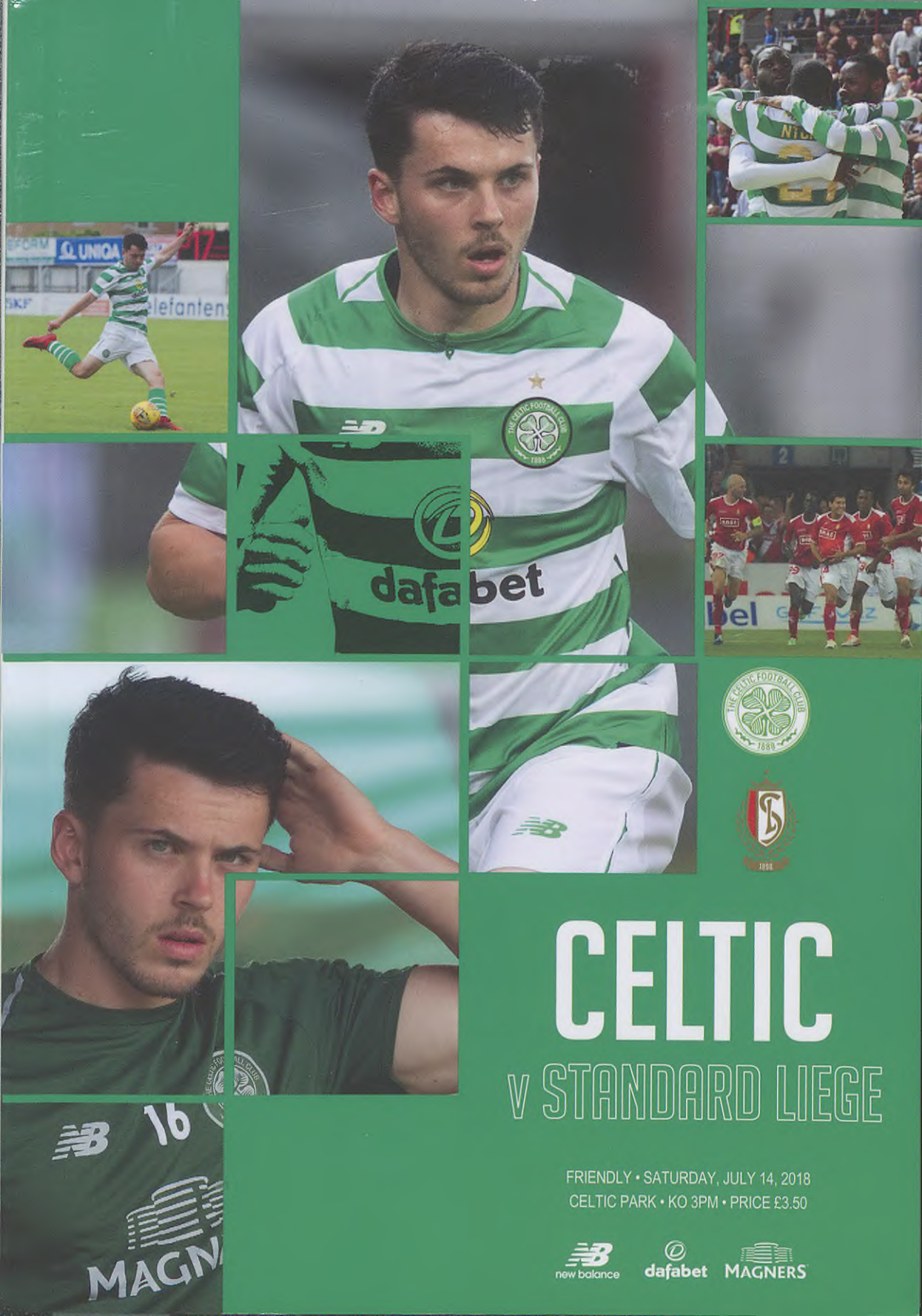

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CIAL MISSION ATEMENT

roduction

ic Football Club is legendary and as most legends as much myth as fact ounds its history and what the Club ds for today. The Social Mission ement aims to simply define t the Club stands for and seeks to note within society.

story

ic Football Club was founded in s. Its principal founder was a Marist ther named Walfrid. The Club had principal aims: The first aim was to funds to provide food for the poor e East End of Glasgow, an area of City that was greatly impoverished had a high rate of infant mortality. in the East End was a large Irish munity and friction was growing een the native Glaswegians and the influx of Irish. Brother Walfrid saw need for social integration and his n was a football club that Scottish Irish, Protestants and Catholics could support. A new football would be a vehicle to bring the munities together and this was the nd aim. The Marist brother sought he Club to have both a Scottish Irish identity and hence, the Club's e "Celtic" came about, representing dge of cultures across the Irish Sea.

rrent Positioning of tic Football Club

c Football Club is a Scottish ball club with proud Irish links. primary business of Celtic is as a ball club. It is run on a professional ness basis with no political agenda. ever, the Club has a wider role he responsibility of being a major ish social institution promoting h, well-being and social ration.

o is Celtic Football Club

c Football Club is for people want to support a football club strives for excellence in Scotland n Europe, is proud of its history, ortive of its local community and to support the following aims: maximise all opportunities to sociate the Club from sectarianism ngotry of any kind. To promote as a Club for all people, dless of gender, age, religion, race nity."

mary

is a club for everyone who es in football as a medium for y pleasure, entertainment and integration. The Club always has and always will simply aim to be am of the people.

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

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The players are focused and ready to test themselves against top opposition

GOOD afternoon and welcome to Celtic Park for our first home game of the new season. I would also like to extend that welcome to our visitors from Belgium – the players, management and supporters of Standard Liege.

Our pre-season preparations have gone well and today's match against a top European side will be another beneficial 90 minutes for the players, though our competitive campaign has already kicked off with the first leg of our Champions League qualifier against Alashkert.

It was a very good result for us in Armenia and it puts us in a strong position to progress to the next round of the competition. I thought the players did very well, particularly in what were very difficult conditions, which we're not used to.

Our performance in the match, creating chances and scoring goals late on, is testament to how focused the players are and how fit they are at this point, so it was very pleasing for me.

They showed a strong mentality in the match and we'll be looking forward to the second leg this coming Wednesday.

As always, we're looking forward to playing in front of our own fans here at Celtic Park. I'm sure that, after the close season break, you're all looking forward to the new season, and today's game is all part of our preparations for the new campaign.

Of course, there has been a lot of football on over the past month, and I think the World Cup tournament has been an enjoyable one, with the final to look forward to on Sunday.

Our players who were there representing their respective countries all acquitted themselves very well, with Deryck Boyata and Mikael Lustig both progressing to the knockout stages though, of course, they will have both been disappointed to have been eliminated from the competition. We look forward to welcoming them all back in the weeks ahead.

Today's match gives us an opportunity to test ourselves against strong European opposition, who are in the midst of preparing for their own Champions League qualification campaign. We're looking forward to this afternoon's challenge and our aim, as always, at this stage of the season, is to develop our football fitness and to build our mentality for the season.

It's great to be back in Paradise. Enjoy the game.

Brendan Rodgers
Without Fear

new balance

AUDAZO

#RUNTHEGAME

RUN
THE
GAME

A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN

We've set very high standards over the past couple of seasons and we want to ensure that we improve on them

IT'S good to be back at Celtic Park for our first game of the new season and all the lads are looking forward to it.

Even though it is a friendly match, our aim going into every game is to do everything we can to win it and that will be no different this afternoon.

Standard Liege are a good team and it will be a tough test for us against a side who, like us, are aiming to reach the group stages of the Champions League this season.

We had a good result during the week in Armenia, and I thought we coped very well with the conditions out there – the water breaks were certainly welcome!

It showed our strength and our fitness that, even in that heat, we kept going from the first minute until the last and we got our rewards with the three goals. It sets us up nicely for the second leg here at Celtic Park on Wednesday night.

Our pre-season preparations have been going well and all the lads have been working hard to get ready for the new campaign. I enjoyed the break but, like everyone else, I'm delighted to be back and I'm looking forward to the season ahead.

We have set very high standards here over the past couple of seasons and we want to ensure that, not only do we maintain those standards but that we improve on them. That's the demand of playing for this club, and it's something that we all relish.

We're also looking forward to playing in front of own supporters this afternoon. Your backing of the team is one of our great strengths and I know that will be the case going forward into the new campaign. Enjoy the game.

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- NOW AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE -

The *Celtic View* is back for the new season

THE *Celtic View* is back for the new season, with the first issue out now, and our cover star is Scotland's Player of the Year, Scott Brown.

We catch up with the Celtic skipper as he looks ahead to the new campaign, and reflects on how the pre-season preparations have been going.

Brendan Rodgers sits down with the *View* for an exclusive interview, discussing pre-season, the European campaign, new Bhoy Lewis Morgan, and the World Cup.

And we also catch up with two of the younger Celts in the squad, Mikey Johnston and Stephen Welsh, who were both in Austria with the first-team for the pre-season training camp.

For the new season, we've got some new features including:

- Ticstagram, with one of our first-team stars quizzed on their views on and off the park. First up in the hot seat is Ryan Christie.
- Global Hoops, where we take a look at Celtic's worldwide connections, starting with France.
- Away Days, featuring our record at away grounds both near and far. First stop is Pittodrie.

We also have the first of our new monthly *Celtic View* debates, with the first issue up for discussion the Video Assistant Referee (VAR), which has been used during the World Cup in Russia. And we interview a Celtic supporter who has been at every one of our treble-winning Scottish Cup finals, from 1967 up to 2018.

All this and much much more, including the chance to **WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS** to our UEFA Champions League qualifier against Alashkert of Armenia next Wednesday, July 18.

The Celtic View is the Voice of the Double Treble winners and it's on sale now.

LISTEN TO THE *VIEW* PODCAST

AS well as the return of the *Celtic View* magazine for the 2018/19 campaign, the *Celtic View* podcast is also making a welcome return for the new season.

In our first episode, we have an exclusive interview with Celtic captain, Scott Brown, who talks about the pre-season preparations and his thoughts for the season ahead.

And *Celtic View* reporters, Mark Henderson and Tony Connelly, chat about the upcoming European qualifiers, which have already started with the first qualifying round tie against Alashkert.

Throughout the course of the season, the *Celtic View* podcast will bring you exclusive interviews with the Celtic players as well as features on ex-players and interviews with some of the people behind the scenes at the club.

The *Celtic View* podcast is available via iTunes and SoundCloud.

WELCOME HOME

Lewis Morgan is looking forward to his first experience of Paradise as a Celtic player

Exclusive interview: Mark Henderson

NEW Bhoy Lewis Morgan has made his Celtic bow and scored his first goal for the club in pre-season. Today, he's eager to achieve another milestone in his fledgling Hoops career by making his first appearance for the Scottish champions in Paradise. It's something he's contemplated for many months.

Signed by Celtic in January from St Mirren, the 21-year-old returned to the Paisley side on loan until the end of the season to help them clinch the Championship in emphatic style. That gave him plenty of time to imagine the prospect of being roared on by bumper crowds inside Celtic Park. Now his big moment could arrive in this afternoon's friendly with Belgian outfit, Standard Liege.

It wouldn't be the first time Morgan has played in the stadium, however. He shone for the Buddies 18 months ago as they went down 4-1 to the Invincibles in the Scottish Cup, with his sparkling showing catching the eye of Brendan Rodgers.

Although the game ended in defeat, it holds happy memories for the highly-rated Scotland internationalist. Not only did it raise his profile, proving he could mix it with the best team in the country, collectively, it fanned the flames of the Saints' remarkable revival under Jack Ross.

But Morgan knows that experience will be nothing compared to wearing the Hoops in Paradise. He can't wait to sample it.

"I've featured against Celtic at Celtic Park which was a great experience, but to be part of the home side there will be very special and I'm looking forward to it," Morgan told the matchday programme in an exclusive interview.

"I did well quite well when we played there the last time and we got quite a lot of plaudits so it won't be an environment that will be alien to me.

"We got a lot of credit that day and rightly so. Although the result at the end of the day wasn't great, we

were playing the best team in the country and we took a lot of confidence from that at the time. I have happy memories of it already and hopefully I can make some more.

"Obviously one of the main attractions in coming here is the size of the club and it's been well-documented how the fans turn out in great numbers. It's a great support and I'm determined to experience that.

"Over the last few seasons the club has really made great strides forward and got the fans excited, and rightly so, and the record number of season tickets is great for the club and great for players alike as we know we're going to get that backing every week."

I AM CONFIDENT IN MY OWN ABILITY AND I'M HERE BECAUSE THE MANAGER WANTED ME HERE

A confident character, Morgan isn't fazed in the slightest at the pressure and expectations of playing in front of over 50,000 fans on a regular basis. Quite the opposite.

"I've played in front of big crowds, maybe not on a weekly basis, but I've experienced big supports, including playing for Scotland in the Azteca Stadium over the summer, so it's not something that will be daunting," he said. "It will help me drive on and give the players that wee boost and it'll only be positive for me."

Morgan's strong self-belief, impressive for someone so young, has enabled him to settle in swiftly to his new surroundings. A superb solo effort in the 7-0 hammering of Shamrock Rovers and an excellent debut in the opening pre-season match in Austria against Vorwarts Steyr showed he's already comfortable among his new team-mates on the pitch. It was also a statement of intent. While fully aware of the fierce competition for places in the squad, Morgan is not here to make up the numbers.

"I am confident in my own ability and I'm here because the manager wanted me here," he said. "There's no point in having any doubts in my head about trying to improve anything, what I need to do is try and get into

I PRIDE MYSELF ON TRYING TO EXCITE THE FANS AND I'VE GOT THAT STYLE OF PLAY WHERE I LIKE TO GET AT PEOPLE AND FANS TEND TO LIKE THAT

SCOTLAND CALL-UP CAPPED A GREAT FEW MONTHS

LEWIS Morgan believes collecting his first two Scotland caps during the national side's recent friendlies with Peru and Mexico was ideal preparation ahead of starting his Celtic career.

Starring for his country was not only a timely confidence-booster, but it also gave him a chance to become acquainted with some of his future Hoops team-mates.

"It was a proud moment for me, and to have a couple of caps under my belt at this stage is great," he said, "and hopefully I can build on that and take confidence from that and improve me in my Celtic career.

"The squad is full of Celtic players, and rightly so, as they have proven they're the best team up here and being able to meet the boys before I came in for pre-season meant there were a few friendly faces."

One of the Bhoys that Morgan met on international duty was Ryan Christie and the pair quickly struck up a friendship.

"Ryan and I get on really well and we were room-mates in pre-season so we've been hanging about with each other, but I get on well with everyone," said Morgan.

that starting XI which will be a tough task but I certainly feel I'm up to it.

"I knew I was coming to a big club and I've had a while to get my head around it, so I knew what to expect and I'm just looking forward to the challenge, trying to embrace everything and taking it all in my stride.

"Everything about playing for Celtic is exciting me," continued the former St Mirren man. "Obviously playing at Celtic Park is going to be brilliant. Although I played a few games in the Premiership when I was younger, I never really got a proper crack at it, so I'm looking forward to that and testing myself at a higher level, while the European games speak for themselves in terms of motivation for me."

Morgan's long-term goal is carve his name into the club's rich history. Celtic supporters have always had a special affection for entertainers, and the skilful wide-man wants to become another Hoops hero.

"I pride myself on trying to excite the fans and I've got that style of play where I like to get at people, and fans tend to like that," he said.

"I'm quite confident on the ball and hopefully I can make my own history, but the bigger thing is being successful as a team here which has been happening for the past few years. I just want to be part of that history as well."

Morgan have hit the ground running as a Celt, though he's under no illusions about the need to maintain high standards and constantly strive for improvement - core values of the club under Brendan Rodgers.

"Jack Ross took quite a lot of stuff from the manager here, but the standard and the tempo is a lot higher here, given the quality of players we have," he said. "I feel I've blended in nicely. The tempo or training is always high and the standard has been good, even at this early stage in the season, which can only be a good thing, and hopefully we can take that to the next level and improve throughout the season.

"As the manager said, no players here have off days so you have to make sure you train at a high level every day or else it'll stick out that you're not performing, so playing with players of this quality will only benefit those training alongside them, and hopefully it'll improve my game as well."

The Bhoys' meeting with Standard Liege today has been bookended by the UEFA Champions League first qualifying round clashes against Alashkert, with the home-leg taking place on Wednesday night.

And Morgan, who made his competitive debut in Armenia, reckons facing continental opposition in the form of the Belgian side will assist the Hoops during the remainder of their European adventure as they aim to reach the Champions League group stages for the third time running.

"They're another club with a history of playing European football and we have Champions League qualifiers at the moment so it'll be a good test for us and a good run-out to help prepare us," he said. "They have a different style of play so getting to play a European opponent can only benefit us.

"Friendly game or not, at a club the size of this you need to be winning games and breeding that winning mentality, something that's happened successfully over the last few years," he added.

"It's no different this year and we want to take it to a different level again, so whether it's a friendly or a training game we need to get the result. At a club like this, the fans demand a performance, and rightly so."

I HOPE SAINTS SOAR IN PREMIERSHIP

LEWIS Morgan left St Mirren on good terms after helping them seal the Championship crown and promotion back to Scotland's top flight.

And that means there will be no ill-feeling when he crosses swords with his former employers this season in the Premiership.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said. "Obviously there's still a few friendly faces there and I'll remember my time there fondly. It'll be nice to go back and hopefully they can do well this season as well, and I'm sure they can."

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2018/19 Away Kit and Training Kit available now in-store & online

THE newly-released 2018/19 Celtic Away Kit is already proving popular with supporters, who have been snapping up the latest green and white kit to be released by the Scottish Champions.

Making its debut at the Celtic versus Shamrock Rovers friendly in Dublin last weekend, the new kit showcases the club's Irish heritage, with a Celtic cross featured on the stunning new green and white shirt, inspired by the design of the first ever Celtic jersey.

There's also a stitched club crest featured on the shirt's subtle white tonal tartan design with green shorts and hooped socks to complete the look.

Get your hands on the 2018/19 Away Kit now in preparation for the season ahead, available now in official Celtic stores and online at www.celticfc.net/store

You'll also find a huge range of official 2018/19 Training Kit available to buy direct from Celtic.

From training tops, t-shirts and shorts, to polo-shirts and jackets, there's a huge range of new training wear available now, as worn by the Bhoys on their pre-season tour.

Scotland's Double-Treble winning champions will be wearing the new 2018/19 Kit with pride, and so can you when you shop with Celtic.

Go to www.celticfc.net to find your nearest Celtic store or visit www.celticfc.net/store to shop online.

BUSY PRE-SEASON SCHEDULE FOR CELTIC'S RESERVE SQUAD

CELTIC'S Reserve squad are in action next week with a game against Manchester United in a Super Cup NI challenge match. The match takes place on Saturday, July 21 at Coleraine Showgrounds (KO: 5.30pm), and fans can pay at the gate (£8 Adults / £5 U16s).

Tommy McIntyre's side will then take part in the South Shields Challenge Cup the following weekend, with their game against Marseille on Friday, July 27 (KO: 7.30pm) at Mariners Park, home of South Shields FC.

They will also be taking part in the tournament, along with Southampton, and Celtic's second fixture – either the final or a 3rd/4th play-off – will take place on Sunday, July 29.

On Tuesday, August 7, the Hoops will take part in the annual Jock Stein Friendship Cup against Albion Rovers at Cliftonhill Stadium (KO: 7.30pm).

And a week later, on Tuesday, August 14, a Celtic Colts side take on Annan Athletic at Galabank Stadium in the first round of the IRN-BRU Cup (KO: 7.45pm).

STANDARD Liege visit Celtic Park for the first time today as they take on the Hoops in a pre-season friendly. For Brendan Rodgers' side, the game comes in between the two legs of Celtic's UEFA Champions League qualifier against Alashkert of Armenia, and it will be a good test against a top Belgian side. Today's visitors are one of Belgium's most successful clubs, though their last league title came back in 2009. Last season they narrowly missed out on the title, finishing second to Club Brugge, and they will be aiming to go one better this time around.

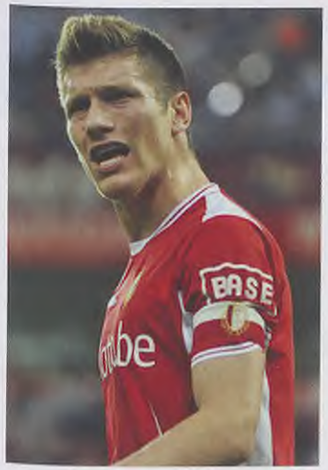
STANDARD LIEGE FACTFILE
FORMED: 1898
MANAGER: Michel Preud'homme
STADIUM: Stade Maurice Dufrasne
CAPACITY: 27,670
DOMESTIC HONOURS:
(Most recent in brackets)
League titles: 10 (2008/09)
Belgian Cup Winner: 8 (2017/18)
Belgian Supercup Winner: 4 (2009/10)

STADIUM

Standard Liège play in the Stade Maurice Dufrasne which was opened in 1909, and is named after the club's former chairman who held the position from 1909 until 1931. It is also known as the Stade de Sclessin after the district in Liege where it's located. It was refurbished ahead of Euro 2000 and hosted three group-stage fixtures, and it currently has a capacity of 27,670. The stadium is located in the south-west of Liege on the banks of the River Meuse, just over five kilometres from the city centre.

STAR PLAYERS

The core of the Standard Liège team consists of Belgian players, many of whom have featured for the national team. Captain Sébastien Pocognoli has 11 caps for the Belgian senior squad and is now in his third stint at the club. The left-back played in the Bundesliga with Hannover '96 and in the English Premier League with West Brom. Belgian winger Edmilson Junior has been a stand-out player within the team since signing midway through the 2015/16 season. The 23-year-old arrived from Sint-Truidense and his performances have attracted interest from Premier League and Serie A clubs. Mehdi Carcela-González had



a choice of representing Belgium or Morocco at international level and eventually opted for the latter. The 28-year-old represented his country at the World Cup this summer and can use his pace to good effect on either wing.

SILVERWARE

Standard Liège have won 10 league titles in their history and narrowly missed out on an 11th title after finishing just three points behind Club Brugge last season. However, they still managed to clinch some silverware by beating Genk in the final of the Belgian Cup to claim the trophy for the eight time. In European competition, the pinnacle of the club's achievements was reaching the final of the Cup-Winners' Cup in the 1982/82 season and the semi-final of the European Cup in the 1961/62 season.

LAST SEASON

Former Standard Liège player Sá Pinto was appointed manager at the start of last season and led the club to second place in the league, the best finish in four seasons. Pinto made several wholesale changes to the squad upon his arrival with no fewer than 16 players coming in. They finished three points behind Club Brugge at the end of the season, which has put them in the third qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League. Despite coming up just short in the league, they did manage to get the best of their league rivals in the semi-final of the Belgium Cup. They managed to clinch the silverware with a 1-0 over Genk in the final.

OUR OPPOSITE NUMBERS

IN this season's matchday programmes we are again taking a fleeting look back at the history of the opposition club through numbers that are significant to their story.

Here, for the visit of Standard Liège, we crunch some numbers that loom large in the Belgian side's memoirs.

1898

The club's roots go back to 1898 when pupils at the Collège Saint-Servais in Liège formed a football team. The name was a reference to Standard Athletic Club of Paris, one of the first football clubs in France which was formed eight years earlier and had won four of the first five French championships. In 1909, the club established what would be its permanent ground in Sclessin, an industrial neighbourhood in Liège. They joined the Belgian top flight the same year but were soon relegted to the lower leagues. They returned to the first division in 1921 and have remained in the top flight ever since.

The club have won the Belgian league title on 10 occasions, making them the fourth most successful club in the league's history behind Anderlecht (34), Club Brugge (15) and the 11 of Royale Union Saint-Gilloise, though they won their titles in a dominant period for the club before the Second World War. Standard Liège's most successful period came shortly after their first league title in 1958 as the club went on to win four championships during the 1960s. They won their third back-to-back title at the end of the 1982/83 season before suffering a slump in fortunes which saw fans have to wait a further 25 years to celebrate a league title in 2007/08. They followed this up with another title the following season, which is also their most recent league title.

1958

Standard Liège's first league title came in the 1957/58 season when they narrowly eclipsed Antwerp to first place. That was based not on goal difference, in which case Antwerp would have been crowned champions, but on the head-to-head record between the two teams that season. The team only scored 55 goals in 30 games that season, fewer than the rest of the top four. It was Liege's defence which helped compensate for the shortfall by conceding just 21 goals. Belgian international midfielder, Denis Houf, was a significant figure in the side that won the league. He arrived in 1948 and spent a total of 16 years at the club, helping them win their first three league titles. Congolese player Paul Bonga Bonga was another stand-out player in the team that season. The midfielder arrived at the beginning of the season and his performances saw him become the first African footballer to be selected in the World Soccer Magazine world XI in 1962.

1982

Standard Liège reached their first and only European final in the 1981/82 season where they met Barcelona in the European Cup-Winners' Cup. Former Racing Club Brussels goalkeeper, Raymond Goethals, was appointed manager at the start of the that season after returning from a year managing Brazilian side São Paulo. He helped Liège clinch their first league title in over a decade but was unable to replicate that feat on the European stage. The Catalan side had an advantage in that the final for that year's competition was held at the Camp Nou. Standard Liège started the game well with an early goal by Belgian international midfielder Guy Vandersmissen, but Dutch striker Allan Simonsen equalised just before the break and Enrique Castro González, more commonly known as Quini, clinched the win for Barcelona with the winning goal.

Marouane Fellaini remains the highest fee paid for a Standard Liège player to date. Premier League side Everton signed the Belgian internationalist at the start of the 2008/09 season for a reported fee of £15million. Fellaini was part of Anderlecht's esteemed youth set-up and eventually signed for Standard Liège at the beginning of the 2004/05 season. He spent four years at the club, helping them to two league titles. Another of the stars to have emerged from the club is Daniel Van Buyten. The Belgian was signed by French side Marseille in the summer of 2001 for around £10million. He went on to play for the likes of Manchester City, Hamburg and eventually Bayern Munich where he won 15 pieces of silverware including five league titles and the UEFA Champions League.

CELTIC v BELGIUM

1984/85
European Cup-Winners' Cup
First round
KAA Gent 1-0 Celtic
Celtic 3-0 KAA Gent

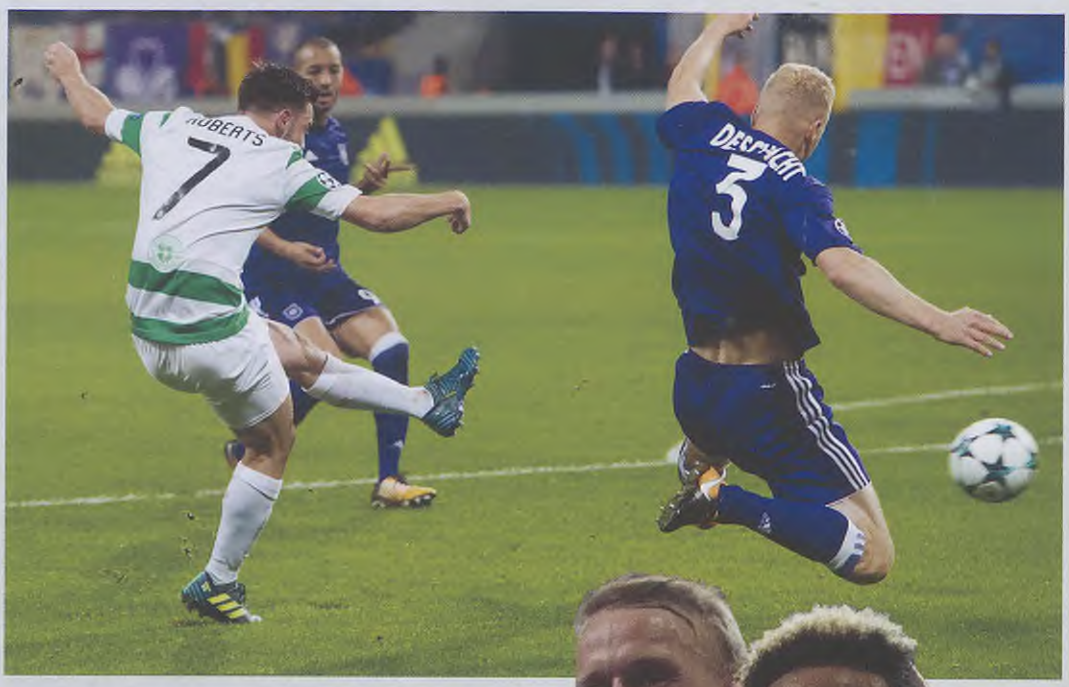
Celtic's first meeting with Belgian opposition in European competition came in the 1984/85 season when they were drawn against KAA Gent in the first round of the Cup-Winners' Cup. The first leg was in Belgium, and it was the home side who triumphed on the night, winning 1-0 courtesy of a goal from Hubert Cordiez nine minutes from time. However, the return in Paradise was a positive night for the Hoops as they scored three goals without reply to progress to the next round of the competition. Frank McGarvey levelled the tie with a goal just five minutes before the break and he scored a second just after the hour. Paul McStay's headed goal in the last minute of the game ensured there would be no chance of a late away goal drama, and the Hoops were through to the second round. There they faced Rapid Vienna in what would turn out to be a notorious clash, with Celtic winning the tie 4-3 on aggregate, only for UEFA to order the second leg to be replayed, this time at Old Trafford. On the night the Austrians won 1-0, and they would progress all the way to the final before losing to Everton, while Celtic were left nursing a justifiable sense of injustice and wondering 'What if...?'

1991/92
UEFA Cup
First round
Celtic 2-0 Germinal Ekeren
Germinal Ekeren 1-1 Celtic

Celtic faced Belgian opposition again in 1991, in the first round of the UEFA Cup, and this time it was Germinal Ekeren who faced the Hoops. The Celts played the first leg at home and two first-half Charlie Nicholas goals gave them a 2-0 victory on the night. The first strike came from the spot after 15 minutes and followed a superb moving involving Gary Gillespie, John Collins and Nicholas, with Collins brought down inside the Ekeren box. And Liam Brady's side doubled their lead six minutes before the break. Stevie Fulton's corner was only cleared back to the Celtic player, and his second delivery into the area found its way to Nicholas who fired a low shot into the net. The return leg in Belgium saw Mike Galloway open the scoring after just 10 minutes, a vital away goal that left Germinal Ekeren with a mountain to climb. And although Frank Schmoller equalised just before the break, the Hoops remained in control and progressed to the next round of the competition. However, that saw them face Swiss side, Neuchatel Xamas, and exit with a 5-2 aggregate defeat.

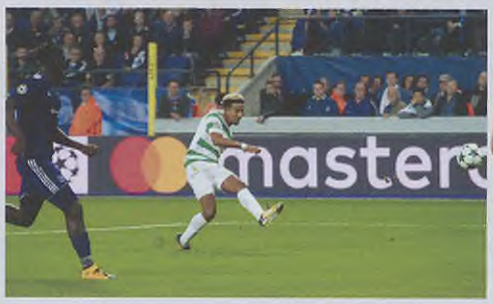
2003/04
UEFA Champions League
Group-stage
Anderlecht 1-0 Celtic
Celtic 3-1 Anderlecht

Celtic first met Anderlecht 15 years ago, in the group stages of the UEFA Champions League, and in both meetings it was the home side who triumphed. The first game in the Constant Vanden Stock Stadion saw Anderlecht win 1-0 on the night despite playing much of the match with 10 men. Glen De Boek picked up two yellow cards within the first 25 minutes and received his marching orders. However, despite the numerical advantage, Martin O'Neill's side couldn't find a breakthrough, and with 18 minutes remaining, Anderlecht scored what proved to be the only goal for the game. Christian Wilhelmsson flew down the right flank and cut the ball back for Aruna Dindane to fire past Hedman from a central position 10 yards out. The corresponding fixture at Celtic Park was a different affair, however, with Henrik Larsson, Liam Miller and Chris Sutton all scoring for the Hoops inside the first 30 minutes. Dindane scored late in the game but it was no more than a consolation for the Belgian side. Celtic missed out on a place in the knockout stages of the UEFA Champions League that season when they lost 3-2 in Lyon on a night when a point would have seen them through.



2017/18
UEFA Champions League
Group-stage
Anderlecht 0-3 Celtic
Celtic 0-1 Anderlecht

Last season, Celtic faced Anderlecht again in the group stages of the UEFA Champions League, and this time around it was away day triumphs for both sides. Brendan Rodgers' side produced a superb performance in Brussels to beat Anderlecht 3-0, with the goals coming from Leigh Griffiths, Scott Sinclair and Patrick Roberts. The result put Celtic in a strong position to progress from the group, which they would ultimately do, reaching the last 32 of the Europa League, where they lost out to Russian side, Zenit St Petersburg. In the home clash with Anderlecht, at the beginning of December, a Jozo Simunovic own goal just after the hour mark gave the Belgian side all three points, but Celtic's win in Belgium meant they had a better head-to-head record and so finished third in the group.



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BELGIAN BHOY

CELTIC DEBUT

Dedryck Boyata signed for Celtic in June 2015 from Manchester City. He had spent six years with City, during which time he enjoyed two loan spells, with Bolton Wanderers and FC Twente in Holland, before becoming a Celt. The Belgium defender made his first competitive appearance for the Hoops on July 15, 2015, in a UEFA Champions League qualifier match against Icelandic side, Stjarnan, at Celtic Park, marking his debut with a goal as the Celts won 2-0 on the night. The goal came in the 44th minute, with the new Bhoy heading home Stefan Johansen's cross from a corner to put Celtic ahead. Johansen doubled Celtic's lead in the 56th minute, giving Boyata a debut win.

DERBY DAZE

Despite being a strong central defender, Dedryck Boyata can also be found in the opposition penalty box when Celtic are on the attack, most notably at set-pieces, and he has hit the back of net 14 times in three seasons for the Hoops. One of his most memorable goals came in a Glasgow Derby at Ibrox on April 29, 2017, as Celtic surged inexorably towards the club's first domestic treble since the 2000/01 season, and an Invincible one at that. Brendan Rodgers' side were already leading 3-0 against their city rivals when Boyata headed home a Leigh Griffiths' free-kick to extend that lead. And even though Kenny Miller scored a consolation goal for the home side, Mikael Lustig completed the scoring inside the last 10 minutes to give Celtic a 5-1 demolition derby win.

SILVER CELT

Dedryck Boyata had won silverware before arriving in Glasgow, picking up an FA Cup medal in 2011 as Manchester City beat Stoke City 1-0 in the final at Wembley. Since arriving at Paradise, however, he has gathered a host of winner's medals. He picked up his first piece of Scottish silverware in his debut season, when Celtic won the 2015/16 SPFL title, and he has added two more league medals in the Double Treble seasons under Brendan Rodgers. And the Belgian internationalist has also collected two Scottish Cup medals and a League Cup medal to make an impressive collection.

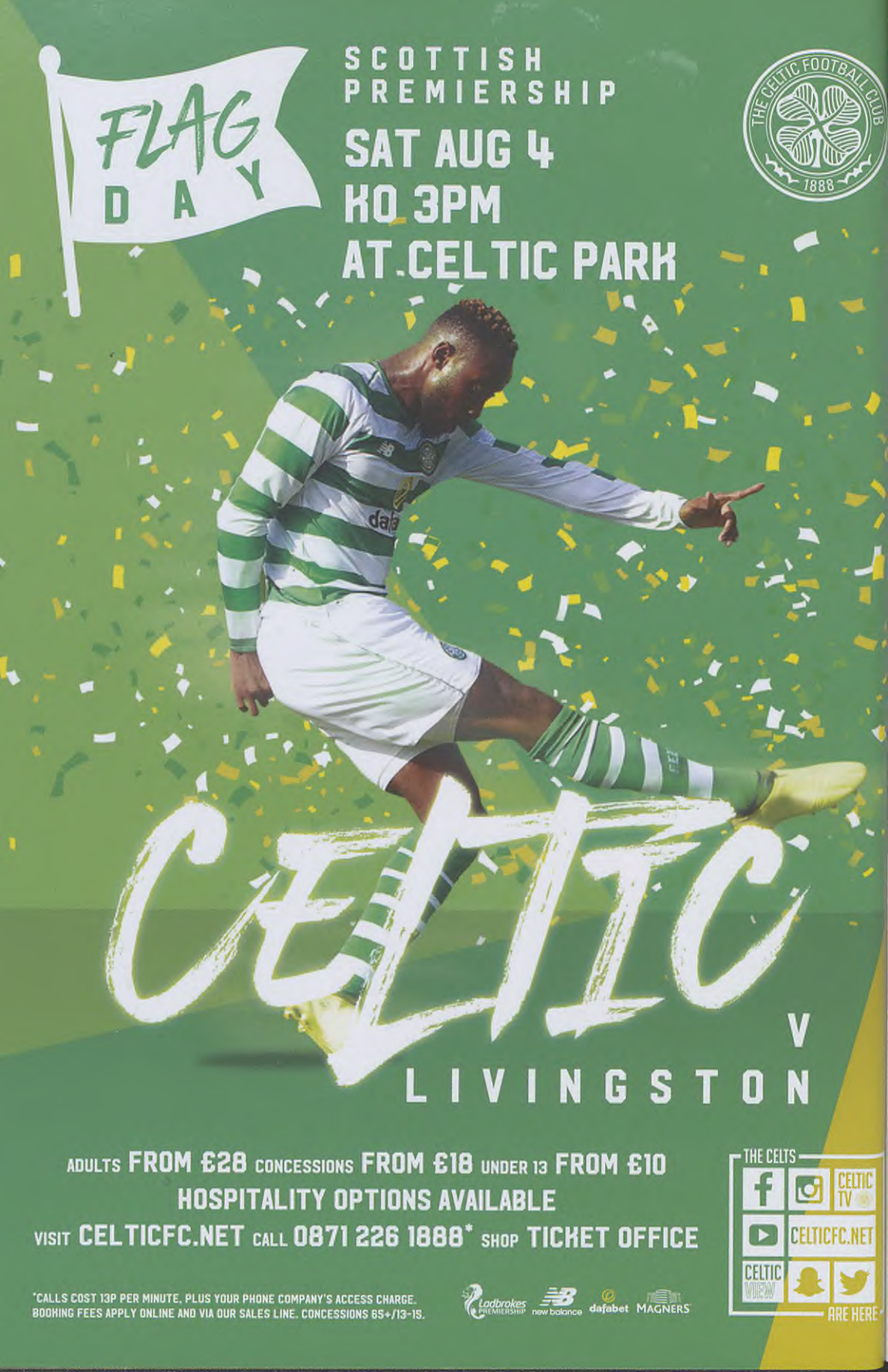
NATIONAL SERVICE

Born in Brussels, Dedryck Boyata has featured for Belgium's Under-19s, Under-21s and the senior side. Boyata first received a call-up to the senior Belgium squad in 2010 for the Euro 2012 qualifiers, while he made his full international debut against Austria on October 10, 2010, as a half-time substitute, in a game that finished 4-4, though it was not until 2015 that the defender gained another cap for his country. To date he has made 10 appearances for Belgium, six of which have come this year. He played in all three of Belgium's group-stage games at this summer's World Cup tournament in Russia and, like his fellow countrymen, he would have been disappointed at Belgium's elimination by France during the week at the semi-final stage.

DEDRYCK SAYS

On beating Anderlecht in Brussels in last season's UEFA Champions League group stages...

'Going over there we were thinking about winning the game and getting a good result, even though it's very difficult to win away from home in the Champions League. It was a hard game, even though we ended up winning 3-0. They had chances as well and you never know what could have happened if they took their chances. In the end, we managed to be strong and we put on a good display defensively.'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BELGIAN BHOYS

THERE have only been four Belgian players to have worn the green and white Hoops here at Celtic Park, including current defender, Dedryck Boyata, although his exploits with his national team mean that he won't be taking part in the action today.

In our matchday programme, we profile those Celts who are all defenders and all have played for the club this Millennium.

JOOS VALGAEREN

Position: **Defender**
Squad Number: **5**
D.O.B: **03/03/76**
Born: **Leuven, Belgium**
Height: **6 3"**
Signed: **28/07/00**
Left: **31/05/05**
Debut: **v Dundee United (a) 2-1 (SPL) 30/07/00**
Previous Clubs: **Verbroedering Geel, Mechelen, Roda JC**
Later Clubs: **Brugge, Emmen**

Valgaeren was the first Belgian to arrive at Celtic and he was one of the first players brought to the club by Martin O'Neill when the new manager arrived for the start of the 2000/01 season.

He made his debut in the same game as Chris Sutton as the Celts kicked off their treble-winning campaign with a 2-1 win over Dundee United at Tannadice. He went on to score 10 goals in 176 games for the Hoops and won three championships as well as a Scottish Cup and League Cup, and he also played when the Celts narrowly lost to Porto after extra-time in the 2002/03 UEFA Cup final in Seville.

JASON DENAYER

Position: **Defender**
Squad Number: **22**
D.O.B: **11/06/95**
Born: **Brussels, Belgium**
Height: **6'**
Signed: **11/08/14 on loan**
Left: **31/05/15**
Debut: v **Dundee United (h) 6-1 (SPFL) 16/08/14**
Previous Clubs: **Manchester City**
Later Clubs: **Galatasaray (loan), Sunderland (loan), Galatasaray (loan)**

Denayer played youth football at Anderlecht, arrived in the summer of 2014 as a major loan signing from Manchester City and he formed a formidable central-defensive partnership with Virgil van Dijk. Like, Valgaeren, he made his Celtic debut against Dundee United and he scored in a 6-1 win with what was the first of six goals in 44 games. He played only one season before returning to Manchester City, but in that time he won the league title and the League Cup.

LOGAN BAILLY

Position: **Goalkeeper**
Squad Number: **26**
D.O.B: **27/12/85**
Born: **Liege, Belgium**
Height: **6 3"**
Signed: **08/07/15**
Left: **30/06/17**
Debut: **v Dundee United (a) 3-1 (SPFL) 22/08/15**
Previous Clubs: **Genk, Borussia Mönchengladbach, OH Leuven**
Current Club: **Royal Excel Mouscron**

The goalkeeper, who was born in Liege, joined Celtic from OH Leuven in July 2015, making his competitive debut a month later in a 3-1 win over Dundee United at Tannadice. Bailly was second-choice to Craig Gordon, and made a total of five appearances in his first season at the club. With the arrival of Dorus De Vries at the club, Bailly became third-choice goalkeeper, and he moved to Belgian side, Royal Excel Mouscron in the summer of 2017.

DEDRYCK BOYATA

Position: **Defender**
Squad Number: **20**
D.O.B: **28/11/90**
Born: **Brussels, Belgium**
Height: **6' 2"**
Signed: **02/06/15**
Debut: **v FC Stjarnan (h) 2-0 (UCL) 15/07/15**
Previous clubs: **Manchester City, Bolton (loan), FC Twente (loan)**

The latest Belgian Bhoy is current Celt, Dedryck Boyata, who signed from Manchester City and has scored 14 goas in 103 appearances for the Hoops. Since signing in 2015, Boyata has already won three title medals as well as two Scottish Cups and a League Cup, playing his part in both the Invincibles treble-winning season and last season's historic Double Treble. His form for the Scottish champions ensured his place in Belgium's World Cup squad.

PASSPORT to Belgium

Ahead of today's friendly with Standard Liege, we take a look at Celtic's Belgian links

AND IF YOU KNOW THE HISTORY

It was in season 1984/85 that Celtic travelled to Belgium when they visited the Flemish region for a Cup-Winners' Cup tie against KAA Ghent. The first leg tie took place on September 19, 1984, and Celtic were just nine minutes away from a 0-0 draw when Hubert Cordiez scored a late winner for the home side. The Hoops, however, always looked a better side than Gent and cruised through the second leg with a 3-0 win in Glasgow. Frank McGarvey grabbed goals in either half and Paul McStay added some gloss to the scoreline late on with a third.

RETURN TRIPS

Since their first trip, the Hoops have visited Belgium a further three times on competitive duty. After Gent, Celtic waited until 1991 to return to Belgium when they took on Germinal Ekeren in the first round of the UEFA Cup. The first leg was at Celtic Park and the Hoops won 2-0 courtesy of a Charlie Nicholas double. In the second leg, Mike Galloway's goal earned a 1-1 draw and booked a date with Neuchatel Xamax in the next round. It's probably best not to go there. The Hoops also travelled to Belgium under Martin O'Neill in 2003 to take on Anderlecht, who surprisingly beat the Hoops 1-0, despite playing with 10 men for 65 minutes but the Hoops overturned that with a 3-1 win in Glasgow. By far the best trip to Belgium was just last season when the Hoops won 3-0 against Anderlecht in the UEFA Champions League group stage thanks to goals from Leigh Griffiths, Patrick Roberts and Scot Sinclair. The result proved crucial as, despite Anderlecht beating Celtic 1-0 in the final game, it was the Hoops who played European football after Christmas.

BELGIAN BHOYS

Dedryck Boyata is the only Belgian player currently on the books at Celtic Park and he started with FC Brussels as a youth player before being snapped up by Manchester City in 2006 at 16-years-old. While with the Sky Blues, he went on loan to Bolton and FC Twente before joining the Hoops in 2015 and got off to a flier by scoring on his debut against Stjarnan in the Champions League. He has since weighed in with some crucial goals including counters in three successive games against Rangers, St Johnstone and Aberdeen in the Invincible season. When he joined he just had about time to shake hands with fellow Belgian and former City team-mate, Jason Denayer, who was here on loan and on his way back south. Boyata then teamed up with another fellow Belgian, Logan Bailly who made five appearances between the sticks before moving to Mouscron in 2017. Joos Valgaeren was one of Martin O'Neill's first signings as Celtic manager and proved to be a shrewd acquisition. Bought from Roda JC after impressing for Belgium in Euro 2000, the defender was an integral part of the Irishman's success at Celtic. Playing beside Bobo Balde and Johan Mjallby, Valgaeren was a mainstay of the Celtic defence for years and stayed at the club until 2005, making 176 appearances and scoring 10 goals.

GLOBAL CELTS

The nerve centre of the Belgian Bhoys and Ghirls is the Brussels CSC, which provides a focal point for Celtic supporters living all across the country. The club has been going strong for 20 years now after being formed at the end of the 1997/98 season and they regularly arrange trips to European and domestic games at Paradise as well as away European trips. Lisbon Lion Jim Craig, Packie Bonner and Joos Valgaeren have all been the Guest of Honour at Gala Dinners organised by the club. Of course, they were out in force for Celtic's trip to play Anderlecht last season and even produced a free booklet given out to Celtic fans with travel and entertainment advice for their stay in Belgium.

WORLD CUP CELT

Former Celt Duggie Livingstone was the Belgium manager during the 1954 World Cup. Livingstone was a full-back for Celtic between 1917 and 1921, making 47 appearances, yet he is more famous for his coaching exploits. He managed the Republic of Ireland and Sheffield Wednesday before taking up the Belgian position. From there, he moved to Newcastle and guided the Magpies to success in the 1955 FA Cup. In goal that day for Newcastle was none other than Ronnie Simpson, who, of course went on to make his own kind of history with Celtic.

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PADDY'S PARADISE RETURN

Derry Pele signs up for a 'Match for Cancer' charity game

THE Derry Pele will return to Celtic Park this September, as Paradise gets set host 'A Match for Cancer', sponsored by Dafabet.

Fans' favourite Paddy McCourt will be among a host of familiar figures who will feature in Stiliyan Petrov's squad for the match on September 8, as they face off against a side hand-picked by opposing Captain, James Milner.

The 34-year-old has spent the last 10 months running his Talent and Development Academy for children aged 8-13 years-old in Derry, while playing part time for League of Ireland side Finn Harps.

He will, however, bring an end to his playing career in September this year to focus on coaching, having taken on the exciting new role of Head of Academy at Derry City.

McCourt spent five years with the Hoops between 2008 and 2013, scoring some truly magical goals along the way, and he is relishing the prospect of playing in front of the Celtic Park faithful once again.

He told the Celtic match programme: "I'm really looking forward to getting back over to Celtic Park and sampling that special atmosphere again. Since I left the club I hadn't managed to get back over at all until May this year, but with my playing career coming to an end it will hopefully allow me to get across more often now.

"I'm absolutely over the moon to have been invited to play in the charity match and on a personal note, it will be fantastic to step back out there at Celtic Park. The Celtic support is really special and I know they'll come out in their numbers for this match, as they always do."

Proceeds from the match will be devoted to tackling cancer through three equal beneficiary charities - Celtic FC Foundation, The Stiliyan Petrov Foundation and The James Milner Foundation.

McCourt's five-year spell with Celtic saw a number of special moments. However, for him, two memories in particular stand out from his time with the Club.

"There were plenty of great moments and I was really lucky that I played in a team that was always competing and I managed to win a few trophies," he said. "On a personal note, though, there are two memories that I look back on most fondly.

"Firstly, making my competitive Celtic debut against Hibs, which was a huge occasion for myself and my family. Secondly, scoring my first goal for the club against Falkirk was an incredible moment.

"Having grown up supporting Celtic, playing and scoring for the team was the stuff of boyhood dreams and those are two things I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Tickets are now on general sale, on a first come first served basis - maximum of 10 per person - priced at £14 for adults and £6 for concessions*.

Tickets are available to purchase online at **www.celticfc.net**, by calling **0871 226 1888**** or by visiting the Celtic Ticket Office. The lower tier will be on sale in the first instance and Rail Seating does not apply to this match.

Premium tickets (£30) and corporate packages (£135) are also available by calling 0871 226 1888** (Option 4) or emailing matchdayhospitality@celticfc.co.uk

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Tony Watt

Tony Watt has enjoyed his experiences of Belgian football and he believes today's game will provide a good test for Celtic

HIGH STANDARD OPPOSITION

TONY Watt believes he swapped one big club for another when he left Celtic for Standard Liege in the summer of 2014. It was a difficult decision for the striker to leave his boyhood heroes, but he was persuaded to join the Belgian side as, similar to the Hoops, they were a major force in their domestic game, regularly challenging for honours.

Although his stay with Standard didn't last as long as he anticipated, he enjoyed his six months there, which included an important victory over Anderlecht, as the 24-year-old explained in an exclusive interview with the matchday programme ahead of today's pre-season friendly with the Reds.

"I left Celtic as I couldn't get guaranteed game-time," Watt said. "I would only have left Celtic for a massive club and Standard Liege fitted that bill. They are similar in Belgium to what Celtic are in Scotland. Celtic are the team I love, but I thought, what an opportunity to go there and be involved in that.

"The manager got sacked after a few months which didn't help but I had a great time there and it was an honour to pull on the jersey. Like Celtic, there was a big-club mentality. When you went out, you needed to win and had that pressure, and you miss not having that.

"I ended up with three goals a few assists and I only made five or six starts so it wasn't too bad a record, but I just never played, which really has been the story for the past few years. I liked Standard and it's a proper club, a great club, with good facilities, and it maybe just lacked a bit of leadership at the time, but they're starting getting themselves back on their feet now."

Exclusive interview: Mark Henderson

The former Hoops hit-man has spent a significant part of his career in Belgian football, with spells at Lierse and OH Leuven, along with Liege, and it's become a second home to him.

And highlighting the amount of home-grown talent that has emerged from the Belgian top flight, many of whom have starred for the Red Devils on their run to the World Cup semi-finals, he reckons Standard will provide Brendan Rodgers' side with an excellent early-season test this afternoon in Paradise.

"The style of football is different over in Belgium," he said. "It will be a good fixture for Celtic to take on and while they won't be taking it as seriously as the qualifiers, it'll still be a tough test against a European team.

"You saw it in Celtic's games against Anderlecht last season. Celtic won away from home but Anderlecht were still a good team and in the return game at Celtic Park, when they won 1-0, you saw how they played, keeping the ball and playing at a high tempo. It's a good league and there are some good players.

"You see Thomas Meunier, who was at Bruges for so long, and now he's been playing in the World Cup. Axel Witsel played at Standard Liege for a long time and then you have the likes of Fellaini and Michy

Batshuayi, who I replaced at Standard. Lukaku obviously left when he was young but they bring through a lot of good players."

"Belgium are the team I supported at the World Cup, along with Brazil, because of their football, but I really like the culture and country and it's given me a lot in my life as well. It probably is my second home."

On a personal note, the last six months have been a trying time for Watt as he spent a period in football limbo after leaving Leuven in February. Having played for two clubs in the same season, the Scotland internationalist had to wait until the summer to try and secure a new club, and this came on the back of several injuries which had limited his game-time.

Being sidelined from football made him realise how much he loves the game and doubled his determination to reive his career. At the start of this week, he made the first step on the road by signing a one-year contract with Scottish Premiership club St Johnstone.

"I couldn't get started because of little niggles," said Watt. "I had a big injury and then I would have one for two months or a month and it doesn't help as it makes you seem unreliable for a manager, and you don't get involved as much you would like.

"There have been lots of ups and down over the past two years and, after I got injured I struggled a bit and lost a bit of the love for it. But the last five or six months has really brought the love back and made me realise that I do love football and want to get back out there playing and see where it takes me.

"I have just waiting to see what was the best for me as I've had a stop-start year or two so I need to get myself back on track. It has made me really push on a bit more in terms of fitness. I have been doing a bit extra so I will be up to everyone's level when I get back."

JAMESY WILL GET EVEN BETTER FOR CELTS

TONY Watt has always been a fully paid-up member of the James Forrest fan club and he wasn't surprised to see his former team-mate produce such stunning levels of consistency for Celtic last season.

And Watt is adamant that the winger, who was on the scoresheet in the Hoops' 3-0 win away to FC Alashkert in the UEFA Champions League qualifier on Tuesday night, can hit even greater heights over the coming campaign

"I tell everyone that wee Jamesy is one of the best players I've played with in terms of the things he does on the pitch," said the former Celtic striker."

"He terrorises people on that wing and if I had to wake up and be told I was playing against wee Jamesy, I would probably feel ill.

"Brendan Rodgers has come in and got him fit and confident, and long may it continue. Last season he had his best season ever, and I know he's still got more to come because he's that good.

"He can really go on and show people good he is, and I'm saying that positively, as he was unbelievable last season but I do believe he can have an even better season."

But Forrest is not the only attacking talent at the Scottish champions who Watt has been impressed with over the past two years under Brendan Rodgers.

"You have a lot of very good players there, but I really like Moussa Dembele, and Leigh Griffiths' goal record is frightening, while I think Scott Sinclair is one of the best I've seen at Celtic since the likes of Larsson or Nakamura in what he can bring to the team," he added.

On the World Cup strikers...

"All the usual ones, such as Diego Costa and Harry Kane, even though he plays for England. Neymar is someone I love watching. I know I'll get a bit of stick for that but I do think he's a great player, even though his antics aren't sometimes great. There's been a lot of talent on show and a lot of great goalscorers, including Lukaku, and it'll be a hot race for the Golden Boot."

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CLUB INFORMATION

All the stats/facts and info...

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

Celtic FC: Acceptance of Match Tickets
Thank you for purchasing your ticket and your continued support. Tickets for SPFL and SFA organised matches are issued on the strict condition that the holder will not engage in any form of unacceptable conduct, as outlined in the SPFL and SFA rules and guidance.

Celtic encourages our supporters to bring banners and flags, and to sing songs, which support the team positively. The possession and use of fireworks, smoke bombs, firecrackers and all pyrotechnics are absolutely prohibited. Again, we stress the dangers surrounding fireworks and pyrotechnics, which are considered a serious safety issue.

The Club and its supporters are rightly proud of our reputation and we encourage all supporters to help foster this reputation at this fixture. Supporters who are identified as engaging in Unacceptable Conduct as defined below may be subject to further action by the Club, which could include suspension from attending Celtic matches.

Unacceptable Conduct is defined in the SPFL Rules as:
H25 A person present at or in a stadium where an Official Match is being played engages in Unacceptable Conduct where their conduct is violent and/or disorderly.
H26 Conduct is violent where there is (i) actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against a person or persons; or (ii) intentional damage to property.
H27 Disorderly conduct includes
H27.1 conduct which stirs up or sustains or is likely or designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards a group of persons based on their membership or presumed membership of a group defined by reference to a category mentioned in Rule H29 or against an individual who is or is presumed to be a member of such group;
H27.2 using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct;
H27.3 displaying any writing or other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting; and
H27.4 using words or conduct or displaying any writing or other thing which indicates support for, or affiliation to, or celebration of, or opposition to an organisation or group proscribed in terms of the Terrorism Act 2000.
H28 Presumed in the context of Rule H27.1 means presumed by the person or persons engaged in the conduct.
H29 The categories referred to in Rule H27 are:-
H29.1 female or male gender;
H29.2 colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin;
H29.3 membership of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with a perceived religious affiliation;
H29.4 sexual orientation;
H29.5 transgender identity; and
H29.6 disability.
H30 In **Rule H29.3** religious group means a group of persons defined by reference to their religious belief or lack of religious belief, membership of or adherence to a church or religious organisation, support for the culture and traditions of a church or religious organisation and/or participation in activities associated with such a culture or such traditions.
H31 In Rule **H29.5** transgender identity means any one or more of transvestism, transsexualism, inter-sexuality or change of gender.
H32 In Rule **H29.6** disability means physical or mental impairment of any kind.

Unacceptable Conduct is defined in the SFA Rules as:
Unacceptable Conduct means Violent Conduct and/or Disorderly Conduct as the context so requires. Violent Conduct means conduct where there is (i) actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against a person or persons; or (ii) intentional damage to property;

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Celtic Football Club and our supporters have earned praise and respect throughout the football world for our achievements on and off the field of play. As an ambassador for Celtic we ask that you seek to continue to enhance our good reputation during the match and whilst travelling to and from the Stadium. We would like to thank you for reading this and your cooperation.

ALL supporters are reminded that the Ground Regulations insist that spectators remain seated during the match.

Please remain seated throughout the match in the interests of your own safety and that of your fellow supporters.

The advice from Police Scotland is: "We do not wish to in any way to prevent spectators from fully enjoying football matches.

"However, the safety of those attending must be paramount at all times. We fully support Celtic FC in this matter and we fully endorse their message to supporters."

In the event of a stadium evacuation please follow the directions of the Police and stewards

CLUB DIRECTORY AND RECORDS

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB
Celtic Park, Glasgow, G40 3RE

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STADIUM: Celtic Park
CAPACITY: 60,506

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AWAY STRIP COLOUR White shirt with dark green sleeves, dark green shorts and dark green and white hooped socks

RECORD ATTENDANCE
92,000 v Rangers, 1938

RECORD VICTORY 11-0 v Dundee, 1895

RECORD DEFEAT 0-8 v Motherwell, 1937

MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN ONE SEASON
50 – Jimmy McGrory, 1935/36

MOST PREMIER/SPL GOALS IN ONE SEASON
35 – Brian McClair, 1986/87
35 – Henrik Larsson, 2000/01

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CLUB HONOURS

SCOTTISH LEAGUE WINNERS
(49 Times)
1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06, 1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15, 1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19, 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36, 1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77, 1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18

SCOTTISH CUP WINNERS
(38 Times)
1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1995, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2017, 2018

LEAGUE CUP WINNERS
(17 Times)
1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98, 1999/00, 2000/01, 2005/06, 2008/09, 2014/15, 2016/17, 2017/18

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS
1967

CORONATION CUP WINNERS
1953

FEARLESS JOE

Celtic legend Joe Dodds was born on this day in 1887, just four months before Celtic's formation

IT was on this day 131 years ago, July 14, 1887, that Celtic legend, Joe Dodds was born in Carluke.

In his 378 games, he scored 30 goals and formed an almost unbeatable triangle at the back with keeper, Charlie Shaw and fellow defender, Alec McNair.

Such was his bravery in the tackle, he was bestowed the epithet, Fearless Joe in song. Here we take a look at his career.

PRELUDE TO PARADISE

Born in Carluke, on July 14, 1887, Joe Dodds joined his first senior club when he signed for Celtic, although he was loaned out to Kilmarnock on two dates at the start and end of the 1908/09 season. Dodds had signed with Celtic on May 13, 1908 as a 20-year-old after playing with Braidwood United and Carluke Milton Rovers. Originally a forward, he had converted to operating in both the left-half and centre-half berths by the time he signed for Celtic.

DEBUT BHOY

Dodds' first game for the Scottish champions was at centre-half on October 10, 1908 as a 15,000 crowd saw Celtic beat Dundee 2-0 at home in the league thanks to two goals from Davie Hamilton. And it was in the centre of defence that he mainly operated until left-half, Jimmy 'Dun' Hay departed for Newcastle United in 1911, necessitating a reshuffle in defence. It was then that he switched to left-back and the legendary defensive partnership of McNair and Dodds was born. That first season at Celtic Park, Dodds would make 16 league appearances as the Hoops won their fifth league title in a row, while he also played in four Scottish Cup ties, including the two final matches against Rangers.

HIGHLIGHTS

When Joe Dodds left Celtic for the last time in 1922, he did so in possession of eight league medals and three Scottish Cup medals. He was a member of the four-in-a-row side between 1913/14 and 1916/17 to add to the two league titles he won in 1909 and 1910. There would be two further titles in 1919 and 1922, the last season of Dodds' Celtic career. There were Scottish Cup wins in 1911, 1912 and 1914, and Dodds also won the Charity Cup seven times in a row between 1912 and 1918 with another added in 1921. There were also two Glasgow Cups in 1916 and 1917 as well as the War Fund Cup in 1918. In the space of five weeks in 1914, he won his three Scotland caps - a 0-0 draw with Wales, a 1-1 draw with Northern Ireland and a 3-1 win over England at Hampden with the team also including such great Celtic names as Alec McNair, Jimmy McMenemy and Jimmy Hay.

LOW POINTS

Joe Dodds came so close to kicking off his Celtic career with a league and Scottish Cup double as the Hoops homed in on winning that particular accolade for the third year in a row. Unfortunately, this was the year of the 'riot final' and, following 2-2 and 1-1 draws against Rangers, the trophy was withheld following the communal display of feeling towards the decision to not play extra-time after the second draw. Still, that left Celtic with eight games to play in just 11 days to try and lift the championship. And they did just that with Dodds playing in seven of the matches. The only game he missed in that frenetic schedule of matches was the second of the eight games, a 1-1 draw at home to Hamilton Accies.

BOWING OUT

There were two farewells for Joe Dodds. The first of them came in April 1920 when he played in a 2-2 draw against St Mirren at Celtic Park, when the Hoops finished second in the table, losing out on the title by three points. He returned a year later, and then played in the championship-winning season of 1921/22. His second departure was in more impressive fashion, as the 1-1 draw away to Morton in April 1922 ensured that the Hoops won the title by a point from Rangers.

MONEY TALKS

Joe Dodds first left the club to go to the Central League with Cowdenbeath where, surprisingly, he could earn more money than he had been doing at Celtic Park, and he was with the Fife club for just under a year when he returned to Celtic, apparently with a promise from the club that he would receive a benefit match. When this was not forthcoming, Dodds left Celtic a second time, and he did not return as a player. However, his relationship with the club was rekindled in 1936 when he came back to Celtic Park as assistant trainer.

HOT SHOT

Defenders weren't known for their scoring prowess back in the days when Joe Dodds plied his trade as a footballer, but he did pick up the healthy total of 30 goals during his time with the club - an impressive amount for a left-back. He was known for his speed but the main reason for his goals was his trademark rocket shot from distance. His first goal for the Hoops came against Falkirk on March 6, 1909. The game at Brockville finished 1-1, and it was Dodds with a penalty who scored Celtic's goal. His final goal for the club was also a penalty, this time in a 4-0 victory over Hamilton Accies at Celtic Park.

SHOOTING STARS

Celtic's first competitive goal in the past three seasons

IF nothing else, this feature could prove handy in future Celtic quizzes, when you're asked to name the scorer of Celtic's first competitive goal in each of Brendan Rodgers' seasons to date.

Many of you will be able to recall these facts right away, but here's a refresher for those of you who don't.

The harder question, of course, would be to name the scorer of Celtic's first goal in each of these seasons, which would encompass pre-season friendly games, but that's a feature for another day...

2016/17

Wednesday, July 20, 2016
UEFA Champions League qualifier
Celtic v Lincoln Red Imps

Celtic's first competitive game under Brendan Rodgers was a game in Gibraltar against Lincoln Red Imps in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League qualification campaign, and it hadn't been the best of starts for the Hoops, who lost 1-0 on the night. However, they rectified matters in the return leg at Celtic Park, scoring three goals without reply on their way to successfully qualifying for the group stages of the tournament. While Leigh Griffiths and Patrick scored on the night, it was Mikael Lustig who had the honour of scoring Celtic's first competitive goal under Brendan Rodgers. A Stuart Armstrong free-kick from the right bobbed about in the Lincoln area before it fell to Lustig on the penalty spot, and the Swedish defender hit the ball on the spin with his left foot to give the Hoops the lead.

2017/18

Friday, July 14, 2017
UEFA Champions League qualifier
Linfield v Celtic

Celtic travelled to Ireland for the first leg of their UEFA Champions League qualifier against Linfield, and they established a 2-0 lead on the night to ensure comfortable passage into the next round. The first goal in Belfast came after 17 minutes. A Leigh Griffiths corner found its way to the far post where James Forrest lobbed it back into the six-yard box. Scott Sinclair got his head on the ball, which then took a deflection off Linfield defender, Mark Haughey, before ending up in the net. Tom Rogic doubled Celtic's lead five minutes later. The Hoops won the second leg 4-0, with Rogic again on target, while Sinclair netted two goals, with Brendan Rodgers' side again on their way to successfully qualifying for the group stages of the Champions League, and then on into the last 32 of the UEFA Europa League.

2018/19

Tuesday, July 10, 2018
UEFA Champions League qualifier
Alashkert v Celtic

Celtic returned to competitive action last Tuesday when they travelled to Armenia for the first leg of their UEFA Champions League first qualifying round tie against Alashkert. And it was Odsonne Edouard who scored the opening goal in first-half added time. The French striker, who made his move from Paris Saint-Germain to Celtic a permanent one in the summer, following a successful season on loan with the Hoops, showed great composure and technique to volley home after James Forrest's effort had been blocked, the ball spinning up in the air and into the path of Edouard, who coolly slotted the ball home. In the second-half, Celtic remained in control of the tie and further goals from Forrest and Callum McGregor in the last minute gave Brendan Rodgers' side a comfortable 3-0 lead ahead of this Wednesday's second leg at Paradise.

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FIXTURES/RESULTS 2018/19

Domestic games kick off at 3pm unless stated. European Games at 7.45pm, Celtic scores are shown first. All fixtures are subject to change

DATE	COMP	H/A	OPPOSITION	KO/RES
JUNE 2018				
Wed 20	Friendly	A	Bohemians Prague	0-1
Wed 27	Friendly	A	SK Vorwarts Steyr	1-0
JULY				
Tue 3	Friendly	A	Sparta Prague	1-0
Sat 7	Friendly	A	Shamrock Rovers	7-0
Tue 10	UCL	A	Alashkert	3-0
Sat 14	**Friendly**	**H**	**Standard Liege**	
Wed 18	UCL	A	Alashkert	
AUGUST				
Sat 4	**SP**	**H**	**Livingston**	
Sat 11	SP	A	Hearts	12:30pm
Sat 25	**SP**	**H**	**Hamilton Accies**	
SEPTEMBER				
Sun 2	**SP**	**H**	**Rangers**	**12noon**
Sat 15	SP	A	St Mirren	
Sat 22	SP	A	Kilmarnock	
Sat 29	**SP**	**H**	**Aberdeen**	
OCTOBER				
Sat 6	SP	A	St Johnstone	
Sat 20	**SP**	**H**	**Hibernian**	
Sat 27	**SP**	**H**	**Motherwell**	
Wed 31	SP	A	Dundee	
NOVEMBER				
Sat 3	**SP**	**H**	**Hearts**	
Sat 10	SP	A	Livingston	
Sat 24	SP	A	Hamilton Accies	
DECEMBER				
Sat 1	**SP**	**H**	**St Johnstone**	
Wed 5	SP	A	Motherwell	
Sat 8	**SC**	**H**	**Kilmarnock**	
Sat 15	SP	A	Hibernian	
Sat 22	**SP**	**H**	**Dundee**	
Wed 26	SP	A	Aberdeen	
Sat 29	**SP**	**H**	**Rangers**	
JANUARY 2019				
Wed 23	**SP**	**H**	**St Mirren**	
Sat 26	**SP**	**H**	**Hamilton Accies**	
FEBRUARY				
Sat 2	SC	A	St Johnstone	
Wed 6	**SP**	**H**	**Hibernian**	
Sat 16	SP	A	Kilmarnock	
Sat 23	**SP**	**H**	**Motherwell**	
Wed 27	SP	A	Hearts	
MARCH				
Sat 9	**SP**	**H**	**Aberdeen**	
Sat 16	SP	A	Dundee	
Sat 30	**SP**	**H**	**Rangers**	
APRIL				
Wed 3	SP	A	St Mirren	
Sat 6	**SC**	**H**	**Livingston**	

Take our test...

QUIZ

1. Who scored Celtic's first league goal of the 2017/18 season?

2. Where will the final of the Euro 2020 championship be held?

3. Against which side did Callum McGregor score his first competitive goal?

4. Who were Celtic's first Belgian opponents in European competition?

5. From which club did Dedryck Boyata join Celtic?

6. Who has been appointed as the new manager of the Spain national team?

7. Celtic only played one domestic cup tie outside of Glasgow last season. Where was it?

8. Who scored Belgium's winning goal in their 3-2 win over Japan in the World Cup?

9. Where did Celtic play their first ever competitive European tie?

10. Which Scottish club other than Celtic did the legendary Danny McGrain play for?

ANSWERS

1. Leigh Griffiths (Celtic beat Hearts 4-1).
2. Wembley Stadium.
3. KR Reykjavik (July 15, 2014)
4. KAA Gent (European Cup Winners' Cup, 1984/85)
5. Manchester City
6. Luis Enrique
7. Dens Park v Dundee in the League Cup. Celtic won 4-0.
8. Nacer Chadli
9. Mestalla Stadium, Valencia in September 1962. They lost 4-2.
10. Hamilton Accies (1987/88).

THIS IS HOW IT FEELS...

7-IN-A-ROW END OF SEASON REVIEW 2017/18

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CELTIC

Manager:
BRENDAN RODGERS

Craig Gordon	1
Jack Hendry	4
Jozo Simunovic	5
Nir Bitton	6
Scott Brown	8
Leigh Griffiths	9
Moussa Dembele	10
Scott Sinclair	11
Cristian Gamboa	12
Jonny Hayes	15
Lewis Morgan	16
Ryan Christie	17
Tom Rogic	18
Scott Allan	19
Dedryck Boyata	20
Olivier Ntcham	21
Odsonne Edouard	22
Mikael Lustig	23
Dorus de Vries	24
Kundai Benyu	26
Scott Bain	29
Marvin Compper	33
Kristoffer Ajer	35
Callum McGregor	42
James Forrest	49
Ewan Henderson	52
Kerr McInroy	55
Anthony Ralston	56
Stephen Welsh	57
Calvin Miller	59
Kieran Tierney	63
Regan Hendry	64
Conor Hazard	65
Mikey Johnston	73
Jack Aitchison	76
Eboue Kouassi	88

STANDARD LIEGE

Manager:
MICHEL PREUD'HOMME

1	Jean-Francois Gillet
2	Reginal Goreux
3	Zinho Vanheusden
4	Dimitri Lavalee
5	Uche Agbo
6	Milos Kosanovic
7	Duje Cop
8	Gojko Cimirot
9	Renaud Emond
10	Mehdi Carcela
11	Carlinhos
13	Guillermo Ochoa
14	Jerome Deom
15	Sebastien Pocognoli
16	Arnaud Bodart
17	Ryan Mmaee
18	Razvan Marin
19	Moussa Djenepo
20	Merveille Bope Bokadi
21	Collins Fai
22	Junior Edmilson
23	Senna Miangue
24	Valriy Luchkevych
26	Christian Luyindama
27	Farouk Miya
28	Samuel Bastien
29	Luis Pedro Cavanda
30	Lindon Selahi
34	Konstantinos Laifis
40	Paul-Jose Mpoku

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee:
Don Robertson

Assistant 1:
Frank Connor

Assistant 2:
Stuart Stevenson

Fourth Official:
Barry Cook

NEXT GAME:

CELTIC V ALASHKERT
UEFA Champions League, Wednesday July 18, 7.45pm

new balance dafabet MAGNERS