



# Celtic

v Ross County • Scottish Premiership • Saturday September 16, 2017 • Celtic Park • KO: 3pm • £3.50

Debut: 11/05/16  
Age: 18  
P.O.B:  
Bellshill,  
Scotland  
Position:  
Right back



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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

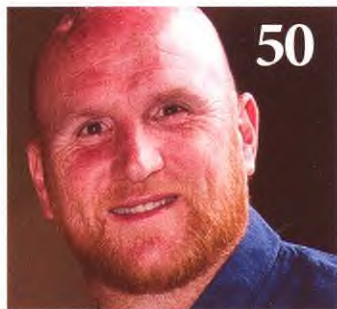
Celtic is a club for everyone who believes in football as a medium for healthy pleasure, entertainment and social integration. The Club always has been and always will simply aim to be the team of the people. "



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PUBLISHED BY Sport Media. PRINTED BY J Thomson Colour Printers.

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Manager's Notes...

# BRENDAN RODGERS





# Focus is straight back to the league after a tough European night

**GOOD afternoon and welcome to Celtic Park for our Premiership match against Ross County, and I would also like to welcome our visitors who have made the journey down from the Highlands for today's game.**

Having enjoyed a good victory at Hamilton in our most recent league fixture, a result which took us back to the top of the table, we're looking forward to today's game and are aiming for another three points to maintain that position.

We go into the match on the back of a very tough Champions League tie on Tuesday night. We faced one of Europe's top teams in Paris Saint-Germain, a side with genuine aspirations of winning the competition, and containing some of the best players in the world.

*'The atmosphere at Celtic Park, as always on these European nights, was incredible'*

While we were obviously disappointed with the result, and our first-half performance in particular, I felt that, after the break, we were much better and competed well against a top-class side.

The atmosphere at Celtic Park, as always on these European nights, was incredible, and the supporters were brilliant throughout the game.

They, too, would have seen the quality of the opposition, but their reaction to our players, especially in that second-



half, was an acknowledgement of the players' efforts.

Now we return to domestic action, and this is the first of three games in a week for us. It is, as always, a busy schedule, and one that will require us to call upon the squad. I know that, whoever is selected for any particular game, will come in and play their part, and that has been one of our strengths.

Our focus, of course, is solely on this afternoon's game against Ross County and our determination to get a good result.

Jim McIntyre's side come into this game on the back of a draw against Partick Thistle last weekend, and they will be aiming to take something from today's contest at Celtic Park. They

will, as always, be well-organised and determined, so we know we will have to show our own determination to enjoy a successful afternoon.

Thank-you, as always, for your support of the team. It's something that the players always appreciate, whether that is on a Champions League night or a Premiership afternoon. Enjoy the game.

**Brendan Rodgers**  
*Without Fear*

VISARO

  
new balance.

ALWAYS  
IN BETA.

**dictate  
the play**



FURON

**devastate  
the defence**





A word with our captain...

# SCOTT BROWN

## We fully intend to still be top of the league come the close of play today



**WE'RE** back at Celtic Park today on league business as we welcome Ross County for another Saturday game after our UEFA Champions League match in midweek.

The match against Paris-Saint Germain didn't produce the best of results and we always knew we were in for a tough test against such an outfit, but we are 100 per cent focused on earning three points today against our visitors.

We would have been fully focused on this afternoon's match no matter what the score was on Tuesday night as we have a proud unbeaten record to protect, and we go into the game knowing that County were one of the few teams to take a point off us last season when they drew 2-2 with us.

The league title had been won by that stage, but no team likes to come close to losing any sort of record at any time so, with that drawn game in mind, we will be especially vigilant as we go for 55 domestic games unbeaten.

*'After a good start to their campaign, County have picked up only one point so they will be keen to steer themselves back on course and we have to be ready for that'*

Quite aside from that, we go into this game against County today at the top of the league and we fully intend to still be there come close of play today.

We know we are in for another test, though, as after a good start to their campaign, County have picked up only one point since then and may consider themselves unlucky in a couple of those games so they will be keen to steer themselves back on course and we have to be ready for that.

I signed a new contract at the beginning of the week, as did Jozo Simunovic and I'm delighted to see

that Callum McGregor did likewise just the other day.

This is a sign of the togetherness and team spirit at the club and also of the longer-term aims of the club in creating stability and aiming to increase our success in the future.

The future starts here today, though, and with your backing from the stands, we fully intend to start with another win this afternoon.



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## McGregor delighted to commit his future to Celtic

**CALLUM** McGregor's football life has revolved around Celtic for as long as he can remember. Apart from a few months on loan at Notts County back in 2013, he has been with the club since the age of eight.

So the midfielder was delighted to sign a new contract that will see him remain at the Hoops until at least the summer of 2021. Now 24, McGregor is one of many Celts who has made huge strides under the guidance of Brendan Rodgers, and he's aiming to continue that progress over the next four years.

And he is one of three Celts to have signed new deals this week, with captain Scott Brown and defender Jozo Simunovic delighted to commit their futures to the club

Not surprisingly, McGregor is just as pleased, and speaking at Lennoxtown after his new deal was announced, he said: "Last year we had a great season so to come off the back of that and to get another contract, I was delighted.

I just wanted to sign it and continue to play and develop under the manager.

"He gave me the confidence to go and really kick on. I remember having a chat with him around Christmas-time. He said to me that it was my turn to show what I could do. I started scoring a couple of goals and then you start to take confidence from that."

An impressive performer in a number of roles last season, McGregor's back-to-back goals in consecutive derby matches against Rangers only served to further strengthen his confidence.

"Those games were a turning point for me," he admitted, "because it showed I can play in these big games.

"It was important for me to start this season well coming off the back of a big season, so I'm delighted that I've done that. For me now, it's just more of the same. I'm delighted to get the contract signed and I just want to push on again.

"It's been in the pipeline for three or

four months so it's good to get it done. My first priority is Celtic and to play well for them and help the team."

He added: "Celtic has been part of my life for so many years and as I've gone through the levels club really has become my home. I really wanted to make sure I continued to be part of such a great club and it's a huge honour to sign this new contract.

"I've really enjoyed being part of the first-team in the last couple of years and it really makes my time at Celtic and coming through the ranks, so worthwhile. We have a great bunch of lads in the team, some real quality players and we're bringing our fans success, so it was something I just had to stay part of.

"The gaffer has been great here in the past year and I'm totally focused now on continuing to work with him and the staff to always improve personally as a player and work as a team to bring more and more success to our supporters."



*I've really enjoyed being part of the first-team in the last couple of years and it really makes my time at Celtic and coming through the ranks, so worthwhile.*