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THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2007/08



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>> CONTENTS

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.

- 5 Gordon Strachan
- 6/7 Celtic Football Club Factfile
- 10/11 Captain's Column
- 12/16 Aiden McGeady Interview
- 18/19 AC Milan Facts
- 20/24 Tonight's Visitors
- 26/30 Kaka Feature
- 34/35 Poster
- 38/42 John Hartson Feature
- 44/46 Previous Meetings
- 50/52 Laura Esposto Interview
- 54/56 Rose Reilly Interview
- 58/59 On This Day
- 64/65 Celtic Stats
- 66 Quiz

12/16



26/30



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>> GORDON STRACHAN



WELCOME to Celtic Park tonight for this, our first home match in Group D of the UEFA Champions League and, of course, that welcome extends to the players, officials and supporters of AC Milan.

It's perhaps stating the obvious to say that we couldn't have picked a harder game, given the fact that we are playing host to the UEFA Champions League holders but, at the same time, it's also an exciting prospect and one that we're all looking forward to.

It is only seven months since we last faced AC Milan, when we were drawn against each other in the last 16 of the competition. Both of those ties, here at Celtic Park and the return leg at the San Siro were closely-fought affairs, with neither side able to gain an advantage over the course of 180 minutes of football.

It took an individual moment of brilliance from Kaka in extra-time to finally give Milan the edge and they showed their quality by going all the way to the final, where they defeated Liverpool to lift the trophy.

Our performances against the eventual winners of the competition were also an indication of our own strengths and of the players' willingness to

work and determination not to get beat and everyone can be proud of their efforts, not only in getting to that stage of the competition for the first time in the club's history, but in matching a world-class side throughout both legs of the tie.

This season, we have a number of players who are experiencing UEFA Champions League football for the first time, and playing teams like AC Milan with the quality they possess throughout their ranks can only benefit our players.

However, more than anything else, our priority is to win this match tonight and we will be doing everything we possibly can to achieve that. We know it will take a tremendous effort from everyone, and that includes our supporters.

Regardless of the fact that AC Milan played here last season, the atmosphere in this stadium on a European night is always something special and tonight will be no different.

The backing you give will provide our players with a tremendous boost and they will do everything in their power to deliver three points in this UEFA Champions League game.

