



celtic



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2008/09

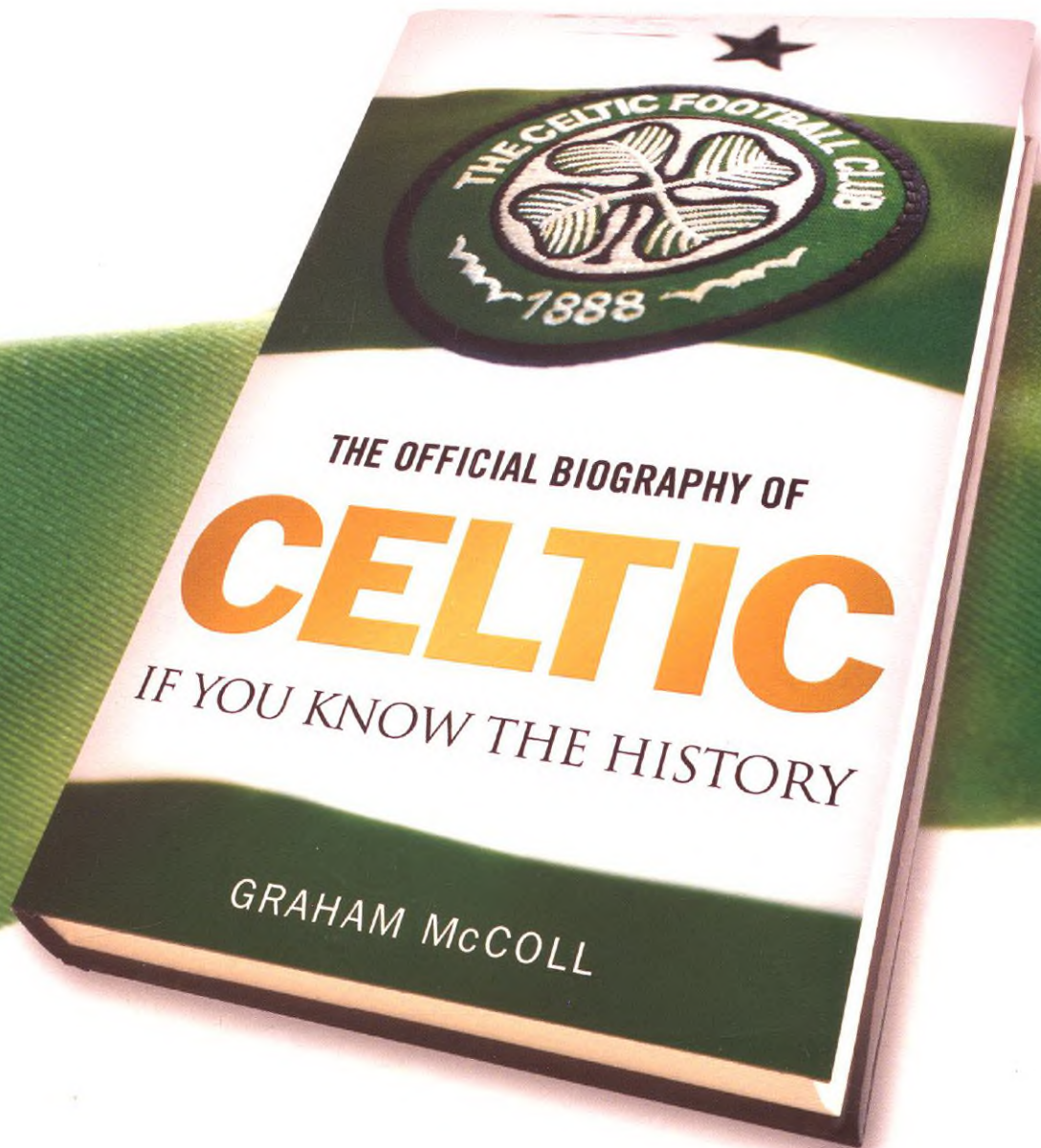


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SOCIAL MISSION STATEMENT

Introduction

Celtic Football Club is legendary and as with most legends as much myth as fact surrounds its history and what the Club stands for today. The Social Mission Statement aims to simply define what the Club stands for and seeks to promote within society.

History

Celtic Football Club was founded in 1888. Its principal founder was a Marist Brother named Walfrid. The Club had two principal aims: The first aim was to raise funds to provide food for the poor of the East End of Glasgow, an area of the City that was greatly impoverished and had a high rate of infant mortality. Within the East End was a large Irish community and friction was growing between the native Glaswegians and the new influx of Irish. Brother Walfrid saw the need for social integration and his vision was a football club that Scottish and Irish, Protestants and Catholics alike could support. A new football club would be a vehicle to bring the communities together and this was the second aim. The Marist brother sought for the Club to have both a Scottish and Irish identity and hence, the Club's name "Celtic" came about, representing a bridge of cultures across the Irish Sea.

Current Positioning of Celtic Football Club

Celtic Football Club is a Scottish football club with proud Irish links. The primary business of Celtic is as a football club. It is run on a professional business basis with no political agenda. However, the Club has a wider role and the responsibility of being a major Scottish social institution promoting health, well-being and social integration.

Who is Celtic Football Club for?

Celtic Football Club is for people who want to support a football club that strives for excellence in Scotland and in Europe, is proud of its history, supportive of its local community and seeks to support the following aims: "To maximise all opportunities to disassociate the Club from sectarianism and bigotry of any kind. To promote Celtic as a Club for all people, regardless of gender, age, religion, race or ability."

Summary

Celtic is a club for everyone who believes in football as a medium for healthy pleasure, entertainment and social integration. The Club always has been and always will simply aim to be the team of the people.

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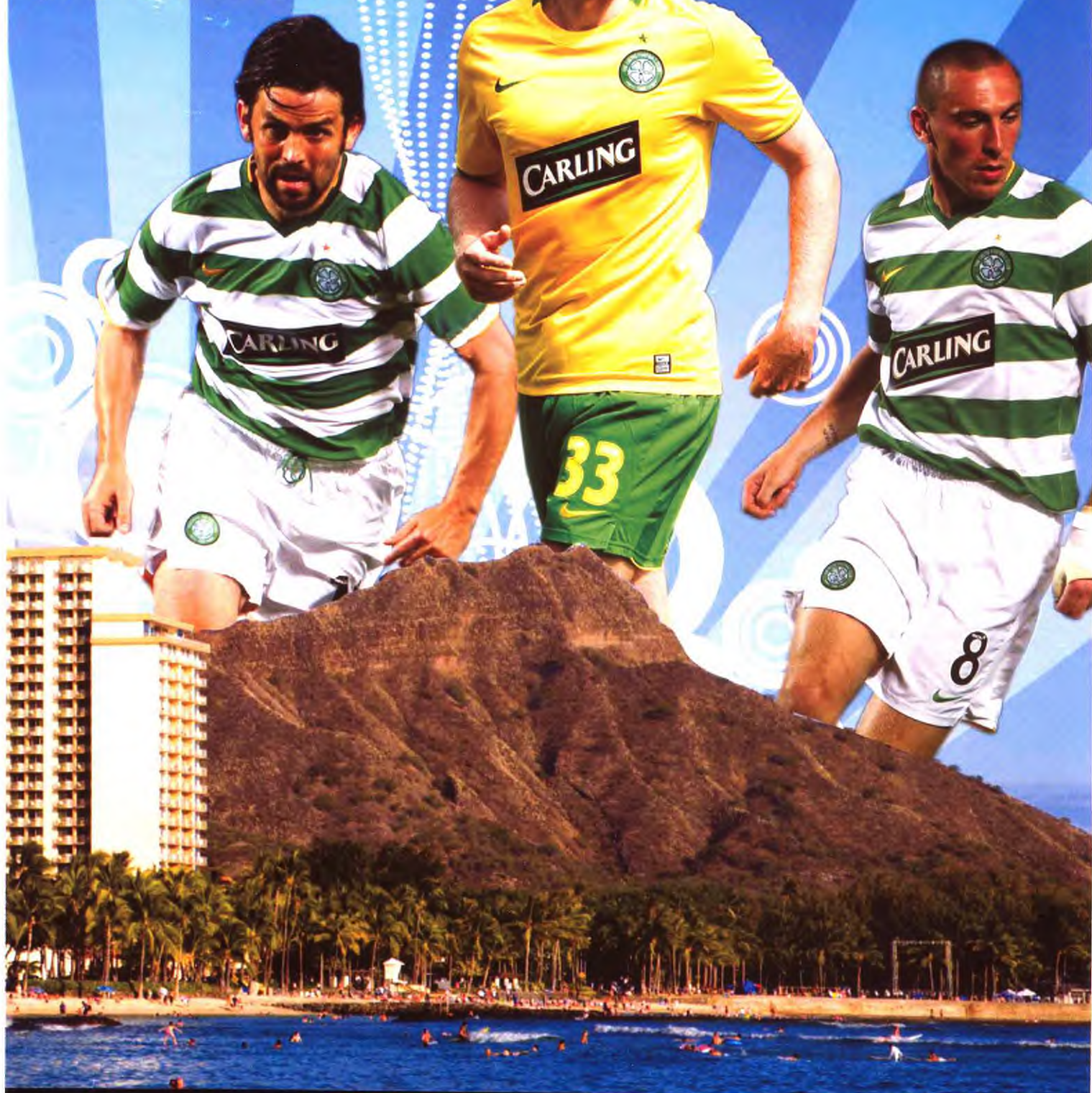
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MANAGER

GORDON STRACHAN



TONIGHT'S match against Manchester United is one that everyone has been looking forward to since the draw was made. Certainly, it was the tie that our supporters have been talking about these past few months. It sees two great names in football up against each other and it's a match that I'm sure will be of interest way beyond supporters of both sides.

It is only two weeks since our last meeting with Manchester United at Old Trafford and that was an incredibly tough game for us. Playing the Premiership champions and the UEFA Champions League holders was a great experience for all our players and only served to reinforce our belief that this is the stage we want to be competing on every season.

We have had to contend with injuries, and the squad has shown a great attitude over the past few games in coping with these absences. It's an attitude that we've come to expect from this group of players and it's served us well in three successive and successful league campaigns.

It has seen us come back from defeat at Old Trafford to win a tough game against Hibernian and then progress to the semi-final of the League Cup with a

win away to Kilmarnock, and we are all determined to keep that winning run going. To do that, we must beat an extremely talented side.

Manchester United's performance against us at Old Trafford was one of the best we've faced in Europe over the past few seasons. Everyone is already familiar with the Premiership so we were aware of the quality in Sir Alex Ferguson's side, and that quality is what we will be facing here tonight.

Celtic Park on a European night is a special venue and it has been rightly praised by players from other teams who have experienced it, players who have been involved in the game at the highest level. The atmosphere generated by our supporters is incredible and we'll be looking for that from you again tonight.

We played Manchester United here in this competition a couple of years ago and that was a memorable occasion. It has obviously given them a taste of what to expect at Celtic Park but it also serves as a reminder of our own ability and quality in competing in the UEFA Champions League. Let's hope we can all enjoy another special occasion at this unique stadium.

