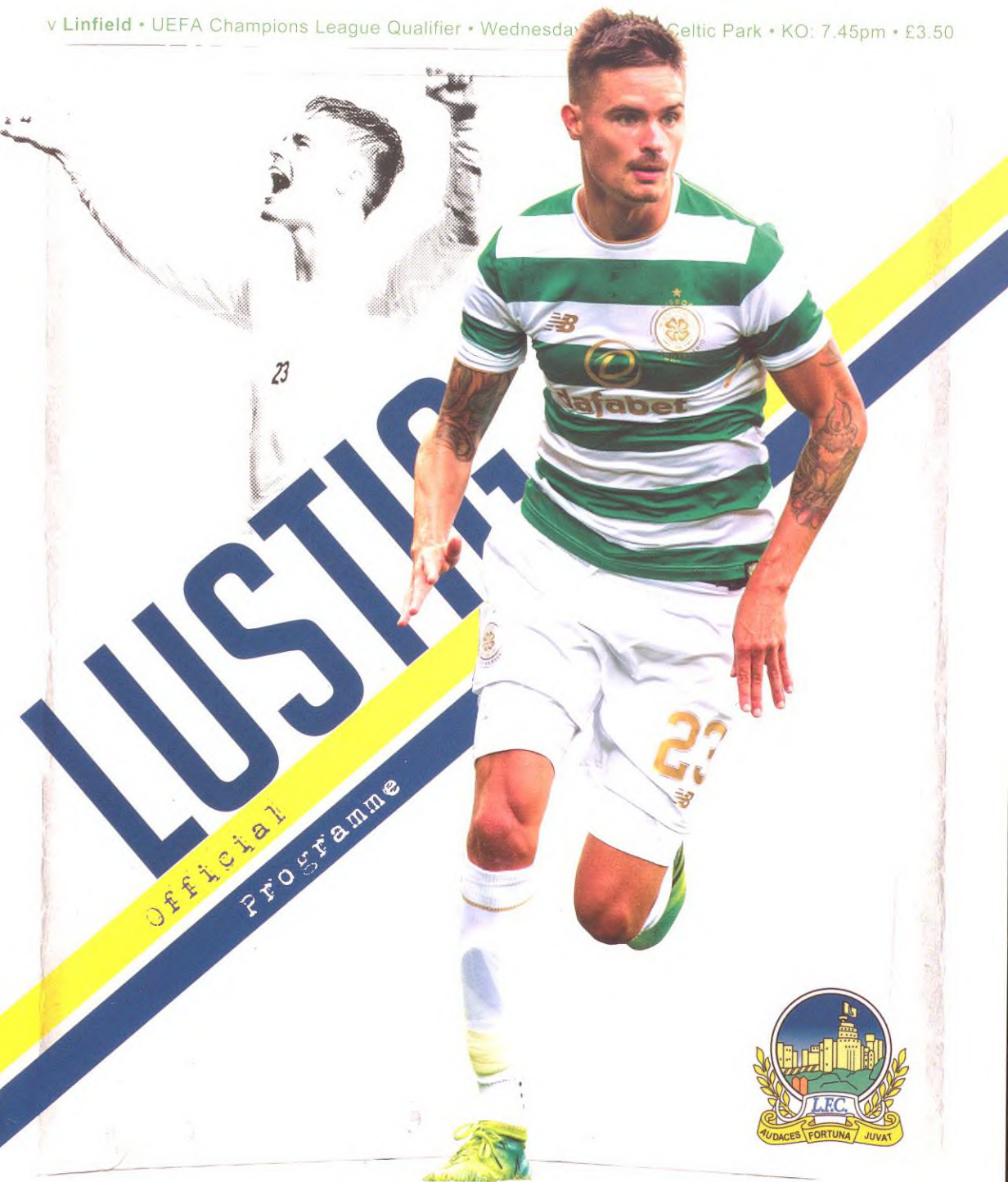




# Celtic

v Linfield • UEFA Champions League Qualifier • Wednesday • Celtic Park • KO: 7.45pm • £3.50



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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

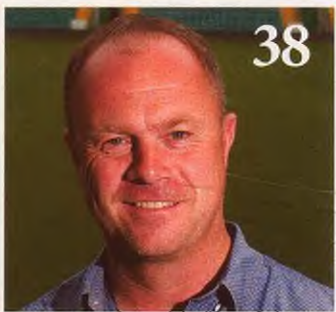
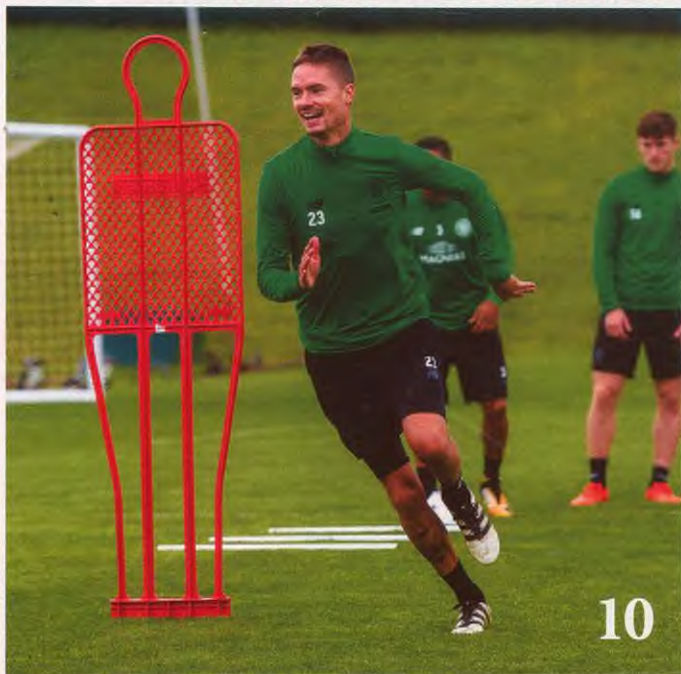
Celtic Football Club is a Scottish football club with proud Irish links. The primary business of Celtic is as a football club. It is run on a professional business basis with no political agenda. However, the Club has a wider role and the responsibility of being a major Scottish social institution promoting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



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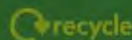
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Manager's Notes...

# BRENDAN RODGERS







# Let's start as we mean to go on as we embark on another European journey

**GOOD evening and welcome to Celtic Park for tonight's match against Linfield, and I'd like to welcome David Healy and his team here too for what I'm sure will be a very competitive match.**

It's the second leg of our UEFA Champions League tie, and we were pleased to take a positive result from the first leg in Belfast last Friday night.

It was the first step in what we hope will be a journey that will take us to the group stages of the competition for a second consecutive season, but we know that the job is not yet complete and so our sole focus is on ensuring another good result tonight so that we can take our place in the next round.

*“Olivier Ntcham showed his own qualities and will be a real asset to the squad going forward, while I think all of us were impressed by Kundai Benyu's performance”*

Linfield, of course, will come here looking to get something from the match and I know that David will have his players organised and determined to do well, so there will be no let-up from our end in how we approach this match.



Just 24 hours after our Champions League tie in Belfast, we had a game here against Lyon, and I would like to thank all of you who braved the Scottish summer weather to come along and cheer on the team.

It was an opportunity for some of our new players to experience Celtic Park for the first time, and the first chance for many of you to see them in action, and it was an enjoyable afternoon, albeit the end result wasn't one that we wanted.

We were up against a top French side in Lyon, and for the first hour of the game I thought we did very well, and probably had the better of the first-half.

The nature of these games, particularly once a lot of changes are made, is that it can upset the balance of the match, and that's when Lyon

showed their quality in front of goal.

But, certainly, Olivier Ntcham showed his own qualities and will be a real asset to the squad going forward, while I think all of us were impressed by Kundai Benyu's performance.

Tonight is our first home competitive game of the new season. It's one that we're looking forward to and it's a match that we want to win in order to continue our European journey. Enjoy the game and let's start at home as we mean to go on this forthcoming season.

**Brendan Rodgers**  
*Without Fear*





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A word with our captain...

**SCOTT BROWN**

## We're focused and determined to complete the job tonight



**SOME** of the lads got their first taste of Celtic Park on Saturday, and I'm sure they will have enjoyed it, even if the result wasn't the best. These games are all about getting some time on the pitch and getting your match fitness up to speed, and so it will have been a good exercise for that.

It's always good for the fans to see the new players in action, too, and I'm sure you'll see a lot more of them in the months and years to come.

I'm looking forward to tonight's game and the first chance to play at home of the new season, and on our new pitch too.

We did well in the first leg over in Belfast last Friday night, and deserved the victory thanks to goals from Scotty Sinclair and Tom Rogic. Now, we're determined to complete the job tonight

*"I'm looking forward to tonight's game and the first chance to play at home on our new pitch"*

with another good result and book our place in the next round of the competition.

I've been lucky enough to play in a lot of big European games for this club, but each and every game is important, and that goes for tonight's match against Linfield.

While the 2-0 win from the first leg means we go into the game as favourites to progress, we're taking nothing for granted, and I know that Linfield will come here determined to do well.

Our focus this week has been on

preparing well for tonight's tie, and, as always, we're looking forward to playing in front of our own supporters.

I'm sure it's a game you're all looking forward to as well, and hopefully we can have another good result and then look forward to the next round of the competition. Enjoy the game.

**Scott Brown**



  
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## Mackay-Steven joins Aberdeen



**GARY Mackay-Steven has left Celtic to sign a two-year deal with Aberdeen.**

The 26-year-old winger joined the Hoops from Dundee United in February 2015 and went on to make 82 appearances in all competitions for the club, scoring 10 goals. He made his debut for the Dons last Thursday night in their Europa League qualifier against Bosnian side Siroki Brijeg.

Everyone at Celtic would like to thank Gary for his contribution during his time at Paradise and wish him well in his future career.

## Young Celts called up by Scotland

**FIVE Celtic Youth Academy players have been called up by Scotland Under-16s for an international tournament later this month.**

Liam Morrison, Dylan Forrest, Michael Sparkes, Scott Cusick and Karamoko Dembele will be part of Brian McLaughlin's squad for the three-game event.

The young Scots will face England, Uruguay and Qatar between Tuesday, July 25 and Saturday, July 29. All the matches will take place at the Oriam in Edinburgh and Forthbank Stadium, the home of Stirling Albion. All the best to the Hoops' youngsters during their involvement with the national side.

# Draw for next round of Champions League

**THE draw for the third qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League took place on Friday.**

And should Celtic eliminate Linfield and progress to the next stage of the competition, they will be heading to either Ireland or Norway to face the

winners of the second qualifying round tie between Dundalk and Rosenborg.

The first leg is scheduled to be played on July 25/26, with the second leg the following week, August 1/2.

*Further information on the date and time of the ties to follow.*



# Death of former Celt, Mike Conroy snr

**FORMER Celtic player Mike Conroy snr has passed away in Bridge of Weir at the age of 84.**

Born in Port Glasgow, Mike was a left-half who spent seven years with the Hoops between 1953 and '60, most of which was as a part-time player, and during this period he also spent two years on National Service.

He made his debut in a 3-2 league victory over St Mirren at Celtic Park on April 11, 1953, when the scorers that day were Willie Fernie, Sean Fallon and Bobby Collins, and

he went on to make a total of eight appearances before injury forced his retirement from the game at the age of 28. He later became a scout for Celtic in the Greenock area until 1975.

His wife, Jean, passed away in recent years, and the couple are survived by their four sons, Stephen, David, Derek and Michael, who is also a former Celtic player who spent four years with the Hoops between 1978 and '82.

The thoughts and prayers of everyone at Celtic are with the Conroy family at this sad time.

