



# Celtic

v Olympique Lyonnais • Pre-Season Friendly • Saturday July 15, 2017 • Celtic Park • KO: 3pm • £3.50

est. 1996

Moussa

Dembele



70

STRIKER



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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

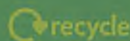
Celtic is a club for everyone who believes in football as a medium for healthy pleasure, entertainment and social integration. The Club always has been and always will simply aim to be the team of the people.



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# BRENDAN RODGERS



## A new season has begun and we face many tough challenges ahead

**GOOD** afternoon and welcome to Celtic Park for our pre-season match against Olympique Lyonnais, and I would also like to extend that welcome to our visitors from France.

It is always good to be back home and we're all looking forward to our first game of the new season here at Celtic Park. It's also the first time that, as a collective squad, we've been able to play in our stadium in front of our fans since that momentous day back in May when we won the Scottish Cup to secure the domestic treble.

I know that day and, indeed, the whole experience of what was a very special season, will live long in the memories of all of us, and it's something that we're all immensely proud of.

*"Today's match gives us an opportunity to test ourselves against top-class European opposition"*

Now, of course, a new season has begun and our focus is on the challenges ahead, with a determination to not only replicate our previous success but, if possible, to emulate it.

That will take a lot of hard work from everyone, and that has already started since the players reported back for pre-season in the middle of June, and our preparations have been very



good, both at Lennoxton and at our training camp in Austria.

The competitive action began last night, of course, with the first leg of our UEFA Champions League qualifier against Linfield in Belfast, and I hope that we're going into this afternoon's match on the back of a positive result which will stand us in good stead for the second leg this coming Wednesday.

We reached the group stages of the competition last season for the first time in three years, and playing against some of Europe's top sides is something that this club wants to be doing every season.

These teams, with the quality of players within their squads, always present us with a tough challenge, but these are challenges which we relish, and having experienced it last season, we are determined to do everything we can in order to do

so again this time around. Today's match gives us an opportunity to test ourselves against top-class European opposition. Lyon have been a strong and impressive side over many years now, and the fact they reached the semi-final of the Europa League last season is an indication of their quality.

We're looking forward to this afternoon's challenge and our aim, as always, is to play well and try to develop and improve the football fitness of as many players as possible. Enjoy the game and once again, it's great to be back in Paradise!

**Brendan Rodgers**

*Without Fear*



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A word with our captain...

**SCOTT BROWN**

# We cannot wait to build upon last season's amazing success



**IT'S great to be back at Celtic Park and we're all looking forward to what I'm sure will be a tough game against a top side in Lyon. It will be a good test for us and one that all the lads are looking forward to.**

We had a Champions League qualifier in Belfast last night, and while playing two games back-to-back on consecutive days isn't something that normally happens, we've got a squad of players who will be able to cope with those demands and, indeed, relish them.

I hope that we're going into today's game on the back of a good result last night. Our aim is to reach the group stages of the Champions League and we've now taken our first step on that road.

It was a target that we achieved last time around and it was an experience we all enjoyed, in what was the toughest

*"Our aim is to reach the group stages of the Champions League and we've now taken our first step on that road"*

group in the competition. It's a stage that this club deserves to be on and we want to get there again, and we'll all be doing everything we can to achieve that.

As always, the games will now be coming thick and fast, and we'll be back here on Wednesday night for the second leg of our qualifier against Linfield.

But for now, we're focused on this afternoon's game. It's always great to play at Celtic Park in front of our own supporters, and for the new players in the squad it will be good for them

to experience it for the first time. I'm sure it will just make them look forward to playing here again throughout the season even more.

Thanks, as always, for your support. It was incredible last season, as it has been throughout my time at the club, and I'm sure it will be again this season. Enjoy the game.

**Scott Brown**

  
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# Brendan Rodgers: The Official Autobiography

**FROM a small village on the north-east coast of Ireland to the treble-winning manager of Celtic, Brendan Rodgers' football journey has been a remarkable one of dedication, hard work, a desire to always keep improving and a determination to succeed at the highest level of the sport.**

And throughout his life there has always been a love of his team ...



Celtic Football Club.

Now, for the first time, he tells this inspiring story in his official autobiography.

While the opportunity to pull on the green and white Hoops as a player did not arise, he is now manager of his club, the man who drives his players to deliver success to his fellow supporters.

And in a momentous first season in charge at Celtic Park, Brendan Rodgers delivered the treble to Paradise – only the third Celtic manager to do so – while also going through the whole season unbeaten domestically – a monumental and historic achievement – as well as reaching the group stages of the UEFA Champions League for the first time in three years.

In his own words, Brendan Rodgers tells his story – from a promising young footballer growing up in Carnlough and dreaming of playing for Celtic one day through to his professional career – as a player, a coach and now as one of football's top managers.

Celtic supporters will also enjoy an insight into a remarkable season – from the first competitive game in Gibraltar through to the thrilling Scottish Cup final, with plenty of highlights in between, including the manager's first trophy triumph and some unforgettable Glasgow derbies.

***Brendan Rodgers: The Official Autobiography is a must-read for all Celtic supporters and it's coming soon.***

## Celtic View returns for the new season

**AS Brendan Rodgers' side prepare for their first competitive games of the season, the new-look Celtic View returns with an exclusive interview with the Hoops boss, who looks ahead to our UEFA Champions League campaign.**

The first Celtic View of the 2017/18 season hit the shelves on Thursday, July 13, and there's the chance to win A PAIR OF TICKETS for our Champions League qualifier against Linfield at Celtic Park next Wednesday night.

New Bhoys Jonny Hayes also sits down for his first exclusive interview with the official club magazine, while Erik Svatchenko looks forward to the new season.

In this, the 20th anniversary of the momentous 1997/98 season, when Wim Jansen's Celtic side 'stopped the 10', the captain of that famous side, Tom Boyd reflects on the campaign in the first of a fascinating two-part interview.

We also kick off a new series looking at some of Celtic's top goalscorers down through the decades, beginning with Kenny Dalglish.

And with the Hoops playing two games inside 24 hours this weekend – Linfield in Belfast on Friday night and Lyon today at Celtic Park – we take a trip down memory lane to a day when the Celts played two games in the one day.

There's all this and much, much more ONLY in this week's Celtic View, the official magazine of the treble-winning Invincibles. On sale now (£2.95).

To download the digital version of the View, go to [www.magzter.com](http://www.magzter.com)

