



Celtic

v Kilmarnock • Betfred League Cup • Tuesday, August 8, 2017 • Celtic Park • KO: 7.45pm • £3.50



Kristoffer

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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Manager's Notes...

BRENDAN RODGERS





After a good start, we're looking for another strong performance tonight

GOOD evening and welcome to Celtic Park for our League Cup tie against Kilmarnock. That welcome is also extended to the players, management and supporters of Kilmarnock, who have already started their cup campaign, successfully qualifying from the group stage.

We are the holders of this trophy, and we clearly want to remain so. It was an important success for us last season for a number of reasons.

It was the first competition we won on our way to a domestic treble, while it was also the club's 100th trophy in our history. And it was also the first trophy that I won as a manager.

So our defence begins tonight with a home tie against Kilmarnock. In every cup draw, the only thing you can hope for is a home draw and we've been lucky enough to get that for this round.

That's not to say we're taking anything for granted. Lee McCulloch will bring his side to Celtic Park tonight intent on making it difficult for us and aiming to enjoy a successful night themselves, so we have prepared well for this match and will be focused on getting the right result.

Those preparations only began after Saturday's match against Hearts, of course, and I thought the players were outstanding in all elements of that game. We had to show patience at various times throughout the 90 minutes, but we got our rewards with four very good goals and it was very pleasing to get our league campaign off to a winning start.

It was a very good performance on the back of a very demanding



"We are the holders of this trophy, and we clearly want to remain so. It was an important success for us last season for a number of reasons"

European game in midweek, and we're looking for another good performance tonight.

Your support, as always, is appreciated. The games are coming thick and fast now that the season is up and running, and as well as the demands on the squad, there are also demands on our supporters who want to come and back the team, so thank-you for your incredible support

and dedication, and let's hope we can enjoy a successful 90 minutes tonight.

Brendan Rodgers
Without Fear

VISARO


new balance.

ALWAYS
IN BETA

DICTATE THE PLAY



FURON

DEVASTATE THE DEFENCE





A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN

The Bhoys are all determined to hold on to the League Cup

IT was great to kick off the defence of our league title with a 4-1 victory over Hearts on Saturday, and tonight we want to start our bid to retain the League Cup with a victory over Kilmarnock.

The aim here every season is to try and win every game we play, and try to win every tournament we take part in. Last season, we were successful in all three domestic competitions, and we'd like to repeat that achievement this time around.

We know that's not going to be easy, and there are many tough games ahead of us in the Premiership, Scottish Cup and the League Cup, starting with tonight's cup-tie against Killie.

They will have been disappointed at losing to a late goal on Saturday and will want to bounce back tonight, and with it being a cup-tie, they could look it as an opportunity to cause an upset.

However, we're determined to hold on to the trophy we won last season, and to do so we need to make sure we're at our best tonight to deal with whatever challenges that Lee McCulloch's side pose.

Saturday was also a great day for me, and it was a proud moment for me to unfurl the flag before the game. But the most important thing was winning the game. We scored some good goals and thoroughly deserved the victory.

We're focused on producing another good performance tonight and doing everything we can to ensure we're in the draw for the next round of the League Cup. Enjoy the game.



'Saturday was also a great day for me, and it was a proud moment for me to unfurl the flag before the game. But the most important thing was winning the game'

Scott Brown


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Celtic Announces McCann Bespoke as Official Tailoring Partner

CELTIC Football Club has appointed McCann Bespoke of Shaftsbury Avenue, London, as its Official Tailoring Partner for the 2017/18 Scottish Football season.

McCann Bespoke will be responsible for supplying bespoke suits and shirts to the players and club staff throughout the season.

The partnership has already seen McCann become part of history, having had the honour of dressing the team for the Scottish Cup final at Hampden on May 27, the day the club secured the historic treble.

The club suits are expertly made from Italian Super 120's Merino wool and are finished with Celtic inspired green and white coloured lining, which is echoed on the buttonholes, lapel and cuffs.

The green and white theme continues with bespoke shirts, crafted in white Egyptian cotton and Celtic green stitching. The shirts were also given a personal touch with initials sewn in green into the back of the collar and finished with Mother of Pearl buttons.

This is McCann's first venture into the Scottish Premiership, having already carved out a name for themselves with English clubs such as Leicester City, Queens Park Rangers and Stoke City.

Owner and Director of McCann Bespoke, Neil McCann said: "We've enjoyed working with the team and the staff behind the scenes to create a high quality and understated suit that encapsulates what Celtic FC is all about and befitting of a club of Celtic's stature in the game.

"I'm very excited about this partnership and looking forward to a successful season working with the club."

Adrian Filby, Celtic Commercial Director added "We are delighted to team up with McCann Bespoke as our official Tailoring Partner.

"The team first wore the new club suit on Scottish Cup final day and we are very pleased with the quality of the product and overall look of the suits.

"We look forward to working with McCann Bespoke during the forthcoming season."

AJER-SHIRE ACADEMY

Celtic youngster **Kristoffer Ajer** is feeling the benefit of last season's loan spell at Kilmarnock

Exclusive Interview: Joe Sullivan & Mark Henderson




H e has already made history in his Norwegian homeland when he led out IK Start in a game against Lillestrom back in April 2015 to become the youngest player to captain a side in the Tippeligaen, the country's top division.

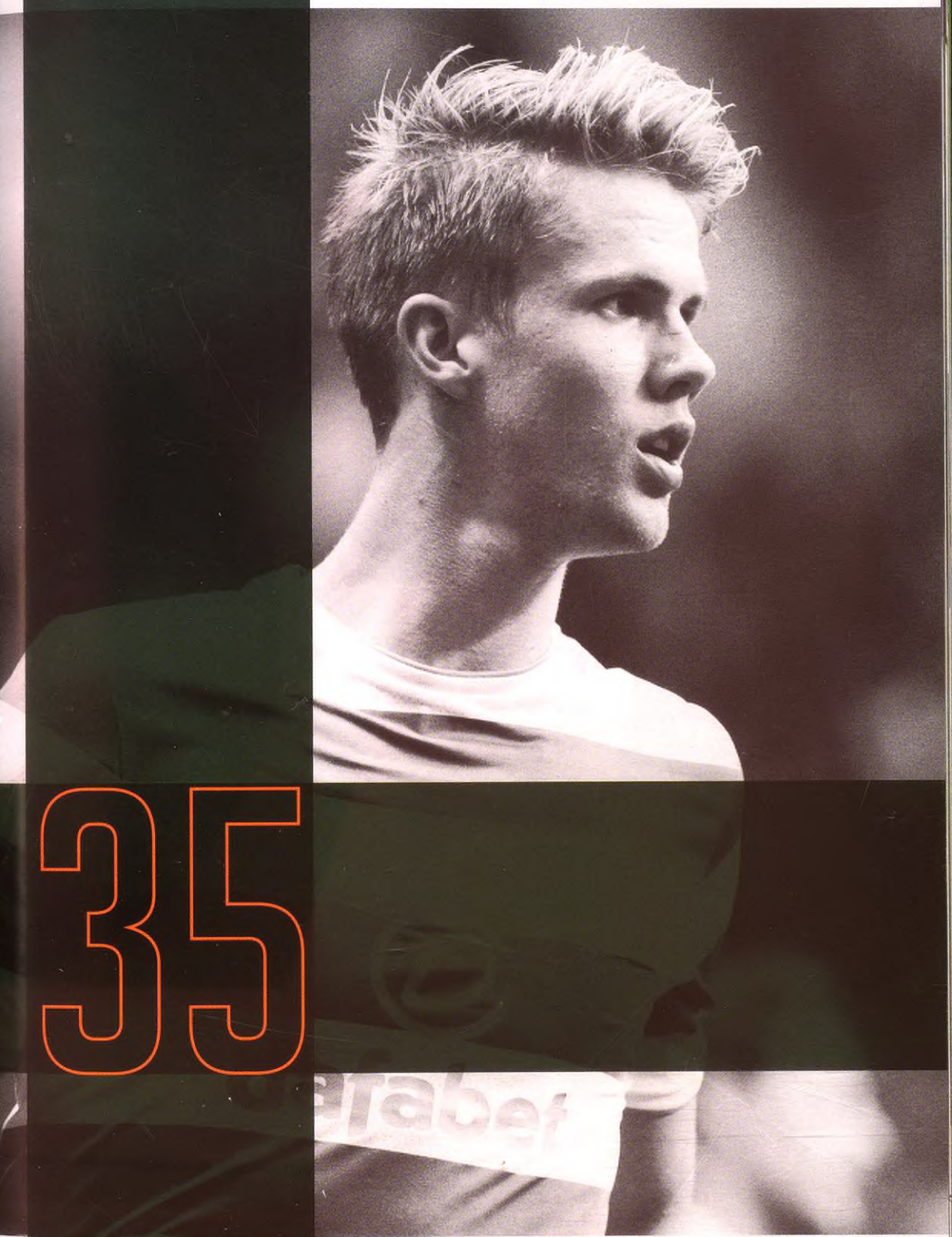
Kristoffer Ajer was just 16-years-old back then, and now, still a teenager, the defender has plans on making more history with Celtic.

However, this is no pie-in-the-sky teenage pipedream, the youngster still has his feet planted firmly in the ground and harbours ambitions that he knows he will have to work hard to earn – and it is his keenness to learn that could well be the key to a successful future for him.

In January last year, he arrived at Celtic for a one-week trial after beginning his football career as a midfielder and in February he signed a four-year contract with the Hoops, leaving Start to begin the new stage of his career in the East End of Glasgow in June.

Signed by fellow countryman Ronny Deila, he may have pondered his future when the Norwegian coach departed Celtic, but Ajer was given a boost when new manager Brendan Rodgers brought him on from the bench last season against Lincoln Red Imps in the UEFA Champions League at Celtic Park as the Hoops turned the tie around.

His football education was further enhanced in the second half of last season when he spent the last six months on loan with tonight's visitors, 



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