



Celtic

v Hamilton Accies • Scottish Premiership • Wednesday December 13 • 2017 • Celtic Park • KO 7.45pm • Price £3.50

ODSONNE EDOUARD



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Position:

Forward

Place of birth:

Kourou,

French Guiana



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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

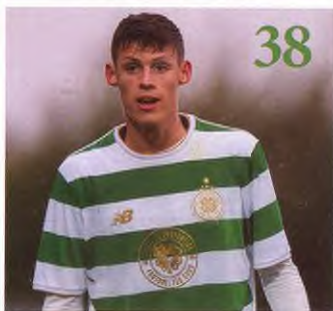
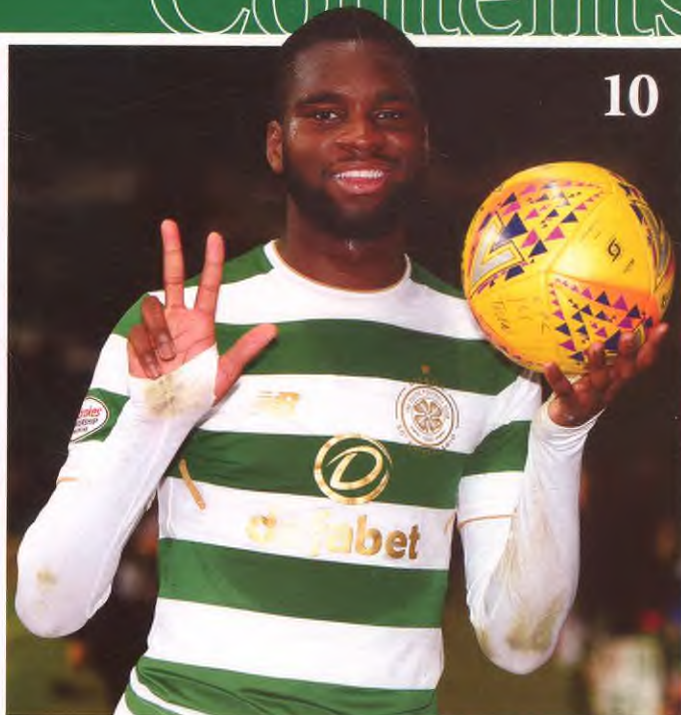
Celtic Football Club is a Scottish football club with proud Irish links. The primary business of Celtic is as a football club. It is run on a professional business basis with no political agenda. However, the Club has a wider role and the responsibility of being a major Scottish social institution promoting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

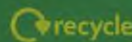
Celtic is a club for everyone who believes in football as a medium for healthy pleasure, entertainment and social integration. The Club always has been and always will simply aim to be the team of the people.



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Manager's Notes...

BRENDAN RODGERS





Credit to the players for delivering on quest for European football in New Year

GOOD evening and welcome to Celtic Park for tonight's Premiership match against Hamilton Accies.

We're in the middle of a very busy month, with nine fixtures in December, and this game is the fourth of those games.

We go into the match full of confidence, having secured a place in the last 32 of the Europa League. Our first target in terms of our European campaign was to reach the group stages of the Champions League, which we achieved for the second consecutive season. Then it was to ensure that we had European football after Christmas, which we've also done, and the players deserve enormous credit for having delivered that.

The fact that we are the only side to have come through the 'Champions route' of qualification into the Champions League and still be in Europe tells you how difficult that is to achieve. We can now set that particular focus to one side until February next year, but I'm sure it's something we'll all be looking forward to.

We also extended our unbeaten domestic run to 68 games at the weekend with a 2-2 draw against Hibernian at Easter Road.

For much of that match we played very well and thoroughly deserved our two-goal lead. Hibs got a glimmer of hope with their first goal and then managed to score an equaliser.

We were disappointed not to get the victory, and no-one could argue that we deserved anything less than all three points. However, we had to settle for a point in the end and our focus since Sunday has been on tonight's game against Hamilton Accies.

Martin's side had been on a good run ahead of their game against



'Our focus since Sunday has been on tonight's game against Accies'

St Johnstone at the weekend, and will consider themselves unlucky not to have taken anything from that game.

They will come here to Celtic Park intent on resuming their good run, so we'll have to be focused on ensuring

that we can enjoy a successful night.

Your support, as always, is something we all appreciate, and particularly at this time of the year, with so many other demands, along with the winter weather, it's great that so many of you are here to cheer on the team. We will be doing everything we can to deliver three points to you tonight.

Brendan Rodgers
Without Fear

FURON
flare



UNMISSABLE


new balance

ALWAYS
IN BETA



A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN

We aim for maximum points from every game to extend our lead and maintain our proud record



WE'RE back at home for another league game tonight, with Hamilton Accies the visitors, and it's a game that we're all looking forward to.

Sunday's game at Easter Road was a great one to be involved in and I think that, over the 90 minutes, we were the better team and deserved to take all three points. To be fair to Hibernian, they did well to get themselves back into the game and, in the end, both sides had chances to score the winner.

It's always disappointing not to get the victory, particularly when our performance has deserved it, but we move on, re-focus and go again tonight, looking to make sure we take the points and keep well out in front at the top of the table.

Hamilton will come here looking to make it difficult for us, and they've had some good results over the past few weeks, so we know we'll have to be at our best tonight.

We've got another busy week ahead of us, with an away game against Hearts this weekend followed by a derby game against Partick Thistle here at Celtic Park next Wednesday night.

Our aim is to take maximum points from every game in order to extend our lead at the table, as well as our unbeaten domestic run, which needed a dramatic late intervention from Mikael Lustig at Easter Road to ensure Hibernian weren't going to be in with a chance of being the team to end the run.

We're very proud of the fact that we've remained unbeaten in Scottish football for so long now, but we don't focus on the record at all or look beyond the next 90 minutes. That approach has served us well up to now, so it's not something we're going to change.

As always, we'll need your backing as we look to get another three points and, hopefully, we'll all be celebrating come the end of the night. Enjoy the game.



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BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

CELTIC THE MUSICAL



Celtic the Musical tickets on sale now – a great Christmas gift

AFTER a sell-out run last year, Celtic The Musical is back by popular demand with a fully updated and fresh new show returning to Glasgow's Pavilion Theatre, from April 18 to May 12, 2018.

Tickets are on sale now and are a great festive gift idea for all the family!

Created by Alterean Media with the official backing and support of Celtic Football Club, the show features the songs that have rung round Celtic Park over the years (performed by a live band), and tells the amazing story of this legendary club.

From the foundation of the football club by Brother Walfrid 130 years ago, through to Brendan Rodgers' arrival at Celtic Park and the incredible, invincible,

treble-winning season just past – fans can look forward to reliving the rich history of Celtic Football Club through story and song once again.

Brendan Rodgers was delighted to see Celtic celebrated on stage last year and refers to the show in his newly released, Official Autobiography: *The Road to Paradise*.

The manager said: "I actually prefer going to the theatre and I enjoy watching live performances. Again, it's good to see talent up on stage ... I have to say that, going to the theatre, one of the best productions that I've seen over the past few years was *Celtic The Musical*. I thought it was amazing. I went to see it and I couldn't believe the level, if I'm being honest, of the acting,

the performance, the production. It was absolutely incredible."

The Celtic story is always evolving and fans can look forward to many more iconic moments in the fully updated stage show in Glasgow next year.

Tickets for Celtic the Musical at Glasgow's Pavilion Theatre are on sale now:

- **Online** - visit www.paviliontheatre.co.uk/shows/celtic-the-musical-2/
- **By Phone** - call 0141 332 1846
- **In Person** - visit The Pavilion Theatre Box Office at 121 Renfield Street, Glasgow

Celtic The Musical was a sell-out success last year so book now for 2018 to avoid disappointment!

Festive Skills Schools – book your child's place now

OUR fantastic Festive Skills Schools are back for 2017, offering a fun and friendly coaching programme this Christmas for kids aged from 4 to 14 years old.

Running across three days in December (Wednesday, Dec 27 - Friday, Dec 29) at two central locations, our Festive Skills Schools programme offers expert advice and training from some of the club's top youth coaches, helping young football stars of the future learn tricks, techniques and valuable teamwork skills. Give your child the chance to learn to play the Celtic Way this Christmas and make the most of their school holidays!

Celtic Soccer Academy's Festive Skills Schools

December 27 – December 29
- Soccerworld, 20 Croftcroighn Rd, Glasgow G33 3SE
- The Pitches, 137 Shawbridge St, Glasgow G43 1QQ

Courses are open to boys and girls aged 4-14 and run from 10am until 3pm each day. Places are available to book now, priced £50 per child.

Each player will also receive a certificate of attendance and a special Celtic gift, plus there will be the chance to have a photo taken with

the SPFL trophy!

There are a number of easy ways to secure your child's place:

- **ONLINE:** visit celticfc.net/courses to book online
- **PHONE:** call us on 0871 226 1888* (option 6)
- **EMAIL:** contact us via email at celticsocceracademy@celticfc.co.uk

Celtic Soccer Academy's Festive Skills Schools are always very popular so book now to avoid disappointment.

**Calls cost 13p per minute, plus your phone company's access charge*