



Celtic 

Scottish Premier League ●

Programme No.27

Champions

CELTIC v ABERDEEN

Celtic Park, Wednesday 21 April 2004, Kick-off 7.45pm
Scottish Premierleague 2003/04

2003/04



CARLING ARE PROUD TO BE SUPPORTERS OF CELTIC FC. LOVEFOOTBALL



“It has been a tremendous season and I couldn’t be more pleased with the attitude and commitment shown by this squad of players. They deserve to enjoy the celebrations”

WELCOME back to Celtic Park for tonight's game against Aberdeen.

Sunday's celebrations at Rugby Park were fantastic and it really was a satisfying afternoon for everyone concerned because the players have worked so hard all season for such an occasion.

Winning the Championship was always going to be the most important thing for us after the frustration of last season and to win it with six league games remaining is quite an achievement.

The fact that we won it at Rugby Park was nice after the final day of last season and I would have to say winning this Championship is the most satisfying out of the three titles that we have won in the last four years, simply because we were so determined to wrest it back.

We deserved it after working so hard, and the consistency that

has been shown by the squad has been astounding. To get to this stage of this season without being defeated in the league is something I would never have envisaged, but it now goes without saying that we will wish to continue that run this evening against Aberdeen.

It would be nice to get through the entire campaign unbeaten but I am not sure if it will happen. We've a few niggling injuries that we would like to rest now over the course of the next few weeks, and it would be nice to have a squad that is refreshed and ready for the Scottish Cup final next month.

In all likelihood we will introduce a couple of the younger players into the team alongside some of the senior members of the squad over the remaining games, and it is an opportunity for them to impress with next season in mind.

There never seems to be enough time to enjoy a Championship when it has been won and over the next few weeks it will be nice to savour the experience before we head into the holidays and start to think about the following campaign.

It has been a tremendous season and I couldn't be more pleased with the attitude and commitment shown by this squad of players. They have worked incredibly hard since the opening day of the season and they deserve to enjoy the celebrations over the next few weeks.

Once again, I thank you for your support this year and I hope that you, too, have enjoyed the Championship success that the team have achieved.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB FACTFILE

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park
 (capacity 60,506)

Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts,
 white shorts, white socks

Away strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with
 gold trim

Third strip: Gold shirts, green
 shorts, gold socks

Record attendance: 92,000 (v Rangers, 1938)

Record victory: 11-0 (v Dundee, 1895)

Record defeat: 0-8 (v Motherwell, 1937)

Most league goals (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory,
 1935/36

Most Premier/SPL goals (1 season): 35, Brian McClair
 1986/87, Henrik Larsson 2000/01

Website: www.celticfc.net

HONOURS

Scottish League (39)

1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06,
 1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15,
 1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19, 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36,
 1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69,
 1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77,
 1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98,
 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2003/2004

Scottish Cup (31)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914,
 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965,
 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985,
 1988, 1989, 1995, 2001

League Cup (12)

1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68 1968/69,
 1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98,
 1999/2000, 2000/2001

European Cup (1) 1967 **Coronation Cup (1)** 1953

CELTIC FACTS

● April 15 is a momentous day in Celtic's history. In 1916, Celtic played two matches in one day, beating Raith Rovers 6-0 at Celtic Park in the afternoon (kick-off 3.15pm) and then Motherwell 2-1 at Fir Park, at 6pm.

● Two Celtic stars had reason to remember games at Wembley on that date. Billy McNeill made his Scotland debut in the 9-3 defeat in 1961, and in 1967, Ronnie Simpson became the oldest player ever to pick up a first cap for Scotland in the 3-2 win.

● And in 1970, a European Cup record crowd of 136,505 was at Hampden to see Celtic beat Leeds 2-1 in the semi-final second leg.

● On April 16, 1904, Jimmy Quinn became the first player to score a hat-trick in a Scottish Cup final as Celtic beat Rangers 3-2. 68 years would pass before another Celtic star - Dixie Deans - repeated the feat, this time against Hibs.

● Exactly 10 years later, in another Scottish Cup final, Celtic overcame Hibs 4-1 at the second attempt, two goals apiece from Jimmy McColl and John Browning pushing Celtic to a League/Cup 'double'. The next one was 40 years away!

● On April 17, 1909, after a riot at the end of the Old Firm Scottish Cup final, the SFA decided to withhold the trophy.



ABERDEEN FACTS

● In 1954/55, Aberdeen won the Division One title, three points clear of Celtic. They won the Scottish Cup in 1947, beating Hibs 2-1.

● Aberdeen won the League Cup for the first time in 1955, their 2-1 victory over St Mirren watched by a crowd of 44,103.

● In 1978, Pittodrie became Britain's first all-seated stadium.

● The club's largest fee received for a player was £1.75million, from Coventry for Eoin Jess in February 1996; the biggest outlay was for Paul Bernard, signed for £1million from Oldham in September 1995.

● Under the managership of Alex Ferguson, the Aberdeen side of the late 1970s and 1980s dominated the Scottish game. They were Premier Division champions in 1979/80, 1983/84 and 1984/85. Scottish Cup winners in 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986. League Cup winners in 1985.

● The record for most league appearances is held by Willie Miller with 556 (1973-1990). Joe Harper scored the most goals with 199 (1969-72; 1976-1981). Most capped player is Alex McLeish (77).

● After only two European appearances in the 1960s, Aberdeen increased that to seven seasons in the 1970s and every season in the 1980s.

● In 1983, they became the second (and last!) Scottish side to win the European Cup-Winners' Cup, beating Real Madrid in the final.





TONIGHT'S VISITORS - ABERDEEN
MANAGER - STEVE PATERSON

CELTIC		ABERDEEN	
Momo Sylla	3	1	David Preece
Jackie McNamara	4	2	Michael Hart
Joos Valgaeren	5	5	Russell Anderson
Bobo Balde	6	6	Philip McGuire
Henrik Larsson	7	7	Leigh Hinds
Alan Thompson	8	8	Steve Tosh
Chris Sutton	9	9	Scott Booth
John Hartson	10	10	Paul Sheerin
Stephen Pearson	11	14	Chris Clarke
David Fernandez	12	15	Kevin Rutkiewicz
Paul Lambert	14	16	Fergus Tiernan
Bobby Petta	15	17	Kevin McNaughton
Ulrik Laursen	16	18	Richard Foster
Didier Agathe	17	19	David Zdrilic
Neil Lennon	18	22	Scott Muirhead
Stilian Petrov	19	23	Ryan Esson
Robert Douglas	20	24	Scott Morrison
Magnus Hedman	21	26	Kevin Souter
David Marshall	22	27	Alexander Diamond
Stanislav Varga	23	29	Markus Heikkinen
Shaun Maloney	29	43	David Hutton
Ross Wallace	33		
Johan Mjallby	35		
Craig Beattie	37		
Jamie Smith	39		
John Kennedy	41		
Liam Miller	43		
Stephen McManus	44		
Michael McGovern	47		

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

CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERLEAGUE 2003/04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CELTIC	32	29	3	0	98	18	81	90
Rangers	33	23	5	5	66	26	40	74
Hearts	33	15	10	8	47	36	11	55
Dunfermline	33	12	11	10	35	43	-8	47
Motherwell	33	12	9	12	39	37	2	42
Dundee Utd	33	11	9	13	39	51	-11	42
Hibernian	33	9	11	13	37	52	-15	38
Livingston	33	8	12	13	38	48	-10	36
Dundee	33	8	10	15	41	55	-14	34
Kilmarnock	33	9	5	19	39	69	-30	32
Aberdeen	32	8	7	17	36	51	-15	31
Partick Thistle	33	4	6	23	31	61	-30	18

CLUB SPONSORS



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Scottish Premierleague HEARTS v CELTIC	SUN 25 APRIL 3.00pm
Scottish Premierleague CELTIC v DUNFERMLINE	SUN 2 MAY 3.00pm
Scottish Premierleague CELTIC v RANGERS	SAT 8 MAY TBC
Scottish Premierleague MOTHERWELL v CELTIC	WED 12 MAY TBC
Scottish Premierleague CELTIC v DUNDEE UNITED	SUN 16 MAY TBC

RECENT FORM



Scottish Premierleague, April 18, 2004
KILMARNOCK 0 v 1 CELTIC (Petrov)

Uefa Cup 1/4-Final 2nd Leg, April 14, 2004
VILLARREAL 2 v 0 CELTIC

Scottish Cup Semi-final, April 11, 2004
LIVINGSTON 1 v 3 CELTIC (Sutton 2, Larsson)

Uefa Cup 1/4-Final 1st Leg, April 8, 2004
CELTIC 1 v 1 VILLARREAL (Larsson)

Scottish Premierleague, April 3, 2004
CELTIC 2 v 2 HEARTS (Sutton, Agathe)

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:	Iain Brines
Assistant Referees:	Andy Davis Wilson Irvine
Fourth Official:	Chris Boyle

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman
CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney
MANAGER Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford
HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns **YOUTH TEAM COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark

OUR GOAL HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

Petrov says the Celts have had only one aim in mind ever since the end of season 2002/03

STILIAN PETROV netted the goal that mattered on Sunday afternoon at Rugby Park as Martin O'Neill's side were officially crowned Champions, and the Bulgarian midfielder has been delighted with the spirit and determination shown by his team-mates.

After the disappointment of losing the UEFA Cup final and the league title within four momentous days last season, Petrov has revealed that his colleagues were determined that this season would finish with celebrations.

"It's been a long season and it was good to win the Championship as quickly as we possibly could," he smiled. "It was so hard to take last season when we lost the title by just

Exclusive Interview: ALISON McCONNELL

one goal and that was so tough for us. We got ourselves together and promised that we would get it back this season and to have done that is very satisfying.

"I am proud of what we have achieved this season because as well as getting the title back we also had some great games in the Champions League and the UEFA Cup. We didn't get quite so far as we'd have liked but for the second season in a row we were in Europe after Christmas which is good.

"It was nice to get the goal but it's a team performance. I thought that we were tired on Sunday but everyone knew that if we won the



"We got ourselves together and promised we would get the title back"



game then we would win the Championship and we were desperate to do that. We were totally focussed on winning the game but it has been an exhausting season because of the sheer volume of games we have played."

Having gone through the 32 league games unbeaten, Petrov is confident that Celtic can go through the remaining six games without defeat. Aberdeen are next on the horizon tonight and Petrov is convinced that O'Neill will be equally determined to get through the calendar without a blip.

It is an achievement that has been celebrated before, but not for over a century. Celtic went through a league campaign unbeaten in season 1897/98, a feat that Rangers accomplished the following season but back then there were only 18 games in each campaign.

"I think the manager will want to get through the season unbeaten now and that might mean playing as strong a team as he can for the remaining six games," said Petrov. "It's up to the gaffer - he might also want to bring in a couple of the young lads and see where they are at the moment and think about their involvement for next season.

"I think we are capable of going through unbeaten and it would be

No.1 Larsson is Stan's pick for top star



a brilliant achievement, but it will still be difficult to do it. Very few teams have managed to achieve that and it is something to aim for over the next couple of weeks."



CHAMPION FEELING
Stilian Petrov reels away in triumph after scoring the goal against Kilmarnock that clinched the title



KILLER TOUCH Petrov fires past a helpless Colin Meldrum in the Killie goal and (below) celebrates another championship triumph with Neil Lennon



Meanwhile, this time of year always prompts debate on the subject of Player of the Year awards. This season's shortlist is made up of Stefan Klos, Chris Sutton, Henrik Larsson and Petrov and the latter has no doubts about who would win it if he had the casting vote.

"There's a lot of contenders in our squad for the Player of the

Year awards," he observed. "I would have to say that I think Jackie has been outstanding all season, no matter what position he has been asked to play but I can't look any further than Henrik. Guys who score goals the way that he does are so hard to come across and he's scored 35 so far this season so I think that he would have to get my vote.

"It will be so hard to replace him. As his colleagues and friends we have had to respect his decision and we can only wish him all the best and I hope that things go very well for him wherever he goes. He has been an amazing player for Celtic."

With a hectic summer at the European Championships in Portugal, there will be little respite for Petrov. The player, however, is

"It will be so hard to replace Henrik. He has been an amazing player"

hungry for the experience of one of football's showcase events and is hoping to test himself against some of Europe's most prestigious names.

"I hope I stay away from injury but I want to keep my fitness at a high level," he said. "I am really looking forward to it because that is the kind of stage that you want to be playing on and I hope that it will be a good tournament."