

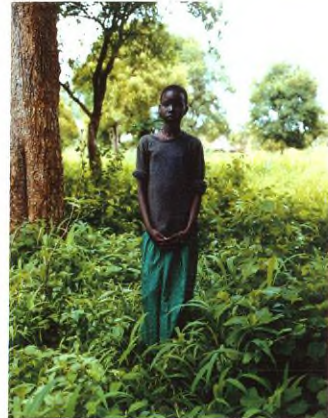
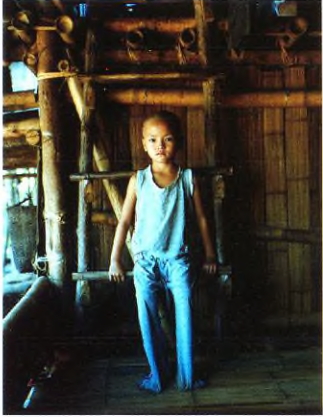


CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 1888

celtic

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2006/07





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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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CHAMPIONS



TV

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EVERYONE HERE KNOWS HOW GOOD MILAN ARE. THEY ARE A FANTASTIC FOOTBALL CLUB AND A FANTASTIC TEAM AND IT WILL BE AN EXTREMELY TOUGH TIE FOR US

GORDON STRACHAN

THE draw for the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League took place in December last year and, having been pitted against AC Milan, we've been counting down the days until tonight's game.

It's been important, however, that we did not let this game dominate our thoughts or distract us from our domestic responsibilities and I think that the players have shown this has not been the case.

Now, having maintained our strong position at the top of the Scottish Premierleague as well as ensuring our continued participation in the Scottish Cup, we can now look forward to our meeting with AC Milan.

It is a tie that is exciting to everyone at the football club – the management, the players and, of course, the supporters. AC Milan are one of the biggest names in European football and it's fantastic that, having reached this stage of the competition, we have the opportunity to compete against such a good side.

They won the UEFA Champions League in 2003, were runners-up in 2005 and last year reached the semi-final, so we are well aware of their pedigree in this tournament. And let no-one try and claim that, because of a disappointing Serie A campaign, that this could be a good time to

play Milan. Everyone here knows how good Milan are. They are a fantastic football club and a fantastic team and it will be an extremely tough tie for us.

However, we can be rightly proud of our own performances in this competition. Celtic have built up over a number of seasons an impressive reputation, particularly here at Celtic Park. This stadium is famed throughout Europe for the special atmosphere it produces on European nights as well as being known as an extremely difficult venue to play at.

This season, in our group games, we defeated FC Copenhagen, Benfica and Manchester United. The players, in these three games, performed magnificently, and deserved all the plaudits given to them.

The results would also have been noted throughout European football and our visitors tonight, AC Milan, will be well aware of the task facing them at Celtic Park tonight.

This is a match that we have all been looking forward to. I'm sure it is one that we can all enjoy and, at the end of the 90 minutes, I hope it is one that we will all be celebrating.

