

# Celtic



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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.

# CONTENTS

## 10 Ryan CHRISTIE



## 30



## 48



## 64

- 04 Neil LENNON
- 07 Scott BROWN
- 10 Ryan CHRISTIE
- 18 The OPPOSITION
- 30 Stephen McMANUS
- 38 Foundation
- 48 Women's ROUND-UP
- 50 TIC FIRE
- 58 On This DAY
- 60 History REMEMBRANCE
- 64 League Of Their OWN

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# 'It's all about what we can do on the day, and I know that our players are up for yet another challenge'



**WELCOME** back to Celtic Park for this afternoon's game against Motherwell and it goes without saying that I hope we go into today's game on the back of a good result in Europe.

As per usual in these situations, this programme went to print before our UEFA Europa League Group E game against Lazio in Rome on Thursday evening, and, apart from the result, I also hope we have a full quota of players to choose from today with no injuries from the European trip.

That welcome also extends to Stephen Robinson and the Motherwell players and staff who have been having a great season, and that is why I hope to have a full squad to choose from today, as his side have been one of the form teams in the league campaign so far.

We do go into the game this afternoon in fine domestic form ourselves, though. Since returning

from the most recent international break, there were wins of 6-0 and 4-0 over Ross County and Aberdeen respectively, before our 2-0 win over St Mirren in our most recent game here at Celtic Park.

That was followed by our trip to Hampden for the League Cup semi-final against Hibernian where a 5-2 win put us into the final for the fourth consecutive season, so our domestic form is definitely something we want to keep up against very testing opponents today.

We did win our last game against Motherwell at Fir Park with a 5-2 scoreline, but we can't read anything into that going into this afternoon's meeting as they have built up a good run of results since then and truly deserve their place well inside the top half of the table.

For us, though, it's all about what we can do on the day, and I know that our players are up for yet another

challenge in the SPFL after games in the League Cup and the UEFA Europa League.

We also go into today's game on the back of some recent good news regarding the squad and its prospects, as James Forrest, Callum McGregor and Scott Bain have all signed new contracts and pledged their futures to the club for the next few years.

I'm sure you're all as pleased as I am with the successful contract negotiations and we are looking forward to your backing here at Celtic Park today as you have all played your part in our results here this season.

Enjoy the game.

Neil Lennon



CELTIC FC ▼



2019/20



NEW BALANCE ▲

# ON TO VICTORY



HOME KIT



55.8497° N, 4.2055° W





## 'Our form here at Celtic Park speaks for itself and that's something we intend to maintain today'

**WE return to Celtic Park today on league duty after a couple of trips near and far to take part in cup competitions since our last league game here against St Mirren a week-and-a-half ago.**

The side were successful in that first short trip to Hampden last weekend and our League Cup semi-final win over Hibernian puts us into the first cup final of the season for the fourth time running, so we are all well pleased with that outcome.

The other cup game was on Thursday night in our Group E game in the UEFA Europa League against Lazio in Italy and, due to printing deadlines, at the time of writing, I don't know how that game went, but, needless to say, I hope we've returned

here for the Motherwell game on the back of a good result.

However, it's our aim that our European exertions and travel will have no bearing on today's outcome as we have prepared for this afternoon's game as we always do, and we will be ready for the test of Motherwell here at Celtic Park today.

And we know it will be a test, as the visitors have put together enough good results this term to prove that they have intentions of being up amongst the top teams in the table, and they've been doing that so far.

Our form here at Celtic Park, though, speaks for itself and that's something we intend to maintain today as it's a habit that we want to keep up, and we

will be going all out for another three points this afternoon.

It's not going to be easy, though, as we will have to show what we are made of against a Motherwell side who have made it tough for the teams they have played this season.

We can do it, though, with your backing, as your support has been tremendous here this season and we hope that you can inspire us to re-inspire you and that we can keep that going towards another three points in our league challenge.

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IRISH CIDER

## CALLUM MCGREGOR: I WANT TO CONTINUE MY INCREDIBLE CELTIC JOURNEY

**CALLUM McGregor was on the verge of his 250th appearance for Celtic when he signed a new five-year contract that will see him remain at the club until at least the summer of 2024.**

That amount of games is an impressive achievement in itself, but the midfielder is hoping to add considerably more to that tally in the seasons to come.

It's been an incredible journey for the 26-year-old midfielder, who joined the Celtic Youth Academy back in 2001, and having enjoyed unprecedented success since breaking into the first team back in 2014, he's looking forward to more over the next few years.

"When you start here as a young kid, you're just focused on trying to get through the age groups," Callum told Celtic TV in an exclusive interview before flying out to Rome to play Lazio. "You set yourself that one goal to get to the first team and play a first-team game, and I'm sitting here now coming up to my 250th game."

"To be at the club, hopefully, for the full five years, that will take me to 23 years at Celtic is something I could only have dreamt of as a young player."

"It's been a tremendous four or five years for the club and obviously for me too. We've been winning pretty much everything on the pitch, the club's growing on and off the pitch all the time and I'm just desperate to be a part of that."



"I feel as if I'm the best I've ever been in terms of performance, living on and off the pitch, I feel in a really good place and I'm delighted the club have rewarded that as well."

"It's been a good start to the season, and I've tried to pick up where I left off last season in terms of performances and helping the team, so it's been a great time."

The midfielder, who has now been capped 17 times by Scotland, also believes that playing alongside Scott Brown, and under the guidance of Neil Lennon, will be beneficial for his continued development as a player.

"The gaffer's been amazing since he's come in," said Callum. "He's taken the club on from where Brendan left it and we're going from strength to strength,

getting even better, which you can see from the performances and the number of goals we're scoring in every game."

"We're top of the table, and into a cup final again, so it's been a seamless transition. The relationship I've got with the manager is a top, top level and he's been brilliant for me."

"And I also don't think I can learn from anyone better than Scott Brown. You saw last weekend at Hampden that his performance was absolutely outstanding. He dragged the team through the game and just when we were under a wee bit of pressure, he went and scored. So for me to be the understudy to him is incredible and I'm trying to learn all the time."

"As a professional you're always wanting to get better in your game. You look at where the club is and potentially where it could be in a few years' time, and to have grown up in that, with nearly 20 years at the club, I know what it means to everyone - the fans, my family, myself, the players. It's something really special and I want to keep being part of that."

"The club has been amazing since we started talking a couple of months ago. It's been really smooth, it's been a great transition and for the other players, that'll be the blueprint - to come in, do well and the club will reward you. They will reward the players who are doing well and helping the team, and it's a big statement."