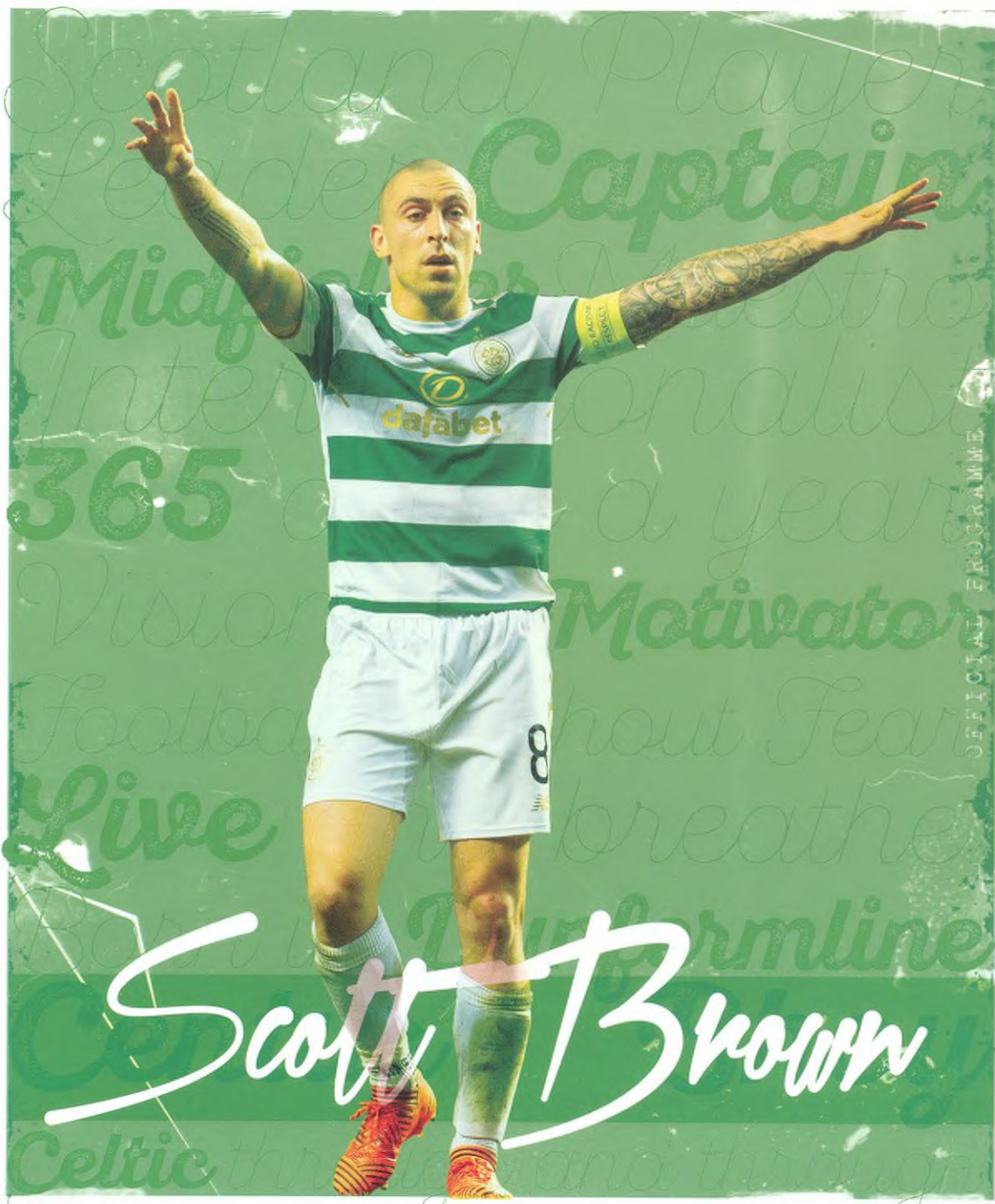




Celtic

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Contents

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

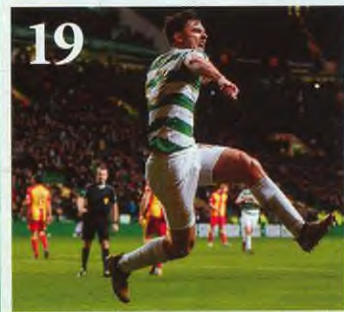
Celtic Football Club is a Scottish football club with proud Irish links. The primary business of Celtic is as a football club. It is run on a professional business basis with no political agenda. However, the Club has a wider role and the responsibility of being a major Scottish social institution promoting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





The hunger and desire to improve is evident in our work every single day

GOOD afternoon and welcome to Celtic Park for what is our final game of 2017. It's a derby game and one that we're all looking forward to, and there's guaranteed to be a great atmosphere in the stadium for what it always a keenly-contested match.

It's our ninth game in December, and the end to what has been a very busy first half of the season, and while the winter break awaits us over the next couple of weeks, this is a fixture that is always a highlight of the campaign, no matter when it happens.

That will be the case again today, and we are focused on securing a positive result from it. We go into the game full of confidence, having won our last three fixtures and without conceding a goal.

The players have shown that dedication and determination which has been a hallmark of the squad throughout the past 18 months, and their hunger and desire to succeed and keep improving is evident in our work every single day.

A derby game is always a passionate one, both on the pitch and in the stands, and I'm sure today's match will be no different.

We also know, from when Graeme brought his Rangers team here last season, that we face difficult opponents who will be just as determined as us to try and be successful this afternoon.

Our preparations, following our excellent Boxing Day victory over Dundee at Dens Park, have been on today's game and we want to end this year, just as we did in 2016, with a derby win.

The one negative from Tuesday's game was the injury suffered to Jonny Hayes, and our thoughts and best wishes go to Jonny as he begins his road to recovery. I know those sentiments are echoed by the whole Celtic Family. He's been a great addition to our squad and has an excellent



'Our thoughts and best wishes go to Jonny as he begins his recovery'

attitude, and that will stand him in good stead over the months ahead.

As we reach the end of 2017, it is also worth reflecting on what has been an incredible 12 months for the club, with so many highlights along the way.

What's exciting for the club and our supporters is that this group of players are continuing to strive for further success and to keep improving on what we have already achieved. So we look forward to the year ahead, with two more domestic trophies to win and our continuing European campaign, and we do so knowing that we have an incredible support behind us.

The backing we receive has been a constant since the day I arrived here

and it's a real strength of Celtic. So I thank you for your support, on behalf of everyone here at the club, and I wish you all a happy new year when it comes.

We all hope to be able to bring in 2018 with a toast to celebrate a positive result this afternoon.

Brendan Rodgers
Without Fear

FURON
flare



UNMISSABLE


new balance

ALWAYS
IN BETA.



A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN

We go into this afternoon's game full of confidence and looking forward to the 90 minutes ahead



IT'S the last game of 2017 and all the lads are looking forward to it. A derby game is a great way to sign off the year before we have the winter break and, like last year, we hope that we can do so with a win.

Derby games are always tough and competitive fixtures, and we know that Rangers will come here just as determined as us to get something from the match, so we know we're going to have to be at our best this afternoon in order for that not to happen.

We're at home, though, and with our great support behind us, it will definitely give us a real boost. We saw that in the game just before Christmas when we played Aberdeen in front of a sell-out crowd.

The atmosphere was brilliant and I thought the lads performed really well. We thoroughly deserved the 3-0 victory, which gave us an eight-point lead at the top of the table, and it really did show that we had bounced back to our best following the disappointment at Tynecastle a few weeks ago.

We emphasised that on Boxing Day when we won 2-0 at Dens Park. I thought we controlled the game and it was a strong performance from the team, with another clean sheet as well, which is always pleasing.

It means we go into this afternoon's game full of confidence and looking forward to the 90 minutes ahead.

I also want to thank you, on behalf of all the players, for the fantastic support

you've given us over the past 12 months. It has been an incredible year, with so many highlights to choose from, and we hope that 2018 will be just as memorable.

So when it comes, I hope you all have a very Happy New Year and that we will hopefully still be celebrating a positive result from this afternoon.

Enjoy the game.

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Kieran Tierney is the first Ambassador of Walfrid's Wish

ON the first anniversary of the campaign's launch, Celtic FC Foundation is delighted to announce Kieran Tierney as the first official Ambassador of Walfrid's Wish.

Celtic's 20-year-old defender was proud to accept the invitation from the club's charitable arm, and is looking forward to supporting the campaign throughout 2018.

Walfrid's Wish is a membership scheme which allows supporters of the Foundation to fund its crucial community projects, by giving a donation of £3, or more, per month.

After its launch a year ago, funding from the campaign has contributed to the success of the award winning Ability Counts project, working with children with Autism and Down's syndrome, as well as delivery at the Foundation's Learning Centre within Celtic Park – a site for multiple employability and health-related projects.

Fans' favourite Kieran was keen to share his views on what charity means to the Celtic support, saying: "Growing up as a supporter you are very aware and proud of the club's charitable roots and the squad today understand how important it is to continue that, via the work of the Foundation.

"It's an honour to be asked to represent those values as an ambassador of Walfrid's Wish and hopefully I can help the Foundation to carry out more life-changing work in local communities in 2018.



"It would be great to see as many supporters as possible back this campaign, and join together to make a huge difference."

Tony Hamilton, Chief Executive of Celtic FC Foundation, said: "Kieran is already a great Ambassador for the club, and is very passionate about its history and charitable ethos. It's therefore fantastic for the Foundation to have his official backing.

"We hugely appreciate Kieran committing his time and energy to Walfrid's Wish and we hope this will help get the project's message out to even more people. I'm sure our supporters will be equally proud of his involvement."

Following the recent launch of the Foundation's #LionsLegacy plans, funding from Walfrid's Wish will also help projects across Dementia Care in 2018.

Kieran's first engagement as Ambassador will see him send a personalised thank you to a group of randomly selected supporters of the Walfrid's Wish scheme.

To join, supporters are asked to pledge £3 per month and, in return, receive a host of newsletter updates, event invitations and competition entries throughout the year.

To join please text the word **CHAMPION** to **70020** or sign up online at www.celticfcfoundation.com.

CELTIC VIEW IS BACK FOR 2018

THE Celtic View returns for the new year, with the first issue of 2018 hitting the shelves next Thursday, January 4. And, as always, it's packed full of great features and competitions.

• We've got an exclusive interview with Scott Sinclair who, after a memorable

2017, is looking forward to more of the same in 2018.

• We catch up with Artur Boruc, and the Holy Goalie explains why Celtic still has a special place in his heart.

• Up-and-coming singer-songwriter, Lewis Capaldi, reveals his love of the Hoops.

• We've got the second part of our great Defabet competition, to win hospitality for TEN PEOPLE for the Scottish Cup tie against Brechin City. All this and much more. Only in the Celtic View.

It's the Voice of the Champions and it's on sale from Thursday, January 4, 2018.