



celtic

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2007/08



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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?

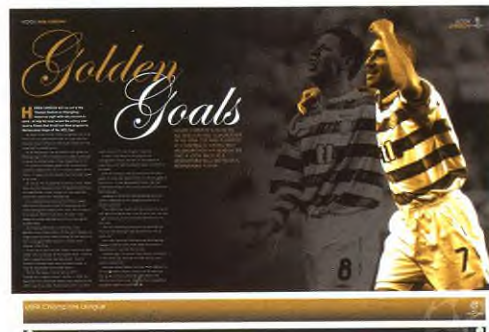
Celtic Football Club is for people who want to support a football club that strives for excellence in Scotland and in Europe, is proud of its history, supportive of its local community and seeks to support the following aims: "To maximise all opportunities to disassociate the Club from sectarianism and 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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>> GORDON STRACHAN



TONIGHT is our third match here at Celtic Park in the UEFA Champions League and, once again, it is a contest that everyone is looking forward to. Our previous two games, against AC Milan and Benfica, have been tremendous occasions and I'm sure our match against Shakhtar Donetsk will be no different.

Anyone who has ever been here for a European night and been involved in any capacity knows that they are special occasions. Our previous visitors from Italy and Portugal both left with that impression, and while they would both have been disappointed that the result did not go in their favour, the players left knowing they had played in one of the great European football arenas.

It is something that everyone at the football club is proud of and these occasions are ones that we all look forward to. The atmosphere is, of course, a major part of what makes it special but these games also give us the opportunity to compete against some of the best players in Europe.

That has certainly been the case this season when first we played the

reigning European Champions and then, in our last home game, when we faced one of the most famous names in football, in Benfica.

Tonight will be no different and Shakhtar Donetsk are certainly worthy opponents. No-one can be in any doubt as to the quality in their squad, and that was apparent when we played in Ukraine on Matchday One of this season's UEFA Champions League.

That was as tough a start to our campaign as we possibly could have had and though it ended in disappointment on the night for us, the players did not let it become too much of a set-back and our performances since then, particularly in our two matches here at Celtic Park, have been excellent, while we were unlucky not get something from our game in Lisbon.

Tonight, however, brings another tough test and the players know they will have to be at their very best to secure all three points. The crowd will again play an important part in our quest and, together, we can hopefully create another memorable European occasion at this wonderful stadium.

