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CONTENTS

- 05 NEIL LENNON
- 10 THE OPPOSITION
- 18 SCOTT BROWN
- 26 TOMMY CALLAGHAN
- 30 FILIP'S FAVOURITES
- 38 GORDON STRACHAN
- 42 JORGE CADETE
- 44 JOHN KENNEDY
- 50 PIERRE VAN HOOIJDONK
- 56 ON THIS DAY
- 60 DENNY JOHNSTONE
- 62 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIXTURES
- 64 STATS
- 66 QUIZ



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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Celtic view

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Manager's Notes

NEIL LENNON



WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SUCCEED

GOOD evening and welcome to Celtic Park for tonight's match against Benfica, our opening game in Group G of the UEFA Champions League. I would also like to extend that welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Benfica who have travelled here to Glasgow.

We are delighted to be back playing on this stage again after an absence of four years, and to start our campaign with a game against a side of Benfica's pedigree only emphasises that we are back amongst Europe's elite clubs.

It's a place where we believe, as a club, we should be, and the players deserve tremendous credit for getting through two difficult qualifying rounds in order to reach the group stages.

We have had time to savour that achievement, but now that we're here, our intention is to do as well as we possibly can and to remain in the tournament for as long as we can.

Our group is an exciting but difficult one. Tonight's opponents, Benfica, are a top European side who reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Champions League last season, and we know they will be very tough opponents. There is quality throughout their squad, and we will have to be at our very best if we want to achieve a positive result.

Our home record in European competition has, over the years, been very impressive. Celtic Park is renowned as one of the best venues in football, and a number of top players have commented on it. The atmosphere that our supporters generate on these nights really is second to none, and it has been a real source of inspiration to the team in the past. I am sure that will be the case again tonight.

Our excitement at reaching the group stages of the UEFA Champions League has been mirrored by our supporters,



and I would like to thank you all for the way you have responded to the team's achievement by ensuring Celtic Park will be packed out for our three home fixtures, starting tonight.

We're looking forward to three special European nights here and, more importantly, we will hopefully have three victories to celebrate. That won't be easy, but we are determined to do

everything we can to be successful and with your fantastic backing, hopefully that will be the case tonight. Enjoy the game.