



celtic



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2008/09



UEFA
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

CELTIC v AALBORG UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, GROUP E, WED 17TH SEPTEMBER, KO 7.45PM

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CONTENTS

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

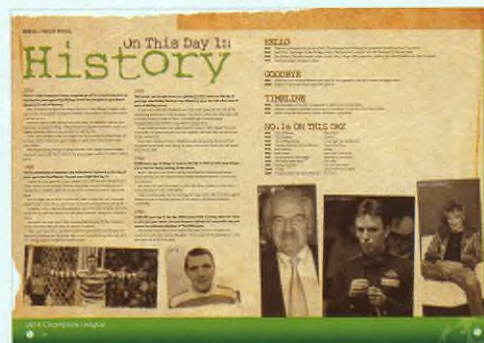
Celtic is a club for everyone who believes in football as a medium for healthy pleasure, entertainment and social integration. The Club always has been and always will simply aim to be the team of the people.

- 5 Gordon Strachan
- 6/7 Celtic Football Club Factfile
- 11 Captain's Column
- 12/16 Scott Brown
- 18/19 Aalborg Facts
- 20/24 Tonight's Visitors
- 30/32 400 Goals And Counting
- 34/35 Poster
- 38/41 Marc Rieper
- 44/47 Alan Stubbs
- 48/52 A-Z Of Celtic
- 54/56 Erik Bo Andersen
- 58/59 On This Day
- 64/65 Celtic Stats
- 66 Quiz

12/16



58/59



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MANAGER

GORDON STRACHAN



IT'S that time of the year again when European football returns to Celtic Park and we're all looking forward to the UEFA Champions League campaign getting underway this season. We've enjoyed taking part in the competition these past couple of years and reaching the last 16 on both occasions has been a tremendous achievement.

As we begin our group stage games tonight, however, we are looking no further ahead than this match with Aalborg. We know that it's important to get off to a good start and that's what we'll be aiming to do, but with five more games to come after tonight, we can expect many twists and turns along the way.

Our opponents tonight, Aalborg, have had to go through the qualifying rounds to get here and, again, from our own experience, we know how difficult that can be so they must be congratulated for having successfully reached the group stages. However, I'm sure that they are not just satisfied to have done so but will want to do well in the competition and everyone here knows that we're in for a difficult match tonight.

Two years ago we faced Danish opposition in the UEFA Champions League and both here at Celtic Park and in Denmark, FC Copenhagen proved to be very tough opponents. The fact that Aalborg triumphed in the Danish league over the likes of FC Copenhagen last season is an indication of their quality and we will give them every respect tonight.

Our aim, obviously, is to win this game and get three points on the board and the players will give everything to try and do just that. We have a tremendous record here at Celtic Park in the UEFA Champions League and it is one that we are very proud of. We want to maintain that record and to do so we will have to be at our very best.

The atmosphere on these nights is very special and I'm sure our opponents will remember it as one of the highlights of their playing career. Our players certainly thrive on it and your contribution in backing the team is an important factor in our success here at Celtic Park. Let's hope that we can enjoy another memorable European occasion here tonight.

