



Celtic

v Aberdeen • Scottish Premiership • Saturday December 23 • 2017 • Celtic Park • KO 3pm • Price £3.50



Position:

Striker

Place of birth:

Pontoise,
France

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



MOUSSA

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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.

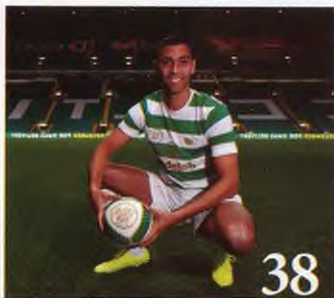
Who is Celtic Football Club for?

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.

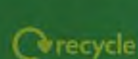
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Manager's Notes...

BRENDAN RODGERS





It was good to return to winning ways with a strong performance in midweek

GOOD afternoon and welcome to Celtic Park for today's Premiership match against Aberdeen. It's a top-of-the-table clash and it's a game that I'm sure everyone is looking forward to.

We go into the game with a five-point lead and in confident mood following Wednesday night's victory over Partick Thistle, and our aim, naturally, is to try and extend that lead today.

It was good to return to winning ways in midweek and it was a strong performance from the players who reacted very positively following last weekend's disappointment.

We scored two very good goals, kept a clean sheet and dominated the game in terms of possession and chances against a side who, despite their current league position, have always proved to be tough and tricky opponents.

Wednesday night was also the first opportunity for our supporters to welcome Marvin Compser to Celtic. He will officially join us on January 1, and I'm sure he will be eager to pull on the Hoops as soon as possible and play in front of our great fans.

We're also anticipating a tough match this afternoon against an Aberdeen side who come into the game on the back of three very good victories, and they will also be full of confidence. Derek's team are always very competitive and will come to Celtic Park determined to try and take something from the match, so we know the challenge that awaits us over the next 90 minutes.

It continues to be a busy month for us. This is our seventh fixture in December and the players will continue to show great resolve and determination in meeting each new test between now and the end of the year. Against a side who finished second in all three domestic competitions last season, and who are currently second in the Premiership this season, we know that



'Our supporters are always a great source of inspiration for us'

today will be a tough test, but it's one that we relish.

Celtic Park will be packed this afternoon for the game, and that's great credit to the supporters who, just two days before Christmas, will be here to give their backing to the team.

Our supporters are always a great source of inspiration for us, and nowhere was this more apparent than in the 69th minute of the game on Wednesday night when they stood to applaud the team in tribute to our 69-game unbeaten run.

It was a real sign of appreciation from them for the fantastic efforts of the players over the past 18 months and it was also a symbol of the togetherness that we have here at the club. The tribute was something that we all appreciated on the night, and it will

also serve as a great inspiration going forward for the rest of the campaign.

I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the backroom staff, the players and everyone at Celtic, to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas when it comes. Hopefully, we can deliver an early present in the shape of a victory this afternoon.

Brendan Rodgers
Without Fear

FURON
flare



UNMISSABLE


new balance

ALWAYS
IN BETA



A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN

The standing ovation was a great gesture and something that all the lads appreciate



GAMES against Aberdeen are always ones that we look forward to. They've been our nearest challengers for a while now, and so it's a big game for all of us – players and supporters.

We had a good derby win over Partick Thistle on Wednesday night, with a couple of stunning strikes to win the game.

It was important for us to get back to winning ways after last Sunday's result, although the lads were still confident in our ability. You don't go 69 games unbeaten without being a very good team and we've shown, over the piece, that we can rise to any challenge that's put in front of us.

We did that on Wednesday and now

we've got another one today in the shape of Aberdeen. They had a bit of a blip in their results a few weeks ago, but they've shown in recent games that they're a good side and we know it's going to be a tough game this afternoon.

I'm sure it will be a fantastic atmosphere at Celtic Park today, as it always is, and it was a great gesture from our fans on Wednesday night to give us a standing ovation in the 69th minute in recognition of the unbeaten record we've set. It's something that all the lads appreciate.

I hope that you all have a great Christmas when it comes on Monday.

We'll be training later that day in preparation for our Boxing Day trip to

Dundee, but that's just part and parcel of being a professional footballer, and we all love this job and, in particular, the opportunity it gives us to wear this famous jersey every week.

This afternoon, however, our focus is solely on Aberdeen. It's first versus second in the league and, as always, we'll be giving everything over the 90 minutes to enjoy another positive result here.

Enjoy the game.

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NEWS

TUNE IN TO THE CHRISTMAS CELTIC VIEW PODCAST

THE festive season is almost upon us and the latest edition of the *Celtic View* is a Christmas cracker,

packed full of great features, competitions and quizzes to keep you entertained over the festive period.

And as a special Christmas treat, we've also produced

a special Christmas Celtic View Podcast for your enjoyment.

Hear from Scott Brown, Kieran Tierney, actor Greg McHugh and Republic of Ireland internationalist James McClean as well as the *Celtic View* reporting team, take an enjoyable derby trip down memory lane **AND** listen to Shane MacGowan singing a special Celtic song.

You can listen to the *Celtic View* Christmas Podcast on SoundCloud or via iTunes.

The Christmas issue of the *Celtic View* is on sale now, and also includes a 2018 Year Planner and a giant A2 poster.



CONDOLENCES

THE thoughts and prayers of everyone at Celtic are with the family and friends of Celtic fan, Michael Moss, from Aberdeen, following his sad passing.



Europa League tickets on sale now to season ticket holders

CELTIC are set to face Zenit Saint Petersburg in the last 32 of the UEFA Europa League, with the Russians visiting Paradise for the first leg of the tie on Thursday, February 15, 2018.

It's an 8:05pm kick-off at Celtic Park and tickets for the match are on sale now to Season Ticket holders, priced: Adults - £35; Concessions - £22; Under-13s - £18

The deadline for STH to purchase their seat for the tie is 5pm on Friday, January 12, 2018.

HOW TO BUY

- Online - visit eticketing.co.uk/celtic
- By Phone - Call 0871 226 1888* (option 1).

Lines are open Monday to Friday from 8am until 8pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 8am until 6pm. Please ensure that you have your client reference and payment details available when you call.

- In Person - visit the Ticket Office at Celtic Park, open Monday to Friday

from 9:30am until 5pm.

UEFA RELOCATIONS

Please note that due to UEFA requirements, some Season Ticket holders will be unable to take up their seasonal seat for these matches.

Areas affected by this UEFA process and details regarding the ticketing arrangements for these areas can be found online.

To find out how the UEFA requirements may affect you, go to: http://cdn.celticfc.net/assets/downloads/Celtic_EUROPA_Ticket_Holders_Arrangements.pdf

Match tickets will be issued to all Season Ticket holders who are affected by UEFA relocations, those affected will **NOT** have their cards activated for these matches as an alternative seat will be provided.

HOME CUP TICKET SCHEME

The payment date for members of the Home Cup Ticket Scheme

is Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

Subject to payment being received on this dates, Season Tickets will be activated for those not affected by the UEFA relocations process.

CONCESSION UPGRADES

Supporters wishing to upgrade a concession ticket for the use of an adult can only do so by visiting the Ticket Office in person where match tickets will be issued. General sale adult prices will apply. Concessions upgrades for members of the Home Cup Ticket Scheme cannot be actioned until payment has been taken. Upgrades are not available in Rail Seating.

GENERAL SALE

General sale information will be made available in due course, subject to availability.

** Calls cost 13p per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Booking fees apply online and via the sales line.*

REVERSED

Exclusive interview
Mark Henderson

Moussa Dembele and his Celtic team-mates aim to get back to winning ways

THE fact that Moussa Dembele had never lost a game in Scottish football until Sunday's reversal at Hearts was yet another reminder of the extraordinary duration of Celtic's record-breaking unbeaten run.

Brendan Rodgers' first signing for the club in June 2016, the Frenchman has only known uninterrupted success in Paradise, so it was a strange sensation for the striker as he trudged off the pitch at Tynecastle last weekend. It's a feeling he doesn't want to experience again.

When the 21-year-old reported back for duty at the start of the week, he had extinguished any lingering disappointment at the defeat. Instead, he held his head high at being part of football history over an exhilarating 18 months. And Dembele told the matchday programme that it was now time to look forward, time to react positively and time to focus on achieving fresh targets.

"We've come a long way. That's 18 months without a loss and we can be proud of what we achieved," he said in an exclusive interview. "We knew that as long as the run continued, we would lose one day and it happened on Sunday, and we just have to keep our heads up and realise it's not the end of the world - it's part of the game.

"Since I've been here I haven't lost

