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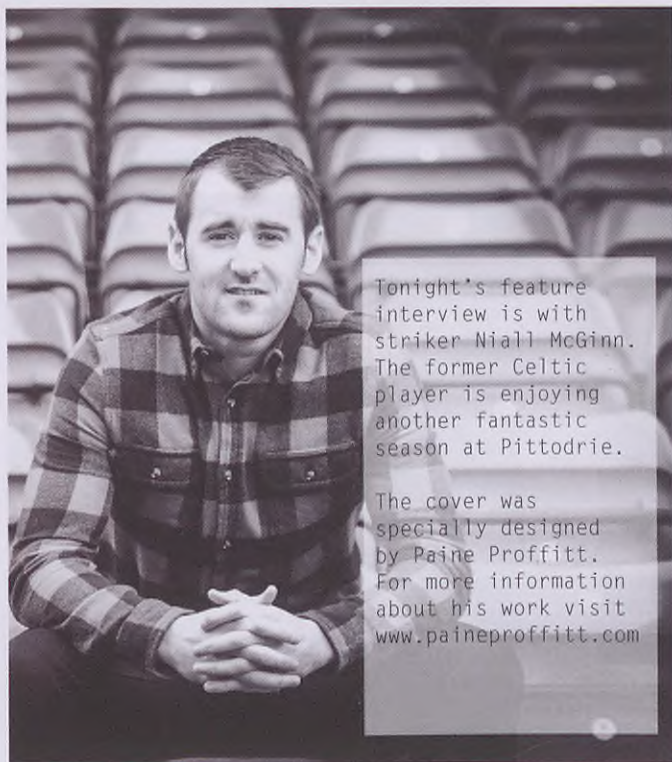
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Tonight's feature interview is with striker Niall McGinn. The former Celtic player is enjoying another fantastic season at Pittodrie.

The cover was specially designed by Paine Proffitt. For more information about his work visit www.paineproffitt.com

Dons Directory

Aberdeen Football Club, Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen, AB24 5QH

Telephone Numbers	
Customer Service	01224 631903
Main Switchboard	01224 650400
Clubshop Pittodrie Street	01224 642800
Commercial Department	01224 650434
Conference/Events Department	01224 650420
Fax	01224 644173
E-Mail	feedback@afc.co.uk

Website Addresses

RedWeb	WWW.AFC.CO.UK
RedTV	WWW.AFC.CO.UK/REDTV
E-Tickets	WWW.AFC.CO.UK/ETICKETS
Shop	WWW.AFC.CO.UK/SHOP

Address Book

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Vice Chairman	GEORGE YULE
CEO	DUNCAN FRASER
Non Executive Directors	GORDON BUCHAN, IAN JACK, COLIN WELSH, CRAIG BROWN

Honorary President	IAN DONALD
Football Manager	DEREK MCINNES
Assistant Manager	TONY DOCHERTY
Youth Team Coach	NEIL COOPER
Goalkeeping Coach	JIM LEIGHTON
Club Secretary	DAVID JOHNSTON

Sales and Marketing Manager	LYNNE DUNCAN
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Football Operations Manager	STEVEN GUNN
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Head of AFC Youth Academy	NEIL SIMPSON
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Head of Community	ALLY PROCKTER
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Club Doctor	DR DEREK GRAY
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Team Doctors	DR GREG NICOL, DR STUART REARY, DR GARY RITCHIE
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Club Physios	DAVID WYLIE, JOHN SHARP, AIMEE CLARK
Kit Manager	JIM WARRENDER
Performance Analyst	GREG THOMSON

Club Honours

European Cup Winners Cup	1983
European Super Cup 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

RedMatchday


Programme Editor	MALCOLM PANTON
Historical Editor	KEVIN STIRLING
Photography	NEWSLINE SCOTLAND, SNS, SCOTT BAXTER, ANGELA ISAC ACTION IMAGES, ABERDEEN JOURNALS, DOUGLAS WINTON.

Contributors

LISA SHERAN, DAVID BOWMAN, CHRIS CRIGHTON, ALAN HAY, RICHARD GORDON, DAVE MACDERMID, GEORGE RUTHERFORD, BILL THOMAS, IAN THOMSON, ANDREW MORRISON, ANGELA BRUCE, SEAN GRAHAM, ALICE BIDAINE.

Cover Painting PAINE PROFFITT

The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of Aberdeen Football Club, the editor.

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DEREK McINNES

We've been a little bit busy while we've been away as many of you will know given that so many of you came with us! It is always a privilege to be manager of the football club but never was that more the case than at the League Cup semi-final when the support we enjoyed in Edinburgh was quite exceptional. Getting the right result was due reward for the efforts of both supporters and players and now we have a cup final to look forward to for the first time in a while.

We were able to rise to the occasion again the following week at Celtic Park, not only winning the game and so progressing further in the Scottish Cup, but doing so after going a goal behind. Wins at Celtic are always difficult to come by so it's testimony to the character and determination that we have in the squad that we ultimately came through the game and are into the quarter-finals.

Having enjoyed those days, what pleased me even more was the response from the players when we went to St Mirren. After all the emotion of the previous two weekends, some teams might have taken their eye off the ball when we got back to the bread and butter of the SPFL, but while we were not always at our best in Paisley, we ground out the win that we wanted to keep things going in the league. Print deadlines mean I wrote these notes prior to Saturday's game at Partick, but hopefully we were able to carry on that form there too.

While we are all delighted to remain unbeaten in the two cups so far this season, we need to put those competitions out of our minds until they come around again and give our 100%

focus to league matters. We started the season with an aim to improve on our League form from the last few seasons and we have every chance of achieving that. But now we want to continue our form that we've shown up until now and see where it takes us.

To do that, we need to continue to give our all to every SPFL game and not be distracted along the way. You certainly cannot afford to be distracted if Celtic are coming to town. I'd like to welcome Neil Lennon and his staff and players to Pittodrie tonight ahead of what should be a good game played in a great atmosphere under the lights. Celtic's form this season in the League has been

exceptional and that is shown by how many points they are currently on and they deserve great credit for that.

Just as we call on the players to give everything to every single game, so I must ask the Red Army to carry on living up to the amazing standards of support you have set all season. Every game that we will play from now until season's end carries a huge importance and every detail counts. The players and staff are all aware of who we are representing at all times. Your support is a huge part of what we have done so far. It will play an even bigger part if together we are to achieve the things we want over the next three months.

Good evening everyone
and welcome back to
Pittodrie for the
first time in what
seems quite a while.



COMMERCIAL SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP



18 JANUARY 2014

ABERDEEN v INVERNESS CT SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP



- Richard Wilson of match sponsor Sparrows received their framed shirts from Tony Docherty and Nicky Low.
- Andy Drummond of programme sponsor Container Company (Aberdeen) Limited received the framed programme from Tony and Nicky.
- Mark Bruce of matchball sponsor C21 Data Services received their ball from Tony and Nicky.

- Alan Forbes of in safe hands sponsor Pipeline Accounts received the gloves from Tony and Nicky.
- Tom Smith and Jock Gardiner of boot sponsor Maven Capital Partners received the boot from Tony and Nicky.
- Richard Wilson of match sponsor Sparrows presented Willo Flood with his mah of the match champagne.

- The Grab A Grand prize was won by Colin Paterson from Aberdeen with ticket 036840 and he received his cheque from Brian Irvine.
- The Have A Ball prize was won by Garry Woods with ticket 02314, and he received the ball from Willo.
- Little Gus was Reece Mathieson who is six and attends Kingsford Primary School.
- The mascot was Callum Sutherland and he's pictured with Russell, Angus, referee Iain Brines and Graeme Shinnie.

SPFL Scottish Premiership, Saturday 18th January 2014

ABERDEEN 0-1 INVERNESS CT

Williams 21



Inverness CT deservedly claimed the points at Pittodrie thanks to a first half Danny Williams strike after Aberdeen dominated the opening spell but failed to create clear chances. Williams made them pay on 21 minutes when poor defending allowed him to pop up at the far post and smash the ball in off the underside of the bar. The Dons continued to dominate possession without creating any real opportunities, although they could have had a penalty after a hand ball incident.

Jamie Langfield made his 296th appearance and overtook Fred Martin on the all time AFC appearance list - it means only two goalkeepers are now ahead of him, Bobby Clark and Jim Leighton, Jamie had to make a couple of good saves to keep out Doran and Williams in the first half.

Again, the home side saw lots of possession in the second period but created few chances - Willo Flood went closest when his dipping shot had to be touched over the bar by Brill and Russell Anderson also went close. Apart

from that, the Dons never really looked like scoring against a very well organised and solid defensive unit.

Inverness, actually looked the more likely to score in the second period. Three times Billy McKay found himself in good positions, the first saw Reynolds make a good block, then Anderson recovered well to avert the danger before McKay slashed another effort wide of the far post. Graeme Shinnie also had a shot which hit the post.

ABERDEEN Langfield, Reynolds, Tate, Anderson, Considine, Jack, Flood, Robson, Pawlett, McGinn, Vernon.

Subs: Rogers, Magennis, Shaughnessy, Hayes, Storie, Smith, Zola.

INVERNESS CT Brill, Raven, Tremarco, Shinnie, Meekings, Devine, Doran, Williams, McKay, Ross, Polworth.

Subs: Esson, Vincent, Tansey, Greenhalgh, Pepper, Christie, Evans.





ABERDEEN F.C.

PROUD SUPPORTER



SPFL Scottish Premiership, Saturday 25th January 2014

MOTHERWELL 2-2 ABERDEEN

McManus 47, Francis-Angol 70

Rooney 66, Anderson 90+3



Another late show from the Dons at Fir Park saw them grab a deserved equaliser when Russell Anderson's goal three minutes into stoppage time sent them back north with a point.

The Dons started well but were dealt an early blow when Ryan Jack had to be stretchered off after a poor challenge by Hutchinson and was replaced by Peter Pawlett. Jamie Langfield made an excellent save from Sutton on 17 minutes but after that, the Dons created some decent opportunities - Robson hit the post before debutant Adam Rooney sent a header and a shot just over the bar before the break.

Two minutes into the second half, Motherwell took the lead when McManus rose well to head home. It was all about The Dons after that as they laid siege to the Motherwell goal - debutant Rooney saw another effort scrambled away by the home side before Hayes played in a great cross for Shaughnessy but he couldn't connect properly and the chance was wasted. On 66 minutes, they finally got a reward for their play when Adam Rooney headed home after Nielsen had saved Niall McGinn's dipping volley.

The score line didn't stay 1-1 for long though as three minutes later, Motherwell surged up the park and Sutton and Francis-Angol raced into the box to meet an Anier cross, with the latter appearing to get the final touch to give his side the lead again. Despite this further set back, it was the

visitors who continued to dominate play and created several more chances and eventually, in the third of five stoppage time minutes, Russell Anderson rose to head home a deserved equaliser.

A vital point gained.

MOTHERWELL Nielsen, Kerr, Hammell, Lasley, Hutchinson, McManus, Ainsworth, Carswell, McFadden, Sutton, Francis-Angol. Subs: Lawson, Stewart, Moore, Murray, Anier, Leitch, Thomas

ABERDEEN Langfield, Shaughnessy, Anderson, Reynolds, Considine, Jack, Flood, Hayes, Robson, McGinn, Rooney.

Subs: Weaver, Pawlett, Tate, Zola, Vernon, Magennis, Low.



Scottish League Cup, Saturday 1st February 2014

ABERDEEN 4-0 ST JOHNSTONE

Hayes 3, 78, Pawlett 31, Rooney 62



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Aberdeen reached the final of the League Cup following an emphatic win over St. Johnstone in front of a 12,000 strong Red Army. The Dons made the perfect start as they were on the front foot from the word go. In the second minute Rooney had a wonderful turn and shot that was tipped over the bar, but a minute later he turned provider when he took the ball wide and sent in a cross that Hayes slid into the net to send the Red Army wild. The atmosphere at this game was as good as any in recent times. Saints didn't let the early set back affect them and, aided by some soft decisions, they carved out a couple of chances from set pieces. Thankfully Russell Anderson was in top form and marshalled the defence brilliantly. In the 27th minute, Jamie Langfield made a world class save from Croft - how important would that be to the outcome? Following almost total possession from the Saints, Hayes broke just after the half hour mark and set up Pawlett for a brilliant second.

Saints carved out the first chance after the break when Wright looped a header on to the crossbar after 51 minutes. Eight minutes later, Aberdeen nearly grabbed a third when Banks made a fine save from Pawlett, but then took Rooney down in the scramble for the loose ball. As everyone in red screamed for a spot kick, a free-kick was awarded to Saints as Rooney had been flagged offside. The fans only had to wait two minutes for the third though, when Pawlett surged forward and released Rooney who calmly slotted

the ball past Banks to put the Dons on easy street. They were in control now and Hayes fired an effort inches over the bar before Considine hit the woodwork. The Dons then completed the rout in the 78th minute when Rooney released Hayes and he raced forward, cut inside and capped a superb performance with his second goal of the match.

ABERDEEN Langfield, Considine, Logan, Flood, Anderson, Reynolds, Robson, Pawlett, Rooney, McGinn, Hayes.

Subs: Weaver, Zola, Tate, Vernon, Low.

ST JOHNSTONE Banks, MacKay, Wright, Millar, Anderson, MacDonald, Wotherspoon, Hasselbaink, May, Croft, Easton.

Subs: Hurst, Cregg, O'Halloran, Miller, Iwelumo.





Jonny Hayes was selected by the media as the man of the match and after the game, he spoke to RedTV:



"When you wake up in the morning and think of the perfect day, they don't get too much better than that, with the two goals and picking up the man of the match award.

"For the first goal, the defender made a little movement which put me off but thankfully I managed to get enough on it and the ball went into the back of the net. It was not the cleanest of strikes so I was very thankful when I saw the net bulge!

"The save from Jamie in the first half maybe went a bit unnoticed but it was as good as a goal. We were only one up at the time so that could easily have been an equaliser and they would have had the momentum. I was right behind it and had a good angle to see just how good a save it was.

"We then got a second goal because of the pace of Peter Pawlett. He just burst past the defenders, I don't think there is anyone else in the league who can do that. We all have the belief this season he is going to produce something special and he did it. It was a really good finish.

"We have a few boys in the side who have a bit of pace but if you ask everyone in the dressing room they would say Peter is the quickest. Mark Reynolds might argue with that but I believe Peter is the quickest! He is as quick as anyone in the country.

"The scoreline does not reflect the game. St Johnstone were very much the better team in the first half. We came in 2-0 up at half-time but we were all very disappointed

with the way we were playing. The manager was not too happy and nor were the players, including myself. We know we had to up our game in the second half and I thought we did. The third goal allowed us to have a bit of a cushion which made things a lot easier and the fourth goal allowed us the chance to see out the game comfortably, but it was certainly not like that for most of the game and, as I say, we were very fortunate to be two up at the interval.

"Once we got two up we knew we were in a good position because of how good the boys at the back are. The third goal was crucial though and it was an excellent finish. I know from playing with him at Inverness how good a finisher Adam Rooney is and how good a player he is. It's not just his finishing, his all round game is excellent. You saw that with the way he set up the first goal. Also his work rate and the effort he puts in for the team is massive. He is very unselfish and helps bring other players like myself, Peter and Niall into the game. The manager has done very well to bring him here.

"Considering Adam was only playing his second game for the club, it highlights just how good he is. Also Shaleum did really well considering he only came up on Thursday and only trained with the side on Friday. He has settled in really quickly and that was made easier by the fact he knows a few of the boys from down the road. Also, I have filled in at full-back a couple of times this season, so I know the position is made easier having



Russell and Mark playing alongside you, but it was still a terrific effort from him.

"I must also praise the fans for turning up in such numbers and for the atmosphere they created, not just in the early stages but for the whole game. Even before the match started, when the manager was trying to do his final team talk we could hear them. I have played at many big stadiums and as a lad I went to places like Anfield and Old Trafford, but this is the best atmosphere I have ever played in. When we walked out onto the pitch it was an unbelievable feeling knowing that 80% of the crowd were backing us. The fans were superb and all the players would like to thank them.

"We are 90 minutes away from silverware but a lot can happen during those 90 minutes. There are also a lot of big games between now and then so we are not even thinking about the final. All we are doing is focussing on our next game and, when the final comes around, only then will the manager divert our attention to it."

William Hill Scottish Cup 5th Round, Saturday 8th February 2014

CELTIC 1-2 ABERDEEN

Stokes 9

Anderson 39, Pawlett 49



Another magnificent performance from Aberdeen saw them defeat the holders and move into the Scottish Cup quarter finals. The visitors suffered an early blow when Samaras found Stokes to slot the opening goal away after just nine minutes. After that though, the Dons came more and more into the game, having good spells of possession but often failing to trouble the Celtic defence. As the half wore on, they began to create more openings and on 28 minutes, Pawlett sent in an excellent cross which was handled at the back post by Izaguirre. But referee Willie Collum waved play on. The Dons eventually got a reward for their possession when Robson swung in a good corner which deflected off Considine and fell perfectly for Russell

Anderson to hammer the ball home. It was Aberdeen who ended the half in the ascendancy having ended Fraser Forster's attempt to set a new clean sheet record.

The second period started with a burst of Celtic possession but just three minutes into the half, Barry Robson chipped a ball to Pawlett inside the box and he turned and fired low to Forster's left and into the back of the net. A few minutes later they could have added to their advantage but Rooney couldn't capitalise before Pawlett struck the post. After that, the Dons didn't have too many clear cut chances but continued to play well and defend superbly. Van Dijk should have scored with a header and Leigh Griffiths - on as a sub - fired wide as Celtic desperately looked for an equaliser. Great

play by Hayes at the start of injury time sent Rooney through on goal but he fired just over the bar but soon after, the referee blew for full time as the Dons recorded yet another outstanding victory in front of another fantastic vocal support.

ABERDEEN Langfield, Logan, Considine, Flood, Anderson, Reynolds, McGinn, Robson, Rooney, Pawlett, Hayes.

Subs: Shaughnessy, Zola, Vernon, Smith, Low, Weaver, Tate.

CELTIC Forster, Matthews, Izaguirre, Brown, Ambrose, van Dijk, Forrest, Johansen, Stokes, Commons, Samaras.

Subs: Bilton, Boerrigter, Balde, Pukki, Zaluska, Griffiths, Fisher.



Barry Robson was deservedly named man of the match for his performance against his old team. He spoke to RedTV after the game:



"I thought we did ever so well. We are pleased with the win and can now move on. I have said it before though, we must not get carried away with ourselves. We have got ourselves into the next round and that is all we have achieved.

"The manager spoke to me before the game and made it very clear what he wanted. He prepares really well for every game and got his tactics spot on. It was my job to be very disciplined and to keep the shape of the side. It was important Willo and myself did not get pulled all over the park when they were in possession. When we had the ball it was my job to use it and to try and feed the people in front of me.

"Celtic have not been conceding goals so we knew we were going to have to take our chances when they came along. It was a great finish by Russell for the equaliser. I think he just about dislocated his hip in the process, but never mind! The skipper was again superb at the back. He is a top player, a top professional and a great lad as well. Peter Pawlett also took his goal really well. As soon as I arrived at the club and had trained with the boys for a few days, I could see what a good player Peter was. He has that pace which allows him to drive in between defenders. I am really pleased for him, he has been doing fantastically well and we just need him to keep it going.

"We have drawn Dumbarton in the next round. First and foremost, I'm pleased we got a home draw. That's what every team wants.

So far this season, we have had four games in the cup competitions which have been away from home so it is nice to get a home draw. I know our manager and coaching staff will go and watch them and, as with every game, we'll have a lot of information on them. Alloa pushed us all the way in the League Cup and I would imagine Ian Murray's side will come up here and make life just as difficult.

"I have had some great moments in my career at Dundee United, at Celtic, down

south in England too, but it is great to be back home and playing for a terrific club like Aberdeen. I hope we can finish the season strongly and enjoy some success. We have to just concentrate on one game at a time and see where it takes us. All season we have been doing the right things to win games. Making sure we are concentrating, making sure we are all working hard every minute of every game and doing the right things, and we will continue to do that until the end of the campaign."



SPFL Scottish Premiership, Saturday 15th February 2014

ST MIRREN 0 - 1 ABERDEEN

Rooney (pen) 79



Adam Rooney's penalty 11 minutes from time was enough to give Aberdeen all three points in Paisley. There were very few chances throughout the game and after a goalless first-half, the tempo did pick up slightly at the start of the second. There was still very little goalmouth action though and the game looked to be heading for a draw. It needed someone to try and take control of the game. Step forward Nicky Low. On 77 minutes, he picked the ball up in the area and instead of looking for someone to pass to, elected to shoot, a great effort which bounced just in front of the keeper before Kello did well to turn the ball round the post. The resulting corner was half cleared but Low then bravely threw himself into a tackle on the edge of the area. The ball spun in the direction of Peter Pawlett who showed a lightning burst of pace to surge into the box. His pace was too much for Djemba-Djemba who brought him down. The ex Manchester United midfielder had already been booked and admitted himself to the press after the game that if it was a penalty he should have received a second yellow, but felt the contact was outside the box. The referee felt otherwise.

There was some debate over who would take the penalty but Adam Rooney grabbed the ball and sent

the keeper the wrong way, one of the few moments of class in the game. St Mirren tried to get back in the game and four minutes from the end, a combination of Jamie Langfield and Willo Flood cleared a low, driven effort from former Don, Gregg Wylde. It was another fantastic save to keep yet another clean sheet. Rooney and McGinn messed up a great chance to make the game safe but in the end it did not matter, the Dons held on and recorded another vital, if not pretty, victory..

ST MIRREN Kello, Newton, Kelly, McLean, McGregor, Goodwin, McGinn, Djemba-Djemba, Thompson, McGowan, Wylde.
Subs: van Zanten, Campbell, Reilly, Teale, Naismith, Dilo, Morgan.

ABERDEEN Langfield, Logan, Considine, Low, Anderson, Reynolds, Shaughnessy, Flood, Rooney, Pawlett, McGinn.
Subs: Zola, Vernon, Smith, Weaver, McManus, Tate, Murray





Jamie Langfield

When Aberdeen and Celtic met earlier this month Jamie Langfield played his 300th game for the club, another milestone for the Dons' number one who recently beat Allan McGregor's SPL clean sheet record of 96 shutouts and overtook Fred Martin on the all time Aberdeen appearance list, becoming the Dons' third longest serving goalkeeper. Jim Leighton and Bobby Clark are the only 'keepers who have played more games for Aberdeen.

"It is amazing how quickly it has come about. To play 300 games for any club would be an achievement but to do it for a club like Aberdeen is an absolute honour for me and my family. To get there is pretty good considering I was out of the team for a little while and had a year out because of my illness. Going back a couple of years, I couldn't have imagined this. I wasn't sure I would ever play football again.

"I've still got two years left after this season and want to keep adding to the tally. When I see that I'm ahead of goalkeepers like Theo Snelders and Fred Martin, legends of the club, it's a great honour. To play that many games I must have done something right during the past nine years. Hopefully we can make our own little bit of history this season to add to it, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

"I hope the fans realise how much the club means to me. It means the world to me, just as much as it does to them. I remember my first game, at Pittodrie against Dunfermline and we drew 0-0. It was nice to start with a clean sheet! I replaced Ryan Esson and that was me, I was up and running. I never

really thought I would get a chance to play that many games for the first team when I first arrived because Ryan and David Preece were both here. I was delighted to get my chance under Jimmy Calderwood the following season and to play from the start of the campaign. Since then, there have been a lot of ups and downs but there have been so many more good times and hopefully there are more to follow this season.

"There are certain games that stick in your mind. Funnily enough it's not always the big games that you remember. It's games like playing away at Falkirk and winning 3-0 and having a good game, going away to Alloa and winning in the Scottish Cup. I will probably add the semi-final against St Johnstone in there as well as one of my favourite games. The atmosphere was incredible. Because of the noise, I couldn't even speak to the boys in front of me! It was great to be part of an occasion like that."

During all that time what's his favourite save?

"Good question! I made what I thought was a really good save last season against Dunfermline in the League Cup when we won 1-0. I made it in the 70th minute and Scott Vernon scored a winner in the last minute.

"The best game I played in was the Dnipro away game. My favourite game though was also in the UEFA Cup run that season, at home to Copenhagen when we won 4-0. It's difficult to compare this side with the 2008 one. I was a lot younger then, maybe did not take it all in at the time. My illness has made me appreciate things a lot more

and what I would say is that this is the most I have enjoyed my football ever, playing with this team. The manager has created such a good squad with a great mixture between young and old. Everyone works so hard for each other".

Despite the comprehensive score-line in the League Cup semi final most pundits and fans recognised the importance of the brilliant save Jamie made whilst the score line was still at 1-0.

"I read where Lee Croft was going to put it and after standing up as long as I could, I just went for it. When I got a touch on it I thought I had put it wide but it hit the post. When I heard it hit the post I just thought, "Please, please be the outside of the post and not the inside!" I was so happy to see the ball go out for a corner. When things like that happen, you just think it's going to be your day. Five minutes later Peter scored the second goal.

"It is important we focus on the league games now. We have two big home games coming up, big games. We can't do anything about the cup matches till March. We want to finish as high as possible. I can tell you from past experience it is a lot more enjoyable playing at this end of the table!

"The away record we have had in recent months has been very good. A lot of credit must go to the manager and Tony and the backroom staff. A lot of work goes into analysing how each team plays at home and how they set up. We are then given our tactics and a shape to go out and combat that. It has worked most weeks and we must now take that form into our home games."



NIALL MCGINN

THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

All too often, football becomes obsessed with the glamour end of the game, the goals, the star player, the individual. It all looks great on the TV and in the media, but the star system is ultimately one that creates a dead end.

If there is one key ingredient to the success that Derek McInnes has thus far brought to Pittodrie over the course of the season, it's that it's the team that has become the star, the collective that matters above all else. Everything good about Aberdeen emanates from the fact that the team, the squad, the staff, the crowd, we are all in it together.

The nature of that change is most reflected in the change in attitude towards Niall McGinn. Last year, he was banging in the goals left, right and centre and reaping all the plaudits as a consequence. This term, though he remains our top scorer, there are fewer goals to his name as his role in the team has evolved into something else. And if you happen to think that's a change for the worse, just take a look at the league table or have a think about what you're doing on Sunday 16th March. If you're still not convinced, have a listen to Niall himself.

"Maybe some people don't think I am doing as well as last year but I still feel I am contributing to the team. The manager always compliments me on my work rate but other people maybe don't always see that work. I am involved with the set pieces and setting up chances for others. As long as the manager is happy, that is all that matters. I have been playing every week so I must be doing something right.

"If you asked me whether I would prefer to score 20 goals or get to a cup final, I would definitely take the final over everything. The main thing is that I do well for the team and help them. Of course, in a personal sense, it has been less exciting in terms of goals, but I have still chipped in with a few and I think it has been a more enjoyable season teamwise. Last season was great for me personally but it was hard teamwise as we were not winning as many games as we would have liked.

"This season, my role in the team has changed massively. Last season, I was playing as an out and out striker and getting plenty of chances and scoring goals. This year has been a lot different. I have been playing out wide on the right or on the left. Although this season has been different for me personally I have been involved in set plays and making chances for others. At times it has been difficult and I would like to chip in with more goals, but I am still on a decent number considering I am playing out wide.

"The manager just likes me to get on the ball and for me to create opportunities. He sees me as an important player to help others get openings. If everyone does their job and does well during a game it results in the likes of myself, Peter and Jonny getting space and getting the chance to open teams up and create chances for the strikers. When all three of us are on the top of our games, we know we will be hard to stop.

"The main thing is that I am enjoying my football. I'm at a place now where I am enjoying my football and am part of a winning team, playing week in, week out. It is important we keep doing well as a team and individually it is important to keep doing well so you stay in the team. There are big games coming up and that's what you want to be involved in. You have to keep working hard every day in training to be involved in these games.

"We are in a good place at the moment, the boys are on a high. We have a great team spirit. A lot of credit must go to the manager and Tony Doc. Everything is so positive, training is very, very enjoyable. The good thing about this team is that we have got a good balance between experience and youth and we have some real talent. Everything is gelling together nicely".

It's been a long while since this club enjoyed a week as good as the first one in February when we booked a place in the League

"The manager just likes me to get on the ball and for me to create opportunities. He sees me as an important player to help others get openings"

Cup Final and then put Celtic out of the Scottish Cup in front of their own fans at Parkhead. How do those seven days rank in Niall's career?

"It was up there with one of the best weeks in my career. We are in a cup final and we are still in the Scottish Cup. Many people said it was a make or break week for our season so thankfully, we came through it strongly. My abiding memory of the St Johnstone game is probably the fans. Even coming off the team bus and getting met by supporters and seeing the number of them who were there at that time was special. The atmosphere throughout the whole day was incredible and it was an honour to be involved in.

"To go on and win 4-0 just made the day even more special. The fans deserve massive credit for helping us to the win and for the support they have given us throughout the season. Even in the earlier rounds of the competition, the fans played a big part especially in the away games at Falkirk and Motherwell. They have always travelled in their numbers. It goes to show that when the fans are behind us it certainly helps us on the field, and we really appreciate them.

"The win at Celtic Park was another good reward for the loyal fans who have been through all the tough times, especially in games at that venue in recent years as there have been a number of games where we have done well and been in with a chance of winning but have lost to late goals.

"I met a few of the Celtic guys after the game, I'm friendly with Anthony Stokes. They were obviously disappointed but they knew that we had played really well and they gave us a lot of respect for the way we had played. They felt we deserved the win and it is always nice when other players praise you.







"We know we have not got the job done yet in either cup competition, and there is still a lot of football to be played. For now, we must forget about the cup competitions and focus on the league again. That is our main priority for the time being. The cup games will take care of themselves and it gives us something to look forward to, but we must concentrate on the league now. We have to keep plugging away in the league and hopefully that will be good enough to get the points needed to get into that second spot at the end of the season.

We have two more league games before the Dumbarton game and we need to try and pick up as many points as possible. We have to concentrate fully on the league for the time being as we want to continue to do well on all fronts. There is a lot of football still to be played and it is a long old season. We have to take it each game as it comes and keep enjoying our football and hopefully we can keep picking up points".

While McInnes and Docherty will give the credit for the turnaround in Aberdeen's fortunes to their players, the likes of McGinn are quick to reflect the glory back in their direction.

"The manager has come in and grabbed the bull by the horns. He has created a great buzz about the place and has done really well with the players he has brought in. He has brought in the right players at the right time.

"All the manager's signings have been brilliant. I remember in the summer when I was at home relaxing and hearing the news of who was joining us, I was very excited about the season ahead. Having played with the likes of Barry and Willo



" We are in a good place at the moment, the boys are on a high. We have a great team spirit. A lot of credit must go to the manager and Tony Doc. Everything is so positive, training is very, very enjoyable."

"There is pressure on us, but it is not something that concerns me. When you play at a club like Aberdeen, there is pressure on you every time you play"

before, I knew how good they were. Even from playing against Willo last season at Dundee United, he was always a stand out player. I knew he would be a great player for us, the type you want in your side. He is not the type of player you want to be playing against. Barry has also been excellent for us. His experience in the dressing room has been crucial this season.

"Adam Rooney has hit the ground running. The manager did a great job bringing him in and it is great to have him on board. He is a good lad off the park as well, a down to earth type of guy. He has shown in the past that he can score goals in this league and thankfully for us, he has already started scoring. He has done very well and is a very important player for us. Jonny and myself have built up a good understanding with him already - obviously he played with Jonny in Inverness which has helped. We all get on well, I think that is the Irish in us! We spend time together off the park and I am sure that has helped him settle in, but as I say he is a down to earth guy and gets on well with everyone.

"The mood here is great. Although we work very hard, the manager likes to join in and have little jokes here and there. His all round attitude towards the game is so positive. He is a very committed manager and that rubs off on the players. He has a winning mentality. His preparation is very thorough and he never looks too far ahead. I think that is a good thing to have in a manager.

"It is also the simple things. He is very organised, the team meetings are interesting. His whole philosophy of football is impressive. It has been very enjoyable working with him and I hope to be part of his plans for a while yet. I remember my agent saying a number of years ago that he was a very good manager and would go very far in the game. When I was at Celtic he tried to sign me a few times and take me on loan to St Johnstone. The move did not happen, but my agent was proven to be right. He is definitely going to be a top manager".

As we enter the real business end of the season, it is inevitable that the focus will be more and more intense on the club. The Dons have been installed as favourites for the double by some in the media, a pressure we could do without.

"There is pressure on us, but it is not something that concerns me. When you play at a club like Aberdeen, there is pressure on you every time you play. Having been at Celtic I am used to that pressure. There is a mentality that you have to win every game. We are at the stage now where if people are saying we are favourites, then so be it. We know ourselves that we will take each game as it comes and not look too far ahead. We know we are good enough to go on and achieve things but we have to just focus on one game at a time, just as we have been doing all season. That's what got us in this position, so why change now?"



THE HISTORY

ABERDEEN v CELTIC



Aberdeen v Celtic ~ Complete League Record

Division One 1905-1974

League	P	W	D	L	F	A
Pittodrie	61	24	15	22	87	83
Celtic Park	61	9	10	42	57	143
Total	122	33	25	64	144	226

Premier League 1975-1998

League	P	W	D	L	F	A
Pittodrie	46	16	16	14	63	52
Celtic Park	46	11	15	20	49	62
Total	92	27	31	34	112	114

SPL 1999-2014

League	P	W	D	L	F	A
Pittodrie	27	3	5	19	26	67
Celtic Park	28	2	0	26	18	85
Total	55	5	5	45	44	152

Overall Record 1905-2014

League	P	W	D	L	F	A
Pittodrie	134	43	36	55	176	202
Celtic Park	135	22	25	88	124	290
Total	269	65	61	143	300	492

FIRST TIME OUT

The first time Aberdeen played Celtic in the Premier League at Parkhead was on 13th December 1975. Aberdeen had been through a tough time in the first season of the new set up and saw manager Jim Bonthrone leave before Ally MacLeod took over. A week before the Dons went to Celtic, they had defeated Rangers at Pittodrie and they went on to notch up a remarkable double with a fine 2-0 win in Glasgow. Goals from Drew Jarvie and Arthur Graham brought Aberdeen some welcome respite from an impending relegation struggle before a 24,000 attendance. This was only the Dons' sixth win from 16 Premier matches that season.

Aberdeen: Geoghegan, Williamson, McLelland, Smith, Thomson, Miller, Scott, Robb, Jarvie, McMaster, Graham.

IT'S A FACT

Aberdeen defeated Celtic 3-1 at Pittodrie on 12th August 1939 but the result was never entered into official records as all league football was declared null and void after five league games in September 1939 as war was declared on Germany. The Dons also defeated Celtic 3-1 at Parkhead in an early return in Glasgow on 23rd August before league football ceased on 2nd September 1939.

At the seventh attempt, Aberdeen reached their first Scottish Cup Final on 24th April 1937. Aberdeen went down 2-1 to Celtic in the Hampden final before a record 146,433 crowd. Celtic took the lead on 12 minutes through Crum before Aberdeen levelled almost immediately when Armstrong swept a Benyon cross past Celtic keeper Kennaway. The winner was controversial as Celtic's Jimmy McGrory for once escaped the attentions of Eddie Falloon to score but the Celtic forward appeared to control the ball with his hand before scoring.

IN RED & GREEN

Pat Travers had two spells with Aberdeen in their formative years and he was also a Celtic player during a long career. Travers signed for Aberdeen in May 1910 and became a favourite at Pittodrie as he formed a formidable partnership with Aberdeen winger Willie Lennie. Travers joined Celtic after he got himself reinstated as a Junior after the club refused a transfer request, but Travers came back to Aberdeen within months. In 1924 he succeeded Jimmy Philip to become the club's second manager.

Matt Armstrong remains an Aberdeen legend from the 1930s. Armstrong joined Aberdeen in July 1931 after he was released by Celtic. The centre-forward went on to become a record club scorer and he also scored for the Dons in their first Scottish Cup Final in 1937. Armstrong formed a formidable partnership with Willie Mills, which was one of the most feared front lines in British football. Matt went on to play 215 games for the club, scoring a remarkable 155 goals.

Adam McLean played for Aberdeen in the early 1930s after signing from Sunderland in October 1930. McLean had previously been with Celtic in 1917 and on occasion edged out the great Alan Morton in the Scotland side. McLean was perhaps past his best when he came to Aberdeen but he did help the club through the difficult 'Great Mystery' period. He played 84 games for the Dons, scoring 26 goals.



Matt
Armstrong

Saturday 24th February 1912

A new attendance record for Pittodrie as 22,000 filled the ground for the visit of Celtic in the Scottish Cup. After losing to the Parkhead club in 1908, 1910 and in 1911, Aberdeen were determined to end Celtic hopes. A classic cup-tie finished 2-2 with top scorer Davie Main on target for Aberdeen. Celtic won the replay 2-0 in Glasgow.

Saturday 24th February 1923

After three matches, Aberdeen 'A' eventually defeated a determined Buckie Thistle to reach the final of the Aberdeenshire Cup. The young Dons made it through after 2-2 and 0-0 draws. The last meeting ended with Aberdeen taking the tie back to Pittodrie and winning 3-2. The Aberdeen reserve side went on to defeat Fraserburgh 4-0 in the final.

Wednesday 24th February 1965

The Scotland U-23 side were held by their English counterparts in a 0-0 draw that attracted a 25,000 crowd to Pittodrie. Although the game was bereft of goals it was remembered for a fiery midfield battle between Alan Ball and Billy Bremner as both went at each other from the outset.

Saturday 25th February 1922

Pittodrie welcomed a new record attendance of 26,577 for the visit of Angus neighbours Dundee in the Scottish Cup. With ticket holders and complimentary admission for ladies not included in the attendance,

Pittodrie was almost full to the 32,000 capacity to see top scorer Johnny Miller score in the 3-0 win for Aberdeen.

Saturday 25th February 1933

Jackie Benyon made his debut for Aberdeen in the Dons 6-2 win over Cowdenbeath at Pittodrie. Welsh winger Benyon joined Aberdeen from Doncaster as a replacement for Andy Love. Benyon made 140 appearances for the club, including the 1937 Scottish Cup final. Tragically, weeks after that final, Benyon died of peritonitis during the club tour of South Africa that summer.

Sunday 25th February 1934

Paddy Moore was a prolific scorer for Aberdeen in his short spell with the Dons. Moore was an Ireland international and he scored a memorable four goals for his country in a World Cup tie in Dublin against Belgium. It was all the more remarkable as Moore's Irish side were at one point trailing by four goals in the game!

Wednesday 25th February 1953

After a sensational 5-5 draw at Pittodrie, Aberdeen travelled to Motherwell days later for their third round replay. Once more, Aberdeen opened in thrilling style and scored four goals before the break. This time there was no way back for holders Motherwell as Hibernian's players and officials watched the game from the stands. Hibernian were playing the winners of that tie.

THAT WAS THE WEEK

Saturday 26th February 2000

In a troubled first season for Aberdeen boss Ebbe Skovdahl, the Dons recorded their best win of the season, 4-0 win over Hibernian, to offer the Dane some respite. Russell Anderson was among the goals before a 12,655 Pittodrie attendance. Top scorer Arild Stavrum scored two as Aberdeen looked to get away from the bottom of the league. This was only the Dons' sixth win of the season, and the win over Hibernian was the third victory in a row.

Wednesday 27th February 1952

After a thrilling 2-2 draw in the first meeting, Aberdeen progressed past Dundee United in the Scottish Cup after a 3-2 replay win at Pittodrie. While Aberdeen were put under pressure in the first game, there was never any chance of a repeat as the Dons dominated the game; only a rash late challenge from Emery allowed United back in with a late penalty but two goals from Harry Yorston were enough to put Aberdeen through.

Saturday 27th February 1954

Aberdeen's hold over Hibernian in cup football continued with a 3-1 win over the Easter Road side in the 3rd round of the Scottish Cup. Jackie Hather was expected to miss the game through injury but he was a surprise inclusion in the starting eleven. Inside seven minutes he had put Aberdeen two goals ahead to stun the 47,700 crowd.

THAT WAS

Wednesday 27th February 1974

As the country was grinding to a halt during the three-day working week and the enforced power cuts, Scotland U-23s defeated Wales 3-0 at Pittodrie. The attendance was around the 15,000 mark, due to the afternoon kick off as no floodlighting was permitted.

Wednesday 28th February 1962

Jimmy Greaves was among the goals as an England U-23 side defeated the young Scots 4-1 at Pittodrie before a 26,000 attendance.

Friday 28th February 1965

Eddie Turnbull was unveiled as new Aberdeen manager at a Pittodrie press conference. Turnbull was part of the famed 'Famous Five' with Hibernian in the '50s and he had been the Dons' choice to lead the club into a new era after cutting his coaching teeth at Queens Park. Within weeks of his appointment, Turnbull began his revolution by releasing an incredible 17 players on free transfers.



All through the season, the approach the manager has been instilling in us is to never look further ahead than the next game - and when the next game is Celtic, that's easier than ever!

Even with the way league football is in Scotland, so that you play every opposition at least three times and possibly in the cup competitions too, games against Celtic never lose their appeal. There's always a special atmosphere that surrounds them and I can't see that ever changing. When you add to that the fact that the game is going to be played under the lights as well, I think we can expect a special atmosphere here at Pittodrie tonight.

What we need to do is make that atmosphere work for us because we know Celtic will be coming here looking to turn the tables on us after we won down at Parkhead in the Scottish Cup.

Although things have gone very well for us in the cup competitions so far this season, we mustn't forget that we've also got ourselves into a really good position in the league at the moment and that has to take priority for the next couple of weeks. We have a decent cushion to the team in fourth place just now, but that can easily disappear inside a couple of weeks if you don't maintain your concentration and, after putting in so much hard work so far this season, we don't want to let that slip away.

Looking back at the games since we were last here, that draw at Motherwell was a real big result for us especially as it looked as though we'd come away beaten. Not only did we earn ourselves a point, we took two away from Motherwell, which is so important when you look at the table. On top of that, having lost to Inverness the week before, if we'd been beaten again, we would have been going into the League Cup game on a sour note, but rescuing a game with a late goal is always that bit more satisfying and so we were in a great frame of mind when we headed down to Tynecastle.

That was only improved even more when we went out onto the pitch and saw the incredible support that we got from the Red Army. Over my time here I've been lucky enough to be involved in some big games and I know just what our support can do, but even I was amazed by the amount of fans we had there and the noise that our supporters made - you couldn't

hear yourself speak at times!

Plenty has already been said about the game and I think St Johnstone will feel that the scoreline was pretty harsh on them but if there's one thing we've learnt at Aberdeen over the last few years it's that in a semi-final, nothing else matters but the result!

They played pretty well for stretches of the game and it took us a little while to get going properly, but this season, we know we always have goals in the team and we proved it that day. They came at great times for us, as did a great save from Jamie when it was still just 1-0. A save like that is as good as a goal and a few minutes later, it was 2-0 and we were on our way. It's a day that will live long in the memory, especially the way the supporters celebrated the win, but let's hope we can repeat that when the final comes around.

Having won that game, it took a lot of the pressure off going to Celtic Park a week later because everyone at the club knows we've been desperate to get to a cup final for a long time now. To get that monkey off our back was a real relief and having won well, we went to Celtic with real confidence. I think that showed with the response we had to going an early goal down. We stuck to our way of playing and to our game plan and in the end, that proved successful for us.

On a personal note, I was delighted to score, especially after getting the equaliser at Motherwell a fortnight earlier, my first goals since I came back to the club. It's been frustrating not to have got on the scoresheet at set pieces over the last couple of years, but obviously, I was just saving them up for the big occasion!

I felt that after winning those two cup games, we did especially well to keep our feet on the ground when we went to St Mirren and to grind out a very important win that keeps us in a good place in the hunt for Europe. I think that underlined the character of the players we have here and, as I said at the start, the way in which the manager keeps us focused. That's how it has to be, one game at a time until the end of the season.



Since the age of ten I have been with the Dons, so it is very much my club.



The Young Dons

CRAIG MURRAY

The demands placed on footballers these days have changed substantially over the years, not least in terms of the pace at which it is played. No longer is the game just about technique – you need to be an athlete as well.

Amongst our younger players, Craig Murray is one with astonishing energy and fitness levels, one of the most naturally fit boys who have represented the club in recent years.

"I'm one of those lucky people who can eat what they want and it makes no difference. I am just a weirdo! People ask me how I can do it but it is just one of these things".

Craig has made the breakthrough into the first team this season and been involved in many first team squads, sometimes on the bench, sometimes in the stand, all of it good experience for the youngster who looks like being the next player off the conveyor belt. Even so, it's been a season that has had its frustrations.

"My season has gone fairly well. I had done ok playing for the U20s and have had a few opportunities for the first team. The team are doing really well and I am just delighted to be

in amongst it. That said, I've had a few injury problems which have set me back a bit.

"It was frustrating being out for three weeks, the timing of it especially as I was becoming more involved with the first team. I had a hernia problem, something that has been with me since I was young. I was in quite a bit of pain for a while and was trying to manage it, but eventually it became too much and had to go for an operation. I now have the same problem on the other side! I am looking at another spell out but hopefully I can get the problem solved and it won't bother me again.

"I made my debut last season in the game against St Johnstone at Pittodrie just before Christmas. That was a fantastic moment. This season I have been involved in the games against Alloa, St Johnstone, Falkirk and Motherwell.

"That Alloa game seems a long time ago! We

have come a long way since then. It was an extremely difficult night, Alloa just sat in with five players at the back and although we had a lot of the ball, they defended really well. The game went to penalties but thankfully we won – I'm just glad I did not have to take a penalty!

"I was actually next one up! After the first five penalties someone said, who is next? Thankfully, Mark Reynolds said he would take one, good man! But I was up after him. It was not a nice feeling! Jamie made the save though, Mark scored, we were into the next round and now we have a final to look forward to.

"As I have played in the Alloa and Falkirk League Cup games, I can say I have helped the team get to the final!"

Craig is from Lanarkshire, a real hotbed for Scottish football talent throughout the years.

"I grew up in Holytown just outside Motherwell. I started out at Holytown Colts

alongside Stephen O'Neill. Peter Weir then scouted me and I joined the AFC Youth Academy Glasgow Centre. I was training with Aberdeen and Rangers, but got to the age where I had to make a decision and I chose Aberdeen. Since the age of ten I have been with the Dons, so it is very much my club. At 13, I had a very bad injury, one of the worst leg breaks you can have. I was out for a good while after that but Peter Weir and the club stood by me and I will always be grateful to them for that. Peter still trains the boys in Holytown on a Friday evening and on the odd occasion when I am home at a weekend, I pop along to see him.

"When I came up to Aberdeen at 16 to be a full-time professional, I was mainly a midfielder. In recent seasons for the U20s and the first team, I have played as a right-back. I feel comfortable playing at full-back, on the right side of midfield or in centre midfield. If someone asked me what my preferred position was, I would say centre midfield, but it does not really bother me where I play.

"It feels strange being one of the oldest in the U20 dressing room these days, especially as I am only 4ft tall and most of the young boys are taller than me! When I am in the first team dressing room I am one of the youngest, but all the senior boys offer

me advice and help me. When I go back into the youth team dressing room, I try act in a similar fashion and help the younger ones.

"At U20 level we have done ok this season. The team has changed so much it has been hard for the side to get any real momentum going.

"We had a good run of nine unbeaten games. We have had some good results, we beat Celtic and drew with them – we really should have beaten them twice. We also beat Rangers down there. It has been hard though, because boys have gone out on loan, boys have been injured and some of the guys like myself have been involved with the first team squad.

"It has meant the first year boys like Michael Kelly, Michael Jones, Scott Wright, Scott McKenna and Richie Petrie, many who can still play for the U17s on a Sunday, have all been involved and have all done well.

"At the moment, we have an extremely young team with a number of boys involved who are still at school – Orsi, Norris and Dunbar. It is great experience for them to be involved and it will help them greatly if they do come on board full-time next season.

"As Neil Cooper keeps pointing out, the aim of the youth team is to develop these young players, and that is something we are continuing to do extremely well".





BILLY MCNEILL

One of the most well-known and respected figures in Scottish football history is former Celtic captain Billy McNeill. A respected ambassador for the Glasgow club, McNeill enjoyed a distinguished career as a player and manager and served Scottish football with distinction over many years. A man of immense stature, he was a born leader on and off the field. McNeill also had an all too brief spell as manager at Aberdeen in 1977/78.

After finishing his playing career in 1975, McNeill moved into management and cut his teeth with Clyde before Aberdeen made a shock move for the Lisbon Lion after Ally MacLeod left to take up the Scotland manager's role. Many observers were surprised that Aberdeen made McNeill their first choice to replace MacLeod as he had yet to prove himself as a manager. His reputation as a player and captain was unsurpassed, but many believed that taking on a big job like Aberdeen came too early in his coaching career. Aberdeen took the view that a young emerging manager, keen to establish himself, was the ideal candidate. There would always be an element of risk, but the only real success as a manager at Pittodrie since the Dave Halliday era was a young Eddie Turnbull who had revolutionised the Pittodrie set up in the late 1960s. McNeill ticked all the Aberdeen boxes as a young manager with a burning desire to succeed.

It is ironic that his one and only

season with the Dons saw him take Aberdeen so near to success, only to be thwarted by his great rivals from Ibrox. It all started so well in the opening game of the season, when a new look Rangers came north with big money signing Davie Cooper making his debut. McNeill, mindful of his new role and the passion that went along with an Aberdeen-Rangers game, emerged from the tunnel resplendent in his red shirt as he took a bow in front of the capacity crowd. It was a clever move as it immediately met with widespread approval from the Aberdeen support and raised the noise levels that clearly had an effect on the visitors.

Despite the hype that came with an all-changed Rangers side, they were sent packing in an impressive 3-1 win that had Pittodrie warming to a new manager who got off to the best possible start. It soon became clear that the league was developing into a straight battle between Aberdeen and Rangers as the Ibrox club set the early pace.

Aberdeen welcomed Rangers back to Pittodrie for the second league meeting on Christmas Eve 1977 and McNeill encouraged his side to attack as he was convinced that if his players got to the Rangers defence early, they would have a good day. He was spot on with that assessment as Aberdeen hammered Rangers 4-0 to close the gap at the top. Aberdeen could have done with a helping hand that season, but Rangers rarely slipped up against any other side and by the time Aberdeen inflicted a 3-0 defeat on them at Ibrox in March, there was still a narrow gap at the top. Eventually Aberdeen lost out in the last game of the season and further disappointment followed when Aberdeen did not really turn up at Hampden for the Scottish Cup Final and Rangers won 2-1. McNeill and his players were crestfallen and not long after that final, his old club Celtic came calling as they were in need of their former captain to revive their fortunes.



Billy McNeill may only have been in charge at Pittodrie for a season, but he laid the foundations for further success with the signing of Steve Archibald and Gordon Strachan paving the way for a young Alex Ferguson to take over. McNeill openly admitted that he loved life in the north east and that he regretted leaving Aberdeen after only one season. McNeill and Aberdeen both went on to enjoy future success, with Aberdeen of course entering their golden era under Alex Ferguson.

No one should ever forget the contribution McNeill made to Aberdeen. He is someone who will always be regarded in the highest regard at Celtic Park and Pittodrie.



Martin Buchan and Billy McNeill before the 1970 Scottish Cup Final

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RICHARD GORDON

It has been a long time since our last home game, but the period in between has been among the most memorable and exciting in recent years.

Reaching the League Cup Final was fantastic news in itself; following that up with the merited Scottish Cup success at Celtic Park was almost beyond our wildest dreams, and the team now has the platform to go on to make it our best season in almost a quarter of a century.

There is a long way to go, much hard work to be done, but the feel-good factor around the club right now is palpable, the supporters are on a high, and the players and management seem to have the required mentality to go on to finish the job. If they ultimately fail, it won't be through over-confidence nor a lack of desire.

In the wake of the 4-0 beating of St Johnstone, the Gothenburg legend John McMaster sent me a text saying, jokingly, "It's just like the eighties all over again".

Not quite, but it did get me thinking. For those of us old enough to actually remember that trophy-laden decade, the Dons are still a million miles away from achieving even a fraction of what that superb team did, but for the younger fans, those who have struggled through repeated crushing disappointments over the past couple of decades, the last few weeks have at least given them a taste of what we enjoyed all those years ago.

If Russell Anderson lifts the trophy to the heavens at Celtic Park on Sunday, March 16th, those failures will be washed away on

a sea of emotion and those supporters will finally get to experience what we oldies did so often under Alex Ferguson.

The Scottish League Cup might not quite be up there alongside the European Cup Winners' Cup, but it will feel just as important on the day.

It will not be easy; we all know how difficult Caley Thistle can be to beat, and John Hughes' side will be determined

Hampden's unavailability, and I cannot wait to see upwards of 30,000 Aberdeen supporters packing into those huge stands. The ground will obviously not be full given the numbers ICT are likely to attract, but it can be laid out in such a way to minimize that problem, and I know the fans are organising a display which they hope will be fitting for the event.

The likelihood is it will be a nerve-wracking afternoon; after all these years I cannot see us winning comfortably to end the trophy drought - if we are to do that, I feel sure we'll be made to suffer along the way. I just hope that the outcome is the one we are all praying for.

That game is still a few weeks away, and even if it is dominating our thoughts and will continue to do so, there are other important fixtures to consider. The previous weekend we take on Dumbarton in the Scottish Cup, and a win there seems certain

to pitch us into a heavyweight semi-final draw, with Rangers at Ibrox among the possibilities, and there is the ongoing tussle with Motherwell for second place behind tonight's opponents.

Celtic's league form this season has been outstanding and Neil Lennon and his side deserve much praise for that, but after their victory a couple of weeks ago, the Dons will be confident of denting their run. It promises to be a cracking encounter.



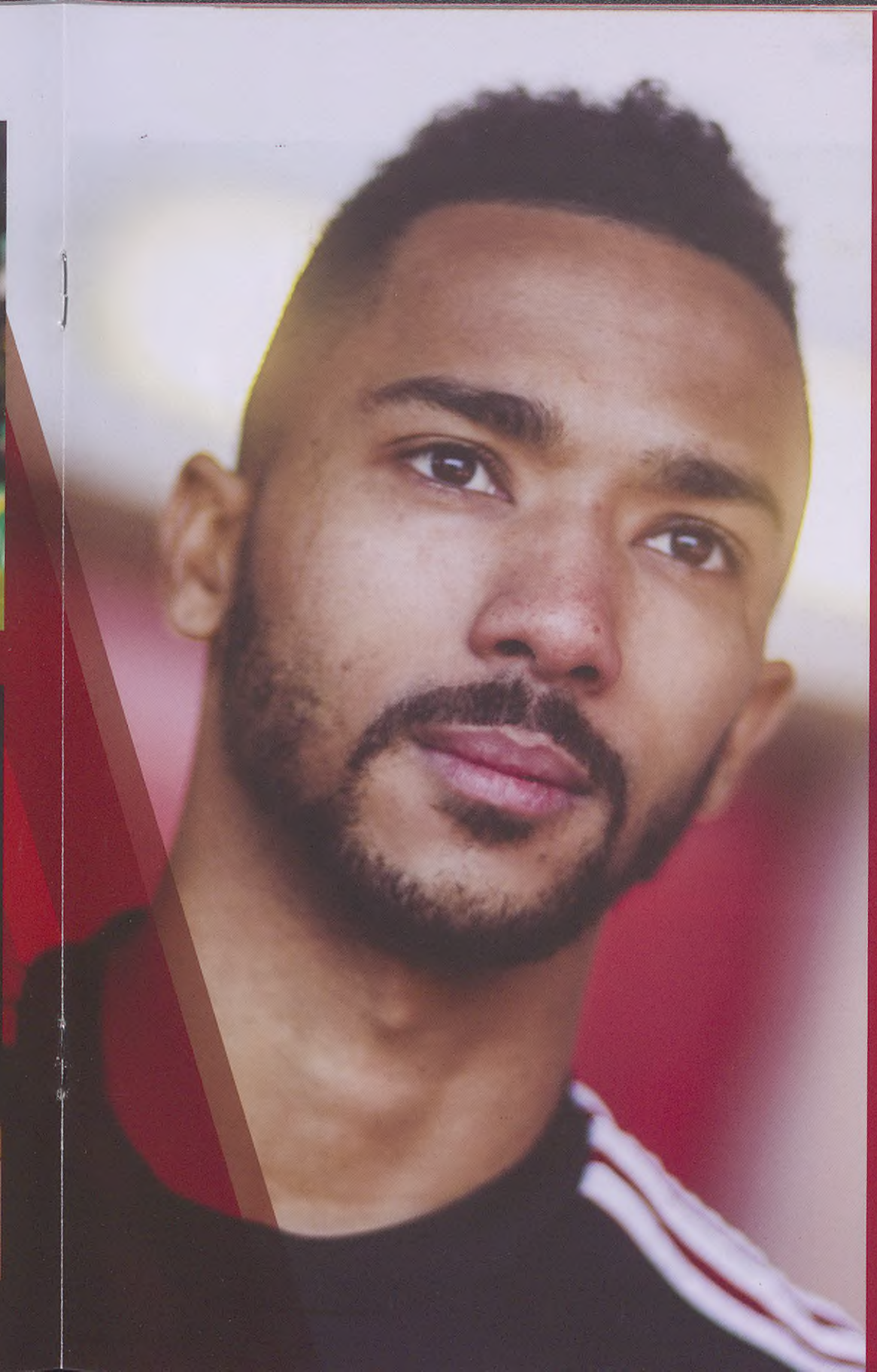
to win their first ever major piece of silverware. On current form, the Dons are clearly the better side, but that will only matter if, on the day, the players perform to their abilities, their attitude is right, and we get the breaks.

What is for certain, is that it is going to be a jaw-dropping spectacle that Sunday afternoon.

I am delighted Celtic Park was chosen, I think it is the right venue for the Final given

29

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GOLDEN YEARS

For the first time in decades, Aberdeen found themselves involved in the most unlikely of relegation battles in 1995. Despite finishing in second place in the league in 1993/94, several changes brought about an alarming decline in fortunes that was only rescued in stunning fashion in an incredible finale to a traumatic season...



RAY MCKINNON



JOE MILLER

HOUDINI ACT AT PITTODRIE

The summer of 1994 was certainly a time of change. Willie Miller was determined to take the Dons to a new level but the loss of experience was to prove crucial. As Alex McLeish, Jim Bett and Bobby Connor all left the club as they were nearing their twilight years in the game, with that went the experience that had proved vital in the preceding years. Aberdeen splashed out a record £800,000 to sign Billy Dodds from St Johnstone but also coming in were Colin Woodthorpe from Norwich and Peter Hetherston. Dodds apart, the new signings failed to establish themselves in the side and the alarm bells were ringing as early as the Dons' opening games as Aberdeen came unstuck against Latvian minnows Skonto Riga in the UEFA Cup. Despite a 0-0 draw in Riga, the Dons could only manage a 1-1 draw in the return and went out on away goals.

With only one win from their opening 10 league games, Aberdeen found themselves at the foot of the table and struggling to get a positive result. A 3-0 win over Dundee United in October provided false hope as Aberdeen went on to win only five from 25 matches. The signing of John Inglis from St Johnstone suggested Aberdeen were in a panic as the big money splashed out on the new signings failed to provide any kind of return. That signalled the end for manager Willie Miller as he cut his ties with the club after a lengthy and glorious career.

Aberdeen turned to assistant manager Roy Aitken to steady growing anxiety within the club as Aberdeen faced up to the very real prospect of being relegated for the first time in their history. It all started well enough with a sensational 2-0 win over Rangers but a week later, the Dons' fragility was again exposed as they went out of the Scottish Cup at lowly Stenhousemuir. By the end of April, the bookies had Aberdeen down as relegation certainties. Cut adrift at

the bottom, Aberdeen had to go to Tynecastle on 29th April knowing that defeat could mean relegation. A huge travelling support helped Aberdeen muster a real gutsy performance, epitomised by Billy Dodds whose two goals saved the Dons that day. As news came through that Dundee United had lost at home to Hibernian, Aberdeen sensed an escape was possible.

A full house at Pittodrie the following week saw Aberdeen defeat United 2-1 in a highly charged atmosphere to virtually condemn United to the drop. A 2-0 win at Falkirk set Aberdeen up for a first ever Premier Play Off against First Division side Dunfermline. Pars manager Bert Paton never for one minute thought his side would face Aberdeen in such circumstances, but his side were blown away in front of a packed Pittodrie in the first leg. The Dons' 3-1 win was followed by a similar score in the East End Park return as Aberdeen saved themselves at the end of a season of real drama.

DOWN SOUTH

Blackburn Rovers opened their season at Pittodrie in Stewart McKimmie's Testimonial and not many would have saw them as potential English League champions but nine months later, the Ewood Park side took the title on a sensational last day. Despite losing at Anfield, Kenny Dalglish took Blackburn to the championship after Manchester United failed to win their final game at West Ham. It was a cash-laden effort that saw the likes of Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton attracted to the Lancashire club.

In the FA Cup, Manchester United failed to retain the trophy after a surprise 1-0 defeat against Everton at Wembley.



1995 FACTS

Ajax of Amsterdam won the European Cup after a 1-0 win over AC Milan in the Ernst Happel Stadium in Vienna. Patrick Kluijvert scored the winning goal. The Dutch side followed that up with success in the World Club Cup in Tokyo after a win over Brazilian side Gremio.

Argentina won the FIFA World Youth Cup by beating their bitter rivals Brazil, 2-0 in Doha. Before a crazed 65,000 crowd, no less than 10 players were booked by English Referee Dermot Gallagher with Brazil's Cesar being red carded late in the game.



UP FOR THE CUP

In 1978, under Billy McNeill the Dons went on an unbeaten run that lasted 23 games before they effectively 'froze' in the Scottish Cup Final and McNeill's one and only season was to end in disappointment. Included in that run were two impressive wins over bitter rivals Rangers with a 4-0 win at Pittodrie followed by a 3-0 win at Ibrox.

In recent weeks there has been much speculation and argument on the merits of some of the current Aberdeen squad being selected for international honours. Whilst the Dons players have been over looked for the current Scotland squad, it is hoped they will be recognised in the near future.

Current Scotland coach Gordon Strachan was in the Aberdeen side that reached the cup final in 1978 and he was in good company. Aberdeen ended up as runners up in the league and in their squad along with Strachan were no less than eight Aberdeen players who had, or went on to play for Scotland at full international level.

The Aberdeen side of 1978 went down to Hibernian in December 1977 and remained undefeated through the entire league season to push Rangers to the final day of the season. Of the 27 players used by manager McNeill, both Willie Miller and Bobby Clark were ever presents in all 50 competitive matches. They

won 22 of their 36 Premier League games, losing just five all season, with only one defeat at Pittodrie from 24 games. The Dons also broke the 100 goal barrier with 102 from their 50 matches. Willie Miller, Stuart Kennedy and Joe Harper were selected for the 22-strong Scotland squad that went to the World Cup in Argentina.

Aberdeen lined up at Pittodrie in 1978, from left: Joe Harper, Gordon Strachan, Duncan Davidson, Stuart Kennedy, John McMaster, Drew Jarvie, Ian Fleming, Chic McLelland, Steve Ritchie, Willie Miller, Dom Sullivan, Steve Archibald, Bobby Clark, Willie Garner and Doug Rougvie.

PHOTOArchive

THREE CHEERS FOR THE DONS!

In the days long before social media made for instant messaging, the old method of relaying news from the Dons matches was the tried and trusted telegrams that came into the old Aberdeen Journals offices in Broad Street. The first occasion when huge crowds gathered was in 1904 when Aberdeen won the Scottish Qualifying Cup. However that was nothing compared with the scenes on 11th May 1946 as Aberdeen were playing Rangers in the Southern League Cup Final at Hampden.

The country was still in buoyant mood following the end of hostilities in the war in Europe some months earlier. Football in Scotland during the war years was fragmented at best, and Aberdeen were effectively cut off due to the travel restrictions and had to content themselves with hurriedly arranged regional leagues in which they fared very well. The SFA were keen to get football back on the agenda and the authorities arranged the Southern League Cup competition for the 1945/46 season, which soon evolved into the League Cup we know today. However, the inaugural competition has often been missed by contemporary historical records but the authorities at Hampden confirm that the initial cup competition is included in their official records.

For Aberdeen and the few thousand who gathered outside the Journal's offices, it was a joyous day as George Taylor's last minute goal gave Aberdeen a 3-2 win in front of a huge Hampden crowd. Arguably this can be classed as the Dons first major trophy win; it certainly was at the time but it is now generally accepted that Aberdeen's Scottish Cup success a year later was the club's first major success.

As for the joyous scenes at Broad Street, as news filtered through of the Dons' last minute winning goal, the reports of the time claimed, "As news came through that Aberdeen had won, there was an immediate outpouring of joy as strangers held each in other in close embrace and shouts of 'Up the Dons' and 'Three Cheers for the Dons' could be heard all through the crowds who were in their thousands." For Aberdeen, the immediate post war period was a successful one. So often runners up in the past, now winners on the national stage at last.



READ ALL ABOUT IT



THOSE EURO NIGHTS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FOOTBALL RETURNED LAST WEEK WITH A GLITTERING ARRAY OF PLAYERS IN EUROPE RESUMING HOSTILITIES. BAYERN MUNICH RETURNED TO THESE SHORES, BUT THE BUNDESLIGA GIANTS ARE A WELL ENOUGH KNOWN NAME IN THESE PARTS...

Described as 'Pittodrie's Greatest Night' the Dons' sensational win over Bayern Munich in March 1983 helped Aberdeen reach the last four of the ECWC and ultimate success. The Press & Journal rolled off the presses at the Lang Stracht long before many of the Red Army had stopped celebrating into the wee small hours of the night. It was an historic occasion for Aberdeen to beat the German giants and the P&J were unsurprisingly liberal with their praise.

"JOY NIGHT IN ABERDEEN" was the front page headline that greeted many a hangover in the city on the morning of 17th March 1983. The report went on, "Aberdeen won the most

celebrated victory in their 80-year history when they knocked out the mighty Bayern Munich at Pittodrie in one of the most dramatic matches ever staged at Pittodrie. The Red Army celebrated well into the night as Aberdeen are now the only British club left in European competition. The cheers before the game must have been heard as far away as Ellon, as Pittodrie was a cauldron of noise in expectation of a famous night."

Grampian Police reported that there was no trouble at the game and said that about 12,000 fans had already taken their seats about an hour before kick-off which made for easier crowd management.

The momentum for the match had been building up in the city all day as fans arrived from all over the country with hotels and guesthouses full to capacity. City centre pubs were extremely busy all day and rumours swirled that black market tickets were selling for up to £70 a time. With only 350 German supporters in the stadium, they were swamped by the Aberdeen support that gave the side superb backing. No fewer than four live radio commentaries covered the game: BBC Scotland were joined by BBC2, Northsound Radio and German Radio. The press contingent was more than 50 in total, with additional photographers in place.

Former Don Jimmy Wilson saw his city centre bar packed all day and Jimmy invited a host of special guests to join in. Included was Scottish millionaire businessman Sir Hugh Fraser who joined the crowd at Pittodrie for the game. Former Dons players Joe Harper, Ian Taylor, Jim Whyte and Tom McMillan were also there along with ITV presenter Ian St John.

Elsewhere in the news, the latest Government budget came under attack as it was claimed that Britain's 9million pensioners were deceived by Downing Street. Closer to home there was fresh doubts cast over the proposed Alternative Music Festival for Aberdeen in October. Further north, 'tipplers' were warned of a potentially lethal cocktail in Inverness following an

assault case in the local court. The drink contained seven spirits including vodka, Pernod, Cointreau, Bacardi and gin made up with Babycham, cider and blackcurrant. Known as 'Jellybean', the local bars claimed it was very popular in Inverness and local bar owners were advised to exercise discretion. Hopefully they won't be serving up much of that on March 16th next month.

The Press and Journal

THURSDAY MARCH 17 1983

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2000 supporter Willie Miller being congratulated by his team as the team leave the field
PICTURES - DAVID BATHERLAND, BOB BRUCE AND RON CASTLE

JOY NIGHT IN ABERDEEN 'Red Army' go marching on

By HARISH MADHAV

ABERDEEN won its most celebrated victory in the 120th season history last night when Gary Speed led the mighty Rangers triumphantly out of the European Cup-Winners Cup. In one of the most dramatic matches staged in Europe, the Red Army, led by the North and North-East, defeated the Dutch "Red Army" 2-1 in the North and North-East. The only 2-1 win in the history of the club was when Rangers defeated the Dutch club Ajax in European competition. This season, Aberdeen's Dutch club Ajax, were coached by "Red Army" manager Alex Ferguson.



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Also making the news in March 1983:

1 March - The Balearic Islands and Madrid became Autonomous communities of Spain.

1 March - Austin Rover, the successor organisation to British car making combine British Leyland, launched the Austin Maestro

5 March - Bob Hawke was elected Prime Minister of Australia.

8 March - IBM released the IBM PC XT.

16 March - The Transmitter Ismaning (last wooden radio tower in Germany) was demolished.

25 March - Strategic Defense Initiative: U.S. President Ronald Reagan made his initial proposal to develop technology to intercept enemy missiles. The media dubbed this plan "Star Wars".

28 March - Motown celebrated its 25th anniversary with the television special Motown 25, during which Michael Jackson performed "Billie Jean" and introduced to the world the moonwalk.

28 March - Ian MacGregor appointed as head of the National Coal Board.

TALKING POINT

LIFE OF BRIAN

"Leeds, Leeds, Leeds". It was a cry that used to thunder across Yorkshire, across England, across Europe even as Don Revie's magnificent and, on occasion, brutal team sent a shiver down the spines of every side they met.

Now, you can only repeat that cry in saddened tones and with a wry shake of the head to accompany it.

For how the mighty have fallen, not only from the distant peaks of the Revie era when Giles and Bremner raged through midfields like Gog and Magog in an especially foul temper, but from the days when they were Champions League semi-finalists as recently as 2001. Appalling financial mismanagement and plunder saw United drop as low as the third tier, embarrassment piled upon embarrassment as successive sides were decimated and left to field catcalls that they were not fit to wear the shirt from

supporters not always regarded as the most patient in the land.

But as the transfer window was drawing to its close and seemingly monopolising the sporting news, so Leeds – or somebody not yet actually in situ at Leeds but the prospective new owner to be – acted to try and bury some bad news in the classic news management style. On the evening of Friday 31st January, it was mentioned, almost in passing, that they had dispensed with the services of manager Brian McDermott.

To the rest of the jaded footballing community, this was viewed as perhaps a bit of a surprise but nothing particularly unusual in a profession where you get a long service medal for still being in charge for the second half.

To Leeds supporters, used to kicks in the dental area for these many years, this was the call for pandemonium however, an

outlet for them to simply say that enough was enough and that if their new owner in waiting was going to behave like this, he could carry on waiting a fair bit longer.

Put simply, there was outrage among the Leeds support and the actual owners of the club responded by saying they were reinstating McDermott on the spot. His assistant, Nigel Gibbs, changed the team back to the one originally selected and then changed by the new group, and Leeds duly won 5-1 against Huddersfield in a feverish atmosphere at Elland Road the following day, the crowd demanding that McDermott return to the club.

Return to action he did the following Monday, in spite of being subjected to the most grotesque of public humiliations. He admitted that after speaking to many senior figures in the game, to a man they had told him not to go back, but McDermott proved himself to be a very special



character indeed.

In spite of it all, despite what must have been an overwhelming desire to extend two digits in the direction of those who had so mistreated him, he proved himself to be bigger than it all and took on the job once more, knowing full well that the hook must be awaiting him once more as and when the takeover finally goes through.

On returning to work and reflecting on events over the weekend, McDermott said, "The fans proved they are a class act. This club belongs to no one else but the fans. Nothing else matters. It would have been very easy to walk away. But there was no way I was walking away from a club like Leeds United".

Change the last two words to the name of your own club and the same truth exists. The football club belongs to supporters, it is a community resource, it is an entity that is only ever in the temporary care of its

owners, staff, players and management. "Care", take note, for that is the operative word. Those in positions of power and influence are doing no more than that, for they will be long gone and the football club will roll on without them, their names etched into its history if they've done a good job, or into its annals of infamy if they haven't.

What is going on at Leeds underlines all too vividly just how dangerous a time we are living in where English football is concerned. Such are the monumental amounts of money to be made from it, that all kinds of people from all over the world are scrutinising clubs and wondering if they can elbow their way in and find a seat on the gravy train, by any means necessary and hang the consequences.

It means the game is increasingly awash with people for whom a club means nothing. They have never supported it,

never watched it, have no affiliation with it. But they see it as a business opportunity, a vehicle from which they can make money, just as they do when they buy and sell companies in the normal course of baking their daily bread, gorging themselves upon it by "rationalising", making "efficiency savings" or good old fashioned asset stripping.

They survive in that realm largely because, employees apart, nobody actually cares about a ball bearings factory, an insurance company or an abattoir. But you come into a football club and you are no longer asset stripping. You are soul stripping. And we don't like it.

"This club belongs to no one else but the fans". It should be the law that those words are painted in letters ten feet high, at the entrance to every football ground in the land.

Brian McDermott, God bless him, gets it.



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EUROROUNDUP

BY GEORGE RUTHERFORD

TYRANNOSAURUS WRECKED

It may seem a lot longer since the Dons were involved in Europe, let alone after Christmas. Remarkably, it's only six years ago this month that the Dons were jousting with continental giants. Yes, February 2008 saw Aberdeen take on Bayern Munich in a rerun of the 1983 epic encounter.



1981 - Hamburg score at Pittodrie in the EC. New Fulham Manager Felix Magath was part of that side, one of the finest Europe has ever seen.

Even if the 2008 edition didn't have a happy ending...spoiler alert, the giant won...it still left plenty of happy memories, including a Steve Lovell consolation goal at the Allianz. That spring later saw the Dons knock Celtic out of the Cup at Parkhead, only to come a cropper against lower league opposition in the next round.

Since then Bayern have gone from strength to strength and are almost as far clear in the Bundesliga as tonight's visitors in the SPFL. While it's been onwards and upwards for Bayern, it's not been as easy going for other adversaries of the Dons from European fields of days gone by.

The German Cup quarter finals saw former European and World Club champions Hamburg host the current holders of just about every available trophy, Bayern Munich. It was a draw Hamburg must have dreaded as they've plummeted towards the foot of the league this season amid boardroom chaos. Most of their nightmares came to fruition as Bayern swept HSV aside, scoring five times without reply, including a hat-trick from Mario Mandzukic. He's in a rich vein of form following a man of the match appearance the previous weekend where he made one and scored the other in a 2-0 derby victory over struggling Nuremberg.

Elsewhere in the quarter finals, it was a bad night for fast food. With the Hamburgers missing out on a semi final place, Frankfurters also faced disappointment with Eintracht, who beat Fergie's Dons in 1979, losing out to a late strike from Borussia Dortmund's Gabon international Pierre Aubameyang.

One underdog did have its day as second division Kaiserslautern edged out Sammi Hypia's Bayer Leverkusen after extra time. Wolfsburg, the only Bundesliga big spenders in the transfer window, paying 20 million euros for Chelsea's Belgian international Kevin de Bruyne, overcame Hoffenheim in an all Bundesliga clash.

While that may have raised cries of "Berlin, Berlin wir fahren nach Berlin!" amongst the Volkswagen club's fans, only four days later they were already in the German capital on league duty, enjoying a 2-1 win over the Dons' UEFA Cup conquerors of 2002, mid-table Hertha.

The semi-final draw saw favourites Bayern drawn at home to outsiders Kaiserslautern while Jurgen Klopp's BvB host Wolfsburg in mid April.

Progress to the cup semi-final wasn't Hamburg SV's top priority. They may not match Bayern's record breaking array of Bundesliga titles, but they do hold one title which the Rekordmeister can never match. Hamburg are known as the dinosaurs of the Bundesliga. Surprisingly that's not an insult. Indeed it's a distinction they're keen to cling on to.

The Bundesliga last year celebrated its 50th anniversary and Hamburg is the only club to have been an ever present over that half century. This season, with only four wins in their opening 21 matches of the 34 game season, that record is under serious threat.

Ten days ago saw a crucial encounter with a visit to bottom of the table Eintracht Braunschweig. The Bundesliga champions of 1967 showed they weren't going to give up their hard won status lightly. The 4-2 defeat inflicted on the visitors was certainly as powerful as anything brewed in nearby Wolfenbuttel. Jaegermeister, incidentally, were the first shirt sponsor in Bundesliga history, when their distinctive stag's head emblem was emblazoned on the local club's kit.

23,200 packed into the compact Eintracht Stadion. The Hamburg support, hundreds of whom had blocked their players exit following the previous week's defeat, must have been heartened when on loan Hertha striker Pierre Michel Lasogga gave them an interval lead.

Two second-half blunders by German international keeper Rene Adler paved the way for a Dominick Kumbela hat-trick to set a new Hamburg record of seven consecutive league defeats. Former Dutch national coach Bert Van Marwijk felt the aftershock as his services at Hamburg were swiftly dispensed with and in stepped 46 year old Mirko Slomka, former coach of Braunschweig's local rivals Hannover 96. Having only been dismissed by 96 after Christmas, he'll be relieved his debut in the HSV hotseat wasn't at neighbouring Braunschweig.



Aberdeen FC v Inverness CT FC
Scottish League Cup Final
16th March 2014



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P A R K R E D

THE SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP FINAL

ABERDEEN V INVERNESS CT

SUNDAY 16 MARCH, 2:30PM, PARKHEAD

#ibelieve



DAVE MACDERMID



Well not much has happened since our last home fixture against Inverness Caley Thistle back in late January has it?

Apart from reaching the League Cup Final, of course, after that win over St. Johnstone at Tynecastle. And then there was the small matter of progressing to the quarter-finals of the William Hill Scottish Cup at the expense of this evening's opponents. League performances on the road have also meant we're still very much in the hunt for second spot in the Premiership table. But apart from that, it's been pretty quiet!

And, speaking of next month's League Cup Final, what a fantastic gesture by former Dons star Stephen Glass to donate his bizarre man-of-the-match prize to the Club to raffle with all proceeds going to AFC youth development. The surreal sight of Stephen receiving his Coca-Cola mountain bike on a saturated Hampden Park following the 2-0 win over Dundee is one that will live long in the memory of all Dons fans of a certain vintage and his gesture is really appreciated.

The bike itself has been maintained by Stephen's father-in-law Jack and has

hardly been used since that November day in 1995. The raffle for the unique bicycle, which is being undertaken in conjunction with the AFC Heritage Trust, will be limited to 5000 tickets at £5 which can be purchased via www.afcheritage.org by clicking 'donate' on the home page, after which a unique number will be allocated to each 'ticket' purchased. Alternatively, numbers can be purchased at Aberdeen

up until 23.59 on Thursday 13th March 2014 with the draw taking place at Pittodrie Stadium at 12 noon on Friday 14th March 2014 with details of the winner published on the Club website that afternoon.

Much has changed in the intervening 19 years since Stewart McKimmie lifted that trophy. Social media was a long way off, and, although the first ever text had been sent two years previously, mobile phones the size of an extremely large brick were very much the province of business users on large expense accounts.

Singing duo Robson & Jerome topped the pop charts that week with 'I Believe' shortly to be deposed by Michael Jackson's 'Earth Song'. On television, Marin Bashir's infamous Panorama special with the late Diana, Princess of Wales, had been aired during the week leading up to the game. 'Can't Cook, Won't Cook' made its BBC1 debut and over on Channel 4, 'Hollyoaks' (which I have never once seen) celebrated its first month's anniversary. Definitely been far too long! COYR!



Football Club, ensuring that those buying leave their contact details, including telephone and e-mail.

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased



SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP FINAL

ABERDEEN V INVERNESS CT

Sunday 16th March 2014

KO 2.30pm at Celtic Park Stadium.

TICKETING PROCESS:

The Club has managed to secure an allocation in excess of 30,000 tickets for the Red Army, with our fans situated in the North, Jock Stein (West) and Main Stands. A dedicated Family area will be located in the Lower Main Stand and into the Jock Stein Stand if required. Tickets went on sale to Black and Gold Season Ticket Holders at 9.30am on Thursday 20th February. Every Black and Gold member will be allowed to purchase three match tickets. Sales to Season Ticket Holders commenced on Friday 21st February with each person entitled to purchase up to three match tickets. (*Please note, a U12 Season Ticket only qualifies for a U16 match ticket and cannot be used to redeem an adult match ticket.) Shareholders (those with a minimum of 260 from the original allocation in 1995) can purchase up to three Cup Final tickets from 9.30am on Wednesday 26th February. These top priority groups will have until 6pm on Friday 28th February to secure their seat and guarantee a match ticket. All supporters who have shown their belief in the team and have a buying history with the Pittodrie Ticket Office for either home or away matches this season will be able to secure two match tickets for the Final from 12 noon on Monday 3rd March. Thereafter a general sale of tickets will commence from 9.30am on Monday 10th March. Sales will be restricted to two tickets per supporter.

The Club will contact official Supporters Clubs directly regarding their allocation. Prices for the match are as follows: Adults: £25 and Under 16s: £10. You can purchase your ticket online via www.afc.co.uk/eTickets, by calling us on 01224 63 1903 or by visiting the ticket office at Pittodrie.

Journey to Gothenburg, a new play by Rob Robertson

They were the fans who braved the North Sea swell and transformed a ferry into a floating Granite City on the way to watch Aberdeen Football Club make history by beating the mighty Real Madrid to win the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Their journey across the sea on the St. Clair ferry to watch Alex Ferguson's famous team in action in Gothenburg back in 1983 remains one of the most famous chapters in the history of Scottish football and, for the first time, the true story is set to be told on stage. Not for profit Aberdeen-based theatre company "Quids In" are trying to raise the funds required to stage the production that celebrate that famous journey that led to Aberdeen's European Cup Winners' Cup victory that put the team and the city on the football map.

The story centres round the true story of a group of friends who made the journey along with hundreds of other fans on the St. Clair ferry to and from Gothenburg for that historic football moment. In their attempts to honour Aberdeen Football Club and its fans, past and present, on stage, "Quids In" are hoping their attempts to tell the story of that famous European Cup Winners' Cup win will be supported by donations from the fans. The script has been written for free by award winning sportswriter Rob Robertson, who collaborated on *The Don*, the best-selling biography of Willie Miller. Many well-known names associated with the club are giving their services for free to try and make sure that the play makes the stage. If you want to make a financial pledge to help the production of "Journey to Gothenburg" to be staged at the Aberdeen Arts Centre next March there is a kickstarter page (www.kickstarter.com) to allow you to make your contribution.

The Show: Aberdeen Arts Centre: Thursday 20th - Saturday 22nd March 7.30pm, Thursday matinee at 2pm Tickets £10/£8 conc.



TONIGHT'S CAN COLLECTION

JDRF is the type 1 diabetes charity, improving lives until we find the cure. We fund research to cure, treat and prevent type 1 diabetes. We provide information for children, adults and parents living with the condition, at all stages from diagnosis and beyond. We give a voice to people with type 1 diabetes and campaign for increased focus on, and funding for, research to find the cure. We're totally focused on type 1 diabetes, and are run by people with type 1, for people with type 1. JDRF is a global organisation working towards the cure. Internationally, we are the world's leading charitable funder of type 1 diabetes research. We work with academia, industry and governments to make sure that the research we fund has the greatest possible impact on the lives of people with type 1 now and in the future. Type 1 diabetes affects 400,000 in the UK and more than 29,000 are

children. It is a life threatening and lifelong autoimmune condition caused by a problem with the immune system. It is not caused by lifestyle and cannot currently be prevented. In people with type 1 diabetes, the body mistakenly attacks the insulin producing cells in the pancreas, meaning that little or no insulin is produced. As a result, the body cannot convert glucose from food into the energy the body needs to survive. Just to stay alive, people with type 1 diabetes rely on multiple daily insulin injections (or pump infusions) and finger prick blood tests. But insulin is not the cure and does not prevent the devastating impact of the condition on children, adults and families living with it. Join us in finding the cure for type 1 diabetes. Visit jdrf.org.uk for more information.

ABERDEEN FC IN THE COMMUNITY

Smith Spreads The AFC Word

One of the newer faces at Pittodrie is Community Projects Officer David Smith, who joined the Club at the tail end of last year.



A Huntly loon, David [28] has lived in Glasgow for the past seven years, studying community development at University, and he has worked on various youth projects and initiatives all over the Central Belt, as well as working briefly closer to home for Aberdeen City & Shire, also in community projects. Aberdeen FC is his first full time job since completing his studies last year and, as he confirms, it's a labour of love. "I'm a big Aberdeen fan and used to come to Pittodrie with my dad and mum as a kid, starting in 1991 when I was six."

The appointment early last year of Ally Prockter as AFC's inaugural Head of Community signalled the Club's intention to increase involvement in the non-football side of that particular area and Dave's appointment underlines that. "I'm definitely not a football coach and my role is to develop and enhance existing non-football programmes such as Still Game and Football Fans In Training, and look to bring in new initiatives going forward. It's important that AFC works with the community as we have a responsibility to deliver services for that area and it's great the club is taking its responsibilities very seriously indeed."

Current success on the park helps make opening doors just that bit easier. "Definitely, there's a good feeling about the place right now. I certainly came in at a good time, everyone's smiling, everyone's happy and my friends, family and people in general are all talking about the good work the Club is doing on and off the park."

Another initiative that has made a welcome return is the Music Box, an SPFL scheme that enables youngsters aged between 10 and 16 to receive free weekly music lessons at the Club, an idea which holds a special interest for David. "The Music Box is back again with a 12 week programme and it's really enjoyable as I play a bit of drums and guitar myself. I used to play in a band in Aberdeen and music is a great tool to work with, especially for younger people who are not engaging through football."

A further advantage Aberdeen enjoys is the benefits of being a one club city. "It makes it so much easier and, as an example, I went to visit a sporting event at ASV just before Christmas and of the 130 young folk present, almost all were in AFC tops! Having been in Glasgow for a number of years, it made a refreshing change. It opens so many doors, it's fantastic."

David believes the 'bigger picture' as far as an association with the Club goes is that it doesn't matter what the connection is and at what level, it all assists the Club in some way. "The Dons' badge is such a powerful image and a huge draw, people who like or don't like football, who support Aberdeen or don't support Aberdeen, they all recognise the badge, and it's a massive draw throughout the City & Shire."

The Dons' recent recruit agrees that most folk, irrespective of which team they follow, want to see a successful Aberdeen as they realise the importance to the local economy and wellbeing. "Everyone has

an interest in the club and how it's doing and when it's doing well, it has a positive influence on the whole of the city."

Every day is different at a football club, a sentiment David would already concur with. "When we played Hibs recently on the Friday night, I couldn't believe the amount of work that went on in the build up to the game. Also, I can come in on a Monday and my diary is quite empty and then very quickly it can fill up with all different kinds of meetings. People want to meet you and talk about the club, it's great that things move so quickly, it's fantastic."

And certainly the new job has lived up to David's expectations. "It definitely has and more! It's different too as I'm not used to having to deliver such a large and wide ranging project. Everyone has been so friendly and helped to open doors for me and is really willing to help. Even folk on the street are so supportive and I'm really enjoying it."

Already, David has been working with his own department, other colleagues at AFC and a wide range of volunteers. "I'm involved with a complete range of folk including the football coaches, community coaches and, of course, volunteers. We're actually looking to recruit more volunteers going forward as the more people we can get involved in the Club, the more we will be able to achieve."

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when you're not at Pittodrie.



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CHRIS CRIGHTON

This year, St
Patrick's Day
falls the day
after the Scottish
League Cup Final.

Whichever way the game goes, there will be a larger than normal number of Premiership players absenting themselves from any Irish-themed frivolity on the grounds that they're already all celebrated out from the night before. Inverness have six first-teamers who have, or are eligible to represent one or other of the Emerald Isle's national associations; Aberdeen's books trump even that. There will be plenty of green on display at Celtic Park, regardless of how many seats go unsold.

Aberdeen, indeed, had almost half a team hailing from across the Irish Sea on display when tonight's combatants met recently in the Scottish Cup: Adam Rooney, Jonny Hayes and Niall McGinn formed an all-Ireland attack, while Dubliner Willo Flood bossed the midfield and son of Galway Joe Shaughnessy played the role of 92nd-minute clock-eating substitute to well-rehearsed, unflustered perfection.

Josh Magennis and Danny Rogers are others who have routinely been summoned westwards from Pittodrie on international weeks.

There has clearly been a significant turn for the better in Aberdeen's team spirit over recent months and the Irish contingent has undoubtedly been at the heart of it. Magennis and Hayes have been among Pittodrie's most prolific and engaging users of social media, which has encouraged greater togetherness among all the club's stakeholders – best displayed

during the highly amusing (sorry, Joe) hunt to gatecrash Shaughnessy's secret romantic date – while Flood's experience and energy and the ever-present menace of Rooney has lent a more competitive and professional-looking hue to the onfield persona of what had previously looked a lethargic and slovenly outfit. Aberdeen's reawakening owes a heavy debt to Ireland.

It would, of course, be utterly stupid to presume that people will like or dislike each other purely on the basis of which country they originate from. Nobody is

Pittodrie's Irishmen were recruited with that in mind, it is not as an Irish unit that they function. Hayes and Rooney combined for many a goal in the Scottish Highlands; Flood and fellow grafter Barry Robson have been as inseparable as man and wife, with McGinn among the myriad teammates they have known all over Britain; Shaughnessy is one of a large group in the current dressing room who have shared their lives in Aberdeen since they started shaving. It matters not where they have come from, but where they have come to. Now, they are Aberdeen. That is all.

Much in the Irish character chimes with the spirit of Aberdeen, and explains why the current cohort has so quickly settled into – and instigated such an appreciable difference to – Aberdeen. There is little that the granite Aberdonian does better than self-deprecation, and that's rarely in short supply when the



primitive or simplistic enough to suggest such an irrational absurdity.

The popularity of these players, and their ability to gel professionally and socially, depends not on their Irishness: it is because they are similar, and comfortable with each other's play. It is a well-established football management tactic – particularly prevalent back in the days when there were restrictions on the number of foreigners teams could field – to bring in groups of players who already work together, and while many of

blarney is flowing. Whereas supporter criticism of former players might lead to punches or V-signs being thrown in our direction, these down-to-earth coves are more likely to join in the critique. That will always earn credit in a part of the world where belligerence, disrespect and an overestimation of one's place in things are seen as very poor form indeed.

So in the event that any of our Irish lads are spotted in Aberdeen this March 17, do buy them a (soft) drink, be it in celebration or commiseration.

Celtic will arrive at Pittodrie keen to continue their relentless march to the SPFL title. It is to Celtic's great credit that they have remained so far ahead in the league that no side has come close to threatening their dominance. A prolonged undefeated run has proved crucial and with little prospect of the Celts letting up, it is possible that a record points haul could be achieved by May.

With the prospect of an early start in the Champions League next season, Celtic were keen to strengthen their hand for the tougher challenges that will no doubt be faced in Europe and the signing of Leigh Griffiths from Wolves will add to the Celtic firepower.

This season it has been the tight Celtic defence that has provided the foundation for success in the SPFL. Keeper Fraser Forster has forced himself into the England squad on the back of a prolonged series of shut outs in the league. The recent SPFL Player of the Month winner looks a certainty to travel to Brazil in the summer. In the Celtic central defence they have found a real prospect in young Virgil Van Dijk a summer signing from Groningen for £2.6m. The evergreen Kris Commons may have retired from international football but the Celtic player is in line for the Player of the Year award this season after another outstanding season at Celtic Park. One of Celtic's longest serving players is captain Scott Brown who joined Celtic from Hibernian in 2007. Scott is a player who does not get anywhere near the credit he deserves. He is an outstanding professional.

By tradition Aberdeen against Celtic remains one of the top fixtures in the Scottish calendar and with the collective troubles of both Rangers and Hearts, the focus remains firmly on the likes of Aberdeen and Celtic to highlight the SPFL in a positive fashion. In recent years Celtic have held the upper hand in the League at both Pittodrie and Celtic Park with the Dons last win here away back in January 2009 in a 4-2 win.


CELTIC


CELTIC FC

Founded: **1887** Nickname: **The Hoops, The Bhoys**
 Ground: **Celtic Park** Capacity: 60,832


CELTIC

FRASER FORSTER

 D.O.B.: **17.3.88**

 BORN: **Hexham**

 POSITION: **GOALKEEPER**

 CLEAN SHEETS **15**

 APPEARANCES 13/14: **25**

CELTIC

LUCASZ ZALUSKA

 D.O.B.: **16.6.82**

 BORN: **Wysokie Mazowieckie**

 POSITION: **GOALKEEPER**

 CLEAN SHEETS: **0**

 APPEARANCES 13/14: **0**



D.O.B.: 13.1.92

BORN: Swansea

POSITION: DEFENDER

GOALS: 1

APPEARANCES 13/14: 12+2



D.O.B.: 6.3.86

BORN: Glasgow

POSITION: DEFENDER

GOALS: 5

APPEARANCES 13/14: 17+1



D.O.B.: 10.5.86

BORN: Tegucigalpa, Honduras

POSITION: DEFENDER

GOALS: 0

APPEARANCES 13/14: 24



D.O.B.: 18.10.88

BORN: Kaduna, Nigeria

POSITION: DEFENDER

GOALS: 1

APPEARANCES 13/14: 25

SPFL FIXTURES

DATE	OPPONENT	RES
3 Aug	ROSS COUNTY	2-1
17 Aug	Aberdeen	2-0
24 Aug	ICT	2-2
31 Aug	Dundee Utd	1-0
14 Sep	Hearts	3-1
21 Sep	ST JOHNSTONE	2-1
28 Sep	Kilmarnock	5-2
5 Oct	MOTHERWELL	2-0
19 Oct	Hibernian	1-1
27 Oct	Partick Th.	2-1
2 Nov	DUNDEE UTD	1-1
9 Nov	Ross Co.	4-1
23 Nov	ABERDEEN	3-1
6 Dec	Motherwell	5-0
14 Dec	HIBERNIAN	1-0
21 Dec	HEARTS	2-0
26 Dec	St Johnstone	1-0
29 Dec	ICT	1-0
1 Jan	PARTICK TH.	1-0
5 Jan	St Mirren	4-0
18 Jan	MOTHERWELL	3-0
26 Jan	Hibernian	4-0
29 Jan	Kilmarnock	4-0
2 Feb	St Mirren	1-0
15 Feb	ST JOHNSTONE	3-0
22 Feb	Hearts	
25 Feb	Aberdeen	
1 Mar	ICT	
15 Mar	Kilmarnock	
22 Mar	ST MIRREN	
26 Mar	Partick Th.	
29 Mar	ROSS CO.	
5 Apr	Dundee Utd	
20 Apr	Round 34	
27 Apr	Round 35	
04 May	Round 36	
11 May	Round 37	
18/ May	Round 38	



CELTIC



MIKAEL LUSTIG

D.O.B.: 13.12.86

BORN: Umea, Sweden

POSITION: DEFENDER

GOALS: 0

APPEARANCES 13/14: 7+5



CELTIC



VIRGIL Van DIJK

D.O.B.: 8.7.91

BORN: Breda, Netherlands

POSITION: DEFENDER

GOALS: 4

APPEARANCES 13/14: 23+1



CELTIC



SCOTT BROWN

D.O.B.: 25.6.85

BORN: Dunfermline

POSITION: MIDFIELDER

GOALS: 0

APPEARANCES 13/14: 25



CELTIC



DERK BOERRIGTER

D.O.B.: 16.10.86

BORN: Oldenzaal, Holland

POSITION: MIDFIELDER

GOALS: 1

APPEARANCES 13/14: 4+8



CELTIC



BERAM KAYAL

D.O.B.: 2.5.88

BORN: Jadeidi, Israel

POSITION: MIDFIELDER

GOALS: 0

APPEARANCES 13/14: 4+1



CELTIC



NIR BITON

D.O.B.: 30.10.91

BORN: Ashdod, Israel

POSITION: MIDFIELDER

GOALS: 0

APPEARANCES 13/14: 5+7

**CELTIC****KRIS COMMONS**D.O.B.: **30.8.83**BORN: **Mansfield**POSITION: **MIDFIELDER**GOALS: **17**APPEARANCES 13/14: **21****CELTIC****TEEMU PUKKI**D.O.B.: **29.3.90**BORN: **Kotka, Finland**POSITION: **FORWARD**GOALS: **4**APPEARANCES 13/14: **12+6****CELTIC****JAMES FORREST**D.O.B.: **7.7.91**BORN: **Prestwick**POSITION: **FORWARD**GOALS: **3**APPEARANCES 13/14: **9+5****CELTIC****ANTHONY STOKES**D.O.B.: **25.7.88**BORN: **Dublin**POSITION: **FORWARD**GOALS: **10**APPEARANCES 13/14: **18+2****CELTIC****GEORGIOS SAMARAS**D.O.B.: **21.2.85**BORN: **Heraklion, Greece**POSITION: **FORWARD**GOALS: **4**APPEARANCES 13/14: **8+5****CELTIC****AMIDO BALDE**D.O.B.: **16.5.91**BORN: **Bissau, Guinea-Bissau**POSITION: **FORWARD**GOALS: **3**APPEARANCES 13/14: **2+13**

ABERDEEN FC



MANAGER

Derek McInnes

AD
SCOUTING

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Tony Docherty

AD
SCOUTING

GOALKEEPER COACH

Jim Leighton

UNIVERSAL INSPECTION (UK) LTD

HEAD OF SPORTS SCIENCE & FITNESS

Graham Kirk

ROVOP

YOUTH TEAM COACH

Neil Cooper

CBT International

GOALKEEPER SHIRT 01

Jamie Langfield

POBBLER SPORTS LIMITED

DEFENDER SHIRT 02

Joe Shaughnessy

EFF Offshore Solutions Ltd

DEFENDER SHIRT 03

Clark Robertson

HPF

D.O.B.: 22/12/1979
 APPEARANCES 13/14: 30

D.O.B.: 06/07/1992
 GOALS: 1
 APPEARANCES 13/14: 20+5

D.O.B.: 05/09/1993
 GOALS: 0
 APPEARANCES 13/14: 7+3

DEFENDER SHIRT **04**

Russell Anderson

W.D. DONALD

D.O.B.: 25/10/1978

GOALS: 2

APPEARANCES 13/14: 22+2

DEFENDER SHIRT **05**

Andrew Considine

2

D.O.B.: 01/04/1987

GOALS: 2

APPEARANCES 13/14: 16+1

DEFENDER SHIRT **06**

Mark Reynolds

ARMSTRONG

D.O.B.: 07/05/1987

GOALS: 2

APPEARANCES 13/14: 30

FORWARD SHIRT **07**

Calvin Zola

C21

D.O.B.: 31/12/1984

GOALS: 3

APPEARANCES 13/14: 15+4

MIDFIELDER SHIRT **08**

Willo Flood

DOONSIDER FRAMES

D.O.B.: 10/04/1985

GOALS: 2

APPEARANCES 13/14: 22+2

FORWARD SHIRT **09**

Scott Vernon

M

D.O.B.: 13/12/1983

GOALS: 6

APPEARANCES 13/14: 12+12

FORWARD SHIRT **10**

Niall McGinn

BAM
FOOTBALL SCOTLAND LTD

D.O.B.: 20/07/1987

GOALS: 10

APPEARANCES 13/14: 27+1

MIDFIELDER SHIRT **11**

Jonny Hayes

MGS

D.O.B.: 09/07/1987

GOALS: 4

APPEARANCES 13/14: 25+3

FORWARD SHIRT **14**

Cammy Smith

1

D.O.B.: 24/08/1995

GOALS: 1

APPEARANCES 13/14: 6+4

MIDFIELDER SHIRT **15**

Barry Robson

AS 2000
PARTS & CO. LTD

D.O.B.: 07/11/1978

GOALS: 4

APPEARANCES 13/14: 13+6

MIDFIELDER SHIRT **16**

Peter Pawlett

PENTAGON

D.O.B.: 03/02/1991

GOALS: 7

APPEARANCES 13/14: 29+2

FORWARD SHIRT **17**

Adam Rooney

CPS

D.O.B.: 21/04/1988

GOALS: 3

APPEARANCES 13/14: 4

MIDFIELDER SHIRT **18**



Nicky Low

CASTLEWOOD

D.O.B.: 06/01/1992
GOALS: 1
APPEARANCES 13/14: 3+8

GOALKEEPER SHIRT **20**



Nicky Weaver

SAMS Offshore Services

D.O.B.: 02/03/1979
APPEARANCES 13/14: 1+1

FORWARD SHIRT **21**



Josh Magennis

Oil International

D.O.B.: 15/08/1990
GOALS: 1
APPEARANCES 13/14: 1+19

MIDFIELDER SHIRT **22**



Ryan Jack

ROEMEX

D.O.B.: 27/02/1992
GOALS: 0
APPEARANCES 13/14: 28

MIDFIELDER SHIRT **23**



Jamie Masson

ABL

D.O.B.: 05/04/1993
GOALS: 0
APPEARANCES 13/14: 0

FORWARD SHIRT **24**



Declan McManus

CONTAINER COMPANY

D.O.B.: 03/08/1994
GOALS: 0
APPEARANCES 13/14: 0

FORWARD SHIRT **25**



Lawrence Shankland

Green

D.O.B.: 10/08/95
GOALS: 0
APPEARANCES 13/14: 0

MIDFIELDER SHIRT **26**



Craig Storie

ZENITH

D.O.B.: 13/01/1996
GOALS: 0
APPEARANCES 13/14: 0+1

DEFENDER SHIRT **28**



Alan Tate

Garage Roof Company (Ellen) Ltd

D.O.B.: 02/09/1982
GOALS: 0
APPEARANCES 13/14: 2+2

DEFENDER SHIRT **29**



Shaleum Logan

GRANGE BENNETT BUILDING CONTRACTOR

D.O.B.: 29/01/1988
GOALS: 0
APPEARANCES 13/14: 3

GOALKEEPER SHIRT **30**



Danny Rogers

ERROL WATSON PLUMBING & HEATING

D.O.B.: 23/03/1994
APPEARANCES 13/14: 0

MIDFIELDER SHIRT **35**



Craig Murray

C21

D.O.B.: 17/07/1994
GOALS: 0
APPEARANCES 13/14: 1+3



Congratulations to Aberdeen Football Club especially Derek, Tony and all the team for reaching the League Cup Final, from everyone at ACE/DGM Group and Mentor Aviation.

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01224 773776

FIXTURES 2013/14

KEY:
Booked Sent-Off Successful appeal
 Scorer 1 Sub (1) (2) (3) Home Fixture

Competitions:
 SPFL Scottish Premiership
 SCP William Hill Scottish Cup
 LC Scottish League Cup

FIRST TEAM



Date	Opposition	Res	Att	Pos	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Robertson	Flood
SAT AUG 3	KILMARNOCK	2-1	13,149	--	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Robertson	Flood
Sun Aug 11	Motherwell	3-1	6,242	2	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Hector	Flood
SAT AUG 17	CELTIC (12.30 KO)	0-2	20,017	4	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Hector	Flood
Sat Aug 24	Hearts	1-2	15,218	4	Weaver	Shaughnessy	Hector	Reynolds	Robertson	Flood
TUE AUG 27	ALLOA - LC2 (7.45 KO)	0-0	4,897	4	Langfield	Murray	Anderson	Reynolds	Robertson	Flood
SAT AUG 31	ST JOHNSTONE	0-0	9,478	6	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Robertson	Hector
SEP 4	VIKING FC - Energy Coast Scottish League Cup	3-2	10,017	--	Langfield	Murray	Hector	Considine	Reynolds	Masson
Sat Sep 14	Partick Thistle	3-0	6,193	4	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Considine	Reynolds	Hector	Wylde
SAT SEP 21	INVERNESS CT	1-0	11,251	3	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Considine	Reynolds	Hector	Wylde
Wed Sep 25	Falkirk LC Rnd 3 (7.15 KO)	5-0	2,838	--	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Hector	Reynolds	Robertson	Low
Mon Sep 30	St Mirren (7.45 KO)	1-1	4,051	4	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Considine	Reynolds	Hector	Smith
Sat Oct 5	Ross County	0-1	5,290	4	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Considine	Reynolds	Hector	Smith
SAT OCT 19	DUNDEE UNITED	1-0	12,654	4	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Flood
Sat Oct 26	Hibernian	2-0	12,810	2	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Robertson	Flood
Wed Oct 30	Motherwell (LC4) (7.45 KO)	2-0	6,995	--	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Robertson	Flood
MON NOV 4	PARTICK THISTLE (7.45 KO)	4-0	1,007	2	Langfield	Jack	Hector	Reynolds	Considine	Flood
SAT NOV 9	HEARTS	1-3	13,940	3	Langfield	Hector	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Flood
Sat Nov 23	Celtic	1-3	49,683	5	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Hector
Sat Nov 30	Partick Thistle (SC4)	1-0	3,642	--	Langfield	Hector	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Wylde
Sat Dec 7	St Johnstone	2-0	4,741	4	Langfield	Hector	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Hayes
SAT DEC 14	ST MIRREN	2-0	9,332	4	Langfield	Hector	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Flood
Sat Dec 21	Inverness CT (5.30 KO)	4-3	4,800	3	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Reynolds	Hector	Flood
THUR DEC 26	MOTHERWELL	0-1	12,494	5	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Anderson	Hector	Hayes	Flood
SUN DEC 29	ROSS COUNTY	1-0	11,602	3	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Low	Reynolds	Hector	Flood
Wed Jan 1	Dundee United	2-1	12,601	3	Langfield	Hector	Anderson	Reynolds	Hayes	Flood
Sun Jan 5	Kilmarnock	1-0	4,073	2	Langfield	Hector	Anderson	Reynolds	Hayes	Flood
FRI JAN 10	HIBERNIAN (7.45 KO)	1-0	12,734	2	Langfield	Shaughnessy	Tate	Reynolds	Hayes	Flood
SAT JAN 18	INVERNESS CT	0-1	12,021	2	Langfield	Tate	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Flood
Sat Jan 25	Motherwell	0-1	12,021	2	Langfield	Tate	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Flood
Sat Feb 1	St Johnstone (LC5F)	4-0	16,761	--	Langfield	Logan	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Flood
Sat Feb 8	Celtic (SC5) (12.45 KO)	2-1	30,413	--	Langfield	Logan	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Flood
Sat Feb 15	St Mirren	1-0	4,073	2	Langfield	Logan	Anderson	Reynolds	Considine	Flood
Sat Feb 22	Partick Thistle									
TUE FEB 25	CELTIC (7.45 KO)									
SAT MAR 1	ST JOHNSTONE									
Sat Mar 8	DUMBARTON (SC6)									
Sun Mar 16	Inverness CT (LCF) (2.30 KO)									
SAT MAR 22	KILMARNOCK									
Wed Mar 26	Ross County									
SAT MAR 29	DUNDEE UNITED									
Tue Mar 1	Hearts (7.45 KO)									
Sat 5 Apr	Hibernian									
Sat Apr 12	Scottish Cup Semi Final									
Sat Apr 19										
Sat Apr 26										
Sat May 3										
Wed May 7										
Sun May 11										
Sat May 17	Scottish Cup Final									

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT
 The Scottish Premier Football 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, SPFL 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.

Jack	Robson	Hayes 1	McGinn	Zola	Magennis	Hector	Pawlett	Murray	Wylde	Vernon	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	McGinn 2	Zola	Robertson	Magennis	Wylde	Murray	Storie	Vernon	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	McGinn	Zola	Magennis	Wylde	Low	Murray	Robertson	Vernon	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	McGinn 1	Vernon	Zola	Wylde	Magennis	Anderson	Considine	Low	Rogers
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	McGinn	Zola	Low	Wylde	Vernon	Shaughnessy			Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Wylde	McGinn	Magennis	Smith	Murray	Zola	Considine	Vernon	Low	Weaver
Storie 1	Low	Pawlett	Wylde	Vernon	Rogers, McKenna, Rumsby, Campanile 1, Shaughnessy, Hayes, Gibbons, O'Neill, Shankland, McManus						
Jack	Pawlett 1	Hayes	Smith	Zola 1	Magennis 1	Storie	Robertson	Murray	Robertson	Low	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	Smith	Zola	Low	Magennis	Vernon 1	Murray	Robertson	Storie	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	Smith 1	Zola	Vernon 3	Murray	Magennis	Wylde	Robertson	Anderson	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett 1	Hayes	Vernon	Zola	Low	Magennis	McGinn	Wylde	Robertson	Anderson	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	Vernon	Zola	Low	Magennis	McGinn	Wylde	Robertson	Anderson	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	Zola 1	McGinn	Robson	Vernon	Hector	Wylde	Smith	Low	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	Zola	McGinn	Vernon 1	Robson	Wylde 1	Considine	Smith	Hector	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes 1	Zola	McGinn	Considine 1	Vernon	Robson	Wylde			Weaver
Smith	Pawlett	Hayes	Zola 1	McGinn 2	Considine	Vernon	Anderson	Wylde	Low	Shankland	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	Zola	McGinn 1	Robson	Vernon	Smith	Wylde	Low	Shaughnessy	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	Zola	McGinn 1	Wylde	Magennis	Vernon	Smith	Low	Murray	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Robson	Zola	McGinn	Smith	Magennis	Vernon	Shaughnessy	Low	Murray	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett 1	Robson	Vernon	McGinn 1	Flood	Magennis	Low	Shaughnessy	Zola	Wylde	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Robson 1	Vernon 1	McGinn	Hayes	Low	Shaughnessy	Zola	Magennis	Wylde	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett 1	Robson 2	Vernon	McGinn 1	Hayes	Magennis	Zola	Smith	Low	Wylde	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Robson	Vernon	McGinn	Magennis	Murray	Zola	Smith	Low	Wylde	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Hayes	Vernon	McGinn	Robson	Smith	Magennis	Shankland	Anderson	Wylde	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett 1	Robson 1	Vernon	McGinn	Magennis	Shaughnessy	Low	Smith	Shankland	Wylde	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Robson	Vernon	McGinn	Magennis	Low	Shaughnessy	Tate	Zola	Wylde	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Robson	Vernon	McGinn	Zola	Anderson	Magennis	Smith	Murray	Wylde	Weaver
Jack	Pawlett	Robson	Vernon	McGinn	Shaughnessy	Hayes	Magennis	Zola	Storie	Smith	Rogers
Jack	Pawlett	Robson	Vernon	McGinn	Shaughnessy	Hayes	Magennis	Zola	Storie	Smith	Rogers
Hayes 2	Pawlett 1	Robson	Rooney 1	McGinn	Tate	Vernon	Low	Zola			Weaver
Hayes	Pawlett 1	Robson	Rooney	McGinn	Vernon	Shaughnessy	Tate	Zola	Low	Smith	Weaver
Shaughnessy	Pawlett	Low	Rooney 1	McGinn	Tate	Vernon	Smith	Zola	McManus	Murray	Weaver

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







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SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP TABLE - 16-02-14

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Celtic	25	22	3	0	60	12	48	69
2	Aberdeen	25	15	3	7	36	22	14	48
3	Motherwell	24	15	2	7	38	33	5	47
4	Dundee United	25	10	8	7	43	30	13	38
5	Inverness CT	23	11	5	7	29	21	8	38
6	St Johnstone	24	9	5	10	31	29	2	32
7	Hibernian	25	8	7	10	23	28	-5	31
8	Kilmarnock	26	7	5	14	32	44	-12	26
9	St Mirren	26	6	6	14	24	42	-18	24
10	Ross County	25	6	4	15	30	45	-15	22
11	Partick Thistle	26	4	10	12	25	43	-18	22
12	Hearts	26	5	6	15	22	44	-22	6

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FIXTURES 2013/14

U20s

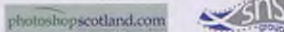
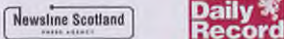
KEY:
Booked Sent-Off Successful appeal
 Scorer 1 Sub (1) (2) (3) Home Fixture



Date	Opposition	Result	1	2	3	4	5	6
Tue 06 AUG	INVERNESS CT	0-1	Rogers	Murray	Mckenna	Storie	Considine	Rose
Tue 13 AUG	Hibernian	1-2	Rogers	Rumsby	McKenna	Gibbons	Considine 1	Rose
Tue 20 AUG	CELTIC	2-2	Rogers	Campanile	McKenna	Gibbons	Storie	Rumsby
Tue 3 SEP	St Mirren	0-0	Rogers	Campanile	McKenna	Gibbons	Kelly	Rose
Tue 10 SEP	ST JOHNSTONE	1-4	Weaver	Campanile 1	McKenna	Gibbons	Rose	Ferries
Tue 17 SEP	Rangers	2-0	Rogers	Campanile	McKenna	Gibbons	Rose	Ferries 1
Tue 1 OCT	PARTICK THISTLE	2-3	Rogers	Campanile	McKenna	Gibbons	Rose	O'Neill
Tue 8 OCT	Motherwell	0-3	Rogers	Campanile	Murray	Masson	Rose	Gibbons
Tue 15 OCT	KILMARNOCK	3-0	Rogers	Campanile	Kelly	O'Neill 1	Rose 1	Storie
Sun 20 OCT	Kilmarnock (SFA Youth Cup 3)	0-3	Rogers	Campanile	McKenna	Gibbons	Rose	O'Neill
Tue 22 OCT	Hearts	5-0	Rogers	Campanile	Kelly	McKenna	Rose	Low 1
TUE 5 NOV	HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	3-1	Weaver	Campanile	Shaughnessy	McKenna	Rose	Low 2
TUE 12 NOV	Falkirk	2-2	Rogers	Murray	Kelly	McKenna	Rose	Robson 1
TUE 19 NOV	DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC	3-0	Weaver	Murray	Kelly &	McKenna	Rose	Robson
TUE 26 NOV	DUNDEE UNITED	2-1	Rogers	Murray	Clark	McKenna 1	Rose	O'Neill
TUE 10 DEC	Inverness CT	4-2	Rogers	Kelly	Clark	McKenna	Rose 1	Low 1
TUE 17 DEC	HIBERNIAN	1-6	Burns	Murray	Kelly	McKenna 1	Rose	Storie
TUE 21 JAN	Celtic	2-1	Rogers	Murray	Kelly	McKenna	Clark	Duguid
TUE 4 FEB	St Johnstone	1-3	Rogers	Shaughnessy	Kelly	McKenna	Campanile	Rose
TUE 11 FEB	RANGERS	1-2	Rogers	Shaughnessy	Petrie	McKenna	Campanile	Rose
TUE 18 FEB	Partick Thistle	1-1	Rogers	Orsi	Kelly	McKenna	Campanile	Rose

WED 26 FEB	MOTHERWELL
TUE 3 MAR	Kilmarnock
TUE 11 MAR	HEARTS
TUE 18 MAR	Hamilton Academical
TUE 1 APR	FALKIRK
TUE 8 APR	Dunfermline Athletic
TUE 15 APR	Dundee United
TUE 22 APR	ROSS COUNTY
TBA	Ross County
TBA	ST MIRREN

For venues and kick off times please see RedWeb



Player photos - Derek Ironside, Lex Ballantyne, Ross Johnston / Newsline Scotland, Action photos - Newsline Scotland, SNS, Action Images, Aberdeen Journals, Andy Convey

Celtic U20 1 Aberdeen U20 2

Aberdeen's U20 side defeated Celtic after a fantastic performance in atrocious conditions at Cappielow. The champions opened the scoring on 29 minutes when Twardzik thumped the ball off the underside of the crossbar and into the net. In the first half, Danny Rogers made three good saves to deny Celtic. The young Dons played well though and had chances. The visitors were also denied what looked like two penalty kicks. Aberdeen grabbed a deserved equaliser on 39 minutes when Low swung in a good corner and Declan McManus rose well to head home. After the break, Aberdeen continued to press and Scott Wright drew a great save from Fasan with a curling effort. On the hour mark, they were finally awarded a penalty when McManus was tripped in the box. Nicky Low stepped up to take the kick and sent the keeper the wrong way to give the young reds the lead. And they continued to have most of

the possession after the goal, Low trying an effort before a first time volley from Wright forced Fasan into another save. Towards the end of the game, Celtic piled on the pressure and threw everything at the young Dons but McKenna in particular was in fine form to deny Celtic. Danny Rogers showed good handling in the terrible conditions as the Dons ran out winners.

St Johnstone U20s 3 Aberdeen U20s 1

Aberdeen U20s went down to a 3-1 defeat to St Johnstone at New Bayview in Methil, Fife. Neil Cooper's side started slowly and gifted the Saints two early goals. Although the Dons dominated for spells after that, they failed to find the net through some excellent goalkeeping, some good defending and poor finishing. With just over 20 minutes to go, Callum Davidson's side added a third after more poor defending and although the home side went down to 10 men and Cammy



O'Neill	Masson	Smith	Shankland	Low	O'Sullivan	Gibbons	Duguid	Campanile	Ferries	Rumsby	Tait
Murray	Masson	O'Sullivan	Storie	O'Neill	Campanile	Ferries	Duguid	Jones	Kelly		Tait
Low 2	Masson	Smith	Shankland	Magennis	O'Neill	O'Sullivan	Duguid	Kelly	Ferries		McMahon
Ferries	McMahon	Jones	Shankland	Wright	Dunbar	Robertson	Petrie	Orsi	Henry		
Murray	Masson	O'Sullivan	Shankland	Wright	Jones	Petrie	Robertson	Dunbar	McMahon		
Storie	Masson	O'Sullivan 1	Shankland	Low	McMahon	Jones	Petrie	Kelly	Wright		Burns
Storie	Masson	O'Sullivan	Shankland 2	Murray	Ferries	McMahon	Jones	Kelly	Wright	Petrie	Burns
O'Neill	Storie	Shankland	Low	Wylde	Ferries	Jones	Petrie	Kelly	Wright	McMahon	Burns
Ferries	McMahon	Shankland	Masson 1	Wright	Jones	Petrie	Dunbar	Robertson			Burns
Storie	Smith	Ferries	Shankland	Wright	O'Sullivan	Kelly	McMahon	Jones	Petrie		Burns
Storie	Masson	Wylde 1	Shankland 2	Wright 1	Jones	O'Sullivan	Petrie	McMahon	O'Neill		Burns
Storie	Masson	O'Neill	Shankland 1	Wright	O'Sullivan	McMahon	Duguid	Kelly	Ferries	Jones	Rogers
Wylde	Masson	Smith	Shankland 1	Wright	O'Neill	McMahon	Ferries	O'Sullivan	Campanile		Burns
Clark	O'Neill	Magennis	Shankland 1	Wright 1	O'Sullivan 1	McMahon	Duguid	O'Sullivan	Campanile	Jones	Rogers
Smith	Masson	Magennis 1	Shankland	Wright	O'Sullivan	Campanile	Duguid	McMahon	Jones		Burns
Murray 1	Masson	Smith	Shankland 1	Wright	McMahon	Campanile	Duguid	O'Sullivan	Petrie		Burns
Clark	Smith	Magennis	Shankland	Wylde	Wright	Campanile	Duguid	McMahon	O'Sullivan	Petrie	
Wright	O'Neill	Low 1	Smith	McManus 1	Campanile	McMahon	Jones	O'Sullivan	Petrie		Burns
Murray	Low	Wright	Smith 1	McManus	Petrie	McMahon	Jones	Orsi			Burns
Murray	Low	McMahon	Smith	McManus 1	Orsi	Dunbar	Robertson	Norris			Burns
Jones 1	Wright	McMahon	Smith	McManus	Petrie	Norris	Dunbar				Burns

Smith pulled a goal back, the Dons were unable to get anything from what was a very even game. St Johnstone have now beaten the young Dons in their last three meetings.

Aberdeen U20 1 Rangers U20 2

Aberdeen U20s were unable to do the double over Rangers as they suffered a late defeat at Balmoor. After a goalless first half, the visitors took the lead on 50 minutes after being gifted a goal by Aberdeen before Declan McManus equalised 16 minutes later. Both teams pushed for a winning goal and it was the visitors who got it when a deflected shot from Dykes beat Rogers four minutes from time. The young Dons were very unlucky not to get something from this game.

Partick Thistle U20 1 Aberdeen U20 1

Aberdeen and Partick Thistle battled out a 1-1 draw at the Excelsior Stadium,

with both goals coming in the first-half. The Dons fielded one of their youngest sides of the season but despite this went ahead after just four minutes. Cammy Smith chested the ball into the path of the onrushing Michael Jones, who superbly curled it into the bottom right hand corner from 20 yards. However, Thistle were awarded a spot-kick on 19 minutes when the outstretched leg of Michael Kelly caught Jordan Leyden as he moved down the right hand side. Steven Lawless stepped up and calmly sent Rogers the wrong way. Cammy Smith forced a good save while Thistle's McDaid struck the crossbar and the post from distance within 20 seconds. Declan McManus also struck the post whilst Scott Wright should have done better with the rebound. In the second half, Partick had a lot of possession but Danny Rogers looked secure throughout and the Dons got a deserved draw.





Jamie Langfield	1	1	Fraser Forster
Joe Shaughnessy	2	2	Adam Matthews
Clark Robertson	3	3	Emilio Izaguirre
Russell Anderson	4	4	Efe Ambrose
Andrew Considine	5	5	Virgil Van Dijk
Mark Reynolds	6	6	Nir Biton
Calvin Zola	7	8	Scott Brown
Willo Flood	8	9	Georgios Samaras
Scott Vernon	9	10	Anthony Stokes
Niall McGinn	10	11	Derk Boerrigter
Jonny Hayes	11	15	Kris Commons
The Red Army	12	17	Amido Balde
Cammy Smith	14	19	Holmbert Fridjonsson
Barry Robson	15	20	Teemu Pukki
Peter Pawlett	16	21	Charlie Mulgrew
Adam Rooney	17	22	Steven Mouyokolo
Nicky Low	18	23	Mikael Lustig
Nicky Weaver	20	24	Lukasz Zaluska
Ryan Jack	22	25	Stefan Johansen
Jamie Masson	23	28	Leigh Griffiths
Craig Storie	26	31	John Herron
Alan Tate	28	33	Beram Kayal
Shaleum Logan	29	38	Leonardo Fasen
Danny Rogers	30	40	Lewis Kidd
Craig Murray	35	41	Darnell Fisher
		42	Callum McGregor
		44	Marcus Fraser
		45	Lewis Toshney
		49	James Forrest
		53	Liam Henderson
		56	Filip Twardzik
		58	Patrik Twardzik

Referee : Craig Thomson

Assistant Referees : Gavin Harris & Douglas Ross

Fourth Official : Steven McLean

SPFL Delegate : Tom Purdie

Mascots : Tonight's mascots are Sophie and Maxwell Lingard. Sophie is 10 and goes to Kingswells Primary School and Maxwell is five and goes to Great Western Pre School. Both say Russell Anderson is their favourite player.

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