



## v NK MARIBOR

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAY-OFF  
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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.





**RONNY DEILA**

Celtic Manager

# YOUR MAGNIFICENT BACKING CAN HELP US INTO THE GROUP STAGES AGAIN

**GOOD evening and welcome to Celtic Park for our UEFA Champions League play-off tie against NK Maribor, and I would also like to extend that welcome to our visitors from Slovenia.**

We faced each other last week, in what was a very competitive game, with chances for both teams. I was pleased with our performance and the fact that we scored an away goal, and we could have scored more on the night, although Maribor also had chances.

We knew before the match that they were a good team, and the game confirmed that. They will be dangerous opponents tonight and we will have to be at our best for the 90 minutes if we want to be successful.

It is also great to be back at Celtic Park for a European tie. This is a famous venue in football, and our supporters have a great reputation for producing an incredible atmosphere in the stadium.

That's what we'll be hoping for tonight, and I'm sure that will

be the case. Our supporters have provided fantastic backing for the team wherever we've played, and I know it's something that the players appreciate.

Our first game back here for the new season was a great occasion. The performance and result against Dundee United was very pleasing, and it was a good way to mark our return home.

We would clearly be delighted with a similar display tonight, but our focus, first and foremost, is winning the tie and progressing to the group stages of the UEFA Champions League.

It's a stage that the club has enjoyed competing in for the past two seasons, and we'd like to do so again this season.

In order to achieve this, we will have to be at our best tonight against NK Maribor, whose own target is the same as ours.

The players will be focused on the task in hand, and will do their best to be successful tonight, and I know that you will provide the magnificent backing which is such an important part of a European night here at Celtic Park.

**Enjoy the game**





'Tonight's focus, first and foremost, is winning the tie and progressing to the group stages of the UEFA Champions League'

## CLUB HONOURS



### SCOTTISH LEAGUE WINNERS (45 Times)

1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96,  
1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06,  
1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09,  
1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15,  
1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19,  
1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36,  
1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66,  
1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69,  
1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72,  
1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77,  
1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82,  
1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98,  
2000/01, 2001/02, 2003/04,  
2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08,  
2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14

### SCOTTISH CUP WINNERS (36 Times)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904,  
1907, 1908, 1911, 1912,  
1914, 1923, 1925, 1927,  
1931, 1933, 1937, 1951,  
1954, 1965, 1967, 1969,  
1971, 1972, 1974, 1975,  
1977, 1980, 1985, 1988,  
1989, 1995, 2001, 2004,  
2005, 2007, 2011, 2013

### LEAGUE CUP WINNERS (14 Times)

1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66,  
1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69,  
1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83,  
1997/98, 1999/00, 2000/01,  
2005/06, 2008/09

### EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS 1967

### CORONATION CUP WINNERS 1953

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# SCOTT BROWN

Celtic Captain



## CELTIC PARK WAS MADE FOR EUROPEAN NIGHTS LIKE THESE



**EUROPEAN nights at Celtic Park are special occasions. I've been lucky enough to have played in a lot of them over the past few seasons, and they are incredible games to be involved in. I'm hoping tonight's match is another one of those memorable nights.**

I won't be involved in the action on the pitch but I'll be in the stands, cheering on the team along with every other supporter, and I know the boys are capable of getting the result tonight which puts us in the group stages of the UEFA Champions League.

We know it won't be easy. NK Maribor showed last week that they're a dangerous side, and I'm sure that will be the case again tonight, so we'll have to be at our best if we want to get through.

It's also great to be back playing here at Celtic Park, for the players and the supporters, and the

atmosphere on these nights is something special.

I thought we played well over in Slovenia, and it was great to see Callum McGregor scoring another goal. He's come back after a year on loan and he's really seized his opportunity in the first team.

And at the back, Craig Gordon also showed what a good goalkeeper he is with a number of great saves in the first leg.

The players do appreciate the backing we get from the fans, and I know that's going to be the case tonight. Hopefully, we'll all be celebrating at the end.

**Enjoy the game**

### CLUB DIRECTORY AND RECORDS

**CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB**  
Celtic Park, Glasgow, G40 3RE

**CELTIC CALL CENTRE**  
Tel: 0871 226 1888  
(calls cost up to 10p per minute, telecoms provider dependent. Mobile and other provider charges may vary)

**WEBSITE:** www.celticfc.net  
**FORMED:** 1888  
**STADIUM:** Celtic Park  
**CAPACITY:** 60,506

**HOME STRIP COLOUR**  
Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts and socks

**AWAY STRIP COLOUR**  
Dark green shirts with green/gold trim, dark green shorts and socks

**RECORD ATTENDANCE**  
92,000 v Rangers, 1938

**RECORD VICTORY**  
11-0 v Dundee, 1895

**RECORD DEFEAT**  
0-8 v Motherwell, 1937

**MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN ONE SEASON**  
50 - Jimmy McGrory, 1935/36

**MOST PREMIER/SPL GOALS IN ONE SEASON**  
35 - Brian McClair, 1986/87  
35 - Henrik Larsson, 2000/01

### DIRECTORS/STAFF

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# STADIUM REGULATIONS



In the event of a stadium evacuation please follow the directions of the Police and stewards

ALL supporters are reminded that the Ground Regulations insist that spectators remain seated during the match.

Please remain seated throughout the match in the interests of your own safety and that of your fellow supporters.

Superintendent George Clelland of Strathclyde Police 'B' Division, said: "Strathclyde Police do not wish to in any way prevent spectators from fully enjoying football matches.

"However, the safety of those attending must be paramount at all times. We fully support Celtic FC in this matter and we fully endorse their message to supporters."

## UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT AT CELTIC PARK AND AWAY FOOTBALL STADIA

NEW rules have been introduced by the SFA and SPFL in connection with "Unacceptable Conduct" at football stadia. The new rules form part of our Stadium Regulations. It is a condition of entry to stadia that the Stadium Regulations, including these new rules, are followed.

A summary of the new rules is set out below. Full details are available on the Celtic website at [www.celticfc.net](http://www.celticfc.net) or by contacting the Customer Service Manager on 0871 226 1888\*.

### CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB WILL NOT TOLERATE UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT AT CELTIC PARK OR AT AWAY FOOTBALL STADIA

- Unacceptable conduct is conduct which is violent or disorderly
- Violent conduct includes any actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against any person, or intentional damage to property

- Disorderly conduct includes conduct which stirs up or sustains, or is likely or is designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards individuals or groups of people because of:

- Gender
- Colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin
- Membership or presumed membership, of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with perceived religious affiliation
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity
- Disability
- Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct
- Displaying writing or any other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting

This list is not exhaustive and must be read in conjunction with the Stadium Regulations.

### ANY PERSON ENGAGING IN UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT MAY BE SUBJECT TO ANY, OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Removal from the stadium
- Suspension from attending official matches involving Celtic Football Club
- Indefinite ban from attending official matches involving Celtic Football Club
- Report to the police and possible criminal proceedings

Celtic Football Club was established in 1888 as a Club open to all.

*Further information on the Club's origins and Celtic's Social Mission Statement can be found on page 3.*

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# NK MARIBOR

A look at the Hoops' play-off opponents



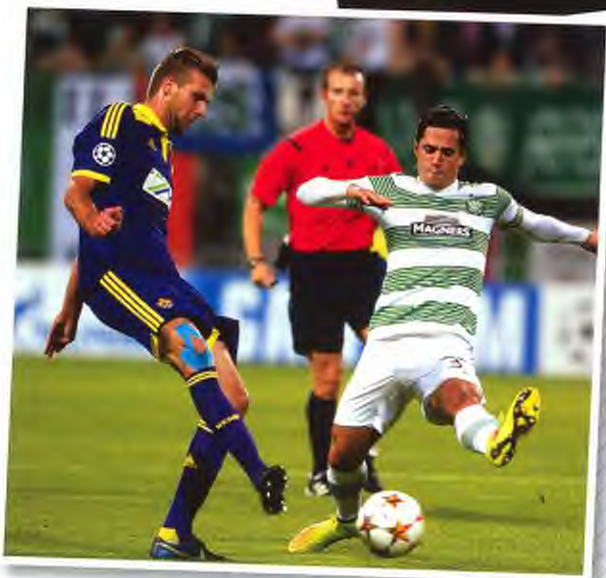
**CELTIC face Slovenian champions, NK Maribor, in the UEFA Champions League play-off stage tonight, with the tie intriguingly poised following the two early goals in the first leg at the Ljudski vrt.**

Last week's 1-1 draw means Celtic are 90 minutes away from reaching the group stages of the UEFA Champions League for the third consecutive season.

Here we take a look at tonight's opponents out to stop the Hoops from doing just that....

## IN THE BEGINNING

Maribor were only founded in December 1960, but have established themselves, certainly since Slovenia became independent in 1991, as the country's most successful club. Indeed, they are one of only three Slovenian clubs never to have been relegated from the top division since 1991. The club originally played in the Yugoslav League, their first match a 2-1 victory over city rivals, Kovinar in February 1961.



## FACTS AND FIGURES

Maribor have won the Slovenian league 12 times since its inception, and the Slovenian Cup eight times. Last season's title triumph was their fourth in a row, while they finished runners-up in the cup to Gorica, who beat them 2-0 in the final. They have previously

reached the group stages of the UEFA Champions League in season 1999/2000 when they were drawn in the same group as Lazio, Dynamo Kyiv and Bayer Leverkusen. They finished bottom of the group with four points, despite starting their campaign with a 1-0 victory away to Dynamo Kyiv. The club's colours are purple, and the team wear an all-purple kit, while their away kit is yellow.

## HOME SWEET HOME

Celtic played NK Maribor at the Ljudski vrt Stadium which, translated into English, means the People's Garden. The stadium, which was opened in 1952 even before the club was founded, was originally the home of Branik Maribor, who folded in 1960. It has a capacity of





12,994, and was completely refurbished in 2008. The stadium is also used by the Slovenian national side.

#### LAST SEASON

Maribor won their fourth consecutive title last season, finishing eight points clear of second-placed Koper, and thus qualifying for the UEFA Champions League at the second qualifying round stage. They also reached the Slovenian Cup final, though that game ended in a 2-0 defeat to Gorica. Bosnian striker, Musmir Fajic, was Maribor's top goalscorer in the league campaign with 16 goals, while French forward, Jean Philippe Mendy hit 14 goals. Brazilian striker, Marcos Tavares scored 13 goals and was also voted the club's Player of the Year, winning the 'Purple Warrior' award for his exploits.

#### ROUTE TO THE PLAY-OFF

Maribor faced Bosnian side, Zrinjski in the second qualifying round of this season's UEFA Champions League, and after a goal-less draw away in the first leg, they won the home leg 2-0, with goals from Dare Vrsic and Agim Ibraimi. That set up a clash with Maccabi Tel Aviv in the third qualifying round. The first leg at home saw an injury-time winner for Maribor from Damjan Bohar, and the return leg, played in Larnaca, Cyprus, because of security concerns, finished 2-2, with Ibraimi scoring both goals, a result which put the Slovenian side into the play-off stage.

#### PLAYER TO WATCH

Macedonian midfielder Agim Ibraimi (*right*) has been in good goalscoring form since returning to Maribor following a season-long loan with Italian side, Cagliari. He's also netted three goals in their UEFA Champions League qualifiers, including a double in the return leg against Maccabi Tel Aviv

in the previous round. The 25-year-old, who has gained over 25 caps for his country, joined Maribor from fellow Slovenian side, Nafta Lendava, in 2011, and played his part in consecutive title triumphs for his new side.

#### AND ANOTHER THING...

In recent years, NK Maribor have played Scottish opposition in Europe. In 2010, they faced Hibernian in a Europa League qualifier, and after a 3-0 home win, the Slovenians also recorded a 3-2 victory at Easter Road for a 6-2 aggregate win. And in season 2011/12, they faced Rangers in the play-off stage of the UEFA Europa League. The Slovenian side won the first leg 2-1 at home and then, in Glasgow, they drew 1-1 to go through 3-2 on aggregate.





# NK MARIBOR



## ONES TO WATCH

## Marko Suler 1

**NK MARIBOR, the reigning Slovenian champions will arrive at Celtic Park tonight looking to make it into the group stages of the UEFA Champions League for the first time since 1999. Of course, Celtic will also be determined to do so, having achieved this in the previous two seasons.**

The tie is finely balanced, with the first leg in Maribor finishing 1-1, and it's sure to be another special European night at Celtic Park.

Callum McGregor's opener for Celtic was cancelled out by Damjan Bohar, and he will be one of the players that the Hoops will have to watch tonight.

Maribor, who have won the Slovenian league for the past three seasons, have enjoyed success in Scotland on their two previous visits, having knocked out both Hibernian and Rangers from European competition.

Ahead of tonight's UEFA Champions League play-off second leg tie, we take a look at a few of the NK Maribor players who could cause Celtic problems.

With 39 international caps and a career spent playing in a host of European leagues, Suler adds a weight of experience and know-how to the Maribor defence. Arriving last year from Legia Warsaw, the centre-back has enjoyed a solid homecoming to Slovenian football, linking up well with Aleksander Rajcevic in the heart of the Maribor defence. During the first leg, he enjoyed an ongoing aerial tussle with Anthony Stokes but was keen to play the ball out from the back when possible. He also made a number of important interventions to thwart the Hoops. His leadership qualities came to the fore during his debut season as Maribor scooped the domestic double of the Slovenian League and Slovenian Supercup.



2



## Mitja Viler

The flying full-back was a constant attacking threat against Celtic in the first leg with his forays down the left flank. Having earned a reputation as a utility man, the Slovenian has flourished of late as a left-back, linking up well as he did in the home leg with Damjan Bohar, whose tendency to play as a traditional inside forward creates space for the marauding runs of the 27-year-old. While his attacking threat is without question, the Bhoys found success down the flank on a number of occasions through the quick feet of Callum McGregor and the direct running of Mikael Lustig. Nonetheless, with over 100 appearances for the Slovenian champions, he remains a valued presence in the squad.

3



## Dare Vršič

With a wealth of experience in the game, Vršič adds a maturity to the Maribor midfield, borne out of a varied and diverse career. Spells in Slovakia, Romania and most recently Austria, coupled with a long stay in Slovenian football mean he is a trusted presence on the right side of the park and a reliable source of supply for the goal-getting Tavares. The 29-year-old's return to Maribor marks the achievement of both a personal and professional goal. Having broken his leg in 2007 while playing for Politehnica Timisoara in Romania, the midfielder doubted if he would ever play the game professionally again. As such, when the opportunity arose to join the team he had supported as a boy, he naturally jumped at the chance. He has expressed his desire to bring Champions League football to the Purples. Vršič will be perhaps determined more than most to get a result at Paradise.



NK MARIBOR



## Damjan Bohar

As the goal hero in the Ljudski Stadium, Bohar was a constant threat to the Celtic backline before reacting quickest in the box to equalise against the Hoops. This was to be his second time he had scored in Europe at home in this year's competition, having started got Maribor off to a dream start against Maccabi Tel Aviv in the previous round. The 22-year-old traditionally plays on the left of midfield with a preference for stepping inside and driving at teams. So far this season, he has linked well with the more experienced Tavares and Ibraimi. After a solid debut season last year, more is expected of the highly-rated attacker this campaign.



5

## Marcos Tavares

The leading light of the Maribor attack for the last six years, the naturalised Slovenian has been a mainstay for the visitors since impressing during a trial in 2008. As the captain of the side, Tavares could be described as a typical No.9 with good strength, movement and a fearsome shot. During his time in Slovenia, he has helped his side to five league championships, three Slovenian Cups and four Supercups. In Europe, the Brazilian-born striker has continued to shine. When the 30-year-old scored against former side APOEL Tel Aviv in last season's UEFA Champions League qualifying round, it was his 15th goal in a UEFA competition, confirming him as the club's record goal scorer in Europe. Meanwhile, earlier this year, his two goals against Krka further underlined his sharpness in front of goal which saw him become the club's record goalscorer.



## Agim Ibraimi

Macedonian internationalist Ibraimi arrived at Maribor in 2011, following spells in Austria and Turkey, and immediately made an impression on the champions. As a typical No. 10, Ibraimi is most comfortable dropping into spaces in front of the opposition defence to create and link up with midfield. Spotted by Italian side Cagliari, the 25-year-old was taken on loan last season, playing 25 times in Serie A. Having returned to his parent club, the talented playmaker scored two goals to secure a 2-2 draw against Maccabi Tel-Aviv that booked the Slovenians' place in the second round, to Celtic. And, as a former winner of the Macedonian Player of the Year award, Maribor were quick to tie him down to a long-term contract to fend off interest from a host of English Premier League clubs.

## THE OPPOSITION



### THE TEAM

#### GOALKEEPERS

Alijaz Cotman  
Jasmin Handanovic

#### DEFENDERS

Marko Suler  
Ales Mejac  
Damjan Vuklisevic  
Dejan Trajkovski  
Aleksander Rajcevic  
Mitja Viler  
Arghus

#### MIDFIELDERS

Zeljko Filipovic  
Welle N'Diaye  
Sintayehu Sallalich  
Marcos Tavares  
Agim Ibraimi  
Amir Dervisevic  
Dare Vrsic  
Dino Hotic  
Ranko Moravac  
Petar Stojanovic  
Damjan Bohar  
Ales Mertelj  
Goran Cvijanovic  
Timotej Dodlek  
Daniel Vujcic  
Matic Crnic

#### STRIKERS

Luka Zahovic  
Jean Philippe Mendy  
Nusmir Fajic  
Ziga Zivko  
Rok Sirk  
Alen Ploj

### THE COACH

Ante Simundza



# McGREGOR ON EURO PURPLE PATCH

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### STADION LJUDSKI VRT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2014

**NK MARIBOR 1** (BOHAR 13)

**CELTIC 1** (McGREGOR 6)

**CALLUM McGregor scored in his third consecutive away European tie as Celtic fought out a 1-1 draw with NK Maribor in Slovenia.**

The young Celt opened the scoring after six minutes, pouncing on the ball after Handanovic had saved from a Berget shot.

Maribor equalised seven minutes later, and there were chances at either end in a closely-contested game.

Indeed, the Hoops might consider themselves unfortunate not to have added to their tally, with a number of good chances created during the 90 minutes.

But they also had to thank goalkeeper, Craig Gordon, who produced several impressive saves.

The result sets the tie up nicely for the return leg in Paradise.

**CELTIC (4-3-3):** Gordon; Lustig, Denayer, van Dijk, Izaguirre; Mulgrew, Johansen; Kayal (Bitton 90); McGregor, Berget (Ambrose 73), Stokes (Griffiths 80). *Not used:* Zaluska, Henderson, Commons, Pukki.

**NK MARIBOR (4-4-2):** Handanovic; Stojanovic, Rajcevic, Suler, Viler; Vrsic (Mendy 73), Filipovic, Dervisevic (Mertelj 80), Bohar (Sallalich 78); Ibraimi, Tavares. *Not used:* Cotman, Mejac, Arghus, Zahovic.









# IT'S THE CELTIC WAY

**Kris Commons** and his team-mates aren't resting on the laurels earned over the last few seasons - they are looking ahead

Exclusive interview: Martin Dalziel

**PROGRESSION in football is made by looking forward, not back. That is the philosophy of Kris Commons and he applies it to his job in a number of ways.**

After being named SPFL Player of the Year for his fantastic performances and goal-scoring exploits in the 2013/14 season, Commons could have been forgiven for resting on his laurels and putting his feet up. However, that's not the case for the creative attacker.

The same applies for when he was named among the top 25 players in Europe by UEFA, an accolade fully merited for his consistency in the league and Europe last year.

The same mantra is also applied when things outwith Commons' control happen in football - like Celtic being reinstated into the UEFA Champions League at the play-off stage.

And, following the Hoops' 1-1 draw with NK Maribor in Slovenia last week, he sees no reason to change that outlook now.

"We have just been focusing on the games," he

told the official matchday programme. "Everything that has happened has been drawn out for a while but that's the last thing that players need to be worrying about - off-field activities - but now we can concentrate on these games, which are vitally important for our season.

"As soon as you think about off-the-field activities or games that are a few weeks down the road, you lose focus on the game coming next.

"Nine goals in two league games is a great start for the new season and also for the manager but I think it's important that we keep our foot on the gas and keep pressing ahead while trying to entertain the fans.

"What happened last year is done as well. On a personal point of view, and as a team, you always try to improve every year. I know that's difficult, from a personal point of view, but as a team I think we can give a better account of ourselves in the UEFA Champions League.

"I think what's done is done. Last season is over and, prior to that, beating Barcelona is gone. It's time



## KRIS COMMONS



» to set new targets, new achievements and hopefully we can start reaching for bigger and higher goals and start being in a better place than where we were last year."

With a good result behind the team going into tonight's game, Commons knows the responsibility to go through to the group stages lies firmly with the players.

The Hoops took an early lead against the Slovenian champions last week before being pegged back, but could have won the tie had luck gone their way.

The information on Maribor now is available and the hunger and desire is there from the team. It is now a case of the players using that to Celtic's advantage.

"We have a good scouting system here with plenty of people looking at their games over the last couple of years, but I think it's important you don't read too much into a team.

"We know what their weaknesses are and what their strengths are, who their best players are, the players we want to attack, but they are a very good unit, very well-organised and strong. Wherever you go in Europe there will be a strong home team.

"It's very difficult to go away from home and put in a performance in Europe and stay solid but we have something to hold on to."

There's nothing like playing on familiar territory. You get a buzz, a vibe from the support



KRIS COMMONS



He added: "The two games against Legia were disappointing, but we have been given a second chance in the competition and hopefully we can take it with both hands and try and get into the next stage, the group stages, which is where everyone wants to play their football."

"I think with the opportunity we have going into this we are probably a little more prepared than we were for the Legia games but that was a huge learning curve. Not only for the players but also the management and coaching staff here, that perhaps you need to be a little bit more disciplined away from home in Europe."

"It will be nice now to come back to Celtic Park knowing we don't have to chase the game. The last couple of seasons we have always given ourselves a lot to do."

"It'd be nice to think we can put in a good, solid performance and get back to Celtic Park and at least go in knowing that a win would get us through."

And while Commons knows the bulk of achieving that task is down to the players, he believes there is one special ingredient that could make all the difference.

"Celtic Park will definitely make that difference," he said. "There's nothing like playing on familiar territory. You get a buzz, a vibe from the Celtic support and people just approach Celtic Park differently I think. It's a little bit more natural."

"You get aware of people putting their lucky socks on and going to the same sort of pubs or food joints and it's just a ritual that people go through. Celtic Park falls into that."

"The Murrayfield games were good but I think with European nights you need to be at Celtic Park to get that whole experience."

## THE HIGHS HAVE IT

**EUROPEAN competition holds special memories for Kris Commons. Now in his fourth season at Celtic, the Hoops attacker has experienced the highs and lows that come with playing the best teams in the continent, but his desire for success on that platform is as strong as ever.**

He said: "The obvious memory that stands out was beating Barcelona but that whole campaign, getting 10 points in the group stages was a phenomenal return for being the underdogs."

"We clicked and we could go away from home and put in a solid performance."

"Even losing to Barcelona with the last kick of the game in the Nou Camp that year was a huge boost in confidence. Although we lost the game we felt we could compete at that level. That gave us the springboard to beat them at home as well."

"There are a lot of highs and a few lows but the lows are what make the highs a lot better. I think it's the sort of competition you want to be in every single year. The highs and lows make you determined to get in there."



## A UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TASTE OF PARADISE



**THERE is an old saying that playing the best brings out the best in players and that's something Commons agrees with.**

It is something he has learned from two tilts at the UEFA Champions League with Celtic and it is where he wants to continue to play his football.

"You're playing against not only the biggest clubs but the best players in Europe and to put yourself up against the best brings out the best in you," he said.

"There's nothing like playing in and experiencing the build-up to a UEFA Champions League game. The press, the UEFA Champions League footballs, the bibs, everything that goes with it is that extra bit special and when it comes to game time there's no place better than Paradise."

"Celtic Park is one of the places that people talk about for years and to be part of it for the last two seasons, and hopefully this one, is something that will stay with me forever in my playing days and hopefully I can use that one day as a coach."

"As an achievement it would be massive if we could get back in this year, not only for the club but the coaching staff. I think for any player or manager, to be part of it is a special occasion. Whether you're Barcelona or Celtic it's the same feeling."

# Introducing TicPick Lucky 7

**FOOTBALL** returned to Celtic Park on Flag Day and so did TicPick, the Celtic Pools' exciting match prediction game where you can win a cash prize jackpot as well as money-can't-buy prizes.

This season it's even easier to take part thanks to our new-look format which is now called TicPick Lucky 7. Instead of 10 results per week you now just need to predict seven correctly to be in with a chance of scooping a cash prize.

As with last season, each online entrant will automatically take their place in the TicPick Lucky 7 League where monthly and end-of-season prizes can also be won.

Last season Richard Lang of Lytham, St Anne's finished top of the table and his prize was a seat in the Directors' Box along with a guest and enjoy a day of hospitality at the Dundee United match where he witnessed the unfurling of the league flag and he also made the Paradise Windfall draw at half-time on the pitch.

Players in this year's league will enjoy a brand new twist. Celtic legend Tom Boyd will be making his weekly predictions and his performance will be charted on the league table.

Not only that but he'll be challenged each week by a celebrity Hoops fan, a former player, or member of the Celtic Family in a head-to-head. Can you prove to be better at TicPick Lucky 7 than both of them?

First up was Tosh McKinlay. We're also working on a brand new app that will mean you can play TicPick Lucky 7 on your mobile. Watch this space for news on that in the coming weeks.

Full details of how to play TicPick Lucky 7 can be found on <http://www.celticfc.net/pools/>

Play and win the Celtic way with TicPick Lucky 7.



## Celts are Kellys' heroes



IT was a family affair for the matchday mascots at the last home game as the Hoops celebrated Flag Day with a resounding 6-1 victory over Dundee United.

The champions were led out by

brother and sister, 11-year-old Sean Kelly and his eight-year-old sister, Charlotte.

The Glasgow youngsters were at the head of the side as they trooped through the guard of honour before the game took place.



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Defender: James McGovern

Defender: Kieran Tierney

Defender: Lee Wallace

Defender: David Hume

Defender: Scott Brown

Defender: Iwan Tukalo

Midfielder: James McArthur

Midfielder: Scott Sinclair

Midfielder: James MacKinnon

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50 SEASONS AS THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB

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# UNICEF and War Child to be beneficiaries of MAESTRIO match

**CELTIC FC Foundation and the Rio Ferdinand Foundation today announced the beneficiaries of their 'Maestrio' legends' charity match - McStay's Maestros v Rio's All Stars.**

The unique event will take place at Celtic Park on Sunday,

September 7 (KO: 2pm) and net proceeds will be split equally between Celtic FC Foundation and the Rio Ferdinand Foundation to support children and young people facing poverty and disadvantage at home and overseas.

Celtic FC Foundation\* have

selected UNICEF and WAR CHILD as main beneficiaries and the club's charitable arm will assist in their humanitarian work in a number of current Middle East conflicts.

Funds will also assist local projects. However, one of Celtic's principal areas of work will be to

provide aid and support through these well-respected charities.

The Rio Ferdinand Foundation\*\* will work with local community partners in both London and across Townships in South Africa to support and assist children, young people and families suffering the effects of poverty, violence and abuse on a day-to-day basis.

Celtic FC Foundation CEO, Tony Hamilton, said: "From our living rooms we have all witnessed some of the terrible vivid horror of conflict in recent days and the particular effects that these events have had on children.

"The work of UNICEF and War Child takes no sides but simply cares for all the innocent victims of conflict on a humanitarian level. The match in September

will bring together some great names in football who want to make a difference.

"We hope as many supporters as possible can join us to assist children and their families who so desperately need our help."

Rio Ferdinand Foundation CEO, Gary Stannett MBE, said: "Children, young people and families are the future of any community, and we all have a responsibility and moral obligation to help wherever it is needed, either on our doorstep in Glasgow and London or internationally where conflict and absolute poverty are so visible.

"Funds raised from the Maestrio match will support us in continuing our work that has the ongoing aims of eradicating the threat of poverty, violence

and trauma towards our young people and provide much needed humanitarian relief in conflict areas.

"It is absolutely fantastic for us to be involved in such a prestigious event and I would like to thank Celtic FC again and all the players who have given up their time, expertise and resources to make the Maestrio game happen.

"We are proud that the Rio Ferdinand Foundation can work with Celtic FC Foundation, War Child and UNICEF to change lives of young people and families around the world."

Jane Cooper, UNICEF UK Director of Communication, said: "UNICEF works to save and protect the rights of all children, no matter what their race, religion or background.



» "Many hundreds of thousands of children throughout the Middle East are living without access to basic life-saving essentials, such as food, clean water and shelter.

"We would like to thank Celtic for supporting our work in the region and helping to make these children's lives a little bit better."

War Child CEO, Rob Williams, said: "We are delighted to have this support from Celtic FC Foundation.

"The money raised will go towards helping some of the world's most vulnerable children, who are facing the most brutal conflicts on a daily basis. As a non-political, impartial organisation we work to reach the children most in need through our child protection centres, through trauma counselling, and through maintaining their education. On behalf of War Child - thank you."

## GET YOUR TICKETS FOR MAESTRIO CHARITY MATCH

TICKETS for the Maestrio Charity Match, sponsored by Flip and Magners, are now on general sale, priced at £10 for adults and £5 for concessions (maximum of 10 per person).

They are available to purchase online at [www.celticfc.net](http://www.celticfc.net) by calling 0871 226 1888\*\*\*, by visiting the Celtic Ticket Office or the club's retail outlets at Argyle Street, Sauchiehall Street, Clydebank, Coatbridge or East Kilbride.

Premium tickets (£35) and corporate packages (£125) are also available by calling

0871 226 1888\*\*\* (option 4) or emailing [matchdayhospitality@celticfc.co.uk](mailto:matchdayhospitality@celticfc.co.uk)

\* Celtic FC Foundation is a registered charity in Scotland, number SC024648.

\*\* Rio Ferdinand Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales, number 1151127.

\*\*\* Calls cost up to 10p per minute, telecoms provider dependent. Mobile and other provider charges may vary. For customer enquiries relating to existing purchases only, please call 0141 551 4493.

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# ON THIS DAY

## AUGUST 26

Words: Joe Sullivan

### 1901

On this day in 1901 a benefit game for keeper Dan McArthur was played against Rangers and finished 1-1. He made his debut in a 3-2 home league win over Paisley side Abercorn in 1892. He was to go on and play 120 games for the Celts with 36 shut-outs for a 30% record in just over a decade with the club as well as winning three caps for Scotland and four Scottish League caps. At a height of, depending on reports, 5'5" or 5'7", Dan was the shortest keeper to play for both Celtic and Scotland. Despite a couple of seasons' sterling work by Joe Cullen, McArthur could lay claim to being the first long-term Celtic keeper before he was followed by Davie Adams. McArthur was frequently concussed from the treatment dished out to the custodians of that time and he eventually retired through injury.

### 1908

Similarly, in 1908 another benefit match was played against Rangers, this time for Peter Somers and this time the Celts won 3-1. Somers played for the club between 1897-1909, making 219 appearances and scoring 62 goals. He made his debut for Celtic against Third Lanark in December 1897 when he scored once in a 4-0 victory. An integral part of much of Celtic's six-in-a-row triumph, Somers left the club in 1909 but was dead within five years, tragically dying at the age of just 36 following the amputation of part of a leg due to injuries sustained during the First World War. Somers, a frail and elusive figure who was well known for his wit both on and off the field and was described by Maley as Celtic's 'powder monkey', the naval slang for the sailor who loaded the artillery on a warship. He was partnered on this flank by outside-left Davie Hamilton, a man who married searing pace with an ability to hook in pinpoint crosses and was also the team's singer when accompanied by Somers on the piano.

### 1970

Danny McGrain made his debut on this day in 1970, see pages 36-37





# 1997

How many times have the crowd cheered a Henrik Larsson goal at Celtic Park? However, we all know that his last goal here wasn't cheered very loudly - it was for Barcelona here in the Champions League of

2004/05. What isn't so obviously well-known, though, is that Larsson's first ever goal in Paradise was also in European football and that wasn't met with a rapturous ovation either. It came on this day in 1997 when Austrian side SC Tirol visited on UEFA Cup duty with the Celts already 2-1 down after the first leg in Innsbruck. The Celts rallied at home though to record a 6-3 victory for a 7-5 aggregate scoreline but the night wasn't without its scares along the way. As the first half came to a close, thanks to goals from Simon Donnelly and Andreas Thom, the aggregate score was 3-3 with the Austrians pressurising when, with Larsson helping out in defence, the ball came off him and ended up in the back of the Celtic net to put the visitors 4-3 ahead. The game carried on frenetically but further goals from Donnelly, Craig Burley (2) and Morten Wieghorst gave Celtic the victory. And with Larsson's previous two goals that season coming in away ties, his first and last goals at Celtic Park were both in European competition and both AGAINST Celtic!

# 2006

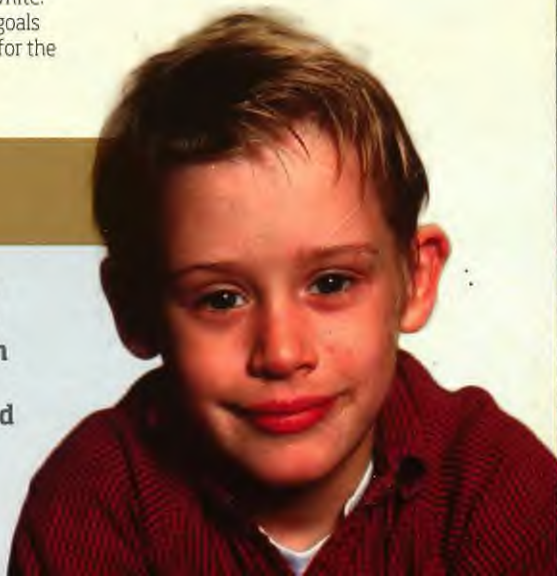
It was on this day in 2006 that Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink made his Celtic debut when Hibernian

arrived on league duty. He got his Celtic career off to a dream start by grabbing the winner as the SPL champions came from behind to secure a vital victory. After going 1-0 down to an early goal, scored by none other than Scott Brown, the Hoops battled back in the second period to seal the three points through Maciej Zurawski and Vennegoor of Hesselink strikes. The Dutch striker, who came on as a second-half substitute, looked impressive in his Hoops debut and immediately endeared himself to the Celtic fans with the first of many goals in green and white. That's was the first of 44 goals in 108 Celtic appearances for the Dutch striker.



## AND ANOTHER THING...

**Happy Birthday to actor Macauley Culkin who was born on this day in 1980 and who was the biggest child actor of his day after appearing in the first two *Home Alone* movies in 1990 and 1992 respectively. Prior to that, though, he had played Miles Russell alongside John Candy in *Uncle Buck* - all downhill from there then.**





## DANNY'S DEBUT

**It was 44 years ago today that Danny McGrain took his bow in the Hoops**



**CELTIC legend Danny McGrain made his debut on this day, August 26, 1970 by coming on as a sub to replace Harry Hood in a 2-2 League Cup sectional game against Dundee United at Tannadice.**

That was the first of 657 Celtic appearances in which he scored eight goals and he also played 62 times for Scotland.

Former Celtic captain Danny McGrain is one of the most respected players to have ever donned the Hoops. His commitment and fierce dedication to the game allied to his astounding natural ability made him a firm favourite with fans and critics alike.

McGrain spent 20 years at the club as a player and it is no exaggeration to say that in that time he made his name as one of the best right-backs in the world, both at international and domestic level.

Signed by Sean Fallon in 1967, McGrain was farmed out to Maryhill Juniors to toughen him up a bit before he was handed his debut for the club when he came on as a substitute 44 years ago today.

He was in the championship sides of 1973 and

1974 and won the Scottish Cup with Celtic in 1974 and 1975 as well as being an ever-present in the double winning side of 1977. He was Scotland's Player of the Year that season and also played at the Maracana in June that year when Scotland toured South America.

Following the departure of Kenny Dalglish to Liverpool, McGrain took over the Celtic captaincy and under his reign the team enjoyed plenty of success.

He captained them to the championship in 1981, 1982 and 1986 and also further Scottish Cups in '80 in '85. He was awarded a testimonial against Manchester United in 1980.

McGrain overcame various obstacles in his career, including a fractured skull in 1972, diabetes and an ankle injury that threatened his career, and his 62 Scotland caps were a Celtic record until Paul McStay overtook it. He was awarded the Glasgow civic medal for Services to Sport and was presented with an MBE in 1983.

Only three other Celts, Billy McNeill, Roy Aitken, and Paul McStay, have pulled the Hoops over their

heads in earnest on more occasions than Danny, and it seems hard to believe that he started out as a Rangers fan.

In fact in his autobiography *In Sunshine And In Shadow* written in 1987, Danny bemoaned the fact that inferences were drawn erroneously about his religion from his name.

It is heartening to know that this situation is now a thing of the past in Scottish football, but from Celtic's point of view, it left the way clear for us to obtain the services of the best full-back our country has ever produced.

For his footballing skills, Danny was used to accepting plaudits and awards. There was no doubting his talents as a player of real world class, but what set him apart from many of his peers was his incredible loyalty to the club that nurtured his talent. In an age when Celtic had lost Macari, Hay and Dalglish to gold-paved southern streets, McGrain, now a coach here at Celtic Park, remained constant.

#### RED LETTER DAY

Danny received only one red card during his career and that measly total was remarkable, given the fact that the right-back was one of the most ferocious and committed tacklers to grace the Scottish game. The trick was all in the timing, though, and as his team-mates and opponents will testify that he was never a dirty player. His solitary red came in a 3-1 defeat to Aberdeen in October 9, 1982 and although there was some dubiety about the first yellow, Danny freely holds up his hands for the second. "I was late for the second one," he commented, "unfortunately for me, I only realised that when I was in mid-air. It's always like that when you're late."

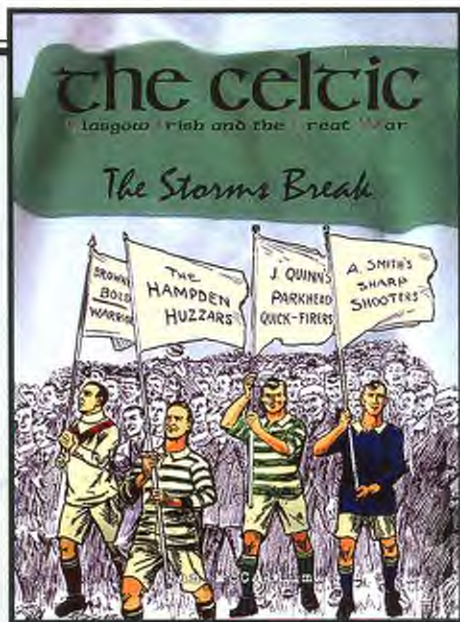
#### FACE FURNITURE

In the 1976/77 campaign, he had played a lead-role alongside Kenny Dalglish in Celtic's double-winning triumph. Then, at the end of the season, he was voted Scotland's Player of the Year. It could be argued that this was the year when Danny was at the very peak of his powers as a player and it should be recognised as another momentous date in McGrain history. For 1977 was the year in which Danny grew his famous beard! "The beard was never a fashion statement," he commented in a later interview in the *Celtic View*, "it was just something to cover my face!"

#### GOALDEN YEARS?

If you were going to nitpick and try to identify one weakness in his game, goalscoring might be it. In his 657 appearances Danny scored a total of eight goals and admits today that this is a source of frustration: "There are many times when I look back and think 'I should have shot!'" he told the *Celtic View*. "When I see myself playing in games I'll watch myself breaking forward and I'll be expecting to see myself take the shot, but I don't and it must have been so infuriating for those who were watching me. I am sure that frustration faded as the years went by though and they watched me going forward thinking, 'he's never going to shoot!' But I just never had that confidence to strike a ball when I should have done. And the goals I did score were always insignificant or had deflected off the backside of a defender, they were always just horrible goals!"





# THE CELTIC, GLASGOW IRISH AND THE GREAT WAR

We take a look at the second book in the series, *The Storms Break*

**THE overall aim of the series of books *The Celtic, Glasgow Irish and the Great War* is to give the Glasgow Irish community and the wider Scots Irish a visible presence in what will be, starting in August 2014, a five year long media event covering almost monthly, Great War commemorations.**

*The Celtic, Glasgow Irish and the Great War* series covers the social and political history of the Glasgow Irish community from their arrival in Scotland over the course of the 19th century on up to the end of the Great War in 1919. The Great War experiences of the Glasgow Irish and Scots Roman Catholic community between 1914 and 1919 are highlighted and examined in detail.

The major British and Irish political, social, military and footballing events over the course of the war are covered. All the subjects are examined through the prism of the Celtic Football and Athletic Club and the team's sporting performances over the five football seasons of the Great War.

- Book One: *The Gathering Storms*
- Book Two: *The Storms Break (Season 1914/15)*
- Book Three: *The End of Innocence (Season 1915/16)*
- Book Four: *The Blood Sacrifices (Season 1916/17)*
- Book Five: *An Ocean of Blood (Season 1917/18)*
- Book Six: *The Never Ending Trials (Season 1918/19)*

The first book in the series *The Gathering Storms* sets the scene for the others and explains the political and social history of the Glasgow Irish community and the political and social positions of the community on the eve of the Great War. It tells the story of the formation of the Celtic club and the unique connection between club and community.

The aim of each of the subsequent books is to highlight

the contribution of both the Celtic Football Club and the Glasgow Irish and Nationalist Irish communities to the British war effort. Their support was required at a time of heightened community tensions over Home Rule for Ireland and later the Easter Rebellion of 1916.

A constant thread running throughout all of the books is the conduct and attitudes of the management and directors of the Celtic Football and Athletic Club and the sporting performances of the Celtic team over the period.

Although it may come as an uncomfortable fact to some of today's Glasgow Irish, almost every modern Celtic supporter who can claim a historic connection to the Glasgow Irish community will almost certainly have had an ancestor or close family relation who, like millions of other young men, was sucked into the maelstrom that was the Great War. For political, religious and financial reasons, this period in the history of Celtic FC and the Glasgow Irish community has long been ignored or at best skimmed over



by both club and social historians. These books are an attempt to explain and emphasise the massive and completely voluntary contribution made by Celtic FC and the Glasgow Irish community to the British war effort over the 1914-1919 period.

**THE second book in the series, *The Storms Break* is set within the context of the Glasgow Irish community's long-held aspiration for Home Rule for Ireland, and the conflicts and paradoxes of their dual Scots-Irish identity at a time of grave national emergency in Ireland and in Europe.**

The book examines the reaction of the Glasgow Irish community to the social and moral pressures brought about by events at home and abroad as they unfolded over the first year of the Great War.

The Glasgow Irish on the eve of war was a community in transition toiling with overlapping identities - ethnic, religious and political. Just how Scottish or British did third or sometimes even fourth-generation Glasgow Irish feel and how much loyalty did the Scots-born Glasgow Irish feel they owed to their new homeland? How were they supposed to respond to the British nation's call to arms having suffered decades of bigotry, derision, racism and marginalisation?

On a very personal level, the dilemma for the Glasgow Irish was just how much loyalty they felt they owed to their local community, to their neighbours and workmates. Exactly how marginalised and under siege did they as a community feel? Was it enough to stand on the sidelines of the war? For the first eighteen months of the Great War, enlistment would be entirely voluntary and a matter for an individual's personal choice.

Just how much moral pressure did the Glasgow Irish feel as they watched their neighbours march off to defend the community, including their own wives and children? With cultural ties to Ireland still immensely strong, what of the old maxim: "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity!"

Over the course of the Great War, the Irish and by association the Glasgow Irish came under close scrutiny regarding their loyalty and commitment to Great Britain and to the British war effort. Conditioned for over 40 years by the Roman Catholic Church and their political leaders to strive for respectability, advancement and inclusion into the wider society, the Great War would provide an opportunity for the Glasgow Irish to demonstrate their commitment to their native city by contributing their share of the blood sacrifice. The question was would they take it? Great Britain declared war after the invasion of neutral Belgium and France by massive German conscript armies of five million men. A small British force of just 90,000 men that comprised the bulk of the forces based in Great Britain and Ireland was sent to France to fight alongside their French allies.

As massive armies clashed in Belgium and France, the key military events which led to the stalemate that saw continuous lines of trenches stretching from Switzerland to the Belgian coast and which set the military scene for the next four years is explained. The contributions of Irish and Scottish battalions during the first year of the conflict





are highlighted through a number of personal stories of young Glasgow and native Irishmen fighting on the Front Lines.

Meanwhile at home, the rump of the British Army had to be expanded rapidly to meet the threat of German invasion and help prevent the potential German conquest of Western Europe. Dominating the social agenda at home over first year of the war therefore, was the vociferous army recruiting campaign that saw two million young men voluntarily enlist into the British military by August 1915. Encouraged by their priests, political leaders and their own long established martial tradition and enthusiasm for the war, tens of thousands of Glasgow Irish and nationalist Irish males would follow their contemporaries into the military.

In the midst of the recruiting maelstrom even the Celtic manager, Willie Maley (above), himself the son of a professional British soldier, wrote an open letter the Scottish newspapers complaining that despite being fitter than most recruits, he was not allowed to enlist because of his age. As the recruiting furore reached fever pitch, very

young single men of recruiting age came under enormous pressure do their bit and to enlist.

Accused of not doing their bit *The Storms Break* highlights the moral and financial pressures applied to all professional footballers to enlist into the military, thereby encouraging their club's supporters to follow them into the army. Considered by many of the middle class to be hindering recruiting, Association Football as a sport came under immense pressure to cease for the duration of the war. The book examines the middle-class crusade to have working-class professional football suspended for the duration of the conflict. It highlights the leading role played by Celtic chairman Tom White, then the Vice President of the Scottish Football Association, in the ultimately successful fight against the powerful 'Stop Football' lobbyist amid demonstrations at Parkhead to stop football. In England the same lobbyists forced the FA to suspend professional football for the duration of the war.

Central to the narrative and running throughout the book is the Celtic football team's match-by-match

performances on the field of play. The book lists every single game played by Celtic including friendlies, charity and testimonials over the course of the 1914/15 season and includes match reports, goal scorers and team lists. Also highlighted are the club's reactions to political, military and footballing events as they unfolded over the course of the 1914/15 football season. The overt Irish ethos of the Celtic club influenced the wider Glasgow community's opinion of the club and its supporters, and as political tensions in Ireland mounted, the perception of the club's contribution to the British war effort would on several occasions be called into question.

The Storms Break studies, game by game, the race between Celtic and Heart of Midlothian FC for the 1914/15 Scottish League title. It examines in detail the circumstances that led to a number of Hearts footballers famously enlisting into the army and goes on to challenge the myth that their subsequent military service cost Heart of Midlothian the 1914/15 League Championship.

The first year of the war is set out on a month-by-month basis and all the major British and Irish political, social and

military events are highlighted and explained.

In addition, a number of events of particular significant to the Glasgow Irish and Scots Roman Catholic community are highlighted in their own sub paragraphs. The events include; the arrival in Glasgow of thousands of Roman Catholic Belgian refugees; the attitude and reactions of the Glasgow Irish Volunteers to John Redmond's Woodenbridge speech; Willie Angus VC (above), Roman Catholic military chaplains; the raising of the 18th (Service) Bn. Highland Light Infantry by Celtic director Lieutenant Colonel John Shaughnessy; the Glasgow Rents Strikes and the Irish Flag Day.

The war service and fates of several young Celtic supporters, current and former players and club officials who enlisted into the army are highlighted including Celtic legend Tom Maley's son Josie, future club director Francis McKillop, old Bhoys John Young, Willie McOustra and Pat Slavín. Young Celtic players like Joe O'Kane and Michael Gilhooly and supporters like Joe McAre from Bridgeton and the Hillely boys from the Garngad, from the family of future Celtic stalwart Hugh Hillely, are also covered.

# PARADISE FOUND FOR NEW BHOYS

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP  
CELTIC PARK, GLASGOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014

CELTIC 6 DUNDEE UNITED 1

[DENAYER 4, COMMONS 28, JOHANSEN 34, STOKES 54, BERGET 62, 90 +1]

**CELTIC** celebrated Flag Day in style as they ran riot against Dundee United, demolishing their opponents 6-1 to give Ronny Deila a performance to savour in his first game in charge at Paradise.

New Bhoys Jo Inge Berget bagged a brace but before that fellow newcomer Jason Denayer, Kris Commons, Stefan Johansen and Anthony Stokes had put the champions in charge.

John Rankin struck the consolation for the beleaguered visitors, who had come into this match on the back of two wins from their opening two games.

From Fergus McCann raising the championship flag, right through to the final whistle, it certainly was a day to remember for every Celtic supporter.



CELTIC 6-1 DUNDEE UNITED







# PLAYING FOR KEEPS

**Leo Fasan** signs on as a professional for the first time

Exclusive Interview: Mark Henderson

**F**OUR years of perseverance and patience came to fruition for Leo Fasan this month when the 20-year-old signed his first professional contract at Celtic.

The Italian shot-stopper put pen to paper on a three-year deal with the club, rewarding his excellent progress in Paradise since his arrival on trial in 2010.

He had to bide his time for all the necessary paperwork to be rubber-stamped, giving him a different status to the rest of his contemporaries. But it was worth the wait, and now the delighted young Celt is looking forward to the next chapter of his career at the Scottish champions.

"It feels great," he told the official programme in an exclusive interview. "I have been working hard for the past four years and finally I've managed to get this professional contract so I am very happy.

"Last season, I was always thinking about when it was going to get sorted. But now it has been done, I am more relaxed and can train and play better. It was just paperwork that needed finalised. Now everything is resolved so I am happy and can relax.

"It was a bit strange as everyone else in the club was different. But it was something to push me to get the contract and it was maybe something I needed to push myself even harder.

"I came on trial initially and Celtic offered me the chance to stay. My objective every year since then was to stay in the team and get better every year. Now I am in the first-team squad, I hope I can show the manager what I can do and play some games with the first team."

The established No.1 for the Under-20s last season, Fasan excelled as the young Celts made it five-in-a-row in the league, making several stunning saves at crucial points in the campaign.

This impressive form earned him a place in the summer tour of Austria, where he featured for Ronny Deila's side against FK Krasnodar, Rapid Vienna and LASK Linz, appearing assured and composed at this level.

And Fraser Forster's subsequent departure to Southampton has pushed him further up the pecking order in Paradise. His next target is competitive action.

"I was very happy at the chance to play in pre-season

YOUTH

# INTERVIEW





» games," he said. "I had a good time with the boys and hopefully I can get some game-time competitively and get on the bench.

"I am getting closer. Every day I try my best to push myself further. It is harder as there is only one place in the team and you just have to work harder every day and show the manager your best.

"When a new manager comes in, everything is new and you need to show him what you are capable of.

"It's good that he put me in for the game in Austria, so I hope he can put in for more games in the league."

Goalkeepers naturally become more proficient as they garner greater experience and Fasan knows he still has scope for development.

"You need to get experience, but when every year you get older you get that and you improve different parts of your game," he explained.

"I have matured a lot but I still have to work a lot on other things such as my mental strength and you always want to improve physically."

When only one spot in the team is available, opportunities are limited for goalies. A resolute mindset is an essential commodity.

"You need to have a tough mentality and be crazy obviously!" laughed Fasan. "But you do need a strong mind to be a goalkeeper."

At Celtic, Fasan has enjoyed a wonderful education in his trade, working under goalkeeping coach Stevie Woods and alongside Craig Gordon, Lukasz Zaluska and, until recently, Forster.

"When you work with older goalkeepers you always try to look at them and see what is better for you and to use them as an example," said the Italian.

"They always work hard and are extremely dedicated. They don't waste a day of training and do everything right. I have learned to be a very good professional. Stevie is a very good goalie coach. He

always tries to push you hard to improve and to do better in the next exercise you do. He's a good laugh as well.

"When you are training, you have times when you have to be very focused but you can also have moments where you can have a laugh as well."

And while this training environment has helped steer Fasan's career in a positive direction, his biggest influence lies closer to home - his Dad, David.

"My biggest influence is definitely my Dad," he said.

"He still plays amateur football and he has always pushed me and tried to make me a better player.

"He was a left-back. He played in goals a couple of times in small tournaments but he's not really a goalkeeper.

"My parents, my family and all my friends are very happy at what I'm doing and they always support me from Italy. They come over a few times a year and they are actually coming this week, the day after the Maribor game."

## TV OR NOT TV

**SERIE A gets underway in Italy this week and Juventus fan Leo Fasan will be hoping 'The Old Lady' can win a fourth consecutive title under new boss Massimiliano Allegri.**

However, the Hoops youngster won't be tuning in to watch many of the games. Watching the beautiful game on the box isn't one of his favoured pastimes.

"I support Juventus so obviously I hope they win the title," he said. "They have a strong squad and they have a new manager but it will be a tough league this year.

"I play football and everyone thinks you should watch it as well but I don't really watch it, though. Sometimes, I will watch the UEFA Champions League, but not really otherwise."



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# CELTIC FC FIXTURES & RESULTS



## Key

- 1 Number of Goals scored
- Booked
- Sent Off
- Home games in **bold**
- 1st 2nd 3rd Sub
- SPFL - The Premiership
- UCL - Champions League
- SC - Scottish Cup
- SLC - League Cup

Stats correct up to and including 21/08/2014



Comp	Date	Opposition	Result	Starting 11
July				
UCL	15 Jul	KR Reykjavik	1-0	Forster Lustig Ambrose van Dijk Izaguirre
UCL	22 Jul	KR Reykjavik	4-0	Forster Lustig Ambrose van Dijk 2 Izaguirre
UCL	30 Jul	Legia Warsaw	1-4	Forster Lustig Ambrose van Dijk Matthews
August				
UCL	6 Aug	Legia Warsaw	3-0*	Forster Matthews Lustig van Dijk Izaguirre
SPFL	13 Aug	St Johnstone	3-0	Gordon Matthews Lustig van Dijk Izaguirre
SPFL	16 Aug	Dundee United	6-1	Gordon Ambrose Denayer 1 van Dijk Izaguirre
UCL	20 Aug	NK Maribor	1-1	Gordon Lustig Denayer van Dijk Izaguirre
SPFL	23 Aug	Inverness CT (12.30pm)		
UCL	26 Aug	NK Maribor (UCL Play Off L2)		
SPFL	31 Aug	Dundee (12.30pm)		
September				
SPFL	13 Sep	Aberdeen		
UCL	16/17 Sep	UCL Group Stage MD1		
SPFL	20 Sep	Motherwell		
SLC	23/24 Sep	Scottish League Cup R3		
SPFL	27 Sep	St Mirren		
UCL	30 Sep/1 Oct	UCL Group Stage MD2		
October				
SPFL	04 Oct	Hamilton		
SPFL	18 Oct	Ross County		
UCL	21/22 Oct	UCL Group Stage MD3		
SPFL	25 Oct	Kilmarnock		
SLC	28/29 Oct	Scottish League Cup R4		
November				
SPFL	01 Nov	Inverness CT		
UCL	4/5 Nov	UCL Group Stage MD4		
SPFL	08 Nov	Aberdeen		
SPFL	22 Nov	Dundee		
UCL	25/26 Nov	UCL Group Stage MD5		
SC	29 Nov	Scottish Cup R4		
December				
SPFL	06 Dec	Motherwell		
UCL	9/10 Dec	UCL Group Stage MD6		
SPFL	13 Dec	St Mirren		
SPFL	20 Dec	Dundee United		
SPFL	27 Dec	Ross County		
January				
SPFL	01 Jan	Partick Thistle		
SPFL	04 Jan	Kilmarnock		
SPFL	10 Jan	St Johnstone		
SPFL	17 Jan	Hamilton		
SPFL	21 Jan	Motherwell		
SPFL	24 Jan	Ross County		
SPFL	31 Jan	Kilmarnock		
SLC	31 Jan/1 Feb	Scottish League Cup SF		
February				
SC	07 Feb	Scottish Cup R5		
SPFL	14 Feb	St Johnstone		
UCL	17/18 Feb	UCL R16 L1		
SPFL	21 Feb	Hamilton		
UCL	24/25 Feb	UCL R16 L1		
SPFL	28 Feb	Aberdeen		
March				
SC	07 Mar	Scottish Cup R6		
UCL	10/11 Mar	UCL R16 L2		
SPFL	14 Mar	Dundee		
SLC	15 Mar	Scottish League Cup Final		
UCL	17/18 Mar	UCL R16 L2		
SPFL	21 Mar	Dundee United		
April				
SPFL	04 Apr	St Mirren		
SPFL	08 Apr	Partick Thistle		
SPFL	11 Apr	Inverness CT		
UCL	14/15 Apr	UCL QF L1		
SC	18/19 Apr	Scottish Cup Semi-Final		
UCL	21/22 Apr	UCL QF L2		
SPFL	25 Apr	TBC		
May				
SPFL	02 May	TBC		
UCL	5/6 May	UCL Semi-Final L1		
SPFL	09 May	TBC		
UCL	12/13 May	UCL Semi-Final L2		
SPFL	16 May	TBC		
SPFL	23 May	TBC		
SC	30 May	Scottish Cup Final		
June				
UCL	06 Jun	UCL Final (Berlin)		
TBC				
SPFL		Partick Thistle		

## Substitutes

Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor 1	Commons	Griffiths	Stokes	Zaluska	Matthews	O'Connell	Kayal	Henderson	Boerigter	Pukki
Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor	Commons	Griffiths	Pukki 2	Zaluska	Matthews	Bitton	Kayal	Henderson	Boerigter	Watt
Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor 1	Commons	Berget	Pukki	Zaluska	Izaguirre	Bitton	Kayal	Boerigter	Stokes	Griffiths
Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor	Commons	Bitton	Stokes	Zaluska	Berget	Kayal	Henderson	Forrest	Pukki	Griffiths
Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor 1	Commons	Forrest	Stokes 1	Zaluska	Ambrose	Denayer	Kayal	Boerigter	Berget	Pukki
Johansen 1	Mulgrew	McGregor	Commons 1	Berget 2	Stokes 1	Zaluska	Kayal	Bitton	Forrest	Boerigter	Griffiths	-
Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor 1	Kayal	Berget	Stokes	Zaluska	Ambrose	Bitton	Henderson	Commons	Griffiths	Pukki



Domestic games kick off at 3pm unless stated. European matches at 7.45pm. Celtic score shown first. All fixtures subject to change.  
\*Legia Warsaw forfeit the match - Celtic awarded 3-0 win.

# QUIZ

celticfc.net

1 Which four current Celts have made their competitive debuts for the club in European football?

2. Since the Millennium, which two players have netted hat-tricks for Celtic in European matches?

3. In the last five years which two Scottish clubs have NK Maribor eliminated from European football?

4. How many goals did Cristiano Ronaldo score in the 2013/14 UEFA Champions League to establish a record for one season?

5. Which two men have scored for Celtic in European competition against their former clubs?

6. Which team provided the opposition on the last occasion that a European match involving Celtic needed extra time?

7. Who is the only Scot to have scored against Celtic in a European Cup/UEFA Champions League match?

8. Which was the last club to play in a UEFA Champions League final on three successive occasions?

9. How many seasons from its inception did it take before Celtic participated in the group stages of the UEFA Champions League?

10. Which member of the Lisbon Lions played in three major European finals in his career?

11. In which season did NK Maribor play in the group stages of the UEFA Champions League for the only time in its history?

12. Who in September 1966 became the first Celtic player to score a goal in the European Cup tournament?

13. In which city did Real Madrid play Sevilla in the final of the European Super Cup recently?

14. How many successive home matches did Celtic win in European football under Martin O'Neill to establish a club record?

15. Other than Virgil van Dijk this season, which two other Dutchmen have netted for Celtic in the UEFA Champions League?



ANSWERS  
1. Charlie Mulgrew v Sporting Braga 2010/11, Beram Kayal v FC Utrecht 2010/11, Callum McGregor v KR Reykjavik 2014/15, and Jo Inge Bergset v Legia Warsaw 2014/15.  
2. Mark Burchill v Jeunesse Esch 2000/01 and Henrik Larsson v FC Suduva 2002/03.  
3. Hibernian 2010/11 and Rangers 2011/12.  
4. 17 goals.  
5. Johannes Edvaldsson v Valur Reykjavik 1975/76 and Chris Sutton v Blackburn Rovers 2002/03.  
6. Spartak Moscow 2007/08.  
7. Billy Bremner (Leeds United) 1969/70, 8. Juventus 1996, 1997 and 1998.  
9. 10 seasons.  
10. Bertie Auld, FA Cup (Birmingham City) 1960/61, European Cup (Celtic) 1967 and 1970.  
11. 1999/00.  
12. Tommy Gemmill v FC Zurich.  
13. Cardiff.  
14. Nine games 2001-03.  
15. Bobby Petta v Ajax, Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink v Manchester United and Barcelona.



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- EMILIO IZAGUIRRE 3 ○
- EFE AMBROSE 4 ○
- VIRGIL VAN DIJK 5 ○
- NIR BITTON 6 ○
- SCOTT BROWN 8 ○
- ANTHONY STOKES 10 ○
- DERK BOERRIGTER 11 ○
- KRIS COMMONS 15 ○
- JO INGE BERGET 16 ○
- AMIDO BALDE 17 ○
- HOLMBERT FRIDJONSSON 19 ○
- TEEMU PUKKI 20 ○
- CHARLIE MULGREW 21 ○
- JASON DENAYER 22 ○
- MIKAEL LUSTIG 23 ○
- LUKASZ ZALUSKA 24 ○
- STEFAN JOHANSEN 25 ○
- CRAIG GORDON 26 ○
- ALEKSANDAR TONEV 27 ○
- LEIGH GRIFFITHS 28 ○
- JOHN HERRON 31 ○
- BERAM KAYAL 33 ○
- EOGHAN O'CONNELL 34 ○
- BAHRUDIN ATAJIC 37 ○
- DARNELL FISHER 41 ○
- CALLUM MCGREGOR 42 ○
- MARCUS FRASER 44 ○
- DYLAN MCGEOUCH 46 ○
- JAMES FORREST 49 ○
- LIAM HENDERSON 53 ○
- FILIP TWARDZIK 56 ○



COACH: **ANTE ŠIMUNDŽA**

- 1 ALIJAZ COTMAN
- 4 MARKO SULER
- 5 ZELJKO FILIPOVIC
- 6 WELLE N'DIAYE
- 7 ALES MEJAC
- 8 SINTAYEHU SALLALICH
- 9 MARCOS TAVARES
- 10 AGIM IBRAIMI
- 11 LUKA ZAHOVIC
- 14 JEAN PHILIPPE MENDY
- 15 ROK SIRK
- 16 DAMJAN VUKLISEVIC
- 17 NUSMIR FAJIC
- 20 GORAN CVIJANOVIC
- 21 AMIR DERVISEVIC
- 22 DARE VRSIC
- 23 DINO HOTIC
- 24 DEJAN TRAJKOVSKI
- 25 RANKO MORAVAC
- 26 ALEKSANDER RAJCEVIC
- 27 ALEN PLOJ
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- 39 DAMJAN BOHAR
- 44 ARGHUS
- 70 ALES MERTELJ
- 92 MATIC CRNIC

26.08.2014

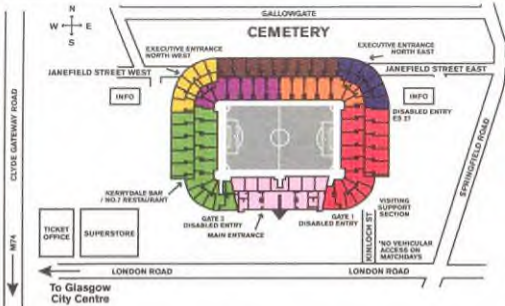
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 NK Maribor

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v Dundee  
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 Scottish Premiership  
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- North Stand - Brown  
Upper T14-31
- North Stand - Blue  
Upper East T42-44 Corner Only
- North Stand - Purple  
Lower West T101, 102 & T6-13
- North Stand - Orange  
Lower East T32-36 & T45-47
- South Stand - Pink  
Rear T69-83 & Front T72-81
- Jack Stein Stand Inc. SW Corner - Green  
Upper T90-100 & Lower T84-103
- Lisbon Lions Stand Inc. SE Corner - Red  
Upper T42-67 & Lower T50-67

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