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magazine

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the official matchday magazine of ab

scottseverin
the skipper reports

onsacredground
tales of the chopper

whytewash
we catch up with derek whyte

Charlie
Mulgrew
abracadabra!

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from thedugout

Our last home game against Hearts was a really wonderful performance from our perspective and a fantastic occasion to have been involved in. We won most of the individual battles that day and every single player performed well and deserves praise. I would also like to record my heartfelt thanks to our fans for turning out in such fabulous numbers and ensuring Pittodrie was at its most intimidating, something I'm confident we will repeat today.

Unfortunately we were unable to serve up a repeat performance seven days later at New Douglas Park in an extremely poor performance and result under a very different set of circumstances. As usual, we took a huge amount of supporters to this one and there were hundreds of them waiting outside the ground when we arrived.

Then there was the problem with the pitch which, on top of the bug that had been milling around the playing staff, did not make for the ideal preparation for the game. That said, there was no excuse for the way we played and we took what we deserved, absolutely nothing. Sadly that defeat brought to an end an excellent run of form and we missed out on the opportunity to go fourth still with a game in hand.



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Today's match is an opportunity for us to keep the pressure on the teams around us and is one that always takes care of itself!

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Following on from that one, Alloa were kind enough to let us go down to Recreation Park on the Tuesday prior to the Homecoming Scottish Cup clash to allow us to train on their artificial surface which, to be fair, was not as bad as we had perhaps feared.

As far as the game itself is concerned, I felt we began very well and were rewarded with the early goal. At that point we looked capable of adding to our tally and effectively killing the game as a contest. However, we didn't get the breaks and started to become sloppy in our passing before Athletic were awarded what I felt was a soft penalty.

After the break, we began to take control again and went ahead for the second time. However, Alloa were still looking dangerous and they posed quite a few threats for us. Fortunately we held on and were rewarded with a home tie against East Fife in the last sixteen.

At Kilmarnock, we started slowly and Kilmarnock put us under a lot of pressure, but they got a lucky goal after the ball came off the boy's chest. Lee Miller got us a goal out of nothing and we were fortunate to go in at the break at one each.

I was not a happy man and had a few words. In the second half we did a lot better. We looked more solid at the back and created a lot more chances. Lee's second goal was a wonderful effort. Some missed a chance to make it three and Kilmarnock threw everything at us in the closing stages, but we defended well.

Today's match is an opportunity for us to keep the pressure on the teams around us and is one that always takes care of itself! On our day we know we're a match for anyone and if we can display the same character and attitude that we did against Hearts, there's no reason why we cannot prevail!

Enjoy the game!™

dons directory

club address

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website addresses

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redtv www.afc.co.uk/redtv
e-tickets www.afc.co.uk/etickets

club chairman Stewart Milne
managing director Duncan Fraser
executive director Willie Miller
non-executive directors Gordon Buchan, Chris Gavin, Martin Gilbert, Hugh Little, Ken Matheson
honorary president Ian Donald
football manager Jimmy Calderwood
assistant manager Jimmy Nicholl
goalkeeping coach Jim Leighton
reserve coach Sandy Clark
youth team coach Neil Cooper
head of youth and community Lenny Taylor
stadium community coach Jim Crawford
club doctor Dr Derek Gray
club physios David Wylie, John Sharp
club osteopath Gillian Mitchell
kit manager Jim Warrender
club secretary David Johnston
sales and marketing manager Lynne Duncan
operations manager John Morgan
customer services manager Peter Roy
financial controller Roy Johnston
press officer Dave Macdermid Big Partnership

club honours

european cup winners: 1983
european supercup winners: 1983
scottish league champions: 1955
scottish premier league champions: 1980, 1984, 1985
scottish cup winners: 1947, 1970, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1990
scottish league cup winners: 1955.56, 1976.77, 1985.86, 1989.90, 1995.96

red matchday

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Ticket News

Aberdeen v Rangers - Saturday 24 January, 12.30pm

Would all fans please note that tickets for the Rangers match are on sale now. Tickets for all home SPL matches are on sale at any time. Please note that for all Old Firm games a previous booking history is necessary.

Falkirk v Aberdeen - Saturday 31st January

Tickets for our away match to Falkirk are on general sale now. Prices are as follows: Adults £21, Concessions £13 (under 16, over 65, students)

Happy Birthday

Happy 80th Birthday to Duncan Stewart from Kennethmont, Insch, a loyal supporter of the Dons for over thirty years now.

Best wishes from your daughter Shirley, Jimmy Calderwood, the players and all the staff at Aberdeen Football Club.

unacceptable conduct

The Scottish Premier League have instigated an initiative on unacceptable conduct this initiative makes it the responsibility of the club at both home and away games regarding the conduct of their supporters. This initiative came into being on 1 August 2007.

The list of offences is extensive but includes disorderly conduct, damage to the fabric of a stadium, using threatening or abusive words towards any group or gender, colour or race, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability. Also included are chants or songs of a racist, sectarian or of grossly offensive nature.

There is no list of banned songs or chants but the Match Commander, SPL Delegate, referee or the opposition club may report any of the above. Sanctions against the club can mean an official warning, a fine, ordering the game to be replayed or as a last resort the loss of points.



Dean Jarvis

Aberdeen have completed the signing of Irish teenager Dean Jarvis. The 16 year old has joined the Dons from Ballymoor FC in Derry, Northern Ireland. Dean is a left back who can also play centre

half and has already represented Northern Ireland at U16 and U17 level.

Neil Simpson has been impressed with the player. "Dean has a very good attitude and a real determination to succeed which is important. He is left sided and is a player who likes to get forward. He seems to have settled in quickly and we are all hoping he does well."

The player was spotted by Head of Scouting, Colin Grant. "I was over at the Foyle Cup last year and was very impressed when I saw him play. His team Derry and District actually won the tournament and Dean played no small part in their success. Although he was at left back, he was bombing forward at every opportunity."

Dean is the second player at the club from Northern Ireland. Midfielder Sammy Stewart was signed from Glenavon last summer while Anthony Bolger from the Republic of Ireland joined the U19 squad earlier in the season.

Colin added, "Northern and Southern Ireland are areas we will continue to look at very closely. It is a good breeding ground. You only need to look at the number of players heading across the Irish Sea every year to clubs in the Premiership and Championship in England to see how much talent is over there and we have two or three more players in the pipeline."

Head of Youth Development Lenny Taylor recognises the good work Colin is doing in Ireland. "We are very pleased with the job Colin has done over there. He has built up some very good contacts with teams and associations in both the south and the north. Colin will again go over and watch the Foyle Cup in July which is the premier tournament in Northern Ireland and in August we will have a team competing at the Galway Cup which is the main tournament in the Republic of Ireland."

Dean started full time with the club last week as part of the U19 squad and everyone at Pittodrie wishes him well in his career with the Dons.



Dine in style at Pittodrie - Aberdeen v Kilmarnock

We welcome Kilmarnock to Pittodrie on Saturday 28th February, kick off 3pm. What better way to spend a chilly Saturday than in the comfort of our Richard Donald Suite enjoying first class traditional fare? Or why not enjoy the exclusivity of our Main Stand Boxes, providing unrivalled side on views of all the action on the pitch?

There is limited availability left for this fixture so call our commercial co-ordinator Angela today on (01224) 650434 for further details.

RDS Dining

The Richard Donald Stand Suite is Pittodrie's largest hospitality space, and offers an unrivalled opportunity for you and your guests to share the excitement of pre and post match with other corporate supporters. Meet and mingle over your meal and enjoy the game from the exclusive padded seating in the RDS stand.

Richard Donald Suite diners enjoy the following:

- Arrival two and a half hours prior to kick off
- Secure car parking

- Champagne reception
 - Team line news from 1st team coach Sandy Clark
 - Three course meal with wine and liqueurs
 - Complimentary pre and post match drinks
 - Half-time tea, coffee and savouries
 - Current players in attendance
 - Complimentary team lines and official matchday programme
 - Opportunity to win a signed AFC football
 - Ladbrokes in attendance
 - Man of the match presentation
- Dress Code - Strictly jacket, collar and tie
Price: £95 + vat per person
* To optimise space available in the RDS, bookings of less than 10 may have to share a table

Main Stand Boxes

Main Stand Box customers love its side-on view of the pitch. Great for those supporters who don't like to brave the elements as they take in the game. Main Stand Boxes hold groups of 8 and are a superb way to entertain clients or reward staff.

Package Details:

- Arrival one hour prior to kick off
- Secure parking
- Complimentary pre and post match drinks
- Complimentary team lines and official match programme
- Half-time tea, coffee and hot savouries
- Ladbrokes in attendance

Dress Code: Smart (strictly no denims, replica tops or training shoes)

Price: £700 + vat per box (8 guests)

charlie mulgrew



Abraacadabra!

A *good left foot is a pretty rare asset in football these days. A wand of a left peg is rarer still. So we thought it was time to talk to Mulgrew the Magician...*

Motherwell, Inverness Caley Thistle and, of course, Celtic. What do they have in common? All have fallen prey to our Charlie, Prince of the free-kick. When we get an opportunity from a dead ball about 25 yards out at the right kind of angle, everybody knows what's coming next. But they still can't stop it. That Beckham lad had a useful right foot but Charlie's no slouch with the left and already this term he's produced three great set pieces which we'd be watching morning, noon and night if Mr Posh had produced them.

Charlie's profile is a little bit lower than Becks', but he has at least one thing in common with the England man. He doesn't trust to luck when it comes to getting his free-kicks right. Plenty of graft goes into getting one of them right on a Saturday afternoon.

"The free-kicks are an important part of my game because if you can chip in with goals it makes you more valuable to the team. I do a lot of practice on them whenever I get the chance, and we do a bit of finishing work in training as well so that helps too. I've been absolutely delighted with them this season, but there's still a few that have missed so there's still room for improvement."

Setting high standards is an essential part of going on to success in this game, and that was a habit that was instilled in him right from the outset, part of a good schooling received in his younger days with today's opponents. Even though Charlie didn't get the opportunity to play regularly for the Bhoys' first team, simply coming through the ranks at Celtic Park and making it all the way to a professional contract is some achievement in itself.

"I was brought up a Celtic fan and I joined them as a 12 year old and was there for eight years which was a fantastic experience. To sign for them as a boy, signing for the club I followed, that was unbelievable really, all my friends and family were delighted for me, and it's a huge opportunity to be a part of one of the biggest clubs there is at such a young age.

"It's very hard as well because they can have their pick of anybody so it's very difficult to come through that youth system year after year and then, once you've become a professional, to go and get in the team. They can get the best players in Scotland at youth level and then for the first team, you just look at the team they've got now, they can bring people in from all over the world. To force yourself into that team and to make the breakthrough at a club of that size takes a lot of doing.

"I was lucky, Tommy Burns was there when I was coming through the system and along with my family, he was a

really big influence on me as a youngster, he played a big part in my development."

We've already seen that Charlie has a few strings to his bow, not least in the way he played further upfield in the game at Parkhead earlier in the season where he was a dominant figure. It's no surprise to learn that when he played in Glasgow, he wasn't restricted to a single role.

"I enjoyed the game at Celtic – obviously scoring helps! I like left-back, that's my main position, but I do like playing in the midfield as well like I did that day. But having waited so long to get to a team where I get a chance, I don't care where it is as long as I get out there on a Saturday.

"I played pretty well everywhere when I was younger, I played in midfield for the youth team, left sided and in the middle, I played at left-back, a wee bit at centre-back as well, but as time went on and I went through the age groups, I settled more and more at left-back.

"I've been lucky I guess in that there don't seem to have been that many left sided players over recent years, though there are probably more about now than a few years back. It meant I had a bit more of an opportunity to get a game than if I'd been right footed maybe."

The opportunities remained limited at Celtic though, which meant that when he was given the chance to go on loan to Dundee United, he jumped at it. Times were tempestuous down the A90 though.

"There was a lot of things going on at Tannadice when I went there on loan – the first three games I played, I had three different managers! That was pretty weird. But once it settled a bit, I really enjoyed my time under Craig Brewster, it was a big thing to get away and play first team football week after week, it stood me in good stead going forward because obviously, at Celtic, I wasn't getting much of a look in.

"They always set high standards at Celtic and even if you're playing reserve football they expect you to live up to that, but there comes a point where if you're only playing reserve games, you stop improving. However much you put into them, it's not the same as playing in the first team when it counts for points every Saturday. It's such a difference. When you're out there in front of proper crowds, playing games that really matter, that's when you realise what it's all about, the need to go and get three points every week, to work really hard for the team and the supporters."

Having a taste of that meant that going back to playing for the second string didn't have much appeal for Mulgrew. Time to leave Glasgow behind.

"It wasn't that big a wrench to leave Celtic to be honest

