

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

1980/81

No. 28



Dundee United F.C.

VERSUS

CELTIC

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1981

SCOTTISH PREMIER
LEAGUE

KICK-OFF 7.30 p.m.

20p





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THE BOSS'S SPOT



by
**JIM
McLEAN**

Good evening and welcome back to Tannadice for our first home game since the disappointing defeat by St Mirren here away back on March 21, almost a month ago to the day.

Since then of course we have completed five games during which we achieved our passage into a Scottish Cup final against Rangers, added another league win at Tynecastle — and lost twice to Rangers and Morton.

But it is that marvellous triumph in exiting tonight's visitors Celtic from the cup which I would like to dwell on in this communication with you amongst the crowd with leanings towards United.

The fact that so many of you managed to follow us to Hampden on both occasions of the semi-final was a remarkable achievement, and on behalf of the club and most of all the players I forward our thanks.

Your support was an inspiration to the side to go out and manage to delight me TWICE with their performances. As you all know there are very few sides around who can give Celtic a second chance — and still come out on top. It speaks volumes for the players.

And what a thrill that triumph has given to so many people who have given so much of their time and efforts for Dundee United over a long period, I include amongst those my directors who have seen both good and bad times during their reigns in the Tannadice board room.

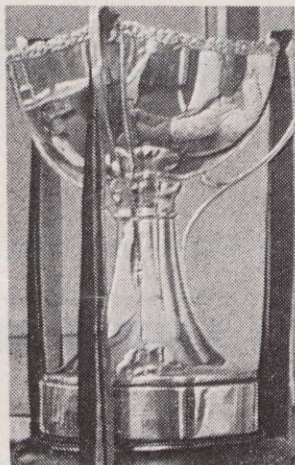
As far as the final itself is concerned it will be no easy task to bring back the Scottish Cup — but make no mistake about it, it can be achieved!

Successes such as that in reaching the final plus our two League Cup wins have helped take some of the weight off our players shoulders for such big occasions, and that is a help.



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CLUB SNIPPETS

● **Thanks . . .** The club is indebted to Mr George A. Spence, 6 Reresmount Place, Broughty Ferry, for his gift of a beautifully inscribed wooden bowl made in recognition of the Tannadice men's League Cup double in successive seasons.

● **Go!f Outing**

The United players celebrated in relaxed fashion the day after their recent Scottish Cup replay win over Celtic with a tremendous golf outing at Gleneagles. A party of forty players and guests from Tannadice soaked in the glorious sunshine and although the golf in most cases failed to match the weather everyone voted the venture a resounding success. The party returned to the Glencarse Hotel in the evening for a Presentation Dinner at which Eamonn Bannon received his well-earned player's trophy and prize of the "Winner's Jacket."



● **New Shop . . .** Your attention is drawn to the new Dundee United Souvenir Shop now situated on the north terracing at Tannadice. This has been sited by the club to ease any difficulties experienced in the past by terracing supporters in making their way around the ground to our original shop situated under the grandstand.

● **Another Record? . . .** United are heading towards another milestone this season by completing their heaviest programme in history! Last term proved to be the Tannadice club's busiest season when 53 fixtures were completed in domestic competitions and UEFA Cup outings. However, continued success in both the League Cup and Scottish Cup this season see that number being equalled tonight — and there are still three league games to complete, plus the final of the Scottish Cup!

● **Mascot . . .** Tonight's United mascot for the Premier League clash against Celtic is ten year-old Rodney Taylor. The Powrie Primary School pupil will precede his Tannadice hero Paul Hegarty out of the tunnel.

● **Readers letters . . .** If you want to air your views on any aspect of the running of the club then do so in writing to 'The Programme Editor,' Tannadice Park, Dundee. Every effort will be made by the subject of your topic i.e., the manager, player, secretary or even the board of directors, to answer your query in the club's matchday programme.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	Goals						
	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pt
Celtic	33	25	5	3	79	31	53
Aberdeen	33	19	5	9	61	24	47
Rangers	33	15	8	10	55	31	40
St Mirren	34	16	10	8	51	46	40
Dundee United	32	15	9	8	57	36	38
Partick	34	10	15	9	29	44	29
Morton	34	10	16	8	34	53	28
Airdrie	33	9	15	9	31	47	27
Hearts	34	5	23	6	25	66	16
Kilmarnock	34	4	22	8	20	64	16

● **With The Reserves . . .** While the Tannadice first team has been grabbing the headlines recently the reserves too have been hitting the highspots. Having won the East Reserve League United now face a home and home decider against West winners Celtic for the title. And victory by 4-0 last weekend against Dumbarton saw the Tannadice second string through to the Second Eleven Cup final against Hearts. It was almost a hat-trick of final appearances in the Reserve League Cup too, but Aberdeen pipped us.

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Pointers from the Past...

- ★ As would be expected, Celtic have a stranglehold over United in the 61 league games so far between the two clubs. Celtic have recorded no less than 36 victories to United's 12, with 13 having been drawn.
- ★ The overall goal aggregate also sharply favours the men in green and white, their total of 132 is almost double United's count of 68 to date.
- ★ Since the Premier League was introduced, United's record has improved somewhat but a victory at Parkhead still evades them. At Tannadice, Celtic have just come out on top with 6 wins to 5. Note there hasn't been a draw yet. Parkhead has been a blackspot though. Three draws out of twelve visits is all United have been able to muster.
- ★ Only once have United completed the double over the men from Parkhead. That ironically was in 1966 - 7, Celtic's unique year of triumph. About the only feat Celtic failed to achieve was a victory over United! In both matches United triumphed 3 - 2. Another curious aspect of both games was that Celtic always held the lead and the sequence of scoring was identical.
- ★ Celtic's best season against United was in 69 - 70 when a 7 - 2 defeat at Parkhead was followed by a 2 - 0 victory at Tannadice, producing a 9 - 2 aggregate.
- ★ United's most painful hour against Celtic came way back in 1929 - 30 when Celtic walloped them 7 - 0. The worst defeat at Tannadice was 5 - 0 in March, 1968, United's worst home defeat since promotion in 1960 - 1.
- ★ The best result United can lay claim to is 3 - 0. They have achieved this twice, once in May, 1963, and again a little over a year ago as Celtic's league challenge faltered.
- ★ Surprisingly, this season threatens to be United's worst in opposition to the Parkhead side. So far Celtic have won all three encounters with home victories of 2 - 0 (October) and 2 - 1 (January). In the first Tannadice meeting in November Celtic notched up their best Premier result in Dundee with a 3 - 0 victory. Our only goal against Celtic this term came from Ralph Milne.

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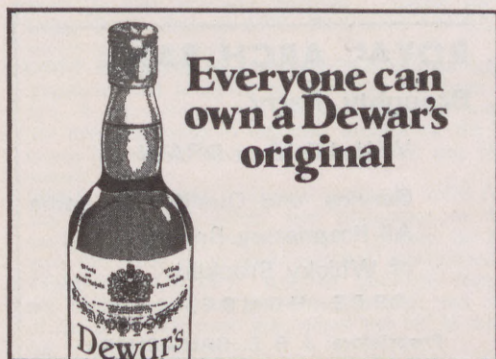
DOUBLE BLANK

The scoring records of both Celtic and United hardly pointed to the eventual goal-less scoreline in our first semi-final meeting. United's failure to find the net at Hampden in that first meeting was the first blank since 29th November when Celtic triumphed 3-0 at Tannadice in a Premier League match. So ended a run of 19 consecutive games in which United had found the target. In that period they scored 50 goals but Celtic again proved the stumbling block.

By a strange quirk of coincidence Celtic also ended a long run of matches in which they had consistently been on the goal standard. The Parkhead eleven had notched 55 goals in the 21 games since they last failed to score. Their last failure to draw blood was against United in the second leg of the League Cup semi-final at Parkhead when United shocked Celtic with a 3-0 victory.

● *Collect Programmes?*

The Playhouse Theatre, Leith Walk, Edinburgh, is this coming Sunday's venue (26th April) for the 2nd Edinburgh Programme Fair. Programmes from all 38 Scottish clubs will be available plus the top outfits from south of the border. This event was an outstanding success last year and is one of only two Fairs held in Scotland annually. Admission is 30p and the doors are open from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.



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CHAMPIONS!!

Victory for Celtic tonight will seal a remarkable season for a Parkhead side containing several first-season regulars.

Goalkeeper Pat Bonner, full back Mark Reid and goal-scoring sensation Charlie Nicholas are all experiencing their first taste of top team football.

Yet, after surprisingly relinquishing a seemingly impregnable lead last season, Celtic are now poised to clinch their third Premier League title.

United have a score to settle with the men from Parkhead. Successes in the League Cup and Scottish Cup semi-finals have to be set against complete Celtic dominance of this season's league meetings. Defeat tonight for United would mean Celtic have taken full points, the only side capable of accomplishing that feat this season.

The Celtic squad will consist of the following : —

PAT BONNER : Signed from League of Ireland club Keadue Rovers in 1978. This first full season in the first team has earned him international recognition with call ups to the Eire squad. Pat will not celebrate his 21st birthday until late next month, so he appears to have a long and promising future in front of him.

DANNY McGRAIN : Celtic's oldest playing member, Danny will be 31 on 1st May. Since joining the Parkhead club from Maryhill in 1968 he has won 51 Scottish Caps and won every domestic honour available. His return after injury to the side in 1978-9 as captain was highly instrumental in the championship win of that year. Now his experience is again leading this basically young Celtic side to the title.

MARK REID : Broke into the first team earlier this season. A product of Celtic Boys' Club, this 19-year-old has retained a first team place with some stylish displays.

TOM McADAM : The ex United striker was hardly a failure as a forward but for about a year now he has become a pillar in the centre of the defence. His power in the air is still a threat to defences at dead-ball situations. Tom originally began his career at Boghead before his £60,000 move to Tannadice in 1975. Two years later a similar fee took the lanky striker on to Parkhead.

ROY AITKEN : Essentially a midfielder player, Roy has recently been assisting in the back four. His international career has graduated from youth to full Scotland honours. Signed for Celtic after playing for Celtic Boys' Club in 1975, Roy made his debut for the Parkhead Club whilst still at school.

DOM SULLIVAN : Chose Parkhead as opposed to Tannadice after Aberdeen had accepted an £80,000 bid from both clubs about 2 years ago. A knee injury has sidelined him for much of this season, but he has now recovered to establish himself in the Parkhead first team. Dom began his senior career with Clyde and was 30 at the beginning of this month.

MIKE CONROY : Turned senior in 1978 from Port Glasgow Juniors and almost immediately won promotion to the first team squad. Normally a strong tackling midfield player, he has at times been drafted into the back four. Mike's father also played for the Glasgow Club.

TOMMY BURNS : Another graduate from Celtic Boys' Club, this red haired youngster provides the skill and craft on the left-hand side of the park. His form this season has led to many tipping the 24-year-old for international duty.

DAVIE PROVAN : A fee of £120,000 took the winger from Kilmarnock to Parkhead in 1978. His skill and pace will again be a threat to the United defence.

MURDO McLEOD : An industrious midfielder player who cost £100,000 when he was signed from Dumbarton in 1978. Has a reputation as a ball winner and carries a powerful shot in either foot. The former Under-21 cap has only recently returned to the first team scene after a lengthy injury.

FRANK McGARVEY : Celtic and Scotland's costliest-ever signing. He joined Celtic from Liverpool in March 1980 for a fee in excess of £250,000. He never appeared in Liverpool's first team but this season he has recaptured the flair for goals the striker originally displayed with St Mirren, his first club.

CHARLIE NICHOLAS : The fifth member of the current first team squad to have been recruited from Celtic Boys' Club. He has only just turned 19 but his prolific scoring this season is impressive for a teenager.

JOHNNY DOYLE : The curly haired winger has been at Parkhead for five years since his move from Ayr United. Now nearly 30, Johnny has found he has been utilised in the role of substitute on probably more occasions than this progressive player would care for.



Roy Aitken

5, 10, 15 YEARS AGO...

5 YEARS AGO . . .

Saturday April 17, 1976 — United 2, Hearts 0 (League)

Points were vital for United as they continued their fight to avoid the drop in the inaugural Premier League season. Their cause was not helped by the squandering of a fifth minute penalty award. Alan Forsyth was the culprit to bring United's tally of missed spot kicks to seven for that season. Undaunted by this United stuck to their task and their persistence was rewarded in the 22nd minute when Alec Reid's corner led to a melee in the Hearts box and Paul Hegarty stepped in to slide the ball home. Even after the interval United continued to make tracks towards the Maroons goal but clear cut chances were few and far between. The tension was obviously telling on the home side but in 68 minutes the situation was relieved when United got their second. Again an Alec Reid corner instigated the goal and Tom McAdam's powerful header soared into the net despite Jim Brown's desperate efforts to head clear.

With the result sewn up, the Tannadice side merely played out time to boost their hopes of survival.

United — McAlpine, Rolland, Kopel, Forsyth, Houston, Narey, Hall, Fleming, Hegarty, McAdam, Reid.

Hearts — Cruickshank, Brown, Jefferies, Callachan, Gallacher, Kay, Aird, Busby, Shaw, Gibson, Prentice.

Crowd — 6598.

10 YEARS AGO . . .

Saturday, April 17, 1971 — United 3, Falkirk 1 (League)

The main interest in this match centred on whether United could extend their unbeaten run to seven games and possibly continue on course for a Fairs Cup place. Urged on by this it took United just two minutes to make the break-through. Andy Rolland slung over a cross into Kenny Cameron's path and the centre gladly accepted the offering to score from eight yards. The Tangerines were in full cry and increased their lead in the 21st minute. Alec Reid gained possession and his 20 yarder beat Devlin. Just before the interval McLauchlan brought down Alec Reid. Before the penalty was taken, Falkirk had to substitute their injured keeper and George Miller took over between the posts. Doug Smith, however, slotted home the spot kick to put United three up. A brief flurry of activity around the United goal, just before half-time, demonstrated that Falkirk were still a threat.

United suffered an early second-half set-back when Walter Smith limped off to be replaced by Jacky Copland.

Falkirk's first half threat materialised into tangible reward a couple of minutes later when Young's close-in header beat Hamish McAlpine. After a brief spell of Falkirk pressure, United gradually regained control but couldn't find a way past stand-in Miller.

United — McAlpine, Rolland, J. Cameron, W. Smith, D. Smith, Henry, Watson, A. Reid, K. Cameron, Gordon, Wilson.

Falkirk — Devlin, Abel, McLauchlan, Markie, Miller, Gibson, Hoggan, Setterington, Young, Ferguson, Shirra.

Crowd — 3,000.

15 YEARS AGO

Wednesday, 20th April, 1966 — Hibs 3, United 3.

Uppermost in United's thoughts as the season came to a climax, was a Fairs Cup place. It took an amazing fight-back to maintain their European aspirations in a match that proved to be a thriller.

Hibs opened their account when Stein scrambled the ball home after Cormack nodded the ball down. Peter Cormack was again the architect of Hibs second in 18 minutes. His through-ball to Stevenson was perfect and the winger netted in a flash.

Jimmy Briggs hit a 26th minute free-kick past a motionless Hibs defence for a real pick-me-up but that situation only lasted a minute.

Colin Stein crossed, Doug Smith got his head to it, but Donald Mackay was caught flat-footed and the ball gently bounced into the net.

After the interval United really rolled their sleeves up and hit Hibs with everything they could muster. Non stop attacking brought its reward in the 69th minute. Finn Dossing lobbed the ball to Denis Gillespie who hooked the ball clear of the out-stretched fingers of Thomson Allan.

The question was now, could the Tannadice men get the equaliser their pressure deserved. With 12 minutes to go, again the Dossing - Gillespie combination brought the equaliser. Dennis netted almost on the goal-line from Finn's low cross.

Neither side managed to snatch a winner in the final minutes as both teams went at it hammer and tongs.

Hibs — Allan, Duncan, Davis, Stanton, McNamee, Cousin, Cormack, Stein, Scott, Quinn, Stevenson.

United — Mackay, Millar, Briggs, Neilson, Smith, Wing, Carroll, Gillespie, Dossing, Mitchell, Persson.

Crowd — 5000.

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LINE-UP

Dundee United

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John HOLT	2
Frank KOPEL	3
Iain PHILLIP	4
Paul HEGARTY	5
Derek ADDISON	6
Eamonn BANNON	7
Ralph MILNE	8
Graeme PAYNE	9
Paul STURROCK	10
Dave DODDS	11
	12

Celtic

Pat BONNER
Danny McGRAIN
Murdo MACLEOD
Roddy MACDONALD
Tom McADAM
Roy AITKEN
Dave PROVAN
Mike CONROY
Frank McGARVEY
Tommy BURNS
Charlie NICHOLAS

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C Dunfermline	Berwick R.	K
D Montrose	Cowdenbeath	L
E		M
F		N
G		P