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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



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the tremendous backing in our previous home UEFA Champions League game against AC Milan and I'm sure you all enjoyed the occasion and the outcome.

Indeed, as far as excitement and success go, our past two European games here at Celtic Park against Spartak Moscow and Milan have produced the goods and the magnificent support here certainly played their part on both historical occasions.

That's the sort of backing and support we will need tonight to help us in our task of overcoming a very talented Benfica side and we saw just a fortnight ago how good a team tonight's visitors are.

However, I feel we were very unlucky to lose that late goal over in Lisbon and, as I said directly after the game, it wasn't easy to take but I also stated that we've been on the receiving end of bigger blows in the past and we've managed to bounce right back from them.

Tonight, of course, is the ideal opportunity to get right back on track with the visit of Benfica and if the team show the same heart, effort, determination and application as they displayed in Portugal then we can definitely take something from this game tonight and improve our Group D ambitions.

Following the game a fortnight ago, I was proud of the attitude of the players throughout the match but tiredness set in at the end and that was the thing that beat us but with the backing from the stands tonight urging the players on, we should have no fear of fatigue taking hold.

We will obviously be going for all three points tonight as we are definitely not out of the running in this group and we are fully aiming to repeat our success of last season by reaching the last 16 of the tournament.

Celtic Park is a special arena and even more so on nights like this and if we all show the same application as we did in our game against the current holders of the trophy, then tonight could again be one of those memorable occasions here at the stadium.

