



Celtic

v Hibernian • Scottish Premiership • Saturday September 30, 2017 • Celtic Park • KO: 3pm • £3.50

#9 STRIKER



Leigh Griffiths

Place of birth: Leith, Scotland
 Height: 5 ft 9 in (1.73 m)
 Celtic league appearances: 100
 Celtic league goals: 67
 Scotland appearances: 15

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



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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 Walfred. 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 Walfred 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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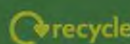
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Manager's Notes...

BRENDAN RODGERS





What a week - but we must now strive for European football after Christmas

GOOD afternoon and welcome to Celtic Park for today's Premiership match against Hibernian. It's a fixture which, over the years, has been a big one in Scottish football, so it's good to have them back in the top division.

We go into the game full of confidence following last weekend's derby win and our midweek victory against Anderlecht in the UEFA Champions League.

To win any match in that tournament is always a difficult task, but going away from home makes it even harder, so to produce the performance we did, controlling the game, scoring three goals and keeping a clean sheet was a great



'I'm sure it will be an emotional day for Neil, coming back to Celtic Park for the first time as manager of another team'

achievement and the players deserve tremendous credit.

Having reached the group stages of the competition for a second consecutive season, our aim is now to try and deliver European football after Christmas, and we are looking forward to our remaining group-stage fixtures as we strive to do just that.

Domestically, we want to continue our good form and go into this international break with a positive result this afternoon, but we face a Hibernian side who have already shown this season

how dangerous they can be.

There are obviously some familiar faces in their squad, former Celtic players in Efe Ambrose, Anthony Stokes and Dylan McGeouch, all of whom will be given a great reception by our supporters for their contribution here.

That will also undoubtedly be the case for the Hibernian manager, Neil Lennon. Throughout his time at Celtic, as a player and then as manager, Neil did exceptionally well for the club. He was a top-class midfielder who was an integral part of the success Celtic enjoyed under Martin O'Neill and then, in his own right as manager here, he started us on this cycle of success that we're currently enjoying, with six league titles in a row to now boast of.

I've known Neil for a number of years now, since he first came down to visit me when I was managing Reading back in 2009. He's a highly intelligent guy with a great knowledge of the game, having played it at the highest level, as well as being great company and someone who I always enjoy spending time with.

He's someone I've always wanted to see do well – today, apart, of course – and I was delighted to see him guide Hibernian back up to the Premiership.

I'm sure it will be an emotional day for Neil, coming back to Celtic Park for the first time as manager of another team, but I also know that he will have his team well-organised and highly-motivated to try and get a result here, so we will have to be at our best this afternoon to ensure that doesn't happen.

It's a sell-out crowd at Celtic Park today, so it's going to be a great atmosphere, and I know, given the recent great results we've achieved, that our players will be given a rapturous reception this 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 were delighted to send the supporters home happy from the game after their amazing backing



WELCOME to Celtic Park today at the end of what has been a most enjoyable week for players, staff and supporters of the club following two great wins.

Hopefully we can make that three wins with another victory this afternoon against my old club, Hibernian, but we know that Neil Lennon will have them up for the game and we will be in for a difficult test.

We will be going all-out for the win, though, to maintain our unbeaten domestic run which reached 57 in our 2-0 win over Rangers at Ibrox last week. That win cemented our position at the top of the league and we fully intend to stay there.

I know the supporters enjoyed last Saturday's win as much as the players and we were delighted to send them home happy from the game after their amazing backing throughout the 90 minutes of the win.

The same could be said of Wednesday night's 3-0 win over Anderlecht in

'Once more it was great for the players to thank the supporters and take a bow in front of them at the end of an away victory, especially after two such important games'

Belgium and that was all the more enjoyable as it's been a wee while since we've enjoyed an away win in the group stages of the Champions League.

Once more it was great for the players to thank the supporters and take a bow in front of them at the end of an away victory, especially after two such important games.

I came off the pitch early after feeling a bit of tightness during the Anderlecht match but, hopefully, I'll be okay in time for today's match and if not, I'll be cheering on the boys from the stand, although I fully intend to be on the pitch.

It's the first time Hibs have been here

in a while and we know they will come here set on enjoying the occasion but, as always, we will be on our guard and ready for the game against a side who have had a good start to the season.

I know the Celtic supporters will be ready to play their part today and once more I hope that the players will be applauding them after another victory today.



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Celtic commemorates The Great Hunger

TO once again recognise the tragedy of The Great Hunger, Celtic are wearing the National Famine Memorial Day logo on the Hoops when they take to the field this afternoon for our match against Hibernian at Celtic Park.

Unquestionably, the Great Hunger was a transforming event in Ireland, which changed the demographic and cultural landscape forever. Indeed, there is nothing else in the history of the Irish people that can be likened to the Great Hunger, either for its immediate impact, or its legacy of emigration, cultural loss and decline of the Irish language.

This year's National Famine Commemoration takes place today Saturday, September 30, 2017 in Ballygarry, County Tipperary.

Speaking at the Launch in April 2017, Minister Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Chair of the National Famine Commemoration Committee said: "This is the first time the National Famine Commemoration will be hosted in Co Tipperary. Each year the commemoration represents an opportunity for the modern generation to remember the devastating impact which the Great Famine had on this country.

"Sadly, the plight of hunger still stalks the world today. Our commemoration



of the sufferings of our own past can only strengthen and increase our sense of empathy and understand with those societies afflicted by this scourge in our own era."

Celtic Chief Executive Peter Lawwell said: "The origins of Celtic Football Club will forever be connected to the Great Famine and it is hugely important that we once again mark this annual memorial".

"Celtic was established as a force for good, a vehicle to support people in real need, people whose families had previously escaped the devastation of

the Great Famine.

"The club's ethos and traditions are borne from these events and these values of charity and community will never change.

"It is important that we always remember the devastating and lasting affect which the Famine had on the lives of so many millions of people and we are pleased again to play our part in this year's commemoration."

A number of the special jerseys from today's match will be auctioned with the proceeds going to the work of Celtic FC Foundation.

Celtic trio in Scotland Under-21 call-up for European qualifiers



THREE young Celts have been included in Scot Gemmill's Scotland Under-21 squad for their games against England and Latvia next month in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifiers.



Keeper, Ross Doochan, currently on loan at Morton, is a new call-up to the pool where he will join Calvin Miller and Mikey Johnston who have both featured in the Celtic first team under Brendan Rodgers. The game against England goes



ahead at Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium on Friday, October 6, with a 7.45 kick-off and that will be followed by a trip to take on the Latvians at the Stadions Daugava in Liepaja on Tuesday, October 10.

Sunshine ON Paradise

Leigh Griffiths will face Hibernian for the first time ever today

FOR the first time in his professional career, Leigh Griffiths will today line up against his boyhood heroes Hibernian. It does seem remarkable that the 27-year-old has never faced the Easter Road side given, aside from a year in England with Wolves, he has spent all of his football existence in Scotland, but fate has always conspired against such a scenario, until now.

The striker has never hidden where his football allegiances lie. He lived the dream during two successful loan spells with Hibs, scoring a barrowload of goals that helped him earn a move to Celtic in January 2013. But, when his professional commitments allowed it, he still went along to watch the capital club from the stands and he was there at Hampden last year to watch them end their 114-year Scottish Cup hoodoo in dramatic style.

Make no mistake, Griffiths cherishes playing for Celtic and he has grown to love the club over the past four years, but his heart will always be in Leith. This will be a special yet surreal day in his life.

"It will be weird," he told the matchday programme in an exclusive interview. "I've never faced Hibs before as a player, so coming up against them after I had such a successful time there will be strange, but it's something I'm looking forward to."

"My highlight at Hibs was just playing for them and scoring goals, which was something I always dreamed of as a player. I was gutted I couldn't win the Scottish Cup with them, but I'm glad I saw them do it last year. It was a moment the fans had been waiting on for some time. The team had always got to cup finals but never got over the final hurdle, until that day in May."

"No matter how much I love Celtic and playing for this club, Hibs are the club I have supported since I was a boy."

Naturally, Griffiths is delighted therefore to see Neil

