GOTHENBURG 83

THE FANS' STORIES
In their own words

Intro

I was talking with a guy in a pub, and Gothenburg came up. He'd been there, and been on The St. Clair, and while I watched on TV as a 15 year old and have read much on the game, I realised I knew little of the supporters' stories.

So I asked on The Dandy Dons Facebook page and website if supporters would share their stories. These are what came in.

Thank you to everyone for sharing your stories and photos.

Iain Cameron

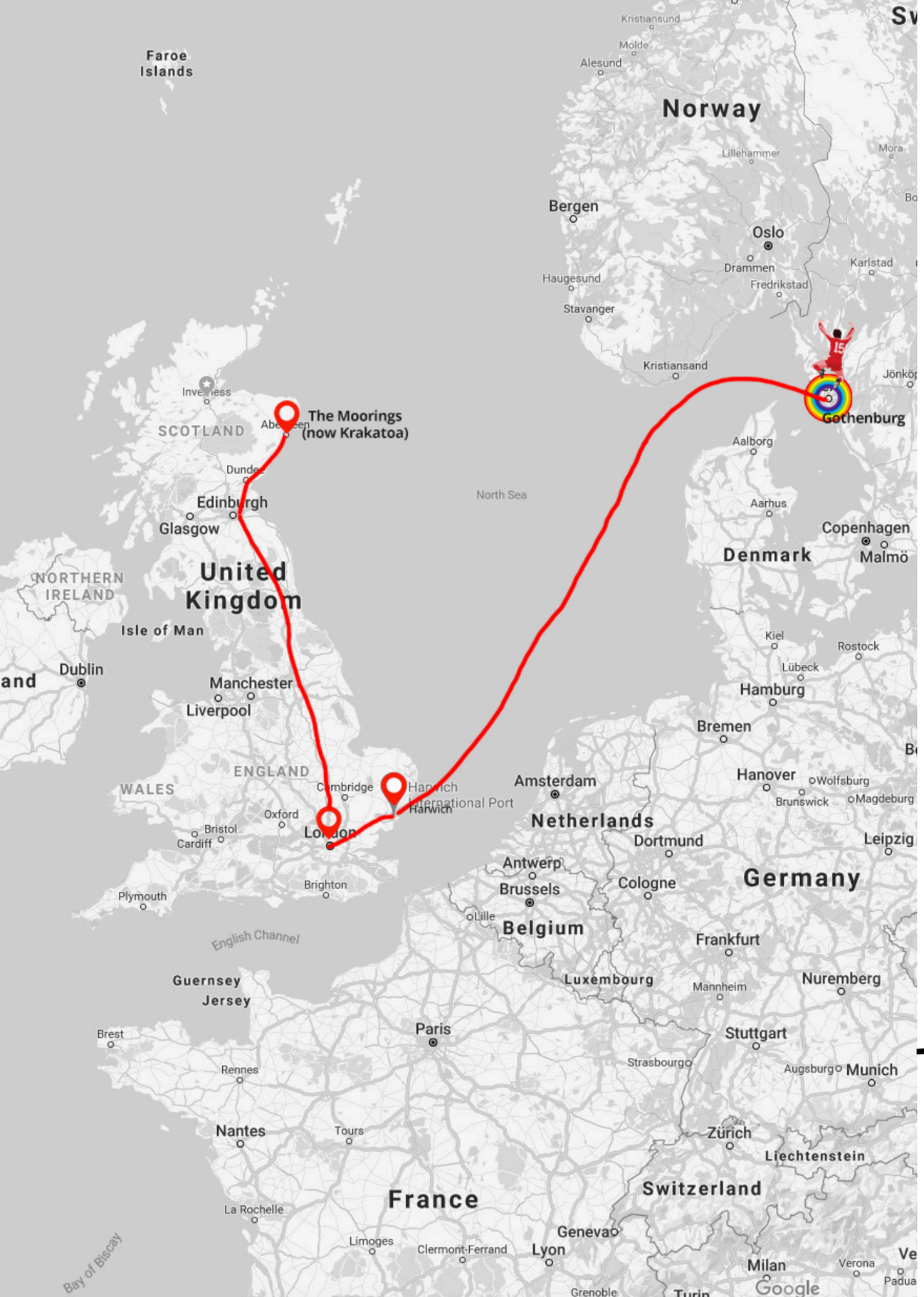
Front cover photo: Jill McIntosh

1982–83 European Cup Winners' Cup

Real Madrid
Barcelona
Inter Milan
Bayern Munich
Paris Saint-Germain
Tottenham Hotspur
Red Star Belgrade
Galatasaray
Panathinaikos
Waterschei Thor
Dynamo Dresden
Dynamo Tirana
Torpedo Moscow
Lech Poznań
Austria Vienna
Lokomotiv Sofia
IFK Göteborg
Slovan Bratislava
Újpesti Dózsa
Baia Mare
Sliema Wanderers
AZ
B.93
Apollon Limassol
Lillestrøm
Coleraine
Limerick
ÍBV
FC Kuusysi
Red Boys Differdange

Preliminary round:

Sion
Swansea
Braga
Aberdeen



After a few pints in the Moorings, myself and a mate took the overnight bus down to London on the Sunday night. We then took the tube to outside London, hitched a lift to Harwich to get the ferry to Gothenburg with nowhere to stay, and came back the same way on the Thursday. Arriving back in Aberdeen on the Saturday morning to be met by my wife going out the door, saying to her, 'I hope you've taped it'.

Yan Robb

Yan Robb 26th August 1954 - 9th September 2019 **RIP**

I remember awakening and being all at sea, both in reality and my head.

There was never a doubt after we had reached the final that I was going to Gothenburg, but by what means was the issue. I had already been to Munich for the quarter final with my mate Keith, which was a fantastic experience but we wanted the final to be something extra, no matter what the result.

A few of us got together to look at the options and one stood out for us. There was a ferry service, albeit from Harwich to Gothenburg which linked in perfectly with the day of the match.

Going in style on a cruise ship with drink, meals and entertainment ticked all the boxes so the decision was made. A mini bus was organised, ferry tickets purchased and we were set. We were in our twenties in 1983 and a couple of my mates were married but that wasn't going to deter them from attending this one.

So off we went, myself, some mates, one with his wife and her sister (they were and indeed still are regulars at Pittodrie). After a few necessary stops for suitable refreshments we eventually reached Harwich and boarded the ferry.

In the evening there was live entertainment on board and a ballroom dancing team who were travelling to a competition who thought they were the bees' knees on the dance floor until at the end of their routine we held up our beer mats where we had written zeroes on! We quickly became celebrities in our own right with many renditions of The Northern Lights and The European Song. However, the captain seemed confused as he asked me who Liverpool were playing!

The next day we arrived at the port in Gothenburg and made our merry way to the local expensive hostelries. Thankfully the staff on the ferry had told us to return directly to the ship after the game as they had a plan to turn the place into a floating bar in the evening.

So off to the Ullevi, soaked inside and outside but wasn't it worth it!

High up in the uncovered stadium, rain pouring down, no jackets but who cared, we were beating the mighty Real Madrid. After the game we made our way, jubilantly back towards the ferry with only one stop.

An unlimited supply of cans of beer

We encountered a bus of soldiers who had made their way to the game from their barracks in Germany and they had what seemed an unlimited supply of cans of beer.

Eventually we made it back to the ferry where as promised a full scale party was happening. Word had got round that you were being allowed to attend the party and stay overnight but had to be off the vessel by a certain time in the morning to allow passengers joining the ferry back to the UK aboard.

Well a party it was! What the non Aberdeen supporting passengers and the ferry crew thought I don't know, but we all enjoyed ourselves into the wee small hours.

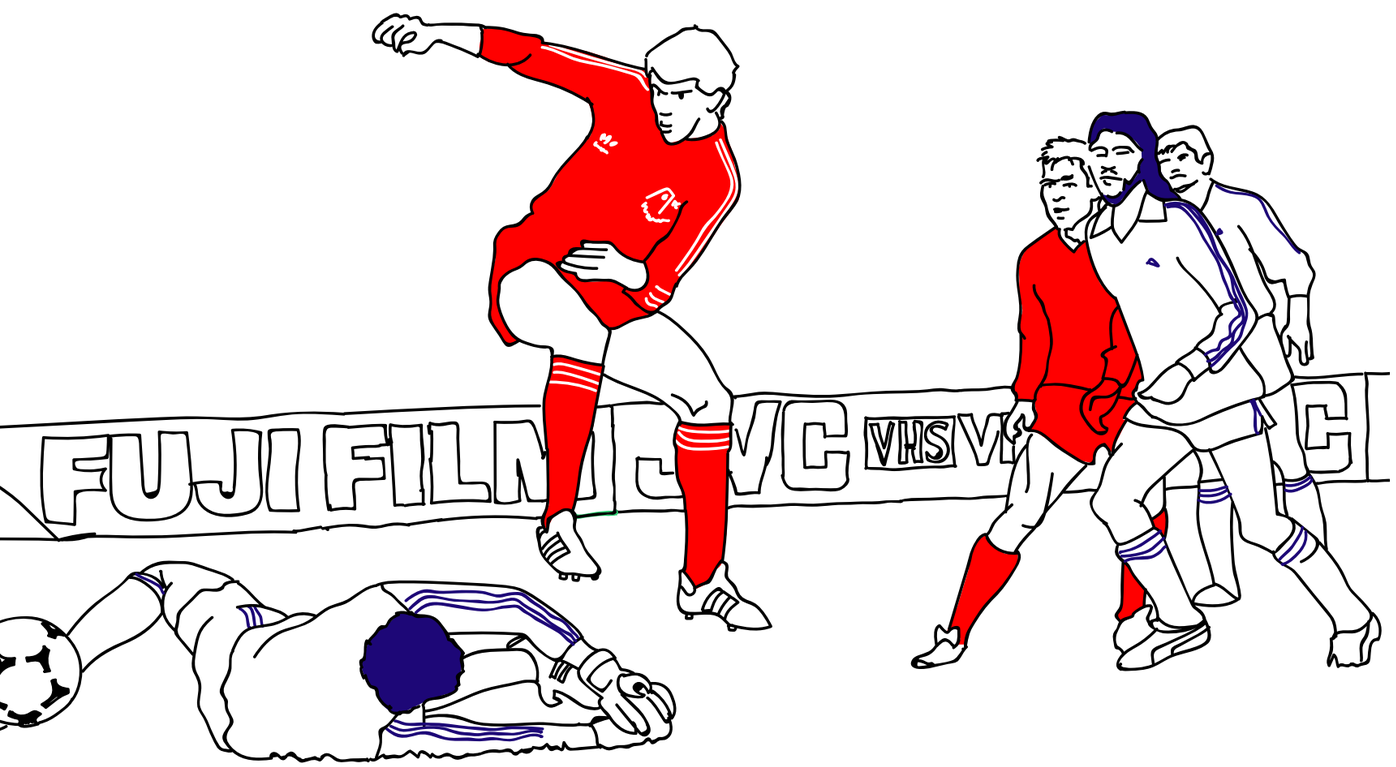
I remember awakening and being all at sea, both in reality and my head!

Thankfully the crossing was smooth and we enjoyed another night of being entertained before docking back in Harwich and setting off back north.

Alex Lornie

Was only 11. Charter plane from Dyce in the morning. Shuttled to Boras to the Grand Hotel. Lunch and onto Gothenburg. Spent some of the day in the pouring rain at the amusement park and then onto the epic match. Stood on the benches on lower deck with constant wall of noise from behind and Manolo banging his drum - instead of hearing the chant of Madrid - it was Aberdeen drowning them out.

Martin Moir



I was 3 at the time, my mum said to my Dad if u go to Gothenburg we won't be here when u come back, so my Dad gave us all a kiss and hug and said I love yous all but I'm sorry I have to go support the Dons then boarded a flight to Gothenburg we were there when he came back still drunk and took me on his shoulders down to see the team coming back with the cup on Union Street. He still says to this day it was the best decision he ever made. Stand Free.

Chris Loggie

Original photos: Getty Images.

Photo: Jill McIntosh, as is the boarding pass, and the photos on the following nine pages, and the front cover.

Message in a bottle...

I went on the St Clair with my Dad who sadly passed away in 2017. I was 17 and went to loads of games with him. He went to Munich for the quarter final but much to my disappointment I wasn't allowed to go. He promised that if the Dons got to the final he would take me, and true to his word he did. My Dad wrote a book about the Dons in Europe that season and has written loads of memories of the St Clair but these are some of mine.

My Dad was sea sick very early in the trip so I was left to explore and report back to him what was going on. Basically I can just remember lots of drunk people (they all seemed drunk anyway!!) and I was too young to drink! Sailing and the European song are the songs that I heard a lot. Gordon Strachan's sister was on board. Thankfully my Dad recovered in time for the game. The trip home was just a huge party. We put a message in a bottle and threw it over the side, not very environmentally friendly!! In the July we got a postcard saying someone had found it on a beach in Denmark!

Jill McIntosh

CONFIRMATION AND ACCOUNT
(Return with Balance)

PASSENGER'S NAME

r W McIntosh

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to your satisfaction
information is required
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ICKET.
LATIONS:
must be returned
refunds can be

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P & O FERRIES
ORKNEY AND SHETLAND SERVICES

TICKET No. 044360

9.583 ABERDEEN - ~~GOTHEN~~ GOTHENBURG ~~GOTHEN~~ - ABERDEEN 11.5.83

PASSENGERS	No.	RATE	CHARGE	HARBOUR DUES
ADULTS	3	190.00	570.00	
CHILDREN				
MISCELLANEOUS				
CRUISES				
Accommodation: Cabin No. 417 376b, Code B				
VEHICLE — LENGTH Ft. Ins.				
CAR				
C'VAN/TRAILER				
CAR REG No.				
VEHICLE SPACE No.				
TOTAL OUTWARD			570.00	

PASSENGERS	No.	RATE	CHARGE
ADULTS			
CHILDREN			
MISCELLANEOUS			
CRUISES			
Accommodation: Cabin No. 417 376b, Code B			
VEHICLE — LENGTH Ft. Ins.			
CAR			
C'VAN/TRAILER			
CAR REG No.			
VEHICLE SPACE No.			
TOTAL INWARD			
TOTAL FARES			£ 570.00

Conditions of Carriage may be seen in the Offices of P & O Ferries, Orkney & Shetland Services and aboard the Company's Vessels.

TO BE PAID BEFORE 22 APRIL 1983 OTHERWISE CANCELLED

GER'S NAME Mr W McIntosh
Braeriach, Linns Road
Torthorwald
Dumfries

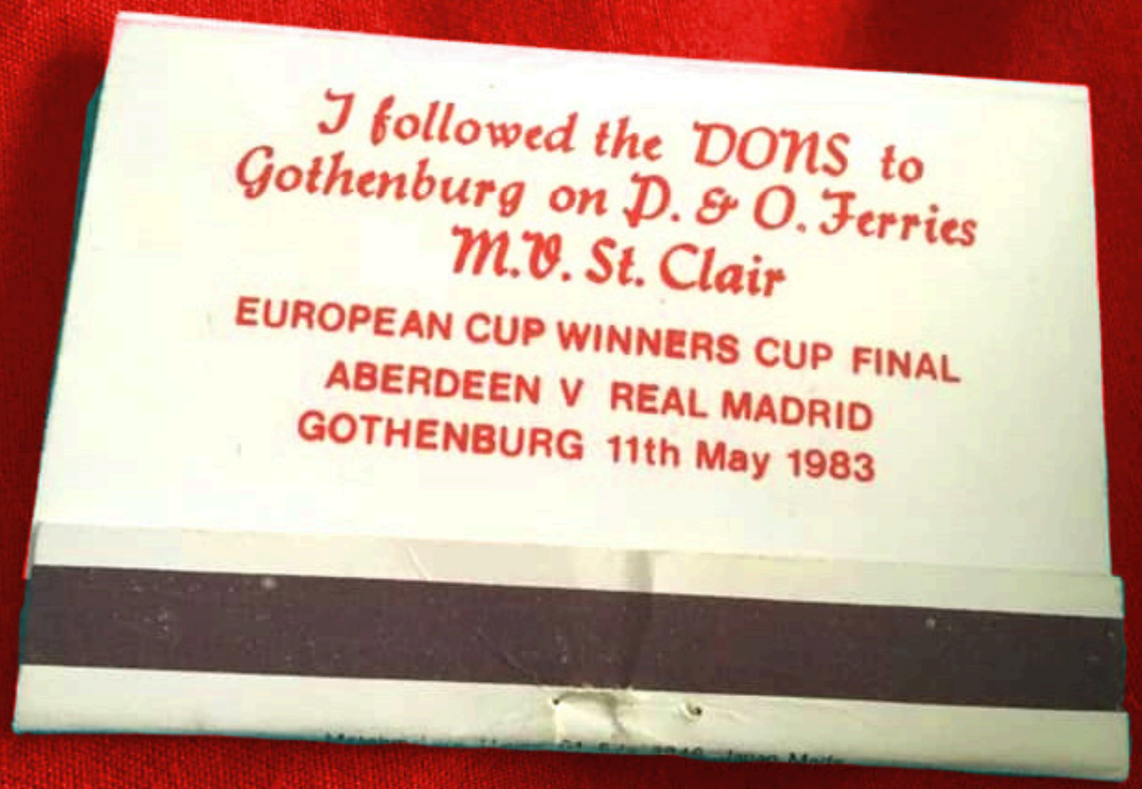
Bal. Ref.

LESS AMOUNT PAID	£
	£
	£
NET AMOUNT PAYABLE	£ 570

d Office:- P & O Ferries, Orkney & Shetland Services,
P & O Ferries Terminal,
Post Box No. 5
ABERDEEN. AB9 8DL
Tel.- 0224 23111 (5 lines)
Telex - 73344

VAT Reg No. 296 8691 83 044360

Shetland: P & O Ferries, Orkney
Holmsgarth Terminal
LERWICK AB9 0LY
Tel.- 0595 6252
Telex: 75284



NEWSLETTER

ABERDEEN FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS "CUP WINNERS CUP" CRUISE

GOTHENBURG 9TH-13TH MAY 1983

CHECK IN AT ABERDEEN 9TH MAY - 1100 HOURS - EMBARKATION 1200-1230 HOURS

It is intended m.v. "St. Clair will be scheduled on the following programme:

Depart Aberdeen	1300 hours Monday	9th May	(ex P & O Ferries Terminal)
E.T.A. Gothenburg	1800 hours Tuesday	10th May	(Berth at 46-47 Majnabbehamnen)
Depart Gothenburg	0100 hours Thursday	12th May	(having witnessed "the Dons" winning the Cup!)
E.T.A. Aberdeen	0700 hours Friday	13th May	(at International Ferry Terminal, Atlantic Wharf)

Passports: Are essential, either in the form of full Passports or Visitors Passports (obtainable from Post Offices).
If you hold a non-British Passport you should check with us regarding any possible Visa requirements.

Currency: At time of writing the Official Exchange Rate is 11.45 Swedish Kronor = £1.
We shall have no foreign currency exchange facilities on board so passengers should obtain their requirements from their Banks prior to leaving Aberdeen.

Luggage: Passengers' luggage will be carried free but in view of the limited stowage space available, particularly to those who have no cabin accommodation, luggage should be kept to reasonable amounts both for security and comfort.
P & O Ferries cannot accept responsibility for personal luggage or effects lost or stolen and therefore, we would urge passengers never to leave valuables unattended.

Insurance: We strongly recommend that you take advantage of the Insurance cover available through our Travelcare Insurance Scheme, details of which were sent out with your booking confirmation.

Unberthed Passengers: Sleeping Arrangements. We recommend that those travelling in Reclining Seats/Without Accommodation Areas, take sleeping bags with them. Camp beds or mattress rolls will also be useful and make your journey more comfortable.

Car Parking: There are no car parking facilities at our Terminal in Aberdeen. N.C.P. multi-storey Car Park, Shiprow, Aberdeen is within close proximity to the Ferry Terminal and special rates are available for long term parking.

On Board Catering Facilities: Meals. Will be provided in both the forward "Viking" Restaurant and in the Midships Cafeteria. In view of the numbers to be catered for we would respectfully request that consideration be given to waiting passengers and to observance to those areas set aside as No Smoking sections.

Meal Times/

Meal Times: We consider it best that on this voyage we should operate a continuous service within the prescribed hours. This will obviate the more complex and sometimes irritating adherence to fixed multiple sittings.

A duty free Bar will be in operation during the voyage at times advertised on board. To conform with Customs regulations, however, the Bar cannot be opened prior to departure from Aberdeen nor during our stay at Gothenburg.

Duty free spirits and tobacco will be on sale at times advertised in the Kiosk "C" Deck.

A duty free Shop will be located in the Foyer "C" Deck. (Credit cards accepted).

On Board Entertainment: Our resident Duo "Aquarius" will play for you during the times shown on the programme which will be issued at the Terminal. In order to keep you well entertained we have a number of surprises up our sleeves including Talent Competitions and who knows with Television and Newspaper teams aboard "Opportunity" could "Knock" for you.

We will do everything possible to make this the most unique and spectacular "Football Special" ever and only ask one thing in return -

REMEMBER that we are proud of Aberdeen Football Club, the City of Aberdeen and the fine reputation of all Aberdeen Supporters when travelling abroad. Keep up this high standard of behaviour bearing in mind that you are all Ambassadors for our Country.

ATTACHED HERETO IS PERSONAL DATA SHEET WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED AND HANDED IN WITH YOUR PASSAGE FARE TICKET AT OUR CHECK-IN DESK, ABERDEEN.

* Stop Press: Bank of Scotland have now agreed to have a representative on duty within our Terminal at Aberdeen between the hours of 1030-1200 on Monday 9th May. A limited amount of Swedish Kronor will be available for those unable to purchase from their own bankers.

Finally may I on behalf of P & O Ferries Ltd., the Master and Ship's Company of m.v. St. Clair welcome you on board and trust that your Cruise with us will be a happy and memorable experience.

M.V. ST. CLAIR

ENTERTAINMENTS SCHEDULE

MONDAY 9TH MAY 1983

- BUFFET LUNCH AVAILABLE FROM 1200 HRS/1400 HRS -

1300/1330	"FAREWELL TO ABERDEEN" (Grampian Police Pipe Band on quayside - all passengers issued with Red and White Streamers to be used as soon as the ship starts to move.)	
1500	PRIZE BINGO IN BAR LOUNGE AND "KEEPIE-UP COMPETITION"	BAR LOUNGE
1500/1630	MATCH OF THE DAY - VIDEO	CAFETERIA
1500	FEATURE FILM FOR CHILDREN	LONG GALLERY

- DINNER -

2030	"ST. CLAIR WELCOME" A party with your resident duo "Aquarius" and your Host - T.V. and Radio personality - RON DALE "Scotlands Mr. Music"	BAR LOUNGE
2100	FEATURE FILM FOR ADULTS	CAFETERIA
2100	CARD SCHOOL (Packs of cards on all tables.)	RESTAURANT

TUESDAY 10TH MAY 1983

- BREAKFAST -

- DUTY FREE SALES -

1000	FEATURE FILM FOR LADIES	CAFETERIA
1000	MATCH OF THE DAY	LONG GALLERY
1100/1200	QUALIFYING ROUND P & O TALENT COMPETITION (Supporters Song Practice with Ron Dale)	BAR LOUNGE

- LUNCH -

1500	CASH AND PRIZE BINGO (Entrance Fee £1.00)	RESTAURANT
1500	FINALS P & O TALENT COMPETITION AND SUPPORTERS SONG PRACTICE WITH RON DALE	BAR LOUNGE
1500	FEATURE FILM	CAFETERIA

- DINNER -

EVENING FREE IN GOTHENBURG

Please ensure that you have your boarding cards.

FILM IN CAFETERIA IF REQUIRED

WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 1983

- BREAKFAST -

DAY FREE FOR SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING

- LUNCH -

- HIGH TEA -

1830 (Local Time) COACH TRANSFER FROM SHIP TO FOOTBALL STADIUM

Please ensure that you have taken your Boarding Pass with you and return to the Ship no later than Midnight (Local Time)

SHIP SAILS FROM GOTHENBURG 0100 HRS (LOCAL TIME)

THURSDAY 12TH MAY 1983

- BREAKFAST -

1000	FEATURE FILM FOR CHILDREN	CAFETERIA

- LUNCH -

1500	CASH AND PRIZE BINGO (Entrance Fee £1.00)	RESTAURANT
1500	MATCH OF THE DAY	CAFETERIA
1600	FEATURE FILM	LONG GALLERY

- DINNER -

- DUTY FREE SALES -

2030	CARD SCHOOL	RESTAURANT
2100/0100	"ST CLAIR FAREWELL A final fling with Ron Dale and Aquarius	BAR LOUNGE
2200	STAG PARTY	CAFETERIA

FRIDAY 13TH MAY 1983

- BREAKFAST -

EARLY ARRIVAL IN ABERDEEN

COACH TRANSFER TO BUS STATION

Photo: Jill McIntosh

I was there with my wife after I won a prize through my work with BT for a three day trip to Gothenburg and £50 spending money, it was the best experience of my footballing life.
Alan Craig

I was there. We stayed in a hotel in Jon Koppin (not sure if it's spelt right) but anyway when we got back after the game we started the celebrations. When the bar closed we opened our Duty Free and kept going. Long story short the night porter never drank in life but when the morning shift came in he was crashed oot on a sofa blootered.
Stanley More

It's a match I never saw! A lightning strike hit the local TV mast, so no TV. My Dad took my big brother with him to pub in a nearby neighbouring village as my village had all signal wiped out. I was only 5 and not allowed to go as I was too young! I was allowed to stay up late and listen to the wireless....
Stewart MacCallum

By far the greatest team, the world has ever seen. Probably.

My pal and I were Aberdeen Uni first year students at the time - I was 19 and he was 18. The guys we went to most of the games with that season had all committed to going to the final but my mate and I were really skint so decided against it. The other fellas left on the Monday of the match.

On the Tuesday feeling really fed up, my mate Cameron and I thought we'd take a walk along Union Street and see if there were any seats still available on a plane and tickets for the match. Sure enough the first travel agents we went into still had some seats on a flight the next morning, returning Thursday lunchtime and tickets for the game. I can't recall exactly, but I think the flights

Nothing left in duty free but Carlsberg Special Brew

were about £50 each and the tickets were cheap as chips. So we scrambled together every last penny between us and bought the tickets for flight and game.

The flight was really early the Wednesday morning so we headed out to the airport with one bag of clothes between and a few quid to last us as best as possible in Sweden for 36 hours or so. When we got to the airport it was just a sea of red and white and there was nothing left in duty free but Carlsberg Special Brew. So we bought a case of 24 cans, stuffed them in our bag and headed off.

At the time Kicker Boots were all the fashion and I had a red pair and Cameron had a white/grey pair so by the time we'd landed in Sweden we

were wearing one of each colour each having consumed a fair few of the Carlsberg SB cans. We had nowhere to stay but our usual matchday mates had let us know that they were staying in the Hotel Lorensberg in Gothenburg so we thought we'd head into the city and see if we could find them.

On the bus in the driver announced each stop over the tannoy so as we were sitting half drunk my mate thinks he hears the driver say 'Lorensberg next stop' so we jump off the bus at the next stop and accost

The game itself was a bit of a blur

a poor unsuspecting local and ask if he knows where the Hotel Lorensberg is - of course, he replies and walks us right to the door. By this time it's about noon and the bar is jumping. In we stroll and who do we see but our mates!

They were brilliant and let Cameron and I sleep on their floor that night with the hotel management fully advised, and were quite happily handing out extra blankets etc. to accommodate folk like us.

The game itself is a bit of a blur other than the weather, the fans and the team. Outstanding!

I will never forget Kenny Ritchie who let us sleep on his floor, the Hotel Lorensberg (www.hotel-lorensberg.se) and that magnificent team. On arriving back on the Thursday evening I got a phone call from my dad who was living in Spain at the time and who had watched the game on the telly there. He said, did you see the game, to which I replied, I was at the game, and he just couldn't believe it. Brilliant times. Stand free!

Phil Hay

The plane was bouncing down the runway

I was 18 for the 1982/83 season and had been a regular Beachender since 1977 so I count myself very fortunate to have witnessed the greatest period in the club's history. In 1980 I started an electrical apprenticeship at Hall Russell and started going to games with a fellow apprentice Kevin Singer, we were both from Kincorth and around the same age with the same interests.

During the years building up to 1983 as apprentices we weren't exactly flush with cash and away travel in Europe was something that was too expensive for us, but we said if the Dons ever reached the quarter finals we'd go to the away leg. So, when the Dandies saw off Lech Poznan and were drawn against Bayern Munich we were off to the Post Office for passports. Back in 1983 it was still possible to get a one-year passport from the Post Office.

We got booked on a bus organised by the Castle Inn pub at the Castlegate which my older cousin George (Dod) Ritchie was also going on with his mates. Dod was 8 years older than me and a time served Sparkie so him and his mates took us under their wings. With me and Kevin working in the Hall Russell shipyard all holidays were fixed so we had to get special permission to take time off (a whole week unpaid!) to go to Munich. The trip cost about £100 for the bus, one night in a hotel and the match ticket. We set off on the Monday night from the Castle Inn with a carry out, I think the drinks lasted as far as Perth. The bus made

Above right: *Kevin Singer with Donald Anderson at ECWC Final 1983*

Below right: *Kevin Singer, Paul Livingston and Gordon (?) on the flight to Gothenburg 1983*

Main photo: *Paul Livingston – a bite to eat in Gothenburg before the ECWC Final 1983*

a stop at Hamilton to pick up an extra driver so the carry outs were topped up again. We went over-night to London to pick up a couple of guys then down to Dover for the ferry. There were another couple of buses of Dandies on the same ferry and everyone headed straight to the main bar on board.

As we got into the lounge, we noticed a lot of other passengers leaving, we thought nothing of it and ordered the drinks. It wasn't too long before the Northern Lights and Flower of Scotland were being belted out. Once we'd set sail the other passengers started coming back into the lounge. A couple came up to us and wished us all the best in Munich, and said that most of the other passengers had seen the red and white scarves and thought we were Liverpool supporters, and decided to clear out before any trouble started (the Scousers didn't have a great reputation at the time) anyway when they heard the Flower of Scotland they realised it was Aberdeen fans and came back to the lounge to enjoy the atmosphere.

We arrived in Munich on the morning of the match after 36 hrs on the road, checked into the hotel then set off to explore the city, well the beer halls as it turned out! Kevin and I did do a little sightseeing in the city though.

We stopped for a beer by the main railway station and after a few minutes a local guy at the next table dressed like a business man

Probably the best away performance ever by an Aberdeen team

started a conversation with us, as it turned out he was a big fan of TSV 1860 Munich and was hoping the Dons would knock his city rivals out of the cup and bring them down a peg or two. After sharing a couple of beers, he wished us luck and we were on our way. Munich was a great performance, the 0-0 result was probably the best away performance ever by an Aberdeen team (to that point anyway).

The old Olympic Stadium still looked great and just as I'd remembered seeing on TV from the '74 World Cup. After the match the Aberdeen support were held back in the stadium before being escorted by the police to the subway then back into the city. There wasn't a hint of trouble and even in the bars in the city the local Munich folks remained friendly and we were out until the wee small hours. It was a relatively early start on the Thursday morning and we'd all been warned the bus wouldn't wait if we were late.

In the days before mobile phones you needed to request an alarm call, needless to say that was the furthest thing on our minds when we got back to the room about 2am and we overslept. The bus was leaving at 9am from the station, I think I woke about 9am. I quickly woke Kevin and we made a dash for it. We were legging it through the station when we saw the bus organiser. He was on his last look out for us or the bus was leaving. Anyway we made the bus, I said to my cousin Dod why he hadn't given us a knock in the morning. "I'm nae your Ma' " was the response. "Aye maybe so Dod but you try explaining that to my Mum if I'd been left in Munich". The journey back to Aberdeen was a long one, another 36 hrs on a coach, I don't think there was anyone sober and the coach toilet was a no go area!

The 2nd leg was the greatest match and atmosphere ever at Pittodrie, I have never experienced anything else like that last 15 mins. The place was bouncing, the 2nd goal by McLeish to make it 2-2 was particularly special as the McMaster/Strachan set piece was a Fergie special which we'd seen on occasions over the seasons, for it to work at such a critical point and for the guys to have the confidence to try it was a fantastic piece of football. The Munich players were stunned and when Hewitt knocked in the 3rd seconds later, it was bedlam. We were in the Paddock, unable to get our usual Beach End tickets for the game and were right behind the goal, I think I was displaced about five rows forward such was the momentary madness with everyone leaping about. Aberdeen were in a European semi-final beating Bayern Munich 3-2 on aggregate. In Ma Cameron's after the match we started discussing how we were going to get to the away leg of the semi, how we'd manage to get time off work and how we could afford

it. The draw put the Dons up against the Waterschei of Belgium. Like Aberdeen not a big name outside their own country and a good draw from our point of view with a home draw first.

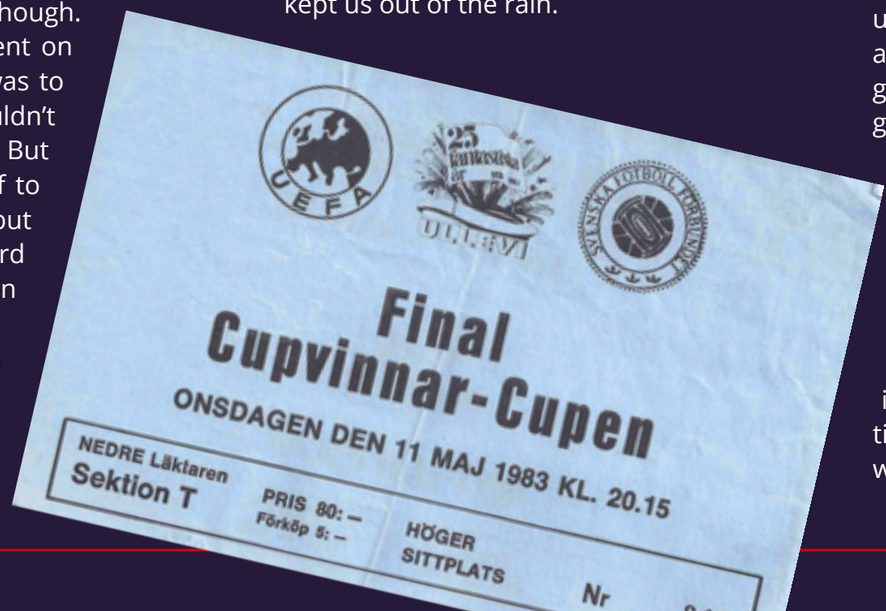
The lads who we'd travelled to Munich with had booked a bus to the away leg and we had provisionally booked seats. We were still trying to get the time off and find the cash for the trip at the time of the first leg, the 5-1 drubbing the Dandies dished out that night meant we didn't need to think any further. Forget about the semi, we're going to the final in Gothenburg and after the 2nd leg we knew it would be to face the mighty Real Madrid, only the most successful club side in the world! We still had to find the money and get agreed time off though. My cousin Dod and his mates went on the St. Clair, and our first hope was to join them on the ferry but we couldn't get the time off for a whole week. But work agreed to give us 2 days off to go to the final (unpaid of course but it meant we kept our clean record for time keeping, important when you're an apprentice).

Only the most successful club side in the world!

Kevin and I booked through Sunseeker Volta (although there wasn't much sun to seek in Gothenburg!) for £213 each we got a flight, hotel and match ticket. As a 3rd year apprentices taking home about £55 a week it was a hefty price. Anyway, thanks to our folks we were able to come up with cash and we were on our way, "here we go!"

The atmosphere on the airplane was like a supporter's bus. Folk singing and stamping their feet. As the pilot accelerated down the runway "Here We Go" was at full throttle with everyone stamping their feet, I'm sure the airplane was bouncing down the runway. A couple of other lads from Kincorth joined up with me and Kevin, they'd managed to get a flight but no hotel, so we said they could room with us for a couple of beers. At the Gothenburg prices, I think we got the bargain!

After checking in to the hotel it was off into town to explore, the alcohol prices in Sweden were seriously expensive so there wasn't much drinking and we were quite sober when we got to the stadium in plenty time for kick-off. It had been raining for most of day and we found ourselves in the lower part of the stand with no shelter from the rain. However we managed to get into the upper tier which gave a better view and kept us out of the rain.



I'd taken a small camera with a single spool and took a few photos of the day, unfortunately I wish I'd taken a spare spool as there was some moments after the game I wish I'd been able to capture. The game itself seemed to fly by for 118 mins. Eric Black hitting the bar and bursting the ball after a couple of mins, another great Strachan set piece with McLeish arriving late from the corner and Black putting us 1 up.

Big Eck's short pass back, and Leighton giving away the penalty for Real to make it 1-1. The second half and then extra time. Peter Weir's delicate chip up the left wing and Dingus McGhee's inch perfect cross to Hewitt for 2-1. That goal will live with me for the rest of my days and still gives me Goosebumps. The final 2 mins and the retaken freekick, those 2 mins were the longest of my life. Then it was all over, Aberdeen had won the European Cup Winners Cup. It's what dreams are made of and I'd just lived it! Let the celebrations begin.

After the game we danced in the fountain outside the stadium, we were pretty much soaked through anyway. Then we wanted to cheer the team on to the bus, so we headed around to the other side of the stadium. After waiting a while, a bus arrived, but this was for Real. The players and De Stefano had

long faces; we gave them a cheery wave but I don't think it was appreciated. After some more waiting there was still no sign of our heroes. By this point there was maybe 20 or so Dandies waiting. Then someone came out of the stand and said the team were leaving from the other side of the stadium! We all legged around just in time to see the last of the players getting on the bus.

Big Doug popped a bottle of Champagne and let us all have a drink out of the cup!

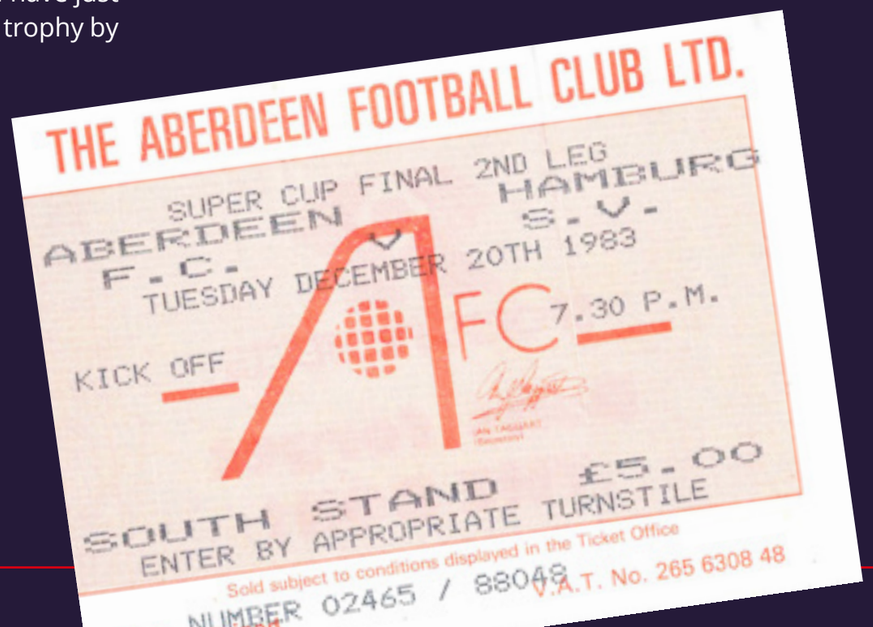
We were all cheering the team and then Doug Rougvie came off the bus with the Cup in hand. The next part is where I wish I'd still had film in my camera. Big Doug popped a bottle of Champagne and let us all have a drink out of the cup! I still think I'm dreaming when I think about that moment. I have just watched my team win a European trophy by beating the mighty Real Madrid and a player comes out to supporters and lets us share a drink from the cup. Bloody amazing, one city, one team, one family.

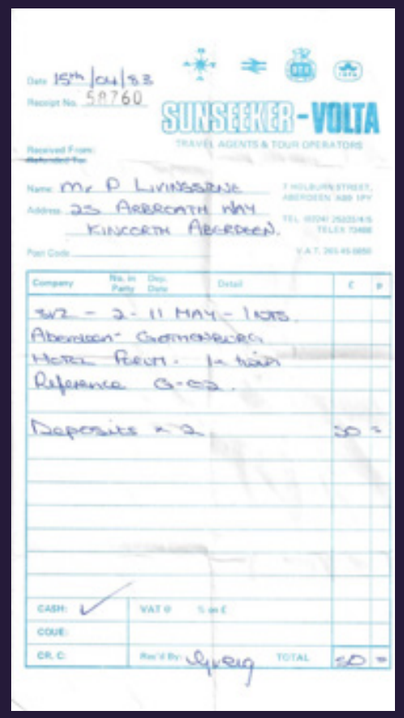
When we eventually made it back to the hotel there was a party going on in one of the rooms, but we were so high from the day we didn't have a drink all we could do was grin and shake our heads in disbelief. Following Aberdeen, winning a European trophy was not something that you ever thought about, but we'd just won one, and there was another on the way!

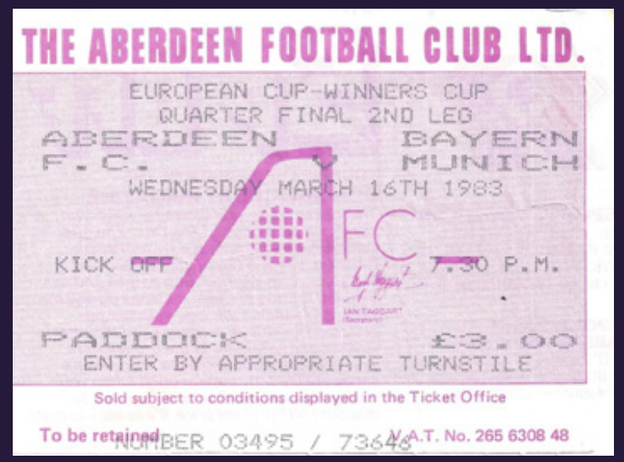
1983 was a special year, not just for Aberdeen and Scottish football but British football. It made Europe sit up and look at a wee city in North-east Scotland in a different light and look closely at the man who had steered the team to this success. Gothenburg may not have made Alex Ferguson, the roots of Fergie's success lie a lot deeper and are spread through years of experience and hard work. But 1983 made the world see what he had built at Aberdeen what a great achievement that was. I'm forever grateful to Fergie and the team of 1983 for memories I'll treasure forever.

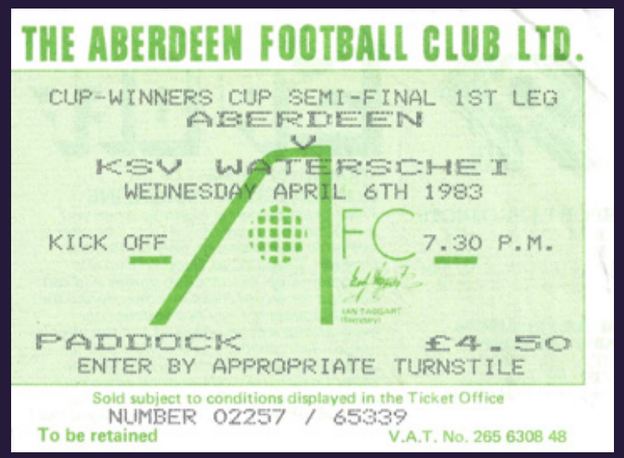
PS. I'd like to dedicate this story to my friend Kevin Singer. Sadly no longer with us, but I treasure the time and memories we shared together following the Dons.

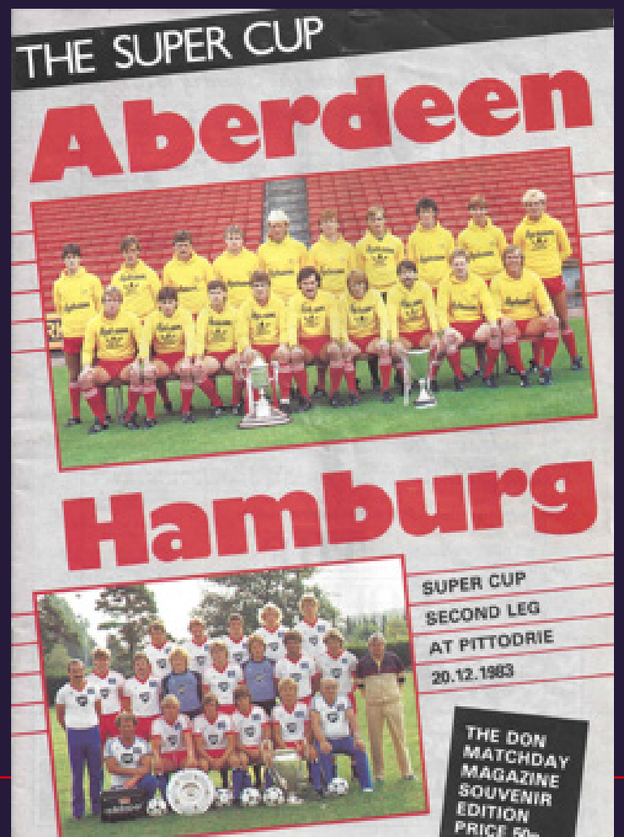
Stand Free.
Paul Livingston



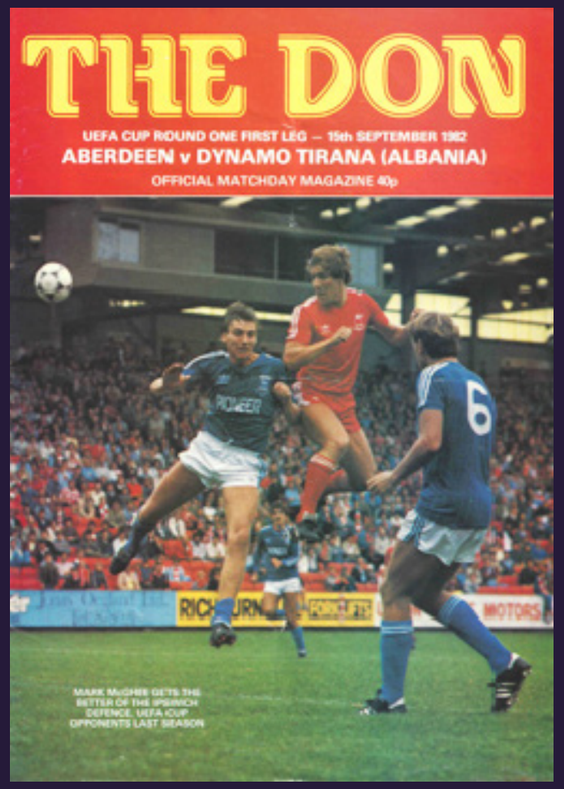


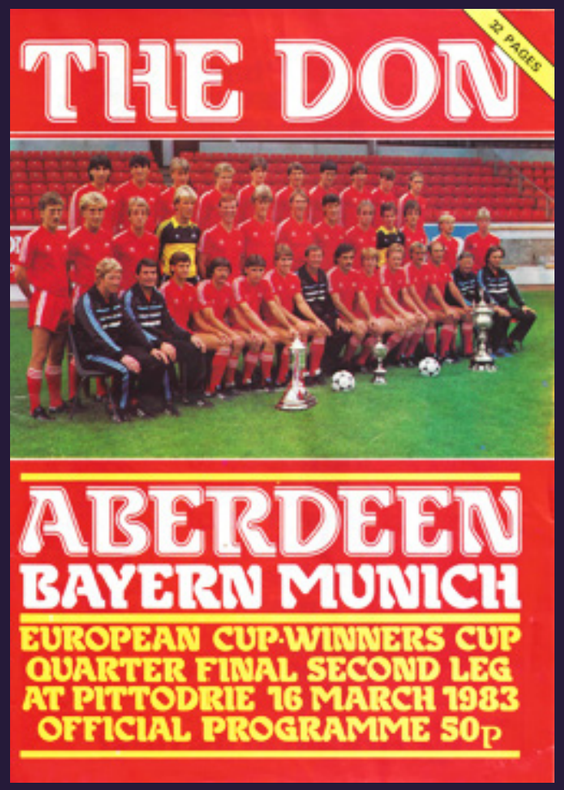






Photos: *Tickets, receipts and programmes of Paul Livingston. Also on the following page.*





I live in Wick and back in the day was secretary of Caithness Aberdeen Supporters Club.The club ran buses often to Aberdeen games and when we reached the CWC final the club ran a raffle with 2 tickets for Gothenberg on a charter flight from Orkney as the prizes.

The raffle was won by James Baillie and a women who worked with my wife who wasn't wanting the prize so gifted it to myself. We flew from Wick to Kirkwall on the day of the match where we joined our fellow Dons fans from Orkney and few to Gothenberg on a charter flight.

The weather was wet when we arrived, but after visiting the local hostelries nobody was concerned about that and off to the Ullevi stadium we went, and well the rest is history.

What I remember was how much the Swedes wanted the Dons to win. After the game we flew back to Orkney at one o'clock in the morning to be met by lots of Orcadians and also a guy called George Duffus, a popular TV entertainer at the time, who had been doing a show in Kirkwall that night. I remember reading an article he did in a Sunday paper a few weeks later telling the story about being at the airport welcoming the fans back and how excited they were, and likening us to being like the team itself.

Peter Taylor

Aged 17. Parents paid for me to go on St Clair provided I didn't drink. First afternoon I got totally pished and appeared live on STV news dancin' aboot with mates. Parents nae happy. Second night, I lost my virginity on St Clair to a reporter lassie. After game got lift back to boat on open-backed lorry with aboot 50 other Dandies. Swedish boy driver took us on victory lap of the toon first, at high speed! Think he was pished as well.

Kenny Kortland

My Gran fancied a cruise

Basically I had resigned myself to watching the Final on television as I was still at school studying for Highers and had no finances to go to the game, in addition I had my Higher Chemistry exam on Tuesday 10th May at Mackie Academy in Stonehaven.

It was after a home game versus Celtic around the 23rd April 1983 I returned home to Stonehaven and my parents were insistent that I call my Gran. My Gran was already booked up to go to Gothenburg on the St Clair ferry as in her words she fancied a cruise!

Anyway she informed me that if I could get flights and a ticket she would pay for me to go to Gothenburg. 9am Monday morning I was stood outside Bell Travel in Stonehaven waiting for the doors to open as 2 of my mates Martin Rae and Michael Adams had already booked charter flights leaving on the morning of Wednesday 11th May which suited me since I had the exam on the Tuesday. To my relief they had seats available and having paid I was on my way!

To this day I have no idea how I passed the Higher Chemistry exam on Tuesday

The first time I had ever flown

10th May as all that was going through my head was the impending visit to Sweden the next day. To compound matters my Gran was interviewed by the local press whist at sea on the St Clair heading for Sweden since they were curious as to why an elderly woman was travelling on her own for

the football and her story of 'just fancying a cruise' and paying for me to go made front page headlines. So entering the exam I was met with best wishes from several teachers, not for the exam but for the match the following day!

The day of the game started nervously as the flight to Gothenburg was the first time I had ever flown. Once we arrived around Midday the nervousness was switched to whether or not the match would go ahead due to the incessant rain. Those fears evaporated however when we reached the Ullevi Stadium and word went round that the game was definitely on.

Totally confident we would win

The game itself is as vivid now as it was then. Being 16 years old at the time I had total belief in the Dons and had no real appreciation of the fact it was the mighty Real Madrid we were playing and I was totally confident we would win. Any nerves I had about the game if any were soon dispelled when Eric Black scissor kicked a volley off the crossbar early in the game.

The sheer elation of John Hewitt's diving header for the winner in extra time is for ever etched in my memory along with his bandy legged celebration. One nerve racking free kick towards the end and then the final whistle and scenes I will never forget of celebration, tears and joy!

Outside the stadium was euphoric although we only sampled an hour of celebration before we were picked up by our bus and whisked back to the airport and straight on to a flight to Glasgow (since Aberdeen airport shut at 10pm) We arrived back to Glasgow airport around 3am in the morning, probably the first fans back to Scotland and were bussed back to Stonehaven Square arriving at 6am exactly 24 hours after departing the town.

It seemed a bit surreal walking into the local newsagent and reading the morning papers about the game with the match programme still in my back pocket but every newspaper was bought and I still treasure those clippings which I still have to this day.

My Gran arrived home to Aberdeen on the St Clair the following day, met Alex Ferguson and Mark McGhee as she disembarked and always said it was the best cruise she has ever been on!!

Dave Summers, Stonehaven

Four of us had a cabin on the St Clair, a fifth mate had an aircraft seat in lounge. Bugsy was his name and was known to all who frequented the Moorings at the time.

Bugsy loved a drink and he boarded the ship with a whole fiver and a 40 oz of rum. Needless to say he was well subsidised on the trip. On Tuesday morning after a heavy night's drinking, I went up top to check on Bugsy, he looked like shit and hadn't shaved for at least 4 days.

I said come down to our cabin and get cleaned up. I got him into cabin where another mate Scott was still in his bunk. Bugsy says, Sandy can u shave me as I have the shakes big time. So I gets the soap onto his face and just about to start shaving when Scotty goes into a diabetic hypo, he's jumping about the bed kicking out everywhere, I'm like oh shit I better get help.

I take off and eventually find the ship's doctor, gets him back to the cabin, to be faced with Bugsy covered in blood, he tried to shave himself, the doctor was more concerned about Bugsy than Scotty lol his face was like a road map with divets of hair sprouting between the cuts. Scotty was fine after a shot of insulin but Bugsy was in some shape going to the game. Sadly Scotty and Bugsy have passed on now, but I will never forget that morning on the St Clair.

Sandy Smith

The youngest on The St. Clair

Forres. That's where it started.

On the 13th May 1983, I was 9 years and 8 months. My brother was 7 years and 9 months old. We were comfortably the youngest on the St Clair. We had a cabin with my Mum and Dad. But let's backtrack, a wee bit.

I remember various parts in various memory flashbacks. I remember the quarter final vividly. My Dad, a giant of a man, was due to go to the game that night but had hurt his back and pulled out. Dad was a copper in Forres and had got tickets via Alex McLeish's brother-in-law, Keith Taylor, who was a cop in Forres and worked for my Dad. In the weird world that is fate, Keith now works for me in Aberdeen! After that momentous night, the semi was a breeze as we now know and there it was, a final. I'd started going to games aged 7 so was already used to seeing us do well in the early 80's so this was "just another final" I suppose.

I can only vaguely recall the detail but the stone fireplace in our living room was where it happened. Mum and Dad had laid out what seemed like a mountain of paperwork and this was the ferry booking stuff, all the gubbings to get us to Sweden. It was all so very surreal and I think I struggled to comprehend it all. But there it was. I think in later life my Dad told me that it was £1000.00 all in for the trips. A fortune. I had 2 other pals from Forres (one who is now a Celtic supporter!!) who went with their Dads but they flew. I think I know who had the better voyage/experience!

So skip forward and my next memory was driving down to Aberdeen, scarves oot the windaes of our beloved Datsun Cherry, WAS 488V, I think. We obviously boarded and set sail, a 2 day trip I think overnight.

My most vivid memory was one of the lounges. My Dad had a red silk scarf tied round his neck, the big fruit, and into this den we went. To me, it was total uproar. I'd never been surrounded before by so many drunk people (men) and my mum must have been one of the few ladies aboard. My Dad got canned, on cans, and I recall him chapping a can of Vitamin T off the packed lounge roof to the beat of the song being played. It was chaotic and very intimidating but also magical. Many foot soldiers, gathered, in unison. That's when I felt tribalism flow through my veins. I was part of it, a young Dandy, but a Dandy for life.

My brother kept himself happy including taking himself for steak and chips. Alone. Aged 7

In later life I remember the Captain of the St Clair had written a letter to the P and J/EE stating not a lightbulb had been broke on-board, and I smiled. I bet those dents on that roof are still there now! Maybe the Captain just missed it……

I was sick. I was spewing. Sea sick. Something else to add to my already long list of ailments. There is nothing like sea sickness. My brother, of course, breezed through it all and just wandered about and kept himself happy including taking himself for steak and chips. Alone. Aged 7. Bonkers! I was sin my bed for the whole trip I think

I don't even remember docking. We must have docked through the night or early morning. At some point, we disembarked and went for a wander. Gburg was an unusual city. It was quiet. Dad, being Dad, spoke to everyone who could, single-handedly trying to convert every resident into being Aberdeen Fans

We wandered through a shopping centre and my Dad ended up getting the craic with some Swedish hobo and taking a swig from the guy's bottle. C'est la vie, eh! When in Rome and all that, or rather, Gburg!

But, there it was, first sight of the enemy. The first thing I noticed was their swarthy skin, like they were pirates. The Spaniards were very very subdued and unlike my Dad who was

doing his Unite Nations bit and engaging with them all. They swapped pennants and we still have it. One still hangs in Pittodrie, the very same one, somewhere

And so the game approached. And the rain. Jesus, it was biblical. I remember getting into the ground, top of some stairs and looking down. I think the pitch was covered initially but I panicked. It look awful. The weather was terrible. At some point word got to us about the fella who died. A Dandy. The collection passed us on the way round. How could anyone die at a game like this I thought. My simple mind didn't get it. I still think about that guy

I remember my mum helping herself to a handful of programmes and then paying for it because the programme seller was so inept. I recall pinching one when we got home and selling it to Malcolm Hercus for £3. He only wanted to pay £2. That's when and how my Del Boy tendencies started, I think

I remember Eric scoring early. Much beyond that, in truth, I don't remember. My brother sat most of the game on the shoulders of a Dolph Lundgren type, huge and blonde. And then Hewitt scored. And that was it, we had done it. The part that burst my heart now is remembering my Dad, my hero, picking up Gary and I in his arms, facing us toward the scoreboard and with tears streaming down his face said to us "remember this boys, you might not ever see it again". How very sad but true

The voyage home was that. An exhausted but virtuous fan contingent. I'd found my sea legs finally so the memories were of endless loops of the European Song and re-runs of the game on screens. I remember a chopper dropping of copies of the EE, too.

Apart from the birth of my daughters, this was it. The night of my life, the time of my life. I wish I remembered it more, I really do.

Meeting Fergie and McGhee at the quay side and getting our picture taken with some other fans, holding the cups, was special. My prized possession. I post it on Twitter and Instagram every 11th May and probably will do forever.

On reading this back, it just feels like a few scant notes, broken memories and flashbacks. But I was only 9. I've read other people stories and almost everyone was older, so they enjoyed it differently

I've looked online at pictures and there's a lump in my throat. No one will know what this means to me, how it shaped my love for our club and how that love will endure. Being a supporter of a club like ours is like a long marriage. There are good times and bad times. I've seen it all, several times now But I saw the best of it

@Flexer73
Scott Barclay

Seen the St Clair leaving on the Monday. Spoke to wife if it was ok to go and she said yes. Then had to get 2 days off work, but only gave me one and a half days. Had to go in on Thursday pm. Had to get a loan to pay for flight. At this time, I didn't even have a ticket.

Listening to Northsound and the DJ said this company (can't remember the name) who said they had about 5 or 6 tickets to give away for FREE!! I managed to get through and picked the ticket up at 1pm that Tuesday.

Checked in on the Wednesday and went through security as it was in those days. I had 12 tinnies in my bag and security guy asked whose it was. I said it was mine and he said I had too many... my jaw hit the ground, until he started laughing. Called him a bar steward.

Got to Gothenburg ok. Had to wait on brother who had his flight etc all booked beforehand. Three hours later - and getting sung to by some drunken friends I knew, as they came off their flights.

Got on brother's bus, even though I was not booked with his travel company.

Had a couple of beers before the match, as well as some shopping (had to get the wife & bairns something).

We had been told we were allowed drink into the stadium. The armed police said otherwise. So had a couple of tinnies before going in. Just remember as well the p*ssing rain there.

Then it was the match. What else can be said?

After the match seen some supporters in the fountain outside the stadium, getting even mair weet.

Me, my brother and his mates then went into town but all pubs were chokkers. Ended up in a Chinese restaurant and had some very expensive beers. 5 pints for £20!

Back into Aberdeen, hame for a kip and then into work for my half day.

An experience never to be forgotten. I am very lucky to have been there that night. Same as quarter final and semi final at Pittodrie. Not forgetting winning the Super Cup as well.

Jim West

The greatest night of my fitba life n I've had a lot o great memories supporting the Dandys will never forget it.

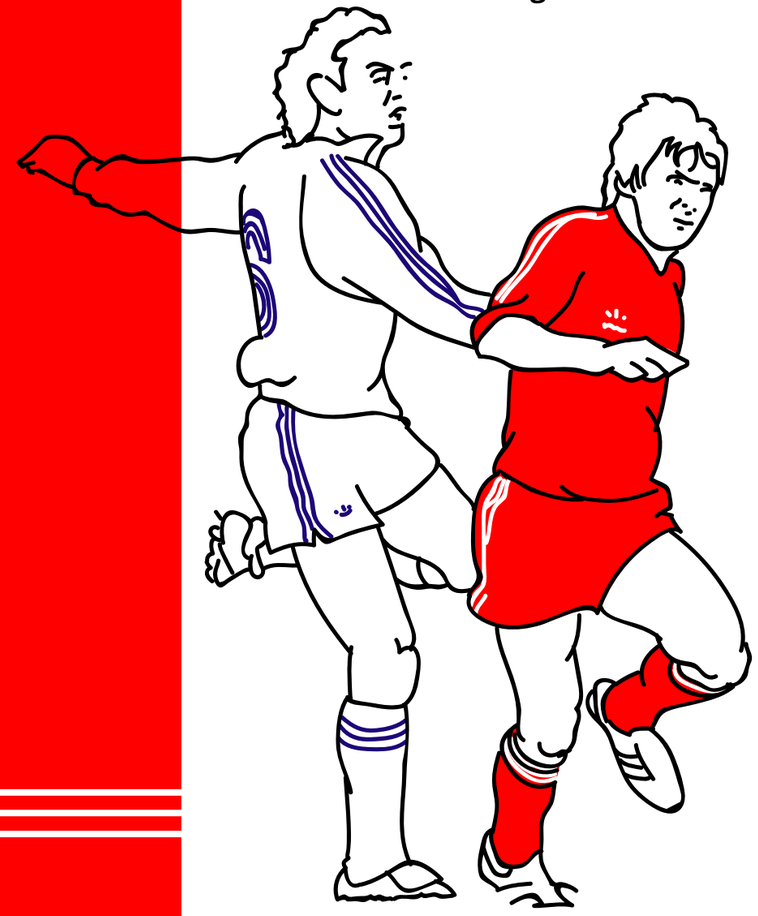
Mike Jessiman

I've supported my team for over 60 years and I can say that 1983 was the highlight of my life. It's history now and we should be looking forward not back. Coyr, give our youngsters some memories.

Jim Morrison

A good mate of mine at the time won the keepy up competition on the St Clair, I think it was on the first day we set sail.

Angus Mutch



Scottish & Spanish eight-some reels with about 20 folk

Eightsome Real

I was living in Bergen on the West coast of Norway at the time. My father went to Pittodrie to organise a ticket for me. The Dons hadn't received any tickets and Ian Taggart the secretary did not know how much they would be so my father wrote him a blank cheque. From memory the ticket cost 100 Swedish Kroner, about £7 at the time.

I made the trip by train, a total of 4 journeys. This was pre-internet days so I spent sometime at Bergen railway station a couple of weeks before the game with a very helpful guy who did all the bookings for me. I managed to avoid having to have a hotel stay in Gothenburg.

I was on the night sleeper from Bergen to Oslo on the evening of the Tuesday 10th May. It was very basic, really just a bunkhouse on wheels. Each compartment had two three-storey bunk beds. I was luckily on a bottom bunk, I doubt I would have slept if I'd been on a top bunk. In the morning of the 11th I was on the Oslo-Malmoe train, which had a stop at Gothenburg. As everyone knows it was absolutely chucking it down so I went to the pictures in the afternoon, I can't remember the film!

The Northern Lights on piano... not a dry eye in the house

Before setting off on the walk from the town centre to the Nya Ullevi stadium I bumped into a friend who was with a small group who had flown in that afternoon. We bought a carry out and left it in a bucket on a lamp-post. Amazingly after the game we remembered where it was and even more amazingly the carry-out was still intact! We shared it with some Real Madrid fans who were very friendly. I can remember Scottish-Spanish eight-some reels with about 20 folk.

We blagged into a bar/nightclub as I could speak a bit of Norwegian (it is very similar to Swedish) and chatted to the bouncer. I'm sure he let us in to avoid my bad Norwegian. The ITV commentary team (Brian Moore and Ian St John) were there. I think Billy McNeill was also part of the team but I may be imagining that. One of the group played the Northern Lights on piano and everyone sang along. Not a dry eye in the house!

I journeyed to Oslo in the early hours of Thursday 12th in the sitting carriage of the Malmoe to Oslo sleeper train, which had a stop at Gothenburg around 4 am. My cunning plan was to sleep for the approx. four hour journey so I could enjoy the spectacular Oslo to Bergen journey later in the day. This didn't happen as I was joined in the carriage by a bunch of Norwegians who'd come down to Oslo for the match and became Dons fans. They had a big carry-out which they shared with me, the only Scotsman in the carriage, so no sleep for Jim! As a result, I slept through much of the Oslo to Bergen leg, the final part of my journey. I got back to Bergen on the early evening of Thursday 12th.

A year later we had a family holiday driving round southern Norway and western Sweden and we stayed in Gothenburg on the 11th May so my wife, our two young boys and I made a pilgrimage to the stadium on the first anniversary of the match.

The wife's tale

Having only recently moved to Bergen and having two small children, only one of us could make the journey to Gothenburg! As a dutiful wife, obviously I let Jim go.

The match was on Norwegian TV, but the commentator was driving me mad as he couldn't pronounce the Dons players' names very well. Strachan, in particular! We were able to get Radio Scotland, so I listened to their commentary, along with Norwegian TV.

After the match, anyone who was not in Gothenburg, had travelled to Union Street along with a Radio Scotland presenter. I have never felt so home sick in my life! The boys, who were not more than babies, were asleep and I just wanted to talk to my Dad. No chance! All the phone lines to Aberdeen were totally jammed.

Jim and Joyce Ritchie

Original photos: Mediastorehouse.com, Getty Images.

I was 13, I was sitting at home in the Broomhill area watching the game with my Mum and Dad.

My Dad had taken me to Pittodrie in 77. I witnessed Joey Harper score in a 1-2 loss to Hibs. I went home and tried to recreate Joey's goal in the back garden. I was now a Dandy.

My Mum hated football but realised that this was a huge game for the Dons and the City. We watched Black's acrobatic volley, his slightly sclaffed opener, the ball being cruelly held up on the sodden turf from McLeish's back pass, Juanito sending Leighton the wrong way.

We then watched the Dons being the better side but the game went to extra time. Hewitt came on for Black... when Peter Weir danced past two Real Madrid players, it was at this point my Mum said "they're going to score now..." she was right, Hewitt scored THAT goal and even though Real's last minute re-taken free kick whizzed past the post, we had WON!

My Mum and Dad went to the pub to celebrate, my sister being older than me was round at a friend's house drinking, so I thought I'd have a beer too. I had a Kestrel, my first ever beer to celebrate the Dandy Dons' success.

36 years on the enormity of that success gets bigger and better every season. What a team, what a manager, what a club. 36 years on both my parents are no longer with us but thanks to them both for their influences on that wonderful night.

As the P&J cartoon said the next day "it's nae Real" but it was real, it happened and I was a part of it. COYR SF.

Martin Allan

The booze cruise

I was 9 years old when my Gran gave me a red and white hat and scarf. Two years later in 1976 we won the League Cup, and I remember my stepdad and neighbour coming home pretty drunk, celebrating after beating Celtic 2-1. I thought, I want to see my team win and celebrate like that.

My first cup final was in 1979, Bells League Cup Final. Sadly, we lost the replay at Dens after a 0-0 at Hampden. But I was hooked, and it didn't take long before I had the chance to celebrate.

Roll forward to 6th of April 1983, I was 18 years old.... what an age to support Aberdeen FC. We had just hammered Waterschei 5-1 in the semi-final first leg of the ECWC. When I got home that night to Garthdee, I said to my Mum that we (AFC) were going to Gothenburg... how do I get there?

After the second leg had passed, I was pulling money together to finance a trip to Sweden. Still had no idea how to get there.

To this day, I still don't know how I managed to be one of the 500 on the St Clair, (I think my Gran knew someone, who knew someone), but it was confirmed I had a room on E Deck. I was going to Gothenburg.

There was a few of my mates on the ship, so this was going to be ace. I was working at the 'Hot Bread Shop' Crawford's Bakers at the bottom of Union Street. They weren't too happy about me taking the time off to go away for a week. So I quit, I had to go to Gothenburg.

Monday 9th May had come round. I was packed and ready to go, days earlier. I got up had breakfast, then jumped in the shower. Yeah, the old plastic baths, with the hand held shower. Back upstairs to my bedroom to dry the hair and get dressed. I was looking smart, in a pair of faded jeans, white Fila tee shirt and a navy/blue Argyle Pringle, with a small AFC button badge on it.

We were piped off by the Grampian Police Pipe band

In my bag was change of clothes, a red and white hat and a Sony Walkman with a few cassettes to listen to in my berth.

My mum drove me down to the Harbour to board the St Clair, and I remember she was still there with 100s more to wave the ship away. We had checked in about 2 hours before we finally departed. When the ship started to move, we were piped off by the Grampian Police Pipe Band, and to the noise of every ship in the harbour blasting their horns. Everyone on the ship had red and white streamers which were launched off the ship.

We were also told that the bar/duty free was going to open once we had left UK waters (3 miles out)....the St Clair barely left the harbour, and the bar was open. We bought (as much as we could carry) tins of Tennents Lager and

The keepie-up was hilarious, like watching Bambi on Ice.

went back up to the top deck to witness Aberdeen from the sea. It is a beautiful sight.

We were on our way. No thoughts were given to the 27 hour travel time to get to Gothenburg. Lunch was served between 12 and 2pm, which was washed down by more Tennents Lager. After lunch the tannoy announced either bingo or a keepie-up competition. We headed to the keepie-up....it was hilarious, like watching Bambi on Ice. The ship was moving about a bit on the sea, so keepie-uppie ended up being standie-uppie, never mind the ball.

After dinner, there was a welcome party hosted by STVs 'Ron Dale' 'Scotlands Mr Music' allegedly ....we didn't last long and headed to the card school. I didn't last long there, as there was some of the lads from the football train card schools from Saturdays. They played better cards than I ever did. So the bar it was again. The Tennents Lager tins were very popular with the pictures of the Tennents Girls on the side.

The next morning after breakfast I went out for fresh air.....must have been something to do with the lager the night before. Just before lunch you could hear singing coming from the bar.....we quickly joined in. In the afternoon they were going to play cash bingo, selling the tickets at £1 each. I handed over a few green notes in exchange for the bingo cards....then headed to the bar again. We forgot about the game, like many others. Some folk just threw away their bingo tickets which we picked up (more on this later).

There were films and competitions going on in the afternoon, but I decided to go and get myself showered and ready for arriving in Gothenburg. I sat on deck, listening to my Walkman as we started to get closer to Gothenburg, passing loads of small industrial islands as we edged closer to the harbour. It was apt that I was actually listening to 'Crushed by the wheels of Industry' by Heaven 17 at the time.

At around 5pm we had arrived and the excitement was rising. Food was served while the authorities did their bit with passport control etc. Then we decided to go and explore, and hit the pubs in Gothenburg. Once off the ship we were singing at the top of our voices and the locals were drawn to us. We were shocked to find just cafes and no bars, that was new to us, but they still served

We noticed that the girls were gorgeous.

beer.....but, fit, how much for beer, was all we heard.

What we noticed was that the girls were gorgeous. We got talking to a group of Swedish lassies who were going to a disco later. We decided to go with them. The blonde-haired blue-eyed lassies were all over anyone wearing a red and white hat or scarf. They wanted a keep-sake from us, and everyone enjoyed that night in the disco. Some lads (including myself) who had already swapped their hats for kisses, went out looking to buy more hats. The Swedish girls were having a ball of a time, and so were we.

Wednesday had arrived...it was the 11th of May...Matchday.....we had breakfast then headed to the city centre. We knew there was a funfair, and headed there. The rain had started and we were getting soaked through. We took cover in a café, grabbed a sandwich and a coke for a change. We then went back to the funfair, and there it was I first witnessed a corkscrew rollercoaster. Did I go on, not a chance, haha.

As the rain continued, we decided to head towards the stadium to sample the atmosphere. I remember seeing a huge stadium coming up, which turned out to be the Ice Hockey stadium. Wow, it was big, but I didn't realize that hockey was a big sport over there. (Remember, there was no internet back then)

We finally got to the 43000 capacity Ullevi Stadium. We knew there was buses ferrying the fans from the ship up after dinner, but we just wanted to be there. What an amazing sight, there were thousands of Aberdeen fans milling about outside taking photos and just singing and dancing in the rain. We were wet, but in a confident mood. The name Real Madrid just never bothered us.

We all know what happened in the game.....but when Johnny scored the winning goal, I went through every emotion of delight with tears and kisses to the surprised Swedish lass that was sitting next to me. When the cup was awarded to God, we were dancing and hugging everyone. I don't even know how I got from my seat up high in the stand, to dancing about the terrace next to the trackside.

Once outside I tried with many others to get into the newly opened fountain. I remember walking back to find the bus to take us back to the ship with one proper wet foot and the other just wet from the rain. We had to get to

the buses as we had to be on board by midnight. Shame that, because there was going to be a big party in town.

But, once back on the ship, our party really started. We had run out of beer on the St Clair, but we were stocked up again. I don't think anyone slept on Wednesday night, and even Thursday morning we were still partying. I remember seeing videos later of the party on-board, and what a state everyone looked. I remember us all singing the night away, and Rod Stewarts 'Sailing' was caught on tape.

The boat people of Aberdonia

During the night on E deck, (there was so many parties on every deck), I witnessed many shenanigans...

Finally, tiredness won, and ended up sleeping.....how different it felt with the room going round and round and not up and down like the previous nights. I woke mid-morning to the sound of a helicopter....they were dropping off newspapers for us to read about winning the cup...this was welcomed by all. On board the ship the ECWC final was being shown on repeat on the TV.

We were still parting at lunch then it was announced after the bingo, that anyone who had tickets left could exchange them for tins of beer at the bar. What?? Yessssss, we had heaps back in our rooms. We ran and collected the tickets, went straight to the bar and exchanged them for more Tennents Lager. We got so much free beer, we grabbed a table and built a castle 4 tins high. We had another great party that night. This ship certainly earned the name of 'The Booze Cruise'.

Five hundred of us, the boat people of Aberdonia, had endured a raucous 27-hour trip on the P&O Ferry, St Clair. We had sailed from our home port on Monday, May 9, raided the ship's duty-free stocks and wrote ourselves into the Guinness Book of Records as part of the world's merriest floating party.

Friday morning came around quite quick, and as we approached the North East Coast, everyone was getting excited again. The singing got louder as we entered the harbour, as we tried to deafen out the sound of the ships horns in the harbour as we were welcomed back in.

To our grateful surprise, the cup was on the dockside with Fergie and McGhee, filmed by BBC and Jane Franchi. Fergie and McGhee shook every single hand that came off that ship, for me, was an amazing gesture. We felt part of the team.

If there was a regret, it was missing the Thursday parade of the cup as the team arrived back with the trophy. 100,000 plus well-wishers - many of them had partied the previous night away up and down Aberdeen's Union Street - lined the streets to welcome back their heroes, carried through the city on the obligatory open-top bus.

But, there is no regrets, I was one of the 500 lucky supporters who enjoyed what was probably the only supporters' ferry to take fans to a Euro Cup Final 'the booze cruise'

PS. I did get a new job when I returned.

Bill Downie
Garthdee

When I was a lass a tiny wee lass

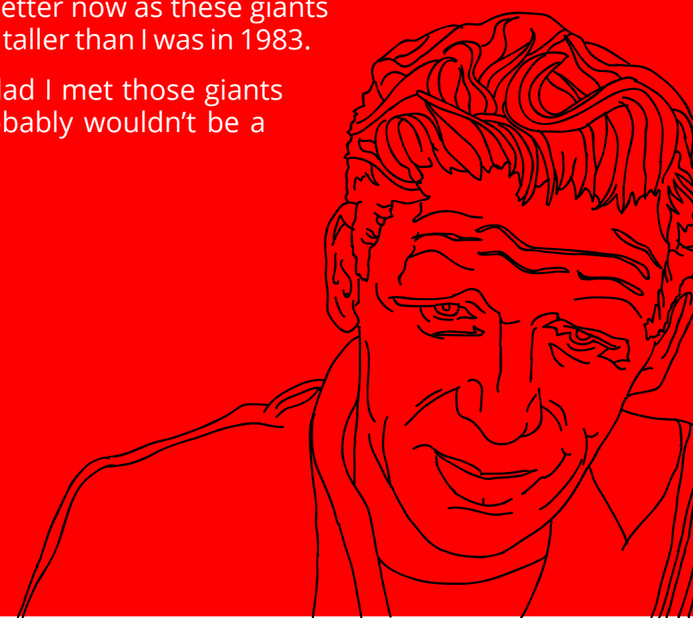
I was just a wee lassie at the time but I still remember 11th May 1983. Not sure if it's happy memories or traumatic.

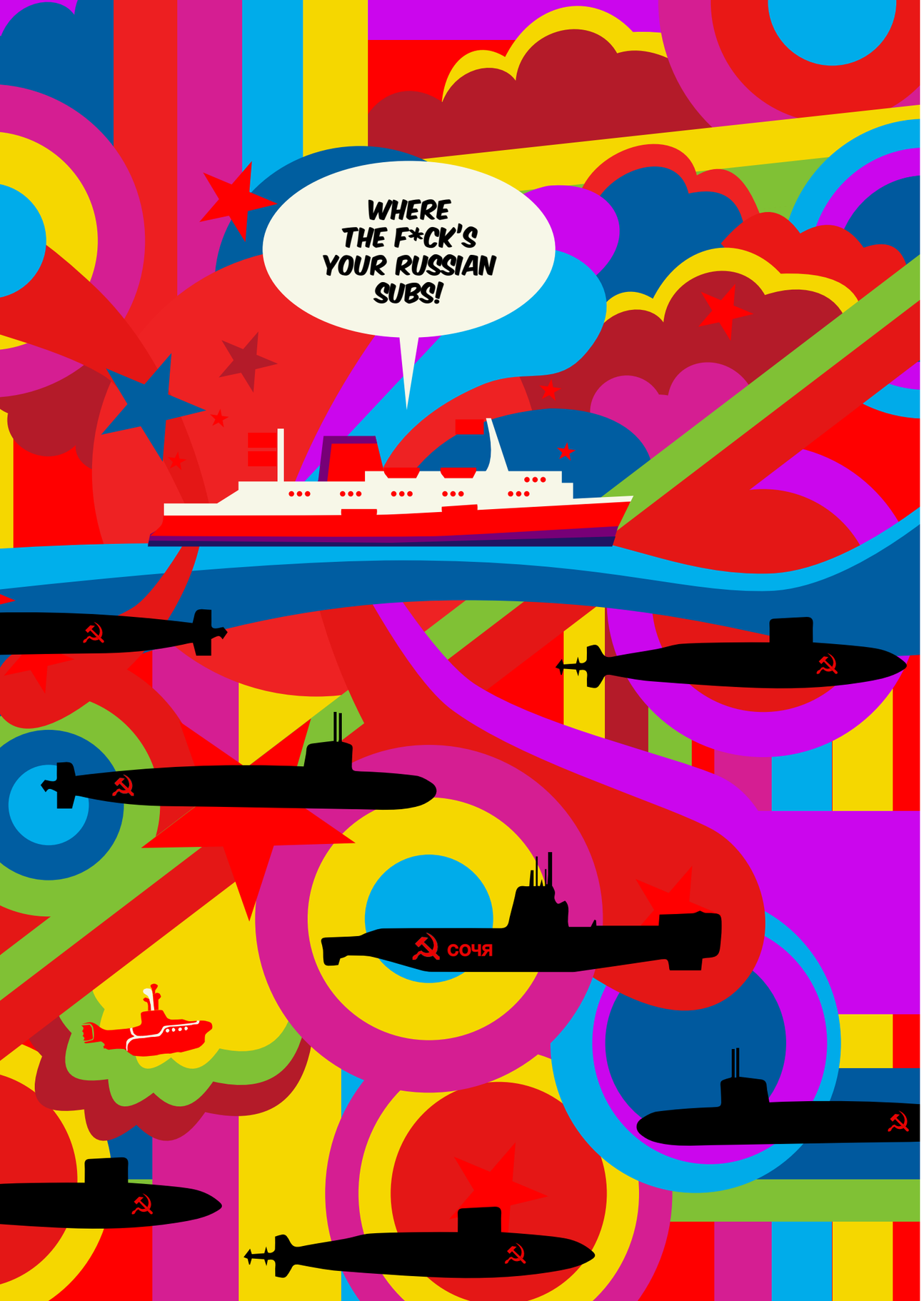
My Mum was taking my brother and I home via Union Street that night. We were walking up the street and all of a sudden what looked like giants to me (grown men in funny tops) came down the street, singing, dancing and hugging everyone in site. The funny tops were football tops but to me they were just weird looking tops. I had no idea what these tops meant to the giants wearing them, but I do now lol. One of the giants approached us, lifted me up (I think I nearly wet my pants). Me being a typical kid who always asked 100 questions, said to the guy, why are you wearing funny clothes, dancing and singing funny songs, his reply, "the f——-g Dons have only gone and done it". Woo hoo said the other giants and then they kissed us all, and said to my Mum, get your kids to Pittodrie every Saturday and they'll be fans for life. They then carried on their merry travels down Union Street.

My Mum told my Granda the next day and yes he started taking my brother, cousin and myself to the football for every home match, and I've been going ever since. So although the giants scared me that night, they also played a part in me going to Pittodrie and being a massive Aberdeen fan. I do still have giant nightmares, but I'm coping better now as these giants are smaller now because I'm taller than I was in 1983.

So that's my story and I'm glad I met those giants all those years ago, as I probably wouldn't be a huge Dons fan.

Susan Aitken





Went on the St Clair absolutely amazing. Five day party. Helicopter flew more beer and newspapers and Rowies to the boat and lowered them on in a net. Boat was drunk dry. It was the time of the Cold War. Can still remember being up on deck totally pissed singing where the F*cks your Russian subs. European song played over and over. Fergie and McGhee met us off the boat and we all got to hold the cup. Amazing times if only we had the vision to kick on then.

Derek Davidson

Original photos, this page and next two: Mediastorehouse.com, Getty Images.

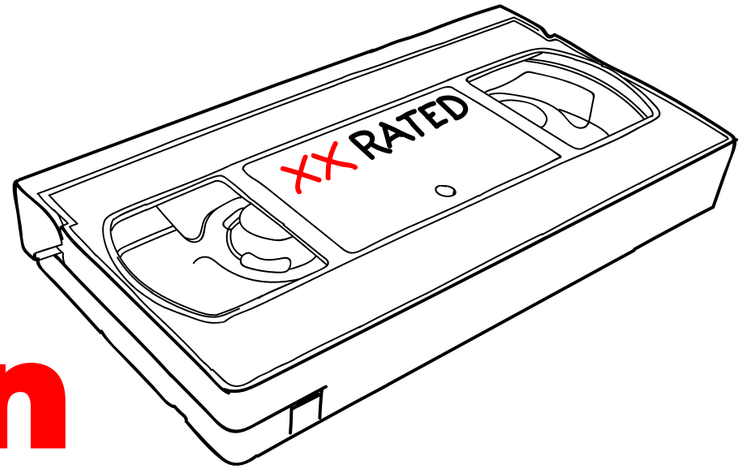
I was 10 and remember the excitement and anticipation well. My Dad insisted we got to stay up and watch extra time, despite it being a school night. History was potentially going to be made and we needed to see it. At the time, getting to stay up late was equally as exciting as the football! What a night.
Lynn Lawler

Being handed the Cup Winners Cup outside the Ulievi stadium with the team, medals were shown to a small support who stayed back, one did go missing, but was handed back! Totally drenched but unbelievably happy with my Dad and two older sisters, I was 14. Our flight home was 3am in the morning... The experience once in a lifetime, and never will be forgotten, so proud my Dad took us. My Dad still has the official programme signed. Standfree**.**
Alan Morrice

Was there with my dad got pissed on, happy day!
Bruce Fraser

Mind that we watched it in the Bankhead Inn. When finished came out Allan had to pick this massive posty off the pavement. Memorable day.
Lorna Reid

My Dad (not an Aberdeen fan) told me (not an Aberdeen fan aged 7) that he was becoming a fan for the night so I said I will too. Final whistle went my Dad went back to not being an Aberdeen fan.
I didn't.
Craig Robb



Heaven on earth

One of my mates had only gotten a 'walk on' ticket, meaning he didn't even have a designated seat to chuck his bag under (obvs. he put it under ours) but on the Monday night after the v boozy party he chatted up a female reporter from *edited* and spent the rest of the trip sleeping in her cabin!

Also that night, the guy who was the last one to board the ferry (I think he had been offshore and had just flown into Aberdeen and jumped into a taxi to the harbour) was very drunk (2 weeks offshore had given him a bit of a thirst). He spotted a red flag on the end of a pole, hanging off the stern of the boat, to a few cheers he climbed onto the pole and started to inch out to get the flag, luckily a few crewmen came rushing out and persuaded him to come down with the argument that if he fell in the captain wouldn't be able to turn round in time to save him. He saw sense.

The picture of some of my mates in the bar show, what was considered 'a round'. It was a crate of 24 tins of Tennents, you just went up to the bar, got one and everybody helped themselves. Despite all the boozing, there wasn't any bother, everyone just partied away and went for a sleep when they'd had enough.

As we docked in Gothenburg, a lot of Dandies were standing at the rails,

when who should we spot, but Archie McPherson doing a piece to camera. This initiated a loud burst of 'Archie's shagging Charlie' (this was due to Archie McPherson's 'excitement' every time he spoke about Charlie Nicholas on the TV, well it seemed that way to Aberdeen fans) He certainly heard us because he turned round and the director was seen to gesticulate in our direction (no pun intended).

During the Wednesday we wandered around Gothenburg city centre and it seemed the Swedes were all supporting Aberdeen. Quite a few had red and white scarves on, I remember watching the army guys walking down the road playing their pipes and being followed by hundreds of people.

The game itself seemed to go by very quickly, I was under the roof quite near to the Real Madrid fans, who were very quiet apart from the guy with a big drum.

After the game I remember seeing all the guys jumping in the fountain outside the ground (which I've since seen on a Gothenburg DVD).

I was left with one mate when trying to get back to the boat and as we walked around trying to get a taxi, we decided to buy some beer, there aren't many, what we would call pubs, in Gothenburg, so we went to a nightclub. As we walked through the door, the bouncer stopped us and said 'no no' in Swedish. We thought we weren't getting in because we looked so young, so turned to leave, as we spoke about what to try next, the bouncer said 'you Aberdeen?' when we said 'yes' he pushed us through the doors to the club 'no Sweden tonight' he said. Inside the club it was heaving with Dandies, the club owner had obviously realised that the Reds were going to be celebrating big time and wanted to fill his club (and tills) with Scots. We had to be at the boat by midnight so we bought a few beers and went on our way.

That night was one big celebratory party (as you could probably imagine). About 2 or 3 in the morning, one of my mates said that the crew had a video of the game, which we could go and watch in the crew quarters, this we did and the bonus was that the price for alcohol in the crew quarters was even cheaper than the main part of the ship! The match video was shown constantly from then on in various parts of the ship.

Another winners' party was on in the bar/lounge on Thursday night I think I remember seeing it on YouTube as part of a compilation of news reports about

the St Clair from Grampian and BBC Scotland. Boozy Reds and much singing.

Around midnight we were told in a whisper that an X rated video was going to be shown in one of the dining room TV's. Being very young and curious (different days now) a group of us sneaked off to the room, It was quite full and we got seats at the back, some big crew member said he'd got it in Sweden and there was much anticipation in the room. Just as it was away to start a massive guy (who I think drank in the Castle Bar) stood up and loudly said 'remember the first person who leaves to

go to the toilet, is away for a wank and is a total wanker'. This put a lot of pressure on the guys watching as nobody wanted to be the first one to leave (it seems

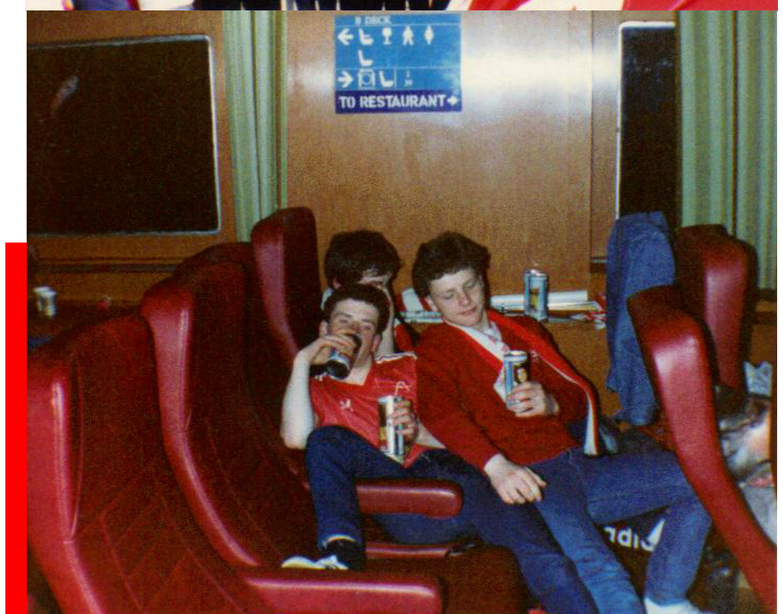
stupid when you're sober writing it down, but it was a big thing at that moment). The video turned out to be the original 'Emmanuelle' the soft core one, we had all already seen it, but didn't want to be the first ones to leave. As it happened the first guy to get up and go to the door was the Reporting Scotland journalist who was on the St Clair to report on us (his name was *edited, reluctantly*) he paused at the door and turned and said something like 'excuse me guys' and left to the shouts of 'wanker' and laughter.

As we approached the Scottish coast on Friday morning, a Bristows helicopter delivered papers and rowies by winching them onto the deck (my mum worked for Bristows at the time) these were distributed free to whoever wanted them, then we got the big surprise that Fergie and Mark McGhee were at the quayside, (Fergie had turned up at the departure to see us off).

My main memory of the trip was that everyone just went out and enjoyed themselves, there wasn't (as far as I saw) any drunken arguments or stand offs, people were respectful of each other and you could speak away to anybody whether you knew them or not. I was semi boozy the whole time, but so were a lot of people, and it was the best trip of my life.

David Bisset

Photo left: David with Fergie, McGhee and the cup. The photos on these pages, and the following two are David Bisset's.



I followed the DONS to Gothenburg on P&O Ferries

M.V. ST. CLAIR

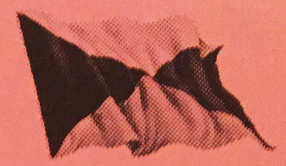
EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP FINAL
ABERDEEN v REAL MADRID
GOTHENBURG 11th MAY 1983

I followed the DONS to Gothenburg on P. & O. Ferries M.V. St. Clair

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP FINAL
ABERDEEN V REAL MADRID
GOTHENBURG 11th May 1983

BOARDING CARD

Mr D. BESETT



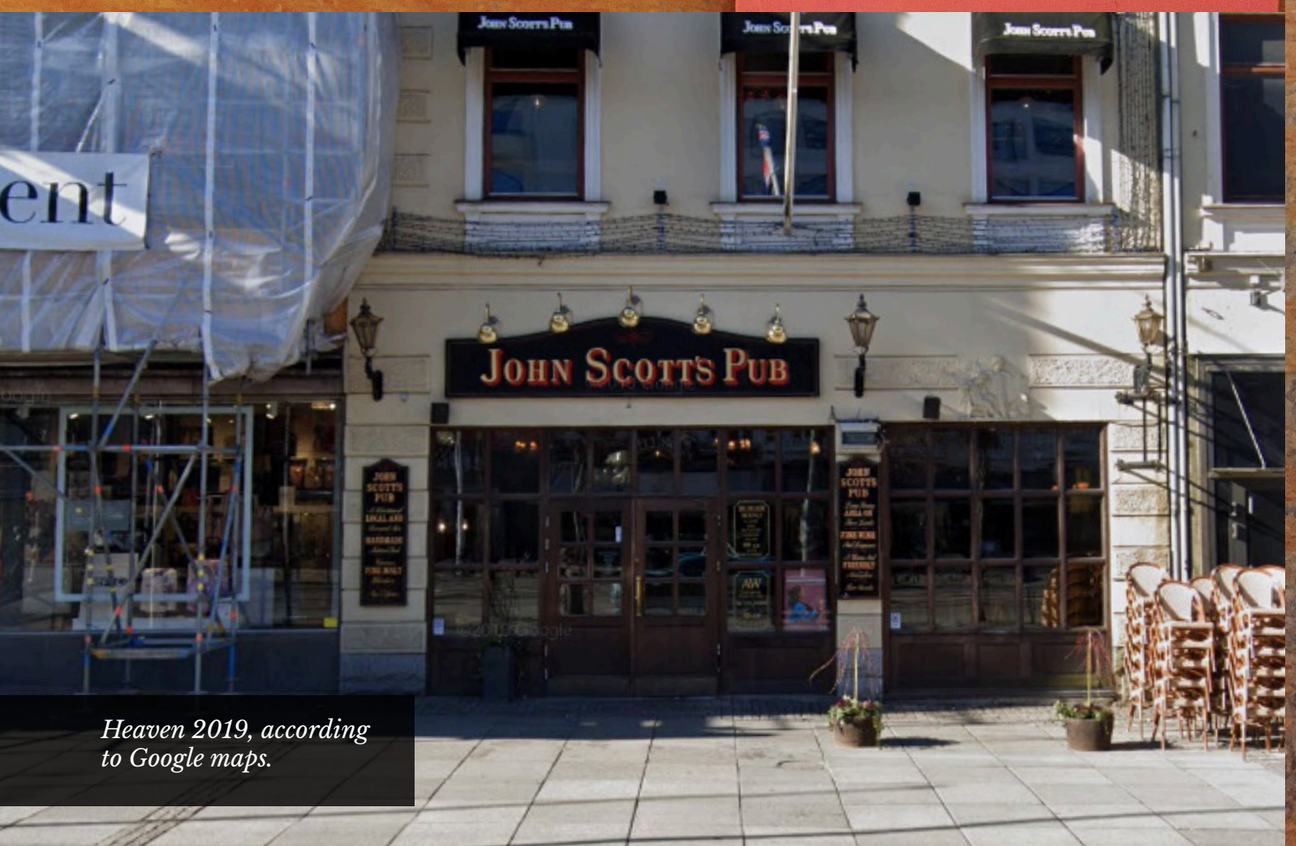
P&O Ferries
Orkney and Shetland Services

M.V. ST. CLAIR

RECLINING SEAT No. 46

B DECK

DATE 9th - 11th May



Heaven 2019, according to Google maps.

Heaven

Avenyn 15 ☎ 131632

DISCO FÖR DEJ 16-20ÅR FREDAG 22-02

DISCO FÖR DEJ ÖVER 20ÅR LÖRD. 02-06

LITE UR SOMMARENS PROGRAM:

13/5 UBANGI
20/5 ASTON REYMERS RIVALER
27/5 VIVA
3/6 REEPERBAHN
10/6 MARIE BERGMAN BAND

PROVA HEAVEN NU PÅ FREDAG 13/5 OCH DU FÅR FRI ENTRÉ + EIT MEDLEMSKORT VILKE GER DEJ 10:- RABATT PÅ ENTRÉN RESTEN AV 1983.

My indistinct memory is after the game, having got seperated from our other four pals, me and my cousin Alex were looking for a pub, still ever so slightly inebriated. We asked a group of gorgeous young lasses who didn't understand a word until we demonstrated what we needed. Somehow they showed us to a bar full of Scottish tartan and flags, not to mention every jock in Gothenburg that night, including our four mates! That's about the last thing I remember until we arrived back at Dyce Airport, but I'm sure it will come back to me sometime!

Bob Cran

My sister in law and myself went to Gothenburg with the Dyce Supporters. We both loved being there, our husbands stayed at home as they did not like football. After the game finished it took well over one hour to get out, but no one cared, we were all happy. We had to walk back to our hotel but we did not care, we got lots of kisses and hugs from supporters, it was brilliant.

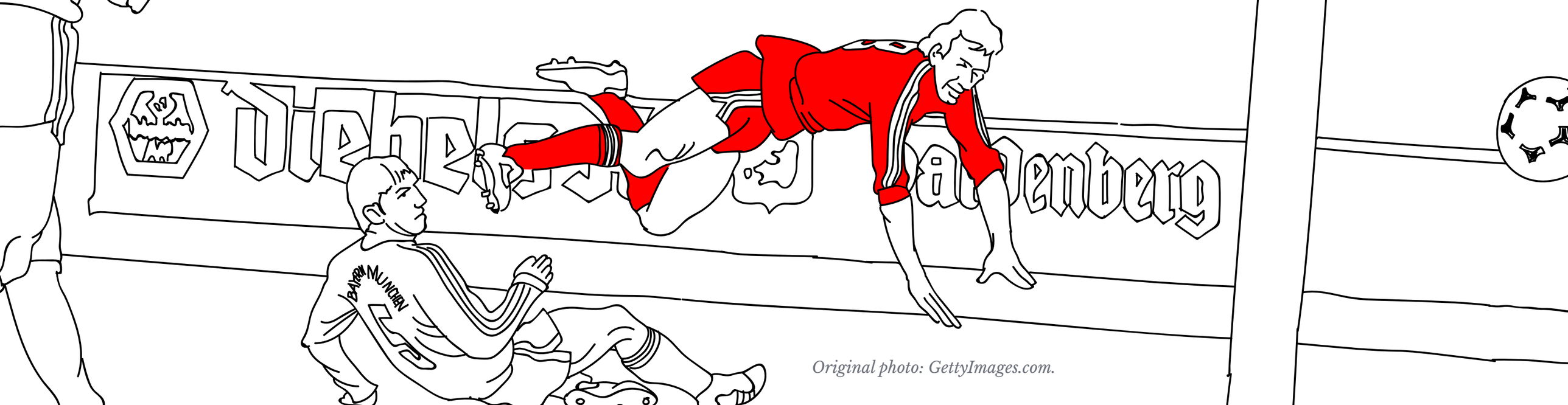
Hellen Mcgillivray

I was driving my taxi. I went back out to work after the match. The town was jumping. I remember a guy offering me £15 to take him to Ellon. He had tired himself out celebrating. The fare at the time was only £8.

Fin Hall

Was over in Gothenburg. Hotel Varberg in the town of Varberg itself. Did phone one of my then penfriends in Sheffield and still laugh when she asked me if I saw the game on tv. 'Nah, I'm phoning direct from our hotel in Sweden.' I said to her. Within a fortnight I sent her a match programme and various other stuff to do with my wee trip over there. Maybe she still has them, as we lost touch about 1986/7?

George Scully



Original photo: GettyImages.com.

My five minutes of fame

At the then age of 31, I was standing in the foyer of the Europa Hotel in Gothenburg with my father talking to our good friend, the wonderful Jack Webster, about the game the next day (what else, and the excitement was building), when the great Archie McPherson strolls up and started speaking to me! – I had never met him in my life.

He asked me how I had found things, and when I told him that the city was very expensive, he immediately wheeled me outside, along the streets, to a camera and lights set up, with the background of the famous trams of Gothenburg.

He asked me to repeat my story of my Dad and I going for lunch, one pasta and one pizza - £6 not a problem, but when we each had a HALF pint of lager, the bill came to £12!

The interview was shown on the BBC news back in Scotland, so I now have a recording of that and then the whole game to watch over and over as the years have gone by.

The photos on the following page of me then, from the BBC interview, and now, where have all the years gone?

My three Dons supporters sons and one daughter have been made to watch it, and my four grandsons will soon be following on – all of them Dons supporters!

Mike Munro
Grantown-on-Spey

GOTHENBURG DIARY

I was lucky enough to go to the game, it was quite an adventure, so here's what I can remember from that week.

At that time I was an 18 year old working at the Norco Superstore on Berryden Road, the usual friends that I went to football with couldn't afford to go, but I was desperate to attend this special occasion.

So I was delighted when my boss Graeme Borthwick told me, him and another two friends were going and would I like to go with them? Of course yes was my answer!

Graeme was going with a friend from Aberdeen and meeting another friend from Aberdeen but who now lived in London, where he was attending university.

So travel plans were made, the overnight bus from Aberdeen to London, then the train from London to Harwich, then a ferry to Gothenburg, it sounded great, roll on May.

SO HERE WE GO

Sunday 8th May

Finally the day had arrived, we had arranged to meet for a pint before boarding the overnight bus to London. I met Graeme's chum for the first time, to this day I still cant remember his name or his other friend that we met in London. So we boarded the bus and set off on the first part of our journey, a nice 12 hour trip to London.

Monday 9th May

We arrived at approx. 7am, it had been a long night with a few stops at motorway stations on the way, I cant recall anything exciting to write about. When we arrived in London we had to make our way to Brixton as this was where our fellow supporter stayed. I remember the three of us walking through Brixton at 8 in the morning with our Aberdeen scarves on and getting some strange looks. After a short rest we had to go out and pay for our travel arrangements, the friend in London had booked them for us but they still had to be paid for. Once we got there, there was a problem, we had only been booked one way, so we had to hastily arrange some homeward bound travel, so a train and another ferry was quickly booked, but we had no where to stay when we got there. This problem would have to be solved later.

So after getting some Swedish currency we set off, we caught the train from London up to Harwich to get the overnight ferry to Gothenburg. It was about a 24 hour journey on the ferry, there was some more Aberdeen fans on it, so this livened up the journey, a few drinks were consumed and a few songs were sung, the normal passengers on the ferry seemed to enjoy the occasion and joined in, and they soon learned the words to the European song and the Northern Lights! We had a cabin booked so at least we got a decent night's sleep.

Tuesday 10th May

We didn't arrive in to Gothenburg till about 7pm if I remember correctly, so first we had to find somewhere to sleep that night. Luckily Graeme had some other friends that were there, they had flown over and were staying in a hotel, so we met up with them and went back to their hotel and

dropped off our bags, we then headed out in to the town. There was Aberdeen fans everywhere it was amazing to see. The locals had taken Aberdeen to their hearts, which was just as well seeing as there was so many of us there! So a great night was had by everyone, then it was time to go back to the hotel and sneak in and enjoy sleeping on the floor!

Wednesday 11th May

So the big day had finally arrived, we were all up dressed and raring to go! When we left the hotel the first port of call was the train station, as we had to catch the train at 3am after the game we had to go and drop of our bags as we weren't carrying them about all day. So this was done and we headed in to the town centre, it was red

They only served drink when you ordered food, so food was ordered

and white everywhere, there wasn't a Madrid fan to be seen at all. This is the hard part, trying to recall what we actually did that day? I remember visiting some shopping centre because the Cup Winners Cup was on display for everyone to see, and I also remember seeing Jock Stein and Archie Macpherson going about with a TV crew filming everyone. I also remember going for a pint only to be told we had to order food as the bars in Sweden were different to ours, they only served drink when you ordered food, so food was ordered and drink was consumed! This is the weird bit, for some reason we ended up in a fair ground later in the afternoon, where we met loads of Swedes and went on some roller coasters! Then it was back to the bar and at about this time the heavens opened and it started pouring of rain, this continued for a few hours and at some point there was rumours that the game was going to be called off as the pitch was flooded. Luckily this didn't happen but because of the weather most locals gave the game a miss which led to a very low crowd for such an important game. So as we reached the stadium it was a sight to be seen. It was like a home game with all the Aberdeen supporters there. We entered the stadium and found ourselves in a covered area behind the goals, there was a few Swedes in that end who seemed to be enjoying themselves letting of flares and fire crackers.

So the game commenced and we all know what happened next, we won!

As the game got nearer the end we ended up leaving our covered area and made our way down to the area near the half way line , it was wet there but who cared? Once the game had finished and we had all celebrated we left and outside the ground there was a water fountain and there was quite a few fans jumping about in it! Well to be honest they couldn't get much wetter. So we then headed back in to town and it was buzzing , the locals had came out to join in the celebrations. We ended up in some night club and the singing and drinking carried on for hours! The only down side for us was the fact we had to catch a train at 3am! So we made our way to the train station, there was a few supporters kicking about and it was obvious that we weren't going to be the only ones on this train.

Thursday 12th May

So this began at 3am on the train, and continued for most of the day we ended up going thru Denmark and Germany to reach our destination at the hook of Holland where we were to catch a ferry back to Harwich. It was a long journey probably because we were all tired due to the lack of sleep. I do remember the weird site of armed police boarding the train as you entered a new country, passports had to be shown and destinations given. When there was a policeman standing over you with a machine gun you did what was asked. We arrived at the port and went to board our ferry, by now it was obvious there was quite a lot of Aberdeen supporters using this ferry. The journey was an overnight one again, but this one was more enjoyable due to all the Aberdeen supporters. The ferry was just like a huge party, singing, dancing and drinking went on late in to the night. We didn't have a cabin for this trip so we had to sleep on seats like on a plane.

Friday 13th May

On arrival back in Harwich we had to catch a train back to London,

Once in London it was back to Brixton for a while as we didn't catch our bus till about 7pm. This time walking through London it was different, people knew who we were and where we had been, Aberdeen F.C. was being talked about after our fabulous win against the mighty Real Madrid. So later that day about 7pm the three of us boarded the bus home, again nothing exciting to report just a few stops at motorway service stations to break up the long journey.

Saturday 14th May

So finally we arrived back about 7am, we said our good byes and headed home, I jumped on the bus to Northfield still proudly wearing my scarf, which got fellow passengers talking to me and asking about the game. Once home I caught up on all the news, my Mum had collected most of the newspapers from that week so I could see what had been reported, I still have all the papers up in my loft and every now and then they're taken out to reminisce about what had happened.

Some of the photos were amazing! But my only regret to this day is that I wasn't home on the Thursday to be part of the crowd welcoming the team home. It looked unreal, Union Street busting at the seams and Pittodrie packed out. To finish off this day there was a small matter of a game against Hibs, so I got ready and headed to the game, the place was sold out for some reason.

We duely trounced Hibs 5 - 0. A perfect day to end a perfect week!

Jim Fraser

All the newspaper photos and memorabilia on the following 12 pages are Jim Fraser's.

ABERDEEN F.C.

ULLEVI STADION

GÖTEBORG

11·V·1983

Final
Cupvinnar-Cupen

ONSDAGEN DEN 11 MAJ 1983 KL. 20.15

PRIS 50: – Förköp 5: –	STÅPLATS-LÄKTAREN	Sektion Z-Å	Nr	181

Final
Cupvinnar-Cupen

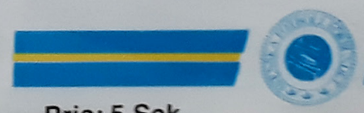
ONSDAGEN DEN 11 MAJ 1983 KL. 20.15

PRIS 50: – Förköp 5: –	STÅPLATS-LÄKTAREN	Sektion O	Nr	2311

EUROPEAN
CUP WINNERS' CUP

ABERDEEN FC
REAL MADRID CF

FINAL TIE OF MAY 11th 1983
GOTHENBURG • SWEDEN



SVENSKA FOTBOLLFÖRBUNDET

Pris: 5 Sek.

EUROPEAN

1983 IN GOTHENBURG

CUP-WINNER

ABERDEEN

THURSDAY May 12 1983

Daily Record

16p SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST DAILY SALE No. 29,332

EUROPEAN SOCCER SPECIAL

Aberdeen 2
Real Madrid 1

(After extra-time)

GLORY FOR THE DONS

Last gasp goal wins the Cup

■ It was the moment a cheer echoed around Scotland . . John Hewitt scored for Aberdeen . . . the Dons were on their way to triumph in Europe.

■ Scottish footba had come of ag Aberdeen, after 12 minutes of nerv tingling tensio became the thi club to bring European tropl home with them.

■ The dream Dons had battled and fought in the rain to curb the menace of Spanish masters Real Madrid. With eight minutes left John gave them their reward.

■ Midfield maes Gordon Strac danced a jig of jo was copied 15,000 immacula behaved fans travelled fr Aberdeen.

FINAL ECSTASY ... Dons fans celebrate in style after their night of triumph in Sweden.

All the late action . . Page 44

Scots strike threat to BL jobs

By MICHAEL FOX

WORKERS at a strike-hit factory were yesterday warned that a fight over 20 redundancies could put at risk another 10,000 jobs.

The grim message was delivered to 1300 men at the Albion axle plant in Glasgow by BL's truck division manufacturing director, Ian McKinnon.

Workers at the plant stopped work on Monday in protest at the refusal of the company to lift a threat of compulsory redundancies.

But Mr McKinnon said yesterday that all but 20 of 110 redundancies planned by the state-owned firm had been filled by volunteers.

Problem

And, with people still offering to leave the company, the problem could be cracked by Friday.

The dispute, which involves manual workers, has stopped production of axles for Leyland's truck plants in Bathgate and Preston, Lancashire, which between them employ some 10,000.

Last night, plant convener Jim MacLean, said: "The strike will end the moment the company take the threat of compulsory redundancies off the table."

LIBERACE
COLOUR SPECIAL CENTRE PAGES

BINGO
MORE LUCKY NUMBERS PAGE 33

WIN A SUPER HOLIDAY FREE
PAGE

FRIDAY May 13 1983

Daily Record

THE HAPPY HEROES CENTRE PAGES / FERGIE STAYS PUT Page 46

THE CITY STOPPERS

THE city of Aberdeen ground to a halt yesterday as the European Cup Winners' Cup was paraded through the streets, held aloft by manager Alex Ferguson.

At least 100,000 people lined the streets as the triumphant Dons took an open-top bus from the airport to Pittodrie, where 24,000 fans waited to greet their heroes.

There were cheers, songs and dances of delight as the team made their way through the city.

Virtually all of Grampian Police Force were out lining the route but with such a good-natured crowd they didn't have any problems.

One old supporter said: "Aberdeen has never seen anything like this. Not even the Coronation had scenes like these."

There were massive crowds all along Union Street and in the office windows — some people even perched on building tops.

At the Town House, Lord Provost Alex Collie was on the balcony, sporting his rosette and a dazzling red and white "bunnet".

It took the bus two hours to drive the eight miles from the airport.

And at Pittodrie, the crowd screamed their approval as skipper Willie Miller carried the cup on to the park.

Record Picture Team
ERIC CRAIG
IAN TORRANCE
WILLIAM THORNTON
PETER TURNER

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FRIDAY May 13 1983

Daily Record

16p SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST DAILY SALE No. 29,333

SONG OF SUCCESS

CITY SALUTES THE DANDY DONS

THREE heroes take the salute of a singing, chanting, ecstatic crowd—Dons' goalscorers Eric Black, left, John Hewitt and their manager Alex Ferguson. They brought the European Cup Winners' Cup home to a city that gave them a welcome unknown in its history. More than 100,000 people turned a victory parade into a singalong party celebrating Aberdeen's success.

Evening Express

No. 32,745 (EST. 1879) THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1983 16p

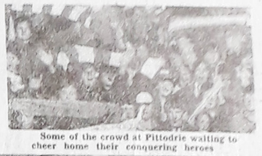
LAWN MOWERS FROM SMITHS of Hazlehead

SAVE UP TO £25 on a pair of Pads at MOSTYNS 24 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen

LATEST

Fans line the victory route

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET



Some of the crowd at Pittodrie waiting to cheer home their conquering heroes

The Dons back home in Aberdeen with the cup

Picture by DOUG CARNEGIE

THE CONQUERING heroes of Aberdeen touched down at Dyce at 2.40 this afternoon to a rousing reception.

Crowds of airport workers cheered and cheered as Dons skipper Willie Miller was first off the plane proudly holding aloft the European Cup Winners Cup.

And the Dons were treated to a special cake presented by Douglas Ross on behalf of an offshore catering company with the lettering "You did it for us."

Manager Alex Ferguson insisted on taking the players through the airport terminal building so that the fans could see the trophy.

Then it was off in triumph in their open-top bus to receive the accolade of the Red Army who lined the route to Pittodrie in their thousands.

Reservists who had watched the Dons' triumph on the telly led the parade.

They were joined in their joy by many front-line troops back from Gothenburg bleary, weary but ecstatic.

And the cadets were there too, taking advantage of teacher's blind eye to line the victory route from Dyce to Pittodrie through the heart of Aberdeen.

At Pittodrie, a huge crowd gathered hours before their heroes' arrival. Youngsters cavorted on the pitch and the game was a sea of red and white.

A message of congratulation was received by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen from the Queen Mother.

"I was delighted to learn of Aberdeen's splendid victory in the European Cup Winners Cup and I send my warmest congratulations to all concerned."

GRAMPIAN Fire Brigade today devised a unique guard of honour for the Dons — in the form of a line-up of fire engines.

The red and silver appliances were lined up at Brigade headquarters in Anderson Drive to stand guard as the open-top bus carrying the team headed for the city centre.

A message to the Dons from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street read: "Congratulations and well done!"

The victory celebrations grew as Aberdonians round the world drank a toast to the magnificent Dons today—and the Swedes paid tribute to the great behaviour of the Scots fans.

Shops, bars and hotels in Gothenburg were prepared for trouble and police leave had been cancelled because of the reputation for violence of "British" football supporters.

But police in the Scandinavian port were delighted. A spokesman said: "It was a pleasure to have them here and they would be welcome again any time.

"They were singing in the streets, but there was no trouble."

The Swedes welcomed the Aberdeen fans with open arms. Bars and discotheques remained open as usual and there were no restrictions.

Thousands of delirious Scots danced the night away in the Swedish night clubs, celebrating the team's famous 2-1 win over Real Madrid in the European Cup Winners Cup Final.

Five fans were arrested before the match for being drunk and incapable.

However they were all released three hours before the statutory six hour "sober up" time, because a police official said: "They had come a long way and we wanted them to see the match too."

SPECIAL

Another five fans missed the St Clair ferry back to Aberdeen and once again the police came to the rescue by making alternative arrangements to get them home.

British Consul Joseph Clark said the fans were a credit to their country.

He said: "They proved once again that Scottish fans travelling abroad can behave and be excellent ambassadors.

Back home, the battle cry was "It's nae real" as the victorious Red Army roared into Aberdeen Airport today.

The first aircraft touched down shortly before 7 a.m.

Lord Provost Alex Collie was beaming with pride when he arrived back in the city today.

He was full of praise for the legions of fans.

"They were great ambassadors for the city," he said proudly.

Aberdeen children today bombarded their teachers with requests for time off school to see the Dons return in triumph.

Official line from regional convener John Sorrie was that the region was required by law to have its schools open for a prescribed number of days per year.

But he added that he knew many parents would take their youngsters off school this afternoon and he did not believe anyone would take a very dim view.

The last words have to go to the Dons themselves.

Said Gordon Strachan: "Was it raining? I never really noticed the conditions and it wasn't as bad as it might have looked.

And chairman Dick Donald, whose life-long ambition was realised, said: "The UEFA observers said we were a credit to the competition and that pleased me immensely. It was a truly great night."

By Chris Holme in Aberdeen and David Love in Gothenburg

Very high and not so dry!

From Bill Mackintosh on the St Clair

NOBODY slept on this ship last night — unless they had better earplugs than I had.

There was one long triumphant party from the time St Clair left Gothenburg with 500 of the happiest supporters in the world on board.

And two surprises announced this morning put the icing on the cake as far as Aberdeen fans were concerned.

The crew have arranged a video recording of last night's football match to be shown to any fan who is awake this afternoon.

And St Clair herself, heading for a later than expected arrival in Aberdeen, will be met at the quayside on Friday by Alex Ferguson with the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Aberdeen took over the city centre in Gothenburg last night in joyous celebration.

Gordon Highlanders from Germany led the victory march to the city centre as the 10,000-strong Red Army were piped from the stadium by Private Alastair McDonald, from Lang Strachi, Aberdeen, and Private Alistair Barclay, from Buckie.

They were part of a 40-strong team from the Gordons based in Germany

GRAMPIAN'S HOUSE OF FIAT SPECIAL PANDA DRIVE-AWAY DEAL

Only 10% Deposit

FIAT PANDA

PRICE ON THE ROAD £3275; DEPOSIT £330; BALANCE £2945.

REPAYABLE OVER 48 MONTHS AT £86.03 PER MONTH.

EQUIVALENT WEEKLY PAYMENT OF £21.51 PER WEEK FOR 208 WEEKS.

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% A.P.R. written details on request.

Only 10 left for special deal.

Colours: Red/Black/White/Beige.

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AMAZING REDUCTIONS WE HAVE OF OUR SELECTED ONLY LAST FEW DAYS!

OF GREAT USED CARS, CALL IN SOON!

	PREVIOUS PRICE	NOW
82 (X) VW JETTA C 1.6 Diesel	(£4890)	£4670
81 (W) AUDI 100 GL 5E Auto	(£5800)	£4965
79 (T) OPEL ASCONA 2.0S	(£2680)	£2380
79 (T) TALBOT ALPINE GLS	(£3295)	£2685
82 (X) CITROEN GSA PALLAS	(£4580)	£4165
81 (W) VW POLO N 900	(£3280)	£3160

Congratulations to the Dons from all of us at Cults

82 (X) VW GOLF C 1100	(£3885)	£3675
81 (W) VW JETTA GLS 1.5	(£4185)	£3890
80 (V) VW PASSAT LS 1.6 5 dr	(£3365)	£3120
80 (V) AUDI 80 GLS	(£3865)	£3665
80 (V) TALBOT SUNBEAM TRIO 1.3	(£2750)	£2550

FOR A BETTER DEAL, IT'S THOMSONS of CULTS

Telephone ABERDEEN 861188

CASH—Miners union to give Labour £125,000 on top of last month's £250,000 donation for election campaign.

FOOTBALL OFF — All matches at Hazlehead and Sheddocksley postponed.

The FT Index at 3 p.m. was down 2.9 at 669.7.

RACING RESULTS

3.10 York—1 Larinov, 2 Merely A Secret, 3 Salvinia 11-2, 12-1. 7-2 fav.

3.15 Ludlow—1 Pieroth 2 Lewis Estates, Golden Knoll 2-1 fav. 11-1, 11-4

3.40 York — 1 Lin Slinger, 2 Khairpou 3 Broken Rail 33-1, 7-1, 8-1

Stewards' inquiry

3.45 Lud.— 1 Dundr Bay, 2 Greenb Park, 3 Kerry Ja 50-1, 7-2, 5-1

INSIDE: He we win! Our 4-pag pullout wi

KINGS OF EUROPE!

ALEX FERGUSON

They said it . . .

Now everyone knows about the Dons

By ALASTAIR GUTHRIE

THE entire length and breadth of Europe was today echoing with the name of the proud new holders of the Cup Winners' Cup — Aberdeen.

And Alex Ferguson, the manager who has shaped a young team destined to dominate the 1980s, gave the glittering trophy another reassuring hug today and forecast: "This could just be the start for this club."

Last night's historic and dramatic extra time win over European legends Real Madrid means much more to the ecstatic Dons boss than just being able to show off one of the world's major prizes at Pittodrie.

For no matter where football is played everyone knows about the Dons and Aberdeen now rank among Scottish football's immortals.

Throughout his five highly successful years at the Pittodrie helm, Ferguson has worked feverishly at getting the name of Aberdeen spread across the European map.

Delirious fans

Today they are not only the team on everyone's lips but the Dons stand as feared opponents as well.

Ferguson's goal was reached in glorious style in this sodden Swedish seaport of Gothenburg before 10,000 drenched but delirious Dons fans who witnessed Aberdeen finally completing their apprenticeship in Europe.

And the champagne corks were still popping as an ever-smiling Ferguson prepared to depart from Sweden amid emotional scenes as scores of scarlet-clad Dons supporters flocked to offer their warm and sincere congratulations.

Ferguson told me what last night's cliff hanging 2-1 victory over the most famous club in the world means to his Dons.

"Some people had never heard of Aberdeen up until a month ago until they learned we were playing against Real Madrid in a European final. But today everyone will have heard of us and this is a major achievement for the club and for Scottish football.

"I was told that 42 different countries watched the game live on TV last night, so they all know our capabilities. I wouldn't be surprised if there were 42 invites for tours waiting for us at Pittodrie right now!

Up there with the best

"Bobby Robson, the England manager, has been telling me for the past couple of years how important it was to win a trophy in Europe. I couldn't agree more.

"And today Aberdeen stand up there on the same high platform as clubs such as Celtic, Rangers, Manchester United, Aston Villa and Liverpool, who have all tasted success in Europe."

The Dons have arrived in the big time and after wins over former European champions such as Bayern Munich and Real Madrid no one can argue over their right to be there.

The comforting thought for Ferguson is that he will have his present squad of European heroes tied to Pittodrie for the next full year at least.

Only Doug Bell, who tragically had to miss out on a winner's medal through injury, has to negotiate a new contract in the coming weeks.

The rest of the squad, including gems such as Willie Miller, Alex McLeish, Gordon Strachan and Peter Weir will all be defending the Cup Winners' Cup — unless the odds swing in Aberdeen's championship favour on Saturday.

And the Dons will enjoy a spin-off from their historic European triumph with a Super Cup meeting with either old foes Hamburg or the formidable Juventus.

The West Germans and the Italians are due to play their European Cup Final in two weeks in Athens, and the winners will face the Dons in the autumn for the title of the undisputed champions of Europe.

That Pittodrie tie could mean a £200,000 cash bonanza for the men who today have a firm grasp on the Cup Winners' Cup.

CASUAL TROUSERS
ARE YOUR CASUAL TROUSERS FIT TO FACE THE SPRING?

These casual trousers are the highlight of this season's collection.

Informally styled for smartness and comfort, they feature a self-belted waist.

The stretch polyester has a remarkable natural stretch and fullness even after washing.

You can be really active in these trousers knowing that they will not get out of shape.

At £21.95 pairs for £38), ...ay soon save their ...st on dry-cleaning ...s.

...o available in a ...sack weave poly-...er cloth with the ...me styling as ...ve. ...light grey, light ..., brown and navy ... lengths up to ... Waist sizes to

Just like a fairy tale

JOHN McMASTER

AFTER playing one of his finest games for Aberdeen, full back John McMaster said: "What about John Hewitt? He is certainly the man with the Midas touch. But for me this is just like a fairy tale.

"We have shown that we have learned our lessons from Liverpool and Hamburg and now we must maintain our standards and stay at the top.

"I sat down in the dressing room after the game and when I looked around I noticed that the lads with the winners' medals were all around 18, 19 and 20.

"If they can do that now what will they be able ...

ERIC BLACK slams the ball home from close range to put the Dons one up.

JOHN HEWITT sees his header fly past the Real keeper for the Dons' extra time winner.

ERIC BLACK rises above the Real defence to send a header towards goal.

I knew I would score — Hewitt

LOCAL hero John Hewitt always knew he would score against Real Madrid.

"I had a feeling I would get a goal and I told that to a few of the lads before the game.

"I don't want to sound big-headed, but I really fancied my chances of scoring when I came on as a substiture."

"I predicted before the match that Eric Black and I would score against them and everything has come true. It was agony sitting there on the bench, particularly when we weren't putting the chances away."

"But not many people can say they have scored the winning goal in a European Cup Final."

The 20-year-old Hewitt, the only Aberdeen born and bred player on the spongy Ullevi Stadium pitch, is worth his weight in gold to the Dons. His scoring talents saw the end of Dynamo Tirana and Bayern Munich on the way to the final.

Strachan and Weir best—di Stefano

THE arrogance and the strut in Alfredo di Stefano's stride disappeared last night when he faced the Press.

"The players cannot be happy with their standards and obviously they are all very sad. Perhaps Aberdeen had more luck because of the conditions.

"I must congratulate Aberdeen and I thought their best players were No. 7 Strachan and No. 11 Weir. But most of my players thought their first goal was offside."

Di Stefano denied his side were hoping to stretch the final into a penalty shoot-out but that's definitely the way it looked from the terracing.

Real's cynical players made a mockery of di Stefano's pre-match allegations that the Dons were a rough side.

And the referee missed a whole series of nasty off-the-ball incidents.

It looks as though the Italian Gianfranco Menegalli booked Real's Gallego for a typical crunching challenge on Neil Simpson.

Real have now lost the Spanish League and last night's European final, but di Stefano may not be a three times loser this season as his men are favourites to win the Spanish Cup.

Spaniard sets a hot pace

By MITCHELL PLATTS

SPANIARD Jose Canizares fired a six-under-par 64 to set a blistering pace in the £80,000 Martini International, at Wilmslow.

Canizares, beaten in a sudden death finish for the French Open, had seven birdies to set himself up for a crack at the £13,330 top cheque.

But Ryder Cup Scot Sandy Lyle moved in right behind with a five-under-par 65 and declared: "It's a great start after a week off and I'm confident I can win my second event of the year here."

FIRST ROUND
(British or Irish unless stated).

J M Canizares (Spain)	64
S Lyle	65
G Bond	68
D Smyth	68
T Claassens (S Africa)	69
D Frost (S Africa)	69
J Harrison	69
D Sheppard	69
S Graham	70
M King	70
H Henning (S Africa)	71
M Johnson	71
B Lee	71
B Marchbank	71
G Turner	71
P Wakeford (France)	71
G Watine (France)	71
J Morgan	72
B Richardson (S Africa)	72
A Stubbs	72
M Tapia (France)	72
W Westner (S Africa)	72
S Bishop	73
B Cameron	73
C Cox	73
P Hoad	73
O Smith	73
S Somers (Australia)	73

Four Scots in Lions line-up

FOUR Scots are included in the British Lions team for the first match of their New Zealand tour against Wanganui at Spriggens Park on Saturday.

They are John Rutherford, Roy Laidlaw, Iain Milne and John Beattie.

Colin Deans and Ian Paxton are named among the replacements.

The Lions will use the New Zealand midfield format during their 18-match tour.

Instead of playing centres left and right, the norm in British domestic international rugby, Ciaran Fitzgerald's team will play their centres inside and outside — the equivalent of New Zealand's second-five and centre respectively.

Announcing the team for the first match, manager Willie John McBride said: "It is our idea to play inside and outside centres, but we may change. We are flexible. We are not men of fixed ideas."

Robert Ackerman, one of five Welshmen playing in the tour opener, will fill the second-five position with Ireland's Mike Kiernan occupying the outside-centre spot.

Wales full-back Gwyn Evans plays on the left wing. Staff Jones at loose head prop, Robert Norster in the second row and Jeff Squires at blind-side flanker.

There are four Scots, four Irish and three England players named.

The chance has been taken to introduce 13 new Lions, with Squire and Scotland No. 8 John Beattie, the sole previous tourists getting into action at the earliest opportunity.

Cardiff lock Norster provided what is fast becoming a daily injury scare when, within an hour of being named in the side, he went off during the workout after taking a knock on the head. He resumed after a short break.

Full back Dusty Hare, who limped out of Tuesday's session with an ankle injury, trained yesterday and convinced the selection panel of McBride, coach Jim Telfer and Fitzgerald that he had made a complete recovery.

Without a single injury worry to influence their deliberations, the surprise of the selection is the omission of second row Maurice Colclough.

BRITISH LIONS — D. Hare; T. Ringland, R. Ackerman, M. Kiernan, G. Evans, J. Rutherford, R. Laidlaw, S. Jones, C. Fitzgerald (Capt), I. Milne, S. Boyle, R. Norster, P. Winterbottom, J. Beattie, J. Squire.

Replacements — I. Stephens, C. Deans, I. Paxton, T. Holmes, O. Campbell, C. Woodward.

Magri fight

CHARLIE Magri will make the first defence of his world flyweight title at Wembley Arena on September 27 against one of two opponents.

His opponent will be either ... ern WBC and WBA championship fights.

Nevertheless, Laciar is keen to return to London where Magri outpointed him in their previous meeting. "He has never stopped com...

RACING

York

2.00

LOUISE MOILLON ... E Hide 1
TACHEO ... G Duffield 2

Ludlow

2.15—Russian Salad, 2 Be Friendly Too, 3 Lost Valley. (Non-runners: Future Unseen, Tacova, Rusty Fern. SP—5-1, 8-1, 33-1 17 ran
2.45—Chancer's Last, 2 Pizza, 3 Shotang SP—20-1, 6-1, 12-1 16 ran

Late Announcements

Deaths

DUTHIE
Peacefully, at 29 Strichen Road, Fraserburgh, on Thursday, May 12, 1983, Mary Jane Duthie, in her 99th year, retired music teacher, and church organist, beloved eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs William Duthie (fish curer), dear sister of Barbara and dear aunt of Anne and Elise. Funeral private.

OGSTON
Peacefully at Aberdeen Royal ...

It's YULE for a fast & efficient GLAZING SERVICE
IT'S YULE FOR GLASS
A C Yule & Son ABERDEEN & ELGIN
OUR NEW NUMBER ABERDEEN 890000
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CORDINERS GIRDLENESS RD.
PETROL ★★★
39.4P PER LITRE
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Start collecting a set
Cordiners ABERDEEN
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The Premier Lounge
OPEN FRIDAY
ABERDEEN'S PREMIER LOUNGE
Enjoy a quiet drink in the relaxing atmosphere of Aberdeen's PREMIER LOUNGE, before and after the big match
GOLF ROAD, ABERDEEN (opposite Pittodrie Stadium)

Made-to-Measure Sale — 10%
NOW ON — ONLY UNTIL END
Selection of cloth ideal for holiday business suits, jackets, blazers

LAWN MOWERS FROM SMITHS of Maryhead

Evening Express

No. 32,765 (EST. 1879) THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1983 16p

SAVE UP TO £25 on a pair of Shoes at MOSTYNS

CITY FINAL

Fans line the victory route

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET!

THE RED Army turned out in their thousands this afternoon to welcome home their conquering heroes.

Reservists who had watched the Dons' triumph on the telly led the parade.

From DAVID LOVE in Gothenburg and Our REPORTING TEAM in Aberdeen

They were joined in their joy by many front-line troops back from Gothenburg bleary, weary but ecstatic.

And the cadets were there too, taking advantage of teacher's blind eye to line the victory route from Dyce to Pittodrie through the heart of Aberdeen.

A message of congratulation was received by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen from the Queen Mother.

"I was delighted to learn of Aberdeen's splendid victory in the European Cup Winners Cup and I send my warmest congratulations to all concerned."

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He said: "They proved once again that Scottish fans travelling abroad can behave and be excellent ambassadors.

MAGIC

Back home, the battle cry was "It's nae real" as the victorious Red Army roared into Aberdeen Airport today.

Wave after wave of jubilant fans ...

First priority was to buy a paper for proof in print of the night the Dons graduated into Europe's footballing aristocracy.

Airport staff laid down a red carpet for the 4500 fans landing in conveyor-belt style on 47 flights throughout the day.

The first aircraft touched down shortly before 7 a.m.

For Bill Duncan is expecting to become a grandfather sometime today.

Bill, of 14 Craigmaroinn Gardens, Altens, said: "It's all happening at the moment.

"The way things are I could be celebrating again later today."

Bill thought the Dons' performance was out of this world.

"Pure magic," he reckoned.

Lord Provost Alex Collie was beaming with pride when he arrived back in the city today.

He was full of praise for the legions of fans.

"They were great ambassadors for the city," he said proudly.

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Official line from regional convener John Sorrie was that the region was required by law to have its schools open for a prescribed number of days per year.

But he added that he knew many parents would take their youngsters off school this afternoon and he did not believe anyone would take a very dim view.

Head teacher at Summerhill Academy Miss Pat Cormack said pupils in the middle of exams would have time off to study and added: "There will be a lot of revision going on down at Union Street, I'm sure."

The last words have to go to the Dons themselves.

Said Gordon Strachan: "Was it raining? I never really noticed the conditions and it wasn't as bad as it might have looked."

And chairman Dick Donald, whose life-long ambition was realised, said: "The UEFA observers said we were a credit to the competition and that pleased me immensely. It was a truly great night."

■ LOCAL HERO . . . that's Aberdeen super-sub John Hewitt, who made history when he landed the Cup for the Dons with his headed winner only eight minutes from the end of extra time.

Picture by CHARLES FLETT

● INSIDE: Heads we win! Our 4-page pullout with full-page Dons' picture.

● BACK PAGE: Kings of Europe

Very high and not at all dry!

From BILL MACKINTOSH on board St Clair

NOBODY slept on this ship last night — unless they had better earplugs than I had.

There was one long triumphant party from the time St Clair left Gothenburg with 500 of the happiest supporters in the world on board.

And two surprises announced ... put the icing on the cake ...

The crew have arranged a video recording of last night's football match to be shown to any fan who is awake this afternoon.

And St Clair herself, heading for a later than expected arrival in Aberdeen, will be met at the quayside on Friday by Alex Ferguson with the Cup.

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Gordon Highlanders from Germany led the victory march to the city centre as the 10,000-strong Red Army were piped from the stadium by Private Alastair McDonald, from Lang Stracht, Aberdeen, and Private Alastair Barclay, from Buckie.

● THE DONS record is the local number one — but it is unlikely to reach the national charts.

One of the two distributors of the single, Ross Records of Turriff, said today that it still had not received the whole of the first pressing of 20,000.

"The Cardiff pressing company has been a little slow, and we could certainly sell more than we have. I would estimate that around 13,000 will have been sold by tonight."

But even if the Dons record is outselling some national chart singles, there is a ... on the national chart.

● HIS Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen has made a special ... offer to theatre-goers — half-price drinks.

All drinks at the theatre bars will be half-price until Saturday, during the run of "Hobson's Choice," said manager Mr James Donald.

● THERE was a sour note to the after match celebrations when an Aberdeen fan was taken to hospital following an incident outside a George Street pub.

The man, who has not been named, was taken to the accident and emergency unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and was released after treatment.

POLL— Aberdeen computer programmer Maggie Harty (26) is Ecology Party's candidate for North Aberdeen in election.

ELECTION (page 7) — BBC and IBA going ahead with own allocation of TV time on party broadcasts after parties failed to agree themselves.

EVICTED — Woman peace demonstrators evicted from camp at Greenham Common. Ten arrested.

CASH—Miners union to give Labour £125,000 on top of last month's £250,000 donation for election campaign.

FOOTBALL OFF — All matches at Hazlehead and Sheddocksley postponed.

RACING RESULTS
2.0 York — 1 Louise Moillon, 2 Tacheo, 3 Quston's Special. 8-2, 14-1, 3-12, fav.
2.15 Ludlow—1 Russian Salad, 2 Be Friendly Too, 3 Lost Valley. 5-1, 8-1, 33-1.
2.35 York—1 York..., 2 Vaigly Star, 3 Prince Spy. 11-2, 9-2, 9-4 fav. Stewards' inquiry.

The FT Index at ... was down 1.2 at ...

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WEATHER

□ For full details turn to Page 3

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FIRST DAILY

Focus on solicitors' fees

THE controversial issue of solicitors' conveyancing fees is investigated by Dick Coithurst in our six-page Property Journal appearing with your "Press and Journal" today.

And, of course, there's also a wide range of the latest offers on the housing market.

Chance to win book

IN OUR Lifestyle feature today there's a great chance of 12 readers to win a copy of a new book on Scottish cookery.

For details of this simple, free-to-enter contest, see PAGE 7.

Inside today

Also inside:
Births, Marriages, Deaths 2
World Report 2
District News 3
Farming 4
Andrew McKay 5
Sea section 6
Birthdays, Horoscopes 8
Hagar, Weather 9
Business, Finance, Oil news 10
TV/Radio Guide 14
Classified Advertising 11-14
Sport, inc. Racing Guide 14-16
Double Crossword

New column tomorrow

A NEW column of special interest to women readers begins in "The Press and Journal" tomorrow.

Look out for "Pass It On", which will feature topics of interest to members of the SWRI and non-members, too, who are interested in the "Rural" — dates for diaries, personalities, highlights of individual institute calendars and subjects from the syllabus.

When the SWRI know a good thing, they like to "Pass It On".

The pride of Scotland . . .

SO the great dream has come true for the gallant Dons and their magnificent supporters. In atrocious conditions, this tremendous Aberdeen team in the end defeated the mighty Real Madrid. The score might have been even more in Aberdeen's favour, but the result was the right one. The promise has been fulfilled, but there are still other challenges immediately ahead. This was indeed a triumph for the history books — and it is a tale of excitement, skill and determination that will be told and retold long into the future. All of Scotland will share the pride that has swelled the hearts in the North and North-east. Well done. You can expect a great welcome home.

The Editor

GOOD MORNING, ABERDEEN

GOTHENBURG SPECIAL ON CENTRE PAGES

CUP OF JOY FOR DONS

SPECIAL FOUR-PAGE SOUVENIR — SEE CENTRE PAGES

FROM HAMISH MACKAY IN GOTHENBURG

THE MAGNIFICENT Dons were last night crowned the cup kings of Europe as they majestically swept aside the legendary Real Madrid in an oh so dramatic European Cup-Winners' Cup Final.

Millions of television viewers in 52 countries watched Aberdeen make history by scoring just eight minutes from the end of extra time.

And the man who clinched the 2-1 victory for the Dons was John Hewitt, who had come on as a substitute and repeated his feat against Bayern Munich in the quarter-final at Pittodrie.

There were fantastic scenes of joy among the 14,000 jubilant Dons supporters and not a few grown men had a tear in their eye as waves of emotion spread through the Red Army.

As the Dons took repeated laps of honour, the exultant supporters danced and cheered in a shimmering kaleidoscope of red and white and it was fully 30 minutes before they reluctantly left the stadium and spilled out into the streets of Gothenburg.

In these impressive, wide thoroughfares young and old were gleefully singing in the rain as realisation gradually penetrated that after 80 years Aberdeen had finally reached the pinnacle of European soccer success.

And the Scottish Sweden alliance, forged centuries ago by intrepid Scottish emigries, reached new heights as the Swedes, who had supported the Dons to a man (and women) wholeheartedly joined in the celebration.

Into the hotels swarmed the fans not caring a fig that a large dram was going to set them back up to a £10.

"Tonight, tonight, we'll merry merry be," they cried.

Tomorrow they would worry about the strictures of that friendly bank manager.

The Dons had taken an early lead through Eric Black but the Spaniards equalised before half-time with a penalty kick.

Despite dominating the match the Dons could not get that elusive winner in normal time so they were into extra time.

Then, as the crowd were talking in terms of a penalty shoot out deciding the issue, young Hewitt hit the jackpot with a memorable winning goal.

On the final whistle the Aberdeen players made straight to the massed ranks of the Red Army to acknowledge their magnificent contribution to the occasion.

Manager Alex Ferguson was beside himself with delight and the fans gave him a marvellous reception as his players hoisted him on their shoulders.

TURN TO PAGE 4

YOUNG FAN DIES

A YOUNG Aberdeen supporter collapsed and died in the Ullevi Stadium, Gothenburg, last night, during the jubilation over the Dons' first goal.

He was named early today as Philip Goodbrand (22), 53 Gairn Terrace, Aberdeen.

Swedish police told "The Press and Journal" he had been in the company of three friends.

He had been among the 500 supporters who sailed to Gothenburg on the ferry St Clair. The vessel's departure — scheduled for midnight — was delayed because of the tragedy.

PICTURE BY DAVID SUTHERLAND

WILLIE Miller leads the triumphant Dons with the Cup held high above them to the Red Army in Gothenburg.

Boy's body recovered

THE BODY of a ... was recovered ... the water at the ... Quay, Inverness ... He was named as ... Murray, ... Maclennan Crescent, Inverness.

WEATHERGUIDE

Aberdeen and Moray Firth area: Cloudy. Misty. Occasional heavy showers. Thundery inland. Wind south-easterly moderate or fresh. Orkney ... Shetland: Cloudy. Misty. Occasional heavy showers. Wind south-east moderate or fresh.

FULL FORECAST PAGE 9

anne robb SPORTS STUDIO

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Carnival comes to town and streets are alive with music

By LINDSEY BARRIE and SUSAN WELSH

ABERDEEN was a carnival city last night — we have never seen anything like it.

Within 10 minutes of the game finishing the streets of Aberdeen, which for the past 120 minutes had literally been deserted, became a noisy, colourful spectacle, filled with the music of rejoicing.

Cars decorated with red-and-white scarves and flags thronged Union Street and the streets round about and the night became alive with drivers sounding their horns in salute to one another.

Young men and women opened sun-roofs and leaned out calling cheers and congratulations to one another and to the masses in the streets.

Chanting, singing groups of ecstatic Dons supporters race up and down Union Street and hailed total strangers as long lost friends.

On Union Terrace, the statue of Edward VII was bedecked with scarves and flags as over-enthusiastic supporters climbed to the top and shouted the good news across the city.

Eventually the throng began to spill out on to the road and even the police, who were taking everything in good spirits, saw that for the safety of everyone concerned they should try to calm the celebrations down a little.

Even so, Edward VII was left holding Scotland and Aberdeen's colours!

As people spilled into the street from pubs, houses and buses, they keenly spread the good news. Among those people was Mr Leo Godini, manager of Poldino's Restaurant, Little Belmont Street.

He said: "We had no one in our restaurant tonight and we all watched the match in the kitchen. We had to come on to the street to show our support."

"I do not really like football, but you cannot miss this for anything. It is great for Aberdeen and for the Dons and everyone is so happy."

In the city's Gairn Terrace bus depot, where Alexander's open-topped bus sits quietly waiting for the conquering heros to return later today, there was a small party going on.

Late night workers at the depot gathered on top of the bus, trying to capture the feeling of how it would be later today.

Mr Les Carnie, 52 Polmuir Road, grinned from ear to ear as he lovingly gave a last polish to the bus.

"What a night this is. I was only able to listen to the match on the radio but I was taping it at home and when I finish work at 2 a.m. I will go home to watch it."

And Les's young brother Alistair (13), rushed down to the depot whenever the match finished, hardly able to contain himself.

"This is brilliant. We have done it."

Many pubs and hotels screened the memorable match on large video TVs and stay-at-home fans responded by packing into their nearest hostelries.

At Jimmy Wilson's Bar, run by the ex-Don, there was standing room only in an upstairs lounge that presented scenes more often witnessed at Pittodrie.

Supporters chanted and cheered and some must have kicked every ball played by the now heroic Dons players.

As pouring rain soaked the pitch and players in Sweden, fans in Wilson's soaked up drinks at bargain prices of £1 for two.

And the almightiest cheer and screams of the night were to come when local hero, former Hilton Academy pupil John Hewitt, headed what turned out to be the winning goal.

Andy Stewart dances a two-goal jig

ONE OF Scotland's greatest entertainers and most avid football fans, Andy Stewart, danced for joy — quite literally — after Aberdeen scored their second goal.

The excitement was so great that Andy and his wife danced round the drawing-room of their Banchory home.

Unfortunately Andy is not allowed to celebrate with alcohol because of his health "otherwise I would have the bubbly flowing at this moment," he said when we called him for his reaction to the victory.

The Aberdeen goals "were two of the most inspired I have ever seen," he said. The club could be considered the best team in Europe after what they had done last night.

He did not want to ignore the fight put up by Real Madrid and said the weather conditions were perhaps slightly favourable to the Dons.

In terms of age, Aberdeen had the advantage, too. "We had youth on our side."

But he could not praise enough the "guts and endurance" shown not only last night but throughout their European crusade by the Dons.

"When you take the total estimated financial value of the teams involved, you are talking in thousands for Aberdeen compared with millions for Real Madrid.

"You have beaten one of the most expensive teams in Europe."

I'm so happy, says chairman as he lets the tears flow

By JIM DOLAN

ABERDEEN chairman Dick Donald was overcome with emotion at the result achieved by his side.

Quite obviously in tears the Dons chairman said: "This is the culmination of years of work on behalf of this club and I'm so happy for the manager and the players, but one thing really pleases me above all and that is that the UEFA people have told me that Aberdeen Football Club have been a credit to this competition and that above all makes me a very happy man."

Vice-chairman Chris Anderson beamed happily and announced: "We won the cup but we did it the hard way. I think we should have scored three or four goals and when Real equalised we really suffered. But at the end of the day we got the win and it's been a magnificent achievement by everyone connected with the club."

Scorer of the winning goal, super-sub John Hewitt, predicted before the match that Eric Black would open the scoring for the Dons.

He said: "I had a feeling that if I was to come on from the substitutes' bench I would get a goal. Its the weirdest feeling but when it came I actually was not all that surprised.

"It really hasn't sun in yet that we have won the Cup Winners' Cup but anything was better than having to watch the game from the substitutes' bench — and to be the scorer of the winning goal is absolutely amazing."

Eric Black, scorer of the Dons' opener, said: "I don't really rmember all that much about it, it happened so quickly. But it was absolutely wonderful to see the ball cross the line and although they pulled us back somehow I just knew it was going to be our day."

Flying winger Peter Weir, who tormented and teased the Real defence in the second half, said: "I was not playing like a winger in the first half because I was being so closely marked and could not find room, but in the second half when I played further forward I found the space I needed.

"It's just a magnificent thought to be in the team that won the Cup Winners' Cup, particularly because I was so bitterly disappointed when I missed the Scottish Cup final through injury."

ONE Dons fan stands head and shoulders above the rest . . . on top of the Edward VIII statue on the corner of Union Street and Union Terrace.

Congratulations from North

TO: Mr Peter Watson, Editor, "The Press and Journal," Aberdeen.

THE whole of the North of Scotland rejoices in the success of Aberdeen Football Club in Europe tonight, just as it has rejoiced in Aberdeen's lead in the oil industry in recent years and the new impetus which is emanating from the North-east.

What a marvellous advertisement for the couthy qualities of skill, diligence and damn good application!

FROM: Jim Henderson, Editor, "The Northern Times," Golspie.

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Red Army ready for the big battle

HOME AND AWAY IT'S EURO CUP FINAL FEVER

Gothenburg showdown

The "E.E." reports from Gothenburg, Aberdeen, Inverness and Germany.

See Pages 6, 7 and 16.

■ Lord Provost Alex Collie — at Aberdeen Airport on his way to Sweden — is surrounded by Dons fans. Beside him is Susan Roach (18), of 4 Kincorth Place, Aberdeen, with her mascot.

■ Aberdeen's young ambassadors get their first view of Gothenburg's Ullevi Stadium, scene of the Dons' Cup Winners' Cup Final against Real Madrid tonight.

By BILL MACKINTOSH in Gothenburg and OUR REPORTING TEAM in Aberdeen

CUP-TIE mania took over today as the great D for Dons Day arrived.

IN ABERDEEN the last of 21 chartered jets took off to a riotous singin' swingin' farewell as the city dressed itself in red and white.

Schoolchildren turned up for class dressed en masse in the Dons colours, bars laid on special low prices and everywhere echoed to the strains of the European Song.

IN GOTHENBURG, thousands of fans already there stamped their personality on the Swedish city as the Red Army vanguard whooped it up with rival fans . . . despite the Swedish prices.

Thames TV revealed the final was the biggest event it had covered since the Royal Wedding. More than 150 million viewers throughout the world are expected to tune in.

■ THERE was a late rush back to Aberdeen to win in Gothenburg. Bookmakers today reported a build-up in bets as the Dons' odds were cut from 2/1 to 7/4. Real Madrid slipped out from evens to 11/10 with 5/2 the draw at 90 minutes.

In Sweden, the banner headlines in Gothenburg press screamed "Invasion" as the city's newspapers welcomed 10,000 Scots fans for the European Cup Winners Cup Final against Real Madrid.

The "Gothenburg Post" featured a picture of Gordon Strachan and two unemployed Dons supporters Graham Sullivan and Calum Short on its front page.

They hitch-hiked from Aberdeen, said the paper, and had saved as much as they could from their unemployment money to finance the trip.

Other fans have poured into the city by car, by plane and by boat.

The passenger ferry St Clair docked in a steady drizzle and with a marked lack of enthusiasm. The contrast with her boisterous send-off was obvious as she slipped quietly into her berth three miles from Gothenburg city centre.

City police chief Nils Klinteberg warned the supporters in a shore to ship radio message that no drink would be allowed on the streets of the city.

And there was a 90-minute delay at the dockside while harbour officials tried to find a gangplank.

Gothenburg police were fullsome in the praise for the fans.

Press spokesman Jan Skalneng said although extra police had been drafted in it was no slur on the Aberdeen fans' reputation.

He said they were expecting 40,000 pople for tonight's game and needed extra police to keep order.

He added that the Aberdeen fans were boisterous but full of good humour and said there was little evidence of drunkenness.

He added with a wry grin: "Perhaps our prices are keeping your fans sober."

St Clair docked behind three trawlers from the North-east fishing fleet who had made the 560-mile journey setting off at the weekend.

The Millwood and Castlewood from Peterhead and the Buckie-registered Avoca had had good journeys across the North Sea.

One of the last fans to fly out was Lord Provost Alex Collie.

He hoped to meet up later today with the youngsters who won the council's draw for a trip to the match.

In Inverness, Dons fans came from as far afield as Orkney and Dunfermline to catch a charter flight.

On board were the president of the Inverness branch of the Aberdeen Supporters' Club Brian Mackintosh and his daughter Aileen (12). He was asked at the last minute to look after two teenage boys whose trip of a lifetime had been in jeopardy.

Victor Beagrie, 74 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness, broke his hand in a mishap at school when he had an argument with a wall.

However, doctors eventually said he could still make the journey.

Fort William youth, David MacLeod (15), of 27 Henderson Row, could not get a place with his father and two brothers on a flight from Aberdeen.

David said this morning: "I was really down, but my mother came to the rescue. She spotted Clan Travel's ad. in the papers and got me the last place."

ABERDEEN'S schoolkid ambassadors took in the big-time atmosphere of Ullevi Stadium today.

Earlier the 33 lucky youngsters who won the District Council draw for the trip had been among the earliest arrivals to set off from Aberdeen Airport.

Even hobbling on crutches did not stop Dyce Academy pupil Grant Duncan joining the red and white throng bound for the European Cup-Winners' Cup Final in Gothenburg.

Young Grant broke a leg in a bike accident last weekend but he was still determined to get to the game.

He wrapped his plaster cast in the Dons' colours and hobbled along to join the rest of the party.

Birthday boy Martin Chalmers who is 11 today was hoping for the best present of all — an Aberdeen victory tonight.

"It's the best birthday I have ever had. I got an Aberdeen football kit among my presents," said Martin who is a pupil at Quarryhill Primary School.

The party — including seven adult leaders — will later present a good luck Dons message from Lord Provost Alex Collie to manager Alex Ferguson.

● A SPECIAL air lift of the "Evening Express" proved to be a winner with the fans today as they thronged the foyer of the plush Hotel Europa.

Aberdeen Journals business development manager Bill Gordon said: "I think the fans were pleasantly surprised to see their local paper copies disappear like sna' aff a dyke."

Swedish weather

THE weather outlook for the big match holds a threat of rain.

According to experts Oceanroutes, the Dons can look forward to the sort of conditions they often play in at home — moderate temperatures, showers of rain, and slight winds.

It was fairly misty in Gothenburg today and the maximum temperature throughout the day is likely to be about 10°C (50°F.).

Said a spokesman: "Really the weather in Sweden is pretty similar to what we are getting here. There will be rain on and off but we can only hope that the match will take place during a dry period."

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School's not out for pupils

By VIVIENNE NICOLL

ABERDEEN'S football-mad schoolchildren look set for a big disappointment tomorrow afternoon.

The Dons are due to travel through the city in an open-topped bus tomorrow afternoon — hopefully holding the prized European Cup Winners' Cup aloft.

But it looks almost certain that for the majority of Aberdeen's school children it will be lessons as usual.

And at Aberdeen Grammar School, a petition pleading for time off secured more than 100 signatures including five from the staff.

VICTORY

Many youngsters had been hoping to get off school an hour early to join in the city centre celebrations of the Dons return from Sweden.

It is up to individual head teachers to decide whether to close their schools early.

But head teachers in three of Aberdeen's largest secondary schools have already said they have no intention of allowing children off to join the fun.

And today Grampian Region's convener ... said there were no plans to give youngsters time off their school work to celebrate the hoped-for victory.

Head teacher at Kincorth Academy Mr A. P. Urquhart said he had no intention of letting his pupils off early.

He said his school had been hit with football euphoria because of its own team's win in the under-14 Scottish Cup final and the day-to-day work had been disrupted.

Mr Urquhart's comments were echoed by the head teachers of Aberdeen Grammar School and Hazlehead Academy who both said tomorrow would be business as usual.

Grampian Region's convener said although there were no plans to let children off school the region did intend honouring Aberdeen FC.

Our big match souvenir

CAPTURE all the excitement, glamour and action of the Dons' big game in tomorrow's "Evening Express."

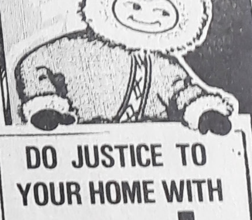
We will be bringing you pages packed with pictures, stories and interviews. It's the greatest night in the history of the club . . . make sure you grab a piece of the action in tomorrow's bumper "Evening Express."

RACING RESULTS
1.45 Brighton — 1 Red house Charm, 2 Mandown Lad, 3 Classical Vintage
16-1, 4-9 fav., 5-2
2.0 York — 1 Handstand, 2 Knoxville, 3 Meraval
16-1, 3-1 jt. fav., 3-1
2.15 Brighton — 1 Tom Okker, 2 Lady Gerard, 3 Pearl Thyme
4-11 fav., 10-1, 20-1

LABOUR — Civil and Public Services Association to ballot members on affiliating to Labour Party.

RAILWAYS (page 5) — BR said fares will rise this year.

WIFE (page 3) — ...visional IRA ... they "accidentally" ... soldier's wife struggle.



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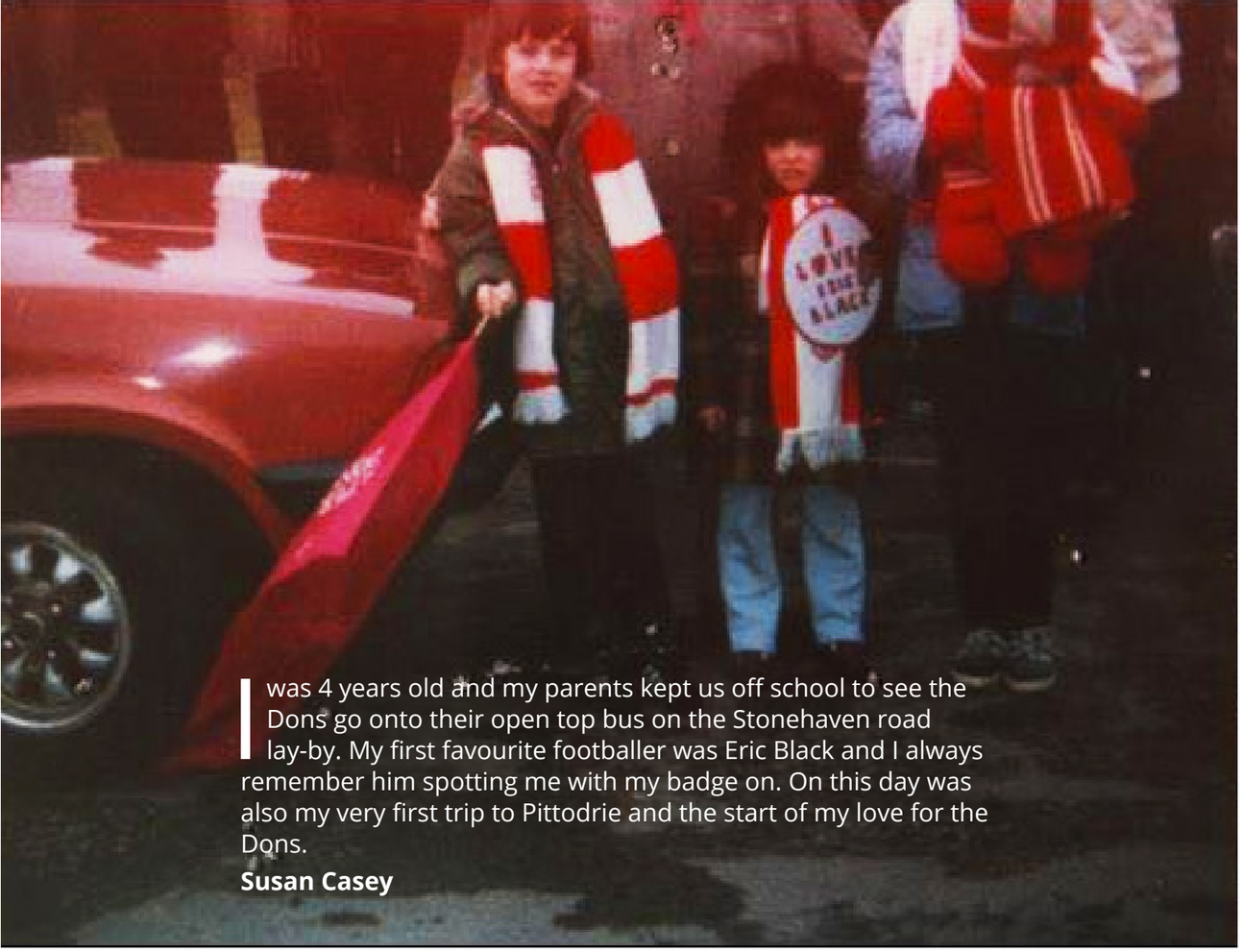


I was 4 years old and my parents kept us off school to see the Dons go onto their open top bus on the Stonehaven road lay-by. My first favourite footballer was Eric Black and I always remember him spotting me with my badge on. On this day was also my very first trip to Pittodrie and the start of my love for the Dons.

Susan Casey

I wasn't there, I was only 12 and my dad wasn't interested in fitba, however we were on holiday in Mallorca.

We found this regular restaurant where the owner was happy to help my father perfect his Spanish.

The day before I remember the owner asking if we would like to watch the match at his restaurant. My father was overjoyed at the invitation and proceeded to bet him a bottle of Champagne. This was Real Madrid the greatest team in Europe.

I can recall my father saying to Mum, 'I'd better buy a cheap bottle as we have no chance of winning'.

Well the rest is history, it was a great night and tasted not only alcohol for the first time, but Champagne. What a way to taste booze for the first time. COYR!

Niall Findlay

33 lucky kids

I was one of 33 very lucky kids that won an EE competition to travel to Gothenburg with the council. I remember thinking it was a joke when I heard at first, then my late Granda told me it was true as he'd put in the entry! I was only 12 at the time & my folks had to ask for permission for me to miss school for a few days! Luckily it was granted (but I was going regardless!)

We met up at the town house in the days leading up to the trip & then flew out of Aberdeen very early on the day of the game on one of the biggest planes to ever leave/land at Dyce (a DC9 if I recall correctly). I recall meeting at Broad Street, with all our hats, scarves etc, boarding a bus and heading to Dyce.

Headed to one of Europe's biggest fun parks

I knew a couple of others in the group, including one lad that stayed just around the corner from me (Dave Nicol). There was another boy from my school & a lad from Dyce with a broken leg! We were all absolutely buzzing...

We arrived in a very wet Gothenburg & headed to one of Europe's biggest fun parks for the morning. We then went to meet the team at their hotel in the afternoon (I probably wasn't aware of or didn't appreciate the significance of the hotel name at the time, but 'Fars Hatt', you couldn't make it up could you!) and we got to watch the players train, then they & Fergie all came over and spoke to us and we all got copies of the European Song single signed.

That night we headed to the Ullevi in the torrential rain. But rain wasn't going to spoil our night. We read all the banners around the ground... most of which caused quite some hilarity (especially amongst thirty three 11-15 year olds!) We clapped, sang & shouted... (and threw cushions) throughout the match but we couldn't have anticipated the outcome! It was a bit of a rollercoaster but when the Hewitt header hit the net the place erupted!

Aberdeen were European Cup Winners Cup winners! We'd only gone & beaten Real Madrid. Later that night back at the hotel, we made sure the Real Madrid fans knew who'd won. They took it very well considering! Well, we were only youngsters...if a bit cocky with it!

We flew back to Aberdeen the next day & then went back to the town house for a reception & presentations. I've got some great memories & momentoes from the trip.

To be honest, whilst a lot of the trip was a blur (in fact was probably much longer than a day... it just seemed to pass so quickly!). It was clearly the most amazing few days and a trip I will never forget. I know I was a very lucky lad to get the opportunity to be there (& it was certainly better than school!).

Stephen Harvey

The 33 lucky kids EE competition winners.
Stephen Harvey with the Lonsdale sweatshirt,
and on the right, at the game.
Photos, Stephen Harvey.

Turriff Square to Gothenburg

We were so lucky that a local businessman from Turriff Brian Brown (HARBRO) decided to organize a trip for the final, which many had probably started to think about in early stages of the 1st leg semi -final against Waterschei. No way we could miss this!

Anyway we got booked up for 2 night stay in Gothenburg flying from Aberdeen. This was luxury compared to the 30+ hour bus journey to Munich for the quarter final.

So Tuesday we met at The Square in Turriff for the bus to the airport. Carryouts from Cheynes Market for the journey to Aberdeen. Think we had about 20 going from Turriff area going by the photo in The Square.

Airport was rammed with Dons fans, free souvenirs before boarding the flight and more pints & drams.

The stewardesses on Orion Airways flight to Gothenburg kept busy, everyone on the flight in full voice.

The cassette with the European Song came with us too and sure played on the flight.

Transfer from Gothenburg airport to hotel in City Centre nobody can now remember the hotel name, long time ago.

Then away out for a look at the place, never strayed far from a pub obviously. We went to the Liseberg Park, and visit to the stadium fotos at fountain etc, then pubs. That night we stumbled into a hotel where all the press and TV people were there for eve of match meeting. Got some funny looks as we were all in Dons colours and blootered. Anyway we met Billy McNeill, Ian St. John & Alex Cameron. We were starving by this time, Billy politely asked the staff to make sure we got some sandwiches too. What a gent Billy McNeill was, RIP. We actually got the team lines that night too. Last stop on the Tuesday night was a club called Heaven – not too bad if I mind right?? Think that was where my pal Scoob lost his wallet, nae wonder as he was seen up on stage waving it above his heed ha ha. The boys chipped in for him next day.

A visit to the Embassy...

Wednesday morning, - Matchday: One of the other lads Stuart Smith lost his passport, so a visit to the Embassy required. He saw a picture of the The Queen on the wall in said building and told the staff "Tomorrow Willie Miller will be on that wall after we beat the Dagoes!!"

Went for a walk through city in the morning, started raining later, so shopping centres, pubs all rammed, pipers playing inside the shops and Reds everywhere.

Back to the hotel, European Song on and pre-match session started.

Bus from hotel to stadium, everybody now hyper, there was some guy tried to board the bus on way, he was removed promptly by Ivor, rain by now bucketing down.

Inside the ground and the game starts we go 1-0 up, the late Kenny Cowie produces half bottle of whisky fae his legendary suit jacket. They equalize from penalty. When you look back on that match the Dons were brilliant that night & que bedlam when Johnny Hewitt scores in extra time. Nervous time near the end with the free kick twice taken & flashed past the post. Low point seeing the Dons fan who took ill, getting stretchered out of crowd and later died.

Dons held out & celebrations commenced, never forget when the players came over to our side with the trophy, absolutely brilliant. Few of us went for dook in the fountain outside stadium after – superb times.

Back to hotel & think it was an all-nighter after that. There was reports of someone emerging from the lift at the hotel carrying the door from somebody's room ha ha, not sure what happened there.

On return to Aberdeen our flight landed just before the team flight so we seen the trophy appear through the crowds as Fergie & the team emerged.

What a trip, never to be forgotten. I've actually been back to the city twice and revisited Ullevi Stadium, love it.
Stand Free.

Les Gerrie, Turriff Reds

Beer
Coke

Photos: Previous two pages and these pages, The Turriff Reds.

I didn't manage to get over so made do with watching in the pub... I'll never forget everyone getting drenched in Tennents lager when Hewitt's goal hit the back of the net.

But best of all was Union Street later on... was what we'd all seen before in likes of Spain and Italy... this was something so very special... it was amazing the procession up and down the length of Union Street... anyone who was there will always hold the same memories as I do... very special ones indeed.

Kenny Innes

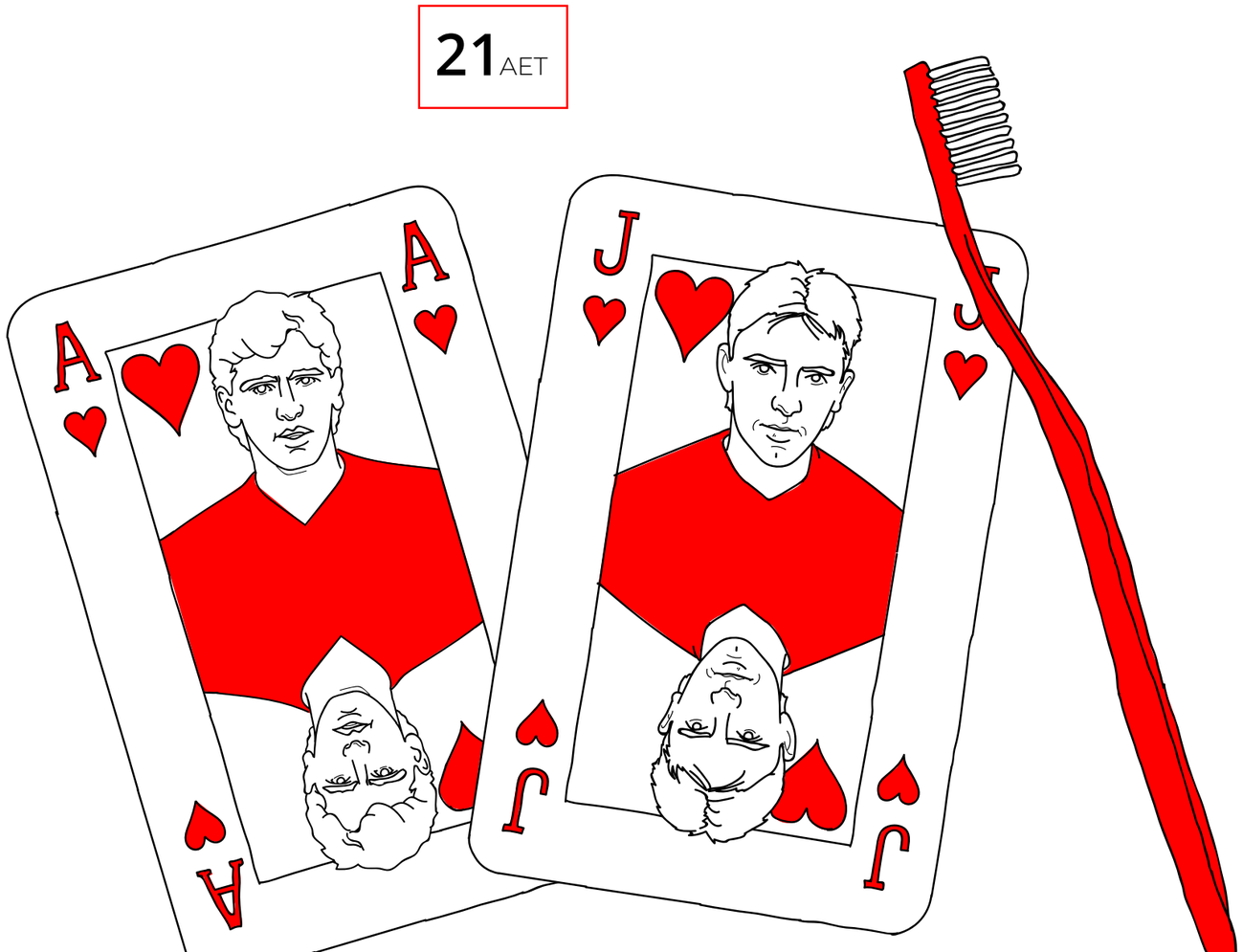
Original photos: Official Aberdeen FC website.

Facebook

What does Gothenburg '83 mean to you?

That's the best day of my Football Fan Life, headed over there with all my mates, I took 53 items with me, a pack of cards and a toothbrush!
Grant Leslie

I was only ten but watched the whole game, it was epic at the time, but didn't realise how significant it was till I got a bit older. It was the norm to beat everyone in those days!
Steve Johnstone



The rain. Heavy Swedish rain as well. Stottin' aboot 4 feet aff' the ground outside the stadium. Mind you, saying that, some o' us were lucky to get there, as oor rubber band airline plane broke doon on Dyce airport runway that very morning.
George Scully

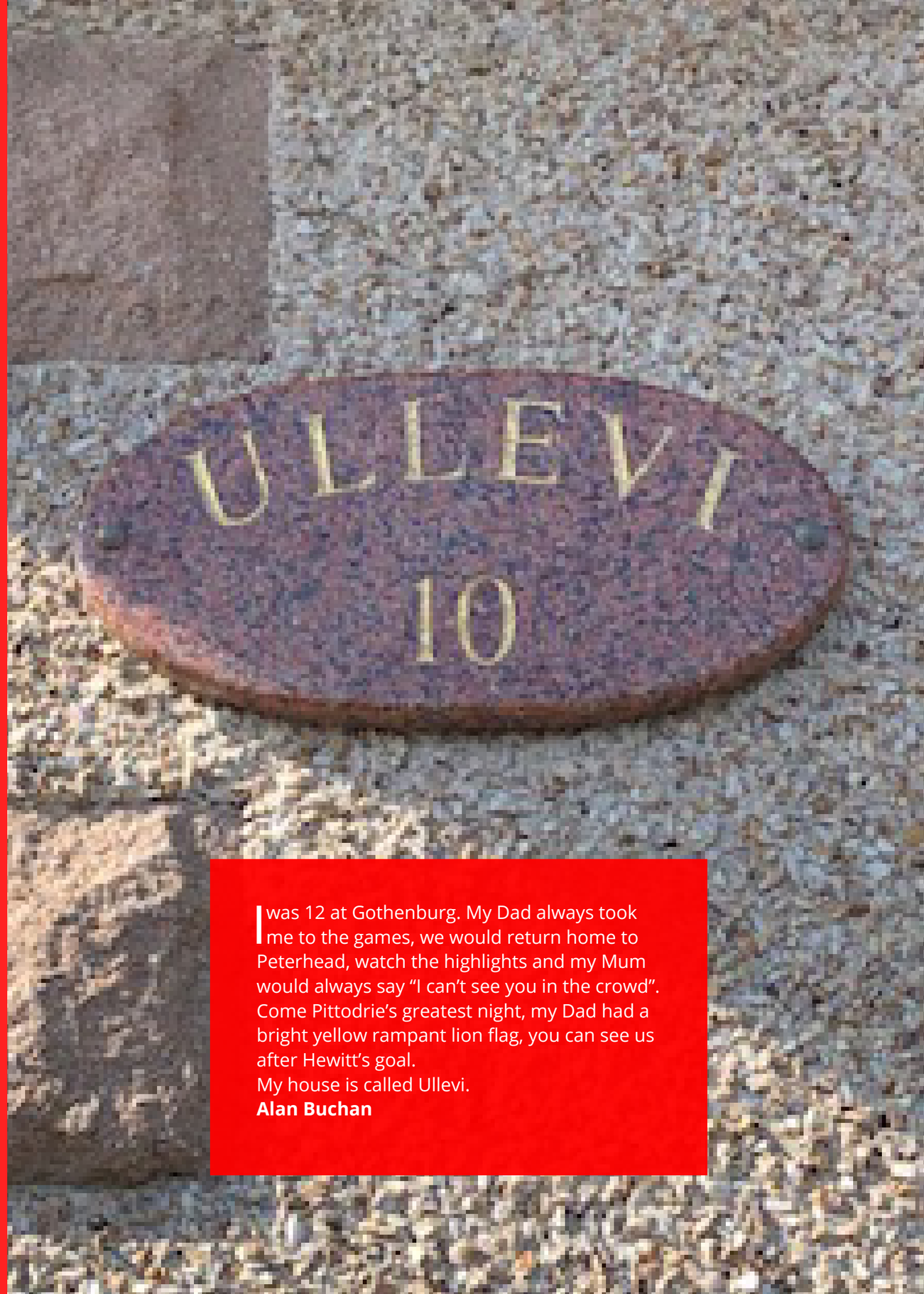
Greatest night in Aberdeen history and one I will always treasure.
William Wallace

I'll always remember that night I was in Abu Dhabi watching it on TV and after extra time my ex wife never looked so attractive.
Jim Morrison

Left by bus on the Sunday and home teatime Friday. Simply the greatest away trip ever.
Tommy Petrie

John Hewitt scoring the winning goal.
Fiona Mullen

Jim Leighton Doug Rougvie Alex McLeish Willie Miller John McMaster Neale Cooper Gordon Strachan Neil Simpson Peter Weir Eric Black Mark McGhee Stuart Kennedy Bryan Gunn Andy Watson John Hewitt Ian Angus Doug Bell Alex Ferguson Archie Knox Teddy Scott Dick Donald Chris Anderson Ian Donald Ian Taggart Roland Arnott



I was 12 at Gothenburg. My Dad always took me to the games, we would return home to Peterhead, watch the highlights and my Mum would always say "I can't see you in the crowd". Come Pittodrie's greatest night, my Dad had a bright yellow rampant lion flag, you can see us after Hewitt's goal.
My house is called Ullevi.
Alan Buchan

26 hours from Aberdeen Airport

Myself and and my mate John Notman saved up the massive amount of £260 each which at the time was a huge amount for someone who had just got married 3 month before at the age of 21, so that we could get our plane, hotel and ticket package deal.

We travelled through Harry Hinds travel agency and was out of Aberdeen Airport for all of 26 hours. Our flight left at 11am on the 11th and landed back at 1pm on the 12th.

When we arrived at the airport about 9am and all we could see was Dons fans waiting around the airport for their respective flights. The EE and Airport folk handing out little flags showing their support of the Dons, the excitement was unreal.

We went through to International departures as that was a different area in those days, and made our way to duty free to get our beer requirements.

Unfortunately for us there was a limit of 3 cans allowed each as the duty free shop had well underestimated the demand caused by the exciting upcoming event, and there was very few left. Special Brew was the only choice left which wasn't close to my favourite but needs must.

Our time to board came and the plane was filled with nervous and expectant fans. The flight seemed far shorter than the 2ish hours and as we approached Gothenburg the plane became more like a bus to a cup final as the singing was getting louder and louder.

We got off, but as the plane was quite a distance from the terminal we needed another bus. We found our rep at the terminal only to be told our hotel accommodation had changed. We were told there were no rooms left in Gothenburg and our new accommodation was 45 minutes outside Gothenburg. This was slightly disappointing as we had very little time to get there, check in and get back to were we needed to be to be with the rest of the Dons fans. The name of the hotel was the Grand Hotel in Borras. Once we got on the next bus and travelled to the hotel it most definitely lived up to it's name as it was one of funcyist hotels I've ever been in. On approach we could see Dons flags hanging from the vast majority of windows of 4 or 5 level hotel.

'Here we go' started long and loud

Checked in, and after a small walk around the vicinity looking at the local village sites of which there was not a lot. We then had a couple of beers at the hotel which we worked out at £5 a beer. A massive hole in my £30 spend I had with me. This was about 5 times the price of a beer at home. We then prepared to travel back to Gothenburg on our pre arranged bus leaving at 4pm.

As we approached the stadium again the songs of 'Here we go' started long and loud. We were parked along side a few buses not far from the ground. It appeared we had arrived long before the main group of fans.

Looking for a bar was proving more of a challenge than expected. We returned to the stadium with our last can of duty free and then got our pennant and match programme.

There was a slight break in the rain as we milled around with some of the fans of both teams.

As it approached 6.30 and the rain started to get really heavy we entered the stadium. We saw the pitch was covered with a plastic looking sheet. We were in the uncovered section below the top tier. We saw an open gate area that we just walked past the police to allow us entry to the top tier to get out of the now torrential rain.

The seating areas were all benches with small gold numbers along the back of the bench. The atmosphere was building and just as the teams entered a local resident with a couple of his friends tapped my shoulder and was looking to sit on his bench. The whole area was filled with Dons fans and everyone was standing. If felt very much like the Old Bench End at home.

The guy was pretty adamant he wanted to sit on that part of the bench. Everyone shuffled about and let him sit but as everyone was standing made very little difference to his view.

The noise was awesome especially when the Spanish drummer was hitting his drum in unison with A-ber-deen, A-ber-deen from the Dons' fans.

The game passed really quick. We were defo worthy winners but the free kick awarded in the last minute was my scary moment. Firstly it was not a free kick but a great tackle from Willie Miller and secondly they cocked it up yet the ref took it back to take again. I turned away at that moment

He had to sit opposite his little gold coloured badge

and was face to face with my Swedish guy who had over the game became a decent guy even if he was so adamant he had to sit opposite his little gold coloured badge on the bench.

He signalled with his fingers that the free kick had been very close but as I indicated a small distance or a mile it still went past the post.

As the final whistle went and the celebrations began in earnest we all became even better friends.

When we left the stadium the celebrations were in full flow around the water fountain outside the stadium as the rain continued.

We made our way back to the bus for the next stage of the journey back to Borras in full voice. As we travelled back at about 1am the excitement sort of lulled as tiredness started to kick in on the bus.

We got back to the hotel about 2am and the celebrations were again in full flow. The locals joining in. We know we had to get back on the bus at 7.30 for the airport so decided to stay up and even with very little funds I had, managed a couple of beers to toast the great achievement and soak up the moment.

As the boarding of the bus to the airport approached I went up to the room to pick up my bag that I had dropped off 15 hours earlier.

When we got back to the airport something that we chatted about, was that there was a very noticeable amount of pretty blonde girls which was something we weren't accustomed to back in Aberdeen. One of these girls obviously took a liking to one of the Dandies fans as she was trying very hard to go through passport control to be with him, ending with the border guards escorting her away.

The memory of the flight back was very little as I slept most of the way and as I made my way through the airport to meet my then wife to take me home.

I knew the team was coming home an hour after I landed, so I was preparing to go to town to see the home coming. We went up to her grandparents in Bucksburn in preparation for the visit into the homecoming on Union Street.

After telling the grandparents of the last day's experiences we went back out to start the car and couldn't get it to start. After trying all I knew I had to give up and miss the parade. Raging was an understatement and as these were the days before mobile phones and with minimal media coverage I was unaware that the homecoming bus took hours and hours to get through the centre to Pittodrie until I read the following morning's papers with the reports on the crowds and excitement that had brought Aberdeen to a standstill.

All I can say is, I was there in Gothenburg yet missed the next day's homecoming parade and had to read all about it next day.

Lindsay Bartlet

I was 10 years old at the time and I remember excitement building through the day itself. I had played my vinyl (which I still have) and looked at all the posters on my wall literally praying for a win. I had a small box room bedroom with a built in bed. I had a red and white no.7 door plate number attached to a wooden panel on it for Mr.Strachan. My Dad had previously taken me to a Roy of the Rovers promo at one of the hotels (Copthorne?) and Strachan was there, he chatted away and it was a big thrill as we shared the same first name. Not too many cool Gordon’s on the scene!

Anyway the match came and I went hysterical alongside Ian St John when Hewitt scored the winner.

My main memory is the following day. I lived in a housing scheme with the primary school in the middle of it all. A group of us all went out in our red and white scarves and hats singing in the morning before school around the scheme. All this came to a halt when the notorious school bully came wading into the crowd foot to head height and whammed into some guys. He was wearing his green and white Celtic gear and was shouting expletives! The celebrations stopped immediately and we aimed to get away from this guy as quickly as possible.

Maybe not a conventional Gothenburg memory but it’s mine.

Gordon Gray

Original photo: Daily Record

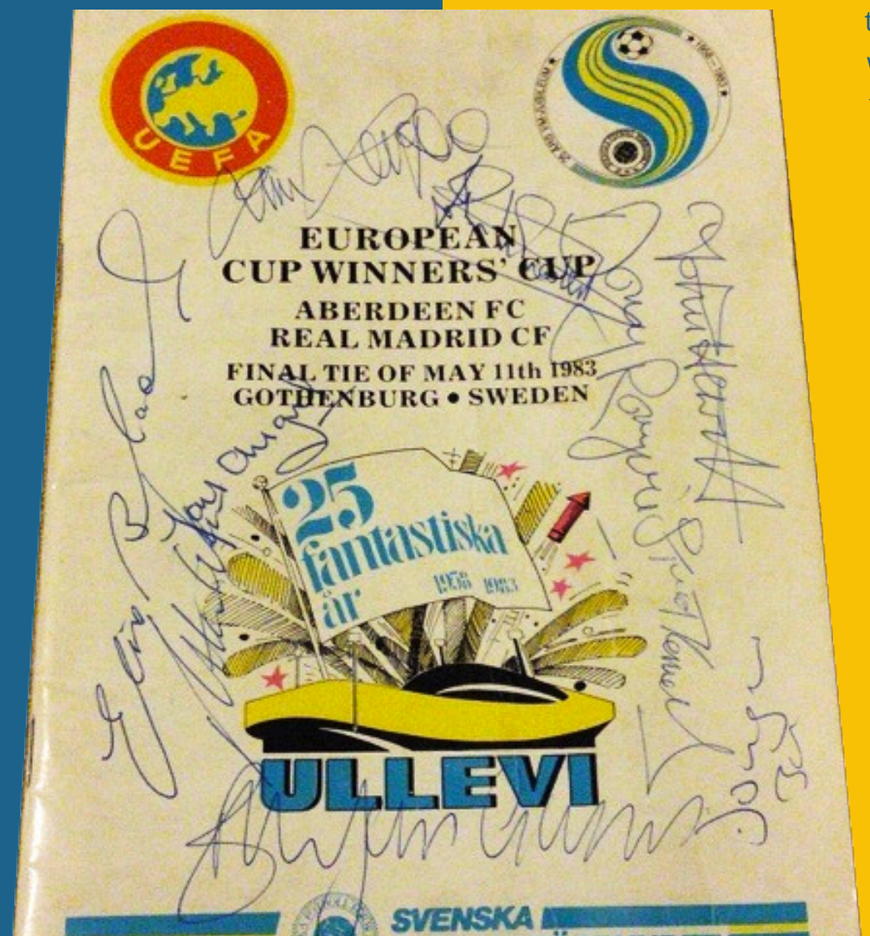
Facebook

What does Gothenburg '83 mean to you?

I was watching with my Mum and Stepdad. I was 13 and then it went to extra time. Mum wanted me to go to bed as it was a school night, but there was no way that was happening! When John Hewitt scored I thought Mum was going to fall off her chair!
Kay Stephen

I was 11years old. I remember my Papa taking me to the Lochy Bar in Fort William to watch it as we didn't have electricity, so no telly. I remember the place full of cigarette smoke and everyone in the pub screaming for Aberdeen to win. I was also wearing my first ever Aberdeen top...
James McGregor

Will never forget especially against Bayern at Pittodrie, I was in the Main Stand King Street end couldn't believe it when we equalised, hardly sat down when in went the 3rd goal, brill. Gothenburg well up at Garthdee at a mates house we even got pies at halftime, fulltime, the pub, can't remember much after that!! I was 32.
Ian Morris



Was married 4 months before and couldn't afford it. Couldn't afford an aerial for the TV and recorded it anyway! Skint. Watched the game in the Broadford's Social Club with my mate. Recorded it on our VHS (wedding present) but we had no aerial for our tv (wedding present). Like watching the game in a snow storm, still got the tape somewhere, I think.
George Wood

Gothenburg 83 means everything to me and is a big part of the foundation to my life. I was 15 and was still at school so couldn't afford to go over... but I remember sitting at home with my bro watching it live on TV. When they came back I followed the bus all the way from the top of Union street all the way to Pittodrie and the packed stadium for victory celebrations. Very very happy days that will never be repeated.
A couple of days that will stay with me forever.
Ray Taylor

I was 8 years old and not knowing what football team to support and remember hearing the result and my cousin's screaming it was then I became a Dons' supporter, and 35 years later I am still a Dons' supporter.
Kenneth Chisholm

Programme: John Smith

Was at every home game, never got to Gothenburg but skipped the school and went in to Aberdeen to see them with the cup. Sights I will never forget.
Brian Bruce

I was too young (and skint) to go to the game (17 just left school), but we went to Gothenburg for a visit on the 25th anniversary, got to tour the stadium (even though they don't 'do' official tours and we met a woman who 'obviously' had a great night that night back in the day wi a Dons fan. She was 'glowing' after spotting us with our Dons/Gothenburg Greats' Tees on.
David McIntosh

Travelling there and back on board the St. Clair Ferry pissin' the whole day jist fantasy coyr
George Lowe

Best day of life. After Bayern game.
Robert Stewart

Had the best day of my life over there.
Roy Wilson

Ticket: Graeme Mauchline

My Dad was there but he passed away a few years ago and he never told me the 'real' tales of his trip! My boyfriend and I are travelling to Gothenburg tonight to make a pilgrimage as neither of us were old enough to have gone to the game!

Kelly Morrice

2019

Our Gothenburg story is a bit different from everyone else's; I wasn't born until 1984 and my partner Clark was only 4 at the time, but AFC has run in our blood. In fact the only reason we're together is because we met at an Away day years ago, but that's a different story.

Gothenburg, like all Dons fans, holds a special place in our hearts. I remember my Dad saying he would tell me the stories of that evening when I was older. I don't think he wanted his young daughter finding out just how wild the away day was just yet. Unfortunately my Dad died before he could tell me his Gothenburg tales and that's something I'll always regret.

2019 comes around and Clark is turning 40 this year so I thought what can I get a man that's got everything… well it had to be a trip to Gothenburg to make our pilgrimage to the Ullevi Stadium! We set off from Edinburgh on the short flight over to Gothenburg and the excitement was really building, we couldn't believe we'd actually be going!

When we landed in Gothenburg it was a completely different day from the 11th May 1983; it was 26C and the sun was beating down, not a cloud in the sky…. A far cry from what our fellow Dandies had faced. We made our way to the centre of

Gothenburg, found the nearest boozer and settled down for a few beers and watched YouTube videos of the game, the fans and the St Clair. I tried so hard to remember anything my Dad had told me but the only thing I knew was that he had a hotel room but didn't stay in it as they just partied on the street all night!

Feeling suitably nostalgic we began the 10 minute walk from the Centre of Gothenburg to the Ullevi trying to imagine how it must have felt to walk that road to the final and when that beautiful curve of the stadium came in to view I am not afraid to say I was actually full of emotion and almost shed a tear when we got there. The locals must have thought we were crazy and we took photo after photo and were more delighted than the thousands of children that were there that day for a Monster Truck Rally! Deciding that this was our chance to get in to the stadium we got ourselves tickets and headed in to watch 10 trucks tear up that pitch... although it was probably still in better condition than it was at the Final.

It was amazing to visit the Stadium, but Gothenburg itself is a beautiful city, we went for 3 nights and didn't want to leave. I think Gothenburg will hold a special place in all Dandies hearts for all of us regardless of having been there on that night or not and I am so glad I got the chance to see the place where we really showed everyone that we are the greatest team the world has ever seen.

Kelly Morrice

The Magical History Tour!

Sion
Tirana
Poznan
München
Genk
Göteborg ★
Hamburg ★

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Cheers Archie.

Aberdeen 2
Real Madrid 1

Once in a lifetime.

How much for a pint?!