picked up an injury during the game so both could be a doubt for next weekend."

### FORMATION: 4-4-2





**SFA YOUTH CUP QUARTER FINAL**  
**SUNDAY 2ND MARCH**  
**ABERDEEN 4 LIVINGSTON 3 (AET)**

The Dons' youth team came within less than a minute of crashing out of the Scottish Youth Cup before eventually getting the better of a plucky Livingston side after extra time in an entertaining quarter final tie at Pittodrie.

Aberdeen went in front after 21 minutes when, after good work from Sone Aluko and Gary Carroll, the latter's cross was headed into the net by Peter Pawlett. The Dons' joy was short lived however and three minutes later, slack defending allowed Andrew Halliday in to hook the ball past John Bateman from close range.

With four minutes to go before the break, Bateman fumbled a cross and the ball fell to Keaghan Jacobs who shot home from fifteen yards.

Midway through the second half, Aberdeen looked down and out when Scott Ross slipped inside the area and Gordon Smith took full advantage with a confident finish to make it 3-1.

In the 76th minute, a long clearance from Bateman was flicked on by Pawlett to substitute Chris Maguire who

powered the ball into the net giving keeper Darren Jamieson no chance.

The visitors looked to have held out but with referee Braidwood looking at his watch, Aluko crossed from the right, Carroll knocked the ball on and Josh Walker finished clinically to signal extra time.

There was no further scoring until, with just three minutes to go, Maguire played a neat one-two with Aluko before leaving the Livi defence in his wake and rounding the keeper to score what proved to be the winner.

Ryan Jack was sent off a minute later for a lunge on Livi defender David Sinclair.

**Dons** - Bateman, Jack, Crawford, Walker, S. Ross, Strachan, Carroll, Pawlett (Clark 91), McRobbie (Maguire 46), D. Ross (Smith 72), Aluko.



Sone Aluko in action



Walker fires in the late equaliser



Maguire scores the winner



Relief for Neil Cooper and the boys at the end



Maguire celebrates





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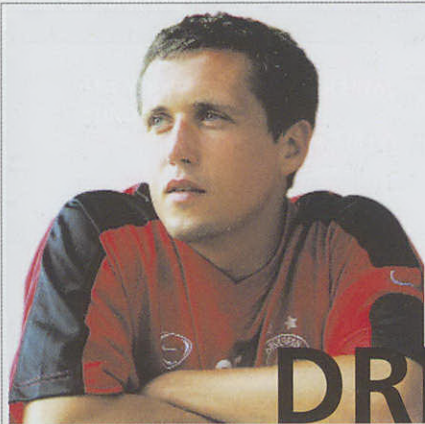


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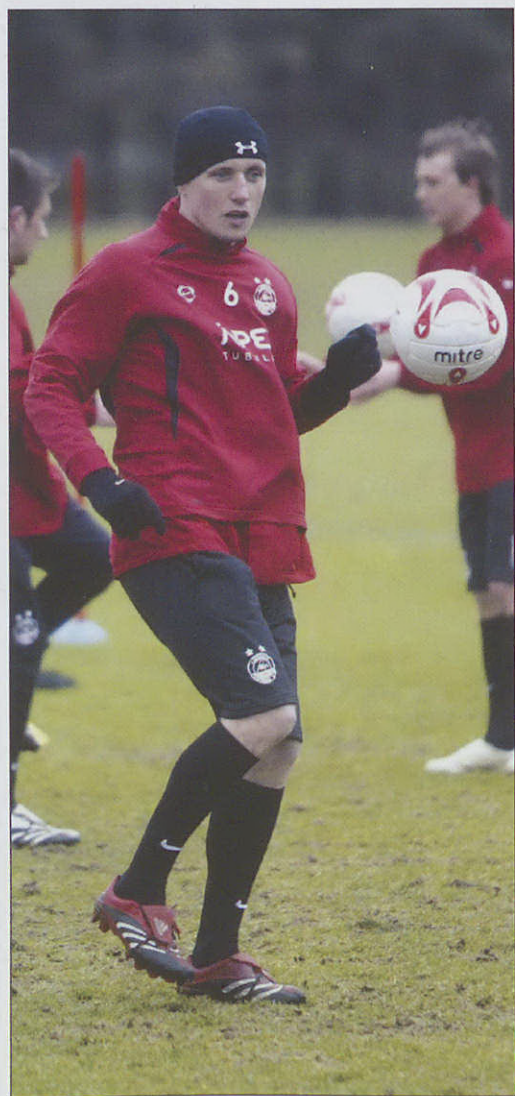
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# FROM THE DRESSING ROOM



**I** suppose if you get to the quarter-finals of the Scottish Cup you can't expect a simple tie, but they don't come any tougher than having to beat the holders to get through to the semi-finals.

The last two games have been very frustrating because the performances have been a lot better than the results would suggest, because we could easily have taken at least four points out of Motherwell and Rangers instead of the one that we got.

There was a lot of pressure on us going into that Motherwell game with the run of results that we'd had in the league and I think we responded pretty well to that. We put in a good showing I thought, and it was very hard to take that late goal after being the better side, putting so much into the game, creating chances, Derek saving a penalty as well. To drop those two points was very disappointing, but you have to take it on the chin and get on with it.

I think if we had won that game, the gap would have come down, we'd have gone up two places and it would have started just to put a little bit of pressure on Motherwell, and it would have given us a real sense that we could start getting after them. As it is with the games we've got coming up, it's not over, but it's certainly going to be tough and we are going to have to rely on Motherwell dropping points.

It was a bad goal to concede, not a great finish, just a ball back into the box and we didn't deal with it properly, but even then, we could still have won it at the death, their 'keeper's made some god saves and we ended up with only a point.

At Ibrox, for the first 45 minutes we served up some of the best football we've played all season, created a whole load of chances and could easily have been



clear at the break. I think we can take a lot of confidence because we gave them a bit of a battering in the first half. We had enough opportunities to be maybe two or three goals up at half time but that's the way it's been going the last two or three games.

At Easter Road it was the same, we were only winning 1-0 at half time after we'd been all over them when it could easily have been three or four nil up, and it was a similar story at Rangers, going in at 1-1. That gave them time to regroup and reorganise, Walter Smith probably had a few words and then they came out and were a much tougher prospect in the second half.

You could even say the same about the Celtic game here a few weeks ago when we were 3-0 down at



the break because we didn't take our chances and they did. That could easily have been 3-3 at half-time so although the final scoreline was a bad one, we don't feel it was a real reflection of the game and we're not going into today feeling down about that one because in patches we showed we can compete with them.

As far as the league goes, it's three of the last four at home now and if we play the way we have in the last two games in those, we should be able to push ourselves into the top six before the split and then you just wait and see what happens from there. Because you all play one another, things can change pretty fast after the split so if we can get ourselves in amongst it, it could still be an exciting end to the season.

Since the manager has come in, we've always been in the top six and that's the minimum thing to achieve this season now, it would be a huge disappointment if we didn't. But we think we have started to create a lot more chances of late and they will start to go in sooner or later, hopefully sooner!

Today would be a great day for all of them to start finishing up in the back of the net because we know that against Celtic, there isn't much room for error. This is a massive game for everybody here, the Scottish Cup is a great competition, it's our last chance of winning a trophy and after getting so close in the CIS especially, we all desperately want to go to Hampden for a final.

Nobody is in any doubt that it will take a massive performance on our behalf to get through but we're really looking forward to it. The pressure is on Celtic rather than us, nobody expects us to come through, so all we can do is give it our best shot. It's very like the Copenhagen game in that way, everything comes down to just the 90 minutes this afternoon, and again, the success in that game just comes back to all I've been saying.

That night we created five or six chances and took four of them, and it's not just about the boys up front but about all of us taking the chances when they come up. If we can create the same number of chances and be more clinical, it could make for a very interesting afternoon.



# ADVANCEDCENTRES



**I**n conjunction with the SFA, during the half time interval at today's match, groups of young players will be demonstrating their ability in small sided games.

The kids on the park will be split into two groups, one of which will be the Aberdeen based Under 12 players with coaches Gavin Levey and Brian Paterson. The Under 12s have recently begun playing 11-a-side football after a successful start to the season at 7-a-side. The Under 12s are made up of players from AFC's Youth Academy Centres in Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh and they train three times a week with fixtures on Saturdays.

The second group of players have been chosen from the new AFC Advanced Centres, a new initiative organised and run by Senior SFA Community Coach, Jim Crawford. This is an exciting project with a primary focus on developing technique for players from the club's community programme who are showing good potential at an early age. Sixty young footballers aged between 6 - 11 years are involved in this training programme that takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays at Linkfield Academy.

The Advanced Centres are by invitation only and are designed to give young players an opportunity to improve their technical ability by receiving extra skills coaching on a weekly basis.

The aim is to teach the youngsters the moves used by some of the world's greatest players, which they can emulate to make them more confident and comfortable when in possession of the ball. Learning where and when to execute the various types of moves will allow players to be more creative and exciting to watch. They will find playing a more enjoyable experience knowing that they have the tools to be more effective in any game situation which they may encounter. The aim is also to enhance the standard of football at this young age group and lay the foundations to assist and support our local teams in the years ahead, by cultivating the grass roots of football.


Our dedicated coaches will be very supportive and will focus on improving the technical ability of every young player invited to join the programme.


If we create better players, we will create better teams.








# SCOTTISH CUP STATS


 Aberdeen have played no less than 56 different teams in the cup in previous matches. Many sides are no longer in existence and there have also been several clashes with non-league sides. Included in the clubs previous opponents are Armadale, Bathgate, Bo'ness, Deveronvale, Duns, Gala Fairydean, Helensbrough, Johnstone, Kings Park, Nithsdale, Penicuik, Solway Star, St Bernards and Third Lanark.

 Aberdeen's record win of 13-0 against Peterhead at Pittodrie in 1923 was shrouded in controversy. Peterhead waived ground rights in an effort to attract a large Pittodrie gate but the bad weather decimated the crowd to just over 3,000. To compound the misery for the Peterhead club, several of their players refused to play due to the decision to switch to Pittodrie being taken out of their hands. Aberdeen keeper Harry Blackwell spent most of the game under cover of an umbrella.


 Aberdeen have played Hibernian most often in previous cup matches. In all the Dons have clashed on 28 occasions against the Easter Road club and the Dons have come out on top with 13 wins and 8 drawn ties. Included in that was a midweek record crowd of 44,000 for the replay at Pittodrie in 1967.


 1930s Aberdeen legend Matt Armstrong scored in five successive Scottish Cup-ties for the Dons in 1937. Amongst that haul was the Dons' first ever goal in a Scottish Cup Final, against Celtic at Hampden. In that run to Hampden in 1937, Matt scored in every tie apart from the 4-1 win over Third Lanark. In the 1st Round, Armstrong scored a hat trick against Inverness Thistle at Pittodrie.


 The last Englishman to score for the Dons in the cup was Dean Windass who scored in three successive ties in 1996. Previously Lee Richardson scored in the 1993 Final against Rangers. Paul Mason and Keith Edwards were also English born players on the mark for Aberdeen in the cup.


 Aberdeen hold two unique Scottish Cup records; Martin Buchan remains the youngest player to captain a Cup winning side. He was 36 days past his 21st birthday when he skipped the


Dons to a memorable 3-1 win over Celtic at Hampden in 1970.


 The fastest goal recorded in the history of the Scottish Cup was John Hewitt's 9.7 second goal against Motherwell at Fir Park in 1982. That goal was the catalyst for the Dons three in a row success in the competition in 1982, '83 and '84.

 The Dons' first ever Final attracted a British record crowd of 147,365 when Aberdeen played Celtic at Hampden. Although that was the official attendance it was reported that more than 20,000 gained entry to Hampden by other means, while almost the same amount were turned away from the outside the ground as the trying to get in to the ground was futile.

 Alex McLeish has played in more Scottish Cup Final's than any other Aberdeen player. McLeish played in six finals for the Dons, and was only on the losing side on one occasion, in 1993. The Dons legend was captain in the 1990 and 1993 finals, while he scored a memorable goal in the 1982 final against Rangers when his curled effort from the edge of the box set the Dons up for a 4-1 win over their Ibrox rivals.

 The Dons' first ever win over Rangers in the Scottish Cup came in dramatic circumstances in 1954. Aberdeen blew the Ibrox side away in the semi-final at Hampden. Joe O'Neil was the hero as his hat trick was the feature of the crushing 6-0 win.

 The last time that Aberdeen won the competition, in 1990, was the first occasion that the Cup Final went to a penalty shoot out. Theo Snelders, saved Celtic's Anton Rogan penalty, which left the way clear for Brian Irvine to create his own piece of history by scoring the decisive penalty. The Dons won 9-8.

 The only time that Aberdeen have played in the Cup Final away from Hampden was in 1993. The Dons lost out to Rangers at Celtic Park 2-1 with English born Lee Richardson scoring the goal.





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# ABERDEEN V MOTHERWELL WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2008



01



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



09

1. Ian Kuchler of match sponsor Weatherford UK Ltd with Jackie McNamara. 2. Gary Thomson of programme sponsor Hunting Oilfield with Jackie. 3. Jim Keir of matchball sponsor OBC Shipping with Jackie. 4. The In Safe Hands sponsor was Proserv, and Kevin Ingram is seen here with Jackie. 5. Zander Diamond collected the Royal Thai Man of the Match voucher from Ian McCartney of match sponsor Weatherford UK Ltd. 6. Adam Wood was the mascot and he is pictured here before kick off with Angus, Scott Severin, Douglas McDonald and Paul Quinn. 7. C Garden from Portlethen won the Grab A Grand prize with ticket 409258 and received the cheque from Neil Simpson. 8. Gary Kelman from Aberdeen was the Have A Ball prize winner with ticket 413229 and collected it from Zander. 9. Little Gus sponsored by Bibby Offshore and Integrated Subsea Services was Ryan Thomson, aged 8, from Airyhall Primary School.



# TODAY'S VISITORS ARE: CELTIC



**T**he quarter finals of the Scottish Cup and, as is obligatory it appears, Celtic are there, hunting down yet another trophy to take back with them to Celtic Park. Thus far, the Scottish Cup has found its way there on 34 occasions, three more times than Rangers have won the cup, Queen's Park the only other side to have double digits wins, their tenth and final win coming back in 1893, suggesting there is little chance of them troubling the engravers again any time soon.

The Dons haven't made it to the Final since 2000 when we went down to heavy defeat of course, but that was a far better year for us than it was for the Bhoys who had to endure the John Barnes nadir of humiliation at Inverness, the famous Super Caley headline that was quite funny at the time but has been done to death ever since. That meant Celtic had only managed one final appearance in five seasons, and they'd even blown that one, losing by the only goal of the game to Rangers in 1999, Wallace doing the damage.

From there, the only way really was up, and the noughties have gone on to be an impressive decade for the hoops in the premier cup competition, with four wins and one final defeat in the subsequent seven seasons, and they come to Pittodrie this afternoon as cup holders, having defeated Dunfermline Athletic last term.

Jackie McNamara with the cup



Their current run of success started at Hampden in 2001 when they were confronted by Hibernian in the final. Current Don Jackie McNamara got them under way, having also scored in the semi-final win over Dundee United. Jackie's 39th minute strike settled any nerves that they might have had and when Henrik Larsson popped up with the second just after half time, Hibs were sunk, Larsson finishing the job with an 80th minute penalty.

They were tenacious in the defence of the cup the following year, winning 2-0 at Pittodrie at the quarter-final stage before beating Ayr United in the semis to set up a meeting with Rangers. Twice in front thanks to John Hartson and Bobo Balde, they were pegged back both times by Rangers, Peter Lovenkrands and Barry Ferguson doing the trick before three minutes into injury time at the end of the game, Lovenkrands stepped up to snatch the game for the Gers and make it 30 Scottish Cups to Rangers, 31 to Celtic.

In 2003, Rangers levelled the scores by beating Dundee with the only goal of the game at Hampden, Inverness Caley Thistle proving to be Celtic's nemesis again at the quarter final stage, beating them 1-0 and leaving the path to the final clear for Rangers.

Celtic wasted little time in putting the record straight, becoming the most decorated Scottish Cup team once more in 2004, imperious on their way to the final, including victory over Rangers in the last eight. That was on their way to an appointment with Dunfermline Athletic, their final game under the management of Jimmy Calderwood before he headed for Pittodrie. There





was no story book finish for Calderwood as Celtic were simply too strong for the Pars, in spite of falling behind to a Skerla goal in the first half. The Bhoys stormed back in the second half and a brace from Larsson and a clincher from Stilian Petrov sealed their victory.

The Old Firm clashed at the third round stage in 2005, and the holders came through that tough examination to install themselves as the red hot favourites to retain the trophy. The bookies had got it dead right of course. Dunfermline, Clyde and Hearts were brushed aside, and then an early Alan Thompson goal was enough to see off Gordon Chisholm's Dundee United in the final in Martin O'Neill's last game at the helm.

2006 proved to be one of those rare but glorious years when both sides of the Old Firm fell on their swords on the way to the Final, Celtic beaten quite extraordinarily by Clyde at the first hurdle, Rangers getting turned over by Hibs a round later. Hearts and Gretna made it to the final, the Edinburgh men winning their seventh Scottish Cup on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

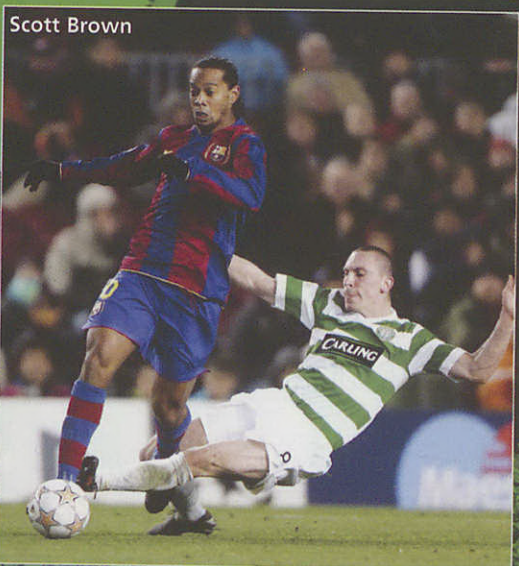
Celtic were in no mood to repeat that debacle last season and made it serenely to the quarter-finals where they were confronted by a trip to Inverness. Caley Thistle looked like they'd done it again, a goal ahead with two minutes left. But the ghosts of beatings past was finally exorcised as Steven Pressley and Kenny Miller scored in an amazing late burst to take Celtic into the semis where St Johnstone were overcome in a close encounter.

Gordon Strachan got his hands on the Scottish Cup for the first time since he and Aberdeen owned it in the mid 1980s when relegated Dunfermline were beaten 1-0,

having held on until the 84th minute. When Strachan first won the Scottish Cup with Aberdeen, the rest of the country had the devil's own job getting it off him. He's not going to be any more willing to hand it over now he's on the other side of the touchline, so it won't only be the Red Army that are hoping for an Aberdeen victory this afternoon.



Strachan fends off Tommy Burns



Scott Brown



We won the cup



<b>JIMMY CALDERWOOD</b> 	<b>JIMMY NICHOLL</b> 	<b>NEIL COOPER</b> 	<b>SANDY CLARK</b> 	<b>JIM LEIGHTON</b> 
				
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# Behind the Eight Ball



**T**he last few years have been rough ones for the old institution that is the Football Association Challenge Cup, battered by the withdrawal of Manchester United, hampered by teams fielding weakened elevens, and still disfigured by the unholy gap that exists between Chelsea reserves and Everton's first team.

But somehow, the old girl has managed to come up with an extraordinary competition this time around, reviving the romance of old - Havant & Waterlooville, we thank you - with some absorbing ties, which, in their infinite wisdom, the BBC have generally neglected.

Thanks to the vagaries of the draw - notably Manchester United v Arsenal - and the incompetence of Liverpool, the FA Cup is the most open it's been in years going in to the quarter final stage.

Sadly, logic screams at us that by the time Saturday is out, Manchester United and Chelsea will have overcome Portsmouth and Barnsley respectively and the semi-final contingent will be starting to take up a familiar look. God forbid the final should be a repeat of last year's boreathon between Chelsea and Manchester United.

But Sunday throws up genuine FA Cup magic and entertainment between sides for whom an FA Cup Final appearance would not only be something of a minor miracle but would be the gateway to European football too, a real prize worth sweating blood for.

The first of the two games is Middlesbrough against Cardiff City, Middlesbrough a trace fortunate to be there after they were gifted passage by the careless hands of Paddy Kenny. For Gareth Southgate, getting this far must be genuine relief after a tough first 18 months in the Boro hot seat that have been anything but comfortable since he succeeded Steve McClaren. Still, could have been worse, he could have had the 18 months that McClaren had.

Southgate is one of the new breed of managers and shows potential for the future, while being simultaneously

hamstrung by the expectations of a crowd who believe he has spent fortunes. Perhaps he has by the standards of the Boro that nearly went bust 20 odd years ago, but by the standards of the Premiership, he's spent a pittance and lost key figures such as Viduka, Yakubu and Woodgate, the ever loyal Boro fan who repaid them for doing the Lazarus on his career by heading for Tottenham at the first opportunity.

Cardiff have had the bizarrest of seasons. Dave Jones spent the early weeks fielding death threats as his team could barely string two points together, then saw them race up the table to the verge of the promotion race in the Championship race, only to start plummeting from grace once again as soon as the cup run began to take precedence.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink will be the key to it all from a Cardiff perspective, his explosive finishing still undimmed by the years as is his incredibly irritating habit of complaining about everything from offside decisions to the colour of the grass. Great player, desperately annoying bloke. With Robbie Fowler having apparently retired early - though he didn't tell Cardiff when he was signing his contract - Hasselbaink is the great hope for Cardiff, though Boro would be foolish to underestimate the dangers posed by Joe Ledley out wide in what will surely be one of his last games for the club before he move to the Premier League in the summer. All the same, it's got to be Boro to grind out another win.

Which leaves Bristol Rovers against West Bromwich Albion in the Sunday night slot, otherwise know as the "game nobody wants to watch slot". That's a pity really because in some ways, this is the real magic of the cup, with one of the real underdogs making it to the semi-finals of the FA Cup, and to a day out at Wembley, in itself a controversial move which must surely take away from the final. You get to a semi, you've achieved nothing. Wembley should be the goal, the Holy Grail, and it should be reserved for the final. It cheapens it, because the whole thing of the cup was to get to the final and have your day out at Wembley. Rant over.





Roman Bednar

They always say the FA Cup is the great leveller and when you see the pitch that Bristol Rovers play on, you can see why. Used for rugby as well, it's less a field of dreams than a potato patch, rutted and marked, less than ideal for a footballing team. Given that Tony Mowbray's West Brom don't do much other than play football, the trip to Rovers is not the dream ticket it might have seemed to most when the balls were drawn a couple of weeks ago. Having got this far without a single home draw, Albion know what it takes to stand up to the assault from a home team desperate to make use of their advantage, but the first 20 minutes of this encounter are likely to be something else again.

Rovers have had a pretty middling season after winning promotion, but they're an attack minded outfit who will throw everything at Albion in the early stages, with Ricky Lambert a real danger up front - he scored a hat-trick in the 3-3 pre-season draw between the two sides.

Albion's not so secret weapon has ceased to be Kevin Phillips in recent weeks, Roman Bednar taking up the slack in a late burst to try and win selection for the Czech Republic at the upcoming European Championships. Bednar scores pretty much every time he takes the field and has scored in every round of the cup thus far. He more than anybody else could be the difference between the two sides in the end, completing his rehabilitation after a grim last season at Hearts last term.

Which would leave us with Manchester United, Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion and Middlesbrough. If the draw comes out in that order, then the FA Cup survives to fight another day, and we have a final where one of the two underdogs has to produce the game of their lives, a la Sunderland against Leeds in 1973. If the two big guns avoid each other and make it through, the tales about the cup losing its appeal will be given more credence. Pray for a good draw...





**T**he rarest commodity in football isn't goals. It's time. Time to build a team if you're a coach, or time to settle into a pattern and to acclimatise to a new club, or even a new country if you're a player.

As soon as a player comes to a new club, the pressure is on and we expect to find ourselves with a world beater on our hands from day one. But it's never that simple. Even the great Dennis Bergkamp needed a season before he started to find his best form at Arsenal.

One of the positives to come out of the last two games has been the performances of Jeffrey de Visscher. The Dutchman would be the first to admit it has taken him time to adjust to Scottish football but recently he has shown us all the undoubted talents he possesses. Jeffrey is a hugely popular figure at the Pittodrie and has still a big future at Pittodrie. He spoke to RedTV during the week.

"Last Saturday at Ibrox was very, very disappointing. At half time we were frustrated because we had played so well and should have been 3-0 up. We have to take our scoring opportunities. One mistake defensively in the first half and it was 1-1. That is the difference between a big club and a team that is not in its best form. We had a game plan to stick to, trying to keep it tight everywhere on the pitch. Steve Lovell had to play off Lee Miller and push up from there. The first 30 minutes went to plan. Steve had a couple of chances, I had a good chance and we had some dangerous corners. We were pushing them but we just could not get the second goal.

"We were completely the dominant team in the first half. They only played long balls into Boyd and played off him. They did not play any football. Barry Ferguson made a few good forward runs and they had some dangerous corners but that was about it. I thought we had everything under control. One small mistake and it costs you a goal. That is

just the way things are going at the moment.

"Going into today's game I think we will have more confidence. We are still in the same position but we played well. It was similar against Hibs when we played well in the first half but should have been three or four up. We need to learn from this. Take our chances. Maybe be a bit quicker inside the box and just pull the trigger. If we don't take our chances against Celtic they have fabulous players and will punish us.

"From my own point of view I am doing ok, but when the team are playing well they can give me the ball in positions on the park so I can play my own game. When we are not under pressure we are a great side. We have not been so lucky in the last couple of games but we know we can play football and have to keep our heads high and keep going.

"If we play the way we did against Rangers every week we will win more games than we will lose and will be up at the right end of the league. We know we have good players and if you can do it against Rangers and Bayern Munich you need to do the same against Kilmarnock.

"It is not nice to hear some of the criticism we have received. Defensively we are giving away too many easy goals and we get criticism about that but the front players need to help out by taking our chances, and that will help the defence out. If we go three up you can afford to lose a goal so everyone has to do their bit.

"We have great fans. You could see that in the European cup games, the number of fans that travelled to the away games. It is difficult for them at the moment as well but we all need to stick together. I am confident we can get a result this weekend. We have to go for it and go for win. It is the only prize we can still win so we have to go for it."





**APEx**  
TUBULARS





# The Long Walk Home

By George Rutherford

**O**ur previous German UEFA guests, Hertha Berlin arrived at 5pm, then Bayern started an hour later. I don't want to sound like Basil Fawlty, but don't they realise some people have work to go to? Fortunately my workplace is within walking distance - don't worry I wasn't a transfer window signing. After the excitement of the 2-2 draw and a Dons side holding their own against Europe's finest, it wasn't so much a long walk home, more three miles walking on air after what transpired on Pittodrie's green acre and a half (Ed: We're in Europe now - hectares please).



My father has special reasons to remember Bayern - it's the German for Bavaria. Curious that we translate Muenchen to Munich but not Bayern to Bavaria, isn't it? Still grammatical points aside, 63 years before Bayern came to us, my Dad spent Valentine's Day 1945 covering about 25 km on a forced march somewhere in the neighbourhood of Dresden along with thousands of other Prisoners of War, many from the North East and Highlands. They were to be marched from Upper Silesia through Bohemia to Bayern ahead of the Russian advance for four long months through the bitterest of winters - it was a miracle that any survived the ordeal.

That long march came after five years incarceration following St Valery but it wasn't without its lighter moments - the POWs played football in the prison camp Stalag VIII B and my father was proud to report to his brother that he had been among the goals. News of this reached a friend of his brother, David Christie, a name that may mean something to serious followers of Aberdeen FC history and older fans.

He made his first appearance at Pittodrie in November 1937 playing inside left for the visitors Queen's Park in a 1-1 draw. That outcome was repeated when the teams met at Hampden in the



return fixture five months later (no four times a season then). He then went one better with the Spiders in the 1938/39 season as they beat the Dons 2-1 in Glasgow, though in his final outing against Aberdeen on 18th March 1939, Queen's went down 2-1.

Still that was a lot better than their intervening 5-1 crash at Pittodrie in the Scottish Cup. Christie had missed that match but he must have impressed the Pittodrie hierarchy as he was signed on in the summer as the Dons set out on what would have been their first full season in red and white - the famous black and gold stripes having been dropped earlier that year.

The ill-omened season kicked off on the "Glorious Twelfth" and what a start it was for debutant Christie and the Dons. Celtic were blown away on the opening day of the season with Christie netting the third goal in a 3-1 victory. By a quirk of the fixture list, the Dons visited Parkhead just eleven days later having gone down 3-0 at Motherwell in between. Remarkably they repeated the feat, Celtic having no grouse as Christie this time notched the second goal as the Dons won by the same margin. A 3-1 victory over Hibs followed before a 3-0 defeat at Muirton Park on 2nd September. The next day, Christie's Dons' career was over, perhaps one of the unluckiest of our players - a career ended and his feats of August '39 wiped from the record books.

Nevertheless it must have been with some amusement four years later that Christie learned from my late Uncle George of my father's



goalscoring exploits in Silesia, as he wrote back, "I was telling Bully (Christie's nickname) in a letter that you had been scoring goals in your matches so he said that your football rules out there must be very lax. He is playing hockey and a little football these days for some small local team."

That was about the final letter my Dad received from his brother, but David Christie, a retired Veterinary Surgeon, died just a few years ago, one of the forgotten men of Aberdeen history.

It was in April of 1945 that my Dad reached freedom in Weiden Oberpfalz, Bayern. He returned to Dresden and Berlin (twice) with the Dons. Ironically, Bayern striker Lukas Podolski is from Gliwice (Gleiwitz) where my father worked clearing icy tramlines all those years ago.



*The last team photo before the war, 1939. David Christie is front row, first left*





*'Goal in a million'*  
**Takes the cup**  
*to Aberdeen*

**I**t was a long time in coming but for a generation of Aberdeen supporters it was well worth the wait when the Dons won their first Scottish Cup in 1947. As the country recovered from the Second World War, Aberdeen made it to the first final for eight years after a steady, unspectacular road to Hampden...

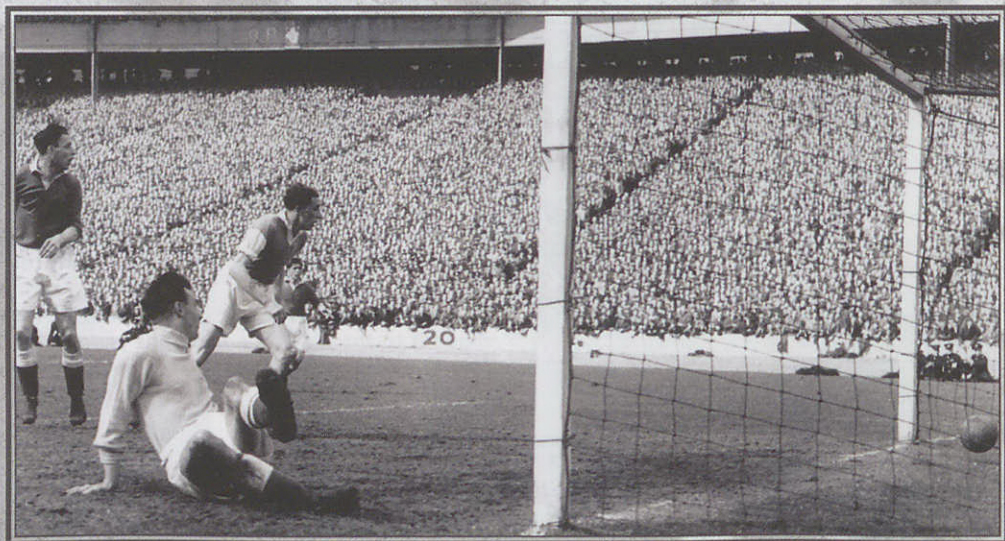


**A**berdeen opened their campaign with a home tie against Partick. At that time Thistle were highly regarded and Aberdeen would need to be at their best to see off the Firhill challenge with a huge 34,000 crowd gathering at Pittodrie for the first Scottish Cup tie to be played at Pittodrie since March 1939. Partick arrived with an impressive front line and it would be down to the likes of captain Frank Dunlop and his defence to keep the lively Thistle forwards at bay. The game itself wasn't a classic as Dunlop quelled the danger of Mathie while Tony Harris put the shackles on Jackie Husband to great effect. South African Ray Botha engineered the first goal for Aberdeen after 31 minutes, making progress down the wing and his clever pass set up George Hamilton who crossed for the intrushing McCall to beat Steadward from close range.

Partick levelled the tie after 67 minutes when Frank Dunlop clashed with Mathie. The Partick forward managed to get up from the challenge and beat George Johnstone. Dunlop could not continue after that and that paved the way for Aberdeen to adopt some offside tactics which were fraught with danger, but they also rallied

with a man down and increased the pressure on Partick. With four minutes left, they scored a dramatic winner from the most unlikely source. Stan Williams' deep corner fell to Willie Cooper who met the ball first time to crash it into the net. Cooper was the veteran of the side and he answered the call when a replay looked likely. While some suggested that Aberdeen were fortunate to win, Partick hardly did enough to take anything from the tie. The gate receipts from the tie were £2,042, the 34,000 crowd being the third highest of the day.

In the next round Aberdeen literally swept aside the challenge presented by lowly Ayr United at a windy Pittodrie, though they took their time to turn their pressure into goals; all they had to show for their first half endeavour was a George Hamilton effort a minute before the break. Some inspired saves from Barbour defied the Dons but in the second half with a strong wind at their backs, the Dons ran riot with a seven goal salvo that left Ayr reeling, though that second half did not get going until referee Bobby Calder had to return to the dressing rooms to get the match ball! Perhaps the Ayr players wished he hadn't as Ray Botha was given a special cheer after he scored his first goal for the club and Tony Harris



*Williams scores against Hibs in the Final*



weighed in with a spectacular hat trick.

Aberdeen were fortunate to be drawn at home again in the next round but found Morton a tough prospect. With Botha missing from the team, replacement Willie Millar scored the Dons' only goal after 25 minutes. Despite having their fair share of possession, the Dons could not hold out and a McKillop equaliser in the second half took the tie to a replay.

It was at Cappielow in the replay that Aberdeen showed their quality. A 2-1 win was deserved and it showed that this side had a resilience many thought beyond them. One report stated that 'Aberdeen made the game look like a game of draughts - always one step ahead of the Morton players'. Despite the home side trying everything to break down the Dons, two first half goals from McCall and Hamilton put Aberdeen in control. Stan Williams was the catalyst for all the good attacking Aberdeen moves and when the wily winger went off on his trademark runs down the wing, no less than four Aberdeen forwards would be up in support - weaving and bobbing their way into position.

Williams made both Aberdeen goals. The first came after the Springbok 'sand-danced' in the penalty area before setting up McCall to score. The second was simplistic in approach as his superb run was finished off by a classic downward header from George Hamilton. An eye injury to McLaughlin forced Aberdeen into a tactical switch in the second half as McCall went to right half with the injured Don making a nuisance of himself on the left wing. That meant a more defensive Aberdeen approach but they never looked in danger as Dunlop and company snuffed out the Morton threat.

As dreams of a Hampden appearance grew, the Dons drew Dundee at Dens Park in the quarter final which prompted great interest in the city. A huge travelling support followed the Dons on the cup trail and they were treated to a classic tie that took 129 minutes to settle. Dundee scored in the first half through Ewen whose fine solo goal was scored while the Dons were down to ten

men with McKenna off the field being treated for a head injury. It was that man again Stan Williams who brought Aberdeen level on the hour as he took full advantage of a mistake from Ancell to whip the ball past a stunned Lynch in the Dundee goal. The game went into an extra time period and it was Stan Williams who was the toast of Aberdeen as he popped up with a winning goal in the third period of extra time in the 129th minute. With the Dundee defenders leg weary, Williams summoned enough energy to run in to the Dundee area and crash an unstoppable shot past Lynch.



*Frank Dunlop collects the cup*

Aberdeen went into the semi final and a quick return to Dens Park to face Arbroath who had defied the odds to reach the last four. While the Gayfield side had enough fight in their make up, they were no match for a classy Dons side who imposed themselves on the game from the start. Stan Williams was fast becoming a hero with the Aberdeen support and it was a goal in each half from him that took Aberdeen through to their second Scottish Cup Final, to be played only seven days later. The Dons had little time to prepare for the meeting with Hibernian at Hampden but were safe in the knowledge that they would have a huge following behind them for the big day. With Williams and Hamilton perhaps playing at their peak the Dons knew that they always carried a goal threat.

Hibernian captain Dave Shaw who later joined





the Dons as player, trainer and manager, won the toss and elected to play into the stiff breeze and strong sunshine. After 25 seconds there was a sensation and a shock for Aberdeen as they went behind. A long clearance from Finnigan went deep in to the Aberdeen penalty area. George Taylor was in an unfamiliar left back role and he opted to pass the ball back to keeper Johnstone. The 'keeper anticipated the move and went to collect the ball but looked back in disgust as the ball slipped out of his grasp and gave Cuthbertson the easy task of scoring.

The Aberdeen response was swift and Stan Williams hit a shot from 25 yards that Kerr just managed to tip over the bar. Where previous sides had failed on the big occasion, this

Aberdeen side had a tough mentality that was to bring a greater reward. McLaughlin, Dunlop and Waddell were all pressing the Hibernian back line back as Aberdeen pressed for the equaliser. It took some desperate defending from the Easter Road side to keep Aberdeen out, but their luck did not hold and after 35 minutes Aberdeen scored a deserved leveller. A long ball deceived the Hibernian defence and livewire Stan Williams was onto it and made his way towards goal. Williams looked up and flicked the ball across goal to George Hamilton who beat Kerr to the ball and headed into the empty net.

Although Hibernian fought back when Willie Ormond brought out a fine save from Johnstone, their respite was temporary as Aberdeen hit a hammer blow four minutes before half time. It was the South African winger Williams who was causing the most damage and as he collected a long ball down the right wing he was soon closed down by two Hibernian defenders. Williams slipped the ball through them and cut in towards goal. As the Aberdeen forwards lined up for the expected cut back, Williams cleverly slipped the ball past Kerr at the near post. It was a goal of pure genius and worthy of winning any final.

The expected response from Hibernian in the



*Parading the Scottish Cup at Pittodrie*



second half was never allowed to gain momentum as Aberdeen continued to dominate possession. On the hour mark they had a glorious chance to finish the tie when they were awarded a penalty, that man Williams who had tormented the Hibernian players all afternoon brought down by Hibernian 'keeper Kerr. George Hamilton took the penalty but his effort went straight at Kerr, who saved easily. While that may have offered Hibernian incentive it was then down to the Aberdeen defence to close the game down and led by captain Frank Dunlop, the Dons held out with ease to win the Scottish Cup for the first time in their history.

The Aberdeen squad enjoyed the celebrations at the end and it was not until the Monday evening that they eventually arrived back in Aberdeen from their Largs base. More than 15,000 turned up to welcome their heroes home at the Aberdeen Joint Station and even the pouring rain did not diminish the excitement. Lord Provost Thom Mitchell was first to congratulate Dunlop and his players and then, the victorious players made their way out of the station on top of a coach, slowly working its way past thousands of supporters who lined Guild Street, Trinity Quay and then along Union Street and Marischal Street. The Caledonian Hotel awaited the players for a civic reception. Frank Dunlop the Aberdeen

captain was a proud man as he felt humbled by the reaction from the citizens of Aberdeen: "I am sure the boys feel that they could travel far and wide and still not find a club like Aberdeen. Personally I feel it an honour to be at Aberdeen."

**ABERDEEN:** Johnstone, McKenna, Taylor, McLaughlin, Dunlop, Waddell, Harris, Hamilton, Williams, Baird and McCall.

**HIBERNIAN:** Kerr, Govan, Shaw, Howie, Aird, Kean, Smith, Finnigan, Turnbull, Cuthbertson, Ormond.

#### The Dons' Road to Hampden 1947

Date	Opp	Res	R		Scorers	Att
25.1.1947	Partick Th	2-1	1	H	McCall, Cooper	34,000
8.2.1947	Ayr Utd	8-0	2	H	Hamilton 3, Harris 3, Williams, Botha	15,500
22.2.1947	Morton	1-1	3	H	Botha	30,000
8.3.1947	Morton	2-1	3R	A	Hamilton, McCall	18,500
29.3.1947	Dundee	2-1	QF	A	Williams 2	38,000
12.4.1947	Arbroath	2-0	SF	N	Williams 2	22,000
19.4.1947	Hibernian	2-1	F	N	Hamilton, Williams	82,140



*Through the streets of Aberdeen*





# ABERDEEN V CELTIC

## SCOTTISH CUP FINALS





## 1970 *Scottish Cup*

There was little doubt that the Dons' most successful era in the Scottish Cup came with four cup wins between 1982 and 1986, a relentless pursuit of the trophy by Alex Ferguson's great side. It's not very often that the Old Firm are put to the sword but that Aberdeen side did so with a regularity that was unprecedented in Scottish football.



**W**hile that period was memorable in its own right, it's the 1970 Cup win which remains the most remarkable, a success of fairytale proportions as not many outside of Pittodrie gave the Dons any hope against a Celtic side that was preparing for another European Cup Final. "A lot of teams feared them but we certainly didn't", Dons striker Joe Harper claimed some years later but it was a triumph that rocked Scottish football to the core.

The Dons were to finish in a modest 8th place in the league table, a massive 22 points behind champions Celtic, a mismatch of huge proportions. Outside of Pittodrie the Dons were given little hope, but manager Eddie Turnbull had a tactical awareness that was not lost on Joe: "Eddie made sure we had pace on the flanks with Derek McKay, Jim Forrest and Arthur Graham all in the starting line up. He told me that we had to get in behind them to exploit their defence. Just sit in, he told me, and draw them out. It worked a treat. I remember the second goal when I turned Billy McNeill and sent a diagonal ball to Jim Forrest, who cut in and set up McKay for the goal. The third one was the same as I did Tommy Gemmill. As a young player it was the first time

that I had been involved in anything tactical and it worked a treat."

There was little indication leading up the Dons' opening tie against Clyde that Hampden was on the horizon. Aberdeen had lost 3-2 to Morton at Greenock the week before and it seemed that Turnbull was undecided on his best eleven; the defence was still unsettled with Ernie McGarr keeping Bobby Clark out of the side. Jim Kirkland and Jens Petersen were still in his plans although Martin Buchan had emerged as a real find alongside centre half Tom McMillan. The only







constant in the team was up front where Harper, Forrest and Davie Robb were forming a lethal combination and it was that strength that carried Aberdeen through against Clyde in a convincing 4-0 win.

Where Aberdeen had been slick against Clyde, they looked sluggish in the next round against Clydebank. It was an almost surreal atmosphere as the tie was eventually played in midweek after an initial postponement. Strange too that Aberdeen turned out in a blue and white striped kit, after a last minute demand from the referee so that the Dons' red shirts would not clash with that of their visitors. It was also the first occasion that young Martin Buchan captained the side as he took over from Jens Petersen, a clear indication of Turnbull's doubts about his team. The Dons even had to endure the wrath of the home support as they struggled to overcome part time Clydebank in a narrow 2-1 win. There was little room for error and the supporters vented their fury at full time.

By the time the next round came up, it was a different set of circumstances for Aberdeen. While they received few plaudits for their performance against Clydebank, it was the exact opposite when they travelled to Falkirk for the

quarter final. The build up to the tie was thrown in to chaos as a flu virus swept through the club, decimating players and staff. As the tie rapidly approached, the situation did not improve, Turnbull requesting a postponement from the SFA. Joe Harper recalled the build up to the game: "Most of the squad was hit by flu and I remember Eddie trying to get the game postponed. But to be honest, Eddie was also chancing his luck as we had a few injuries as well. We just had to get on with it."

The Dons showed a tough side to their nature as they battled their way through to the last four with a 1-0 win. While the SFA did the Dons few favours by insisting that the game was played, it opened the door for the unknown Derek McKay to come in to the side. It was McKay who scrambled a second half winner to send Aberdeen through to a semi final clash with Kilmarnock. Muirton Park was the home of St Johnstone and the choice of venue delighted Aberdeen. For once it was a neutral venue in the true sense and the indications were that Aberdeen would be backed in huge numbers. There were almost 18,000 Aberdeen supporters at the old ground and it was Derek McKay who once again popped up with the only goal to send Aberdeen through to the final. This was no stylish performance from the Dons, far from it, as they had to withstand a





second half barrage from Kilmarnock as they peppered the Aberdeen defence at every opportunity. That experience surely benefited the Dons though as they could expect more of the same in the final after Celtic eased past Dundee in the other semi final.

The Dons were no strangers to Hampden having been there three years earlier, losing to Celtic. The circumstances were similar with the Parkhead side blazing a trail in the European Cup. In 1967 Aberdeen had to play Celtic without Eddie Turnbull as he was confined to his sick bed but it was a more confident Aberdeen side that was to face Celtic on 11th April 1970 as Bobby Clark recalled: "There was no question we thought we could win. It was a strange run but we were confident and had great team spirit. We had beaten Celtic a couple of weeks before at Celtic Park in the league. That gave us real belief. As for the final itself, Eddie put Joe Harper in to the midfield along with Hermiston and Dave Robb. That gave us three against their two, Auld and Murdoch." Joe Harper opened the scoring for the Dons through a disputed penalty.

Joe recalled the long delay as the Celtic players surrounded referee Davidson: "I remember the Celtic players tried to keep the ball while all the arguments went on but I managed to get the ball and started to play keepy-up with it. It might have looked arrogant but I was just trying to compose myself really. When I eventually got down to taking the penalty, I always believed in placing the ball. It all worked out perfectly." Aberdeen went on to win 3-1 with 'Cup-tie McKay' scoring the two late goals that brought the cup back to Pittodrie, Celtic out-thought and





out-fought by an Aberdeen side that had a great confidence and belief in themselves.

The welcome home for the players was one of the most passionate ever seen in the city as a reported 100,000 lined the route. Joe Harper remembered: "We had all heard the stories from 1947. We got a taster in Stonehaven; it took us half an hour to get through there. The place was mobbed. It started at Holburn Street as we came down and the crowds increased. Eventually, as we got to the top of Union Street the bus was swaying. It was quite amazing. It was a great day and I consider it

as one of the best moments in my life."

#### The Dons' Road to Hampden 1970

Rd	Date	Opp	Venue	Result	Att	Scorers
1	24 Jan	Clyde	Pittodrie	4-0	12,000	Robb 2 Harper 2
2	11 Feb	Clydebank	Pittodrie	2-1	13,100	Robb, Forrest
QF	21 Feb	Falkirk	Brockville	1-0	13,500	McKay
SF	14 Mar	Kilmarnock	Perth	1-0	25,812	McKay
Final	11 Apr	Celtic	Hampden	3-1	108,434	Harper, McKay 2







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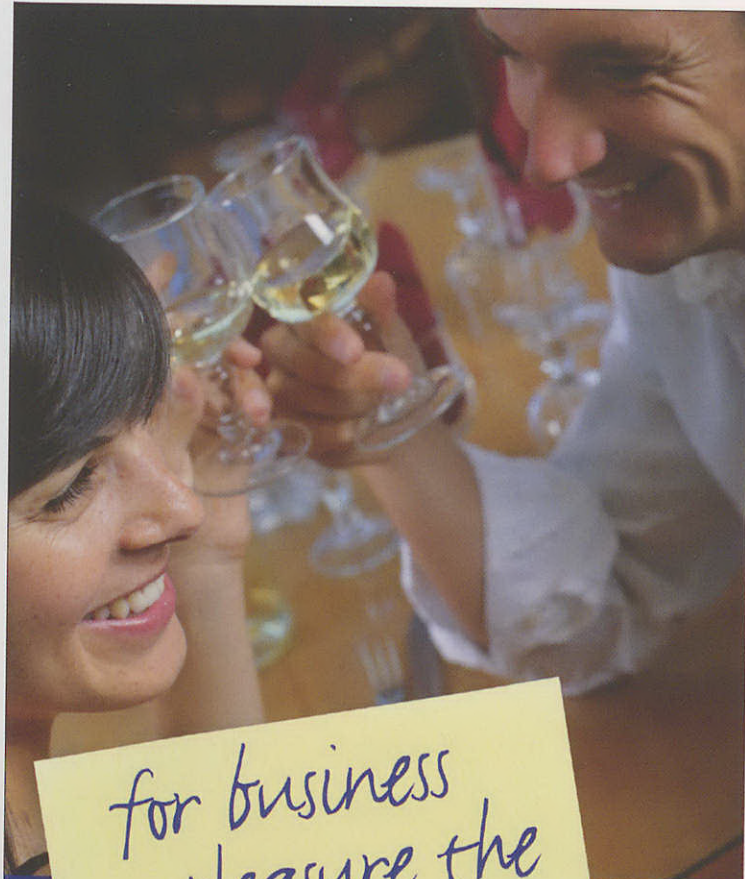
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# England's Dreaming

[Revisited]



**I**t appears that the 39th game is a step too far for the Premier League and the brave new world of playing Premiership football outside the confines of England has been quashed, for the time being at least.

But don't think it won't come back to haunt us in the future. Now that this particular feline has removed itself from the bag, there'll be no stuffing the little so and so back in. There'll be a revised version, perhaps dumping game 39 but featuring the opening day of the season taking place across all the time zones of the world. Or we might end up playing the final day of the season on the moon - of course, if we really wanted to play somewhere without any atmosphere, we could always just turn up at the Reebok.

The world and his wife - Mrs. World, big woman, two-thirds blue with some green bits - have had their say on Game 39, mostly negative. Sifting through it all, perhaps the most interesting statement of all was this one.

"It's a strange and comical idea. I laughed because it will never be received by FIFA, by the fans and by the national associations. It's ironic. Soon you will have in England no English presidents of clubs, you already have no English national team coach, you have no English players and maybe now you will have no clubs playing in England. It's a joke."

Ordinarily, you'd assume those words came from Outraged of Tunbridge Wells in the bizarre world that is the Daily Telegraph's letters column, or from professional Little Englanders such as Peter Hitchens, Garry Bushell or Richard Littlejohn. Instead, they came from one of the most respected men in world football, Michel Platini, President of UEFA and one time purveyor of midfield magic. When Platini speaks, only a fool fails to listen - yes Premier League, that means you.

If Platini's words start a real debate about the state of the game in England, then all the fuss about the 39th step will have been worthwhile because while any organisation, any competition, any - may God forgive me for using the word - brand has to be outward looking if it's to survive, there comes a time when a little bit of navel gazing doesn't go amiss either.

By most measures, the Premier League has been hugely successful. Crowds are generally up, facilities are better, the league reaches huge global audiences on television, extraordinary swathes of cash flowing into the country as a consequence. At the top end, some of the quality produced borders, at times, on the genuinely awesome, although the hype does tend to look rather stupid when you're subjected to the inept, clodhopping misery of Derby County versus

Bolton Wanderers. But equally, any idiot who reckons that the money that brought in Cristiano Ronaldo, Arsene Wenger or Jurgen Kinsman was money wasted should never be allowed near a football ground again.

However. However. We have created a league that is no longer ours. Perhaps in the days of the global village, it doesn't matter any more. Certainly the fact that we have a cosmopolitan league has done much to help ease racial tensions, if not our tribal ones. But the country that gave the game to the world has done such a good job of it that the world has whipped it from underneath us, like one of those episodes of Star Trek where Captain Kirk saves an ailing planet and then gets put in a cage as reward.

Does it matter that Liverpool, Manchester United, Chelsea, Manchester City, Aston Villa, Birmingham City are owned by aliens - no, not those kind of Star Trek aliens, at least not in most cases. Does it matter that the only English coaches in the Premier League are Portsmouth, West Ham, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Wigan, Bolton, Reading, Derby and Fulham, otherwise known as "the clubs that don't count"? Does it matter that when Capello comes to select his England squads, he really only has about 45 players to choose from - and that's a pretty generous estimate at that.

How did we get here? Money. Too much of it and, ironically not enough. The too much enabled us to go out and bring in some of the biggest names in world football - as long as they're not Italian, since Serie A is still a way better competition. But spending international telephone numbers on transfer fees and wages meant that corners had to be cut elsewhere in the squad, and that generally has led to the recruitment of players from eastern Europe, very, very good players, but whose fees and wages are a fraction of their western brethren, and, especially, way below their English counterparts.

Speak to a Czech player for instance, and he'll tell you that because so many of his compatriots go abroad, their domestic league is weak. But because there are so many gaps left by the migrants, young players get a chance to play and get better and better. The Czech Republic look a handy side don't they?

Meanwhile, England are a nothing nation on the international stage. Our Under 21s are decent enough but will they get to play for Liverpool, or will they xinstead end up at Wigan because there is no chance for them at Anfield?

Platini is right. English football is English in name only these days. It is not of its country, it is not rooted here. It's spectacular, it's exciting, but it's not English nor does it serve England. Does it matter? Have a think. Make your mind up when you're watching Euro 2008.



# EURO-UP ROUND



## BRAVEHEARTSWITHCAMERAS?

By George Rutherford

**T**he German Press found it hard to reconcile the two legs of the Dons' recent joust with Bayern and there was certainly some colourful writing in the broadsheets following the Dons' credible showing in the first leg. Under a headline "Always a battle", the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* ran with: "On the left, towards the East before sunset you can still see the green dunes, behind which the wild North Sea hurls its waves at the exposed coastline of Aberdeen."

Long after the final whistle, only damp mud glistened in front of Ottmar Hitzfeld's eyes, between a few divots. In many places the groundsman had painted the earth green. Hitzfeld took the long walk, as he must attend the post match interviews, turn right at the corner flag. On his way he heard a few voices from the terraces and greeted the last stragglers in friendly fashion, to thank them for the memorable atmosphere during the ninety minutes. The youths didn't exactly greet Hitzfeld in a friendly manner "Who are ya?" - wer bist denn du? It was as if they knew of Bayern's latent identity crisis."

He concluded his report on an affectionate note saying Pittodrie with its 25 square metre dressing rooms was "the home of men who knew precisely who they were."

From the result in the return leg it was clear that not only Bayern had an identity crisis. In the run up to the 66,000 sell out, the Munich *Merkur's* correspondent spotlighted the Dons as "The last Scots from Scotland", so it must have come as a bit of a surprise when all three Dons' goals were netted by Englishmen, while of Bayern's seven only one was scored by a player born in Germany - who represents Turkey.

Looking at Pittodrie he purred, "An old British stadium is always a museum too. Pittodrie is no exception. The oft altered red brick structure has in its winding panelled corridors, nooks and crannies decorated with pictures of old heroes and even a connection to the Bundesliga through Zoltan Varga."

He ended his report by saying the old ground's days were numbered but hoped any new stadium might also have such fascinating recesses.

The *Merkur* had a rather more condescending tone on the day of the match. Bayern's problem would not be getting a result, but keeping their public happy: "Its against teams like little Aberdeen that spectators want to see a spectacle."

While the broadsheets were providing serious coverage, Germany's leading tabloid, *BILD*, had weightier matters to consider. Martin Demichelis of Bayern had picked up a calf strain on Pittodrie's battlefield, and would be out for two weeks. However this was perhaps not such bad news for him, as his girlfriend from Argentina, the 24 year old Evangelina Anderson, was to be in Germany coinciding with her scantily clad appearance in a German magazine. It's little surprise he favoured an evening with her to a night facing Mackie and Miller.

On the whole, the press viewed the first leg scare as a case of Aberdeen playing the game of their life while





Bayern weren't taking the competition entirely seriously. They cited as evidence the fact that the players travelled only with hand baggage - though who needs to put anything in the hold of the aircraft when you have a state of the art coach waiting to meet you at Aberdeen Airport?



Evangelina Anderson

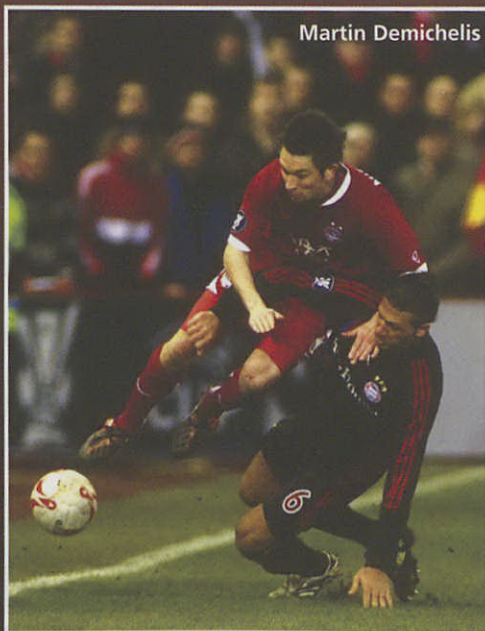
The resumption of "normal service" at the Allianz Arena came as a great relief to "Die Welt". "Tourists given short shrift" screamed the headline, going on, "It almost appeared to be clear to Aberdeen's players that the second leg in Munich offered them little more than a sightseeing trip. As they entered the Allianz Arena for the first time they pulled out their cameras and snapped the Bavarian masterpiece. Yesterday evening they played like tourists, going under to Bayern by 5-1." The reporter didn't even mention the Dons



scoring, ending his report "For the Aberdeen Tourists it was time for souvenirs, the shirts of the Bayern stars."

Elsewhere the predictable reaction was "Wunderbar!" from the Munich "Abendzeitung", while Bayern were the perfect host according to another paper, even allowing their guests a consolation goal "which interested only the 5,000 Aberdeen Fans" according to Tages Zeitung. Meanwhile "Kicker" magazine had a pre match report from a Scot which focussed on Jamie Smith, who played no part in proceedings, and contained the obligatory "Braveheart" reference. Nevertheless their post match summaries of both sides' chances and corner counts were telling. At Pittodrie, scoring opportunities 10:3 in Bayern's favour as was the corner count of 3:1. In Munich, the same stats ran 14:3 and 13:0 and no, I needn't say for whom.

It all added up. "Football was mathematics" the papers concluded, drawing on Hitzfeld's earlier studies. Just a pity Demichelis had to be excused from attending the Thursday evening maths class.



Martin Demichelis



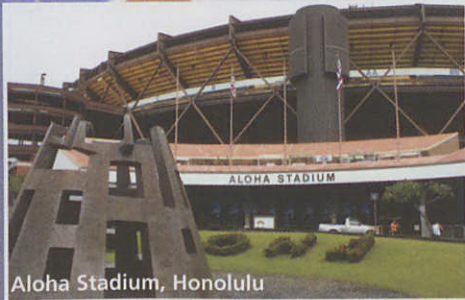
# ACROSS THE POND

## PAN-PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

**L**ess than a mile from Pearl Harbor, Japan's Gamba Osaka warmed up for the new J-League season by launching a devastating attack on the first Pan-Pacific Championships at Honolulu's Aloha Stadium in Hawai'i. However, as now seems mandatory with MLS-run tournaments, the circus was also in town to detract from the event.

Houston Dynamo, the MLS champions, were obliterated 6-1 in the final, courtesy of a lethal display of finishing by towering Brazilian striker Baré. In truth the result was harsh on Houston, three weeks behind Gamba in their pre-season preparations, after matching their opponents during an entertaining first hour. Dynamo took an early lead through Ricardo Clark's spectacular diving header, but Baré's impressive hat-trick and a stunning strike by his compatriot, Lucas, cut Houston adrift. Further efforts from Baré and Yamazaki compounded Dynamo's air of resignation. It's worth checking out footage on [www.ppchampionship.net](http://www.ppchampionship.net) for Baré's second goal which astounded the majority of the 23,087 crowd.

Brazilian players enjoy a special relationship with Japanese fans, enhanced by the national team's 2002



Aloha Stadium, Honolulu

### Trophy presentation



World Cup success in Yokohama and by the influence of the legendary Zico, initially as a J-League player and later as manager of the Japanese national side. World class talents such as Bebeto, Leonardo and Dunga have also played in Japan (though for the benefit of today's visitors, Rafael Scheidt remains excluded), as well as a long list of unheralded Brazilians like

Baré. He joined Gamba last season, scoring twenty goals as the team finished third behind Kashima Antlers and Urawa Red Diamonds. The marauding defender Mineiro completes a Brazilian triumvirate at Gamba whose contribution in Hawai'i was warmly appreciated by the cluster of travelling Japanese fans congregated at one end of Aloha Stadium. Particularly impressive too was attacking midfielder Shu Kurata. The 19 year old playmaker, a member of Japan's U-20 side, only made his league debut last August but he performed with poise and maturity belying his inexperience.

Things seemed to be going to plan for Houston in their semi-final against Sydney FC, who included former Dons' striker David Zdrilic on the subs' bench. Star man Dwayne De Rosario had already thumped one left-footed drive against the crossbar from 25 yards before netting from similar range with his right. Seconds later, Aberdeen-born midfielder Stuart Holden doubled the advantage. Chris Wondolowski added a third, all before the interval, to complete the rout. Sadly for the spectators, De Rosario limped off with a hamstring injury, possibly aggravated by the widely criticised





artificial surface, and missed the final. Gamba, meanwhile, strolled through their semi-final against Ruud Gullit's shambolic Los Angeles Galaxy, but despite their dominance and a glut of chances they could not add to Baré's third minute goal.



The tournament served as a beneficial pre-season warm-up, but suffered criticism due to its initial hype as an event to crown the best team in the Asia-Pacific-North America region, a claim whose credibility was diminished as Houston was the only champion present. Scheduling conflicts with the Hyundai A-League meant that Sydney, fresh from play-off elimination, flew in to represent Australia as Newcastle Jets wrapped up the title. The Sydney players looked like tourists, not that they were alone in that respect, losing also to LA Galaxy (2-1) in the consolation match.

In terms of meritocracy, inviting the eleventh best team in MLS was a blatant farce. Alexi Lalas, Galaxy's general manager, seemed unconcerned claiming at the opening press conference that "there is a need for us to be involved for the good of the league". He also emphasised that the tournament was not "a chance to sit on the beach and drink pina colodas", but this message apparently failed to register with their \$32.5 million-a-year cliché king.

After informing anyone interested that the tournament was "great for the game" and that "children are out there watching", Sideshow Dave did his utmost to reward those kids turning up to see him by cavorting along the touchline, spending an extraordinary amount of time facing the stands and continually bending over to check his supposedly injured ankle. For the real football fans attending to see the games, not him, it is increasingly embarrassing to stomach, especially in light of Beckham's self-instigated, highly publicised intentions

to return to Fabio Capello's England squad. Suggestions that he too was simply here on holiday apparently did not sit well with Beckham. Allegedly, when he heard the accusations he almost fell off his surfboard.



MLS commences in three weeks with this year looking critical for the league's investment in Beckham. A growing number of dissenting voices are being heard, even amongst Galaxy supporters. After eight months, the man supposedly "promoting soccer in America" still barely talks to the sports media and repeatedly declines invitations to appear on Fox Soccer Channel's popular Fone-in, favouring instead Snoop Dogg's reality TV show or a boogie with Janet Jackson in Hollywood's Club Central. Little wonder that LA Times' sportswriter T.J. Simers recently concluded that "[Beckham] was brought to LA to put soccer on the US map", but "beyond looking pretty, there isn't much there".

Given his vaunted pulling power, the combined 38,215 crowd in Honolulu will worry MLS especially as thousands of locals were attracted by Houston's Brian Ching, a native Hawaiian. As far back as January 2003 when Manchester United lost 2-0 at home to Arsenal in the FA Cup, Sir Alex Ferguson saw that Beckham had allowed his work ethic, one of two major attributes allowing him to succeed at the highest level, to evaporate. Within weeks, he relinquished his right midfield slot to Ole Gunnar Solskjær. Within months, he was surplus to requirements and being dispatched to Madrid for four years of mediocrity, matched by dismal displays at Euro 2004 and World Cup 2006.

The lesser-informed American public might be taking longer to catch on, but the first seeds of mass doubt may already be blossoming.

**Ian Thomson is an exiled Dons fan currently living in Houston, Texas. [ian.thomson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ian.thomson@sbcglobal.net)**





## 9TH MARCH

**A**berdeen welcome Celtic to Pittodrie this afternoon, looking to keep their last hope of silverware alive in this Scottish Cup quarter final tie against the holders. A win would also keep their dreams of a return to European football alive and kicking. This is the fourth time that Aberdeen have faced Celtic on this day, the first meeting back in 1912 when the Dons lost 2-0 in a Scottish Cup replay, having drawn the first match 2-2 at Pittodrie. Fifteen years later, Celtic visited Pittodrie on league duty. The Dons were looking for revenge for a 6-2 thrashing in Glasgow earlier in the season. They didn't quite succeed, but they did earn a creditable 0-0 draw. The last meeting between the clubs on this day was in 1935 when, by coincidence, Celtic travelled to Pittodrie for a Scottish Cup quarter-final meeting.

After eliminating Falkirk and Albion Rovers it took three attempts to shake off Hibernian in the last round. A 0-0 draw at Pittodrie and 1-1 draw at Easter Road gave no clue to the drama that was to unfold in the third and final match, also played at Easter Road. The Dons triumphed 3-2 in a thrilling tie and 3,000 fans met the players at the Joint Station on their return. The reward was a fifth match in 15 days as Celtic came calling. The Glasgow side had needed a replay against Partick Thistle before receiving a bye in the previous round. 40,105 people packed Pittodrie that day and the home crowd were rewarded with a 3-1 win courtesy of two goals from Armstrong and one from Mills. The fans leaving Pittodrie didn't realise it at the time, but with Aberdeen still in the league race and their semi final berth in the cup now booked, they had just witnessed the Dons' last victory of the season.

Tubby Ogston



Elsewhere on this day, Nikita Khrushchev was elected chief of the Moscow Communist Party. Earlier in the week Malcolm Campbell set a new land speed record of 276.8 mph and an LNER steam train also created a record when it reached 108 mph on a journey between

London and Newcastle. In Switzerland the nine-year-old Prince Ananda was crowned King of Siam. Eleven years later he would be found dead in his bed in from a gunshot wound, a mystery that was never solved. The prospect of war hung heavily over Europe at this time and this week

the Government announced plans to increase defence spending while in Germany Goering claimed a German army of 400,000 was insufficient and announced the official creation of the Luftwaffe.

Twenty-two years later in 1957

Aberdeen were already out of the cup at the hands of Falkirk and on this day they travelled to Rugby Park on league duty. Both sides were in the top six of the eighteen-team league, but off the pace of leaders Hearts and Rangers, so only 11,000 turned out to watch a close encounter. Aberdeen were handicapped when Glen picked up an injury and in the days before substitutions, he was virtually reduced to a passenger. Two goals in an eight-minute spell put Kilmarnock in the driving seat before Hather gave the Dons hope with a well-taken goal in the 65th minute. Although they created several chances, all were spurned and the ten men went back up the road empty handed.

Earlier in the week, Ghana became the first black African country to win its independence from Britain. The Union Jack was lowered at the Parliament building in the capital, Accra, at midnight on the 6th of March. It signified the end of the British Gold Coast colony and the birth of the new black state of Ghana. New Prime Minister and self styled liberator of his people, Dr Nkrumah, told a cheering crowd to rejoice at the casting off of "the chains of imperialism." The name of the new country had been taken from an Islamic empire that existed in the Sudan, many miles from the West African state. The Prime Minister wanted his people to emulate a past when Africans had wealth and power.

In the UK singles chart three versions of the calypso hit, The Banana Boat Song were enjoying chart success. Harry Belafonte, Shirley Bassey and The Tarrriers were all in the top twenty with Belafonte reaching the highest of the trio when he peaked at number three. American screen Idol, Tab Hunter was enjoying a seven-week run at number one with his hit, "Young Love". The track would be reprised in the 1970s by another teen idol, Donny Osmond.

In 1963 Aberdeen's fixtures had been decimated by the

Bob Dylan





## Winter of 63



weather as the UK suffered one of its worst winters in living memory and on the 9th March, the Dons welcomed Hearts on league duty for only their fourth game of the year. For this match Aberdeen were

sporting a short-lived new kit of red, white and blue stripes. The kick off had to be delayed, not to let the 11,000 football starved fans into the stadium, but because everyone had to wait for referee Tiny Wharton as his

train had been delayed on its journey north.

The Dons made a poor start when, as early as the 8th minute, Tubby Ogston allowed a Hamilton shot to slip through his hand and gift the visitors the lead. Local loon Ernie Winchester restored parity midway through the first half and with nine minutes of the match remaining, he popped up to score again and give the new kit a winning start.

Earlier in the week 'Kim' Philby, the former diplomat implicated as the 'Third Man' in the Burgess and MacLean spy scandal, contacted his wife for the first time since disappearing from Beirut where he was working as a foreign correspondent. The cable sent to his wife only



Patsy Cline

indicated that he was well but did not reveal his whereabouts. Philby had disappeared from a diplomatic party and it was now becoming clear that he had defected to the Soviet Union and was indeed the 'Third Man.' The

world of country music lost Patsy Cline this week when she perished in a plane crash returning to Nashville from a charity concert in Kansas City. Three others died in the crash. Bob Dylan stormed out of the hugely popular Ed Sullivan Show when he was told he couldn't perform his anti segregation song, "Talking John Birch Society Blues".

In the UK, only five days after ending a UK tour where they had replaced Helen Shapiro as top billing, the Beatles started another tour supporting American singers, Tommy Roe and Chris Montez. After this first night at the Granada Cinema in East Ham the Fab Four were quickly promoted to top billing again. They may have been enjoying huge success in the cinemas and theatres around the country but the Beatles had yet to hit number one spot in the



The Beatles

"Holiday" topped the album chart.

chart. This week they dropped one place to number 3 with, "Please, Please Me". Frank Ifield who topped the chart with, "Wayward Wind" had held the Mop Tops off top spot. Cliff Richard with his L.P. "Summer



Nikita Khrushchev

Finally we head back to 1974 because on this day the Second World War finally ended for one Japanese soldier. Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda arrived on the Philippines in 1944 with orders to fight until the Japanese army returned for him. For three decades he

carried out his orders to the letter as he lived in the jungle and made raids on villages while evading all attempts to contact him. A month earlier a Japanese member of a search party tried to convince him to surrender as the war was over. Onoda suspected it was an Allied trap and would only surrender on the orders of his superior officer. So on this day retired Major Taniguchi, by then a bookseller, travelled to the Philippines to give the order. Back in the UK, the miners returned to work earlier this week after negotiating a 35% pay increase and two days later it was announced that the country would return to a five-day working week. All this came about after Ted Heath failed to make a coalition pact with the Liberals and Labour's Harold Wilson returned as PM with a minority Government.

In the UK singles chart Alvin Stardust knocked Suzi Quatro's "Devil Gate Drive" off the top spot with his "Jealous Mind" while the Carpenters knocked Slade off the top of the album charts with their greatest hits compilation, "The Singles 1969-1973". And what of the football on this day? Jimmy Bonthron's men welcomed Morton to Pittodrie and the relegation strugglers were desperate for points. Aberdeen were on the fringes of the championship race and, having won 3-0 at Tannadice the previous week, confidence was high. The Dons completed their fourth consecutive shut out but had also left their scoring boots in the dressing room as the match ended goalless. The last four matches had ended 3-0, 0-0, 3-0, 0-0 and the next four would end 6-0, 0-0, 2-0, 0-0. It was this lack of consistency that prevented a serious challenge to Champions, Celtic.



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KEVIN STIRLING

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# HISTORY INTRO

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Cup football returns to Pittodrie today in what will perhaps be a welcome change for Aberdeen. There is no doubt that their exploits in the domestic and UEFA Cups this season has taken its toll with a lowly SPL position and it is not difficult to see where things have gone wrong. During that marvellous run in the UEFA Cup, we all had a nervous wait to see if the Dons' lengthy injury list had cleared. More often than not it hadn't and subsequent form in the SPL suffered. It will be interesting to see how many changes Gordon Strachan makes to his starting line up from the one that played Barcelona earlier in the week. The resources at both Old Firm clubs is vast in comparison to any other in the SPL. With Aberdeen playing their 44th competitive game of the season today, that is already three more than they played in the entire 2006/07 season. While the Dons were hardly out on their feet last May when they beat Rangers on the last day of the season, it was generally accepted that it had been a long hard season but it does not compare with the schedule the Dons have had to contend with this season.

The club did not envisage such an extended run in Europe this season; most cynics suggested that they would be out at the first hurdle and there was some merit in that as Dnipro were a class act and could give better teams than Aberdeen a tough time of it. Aberdeen defied the odds of course and they thoroughly deserved the plaudits that came with their UEFA Cup exploits. Something had to give and unfortunately for the Dons it was their relatively lofty position in the SPL that was sacrificed. Subsequent European qualification perhaps now rests with Aberdeen beating Celtic today and reaching the cup final at the very least.

By tradition Aberdeen have fared well against their Glasgow rivals in the cup. The record books reveal that the Dons have played Celtic in six previous finals and although it remains at three wins each, the Dons have won the last three Scottish Cup Finals against Celtic and there are not many sides that can boast that fine record. Cup football does bring a glamour and excitement that is unique. We should never lose sight of the passion it has

brought to generations of supporters through the years. Back in the post war boom times when grounds all over Scotland were bursting at the seams, it was the Scottish Cup that attracted the most interest. If you look at Aberdeen's record attendances they are all Scottish Cup ties; 146,433 for that 1937 final against Celtic in 1937 remains a British record attendance for a club game. The most supporters that Pittodrie attracted for any game was the cup-tie against Hearts in 1954 when more than 46,000 filled every vantage point in the old stadium. The midweek attendance record was shattered in 1967 when 44,000 turned out for a replay against Hibernian.

Cup football has brought some of the finest moments in Aberdeen's history, from the first success in 1947 through to Brian Irvine's fateful kick in 1990 against Celtic. Not many would have thought that it would take so long for Aberdeen to get back into competing at the business end of the cup, but the current side has an opportunity today to carve out their own piece of history; just like they achieved in the UEFA Cup. Celtic present the toughest of obstacles but Aberdeen have shown this season against the might of Moscow, Madrid and Munich that they can compete with the best. The Germans came here and went through the most uncomfortable 90 minutes they had faced all season. More of the same today would be a welcome boost for the Dons.

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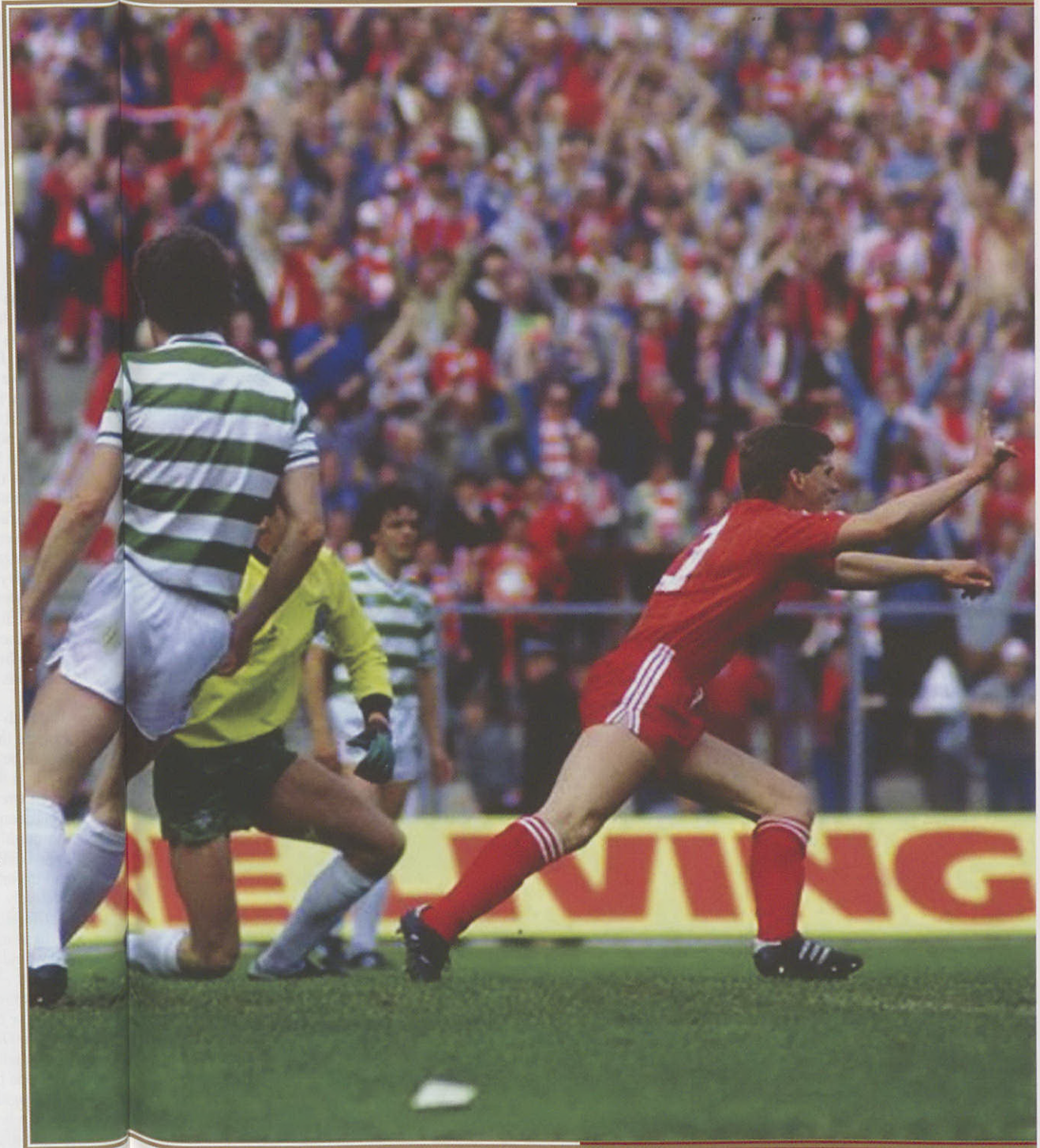




# Aberdeen v Celtic

## Scottish Cup Record

Such has been the attraction of previous Aberdeen v Celtic Scottish Cup ties, the last meeting between the sides drew the lowest ever cup attendance in 26 previous ties. Celtic's 2-0 win at Pittodrie in 2002 proved a mission of revenge for Martin O'Neill's side after they were defeated by the Dons in the league only weeks before, the 2-0 Aberdeen win handing out a hammer blow to Celtic's title hopes. It was a far cry from the first ever meeting, a semi final clash at Pittodrie in 1908. Celtic had been one of Aberdeen's most vociferous backers as Aberdeen attempted to gain admission to the Scottish League in 1903, the Parkhead club offering their full support to the Dons application. That good feeling did not last long as when the sides clashed in the Scottish Cup for the first time, the game was marred by rough tactics on the field and unsporting behaviour off it.





The Dons' first cup semi final was a massive occasion for the club and in the build up to the game there were unprecedented scenes in the area. Semi finals were not played on neutral grounds back then and Pittodrie was filled with a record 20,000 attendance. Aberdeen had progressed through to the last four for the first time after wins over Albion Rovers, Dundee and Queens Park. While it was celebrated as a great occasion by an Aberdeen club that had yet to scale the heights in Scotland, Celtic that imposed themselves on the game in a manner that provoked no little bad feeling.

The visitors' physical approach and robust tackles left a more fluent Aberdeen struggling to find any rhythm. Despite several warnings from the referee, Celtic proceeded to stamp their authority on the game in more ways than one and eventually scraped through with a 1-0 win. While the result was disappointing for Aberdeen it was the manner of the defeat which prompted ugly scenes at full time. All of the Celtic players and the referee had to be escorted from the pitch as they were showered in stones thrown from the

crowd. The SFA were quick to act and they closed Pittodrie for two weeks although the punishment never materialised with Aberdeen being away from home the first week and then the next home game postponed due to bad weather.

Two years later Aberdeen went down 2-1 at Parkhead in another close encounter. That trend continued in 1911 when the sides clashed again in the semi final, on this occasion at Parkhead. For the first time since Aberdeen entered the First Division in 1905, the Black & Golds had been challenging in the league and cup that season. Once again Aberdeen were unlucky to go down 1-0 as a first cup win over Celtic eluded them. A year later the sides met again and a classic cup-tie at Pittodrie ended in a 2-2 draw. Once again the Pittodrie attendance record was broken with 22,000 turning up. Aberdeen's best chance was gone and they were defeated 2-0 in the replay. In 1926 Aberdeen met Celtic for the third time at the semi final stage and the hoodoo continued as Celtic won 2-1 in a tense game at Tynecastle.

Aberdeen had to wait until 1935 before they celebrated a first Scottish Cup win over Celtic. It came on 9th



Armstrong, Cooper 1937 SC Final



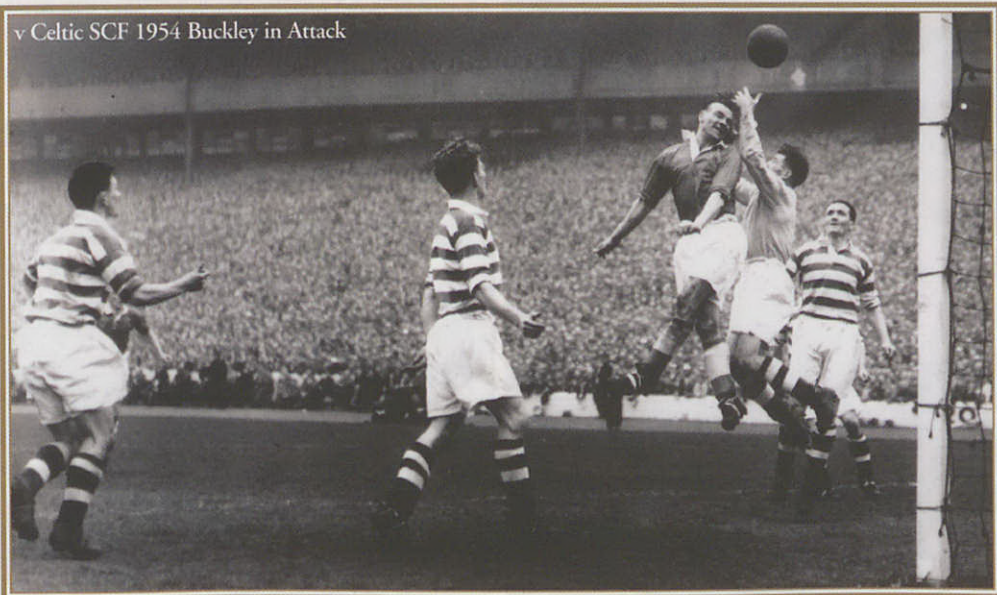
March before a crowd in excess of 40,000 at Pittodrie. Reports before the quarter final tie suggested that this was the day that Aberdeen would end the Celtic record in the cup. Aberdeen had been riding high in the league and were seen as favourites to progress to the semi final. On a memorable day, a magical display from a slick Aberdeen put them on top throughout. The Aberdeen spearhead of Willie Mills and Matt Armstrong did the damage in a 3-1 win that was one of the most passionate games witnessed at the old ground. Two years later Aberdeen were once again fancied to defeat Celtic in the first final that Aberdeen had reached in their history. An all-time British record attendance of 146,433 filled the national stadium. In a game of Aberdeen's passing against Celtic power, Aberdeen just did not perform on the day and they went down 2-1 before the huge crowd. Matt Armstrong scored the Aberdeen equaliser that day and he recalled some years after the game, "It was a fantastic occasion. There never seemed to be a second to take stock. It all seemed to go too fast. The noise was deafening; we could not shout at each other during the game. There was no way we could hear each other, the noise was incredible. When I scored it was a great experience; I just reacted on instinct. The result was a big disappointment for the team. Before the game we were confident that we would win, we were the team

in form and we felt we were the better team. On the day it just did not happen for us."

In February 1950 the Dons recorded their first Scottish Cup win at Parkhead in a 1-0 win. Aberdeen were up against it before a huge 65,000 crowd and Celtic had their own legends on display with the likes of McGrory, McPhail and Tully in their starting line up. The Dons rode their luck when McPhail scored but was ruled offside. After Collins' corner hit the Aberdeen bar, the Dons broke clear and Chris Anderson scored the winner. A year later Celtic got revenge in a quarter final meeting again at Parkhead. On that occasion the Dons' season was effectively ended by a 3-0 defeat before a massive 75,000 attendance. The next time the sides met in the cup was in the 1954 final when Celtic eased past Aberdeen in a 2-1 win. The Dons had been searching for an Old Firm double after they had hammered Rangers 6-0 in the semi final.

Some 13 years later the teams met up again in the final at Hampden. It had been a barren spell for Aberdeen in the cup but under Eddie Turnbull there were positive signs of improvement. The final in 1967 was another huge disappointment for Aberdeen as fate conspired to thwart them. Manager Turnbull took ill on the eve of the final and was unable to rise from his sick bed at the

v Celtic SCF 1954 Buckley in Attack





team hotel. Without their manager, the team bus was delayed by traffic and the players only arrived at Hampden 40 minutes before the kick off. Celtic went on to win 2-0 in a year where they won everything they entered including the European Cup. The Champions Cup was again on the agenda three years later when they met in the 1970 final. That win is detailed elsewhere in this issue but it remains a memorable Aberdeen success. In 1973 Aberdeen held Celtic to a 0-0 draw in Glasgow before going out in controversial fashion in the replay. Billy McNeill headed past Clark with just four minutes left. Referee Davidson failed to spot Jim Hermiston getting fouled in the build up to Harry Hood's corner which allowed McNeill to score.

In 1979 another replay was needed to separate the teams in a quarter final clash. Joe Harper was on the mark for Aberdeen in a 1-1 draw at Pittodrie. Most observers believed that Aberdeen's best chance was gone but they defied the odds in the Parkhead replay by winning 2-1. In a bad tempered game, tempers boiled over in the tunnel after the game as two Aberdeen players were assaulted outside the dressing room.

v Celtic SCF 1967 (Goal)



Aberdeen's success in the 1982 Scottish Cup paved the way for success in Europe. The road to Hampden that year began with John Hewitt's record breaking goal at Motherwell and the Aberdeen striker continued that form when Billy McNeill's Celtic came north in the 4th round. Hewitt scored a spectacular overhead kick after 19 minutes to put Aberdeen through against their big rivals of the time. After the Dons' success in 1982, the following ECWC campaign had captured the imagination. Aberdeen were battling on three fronts and after defeating Waterschei in the semi final of the ECWC, the Dons hectic schedule included a Scottish Cup semi final against Celtic at Hampden. In a bruising







encounter Aberdeen prevailed with a Peter Weir header to send Aberdeen through to a final meeting with Rangers. Aberdeen were on the crest of a wave when they met Celtic at Hampden in the 1984 cup final. The Dons were going for an historic three cup wins in succession and old rivals Celtic stood in their way. Eric Black put Aberdeen ahead and the Dons were also helped after Celtic captain Roy Aitken was sent off in the first half. Aberdeen were stunned when Celtic's Paul McStay equalised to take the final into extra time. The Dons' experience told and it was Mark McGhee who scored the winner that made it three wins in a row for Aberdeen.

Under Ian Porterfield the Dons came up against Celtic in the opening round in 1987. After a 2-2 draw at Pittodrie and a further stalemate at Celtic Park in a 0-0 draw, the tie was settled by a Brian McClair goal in a third tie at neutral Dens Park. The last occasion Aberdeen won the Scottish Cup was in 1990 when the Dons defeated Celtic in an historic penalty shootout. It was the end of a great era for the Dons who had enjoyed a decade of success during the '80s that even the Old Firm could not match.



#### Aberdeen v Celtic Scottish Cup Record

Date	Result	Venue	Round	Attendance
21.3.1908	0-1	Pittodrie	S/F	20,000
19.2.1910	1-2	Parkhead	3rd	27,000
11.3.1911	0-1	Parkhead	S/F	45,000
24.2.1912	2-2	Pittodrie	3rd	22,000
9.3.1912	0-2	Parkhead	3rd Rep	40,000
20.3.1926	1-2	Tynecastle	S/F	23,000
28.2.1931	0-4	Parkhead	Q/F	64,699
9.3.1935	3-1	Pittodrie	Q/F	40,105
24.4.1937	1-2	Hampden	Final	146,433
25.2.1950	1-0	Parkhead	3rd	65,000
10.3.1951	0-3	Parkhead	4th	75,000
24.4.1954	1-2	Hampden	Final	130,060
29.4.1967	0-2	Hampden	Final	126,102
11.4.1970	3-1	Hampden	Final	108,434
17.3.1973	0-0	Parkhead	Q/F	40,032
21.3.1973	0-1	Pittodrie	Q/F Rep	33,465
10.3.1979	1-1	Pittodrie	Q/F	23,000
14.3.1979	2-1	Parkhead	Q/F Rep	36,000
13.2.1982	1-0	Pittodrie	4th	24,000
16.4.1983	1-0	Hampden	S/F	51,152
19.5.1984	2-1	Hampden	Final	58,900
1.2.1987	2-2	Pittodrie	3rd	23,000
4.2.1987	0-0	Parkhead	3rd Rep	55,045
9.2.1987	0-1	Dens Park	3rd 2nd Rep	21,255
12.5.1990	0-0*	Hampden	Final	60,493
25.2.2002	0-2	Pittodrie	Q/F	17,082

\*(9-8 on pens)

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Pittodrie	8	2	3	3	9	9
Parkhead	9	2	2	5	4	13
Neutral	9	4	0	5	10	11
Total	26	8	5	13	23	33



# ABERDEEN FC

## 1990 SCOTTISH CUP WINNERS



**A**berdeen closed a memorable 1989/90 season with a Scottish Cup win over Celtic that brought both domestic cups to Pittodrie, the second time in the Dons' history that double had been achieved. The Dons had already beaten Rangers in the League Cup Final as they signed off the '80s with a bang, ending a decade of success beyond even that of either of the Old Firm. Such a run of success would be impossible today but of course Aberdeen had prevailed for six years under Alex Ferguson before he embarked on his Old Trafford adventure.

It was under Alex Smith and Jocky Scott that Aberdeen returned to winning ways with a superb win over Rangers at Hampden to bring the League Cup north after bitter defeats in 1987 and 1988. Despite the unprecedented spending spree from Rangers in their effort to dominate the domestic game, they could not shake off a spirited Aberdeen. The Dons had defeated Celtic in the semi final and came up against Rangers for the third final in succession. The previous finals had been hailed as classics but with Aberdeen losing out in dramatic fashion, they would have settled for a win at any cost this time. English born Paul Mason was the hero with the goals that brought Aberdeen a memorable 2-1 victory.

After finishing as runners up in the league, the Dons faced Celtic at Hampden and went into the final as firm favourites. Celtic had not enjoyed the best of times and the cup final was their last chance to win anything that season. Aberdeen were seasoned campaigners on the big stage and in Hans Gillhaus and Charlie Nicholas, had two of the most feared front players in British football. The only real disappointment for Aberdeen was that they were not able to finish the tie in the regulation 90 minutes and subsequent extra time. Instead, it took a first ever penalty shoot out to make sure that Aberdeen finished their season in style, winning 9-8 on penalties, after which Alex Smith described the scene as 'Like shooting ducks at the fair'. Anton Rogan was the unfortunate Celtic player who could not find a way past an inspired Theo Snelders and it was left to unlikely hero Brian Irvine to score the winning goal that completed a fine season for Aberdeen.

Charlie Nicholas was amongst the Aberdeen scorers in the shootout and he was professional to the last as he had already announced that he was rejoining Celtic after the final. That season also saw the end of a remarkable career for Willie Miller. The Dons legend had captained the side against Rangers in the League Cup Final but injury against Norway in a Hampden international meant that Alex McLeish took over for the win over Celtic in the Scottish Cup Final.



**FACT FILE****Manager;** Alex Smith/Jocky Scott**Captain;** Willie Miller/Alex McLeish**League Position;** 2nd**Top Scorer;** Paul Mason (15)**Most Appearances;** Stewart McKimmie/  
Bobby Connor (55)**Honours;** Scottish Cup Winners, League Cup  
Winners, Premier League Runners up**Highest Score;** 6-2 v Partick Thistle, Scottish Cup  
tie at Firhill 20th January 1990**Highest Attendance;** 61,190 v Rangers League  
Cup Final at Hampden 22nd October 1989**Players In;** Ian Cameron, Graham Watson, Bobby  
Mimms, Hans-Gillhaus.**Players Out;** Davie Dodds, Steve Gray, John  
Hewitt, Paul Wright.

**Theo Snelders;** Holland international keeper who proved to be a superb replacement for Jim Leighton. Aberdeen paid £300,000 for his services, Alex Smith's first signing. Snelders produced a magnificent display in the final against Rangers and was also crucial in the shoot out success over Celtic in the Scottish Cup Final. Currently coaching at Twente Enschede.

**Stewart McKimmie;** Went on to earn 40 full caps for Scotland after joining the Dons from Dundee in December 1983. He became part of the defence that brought two league titles to Aberdeen after Gothenburg, a rare McKimmie goal clinching the title for the Dons against Hearts in 1984. Resides in the Aberdeen area and is also a regular sports writer in local circles.

**David Robertson;** Emerged through the youth ranks at Pittodrie and solved the problem left-back position. In 1991, Rangers paid £970,000 for his services, bringing widespread dissention in the Aberdeen support. Went on to play for Leeds before injury shortened his career, he recently moved to America to take up a coaching role.

**Brian Grant;** Signed by Alex Ferguson from Stirling Albion in 1984 for £50,000, Grant went on to eventually claim a regular place in the Aberdeen midfield. Received a testimonial from the club in 1996 when Everton came north, before being sold to Hibernian in 1997. Currently owns fast food outlets in the Angus area.

**Alex McLeish;** Took over as Aberdeen captain after injury to Willie Miller and it was McLeish that led the Dons to Scottish Cup success in 1990. A Gothenburg legend, the greatest centre half in the club's history. Left Aberdeen in 1994 after 19

years as a player to take over at Motherwell. He has recently taken over at Birmingham after just failing to take Scotland to next year's Euro finals.

**Willie Miller;** Captain courageous, who lifted his last trophy for Aberdeen in the League Cup win over Rangers. Miller was at his inspirational best to thwart the Rangers attack as the Dons signed off the 1980's in style. Miller went on to coach and manage the Dons after 20 years and two testimonials at Pittodrie. Recently extended his contract at the club as director of football.

**Charlie Nicholas;** The golden boy at Celtic in the early '80s before he joined Arsenal in 1983. He was the Dons' record signing when Ian Porterfield brought him to Aberdeen in a £400,000 New Year transfer in 1988. His last appearance for the Dons was in the 1990 cup final against Celtic. Currently a summariser for Sky Sports.

**Jim Bett;** Alex Ferguson brought former Rangers midfielder Bett to Pittodrie in 1985 after paying Belgian club Lokeren £300,000 for his services. An established Scotland international, Bett enjoyed 10 years with the Dons before returning to Iceland where he also played in the early part of his career. Another former player who is currently working in the media.

**Paul Mason;** Signed by Alex Smith after the Dons manager was spying on an alternative target in Holland. A former bricklayer from Liverpool, Mason joined Aberdeen from Groningen and he went on to become a popular player at Pittodrie before joining Ipswich in 1993 in a £440,000 transfer. Currently runs a hotel in the north west of England.

**Bobby Connor;** One of Alex Ferguson's last signings for the Dons when Aberdeen paid Dundee £350,000, with Ian Angus moving to Dens Park. A Scotland international, Connor played for the Dons for eight years in a midfield role before being released in 1994 at the age of 34. His latest job in the game was manager at Ayr United.

**Eoin Jess;** Played in the Aberdeen side at 18 years of age against Rangers in the League Cup Final before going on to become a regular in the Aberdeen side. He scored many spectacular goals for the Dons before Gordon Strachan took him to Coventry in a record £1.75m deal in 1996, then returned to Pittodrie two seasons later in a £650,000 transfer. Retired from playing with Northampton last season.



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 Today's music is provided by OHMV in the Trinity Centre, Aberdeen. OHMV will be providing music for all home matches for this season.

**EXTRA INFORMATION** ■ **BOOKING**. ■ **SENDING OFF**. ■ **SCORER**<sup>1</sup> **SUB1** **SUB2** **SUB3** **HOME GAMES APPEAR IN BOLD**  
**COMPETITIONS: SPL**- Clydesdale Bank Premier League **CIS**- CIS Insurance Cup **SCP**- Scottish Cup **UEFA**- UEFA Cup

## FIXTURES&RESULTS

DATE	OPPOSITION	RES	ATT	P	S	H	M	C	N	S	J	C		
SAT 4TH AUG	DUNDEE UNITED	0-1	12,496	-	SOUTAR	HART	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	CONSIDINE	FOSTER	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	JSMITH	<b>CLARK</b>	
SUN 12TH AUG	HEARTS	1-1	13,134	8	SOUTAR	HART	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	<b>DIAMOND</b>	<b>MAIR</b>	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	<b>CLARK</b>	
SUN 19TH AUG	CELTIC	1-3	16,232	10	SOUTAR	HART	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	<b>CLARK</b>	
SAT 25TH AUG	HIBERNIAN	3-3	15,280	9	SOUTAR	HART	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	JSMITH	CLARK	
SAT 1ST SEP	KILMARNOCK	1-0	5,814	8	SOUTAR	HART	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	CONSIDINE	FOSTER	NICHOLSON	YOUNG	JSMITH	CLARK	
SAT 15TH SEP	MOTHERWELL	1-2	10,154	9	SOUTAR	HART	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	<b>DIAMOND</b>	<b>YOUNG</b>	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	CLARK	
THURS 20TH SEP	FC DNIPRO (UEFA 1ST LEG)	0-0	15,431	-	LANGFIELD	HART	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	<b>CLARK</b>	
SUN 23RD SEP	RANGERS	0-3	40,046	10	LANGFIELD	HART	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	<b>CONSIDINE</b>	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	JSMITH	CLARK	
WEDS 26TH SEP	PARTICK THISTLE (CIS 3)	2-0	3,337	-	LANGFIELD	HART	FOSTER	YOUNG	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	JSMITH	CLARK	
SAT 29TH SEP	GRETNA	2-0	10,279	8	LANGFIELD	HART	<b>YOUNG</b>	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	CLARK	
THURS 4TH OCT	FC DNIPRO (UEFA 1 2ND LEG)	1-1	26,275	-	LANGFIELD	HART	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	CLARK	
SUN 7TH OCT	ST MIRREN	4-0	12,841	8	LANGFIELD	HART	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	DE VISSCHER	<b>YOUNG</b>	
SUN 21ST OCT	INVERNESS CT	2-1	6,023	6	LANGFIELD	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	MAIR	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	DE VISSCHER	<b>YOUNG</b>	
THURS 25TH OCT	PANATHINAIKOS (UEFA)	0-3	8,154	-	LANGFIELD	HART	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	CLARK	
SUN 28TH OCT	FALKIRK	1-1	10,399	7	LANGFIELD	HART	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	DE VISSCHER	<b>CLARK</b>	
WED 31ST OCT	INVERNESS CT (CIS 4)	4-1	7,270	-	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	NICHOLSON	MAIR	J SMITH	<b>ALUKO</b>	
SAT 3RD NOV	DUNDEE UNITED	2-0	11,964	5	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	MAIR	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	TOUZANI	DE VISSCHER	<b>ALUKO</b>	
THURS 8TH NOV	LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW (UEFA)	1-1	18,843	-	LANGFIELD	HART	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	DE VISSCHER	<b>MAIGUIRE</b>	
SUN 11TH NOV	HEARTS	1-4	17,122	7	LANGFIELD	HART	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	MAIR	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	DE VISSCHER	<b>MAIGUIRE</b>	
SAT 24TH NOV	CELTIC	0-3	58,000	7	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	MAIR	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	CLARK	
THURS 29TH NOV	ATLETICO MADRID (UEFA)	0-2	30,000	-	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	TOUZANI	SEVERIN	J SMITH	FOSTER	
SUN 2ND DEC	HIBERNIAN	3-1	10,110	6	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	MAIR	FOSTER	NICHOLSON	TOUZANI	<b>MAGUIRE</b>	<b>CLARK</b>	
SAT 8TH DEC	KILMARNOCK	2-1	10,207	6	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	MAIR	FOSTER	NICHOLSON	<b>ALUKO</b>	<b>MAGUIRE</b>	CLARK	
SAT 15TH DEC	MOTHERWELL	0-3	5,326	6	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	<b>TOUZANI</b>	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	LOVELL	CLARK	
THURS 20TH DEC	COPENHAGEN (UEFA)	4-0	20,446	-	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	CLARK	
SUN 23RD DEC	RANGERS	1-1	17,798	6	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	<b>CLARK</b>	
WEDS 26TH DEC	GRETNA	1-1	1,730	6	LANGFIELD	HART	BYRNE	TOUZANI	MAIR	NICHOLSON	FOSTER	J SMITH	<b>ALUKO</b>	
SAT 29TH DEC	ST MIRREN	1-0	5,025	5	LANGFIELD	D SMITH	BYRNE	MAIR	FOSTER	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	CLARK	
WED 2ND JAN	INVERNESS CT	1-0	13,372	5	LANGFIELD	FOSTER	BYRNE	MAIR	<b>ALUKO</b>	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	CLARK	
SAT 5TH JAN	FALKIRK	0-0	5,547	4	LANGFIELD	FOSTER	BYRNE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	MAIR	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	CLARK	
SAT 12TH JAN	FALKIRK (SC4)	2-2	5,798	-	LANGFIELD	FOSTER	BYRNE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	MAIR	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	CLARK	
SAT 19TH JAN	DUNDEE UNITED	0-3	8,579	5	LANGFIELD	MAIR	BYRNE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	<b>ALUKO</b>	
TUES 22ND JAN	FALKIRK (SC4 REPLAY)	3-1	8,547	-	LANGFIELD	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	CONSIDINE	<b>DIAMOND</b>	DE VISSCHER	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	<b>YOUNG</b>	
SAT 26TH JAN	HEARTS	0-1	14,000	5	LANGFIELD	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	J SMITH	<b>YOUNG</b>	
SAT 2ND FEB	HAMILTON (SC5)	1-0	6,441	-	LANGFIELD	DUFF	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	DE VISSCHER	<b>WALKER</b>	
TUES 5TH FEB	DUNDEE UNITED (CIS SEMI-FINAL)	1-4	12,046	-	LANGFIELD	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	FOSTER	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	YOUNG	WALKER	
SUN 10TH FEB	CELTIC	1-5	14,651	5	LANGFIELD	<b>MCNAMARA</b>	MAYBURY	<b>DIAMOND</b>	BUS	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	YOUNG	WALKER	
THURS 14TH FEB	BAYERN MUNICH (UEFA 1ST LEG)	2-2	20,047	-	LANGFIELD	MAIR	MAYBURY	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	<b>ALUKO</b>	<b>WALKER</b>	
SAT 16TH FEB	HIBERNIAN	1-3	13,825	8	LANGFIELD	MAIR	MAYBURY	<b>DIAMOND</b>	1	BUS	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	<b>ALUKO</b>	
THURS 21ST FEB	BAYERN MUNICH	1-5	66,000	-	LANGFIELD	FOSTER	MAYBURY	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	<b>ALUKO</b>	WALKER	
SAT 23RD FEB	KILMARNOCK	1-3	6,113	9	SOUTAR	FOSTER	MAYBURY	<b>DIAMOND</b>	MAIR	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	DUFF	WALKER	
WED 27TH FEB	MOTHERWELL	1-1	8,240	7	SOUTAR	FOSTER	MAYBURY	<b>DIAMOND</b>	1	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	DE VISSCHER	<b>MAGUIRE</b>
SAT 1ST MAR	RANGERS	1-3	50,066	8	SOUTAR	FOSTER	MAYBURY	<b>DIAMOND</b>	CONSIDINE	NICHOLSON	SEVERIN	DE VISSCHER	<b>MAGUIRE</b>	
SUN 9 MAR	CELTIC (SC6)													
SAT 15TH MAR	GRETNA													
SAT 22ND MAR	ST MIRREN													
SAT 29TH MAR	INVERNESS CT													
SAT 5TH APR	FALKIRK													

## SUBS:

PLAYER	APPEARANCES	GOALS	ASSISTS	DISCIPLINARY
LOVELL	3	0	0	0
DE VISSCHER	13	3	2	0
MAIR	10	0	0	0
DIAMOND	13	0	0	0
DSMITH	11	0	0	0
MAGUIRE	12	0	0	0
LANGFIELD	17	0	0	0

### SPL CLYDESDALE BANK PREMIER LEAGUE 2007.08

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1 RANGERS	27	22	2	3	67	20	68
2 CELTIC	27	20	4	3	66	19	64
3 MOTHERWELL	27	14	4	9	39	32	46
4 DUNDEE UTD	28	12	6	10	40	34	42
5 HIBERNIAN	28	11	8	9	41	35	41
6 FALKIRK	29	10	7	12	38	42	37
7 HEARTS	29	10	6	13	40	47	36
8 ABERDEEN	29	9	7	13	33	48	34
9 INVERNESS CT	29	10	3	16	35	48	33
10 KILMARNOCK	29	7	7	15	30	43	28
11 ST MIRREN	27	7	6	14	18	44	27
12 GRETNA	27	4	4	19	28	63	16

### FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES & GOALS 2007.08

PLAYER	SPL LEAGUE		SCOTTISH CUP		LEAGUE CUP		UEFA CUP	
	APPS	GL	APPS	GL	APPS	GL	APPS	GL
JAMIE LANGFELD	20	0	0	3	0	0	3	0
MICHAEL HART	18	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
RICHELBY BYRNE	11	4	0	1	0	0	1	0
JACKIE MCNAMARA	10	3	0	1	0	0	2	0
ZANDER DIAMOND	20	2	3	3	1	1	2	0
SCOTT SEVERIN	23	4	3	3	0	0	2	0
JAMIE SMITH	16	3	1	2	3	0	2	0
BARRY NICHOLSON	28	3	0	3	0	2	3	0
STEVE LOVELL	6	13	3	0	2	1	0	0
DARREN MACKIE	8	4	0	3	1	0	0	0
CHRIS CLARK	17	1	2	1	0	0	1	1
STUART DUFF	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
RICHARD FOSTER	17	6	0	3	2	0	2	1
KARIM TOUZANI	4	5	0	3	0	0	0	0
LEE MILLER	23	3	8	6	3	0	1	3
DAN SMITH	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEE MAIR	14	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
DEREK YOUNG	18	2	6	1	4	0	1	3
DEREK SOUTAR	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ANDREW CONSIDINE	12	1	0	4	2	0	0	2
CHRIS MAGUIRE	7	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
CRAIG BREWSTER	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
JEFFREY DE VISSCHER	9	7	1	3	2	1	0	1
GREG KELLY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STUART SMITH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SONE ALUKO	7	6	1	0	0	0	1	1
JONATHAN SMITH	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
DAVE BUS	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JOSH WALKER	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
ALAN MAYBURY	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0





## BUS IS THE TICKET FOR FIRST IN ABERDEEN

First in Aberdeen earlier this week revealed it has clinched a sponsorship deal with giant Dutch defender and recent signing, David Bus. First in Aberdeen will be the player's official sponsor until the end of the season.

As George Mair, managing director of First in Aberdeen explains, it was not just the obvious 'Bus' connection that convinced him to sponsor the player. "Being a local company, most of our customers and staff, myself included, are keen Dons supporters - it is great to be able to support the club and David Bus. We wish David every success in his career with Aberdeen - having seen him perform so well in the league against Celtic in February, I have every confidence that he is not a 'passenger' in the Dons team and fully deserves a 'First' team 'ticket'!"

He added, "The European adventure has been great for the club and indeed for the fans - lots of our staff have travelled the length and breadth of Europe supporting the team. I hope the team can replicate that kind of form in the league and of course we wish David and his colleagues the very best of luck against Celtic in the Cup at the weekend."

Meanwhile David Bus said, "Its great to be sponsored by the largest transport company in the UK, whose grass roots remain here in Aberdeen. Hopefully Jimmy Calderwood will give me a run in the team and give me the opportunity of earning a deal with Aberdeen - it would be fantastic if First could be my official sponsor again next season."

## ABERDEEN DLP

Formed off the back of a speculative email, the Aberdeen DLP football team has become a force to be reckoned with. The team, who initially got together to challenge the Aberdeen undergraduate lawyers, have now secured sponsorship from local Aberdeen firm Mackinnons and will be hosting the inaugural Mackinnons' Cup this month.

The Mackinnons' Cup will be held as an inter-faculty, round robin tournament with the top four teams

progressing to the knockout stages. This is likely to lead to some tense matches as inter-faculty rivalries get stirred up! So far this year the DLP team have played teams from a number of faculties at the University in a series of "friendlies" and it looks likely that there will be some scores to be settled once the tournament kicks off. The support the team has received from Mackinnons' has helped to kit out the team with fully branded strips and jackets and even secured a photo shoot with some first-team players from Aberdeen FC. This year has seen a large number of students moving to Aberdeen University to undertake the Diploma in Legal Practice and the formation of the football team has, in no small way, helped the class to bond. Indeed even those players who have studied together at Aberdeen for many years have found themselves getting to know each other much better.

As a warm up for the tournament in March, the DLP team are going on the road with matches against Edinburgh University's DLP team and Glasgow's Bar Association coming up in the next couple of weeks. This will not only give this team some essential match practice but also provides some excellent networking opportunities with potential future colleagues.

The driving force behind the team, manager Drew McKinney said this of the team's exploits thus far: "The lads have done themselves proud in their efforts and commitment to this team, and are all determined to do really well for their team mates and the University, it is a pleasure to coach these guys, as not only are they good footballers, but they are also good friends on and off the park."

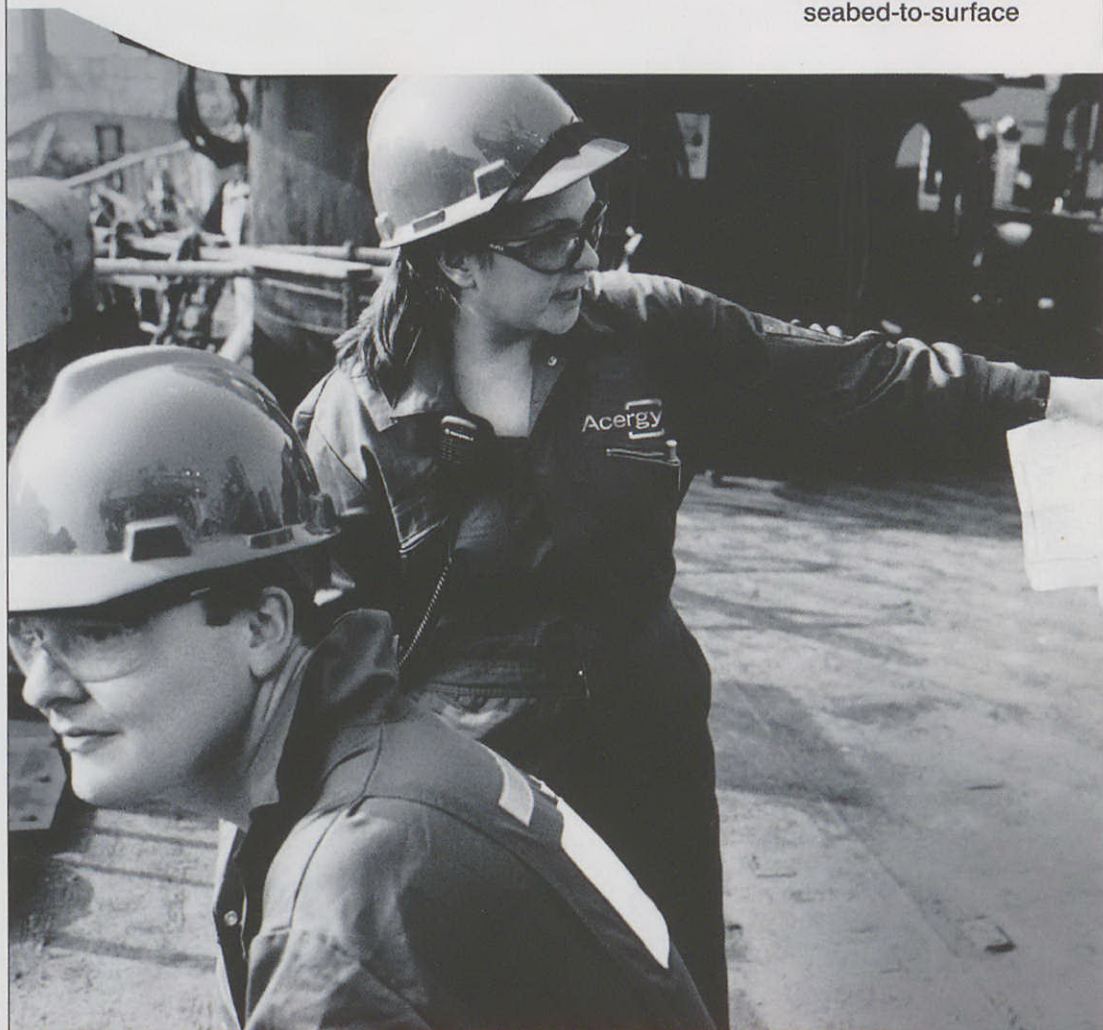
Whether next year's diploma students follow in the team's footsteps is yet to be seen but what is certain is that these guys have made some great friends through a mutual love of the beautiful game.





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# TODAY'S TEAMS

MATCH OFFICIALS REFEREE: CHARLIE RICHMOND ASST. REFEREE 1: WILLIE CONQUER ASST. REFEREE 2: JIM LYON FOURTH OFFICIAL: CALUM MURRAY



- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ■ 1 JAMIE LANGFIELD      | ■ 1 ARTUR BORUC                 |
| ■ 3 RICHIE BYRNE         | ■ 2 ANDREAS HINKEL              |
| ■ 4 JACKIE MCNAMARA      | ■ 3 LEE NAYLOR                  |
| ■ 5 ZANDER DIAMOND       | ■ 5 GARY CALDWELL               |
| ■ 6 SCOTT SEVERIN        | ■ 6 BOBO BALDE                  |
| ■ 7 JAMIE SMITH          | ■ 8 SCOTT BROWN                 |
| ■ 8 BARRY NICHOLSON      | ■ 9 GEORGIOS SAMARAS            |
| ■ 9 STEVE LOVELL         | ■ 10 JAN VENNEGOOR OF HESSELINK |
| ■ 10 DARREN MACKIE       | ■ 11 PAUL HARTLEY               |
| ■ 11 STUART DUFF         | ■ 12 MARK WILSON                |
| ■ 12 THE RED ARMY        | ■ 14 DEREK RIORDAN              |
| ■ 14 RICHARD FOSTER      | ■ 15 EVANDER SNO                |
| ■ 15 KARIM TOUZANI       | ■ 17 STEVEN PRESSLEY            |
| ■ 16 LEE MILLER          | ■ 18 MASSIMO DONATI             |
| ■ 17 DAN SMITH           | ■ 19 BARRY ROBSON               |
| ■ 18 LEE MAIR            | ■ 20 MARK BROWN                 |
| ■ 19 DEREK YOUNG         | ■ 23 BEN HUTCHINSON             |
| ■ 20 DEREK SOUTAR        | ■ 24 JEAN-JOEL PERRIER-DOUMBE   |
| ■ 21 ANDREW CONSIDINE    | ■ 25 SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA          |
| ■ 22 CHRIS MAGUIRE       | ■ 26 CILIAN SHERIDAN            |
| ■ 23 DAVE BUS            | ■ 27 SCOTT McDONALD             |
| ■ 24 JEFFREY DE VISSCHER | ■ 29 KOKI MISUNO                |
| ■ 25 JONATHAN SMITH      | ■ 33 CHRIS KILLEN               |
| ■ 26 SONE ALUKO          | ■ 41 JOHN KENNEDY               |
| ■ 27 JOSH WALKER         | ■ 44 STEPHEN MCMANUS            |
| ■ 28 ALAN MAYBURY        | ■ 46 AIDEN MCGEADY              |
| ■ 29 NEIL MCVITIE        | ■ 47 MICHAEL MCGOVERN           |
| ■ 30 GREG KELLY          | ■ 48 DARREN O'DEA               |
| ■ 31 MICHAEL PATON       | ■ 52 PAUL CADDIS                |
| ■ 33 STUART SMITH        | ■ 54 RYAN CONROY                |
| ■ 38 GARY CARROLL        |                                 |



SCOTT SEVERIN



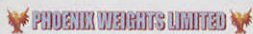
STEPHEN MCMANUS

#### MATCH SPONSOR



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#### THIS WEEKEND'S FIXTURES



SATURDAY, 08 MARCH 2008

SIXTH ROUND:

QUEEN OF SOUTH V DUNDEE 15:00  
ST JOHNSTONE V ST MIRREN 15:00

SUNDAY, 09 MARCH 2008

SIXTH ROUND:

ABERDEEN V CELTIC 12:45

FIFTH ROUND REPLAY:

RANGERS V HIBERNIAN 15:00

TODAY'S MASCOT:

NAME: JAMES MORRISON

AGE: 9

Your City.  
Your Team.

