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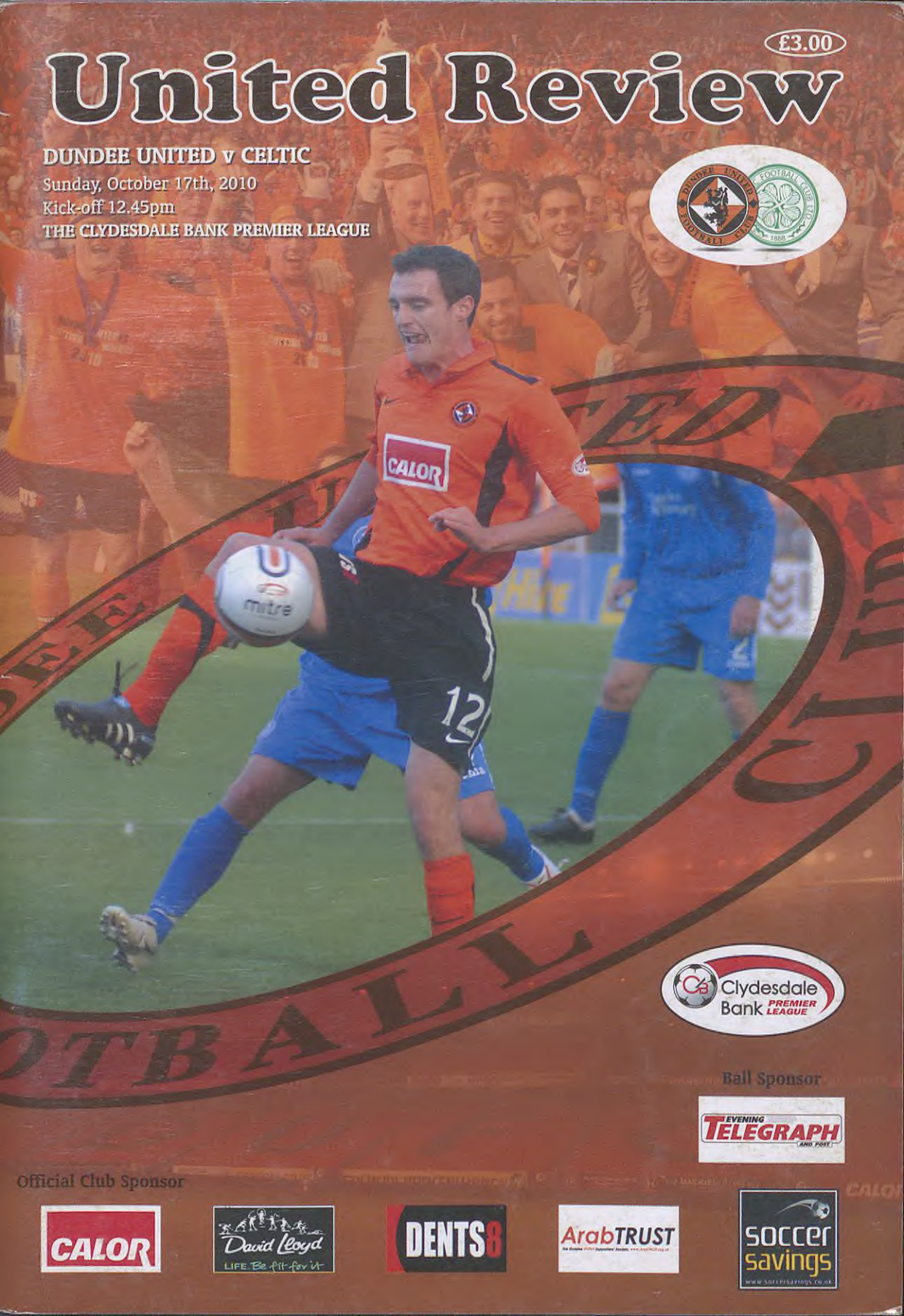
United Review

DUNDEE UNITED v CELTIC

Sunday, October 17th, 2010

Kick-off 12.45pm

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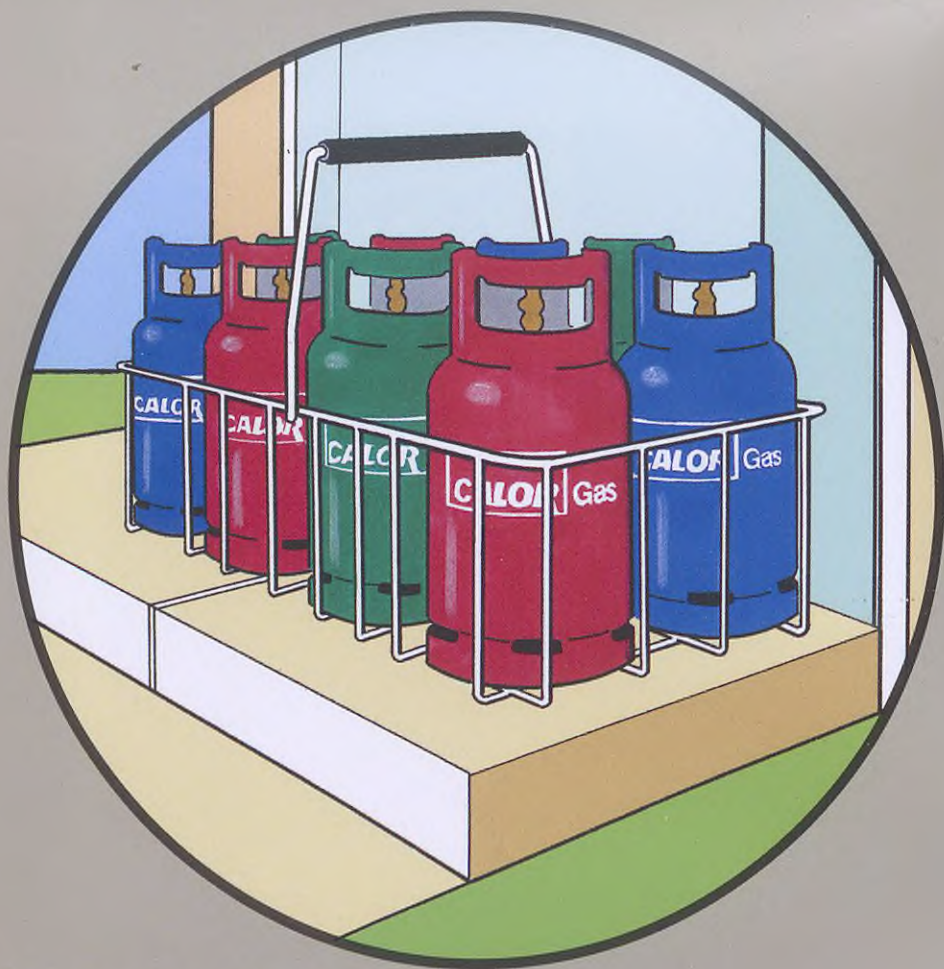
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Issue 6 Season 2010/11, v Celtic



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After the defeat by Rangers at Ibrox I asked the players for two victories and they duly delivered. Biggest thing for me in the wake of that Rangers defeat and having to dig out an extra-time result at Ross County, was that they rose to the occasion to do likewise against St Johnstone. Not only that but they had to go and do it all over again at Rugby Park where we posted a third successive victory.

But there is no doubt that we have had to grind these results out. Quite clearly, we have missed Craig Conway's contribution, because without him, we have had to work very hard for those wins over both St Johnstone and Kilmarnock.

The game against Saints was a typical local derby and whilst I would be the first to admit we didn't play our best football, the players dug deep, showing the mettle we have at the club.

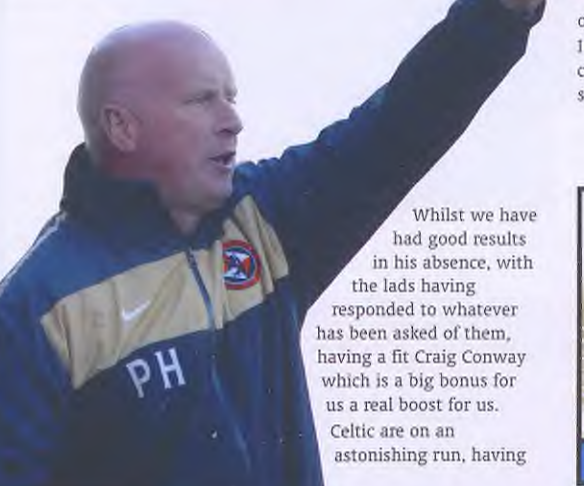
And having stood firm against a big strong physical St Johnstone side, the trip to Rugby Park was equally as daunting.

Kilmarnock are a different side from last season with some good players and they put us under pressure, so it was a very important and satisfying three points.

But although our team isn't quite there yet, we have got a huge result and I'm pleased that our front two got the goals. Because Jon Daly and David Goodwillie always give us the threat a side needs.

So no prizes for guessing just how pleased I am that Craig Conway comes back into the reckoning as we try to stop the Celtic bandwagon.

He has trained well all week, so he's very much in contention this afternoon.



Whilst we have had good results in his absence, with the lads having responded to whatever has been asked of them, having a fit Craig Conway which is a big bonus for us a real boost for us. Celtic are on an astonishing run, having

15 consecutive SPL matches, if you include games from last season and that is almost unbelievable.

I recently watched them against Kilmarnock and have also trawled through DVDs of them as well. With changes Neil Lennon has made it will be a different Celtic side from the ones we have faced in the past, but they are more solid and have more of a physical aspect to them compared to last season.

All games against Celtic are tough and they will undoubtedly come and attack us, but equally, we've got the weapons in our armoury to have a go at them.

They may come to Tannadice on the back of a 100% record and top of the SPL table after seven games, but that doesn't mean we have any negative thoughts about the game.

Here at Tannadice, and with the fans backing us, on our day we are capable of beating anyone.

We proved that last season against the Old Firm, knocking Rangers out of the Scottish Cup and beating Celtic early on, so they'll come here expecting a tough game and hopefully, that's exactly what they'll get.

Besides, our own form going into this game isn't too bad, having won four out of five, which includes victories at Ross County and Kilmarnock, and collecting points with nothing like our strongest team available, so that has been brilliant.

I have no doubt once we have our strongest team available, we can demonstrate the same level of consistency that stood us in such good stead last term.

Peter Houston

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LIMITED ACTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

Just two of the Tannadice first team were away on international duty recently with neither David Goodwillie nor Dusan Pernis getting much game time. Indeed, it was limited to two substitute appearances by David Goodwillie for the Scotland Under-21 that faced Iceland over two legs in the play-off for the Under-21 European Championship.

Against the impressive Icelanders, Goodie came on for Hibs David Wotherspoon ten minutes after the restart, but had to plough a lone furrow up front with Jamie Murphy, who had given the young Scots the lead before they went down 2-1, dropping back to wide left. Meanwhile, the United striker made only a cameo appearance at Easter Road last Monday, coming on for the last nine minutes for Steven McGinn as Billy Stark's side chased an unlikely three goals to salvage the tie.

He did put the ball into the net, but the whistle had already sounded for a foul and Bannan curled the

resulting free-kick a yard over as Scotland's hopes finally evaporated. So it was a disappointing end for the Under-21's, but remember not only did the Icelandic side contain seven full internationalists, but also

accounted for Germany in the group stages! The only other United player on international duty was Dusan Pernis (left) for Slovakia. The keeper, however, got no further than the bench for both of his country's recent Euro ties. He acted as cover for Everton's Jan Mucha in the 3-1 defeat away to Armenia and the 1-1 home draw

with the Republic of Ireland.



THE CUP THAT CHEERS!

United fan Chris McGonagall received a nice surprise recently when Craig Conway, Danny Swanson and Keith Watson took the Scottish Cup to visit him in Ninewells Hospital.

The 17-year-old Arab was recently diagnosed with leukaemia and the nurses in the ward requested the visit to help raise his spirits. It certainly seemed to work, judging by the photo!

Everyone at Dundee United wishes Chris a speedy recovery and we all hope to see him back in his usual seat at Tannadice before too long.



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FOUR ON UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL DUTY

Scotland 7 Liechtenstein 0

The club had no less than four representatives in the Scotland Under-19 youth squad taking part in the Qualifying Round of the 2010-11 Under-19 UEFA Championship in Estonia.

And all four saw plenty of action.

In the opening game against Liechtenstein which the Scots stroled to a 7-0 victory, goalkeeper Marc McCallum and striker Dale Hilson played the full ninety minutes, while midfielder Stuart Armstrong was a second-half substitute with Ross Smith an unused substitute.

A measure of the Scots dominance can be gauged by the statistics which show that the Scots peppered the opposition goal with 17 shots of which 12 were on target, whilst Liechtenstein had just two goal attempts, both off target.

In the other Group 2 Qualifier Estonia beat Norway 2-0.

For the second game against hosts Estonia, which the Scots won by the odd goal in three, McCallum, Armstrong and Hilson all started, while Ross Smith was again on the bench.



Dale Hilson on target in the victory over Estonia

Hilson opened the scoring late on in a first half dominated by Scotland. They netted a second goal shortly after the restart and appeared to be cruising to a win until a late Estonia strike prompted a nervy last few minutes, but Scotland held firm to top the group. With Norway beating

Liechtenstein 5-0, last Sunday's clash with Norway was a group decider. All four Tannadice teenagers were in the starting line up with Scotland under pressure from the outset as the Norwegians dominated. So much so, McCallum was called into action three times before the Norwegians took the lead on twenty minutes. However, the Scots got themselves back into the game from the penalty spot ten minutes from half time. Norway restored their lead three minutes after the restart and went on to score two more. Shortly after the Norwegian fourth, Scotland were handed a lifeline courtesy of an own goal to make it 4-2 which was how it finished.

With Estonia beating Liechtenstein 3-0, Scotland finished level on points with both Norway and Estonia. The rules of the tournament state that in the event of such a tie the placings are decided on goal difference based only on the matches played amongst those sides; results against Liechtenstein were therefore irrelevant. Estonia topped the group, Norway were second and Scotland third.

The Qualifying Round 2010-11

Estonia and Norway are now through to the Elite Round of the UEFA Under-19 Championship in the spring. However, Scotland may still qualify as one of the best two third-placed teams, but must wait until the end of October when all the groups in the Qualifying Round have been decided.

THE KING OF LOCHEE

St John's Community Enterprise project, supported by Dundee United, is embarking on its most ambitious to date.



The High School will present 'The King of Lochee' - a story of Dundee, spanning 2000 years of history - at the Dundee Rep in November. Pupils and staff, together with Michael Marra, will star in the production, which depicts with music and humour Lochee history, from the draining of Balgay Loch right up until the Fleet ruled the streets in the 60's and 70's.

Dundee United and St. John's began their partnership in Jun 2009 when the Club asked Michael Marra and the staff and pupils of St. John's to play 'Hamish the Goalie' at the opening of the centenary exhibition. In May 2010 St John's pupils teamed up with the players to re-record 'Love is in the Air', with the single being released just in time for the Scottish Cup Final! Dundee United has a close

relationship with St John's High School and, like Lochee, has evolved considerably in its 100 year history. The founding of the Club can be traced back to the Dundee Irish community, most of whom were located in Lochee in the early part of the 20th century and a large part of 'The King of Lochee' is based within this era. 'The King of Lochee' is showing in Dundee Rep on the 9th and 10th November 2010, evening and matinee performances, tickets are available from Dundee Rep Box Office on 01382 223530.

More information on St John's Community Enterprise Project can be found at www.stjohnsenterprise.com. 'Love is in the Air' is also still available to download on iTunes.