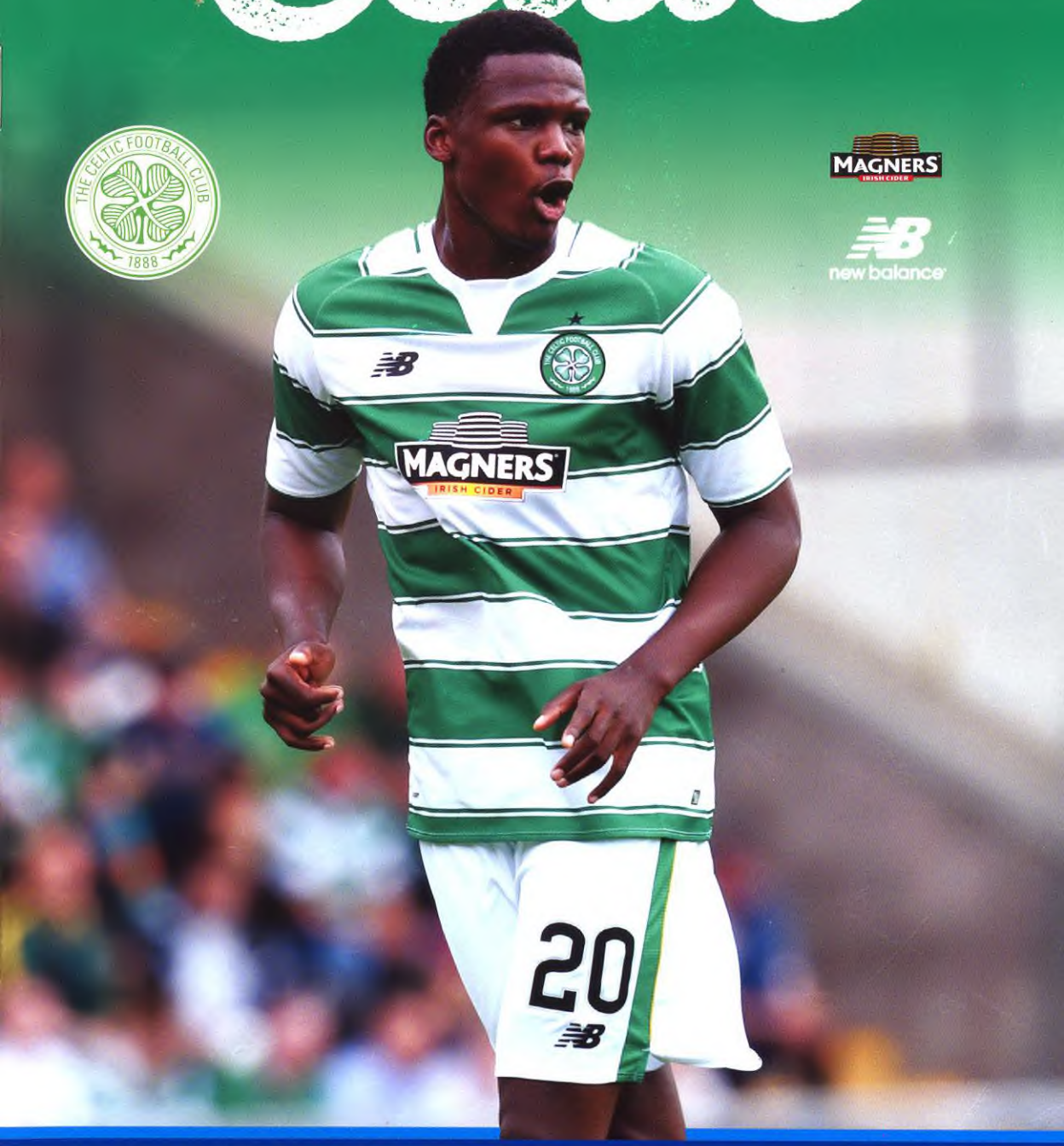
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Celtic



v FC STJARNAN

UEFA Champions League Second Qualifying Round First Leg

Wednesday July 15, 2015 • Celtic Park, Glasgow • Kick-off 7.45pm • £2.50

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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.

MANAGER'S NOTES

Ronny Deila

CLUB HONOURS

SCOTTISH LEAGUE WINNERS
(46 Times)
1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06, 1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15, 1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19, 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36, 1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77, 1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15

SCOTTISH CUP WINNERS
(36 Times)
1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1995, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2013

LEAGUE CUP WINNERS
(15 Times)
1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98, 1999/00, 2000/01, 2005/06, 2008/09, 2014/15

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS
1967

CORONATION CUP WINNERS 1953

OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT CAN HELP US INTO THE NEXT ROUND OF THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FIRST of all, a warm welcome to all of you back to Celtic Park for our first game of the season here at home and I want to extend that greeting to the management, players, staff and fans of our Icelandic visitors here tonight.

It doesn't seem all that long ago that we were here celebrating the SPFL trophy presentation and now here we are at the start of another season, but we have prepared well for this early start with three games against Den Bosch, Dukla Prague and Real Sociedad at our pre-season venue of St Mirren Park and now we get down to the real task of competitive football.

Of course, we had the same early start this time last season, but I feel we are better prepared this time, both in our run-up to tonight's game against FC Stjarnan and in the way the squad are playing their football.

It took a while to develop that last season but we still had a very successful campaign in winning the SPFL and the League Cup as well as progressing from the group stages of the Europa League where we were unlucky to lose to Inter Milan.

That is the sort of success we want to build on and that starts tonight with the visit of FC Stjarnan as we are intent on playing more European group stage football this season but this time in the UEFA Champions League.

This club and its wonderful supporters deserve Champions League football on a regular basis as we all know what it means to the players and the Celtic fans when this stadium is buzzing on European nights and the road there starts right here tonight.

It's not an easy road, though, as we are expecting a tough challenge from the visitors tonight as they themselves had a great European run last season before, like us, meeting a strong Inter Milan side so they know what to expect and have tasted success in UEFA matches so they will be prepared for tonight.

WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT MEANS WHEN THIS STADIUM IS BUZZING ON EUROPEAN NIGHTS. THE ROAD THERE STARTS TONIGHT

They are also midway through their season while this is our first competitive match but, as I said, we have approached the run-up to this game with plenty of forethought and we are looking forward, not only to tonight's game, but also to the season ahead.

Last season, of course, was my first with the club and I am looking forward to many more after the success we experienced during the course of the year and I want to thank the Celtic support for their wonderful backing last season.

We are back together at Celtic Park and I know you will do all you can to spur the team on tonight as only you can because your backing can raise the level of these players even higher and help us through to the next round of the UEFA Champions League.

Enjoy the game,

new balance
football

MAKE CHANCES
VISARO

TAKE CHANCES
FURON

AVAILABLE AT
GREAVES
SPORTS SINCE 1930

ALWAYS IN BETA

LET'S MAINTAIN OUR MOMENTUM IN SCOTLAND - AND QUALIFY FOR THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

IT'S great to be back here at Celtic Park once more, not only after the close-season but also after our wee sojourn down in Paisley because, as much as I enjoyed the games, you just can't beat Celtic Park on a matchday.

I know you will all feel the same after our last game here and after experiencing our fourth SPFL trophy celebration in a row, we will be doing all we can to make it five-in-a-row this season.

And we have some new faces here to help us do that in the shape of Dedryck Boyata, Saidy Janko, Logan Bailly and Nadir Ciftci and I am sure you will give the four new Bhoys a rousing welcome here on their first matchday in Paradise.

They've all been looking good in training and are more than welcome additions to the squad ahead of what will hopefully be another successful season and one that we are all looking forward to.

Just like last year, we start with Icelandic opposition but I hope to be a bit more involved this time after picking up an injury last pre-season and missing the start of the season including our European qualifiers.

Hopefully, things will go to plan this time around as we have our eyes set on making the group stages of the Champions League this season as well as maintaining our momentum in the domestic scene as, despite winning the league and League Cup last time, we want to add the Scottish Cup to that as well.

We are all looking forward to season ahead and kicking off with a midweek European game at Celtic Park only adds to the eagerness to get started although many of you will already be thinking ahead to Flag Day here in a couple of weeks.

KICKING OFF WITH A MIDWEEK EUROPEAN GAME AT CELTIC PARK ONLY ADDS TO THE EAGERNESS TO GET STARTED

It's one game at a time, though, and tonight we welcome FC Stjarnan as the latest European guests here at Celtic Park and we know they will be up for the game so we aim to hit the ground running tonight and travel to Iceland next week with a healthy scoreline in our favour.

Enjoy the game and cheer us on to victory.

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ALL supporters are reminded that the Ground Regulations insist that spectators remain seated during the match.

Please remain seated throughout the match in the interests of your own safety and that of your fellow supporters.

Superintendent George Clelland of Strathclyde Police 'B' Division, said: "Strathclyde Police do not wish to in any way prevent spectators from fully enjoying football matches.

"However, the safety of those attending must be paramount at all times. We fully support Celtic FC in this matter and we fully endorse their message to supporters."

In the event of a stadium evacuation please follow the directions of the Police and stewards

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT AT ALL FOOTBALL STADIA

It is a condition of entry to stadia that the Stadium Regulations, are followed. Full details are available on the Celtic website at www.celticfc.net or by contacting the Customer Service Manager on 0871 226 1888*.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB WILL NOT TOLERATE UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT AT CELTIC PARK OR AT AWAY FOOTBALL STADIA

- Unacceptable conduct is conduct which is violent or disorderly
- Violent conduct includes any actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against any person, or intentional damage to property
- Disorderly conduct includes conduct which stirs up or sustains, or is likely or is designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards individuals or groups of people because of: gender, colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin, membership or presumed membership of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with perceived religious affiliation, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability, using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct, or displaying writing or any other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting.

This list is not exhaustive and must be read in conjunction with the Stadium Regulations.

ANY PERSON ENGAGING IN UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT MAY BE SUBJECT TO ANY, OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Removal from the stadium
- Suspension from attending official matches involving Celtic Football Club
- Indefinite ban from attending official matches involving Celtic Football Club
- Report to the police and possible criminal proceedings

Celtic Football Club was established in 1888 as a Club open to all. *Further information on the Club's origins and Celtic's Social Mission Statement can be found on page 3.*

**Calls cost up to 10p per minute, telecoms provider dependant. Mobile and other provider charges may vary.*

CLUB DIRECTORY AND RECORDS

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB
Celtic Park, Glasgow, G40 3RE

CELTIC CALL CENTRE
Tel: 0871 226 1888
(calls cost up to 10p per minute, telecoms provider dependent. Mobile and other provider charges may vary)

WEBSITE: www.celticfc.net
FORMED: 1888
STADIUM: Celtic Park
CAPACITY: 60,506

HOME STRIP COLOUR
Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts and socks

AWAY STRIP COLOUR
Green

RECORD ATTENDANCE
92,000 v Rangers, 1938

RECORD VICTORY
11-0 v Dundee, 1895

RECORD DEFEAT
0-8 v Motherwell, 1937

MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN ONE SEASON
50 – Jimmy McGrory, 1935/36

MOST PREMIER/SPL GOALS IN ONE SEASON
35 – Brian McClair, 1986/87
35 – Henrik Larsson, 2000/01

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CFAC DIRECTORS
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HONORARY CHAIRMAN CFAC
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Ronny Deila

ASSISTANT MANAGER
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FIRST-TEAM COACH
John Kennedy

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
John Park

HEAD OF YOUTH
Chris McCart

HEAD PHYSIOTHERAPIST
Tim Williamson

KIT CONTROLLER
John Clark

TONIGHT'S VISITORS

Full name:	*Stjarnan Knattspyrnudeild (Stjarnan Football Club)*
Founded:	*1960*
Ground:	*Samsungvöllur, Garðabær*
Capacity:	*1,000*
Chairman:	*Jóhann Ingimundarson*
Manager:	*Rúnar Páll Sigmundsson*
League:	*Úrvalsdeild*

CELTIC will travel to Iceland for the second year in a row this season after being drawn against Icelandic champions Stjarnan in the UEFA Champions League second qualifying round.

The Bhoys headed to Iceland to take on KR Reykjavik at the same stage last year and will travel there again to take on Stjarnan next week on Wednesday, July 22.

Stjarnan won the Icelandic championship for the first time in their history last October after beating FH Hafnarfjörður with a last-minute penalty on the final day of the season.

The victory followed the club's run in the 2014/15 UEFA Europa League qualifiers which saw the side reach the play-off stage after defeating Bangor City, Motherwell and Lech Poznan before bowing out to a 9-0 aggregate loss to Inter Milan.

Stjarnan have a modest ground, but their reputation has grown in recent years due to their league title win and European run.

The club is also famous for the elaborate goal celebrations created by the players, which include mimicking landing a fish and riding a bike.

Going into the Friday night's home game against Valur, Stjarnan sat sixth in the 12-team table with 10 of the 22 league games played.

Stjarnan sat on 15 points from those games while Valur were two places above them on 18 points with FH topping the table on 19 points.

However, Stjarnan's home form hasn't been the best this season with no home wins going into the game, two losses and two draws, while their away form has made up for that with four wins, one loss and one draw.

Aside, from winning the Úrvalsdeild for the first time ever, Stjarnan also claimed the Meistarakeppni, played for by the champions and the holders of the Borgunarbikarinn, the Icelandic Cup - they beat KR 1-0 in the final.

However, if they want to hold on to that particular trophy they will have to also maintain their hold on the championship as their stay in the Borgunarbikarinn was short-lived this season.

Following a tight win on penalties against Leikner Reykjavik, they met up with Fylkir in the next round and lost 3-0 - both games were played at home.

Last season's European Run proved that they are no slouches, though, and shows just how much they have improved since being promoted to the Úrvalsdeild from the deild karla in 2008 - Stjarnan first played in the top division in 1990 and have played 13 seasons in all there

Stjarnan kicked off their Europa League run last season with a home game against Bangor City for their first ever foray into European Football and recorded a 4-0 win before travelling to Wales and racking up the same scoreline there for an 8-0 aggregate win.

They were due a sterner test in the next round against Motherwell and Josh Law put the Steelmen 2-0 ahead with goals in the ninth and 19th minutes but Olafur Karl Finsen pulled one back in the 35th minute.

The same player then showed that they were no walkovers by scoring a dramatic equaliser in the 90th minute.

There was even more drama to follow, however, over in Iceland as Steven Hammell's 11th-minute goal was cancelled out by a penalty from that man Finsen again.

About 20 minutes after the break, however, Lionel Ainsworth put Motherwell in the lead once more only for Rolf Toft to equalise with only five minutes remaining.

With the sides tied at 4-4 on aggregate and neither team having away-goal advantage, the game went to extra-time and only six minutes from the end of that, Atli Johannsson scored what proved to be the winner in a 5-4 aggregate clash.

Polish side, Lech Poznan, who would go on to lift their country's championship that season and narrowly miss out on the double after reaching the Polish Cup final, awaited next and the Icelandic side recorded a 1-0 win at home before earning a 0-0 draw in Poznan - another scalp was taken.

The writing was on the wall, though, when they were paired up with Inter Milan in the next round and a 3-0 win in Iceland for the Italians was followed up by a 6-0 win at the San Siro for a 9-0 aggregate scoreline.

GUNNAR NEILSEN

WELL... FANCY MEETING YOU HERE

Former Motherwell keeper, **Gunnar Neilsen** thought he had seen the last of Celtic when he left Fir Park but that changed with the Champions League draw

Exclusive interview: Mark Henderson

THE wider world has witnessed the strong team spirit at FC Stjarnan as their sensational goal celebrations went viral over the internet. Former Motherwell goalkeeper Gunnar Neilsen has only been at the club a matter of months but it didn't take him long to discover why there was such remarkable camaraderie in the dressing room.

The 28-year-old made the move to the Icelandic champions at the start of April and he didn't just find a close-knit group of players, but firm friends who had grown up together in the local community.

In these conditions, creativity flourishes, on the evidence of the carefully choreographed goal celebrations. But, significantly, it was these strong bonds that helped the Icelandic side storm to their first championship last season and earn the right to face the big guns in the UEFA Champions League.

"When I came here I noticed they were really good friends in the dressing room," Nielsen told the matchday programme in an exclusive interview.

"It's close to Reykjavik but it's a local community and many of the lads are from this area and have grown up and gone to school here.

"People have seen the funny celebrations YouTube, and things like that just show how the boys enjoy being in each other's company. There is a good camaraderie in the team.

"The lads hang out in their spare time outside football as well, so there isn't a specific guy who comes up with the celebrations, but it just comes up when the boys are hanging out and suddenly these crazy ideas to celebrate come up and that's really how it starts. We haven't done any so far this season but hopefully we will have one in the future."

Despite parting ways with Motherwell outside the transfer window in March, the Faroe Islands internationalist had a number of options for the next destination in his career. Heading to Iceland may have been interpreted as a left-field move for someone who counts Blackburn Rovers and Manchester City among his former employers, but professional and personal reasons formed his decision.

"So far I have really enjoyed it," he said. "I left Motherwell outside the transfer window so I was looking for clubs whose window was still open, and then suddenly I heard about the interest from Iceland. I felt it was a good option, especially as it was outside the window and it was a good chance to go and play some games.

"I had other options in Scandinavia, but for different reasons the whole package wasn't right. My Mum is from Iceland so I always went to Iceland as a kid and I have been there so many times, so I felt it was a good opportunity for me to and play in Iceland for a season. Being half-Icelandic as well, I felt it could be a fun experience.

"In the smaller leagues, the standard varies from game to game, but there are some really good games between the top teams in Iceland. It's a bit up and down but generally the standard is quite good and we have a good team.

> THERE IS A REALLY GOOD GROUP HERE. IT'S NOT ONE OF THE BIGGEST CLUBS AND THERE IS A REAL FRIENDSHIP AND TOGETHERNESS IN THE TEAM

"Being champions in Iceland would be exciting as well. Stjarnan are one of the smaller clubs in Iceland and they did amazingly last season and the next season is always going to be harder but it was a good opportunity to come to a club like this.

"It's amazing how many Icelandic players play abroad in countries like Holland, Belgium and England, even though there are only around 300,000 people in the country, so I felt it was a good chance to play and so far I have enjoyed it."

Despite their domestic success, Stjarnan will be an unknown quantity for Celtic supporters in this UEFA Champions League second qualifying round. So what can they expect?

"Generally, we have some good attacking players and we are good on the counter," said Nielsen. "We will sit a bit deeper and are quite decent on the break. There is a really good group here. It's not one of the biggest clubs and there is a real friendship and togetherness in the team. That got the team quite far in Europe last season.

"There are some interesting players in the squad and hopefully they and the team will do well when they come to Scotland.

"We have a couple of older heads and you always need that in any squad and we have some really young, exciting players. There is also a group in between around 25 to 28 who are coming into their best football years, so there is quite a good harmony in the team."

Having relished the opportunity of representing Motherwell in the Europa League and his country on the international stage, the shot-stopper is excited at the prospect at another incursion into continental competition with the Icelandic side.

Anticipation for the game has reached fever pitch at Stjarnan since the draw was made last month, and they know all expectations of success rest firmly on the shoulders of the Scottish champions.

"I have played a lot of games for the national side which were special," said Nielsen. "I played in Russia for Motherwell and I really enjoyed that, going away and travelling.

"We were really excited at the draw. Everybody knows that Celtic are known all over the world and everybody knows about the special European nights in Glasgow.

"Maybe the atmosphere would be a bit more special for the bigger teams but this will be the first game at Celtic Park this season and we are all looking forward to going there. It's a big team and they will bring a decent following back to Iceland as well.

"People are all excited and it's a really good draw for us. All the pressure is all on Celtic. They're successful in the league in Scotland but getting through to the group stages is so important for Celtic so it's a massive game for them, as it is for us, but the pressure is all on Celtic."

The former Motherwell shot-stopper will be the only member of his team to have experienced playing at Celtic Park.

Of his three appearances against the Hoops only one of them came in Paradise and it wouldn't be a memorable day for Nielsen as a Kris Commons double and an own goal from Stephen McManus saw the hosts cruise to a 3-0 win in January 2010.

There had been a similar outcome in his debut against the Bhoys, with a rampant Celtic scoring five without reply at Fir Park the previous month.

However, his final encounter against Celtic did provide some succour as he saved a Commons penalty to help his side earn a 3-3 draw. He has informed his team-mates what lies in store for them.

"I have spoken a bit to the lads," said the keeper. "I was at Motherwell for just under two years and played against Celtic a couple of times.

"I have some fond memories of the games, even though we lost most of the times. I saved a penalty from Kris Commons and I enjoyed that. It was the first penalty he hadn't scored out of 11 or 12.

"We were winning 2-0 and then Celtic got one back before half-time and then they went 3-2 ahead before we got one back just before half time and me saving a penalty in between

"Celtic always attack with the full-backs bombing on and they have good interchanges up front with the likes of Commons and Stokes so it will be a good challenge for us."

Nielsen played 23 times for Motherwell in his first season at the club, helping them achieve a runners-up spot in the league. But he would leave the Lanarkshire club before the conclusion of the next campaign as he found his game time limited.

"I would have liked my time in Scotland to have turned out a bit better in the end," he said. "My time in Scotland was a bit up and down for me and the team. I was coming back from an injury when I had been out for 18 months at Man City.

"It's not like you can come back from that time off, you need to get back into things with the routine of training and games. I always knew it would be hard coming back. I played around 25 games when I was there and we finished second so I still look back with good memories even though I was disappointed with the way it ended."

Nonetheless, he still remains on good terms with a number of his former colleagues and he was delighted to see them preserve their top-flight status after their play-off triumph over Rangers.

"I still stay in touch with a couple of them and I still follow their results in the league," said Nielsen. "Like most players do, I follow the results of my old club. It's not long since I left them and it's a tight, small club and the people who work for Motherwell were really good.

"I actually watched both play-off games in Iceland and it was a really good time for Motherwell to hit some form. They were just better than Rangers on those days and I was really happy to see them stay up."

KEEPER'S FAROE TALE

GUNNAR Nielsen may have only made one competitive appearance during his five-year stay in the English Premier League but he holds no regrets.

The goalkeeper left his homeland as a 20-year-old to sign for Blackburn Rovers in 2007, before Mark Hughes took him to Manchester City two years later.

With the likes of Brad Friedel, Shay Given and Joe Hart all ahead of him in the pecking order at the two clubs, first-team appearances proved elusive and he headed out on loan to several clubs. A serious injury also hampered his progress.

However, on April 24, 2010, Nielsen became the first Faroese footballer to play in the English Premier League when he came on for City at half-time away to Arsenal to help them earn a 0-0 draw. He will always be proud of that achievement.

"Sometimes you look back and I could have gone to lower leagues and got more game-time there but I still played games," said the shot-stopper. "I played loads of reserve games even though they weren't the same.

"Coming from the Faroe Islands as a young boy, when a good Premier League Club like Blackburn, managed by Mark Hughes, wants to sign you, I couldn't say no, even though Brad Friedel was there and I probably wasn't going to play.

"I was there for a couple of years and then Man City came in. Again, I was wondering what to do, but how often would a club going forward like them, with their money, come calling to a player from the Faroe Islands? I had to jump at it even though Shay Given and Joe Hart were there and it was going to be hard.

"When I was at Man City I had a really bad knee injury and I was out for 18 months. I wouldn't say it changed everything, but it stopped me a lot. I don't regret anything, though.

"You get these chances in life and I felt I had to take it. I still played in the Premier League and wherever I go, I can say I was the first guy from the Faroes to play in the Premier League – that's something you can never take away from me."

THIS TIME LAST SEASON

CELTIC also opened up their season, and their European account, against Icelandic opposition. Here we take a look at how the games went...

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SECOND ROUND QUALIFIER
KR-VOLLUR, REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014

CELTIC 1-0 KR REYKJAVIK

(McGREGOR 84)

CELTIC made the perfect start to their UEFA Champions League campaign with a 1-0 win over Icelandic champions KR Reykjavik.

Manager Ronny Deila named a strong starting line up in his first competitive match and handed a first-team debut to U20s star Callum McGregor in midfield.

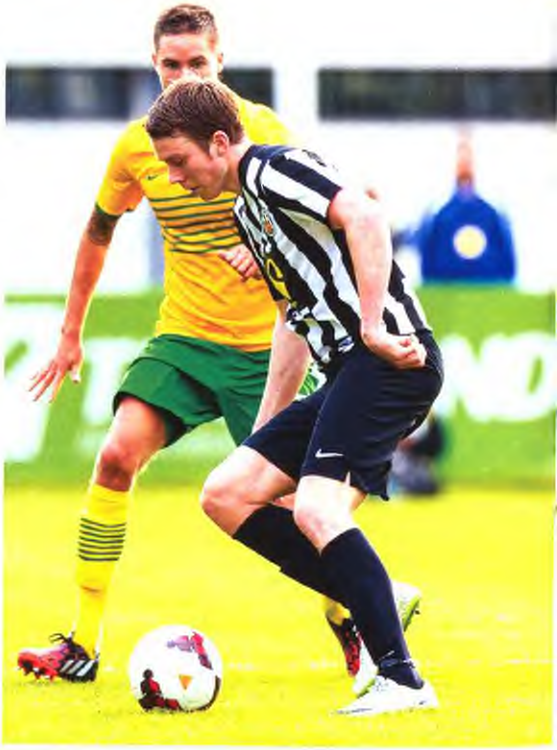
The 21-year-old formed part of an attacking three alongside Kris Commons and Leigh Griffiths, who sat behind Stokes, and he was the man who eventually sealed victory for the Hoops.

Celtic pressed well the entire game but struggled to find a way past a resolute KR defence but McGregor's brilliant individual effort on 84mins was enough to secure victory in Ronny Deila's first competitive game.

The youngster showed great endeavour down the Celtic right flank and cut inside his defender on to his left foot. He feigned to shoot three times before eventually unleashing an unstoppable effort, low into the KR goal to give Celtic the lead.

KR REYKJAVIK: Magnusson; G Sigurdsson, Hauksson, Balbi (Arouna 59); Gunnarsson; Martin (Ragnarsson 81), B Sigurdsson, Finnbogason; Atlason (Ormarsson 87), Saevarsson, Josepsson.

CELTIC: Forster; Lustig, Ambrose, van Dijk, Izaguirre; Johansen, Mulgrew; Griffiths (Boerrigter 73), Commons, McGregor; Stokes (Pukki 73). Not used: Zaluska, Matthews, Henderson, Kayal, O'Connell.



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SECOND ROUND QUALIFIER
BT MURRAYFIELD, EDINBURGH

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014

CELTIC 4-0 KR REYKJAVIK

(VAN DIJK 13, 20 PUKKI 27, 71)

CELTIC strolled confidently into the next round of the UEFA Champions League qualifiers with a resounding 4-0 (5-0 on aggregate) victory over KR Reykjavik at Murrayfield.

The Hoops controlled the game from the first whistle and took the lead early through Virgil van Dijk, who soon added another before Teemu Pukki bagged a brace for himself.

Celtic's aim was clear and the pressure continued creating the opening goal after winning another corner on 12 minutes.

Commons floated the ball to the back post and found Mulgrew, whose header back across goal found van Dijk who cushioned the ball over the line from two yards out to make it 1-0.

After winning another corner on 20 minutes, Commons once again delivered and once again found Mulgrew, but his pass this time fell to Lustig at the back post. He headed it back across goal and van Dijk was on hand again to nod the ball home.

And it wasn't long before Celtic had another. Izaguirre's ball to McGregor down the left flank opened up play for the Hoops and his first time ball into the box found Pukki who slotted calmly past.

The home of Scottish rugby was rocking again in the second half, after a slip from Magnusson outside his box allowed Pukki to round the stranded keeper and power home a rasping finish to make it 4-0.

CELTIC: Forster; Lustig, Ambrose, van Dijk, Izaguirre (Matthews); Johansen, Mulgrew; Griffiths (Kayal), Commons, McGregor; Pukki (Henderson). Subs: Zaluska, Bitton, Boerrigter, Watt.

KR REYKJAVIK: Magnusson; G Sigurdsson, Hauksson, Balbi; Gunnarsson; Martin, B Sigurdsson, Finnbogason; Atlason; Saevarsson, Josepsson.

ATTABHOY

Exclusive interview: Mark Henderson

Dedryck Boyata is settling in just fine with the Hoops after a little '*If you know the history*' lesson from his wife's grandfather

DEDRYCK Boyata already knew the special significance of European football to Celtic before he checked into Paradise last month ago thanks to a surprising source close to home.

His wife's grandfather back in Belgium is a Hoops fan and has told him the stories of Celtic's exploits on the continent over the years, including how the Lisbon Lions became Kings of Europe in 1967 – the greatest day in the club's history.

The 24-year-old, who joined from Manchester City in June, has also heard about the famous European nights in Paradise and seen them for himself on TV.

It's all added to the new Bhoy's sense of anticipation ahead of his competitive debut tonight against FC Stjarnan in the UEFA Champions League second qualifying round. He's excited this is the stage where his Celtic adventure will get underway.

"I'm really looking forward to it," the stopper told the matchday programme in an exclusive interview. "Celtic is a big club, a huge club, and playing in Europe is such an important thing. I am excited about it and looking to go as far as possible in the competition with Celtic.

Dedryck Boyata

"I have never been in a full stadium at Celtic Park, but from what I have heard, it's unbelievable. A lot of people in Belgium have talked to me about the crowd which means we must have a really huge support so it's important to show big Celtic is on this stage.

"My wife's grandfather is a fan of Celtic and told me a few bits about the club in Europe. He's from Belgium but he's a fan of Celtic and knows all about the club, just like my agent.

"You would be amazed about the amount of Celtic fans in Belgium. He has told me about how they won the Champions League - and also about the whisky over here as well!"

European progression is naturally a personal aspiration for Boyata. Starring in the group phase of the competition and going head-to-head with some of the big teams on the continent is an exhilarating prospect, a chance to prove he and his colleagues belong in that company.

"It's really important as you have the chance to show yourself," he said. "With the players we have here, even though we are young, it's a big opportunity to prove how good we are.

"I have seen the team play against Barcelona a few years ago, and if we play in the Champions League and win games like that, then we can only be proud of ourselves.

"Everybody knows about the Champions League. It's a really big tournament and there is a prestigious factor to play in it, and if we could do it this year it would be a good thing for all of us."

However, many difficult hurdles have to be overcome before Boyata

> "MY WIFE'S GRANDFATHER IS A FAN OF CELTIC AND TOLD ME A FEW BITS ABOUT THE CLUB IN EUROPE. HE'S FROM BELGIUM BUT HE'S A FAN OF CELTIC AND KNOWS ALL ABOUT THE CLUB"

can start contemplating facing the top teams on the continent.

The first of three qualifying rounds that Celtic must negotiate begins tonight against Icelandic champions, Stjarnan.

Although the Hoops will be firm favourites to prevail in the tie, Boyata knows each match must be approached professionally and with the right mindset, regardless of the opposition.

"A game is a game and we can't underestimate anyone," he said. "Early in pre-season, we played against a team from the Dutch Second Division but we treated it like it was a big match, and we need to do that again."

Ronny Deila's first signing of the summer, the Belgian internationalist has looked steady and assured in the Hoops' pre-season fixtures since his move from Manchester City.

Powerful, strong in the air and with a decent turn of foot, Boyata has all the attributes needed to develop into a top-class defender.

He is also comfortable on the ball and able to come forward out of defence and initiate attacks, a facet of his game that Ronny Deila has encouraged him to put into practice frequently on the pitch.

"I feel like I have a lot of ability with the ball," said Boyata. "The manager has told me whenever I have the chance to go forward to do it.

"The manager wants us to pick up the ball and play from the back and that is something I have believed in for quite a long time, but I have never had the chance to do it and this is a real opportunity for me."

The Norwegian's training methods and philosophy have found favour with Boyata, whose belief is brimming.

"He has been giving me a lot of confidence and that's what I need," he said. "Everything here is about skill, your position on the pitch, the togetherness of all the players and the importance of being serious and intense in training."

The warm welcome he received from supporters on his first Celtic appearance against Den Bosch,

THE PERFECT LIFT

STUART Armstrong and Gary Mackay-Steven were new Bhoys themselves six months ago but now they have taken on the role of making Dedryck Boyata feel at home in Paradise.

In the weeks following his move from Manchester City, the former Tannadice team-mates gave him lifts to and from training and provided him with plenty of entertainment during the journey.

"Stuart and Gaz are good lads and I have had a good laugh with them on the way in and on the way back," said Boyata. "I didn't know them before coming to Celtic, but on the first day they greeted me really well. They picked me up every morning and took me back to the hotel after training, so they have been really nice."

> THERE IS A GOOD SPIRIT AND THAT'S SOMETHING I'M NOT USED TO AND I REALLY LIKE IT

together with his new team-mates, have also eased his transition into life in Glasgow.

"I was shocked to hear the cheers from the fans and I didn't expect it, but I have been told by the players that this was absolutely nothing so now I don't know what to expect!

"I enjoyed my first appearance, it was a really good game from all the players and we got a good result, so it went well.

"I am surrounded by lads who are really nice people. The players have made me feel welcome and made it really easy for me.

"There is a good spirit and that's something I'm not used to and I really like it. The way we play suits me and I just want to show what I can do."

WORDS OF PRAISE

VIRGIL van Dijk is confident new defensive partner Dedryck Boyata will prosper in Paradise.

The Dutchman has starred alongside the new Bhoy during the club's pre-season fixtures at St Mirren Park.

Impressed by the Belgian internationalist's all-round ability, van Dijk is looking forward to starring alongside him in the Hoops over the coming campaign.

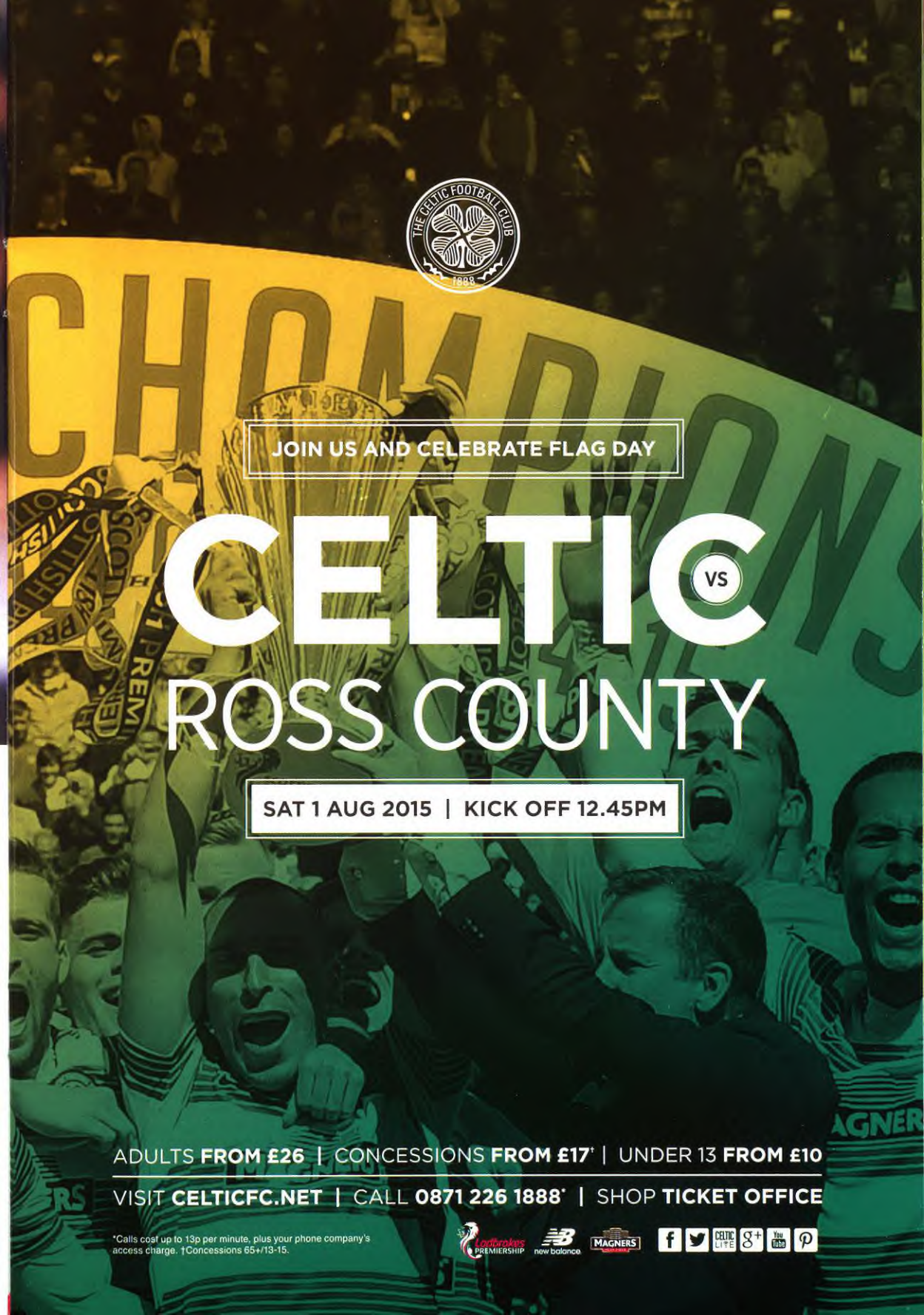
"He is a good player. You can see he has a lot of qualities. He is calm on the ball and is like a complete defender. He needs to get used to our way of playing and the rest of his team-mates but I'm confident that he's going to do well.

"He is someone who is going to be important for the team. He has had a few good weeks already getting to know everyone and the style of play so it's been a positive start for him."

Van Dijk knows the challenges presented for a new player arriving at a club with huge demands like Celtic and he has done his utmost to make Boyata feel comfortable in his new surroundings.

"He is a good guy as well," he said. "We have been out for dinner and I got to know to him. Every player wants to feel welcome at a club, that's what I wanted when I came to Celtic.

"When you are thinking of the games as well, he's going to be playing next to me, so you want to get to know one another. Everyone in the team has welcomed him very warmly. I'm confident he will do alright. It's all about game-time and we will see how in the future how it goes."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MAGNERS

Words: Mark Henderson

CELTIC ICON BILLY McNEILL DONATES MEDAL COLLECTION TO THE CLUB

CELTIC icon Billy McNeill last week handed over his magnificent medal collection to the club, allowing supporters and visitors to Paradise to share in his glorious achievements.

It was a fantastic gesture from the Hoops legend, who won nine league championships, seven Scottish Cups, six League Cups and of course the greatest club prize of them all – the European Cup.

'Cesar' amassed this remarkable medal haul as captain of the club. An inspirational figure and a leader of men, he was Celtic's greatest-ever skipper.

The Celtic great was also the first winner of Scottish Footballer of the Year in season 1964/65 and made 29 appearances for his country.

As Celtic manager, he brought four league championship titles to Paradise, along with three Scottish Cups and one League Cup.

All Billy's medals from his 27-year association with Celtic as player and manager will now be available to view beside all the other glittering prizes won by the club during its illustrious history.

Celtic Chief Executive Peter Lawwell accepted the medal collection on behalf of the club in the Celtic Park boardroom.

He said: "It's an incredible gesture and an honour to receive them and display them at Celtic Park. It's really a measure of the man, a fantastic Celt and someone who was voted Celtic's greatest-ever captain.

"He's just a true great and it's just a measure of him that he has decided to put his medals here on display at Celtic Park, and we are so grateful for it.

"He's an inspiration. For me, growing up in the 1960s and '70s, he was the greatest-ever captain, not only in a football sense but in life as well. He was an inspiration not only to me but to thousands of our supporters.

"He carried the Celtic values and standards on and off the pitch and he epitomises everything great about Celtic.

"The amount of medals are just incredible. It's a fantastic piece of work and we thank Willie Haughey for his involvement, and we thank Billy and Liz for giving us the honour of displaying the medals here at Celtic Park.

"Of course, we have the statue coming of Billy, hopefully in September or October, which should be a fitting tribute to a wonderful man and a wonderful Celt."

Lord William Haughey, Club Ambassador and family friend of the McNeills, helped in the process of framing the medals.

He said: "When I was chairman of Billy's Testimonial Committee, I went over to Billy's house. I was sitting with him and Liz and we were discussing his successes as a player.

"He brought out an old box full of all his medals. I said 'big man, we need to do something about this, why don't I help you get these framed and put them in the boardroom at Celtic Park so all the Celtic fans can enjoy and share in your successes for evermore'.

"Billy and Liz agreed, and the big man has very kindly donated the medals to Celtic Park so the fans can come along and enjoy them.

"It's one of the greatest medal collections of any individual player in the world, so it's a fantastic achievement and a great gesture from Billy to give them to the club."

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Celtic v ICELAND

IN recent years, Iceland had produced some top-class players who have carved a name for themselves on the world stage but that hasn't always been the case.

However, the face of Icelandic football has been changing with Eidur Gudjohnsen being something of a figurehead in recent years... and history was made in 1996 when Eidur replaced his father, Arnor, in an international friendly against Estonia.

The plan was for them to appear together in the next home game but a month later the youngster broke his ankle in an under-18 game against Ireland and the dream game never took place.

In tonight's match programme we find out about another family connection in Iceland, this time with a Celtic flavour.

Who was Celtic's first Icelandic player?

Celtic had avoided any contact with Iceland until season 1975/76 when the Icelandic connection just started to pour in right at the start of the season. Johannes Edvaldsson signed for the Hoops on August 8, 1975 after a pre-season tour of Ireland was used to trial the Icelandic utility player. He had started his career with Valur of Reykjavik in his homeland but had played with Metz in France and signed for Celtic from Danish side, Holbek. He took his Celtic Park bow in style by scoring the only goal of the game against English champions Derby County in a friendly on August 2, 1975 and a week later he made his debut proper in a 1-0 League Cup win over Aberdeen. However, just a few weeks later he was on his

travels for his European debut in the Hoops and, as luck would have it, the destination was Reykjavik were Celtic would take on Valur!

How have Celtic faired against Icelandic opposition?

An 8,000 crowd turned out for the game and Celtic were expected to roll over the home side whose name is the Icelandic word for 'Falcon'. However, the scoreline at least turned out to be a bit tighter than that as goals in each half from Paul Wilson and Roddy MacDonald delivered a 2-0 win - it could have been more though as the returning Edvaldsson missed a twice-taken penalty on his home soil. Celtic's dominance was repeated in the second leg but this time they converted it into goals as a 7-0 scoreline delivered a 9-0 aggregate win. This time, Edvaldsson atoned for his penalty miss in the first game as he became the first player to score against an Icelandic side at Celtic Park when he opened the scoring in the sixth minute. To mark the European meeting, Valur presented Celtic with The Polar Bear Trophy. Of course, last season Celtic also played Icelandic opposition at this stage of the UEFA Champions League when they met up with KR Reykjavik. A goal from Callum McGregor took care for the first leg in Iceland while two each from Virgil van Dijk and Teemu Pukki at Celtic's temporary European home of Murrayfield gave Celtic a 5-0 aggregate score.

Did Edvaldsson meet any familiar faces on his return to Iceland?

The early-season rush of connections with Iceland didn't stop with the signing of Edvaldsson and the European Cup-Winners' Cup pairing with Valur - as the new Celt wasn't only returning home to play in his hometown, he was also lining up against his brother. Midfielder, Atli Edvaldsson was seven years younger than his big brother Johannes. Atli starred with Valur from 1974 until 1980 before

McGregor v KR Reykjavik

leaving for the continent where he played for Borussia Dortmund and Fortuna Dusseldorf among others before returning to Iceland. Along the way he won 70 Iceland caps, 31 of those as captain and at the time of his retirement he held the Icelandic record for international appearances. His international career didn't stop there, though, as he managed the national team for four years between 1999 and 2003.

How did Edvaldsson's career pan out?

On his signing, Johannes Edvaldsson was almost immediately christened 'Shuggie' and soon became a favourite with the fans. He played for the Hoops until 1980 and scored 38 goals in 195 games for the club with 12 of those appearances coming from the bench. On leaving Celtic he moved across the Atlantic to play for Tulsa Roughnecks but moved to Germany to play with Hannover before returning to Scotland in 1982 to finish his playing career with Motherwell and he retired in 1984. Shuggie also played 34 times for Iceland and 16 of those caps were won while he was with the Celts.

Have there been any more Icelanders at Celtic Park?

More recent arrivals from Iceland have been Teddy Bjarnason and Kjartan Finnbogason who both arrived from KR Reykjavik in 2004 as youngsters to become part of the youth set-up at Celtic. Finnbogason was loaned to Queen's Park and also played in Norway before also playing on loan from Sandefjord at Falkirk. He now plies his trade with AC Horsens in Denmark but this time last year he was back with KR Reykjavik and playing against Celtic. Bjarnason made one appearance for the Celtic first team when he played for the full 90 minutes in the final league game of the 2006/07 term, a 2-1 win over Hibernian at Easter Road. He was also on the bench the following week for the 1-0 Scottish Cup final win over Dunfermline. He now plays for Aarhus in Denmark where his manager is none other than former Celt, Morten Wieghorst. Another recent Icelandic import was Holmbert Fridjonsson who joined in 2013 from Fram and was loaned out to Brondby before returning to his homeland to join KR Reykjavik.

>>

Rudi Vata

Any other Icelandic connections?

Iceland may not be the world's best venue to participate in the sporadic activity of streaking at a football match but it did happen in 1990 when a brave individual decided to do so while the teams were lined up for the national anthems. This was before an Iceland v Albania match and the culprit managed to avoid the security forces and streaked past the players - among them, looking rather bemused by the whole thing, was the then unknown Rudi Vata who would soon be plying his trade with Celtic. Another wee Celtic connection with Iceland was that back in 1962/63, another Reykjavik side, Throttur, arrived at Celtic Park to play a friendly against the Hoops reserve side. Inspired by a young Jimmy Johnstone, the Celtic second string beat the Icelanders 11-1 - and when Johannes Edvaldsson retired from the playing side of the game in 1984, he tried his hand at coaching with Throttur.

Are there many Celtic fans in Iceland?

According to the trusty world wide web, there are a few Celtic supporters' clubs in Iceland at present. They are in good company as Iceland's most famous footballer is also a self-confessed Hoops fan. A few years back, Eidur Gudjohnsen revealed he was blown away by the Celtic supporters when they invaded England to make his debut for Bolton a memorable occasion. He said: "When I signed for Bolton they presented me to the crowd before the Jimmy Phillips testimonial against Celtic. The Celtic fans made an impression on me because there were more of them than Bolton supporters at that game. Celtic are popular for testimonials because everyone knows they will fill the stadium. I've always had great admiration of Celtic and Scottish football."

Is it a proud football nation?

Given that the country has a population of around 300,000, Iceland do okay. They have never qualified for a major tournament, yet have never been regarded as real whipping boys in the international arena. The most capped player is Runar

Runar Kristinsson

Kristinsson with 104 caps, while Eidur Gudjohnsen, with 22 goals from 52 caps, is the top scorer in the country's history. The gifted striker, who played with Barcelona after making his name with Chelsea, is undoubtedly the finest ever Icelandic footballer. He returned to Bolton last season where his manager was former Celt, Neil Lennon. He also made his own bit of history when he played in the same international match as his father - Arnor. The young Gudjohnsen came on for his old man in a match against Estonia in 1996 - the only time that has ever occurred in the international game. Unfortunately, they never managed to play together for Iceland. Shortly after that historic occasion, Eidur broke his ankle and his father had retired by the time he returned.

CELTIC'S RECORD v ICELANDIC OPPOSITION

Season	Comp	Stage	Opposition	H	A	Agg
2014/15	EC	Q2	KR Reykjavik	4-0	1-0*	5-0
1975/76	CWC	R1	Valur Reykjavik	7-0	2-0*	9-0
TOTAL				**11-0**	**3-0**	**14-0**

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DEBUT DAYS

Johannes Edvaldsson v Derby County
August 2, 1975

In this new series for the 2015/16 season we will examine in each programme how a selection of Celtic players fared on their debut in the Hoops. Today we begin with Johannes Edvaldsson.

THE summer of 1975 could easily be described as a turbulent one at Celtic Park. Legendary captain, Billy McNeill, had retired and those great Celtic servants, Jim Brogan and Jimmy Johnstone, had been given free transfers.

Influential midfield man, Steve Murray, had developed a toe problem which would end his career suddenly, and George Connelly was on the verge of walking out Celtic for the last time.

This upheaval meant that Celtic were sure to have an interesting season. Then on July 7, came the devastating news that the Celtic manager, Jock Stein, had been involved in a serious car accident near Dumfries and was critically ill in hospital.

Stein would miss the entire 1975/76 season and the reigns were handed to his trusty assistant, Sean Fallon, to take over for that interim period.

Happily for Fallon, the club's star player, Kenny Dalglish, withdrew his transfer request and signed a new contract, so it wasn't all bad news.

One of Fallon's first acts was to take the Icelandic internationalist, Johannes Edvaldsson, on a short-term trial to establish whether he was suitable as a Celtic player.

Edvaldsson's debut came in a glamour 'challenge match' against the then current English league champions, Derby County, on a day of brilliant summer weather in Glasgow, which helped to enhance the attendance to a fine 44,000.

Edvaldsson was obviously a big draw at the gate and the tall midfielder was an exotic creature in the dull environment of 1970s Scottish football.

At that time Derby boasted some of the biggest names in British football and on the day fielded the English internationalists, Roy McFarland, Colin Todd, David Nish and Charlie George, as well as the Scots pair of Archie Gemmill and Bruce Rioch.

They were managed by that great Scot, Dave Mackay, who was said to be enjoying his sojourn back in his home country.

The game was an interesting affair and the fans took to Edvaldsson from the start and nicknamed him 'Big Shuggie', in the Glasgow vernacular, as a term of affection.

In those days Celtic avoided using the term 'friendly' for such games as this and both teams were keen to play a competitive game to enhance their reputations.

Derby had the best of the early stages with Celtic's new English goalkeeper, Peter Latchford, looking most impressive.

Edvaldsson enjoyed a dream debut when he scored the only goal of the game in the 62nd minute. Dalglish's shot was deflected into the big man's path by Paul Wilson, and he gleefully fired the ball past the Derby keeper, Graham Moseley.

The fanatics in The Jungle immediately responded with chants of 'Shuggie...Shuggie' and the big man won over the fans with an enthusiastic display.

Edvaldsson was so impressive that Celtic immediately made moves afterwards to make his signing permanent from his Danish club, Holbaek.

The Scottish newspapers were very pleased with result as Celtic had beaten such a prominent English side and it was said to have given the nation a bit of pride back after Scotland had been thrashed by England at Wembley, just three months previously.

Shuggie's debut game gave the fans a taste of things to come and the big man went on to give Celtic great service for the next five years.

During that time he scored 38 goals in 195 appearances and those games started with his competitive debut a week after the Derby match when, on August 9, 1975, Celtic beat Aberdeen 1-0 in the League Cup thanks to a Kenny Dalglish goal witnessed by a crowd of 32,000.

Ex Player
Roddy MacDonald

EUROPEAN MEMORIES

Roddy MacDonald knows what it's like to play Icelandic opposition

Exclusive interview Mark Henderson

RODDY MacDonald joined Celtic from Highland League club, Brora Rangers as teenager in 1972 and made his debut in the League Cup against Arbroath in 1973.

The defender gradually made more first-team appearances and by 1975 he was set to make his continental bow as the Hoops took on Valur in the European Cup-Winners' Cup in Iceland. Here he looks back on those days.

What do you remember about the tie?

That was the season that Jock Stein had his near-fatal car crash and Sean Fallon was in charge. We had a good squad with Peter Latchford, Danny McGrain, Pat McCluskey and big Johannes Edvaldsson had just signed,there was Paul Wilson, Kenny Dalglish, Dixie Deans, Tommy Callaghan and Harry Hood so we had a pretty strong team with a lot of experience. As a 21-year-old playing in my first European match, I was a bit nervous because of the reputation Celtic had in Europe, they had always done well although the team was going through a transitional period then as most of the Lions had gone. We knew fine we were in for a hard game because it was tight park and they had a few players that were speedy up front. We knew they would come at us as hard as they could in the first half-hour but in the end we knew we had superior fitness. I scored the second goal - as well as myself there was big Shuggie, Dixie and Kenny who were all good in the air and we knew we'd get something from a set-piece.

Was it a great feeling, marking your European debut with a goal?

Everybody wants to do that playing Europe, but it was always in our minds to be positive about getting a goal from set-plays. I knew they would have their best markers on Shuggie and Kenny because they would know less about me and probably didn't know that I was a threat in the air. I got a wee bit of room and scored from Harry Hood's corner.

Big Shuggie had just joined as well. What was he like?

He was a good player with a lot of ability and skill for such a big guy. He had good feet and good control and I roomed with him all the time for European games but I didn't see much of him on that first occasion because he obviously had a lot of family and friends to see as he was back home. As a personality, well he was a big guy so you couldn't miss him and he liked a good laugh and a joke. He was larger than life and we had some good laughs together. He was a bit of a character too but, like most of the players, once you get into the Celtic way of things, everybody is as one. He was very adaptable on the park as he could play at the back, in the middle or up front which we utilised quite often. He was good in the air but had good touch and control as well and he could also score goals. Up front he was a bit of a handful for people because he was a big strong boy.

It was rare in those days that Scottish clubs signed foreign players. Did he find it easy to adapt?
There weren't that many imports back then but Shuggie did adapt quite quickly. He got his nickname quite quickly as some people found his full name a bit of a mouthful and he was accepted into the dressing room very quickly. We could see in training and in the game that he had the ability.

What was it like going into that dressing room as a youngster?
I saw it as a great opportunity going into that environment with fantastic players who had done everything that you dream of as a youngster. You've got to grab that opportunity and listen and learn from the ones that are there. Of course, you had to be accepted by them because if you didn't have the ability, you wouldn't be there, the manager wouldn't have you there for a start. It was a great environment to be educated in. You picked up the right vibes off of everybody and picked up the right things. If you made a mistake you made sure it didn't happen again, you went into every game to win so we had that sort of mentality, not driven into you, but it was inbred as soon as you arrived.

How did the rest of that European season pan out?
There was a lot of pressure on Sean to keep the ball rolling and make sure he got the results but there were changes in the team anyway so it was a difficult season in any case. We did go through against Valur by beating them 7-0 at Celtic Park, that was George McCluskey's debut, then it was on to Boavista from Portugal. We drew 0-0 over there and won 3-1 at home and I remember the numbers had to be stitched on to the back of our shirts by the laundry women as that was the first time we were told to wear them. Then it was Sachsenring Zwikau in the quarter-final and we had a 1-1 draw at home in the first game. I scored a goal from a corner over in East Germany but it was chalked off by the linesman who said I had infringed on the keeper when I was nowhere near him. That was disappointing as we lost 1-0.

What is your favourite European memory?
The European nights were always electric, as they still are, and the one that sticks out was the European Cup quarter final in 1980 against Real Madrid. We beat them 2-0 at Celtic Park but lost 3-0 over there at the Bernabeu but that was an amazing experience at home. The supporters were hanging from the rafters at Celtic Park that night. It was a fantastic night because I think they expected to come over and beat us quite easily here so they got a bit of a fright. The whole team played well that night and European nights are great as it gives everybody a lift.

Why is European football so special to Celtic?
It's part of the tradition and the fact that the Lisbon Lions won the European Cup when all of the guys were local from within a 30-mile radius of Celtic Park, it's ridiculous really when you think about it. They had a fantastic team, they had the ability and desire to go and win games, and win them with style.

PRE-SEASON EURO DEVELOPMENT

The Celtic youngsters have also been gearing up for the new campaign in European football under the watchful eye of **Stevie Frail**

WHILE Celtic get their Champions League campaign underway tonight against FC Stjarnan, the club's youngsters will have to bide their time to begin for their European adventure.

The Under-19s will make a return to the UEFA Youth League over the coming season by virtue of the club lifting last season's U17 league title.

Celtic were involved in the inaugural UEFA Youth League two years ago, when they were unfortunate not to qualify for the knockout phase after a series of excellent displays in a group containing Barcelona, AC Milan and Ajax.

Delighted to be back involved in the tournament, Development Squad coach Stevie Frail believes it provides the ultimate test for young players as they attempt to make the grade.

"It's brilliant and we really enjoyed it two years ago," he told the matchday programme in an exclusive interview. "It's the premier competition in Europe for U19s, with the quality of opposition you play and the quality of the coaches you face. It gives you a benchmark for where your players are.

"We obviously missed out on it last year, but the year before we were really unlucky and had some really positive results and performances. You get a lot from it and I know the players do.

"We have qualifying games as well to be involved in, but it would be great for us to get through to the group stages and hopefully the first team can do it and have some more of the special nights at Celtic Park.

"We play in our own domestic league but we know all the teams and players, though there might be one or two you might not be aware of that have played U17s and have moved up to development squads. But in Europe there are different players, different styles of play and different clubs.

"You also have the travel side of it, and it's great for us to be involved in it. It does set a marker and we were very unfortunate two years ago in a group alongside Barcelona, AC Milan and Ajax.

"To get the results and performances we did was excellent for us and one or two of the players who featured in those games are now in and around the first-team squad. That's the end goal for us - these guys getting that experience which will hopefully take them on to the first team."

One of the pioneers of organised European youth football competitions, Celtic were participants in the first such event of its kind, the NextGen Series in the

2011/12 season. Even before it got underway, they played one of two trial matches for the groundbreaking competition in November 2010, beating a Liverpool side that contained Raheem Sterling 3-1 at Celtic Park.

Frail was in the dugout for that game and for the entirety of the young Hoops' European journey. Having watched a number of young players profit from their experiences, he feels they have been a priceless innovation.

"They are invaluable," said the coach. "Obviously Tony Watt is at Charlton Athletic now, but he scored against Barcelona in the NextGen Series both at Celtic Park and also in the Mini Estadi.

"He then scored for the first team against Barcelona in the Champions League on the night when we went on to win 2-1, which was an unbelievable night for the football club.

"From the Academy point of view, to see one of your own coming on in a game of such importance, contributing and scoring was fantastic. Tony, I'm pretty certain, would have gained valuable experience from those NextGen games and he took it on to the biggest stage.

"Liam Henderson played regularly in the games against AC Milan, Ajax and Barcelona in the UEFA >>

Youth League and did really well. He had that wee spell at Rosenborg and these tournaments probably helped him over there and when he hopefully makes the real step up and becomes a regular in the first team.

"UEFA looked at NextGen and thought they should get involved and they took it to a different level if I'm being brutally honest in terms of the organisational side of things and the level of competition," he continued.

"It made it special in the way they wanted to have it the night before the first-team game, which allowed the players to watch it and it also helped build relationships between the different clubs.

"NextGen was a fantastic tournament, a great innovation. To be involved in that and then stepping up to the UEFA Youth League was brilliant and we want to get back to that as it adds an extra wee bit of spice and the players really look forward to these matches."

At the moment, Frail and his backroom team's focus is on getting his players fit for the new campaign, with the first domestic fixtures commencing at the start of August.

At the weekend, they returned from a 13-day pre-season training camp in Spain based at the Oliva Nova Resort near Valencia. The trip was funded by Erasmus Plus.

> "NEXTGEN WAS A FANTASTIC TOURNAMENT, A GREAT INNOVATION. TO BE INVOLVED IN THAT AND THEN THE UEFA YOUTH LEAGUE WAS BRILLIANT AND WE WANT TO GET BACK TO THAT AS IT ADDS AN EXTRA WEE BIT OF SPICE TO THESE MATCHES"

Along with contesting two friendlies against a local side, Real Gandia and La Liga outfit, Levante, the Hoops youngsters underwent a number of rigorous training sessions.

According to Frail, the camp was tremendously beneficial, not just in improving fitness levels. With the bulk of the squad stepping up from the U17s set-up, it also helped foster togetherness and understanding.

"It's a young squad we have," explained the coach. "Although they have all worked with each other, the majority of them worked more so with Tommy McIntyre's squad at Barrowfield last year, so it gets them into the way we like to work - myself, Colin Meldrum, Hugh McGovern, Dave McGovern and our sports scientist Scott Breddy, who is going to be working with them at Barrowfield.

"The players have benefited from getting to know us and how we work. It's also been good in terms of bonding and getting them together as this could be the Development Side going forward for this season.

"Their fitness will have benefited from the conditions they have been playing in and the facilities they have been using, which have been first class.

"I had a few reservations before coming over about the heat and how we could cope with it. The temperature was 43 degrees for our game last Tuesday night at kick off.

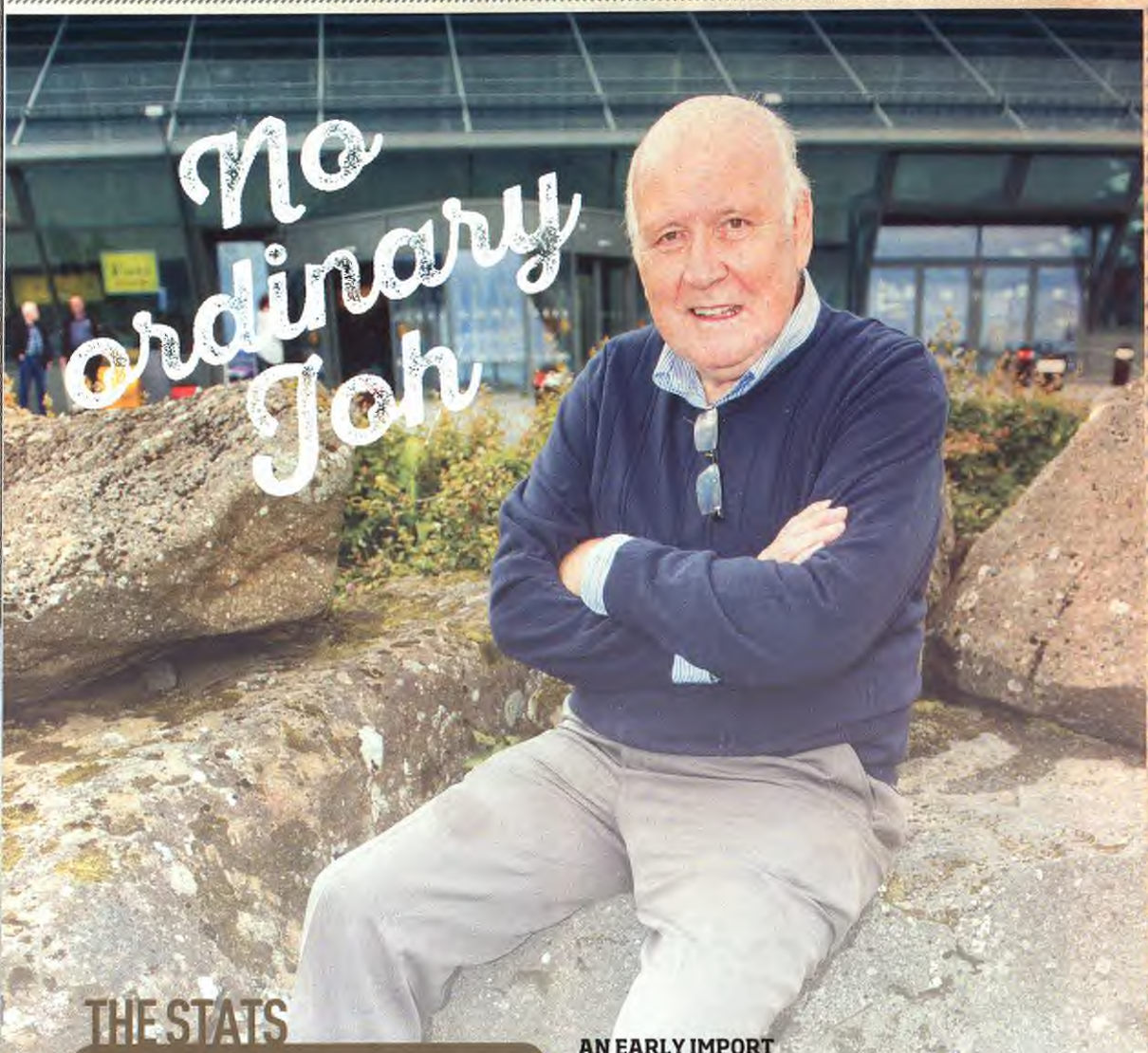
"The conditions have been very intense and we will have benefited from all of that. We had access to them 24/7 and it allowed us to give them lots of information about our playing philosophy without having to worry about the rain coming on or them having to go home. It's been a fantastic two weeks."

After the Bhoys returned home, they took on Morton in Andy Bryan's testimonial on Monday night. On Saturday, they will head north to face Turriff United, before taking on Raith Rovers and East Kilbride next week.

At the end of July they will then head to foreign climes again for the prestigious Durban U19 International Football Tournament in South Africa.

"It's a top tournament with teams like PSV and Arsenal in our group," said Frail. "It's invite-only but we are always at the forefront of these things. The tournament has been going on for a few years and we haven't been at it, so we are maybe taking a step into the unknown but it's something else we are thoroughly looking forward to."

No ordinary Joh



THE STATS

NAME: JOHANNES EDVALDSSON
CELTIC CAREER: 1975-1980
POSITION: DEFENDER/ MIDFIELDER/STRIKER
APPEARANCES: 195
GOALS: 38

AN EARLY IMPORT

Edvaldsson started his career as a teenager in his native Iceland with Valur, but it wasn't long before he was on the radar of clubs on the continent. The first team to swoop for his services were French side FC Metz. After spending a season there, Edvaldsson moved on to Holbaek B&I. That proved to be another short-lived spell, though, and he was soon on the plane to Glasgow for a trial with Celtic. Jock Stein liked what he saw and made him one of the Hoops' first foreign imports. He made a favourable first impression in front of his new supporters with the only goal in a 1-0 friendly victory over Derby County at Celtic Park.

ANYHOW, ANYWHERE, ANYPLACE

Shuggie, as he was to become known by the Hoops support, soon established himself as a first-team regular with his powerful all-action displays. His versatility was also a major asset for the Hoops. While Edvaldsson was primarily a central-defender, he operated in nearly every position for the Hoops during his five-year spell. Even when Edvaldsson did lose his place in the team, such as when Pat Stanton was signed from Hibernian in 1976, his ability to come in and seamlessly play in a number of areas meant he usually won his place back in the starting XI. Indeed in that season, an injury to Roddy MacDonald saw him form a formidable partnership alongside Stanton in that year's title-winning side. Jock Stein and later Billy McNeill knew, when called upon, he could be relied upon to put in a performance.

VIKING HAUL

Edvaldsson's first season in Scotland proved to be a personal success but ended without any silverware as Rangers won the treble. However, in the following season he got his hands on his first medals, when he was a vital member of Celtic's double-winning side. So much so, that Stein handed him a start in the Scottish Cup final victory over Rangers. The passion and frenzy of the Glasgow derby games always seemed to bring out the best in Edvaldsson. His performance when 10-men-won-the-league with that stirring 4-2 win over the Ibrox side in 1979 was simply sensational and it gave him his second league medal.

SHUGGIE SPARKLES AT SOMERSET

Edvaldsson had quickly emerged as a real goal threat for Celtic, whatever his role in the side. And his one and only hat-trick in the Hoops came during his first season in Scottish football on Wednesday, November 12, 1975 in an away league fixture at Ayr United. The defender struck an early double as Jock Stein's side raced into a five-goal lead. Although the Somerset Park side pulled two goals back, including one from future Celt Johnny Doyle, another Edvaldsson effort and Dixie Deans' second of the game sealed a memorable 7-2 victory.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

In 1979, Edvaldsson was being used more sparingly by Billy McNeill, and at the start of the following year he decided to move to pastures new following a fall-out with the Celtic management. His first port of call was across the Atlantic at Tulsa Roughnecks, before former Rangers manager Jock Wallace, who had watched the Icelander wreak havoc against his side in the Glasgow derby clashes, took him to Motherwell. After a two-year spell with the Steelmen, he returned to his homeland to end his playing days. Once, he had hung up his boots, though, he returned to live in Scotland, where he remains to this day.

DID YOU KNOW?

There was another game when Big Shuggie's tally was kept to two goals - the problem was, it was one for each side. It was a Tuesday night on February 22, 1977 when he opened the scoring in the third minute against Partick Thistle at Firhill and, by just after half-time, the Hoops were coasting 4-0. Minutes later, the home side pulled one back and then, on the hour-mark, the man from Iceland smacked the ball from outside the area into his own net. The ferocity of the shot was such that you would swear Peter Latchford dived to get out of the road of it. Jock Stein said in the *View* at the time: "Big Shuggie, for some inexplicable reason, thumped the ball into his own net. Had he been a Thistle player, that score would have been well in the running as Firhill's goal of the season."

HERE WE GO FOR FIVE-IN-A-ROW

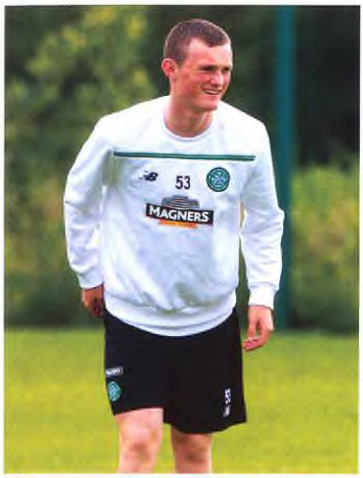
Bhoys lap up the pre-season training regime at Lennoxtown

THE Celts gathered at Lennoxtown once more on June 22 for the pre-season training with the bulk of the squad taking part in the first day's workout before those rested because of international duty joined them later.

The training is based on hitting the ground running for tonight's UEFA Champions League qualifier with FC Stjarnan and the players are hungry for more success after last season's triumphs in the SPFL and the League Cup.

New additions Dedryck Boyata, Saidy Janko, Logan Bailly and Nadir Ciftci also got a taste of Celtic's training centre for the first time.

Now it's time to get down to the real thing.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FROM PAISLEY TO PARADISE

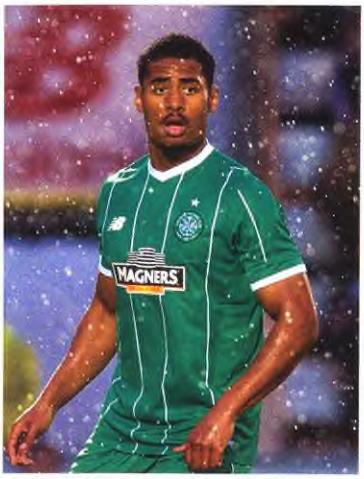
The Celts in action in their pre-season matches against sides from the continent

TONIGHT, the Hoops take on FC Stjarnan in the first competitive match of the 2015/16 season and our first game at Celtic Park, but they go into the game on the back of three pre-season matches played at St Mirren Park in Paisley.

Celtic came up against Dutch side, Den Bosch, Dukla Prague from the Czech Republic and La Liga side, Real Sociedad.

The games also gave some of the new Bhoys who have just arrived, a run out with their new team-mates.

Here we have some of the highlights of the three games.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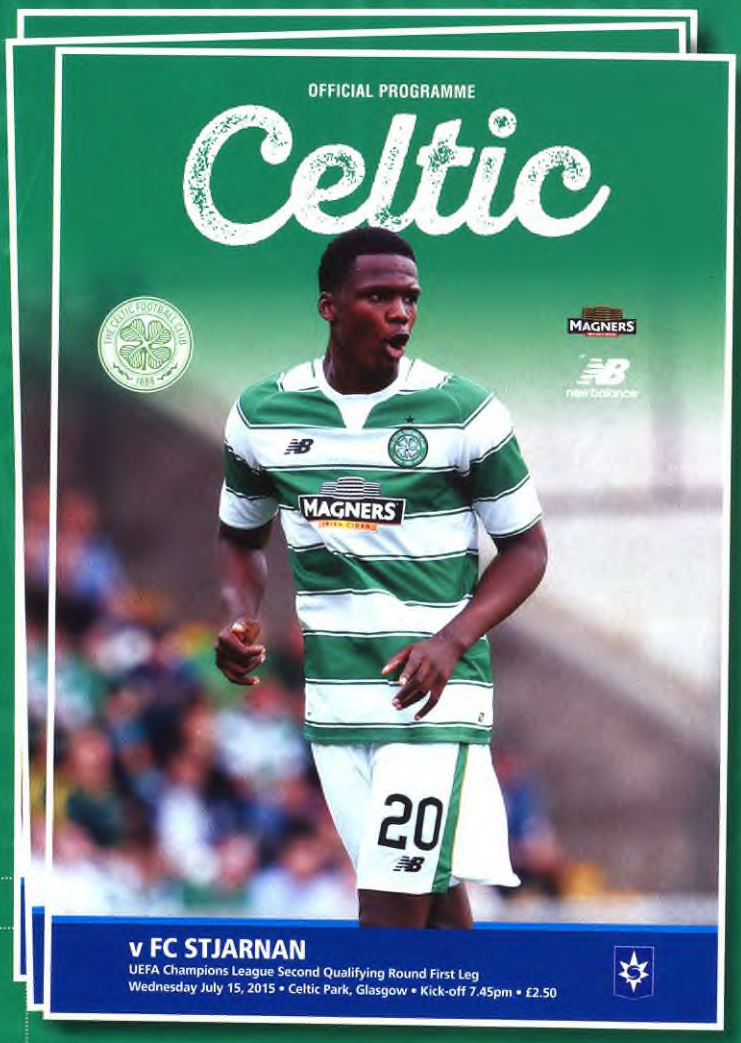

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2015/16 FIXTURES

Home matches in bold. All fixtures subject to change.

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DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	COMPETITION	RESULT
15 Jul	**Wed**	**Stjarnan**	**UCL Q2, Leg 1**	
22 Jul	Wed	Stjarnan	UCL Q2, Leg 2	
28/29 Jul	Tue/Wed		UCL Q3, Leg 1	
01 Aug	**Sat**	**Ross County**	**SPFL 1**	
04/05 Aug	Tue/Wed		UCL Q3, Leg 2	
08 Aug	Sat	Partick Thistle	SPFL 2	
12 Aug	Wed	Kilmarnock	SPFL 3	
15 Aug	**Sat**	**Inverness CT**	**SPFL 4**	
18/19 Aug	Tue/Wed		UCL PO, Leg 1	
22 Aug	Sat	Dundee United	SPFL 5	
25/26 Aug	Tue/Wed		UCL PO, Leg 2	
29 Aug	**Sat**	**St Johnstone**	**SPFL 6**	
12 Sep	Sat	Aberdeen	SPFL 7	
15/16 Sep	Tue/Wed		UCL MD 1	
19 Sep	**Sat**	**Dundee**	**SPFL 8**	
22/23 Sep	Tue/Wed		Scottish League Cup R3	
26 Sep	**Sat**	**Hearts**	**SPFL 9**	
29/30 Sep	Tue/Wed		UCL MD 2	
03 Oct	Sat	Hamilton Accies	SPFL 10	
17 Oct	Sat	Motherwell	SPFL 11	
20/21 Oct	Tue/Wed		UCL MD 3	
24 Oct	**Sat**	**Dundee United**	**SPFL 12**	
27/28 Oct	Tue/Wed		Scottish League Cup R4	
31 Oct	**Sat**	**Aberdeen**	**SPFL 13**	
03/04 Nov	Tue/Wed		UCL MD 4	
07 Nov	Sat	Ross County	SPFL 14	
21 Nov	**Sat**	**Kilmarnock**	**SPFL 15**	
24/25 Nov	Tue/Wed		UCL MD 5	
28 Nov	Sat	Inverness CT	SPFL 16	
05 Dec	**Sat**	**Hamilton Accies**	**SPFL 17**	
08/09 Dec	Tue/Wed		UCL MD 6	
12 Dec	Sat	St Johnstone	SPFL 18	
19 Dec	**Sat**	**Motherwell**	**SPFL 19**	
26 Dec	Sat	Hearts	SPFL 20	
30 Dec	Wed	Dundee	SPFL 21	
02 Jan	**Sat**	**Partick Thistle**	**SPFL 22**	
09 Jan	Sat		Scottish Cup R4	
16 Jan	Sat	Dundee United	SPFL 23	
23 Jan	**Sat**	**St Johnstone**	**SPFL 24**	
30 Jan	Sat	Aberdeen	SPFL 25	
30/31 Jan	Sat/Sun		Scottish League Cup SF	
06 Feb	Sat		SFA Scottish Cup R5	
13 Feb	**Sat**	**Ross County**	**SPFL 26**	
16/17 Feb	Tue/Wed		UCL R16, Leg 1	
20 Feb	**Sat**	**Inverness CT**	**SPFL 27**	
23/24 Feb	Tue/Wed		UCL R16, Leg 1	
27 Feb	Sat	Hamilton Accies	SPFL 28	
02 Mar	**Wed**	**Dundee**	**SPFL 29**	
05 Mar	Sat		SFA Scottish Cup R6	
08/09 Mar	Tue/Wed		UCL R16, Leg 2	
12 Mar	Sat	Partick Thistle	SPFL 30	
13 Mar	Sun		Scottish League Cup Final	
15/16 Mar	Tue/Wed		UCL R16, Leg 2	
19 Mar	Sat	Kilmarnock	SPFL 31	
02 Apr	**Sat**	**Hearts**	**SPFL 32**	
05/06 Apr	Tue/Wed		UCL Quarter Final, Leg 1	
09 Apr	Sat	Motherwell	SPFL 33	
12/13 Apr	Tue/Wed		UCL Quarter Final, Leg 2	
16/17 Apr	Sat/Sun		SFA Scottish Cup SF	
23 Apr	Sat		SPFL 34	
26/27 Apr	Tue/Wed		UCL Semi Final, Leg 1	
30 Apr	Sat		SPFL 35	
03/04 May	Tue/Wed		UCL Semi Final, Leg 2	
07 May	Sat		SPFL 36	
11 May	Wed		SPFL 37	
14/15 May	Sat/Sun		SPFL 38	
21 May	Sat		SFA Scottish Cup Final	
28 May	Sat		UCL Final	

Quiz

1 Which Icelandic club did Celtic play last season in the UEFA Champions League second round qualifier?

2 How many matches did Celtic play in Europe in 2003/04 to establish a record number of games for one season?

3 Who is the only African player to score for Celtic in the group stages of the UEFA Champions League?

4 Which two players were joint top goalscorers for Celtic last season in European football?

5 Who remains the only Scot to have played in a European Cup final for two different clubs?

6 Against which club has Scott Brown netted his only European goal for Celtic to date?

7 Who was the youngest man to play for Celtic when they won the European Cup in 1967?

8 Which team did Celtic meet in Europe for the third time last season?

9 Which was the first Icelandic club that Celtic played against in European football?

10 Who remains the only man to manage for and against Celtic in European football?

11 In which famous football stadium will the 2016 UEFA Champions League final be played on May 28?

12 Who was the last player to score a hat-trick against Celtic in European competition?

13 Who in 2013 played against the Hoops in European football while on loan to another club from Celtic?

14 Who in 1975 became the first Icelandic player to score for Celtic in European football?

15 Which legendary footballer holds the record for having played against Celtic most often in Europe with a total of 10 matches?

ANSWERS

1. KR Reykjavik.
2. 16 games.
3. Victor Wanyama v Barcelona (2012/13).
4. Callum McGregor & Stefan Johansen (three goals).
5. Frank Gray (Leeds United 1975, Nottingham Forest 1980).
6. FC Salzburg(2014/15).
7. Jimmy Johnstone (23 years, 8 months).
8. Inter Milan.
9. Valur Reykjavik (1975/76).
10. Dr Jo Vengios (Sporting Lisbon) 1983/84.
11. San Siro, Milan.
12. Marko Pjaca (Dinamo Zagreb) 2014/15.
13. Mo Bangura (FC Elsborg).
14. Johannes Edvaldsson.
15. Xavi Hernandez (Barcelona).

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Celtic v FC STJARNAN

Manager:
Ronny Deila

Craig Gordon	1	☐
Emilio Izaguirre	3	☐
Efe Ambrose	4	☐
Virgil van Dijk	5	☐
Nir Bitton	6	☐
Nadir Ciftci	7	☐
Scott Brown	8	☐
Leigh Griffiths	9	☐
Anthony Stokes	10	☐
Derk Boerrigter	11	☐
Stefan Scepovic	12	☐
Stuart Armstrong	14	☐
Kris Commons	15	☐
Gary Mackay-Steven	16	☐
Tom Rogic	18	☐
Dedryck Boyata	20	☐
Charlie Mulgrew	21	☐
Saidy Janko	22	☐
Mikael Lustig	23	☐
Stefan Johansen	25	☐
Logan Bailly	26	☐
Eoghan O'Connell	34	☐
Jackson Irvine	36	☐
Leo Fasan	38	☐
Darnell Fisher	41	☐
Callum McGregor	42	☐
Dylan McGeouch	46	☐
James Forrest	49	☐
Liam Henderson	53	☐

Manager:
Rúnar Páll Sigmundsson

☐	1	Gunnar Nielsen
☐	2	Jóhann Laxdal
☐	5	Michael Præst
☐	6	Hilmar Þór Hilmarsson
☐	7	Atli Jóhannsson
☐	8	Pablo Punyed
☐	9	Daniel Laxdal
☐	10	Veigar Páll Gunnarsson
☐	11	Arnar Már Björgvinsson
☐	12	Heiðar Ægisson
☐	14	Hörður Árnason
☐	15	Aron Rúnarsson Heiðdal
☐	16	Þorri Geir Rúnarsson
☐	17	Ólafur Karl Finsen
☐	18	Jón Arnar Barðdal
☐	19	Jeppe Hansen
☐	20	Atli Freyr Ottesen
☐	21	Baldvin Sturluson
☐	23	Snorri Páll Blöndal
☐	25	Sveinn Sigurður Jóhannesson
☐	27	Garðar Jóhannsson
☐	30	Kári Pétursson

Match Officials
Referee: Daniel Siebert
Assistant 1: Mike Pickel
Assistant 2: Harm Osmers
Fourth Official: Sascha Stegemann

MAGNERS IRISH CIDER
new balance

NEXT GAME AT CELTIC PARK

Celtic v Rennes
Saturday July 25, 3pm