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celtic

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2006/07



v MANCHESTER UNITED UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, GROUP F, TUE 21ST NOVEMBER, KO 7.45PM

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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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THIS STADIUM, AND OUR SUPPORTERS, ARE RENOWNED FOR CREATING SOMETHING SPECIAL ON THESE NIGHTS AND I'M SURE THE MANCHESTER UNITED PLAYERS WILL NOT HAVE EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE, DESPITE PLAYING IN MANY OF FOOTBALL'S TOP ARENAS.

GORDON STRACHAN

WHEN the draw was made for this season's UEFA Champions League group stages, everyone connected with Celtic and Manchester United immediately looked forward to the meetings between the two clubs.

We have already had the first of those games when we travelled down to Old Trafford and tonight we have the second instalment here at Celtic Park.

Games between Scottish and English club sides are always exciting affairs, and this is probably even more so in this case because of the links and the long-standing affinity between Celtic and Manchester United, particularly with both sets of supporters.

The clubs have met many times over the years but this season is the first time we've done so in a competitive environment.

The game at Old Trafford back in September was a terrific game of football though we were disappointed not to have taken anything from the match, particularly given our performance on the night. Both sides are committed to attacking football, which was evident in Manchester, and I expect more of the same tonight.

This should make for an exciting game for supporters, although we are obviously hoping that tonight's result will be in our favour this time.

We are pleased with our overall form this season so far, particularly as we look to retain the league championship and, likewise, Sir Alex Ferguson's side will, I'm sure, be satisfied with their league form which has been very impressive.

However, in a cup-tie we know that anything can happen on the night, so it is up to us to be at our very best in order to try and win all three points.

I am sure of one thing, however, and it is that it will be another very special European atmosphere here at Celtic Park. This stadium, and our supporters, are renowned for creating something special on these nights and I'm sure the Manchester United players will not have experienced anything like it before, despite playing in many of football's top arenas.

The Celtic players appreciate your support and will give everything they possibly can to deliver a victory tonight.

