

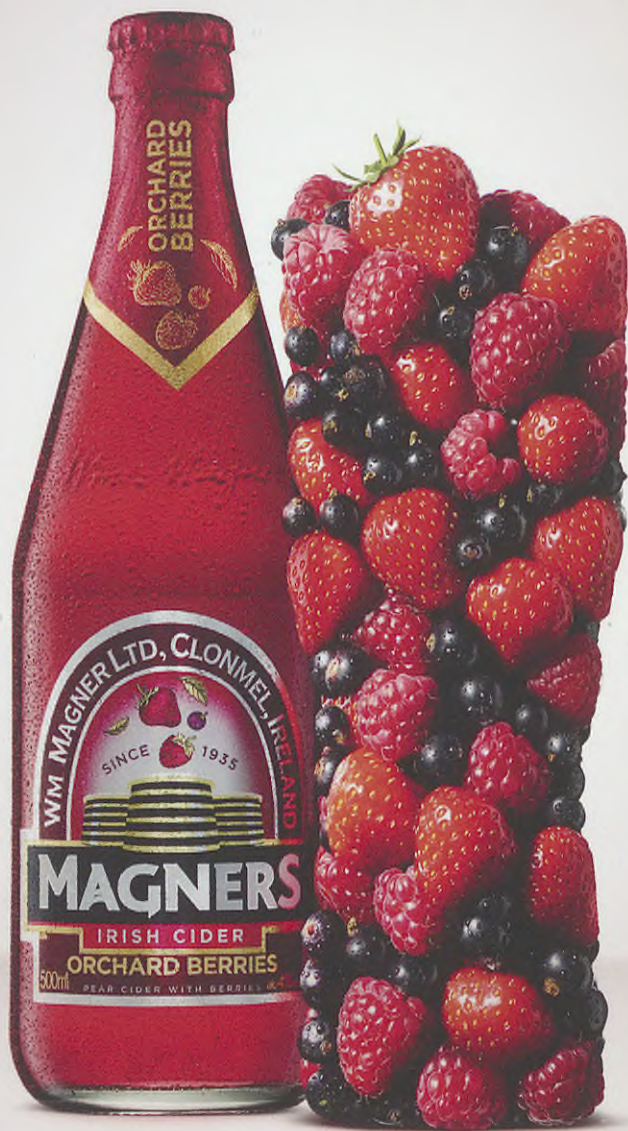
v DUNDEE UNITED

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014
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KICK-OFF 12.45PM


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CONTENTS



SOCIAL MISSION STATEMENT

Introduction

Celtic Football Club is legendary and as with most legends as much myth as fact surrounds its history and what the Club stands for today. The Social Mission Statement aims to simply define what the Club stands for and seeks to promote within society.

History

Celtic Football Club was founded in 1888. Its principal founder was a Marist Brother named Walfrid. The Club had two principal aims: The first aim was to raise funds to provide food for the poor of the East End of Glasgow, an area of the City that was greatly impoverished and had a high rate of infant mortality. Within the East End was a large Irish community and friction was growing between the native Glaswegians and the new influx of Irish. Brother Walfrid saw the need for social integration and his vision was a football club that Scottish and Irish, Protestants and Catholics alike could support. A new football club would be a vehicle to bring the communities together and this was the second aim. The Marist brother sought for the Club to have both a Scottish and Irish identity and hence, the Club's name "Celtic" came about, representing a bridge of cultures across the Irish Sea.

Current Positioning of Celtic Football Club

Celtic Football Club is a Scottish football club with proud Irish links. The primary business of Celtic is as a football club. It is run on a professional business basis with no political agenda. However, the Club has a wider role and the responsibility of being a major Scottish social institution promoting health, well-being and social integration.

Who is Celtic Football Club for?

Celtic Football Club is for people who want to support a football club that strives for excellence in Scotland and in Europe, is proud of its history, supportive of its local community and seeks to support the following aims: "To maximise all opportunities to disassociate the Club from sectarianism and bigotry of any kind. To promote Celtic as a Club for all people, regardless of gender, age, religion, race or ability."

Summary

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

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RONNY DEILA
Celtic Manager



LET'S MARK OUR RETURN TO CELTIC PARK WITH ANOTHER THREE POINTS

A VERY warm welcome to Celtic Park for our first home league game of the new season. It's also my first game here as manager, and it's something I've been looking forward to since coming to the club.

This is a magnificent stadium, one that is known throughout the football world, and I am both proud and honoured to be here as Celtic manager, following in the footsteps of some great managers down through the years.

It's also a special day for the

club in that, before the game, we will celebrate the championship success of last season by raising the league flag.

It is always a magnificent achievement to win a league title, and it's only right that we remember that success.

The club is also welcoming back Fergus McCann, a very important figure in Celtic's history, for today's occasion, and I'm sure that he will be given a fantastic reception by our supporters when he steps out on to the pitch before kick-off.

We also want to mark our

return to Celtic Park with a victory, and the players will be focused on trying to achieve that.

Our league campaign got off to a winning start on Wednesday night with a good victory over St Johnstone. It was a tough game, particularly in the first-half, but I felt that in the second-half we played with greater intensity and movement, and got the goals that our play deserved.

Dundee United will be difficult opponents today. They've started their campaign very well, with victories over the teams who finished second and third in the league last season, so we know that they will come here full of confidence.

However, we will also go into today's game in a confident frame of mind after the victory over St Johnstone, and we will be focused on getting another three points today.

I'm sure that our supporters, like the players, will be delighted to be back home at Celtic Park, and with your support, hopefully we can mark our return with a victory.

Enjoy the game



'We will go into today's game in a confident frame of mind after the victory over St Johnstone... in the second-half we played with greater intensity and movement, and got the goals that our play deserved'

CLUB HONOURS



SCOTTISH LEAGUE WINNERS (45 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

SCOTTISH CUP WINNERS (36 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

LEAGUE CUP WINNERS (14 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

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS 1967

CORONATION CUP WINNERS 1953

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SCOTT BROWN

Celtic Captain



WELCOME BACK TO PARADISE... AND WELCOME BACK FERGUS

IT'S our first home game of the new Premiership season and my first Captain's Column for the match programme.

Naturally, it's an exciting time for the squad and everyone's looking forward to our return to Celtic Park although, personally, it's also frustrating since I won't be able to get out there and play.

That's always one of the most difficult things for any player - whenever they're out through injury - because you want to be out on the park helping your team-mates.

However, I'll have to be content with a seat in the stand and hopefully cheering the boys on to victory.

Beforehand, of course, we'll have the raising of the league flag to celebrate our third title in a row last season.

And I know all the supporters will be delighted to see Fergus McCann at Celtic Park as guest of honour for this occasion.

I know how important Fergus is to the club and I'm sure he'll get a brilliant reception from the fans.

I was lucky enough to meet him when we played in Boston back in 2010, and it's great that the club has invited him back to raise the league flag today.

The players are all looking forward to our first game back home. The boys enjoyed the experience of Murrayfield, and the fans created a great atmosphere, but there's nowhere like Celtic Park to play football.

Dundee United had a brilliant result against Aberdeen at Pittodrie last weekend and another win over Motherwell in midweek, and I'm sure they'll make it tough for us today.



They're a good side so we'll have to be at our best to win the game today.

It's our second league game of the season, after Wednesday's trip to McDiarmid Park to play St Johnstone.

That was, as we expected, a very tough game, but we played well, particularly in the second half, and got the victory we deserved to get the campaign off to a winning start.

Now everyone's looking forward to raising the league flag today and, more importantly, getting the victory and another three points.

Enjoy the game

CLUB DIRECTORY AND RECORDS

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB
Celtic Park, Glasgow, G40 3RE

CELTIC CALL CENTRE
Tel: 0871 226 1888
(calls cost up to 10p per minute, telecoms provider dependent. Mobile and other provider charges may vary)

WEBSITE: www.celticfc.net
FORMED: 1888
STADIUM: Celtic Park
CAPACITY: 60,506

HOME STRIP COLOUR
Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts and socks

AWAY STRIP COLOUR
Dark green shirts with green/gold trim, dark green shorts and 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 McGroarty, 1935/36

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

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STADIUM REGULATIONS



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

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.

Superintendent George Clelland of Strathclyde Police 'B' Division, said: "Strathclyde Police do not wish to in any way 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."

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT AT CELTIC PARK AND AWAY FOOTBALL STADIA

NEW rules have been introduced by the SFA and SPFL in connection with "Unacceptable Conduct" at football stadia. The new rules form part of our Stadium Regulations. It is a condition of entry to stadia that the Stadium Regulations, including these new rules, are followed.

A summary of the new rules is set out below. Full details are available on the Celtic website at www.celticfc.net or by contacting the Customer Service Manager on 0871 226 1888*.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB WILL NOT TOLERATE UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT AT CELTIC PARK OR AT AWAY FOOTBALL STADIA

- Unacceptable conduct is conduct which is violent or disorderly
- Violent conduct includes any actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against any person, or intentional damage to property

- Disorderly conduct includes conduct which stirs up or sustains, or is likely or is designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards individuals or groups of people because of:
 - Gender
 - Colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin
 - Membership or presumed membership, of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with perceived religious affiliation
 - Sexual orientation
 - Transgender identity
 - Disability
 - Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct
 - Displaying writing or any other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting

This list is not exhaustive and must be read in conjunction with the Stadium Regulations.

ANY PERSON ENGAGING IN UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT MAY BE SUBJECT TO ANY, OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Removal from the stadium
- Suspension from attending official matches involving Celtic Football Club
- Indefinite ban from attending official matches involving Celtic Football Club
- Report to the police and possible criminal proceedings

Celtic Football Club was established in 1888 as a Club open to all.

Further information on the Club's origins and Celtic's Social Mission Statement can be found on page 3.

**Calls cost up to 10p per minute, telecoms provider dependant. Mobile and other provider charges may vary.*

DUNDEE UNITED:



The story so far...

TODAY'S visitors go into this afternoon's match at the tip of the table thanks to two victories in their first two outings.

They comprehensively beat Aberdeen 3-0 in their opening game at Pittodrie but it took an 82nd-minute strike from Mario Bilate to take the spoils at home to Motherwell on Wednesday.

Comp	Date	Result
SPFL	10 Aug	Aberdeen 0-3 Dundee United
SPFL	13 Aug	Dundee United 1-0 Motherwell







DUNDEE UNITED



ONES TO WATCH

CELTIC'S first opponents at Paradise this season will be last term's Scottish Cup finalists, Dundee United.

Jackie McNamara's team impressed in the league last year, playing quick and attractive football and that style saw them secure fourth place in the league.

The performances of some of United's young stars also attracted the attention of clubs around the country and Europe, with Ryan Gauld eventually moving to Sporting Lisbon in July and Andrew Robertson signing for Hull City.

They just missed out on the Scottish Cup at the final hurdle by losing to St Johnstone, but United has started the season afresh by recording a 3-0 victory over Aberdeen on the opening day.

Here, we highlight a few of the United players Celtic will need to be wary of as we raise the league flag at Celtic Park for the third time in a row ahead of the new season.

Nadir Ciftci

1

Strong, competitive and a constant threat to defences, Nadir Ciftci proved he is worth watching with his performances for Dundee United last season. Signed by Jackie McNamara in the summer of 2013, the Turkish-born striker went on to become his side's top scorer last season with 17 goals across all competitions and ended his campaign with a runner's up medal in the Scottish Cup final. Ciftci uses his frame and strength to great effect. The 22-year-old has experience of playing in England, Turkey and Holland and has also appeared for both Turkey and Holland at under-18 and under-19 levels respectively. The renewed responsibility falling on his shoulders after several first-team departures for United, could help him stand out as one of the more mature player this season.



Gary Mackay-Steven

A string of fine performances showcasing pace and flare from Gary Mackay-Steven over the past three years have helped him stand out as one of the most promising young Scottish talents. The 23-year-old attacker made his debut for United in a Europa League game against Polish side Slask Wroclaw in 2011 and made his league bow three days later. He notched his first goal for the club in a 3-3 draw with St Johnstone in August that same year and has gone on to score a further 22 times in total for his side across all domestic competitions. Mackay-Steven was nominated for Young Player of the Year in 2012/13 and was called up for the Scotland squad for the World Cup qualifiers against Wales the same year. He enjoyed a successful 2013/14 season and kicked off the current campaign with a well-taken goal against Aberdeen in the opening fixture as his side ran out 3-0 winners at Pittodrie.



Stuart Armstrong

Midfielder Stuart Armstrong shone brightly among the young stars at Dundee United last season. His composure in the middle of the park and in front of goal saw him create 11 goals for his team-mates and notch up the same number of strikes of his own by the end of the 2013/14 season. The 22-year-old is comfortable on his right or left foot and proved that when he scored against Celtic in a 1-1 draw last season. After collecting a lofted pass from Ciftci, Armstrong controlled well and rounded Fraser Forster before slotting home with his left. He was also integral in his side's progression to the Scottish Cup final against St Johnstone with a goal against Rangers in the semi-final. His trickery, control with both feet and range of passes make him a danger from most areas of the park.



Paul Paton

Paul Paton followed his manager Jackie McNamara when he moved from Partick Thistle to Dundee United and hasn't looked back since. The 27-year-old is a regular starter for the Tayside team and has enjoyed his move from right-back to central-midfield, putting his attacking and defensive capabilities to good use in equal measure. The former Thistle player made 38 league appearances for United last year and five in the Scottish Cup. He also chipped in with two goals in the 2013/14 campaign, one of which was against Aberdeen in a 1-1 draw. He played his part too in his side's progression to the Scottish Cup final but was substituted late on. Paton was born in Scotland but plays for Northern Ireland and won his first call-up to the full international squad for a friendly against Cyprus in March this year. His run in the United squad has seen him rack up more than 250 professional appearances and is now regarded as a senior player in McNamara's young side.

4



John Rankin

Once on Manchester United's books as a trainee, 31-year-old midfielder John Rankin has found himself at home in Tayside. Displaying versatility in the centre of the pitch, Rankin has become a mainstay of McNamara's squad and is one of the main senior members of the team. He signed for Dundee United in May 2011 following a successful spell at Hibernian, where he played alongside a number of blossoming talents, including Stephen Fletcher. Prior to that, Rankin found himself moving between the two Highland sides with two years at Inverness CT preceded by three at Ross County. He has clocked up 340 professional appearances in his time in the game, scoring 40 goals in the process, and featured for United in their 3-0 win over Aberdeen last week. Rankin's most important strike last season came against Kilmarnock with the sides tied at 2-2. He scored the winner for the Arabs late in the second half to secure the vital points which went on to allow his side to finish fourth in the league.

5



Mario Bilate

Making his first-team debut only last weekend, Russian-born Mario Bilate joined Dundee United at the end of July to bolster their attacking options. Starting his career at Xerxes DZB in Holland in 2010, 23-year-old Bilate scored seven goals in 10 appearances, which attracted the attention of fellow Dutch side Sparta Rotterdam. He went on to continue his scoring exploits for Rotterdam, bagging 17 in 77 games before a move to Dundee United was sealed this summer. The striker fits in with the Tayside team's style of buying young with an aim to develop and will join several other new recruits at Tannadice as United look to rebuild their team following a number of summer departures. He stands at 6' 3", offering United a different option up front, but he also has pace and skill in his locker.

6



THE TEAM

GOALKEEPERS

Radoslaw Cierznia
Marc McCallum
Michal Szromnik
Joe McGovern

DEFENDERS

Sean Dillon
Conor Townsend
Jon Souttar
Jaroslaw Fojut
Keith Watson
Callum Morris
Mark Wilson
Calum Butcher
Blair Spittal

MIDFIELDERS

Paul Paton
Nadir Ciftci
John Rankin
Stuart Armstrong
Gary Mackay-Steven
Michael Gardyne
Chris Erskine
Aidan Connolly
Darren Petrie
Charlie Telfer
Scott Smith
Scott Fraser

STRIKERS

Brian Graham
Ryan Dow
Mario Bilate
Jordan Moore
Kudus Oyenuga

THE MANAGER

Jackie McNamara



LAST SEASON v DUNDEE UNITED

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2013
DUNDEE UNITED 0-1 CELTIC
(STOKES 87)

A LATE Anthony Stokes free-kick sealed the three points for Celtic with a 1-0 win against Dundee United at Tannadice just three days after they sealed a place in the group stages of the UEFA Champions League by beating Shakhtar Karagandy 3-0 in the UEFA Champions League play-off. It was a hard-fought battle in Tayside, and the Hoops had to be patient for the goal, but it came in the form of a delightful curling effort from the edge of the box three minutes from full-time.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2013
CELTIC 1-1 DUNDEE UNITED
(MULGREW 90+2; ARMSTRONG 38)

A DRAMATIC stoppage-time header from Charlie Mulgrew gave Celtic a share of the points against Dundee United, and maintained the Hoops' unbeaten record in the Scottish Premiership. Stuart Armstrong handed the visiting side the lead shortly before half-time but the Hoops battled their way towards a late second-half equaliser and it eventually came seconds from the end. As the clock ticked into stoppage-time Celtic refused to give up and pulled the crucial goal back at the death. Mulgrew's header at the back post sailed beyond Cierzniaik.





SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2014
DUNDEE UNITED 0-2 CELTIC
 (SAMARAS 5, STOKES 24)

FIRST-HALF goals from Georgios Samaras and Anthony Stokes sealed a comfortable 2-0 victory for Celtic over Dundee United at Tannadice. The Greek striker's controlled finish from Kris Commons' free-kick put the visitors into an early lead and Stokes added a second following a flowing attack. After that, Neil Lennon's men never looked in danger of surrendering their lead in an authoritative display.



SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2014
CELTIC 3 - 1 DUNDEE UNITED
 (STOKES 64, SAMARAS 76,
 COMMONS 82; TWARDZIK og 76)





CELTIC turned on the style in the second half to dispatch Dundee United 3-1 in Paradise and finish their fantastic season with a flourish. Anthony Stokes' header - the Hoops' 100th goal of the campaign - and a Georgios Samaras penalty put the champions in charge after a low-key opening 45 minutes. Filip Twardzik's unfortunate own goal gave the visitors a glimmer of hope but Kris Commons' cheeky finish sealed the victory as the party got into full swing. It was the perfect prelude to the trophy presentation which followed after the final whistle as Scott Brown was handed the Scottish Premiership prize by Celtic greats John Hartson and Stiliyan Petrov and held it aloft for a third successive season.



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Paying tribute to The Mighty Quinn



Celtic Graves Society event for legendary goalscorer

THE latest Celtic Graves Society event took place this morning, Saturday, August 16 and paid tribute to the legendary goalscorer, Jimmy Quinn.

The event took place at Kilsyth Cemetery and Fergus McCann was one of the guest speakers at the event.

Other speakers were Lisbon Lion Jim Craig, Celtic historian, Terry Dick, and writer, David Potter, while a blessing at the graveside was conducted by Father Tracey of St Patrick's Church, Kilsyth.

As a centre-forward, Jimmy Quinn was a peerless player, with no apparent weakness to his game. Brave, quick, great aerial prowess, excellent awareness, nimble feet, and with a power-packed precision shot.

His unrivalled ability as a centre-forward was perfectly illustrated in the Scottish Cup final of 1904 when he bagged a hat-trick at Hampden as Celtic came from 2-0 down to defeat Rangers 3-2.

The fearsome firepower of this humble man from Croy was the foundation upon which a glorious era in Celtic's history was built. With the magnificent and rampaging Quinn terrorising opponents, Celtic were to win six league championships in succession, as well as adding four Scottish Cups to their haul of silverware. The player was also capped 11 times for Scotland.

Knee trouble eventually brought an end to this memorable of careers, but not before this former collier boy made an eternal impression on football history and in the hearts of all Celtic fans for generations to come.

Jimmy Quinn played 331 times for Celtic and scored 216 goals. He passed away in 1945, and Willie Maley penned a fitting valedictory on the Celtic legend - 'He was the keystone in the greatest team Celtic ever had.'

For further information see: www.celticgraves.com or on Twitter @CelticGraves



Cowie Bhoys rides off into sunset

EDMUND Hamill from Cowie went home from Murrayfield TWELVE THOUSAND POUNDS better off thanks to the Paradise Windfall.

Edmund took his young daughter, Sophie to her first ever Celtic game and watched on at half-time as seven-year-old Cara McMaster from Balomock drew out his E1895 ticket.

The other winning tickets in the Paradise Windfall which is sponsored by The Kitchen Depot were A2410, G2406' E1560 and F2645.



Ben and Rebecca lead out the Hoops

HOOPY made the trip through to Edinburgh last week and teamed up with out mascots for the game against Legia Warsaw.

The lucky pair of eight-year-olds were Ben Lang from Livingston and Rebecca Rutherford from Cambuslang.

The youngsters led out the Hoops with skipper Charlie Mulgrew before taking in the action from the main stand at BT Murrayfield.

THE BHOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

Charlie Mulgrew is delighted to be running out at Paradise for the first time this season

Exclusive interview: Mark Henderson

THERE is no place like home, especially when it's a place called Paradise. And stand-in skipper Charlie Mulgrew is eagerly anticipating a return to Celtic Park in today's first home league fixture of the season against Dundee United.

For three long months the Bhoys have vacated the premises as it took centre stage for the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony.

Watched by millions around the globe, it was another memorable moment in the history of this hallowed ground.

But it meant the Scottish champions were forced to temporarily relocate to the BT Murrayfield Stadium in the capital for their early-season European matches.

Although the Hoops faithful turned up in great numbers and provided brilliant backing in the capital, nothing can recreate the aura and atmosphere of Celtic Park. And Mulgrew admits he can't wait to experience it again on the day the league flag is unfurled ahead of kick off.

"It's definitely been a while so it's great to get back and have the fans turn out in their numbers and get behind us as they usually do - it's brilliant to be back at home," he told the matchday programme in an exclusive interview.

"It's a bit weird that it's been so long but it makes us look forward to it even more as we haven't been here in a while.

"We had to play at Murrayfield and you have to get on with it, but the place you want to play is Celtic Park so hopefully the crowd turn out and we play well.

"It's a better stadium as the crowd is closer to the pitch and it seems to generate a better atmosphere so we are all looking forward to it.

"It will be a big day, it's always a good day to unveil the flag, but the most important thing is getting the win and playing well."

The driving force behind the building of the modern Celtic Park was Fergus McCann and, fittingly, he will have the honour of raising the flag this afternoon as the club celebrates its 45th championship.

It was 'The Bunnet' who stepped in to save Celtic back in March, 1994, before transforming the club's fortunes on and off the park and ushering in a new era of success. His most visible legacy is the 60,000, all-seated stadium that towers above the East End of the city.

And delighted to see Fergus back in Paradise, Mulgrew knows he will receive a well-deserved rapturous reception as he takes to the field.

"I have spoken about him before - Fergus was massive for this club, although some people didn't realise it at the time.

"It shows now what a great job he did for the club and everyone is very thankful for the security he gave Celtic.

"He's a huge part of our history. He brought Celtic away from the brink and did a great job. The club can never forget him and it's great they are bringing him back. It's great he's willing to come back and show his support for the club and the club likewise towards him."





This will provide the prelude to the main event on the pitch and the stand-in skipper is determined to carry on with a flourish by collecting three points, particularly in the wake of some disappointing results in European competition.

"It's massive and it's what everybody wants to do - get off to a good start and create some momentum, especially after the bad results recently," he said.

"We want to give everyone a lift. That will be our aim. At home you want to pick up points. We have always had a good home record and we want to continue that.

"I don't want to put too much pressure on everyone but we obviously want to win the league and do well domestically, better than we did last year," he added.

"You always have that aim at the start of every season and hopefully we can also improve in the cups this year and do well in Europe."

However, the 28-year-old is expecting a stern examination from Jackie McNamara's side, who started their campaign with an impressive 3-0 victory away to Aberdeen.

Although the Hoops harvested a 3-1 home win over the Terrors in the final match of last season, Mulgrew knows only a top performance will net maximum reward.

"That performance wasn't great that day if I remember rightly," he said. "We got a good result but we could have done better, and we will be looking to improve again to get a similar outcome.

"They are a good all-round team with some stand-out players. They will be difficult to play against and Jackie is a good manager who has got them playing well and we will have to match that.

"Every team raises their game coming to Celtic Park and

We had to play at Murrayfield but the place you want to play is Celtic Park so hopefully the crowd turn out and we play well

INTERVIEW



United will be the same, so we are going to have to match that and get the result."

Despite the departure of Ryan Gauld and Andrew Robertson in the summer, the Tannadice side can still count on the likes of Stuart Armstrong, Gary Mackay-Steven and Nadir Cifci.

Having strengthened their squad with some shrewd signings, Mulgrew believes they are set for another successful season.

"They play good football under Jackie and it's going to be a difficult match," he said. "Obviously Gauld is away now but there is Mackay-Steven and Stuart Armstrong and others.

"They have lost some good players but they have brought some good ones in so I'm sure they will do well in the league again this season and be up there."

The Boys' squad was also boosted this week with the arrivals of Jason Denayer and Aleksandar Tonev on season-long loan deals, though goalkeeper Fraser Forster departed for English Premier League side Southampton.

"Jason has trained with us and looked good and it was good to get some reinforcements in, especially after Fraser leaving," said Mulgrew. "It's good to see new faces and it will definitely freshen things up a bit."

And the Scotland internationalist paid tribute to Forster, who leaves with everyone's best wishes after a fantastic four years in Paradise.

"He has been magnificent," said Mulgrew. "He came in here as a young player and left as an outstanding goalkeeper, one of the best in Europe in my opinion. He's certainly the best I have played with.

"I am very thankful for what he did for the club and how good he was behind us in defence. He made a great all-round contribution and we wish him all the best as he moves on.

"We all want to see him do well and I have no doubts he will as he is a great goalkeeper. He has joined a good club and I'm sure he will thrive there, and we will definitely keep in touch."

CAPTAIN'S CALL

CHARLIE Mulgrew says it's a privilege to don the armband for Celtic in Scott Brown's absence through injury – but he wants to start leading the Hoops to more positive results on the pitch after the below-par performances in continental competition.

"It's great and an honour to be captain of a club like Celtic," he said. "It will be even better when we start getting a few better results and get playing well, though.

"Scott Brown is a great captain and there have been great captains down the years at this club so just to follow in their footsteps is a huge honour and I'm enjoying it.

"You try not to change things too much as you just want to do what you are doing as hopefully they are the reasons you were chosen as captain. So you try not to think too much about it and get on with things as normal."



TANNADICE TONIC

CHARLIE Mulgrew believes his six-month loan spell at Dundee United as a youngster helped accelerate his development as a footballer.

The Scotland internationalist was only 19 when he headed to Tayside on a temporary move from Celtic in search of competitive action.

And the 28-year-old will always be grateful to those at Tannadice who made him feel so welcome during that period in his career.

"I made my competitive debut there and I managed to play 12 or 13 games that season with them which was massive as it introduced me to senior football," he explained. "To play at that level at such a young age was great and it definitely opened my eyes up and made me a much better player.

"I always thank them for giving me my opportunity. It was a great club. There were really good people in charge and all the backroom staff were great people as well, and I can't speak highly enough of them during my time there."



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HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Fergus McCann will raise the league flag this afternoon, here he looks forward to his return to Paradise

Exclusive interview: Paul Cuddihy

TODAY the league flag will be raised over Paradise as Celtic celebrate their 45th championship before the first home game of the new Premiership campaign, against Dundee United.

And a very special guest of honour will raise the flag inside a stadium that he was instrumental in building.

It was Fergus McCann who stepped in to save the club back in March 1994, and while the strength of the club both on and off the park owes much to the foundations he laid, the magnificent Celtic Park stadium stands in the East End of Glasgow as a visible sign of what he did for the club.

Ahead of today's Flag Day celebrations, Fergus spoke to the *Celtic View* about the occasion.

How much are you looking forward to coming back to Celtic Park for Flag Day?

It's been too long since I have been to a home game and I have missed the great feeling of being in the crowd at Celtic Park. I have rarely used my seats so I can't wait to be back there.

How proud are to be following in the footsteps of Sean Fallon and John Keane, who've both raised the flag in the previous two seasons?

I feel greatly honoured by the invitation. Sean Fallon was a Celtic legend and was a positive influence at the club, long after his great playing career was over. And I hold John Keane in the highest regard - he is an unsung hero in the great commitments he has made to Celtic. He was a resolute and valued partner in the refinancing and progress of the club in the 1990s.

What are you looking forward to most about the day?

Just being there among the other supporters - and to meet up with former colleagues from my time at the club. And, of course, being part of the celebration of another League Championship.

You're also attending a Celtic Graves Society event in Croy for Jimmy Quinn. Was he an important figure in your childhood because of where he came from and what he did for Celtic?

Jimmy Quinn's grandson was in the same class at

school with me (a long time ago) so, of course, I heard the stories. And he was a coalminer from Croy, like many of my fellow members in the supporters' club. So I heard more stories as I grew up.

Who were your Celtic heroes growing up?

The player that remains in my mind is the late Bobby Evans - a great player who could put his stamp on a game. And part of the half-back line of Evans, Stein and Peacock. And, of course, Willie Fernie was great entertainment.

Do you enjoy just being a supporter now or have there been occasions over the years when you've missed the day-to-day involvement at the club?

I enjoy (perhaps not always the right word!) being a supporter, and try to stay abreast of news at the club. The day-to-day involvement during my time there had some great moments - and challenges. I have moved on from that. After doing what I could, I am very pleased that Celtic is now a very well-run club - it has progressed greatly under excellent leadership. Given its difficult circumstances in the small, Scottish environment, I feel that many supporters don't fully realise how much has been accomplished in recent years. How many of UEFA's 54 countries, many bigger than Scotland, had teams in the Champions League last season?

With Celtic FC Foundation continuing to go from strength to strength, are you pleased that the central role of charity that you emphasised at the club is continuing to be fostered?

I'm delighted that the charitable arm of Celtic has grown so much - and is doing great work. Like every supporter, I am proud of it and the fact it helps to make Celtic more than a football club. We should all find a way to contribute and participate, even in a small way.

Celtic Park hosted the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, with an estimated one billion people watching the event on TV. Was there a sense of pride that such a global audience was getting to see the stadium you built in all its glory on such an occasion?

There sure was. I watched the event on Canadian TV. It was a great thing for Glasgow and Scotland - and added to the image and status of Celtic.

Is it possible to say what your proudest achievement at Celtic was?

I like to think I had a hand in helping restore the pride that supporters want to feel in the club they own. They want to be proud of the club - that's it.

What are your hopes for the future for Celtic?

I hope to see Celtic grow to be a bigger force in football, in line with its great support and in a bigger and better league... and the sooner the better.





THE MAN McCANN

He arrived like a million dollar hero in a five and ten cent store when Celtic Football Club was on its knees. That the club now stands tall is down to the vision of a Bhoys from Croy

Words: Joe Sullivan

"ENTREPRENEURS are risk takers, willing to roll the dice with their money or reputation on the line in support of an idea or enterprise. They willingly assume responsibility for the success or failure of a venture and are answerable for all its facets. The buck not only stops at their desks, it starts there too."

Fergus McCann on Fergus McCann? No. The words quoted come from the many celebrated soundbites of millionaire businessman Victor Kiam, the man who famously liked the product so much he bought the company.

In Kiam's case the company manufactured electric shavers but even his renowned product couldn't come anywhere near the close shave Celtic Football Club found themselves facing 20 years ago on the cold and unwelcoming morning of March 4, 1994.

The face staring back from the mirror was old, lined

with wrinkles through years of mismanagement and in the advanced stage of archaic neglect.

It was showing its age and with the scythe of Old Father Time vying with the sickle of The Grim Reaper to deliver the final cut, nothing less than a cut-throat razor would be sharp enough to get in there first and shear away the grey hairs that grew more fankled and knotted with each passing day.

However, the days had now shrank to minutes and with High Noon rapidly approaching and the seconds ticking away, the final blow was delivered by a blade that cut a three-decade corridor from Croy via Canada to Celtic Park.

Just four years previously he first approached the club with an offer to invest. That and others were rejected but in true Kiam style, Fergus McCann liked the product so much he bought the company and it wasn't just McCann who emulated Kiam's





entrepreneurism - every Celtic supporter would be a 'Victor'.

McCann stepped in with his very own personal 'reality cheque' to save the club by signing away nearly 70 per cent of his own fortune and invested £9.4million in what many thought was a cumbersome and unprofitable white elephant.

The fact that the club had gone beyond its £5million overdraft limit with the Bank of Scotland was there in black and white. But that barely told the story as the club's fortunes dwindled both on and off the park and a way of life for countless thousands was just seven minutes from being no more.

The Souness Revolution at Ibrox was in full swing by the time Celtic approached their centenary year but Billy McNeill rallied the troops and the magnificent and historic double was captured in season 1987/88.

The Scottish Cup was retained the following season but the Ibrox side made inroads with the other two domestic trophies as the Celtic board failed to release funds to build on the success of the club's 100th birthday.

On the other side of the city, Rangers were spending money like it was going out of fashion by spreading their wings and purchasing power outwith the parochialism of Scottish football.

They had an all-seated stadium and Celtic were being left behind on all fronts. As foreign names increasingly became the norm, unrest was stirring among the Celtic faithful as the only unfamiliar names we were subject to were Gefinor and Jaymarke.

Still, the emergence of such strange monikers from the business world had only strengthened the Celtic support's growing obsession with the off-field practices of the club.

The murmur of that unrest gradually grew to a crescendo as fan power on the barely covered concrete terracings reacted to the 'Celtic in Crisis' headlines, partnered with the cracked Celtic crest, becoming an almost daily occurrence in the press.

The fans had long had their patience stretched by the Kelly/White dynasty and that equanimity was now at breaking point. But it wasn't only weeds that arose through the cracks in the hallowed slopes of Paradise, supporters' groups such as Celts For Change and Save Our Celts sprung up...

And just as vast empty spaces exposed the unwanted plant life to the nourishing elements, the ground-level focus groups nurtured in the pro-team/anti-board zeitgeist.

The Cambuslang exit plan reared its ugly head from the polluted spare ground of the Lanarkshire town just a few miles from Celtic Park, this and





» other brainstorms such as appointing Terry Cassidy as Chief Executive had, to put it mildly, left a lot to be desired.

Those questioning the morality and motives of the board had been dubbed 'malcontents' by the power brokers and 'custodians' of the club, but those dissenters had long since ceased to be the vocal minority.

The silent majority were also becoming restless and the previously inactive became reactive and then proactive as the tables turned and those who backed the board became the vocal minority.

Something had to be done. But what? There were a few avenues to be considered and all had the same destination - a stable and financially sound Celtic - but each avenue had its own potholes and shaky bridges to be traversed.

There were a few names in the hat, not least being the old board and the fear that they would survive the battering and carry on at Paradise, Cambuslang or elsewhere.

When push came to shove though, on March 4, 1994 only one hat was left in the ring and it was bunnet-shaped.

The wily Scots/Canadian businessman had put his money where his notably and unashamedly acerbic mouth was and not only set himself a seemingly impossible task list, but gave himself a set time limit

of five years to achieve said assignments.

The task list indeed was deemed impossible by many but one man had total faith in the vision and that man was Fergus McCann.

The to-do schedule was daunting to say the least - overseeing a Share Issue to open up the club to the supporters and building a 60,000 all-seated stadium were just two jobs to be taken care of and both were placed high on the impossible list by the many doubters.

Celtic supporters were historically wary of board influence on the club and would naturally be averse to pumping in their own money even if the Kelly/White dynasty had breathed its last...

And in recent years Celtic crowds had rarely fluctuated above the 30,000 mark so demolishing the crumbling stadium to seat twice that number would be a massive gamble.

Gambling though, is not a word that rests easily in the McCann vocabulary and it is something he continually refused to admit he was guilty of, or even party to, throughout his tenure at Celtic Park.

If there was anything he was guilty of then that was possession of acute tunnel vision and an unstinting belief that he was right.

Prior to the historic takeover, fan boycotts resulted in dwindling crowds and barely 10,000 clicked through the turnstiles when Celtic played host to





Kilmarnock on February 26 - the last home game pre-takeover...

For the next home game against Motherwell on March 26, a crowd of 36,199 rolled up to Celtic Park to welcome and celebrate the new regime. The fact that the Bhoys defeated Kilmarnock 1-0 but lost to the Fir Park side by the same scoreline mattered little in the big picture - a new dawn was gleaming over Paradise and things would never be quite the same again.

McCann's tunnel vision was focused on the light at the end of it and the green-tinged glow would, task by task as each was accomplished, blind the doubters.

It is only with hindsight in times like today, 20 years from the day he first sat in the hot seat at Parkhead, that McCann's vision has been truly recognised.

It would be plainly futile though to suggest that everything in the garden was rosy during McCann's five-year stint.

Ironically, it was in the five years since he departed that the real fruits of his labour and steadfast resolve in doing things his own way have blossomed in a way few, if any, thought imaginable on March 4, 1994.

He had vowed that the previous incumbents would receive 'Not one thin dime' following the

takeover. That may not have turned out exactly the way he wanted it but he was rarely wrong from then on in.

The Share Issue proved to be a resounding success and, indeed, it was oversubscribed in raising £4.5million above the forecast £8.5million.

After 106 years of waiting, the Celtic support reacted in droves over the eight-week Share Issue with 10,000 supporters raising an unexpected £13million.

This came at a time when McCann had demolished three-quarters of Celtic Park while the team annexed Hampden Park for the duration of the 1994/95 term.

Season by season, each of the three stands at Paradise rose like the Phoenix from the ashes of the old regime.

Bhoys Against Bigotry was another initiative driven by the mercurial McCann. A scheme lauded by many but the fractured complexity of the project was splintered further as the original aims were misunderstood.

McCann openly championed the singing of The Fields of Athenry and had stated that he had no argument with The Soldiers Song being sung at Celtic Park, but the attempted elimination of other refrains from the Celtic Park repertoire fuelled accusations of an ant-Irish agenda.





» Not for the first time, nor the last, banners appeared in the stadium of an anti-board nature, but against other forces McCann had the undenied and complete backing of the Celtic support...

The signing of Jorge Cadete from Sporting Lisbon could, and should, have been an automatic fait accompli but Jim Farry, then the SFA's Chief Executive, thought otherwise but didn't reckon with McCann's single-mindedness and passion for justice.

Where the old board would have wilted and accepted the inevitable, McCann pursued rectitude with vigour - Farry was found guilty of delaying the transfer, for whatever reason, and was subsequently sacked.

He also revitalised the club's charitable origins with the Celtic Charity Fund and cutely played the philanthropic card when the Champions League bonus row blew up in 1998 by donating any money the players would have earned to Yorkhill Hospital.

Never one to suffer fools gladly in any capacity, he was something of an oxymoron in that sharp as he was, he was interminably blunt with everyone from press to players to employees and he didn't care who knew it.

With that in mind it's understandable that, even though he may not have planned it that way, his

five-year plan would go through almost as many managers

Lou Macari, Tommy Burns and Wim Jansen departed the Celtic Park payroll while Dr Jo Venglos also arrived during McCann's remit.

But, in-between times, he had employed Jock Brown in another move that divided the support and it in doing that he diverted much of the flack with the new General Manager now in the firing line.

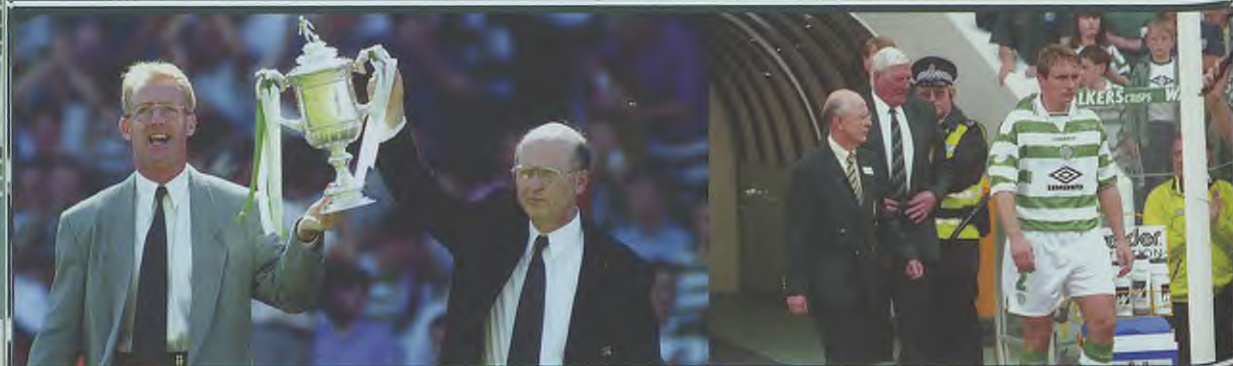
So much has happened since Fergus McCann walked in to Celtic Park that it just doesn't seem like 20 years.

Inside that five-year plan he delivered everything he had promised and all three domestic trophies has been lifted but, ironically, it is in the 15 years since he left that he can be fully appreciated.

He arrived in a bunnet and left in a fedora but to quote Victor Kiam again: "Entrepreneurs are simply those who understand that there is little difference between obstacle and opportunity and are able to turn both to their advantage."

Kiam died on May 29, 2001 - just three days earlier a rejuvenated Celtic had beaten Hibernian 3-0 at Hampden to complete a remarkable Treble in Martin O'Neill's first season in charge...

Obstacle and opportunity indeed.





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BRAIN-BUSTERS

FOOTBALLERS MASH-UP

Which pairs of famous faces have been mixed up?

1



1. One is the captain of Celtic... the other is captain of Liverpool!

2



2. Both of these great goalkeepers have beaten Barcelona, and went to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil...

3



3. Can you make out the two current Celtic stars?

MY FOOTBALL IDOL



Adam Matthews says... I'd have to say Steven Gerrard. Being a Liverpool fan I've grown up watching him and he's been their best player over the last 10 years. I like the way he plays, and I think he is a great role model for every young footballer so it would be interesting to speak to him and see what he has to say. I played against him in Dublin and that was a bit weird. When we were in the tunnel I think I was just staring at him. It was a great experience though and at least now I can say I have played against him, even if it was just a friendly. I asked for his shirt but Fraser Forster already had it.



EDINBURGH'S GREEN AND WHITE FOR MASCOTS

TWO Young Hoops Club members had the time of their lives when they led out Celtic at the home for Scottish rugby for the first time ever.

Celtic's UEFA Champions League qualifier second leg against KR Reykjavik went ahead at BT Murrayfield and nine-year-old Ben McAspurn and seven-year-old Reuben Young helped skipper for the night, Charlie Mulgrew, with all of the pre-match preliminaries.

Both Edinburgh Bhoys then took to some of the best seats in the stand to watch the Hoops beat the Icelandic side 4-0 for a 5-0 aggregate win.



YOUNG HOOPS CLUB OPEN FOR THE NEW SEASON

OUR Young Hoops Club is looking ahead to a successful 2014/15, with membership now open for the new season.

The Young Hoops Club provides each of our members with a number of excellent and exclusive benefits over the course of the season, as we aim to engage with some of our youngest fans during the early stages of their journey as supporters.

Among the benefits included in the membership - available for young supporters aged 0-3 and 4-14 years - is a Celtic goody bag worth £20, 10% discount at club stores, a discount on stadium tours, exclusive competitions, and a 'kids eat free' offer in our Number 7 Restaurant here at Celtic Park.

Members in the 4-14 years old category also have a chance to be an official mascot for a game here, or to be a ball Bhoys/Chirl for a day.

A further key benefit of Young Hoops Club membership is the opportunity to attend various exclusive club events throughout the season, including seasonal parties, and special coaching and open events.

This season we'll also be featuring some special Young Hoops Club content in the pages of the Celtic View, and in our matchday programmes, with members encouraged to send in any pictures of themselves in their colours at Celtic Park, any club events or even at home, which we'll then feature. Members and their parents/guardians are advised to email images to us at marketing@celticfc.co.uk

Priced at just £15 for 0-3 years membership, and £18 for 4-14 year olds, youngsters can be signed up for 2014/15 Young Hoops Club membership at any of our Celtic stores across the country, or online at www.celticfc.net/pages/younghoops

We look forward to welcoming you and your Bhoys and Chirls back for the season ahead.

TOP FIVE KIDS' QUIZ

QUIZZY RASCAL

1. Which Scottish club did goalkeeper Craig Gordon used to play for?
2. What country do KR Reykjavik come from?
3. Who has scored Celtic's away goals in Europe this season?
4. What is Dundee United's stadium called?
5. Who scored the winning goal for Germany in the 2014 World Cup final?



ROOM FOR DEVELOPMENT

Jamie Lindsay is one of a raft of youngsters hoping to benefit from the manager's youth policy

Exclusive Interview: Mark Henderson

TEENAGER Jamie Lindsay believes the appointment of Ronny Deila as manager has given the club's youth players renewed belief in their quest to make the grade at Celtic.

The Norwegian arrived in Paradise with a reputation of developing young talent at former employers Stromsgodset and he declared his intention to follow a similar approach at the Scottish champions.

When the Development Side got their campaign underway against St Mirren last week, the Hoops boss was in the stand at Cappielow to take in the match.

And he will continue to closely monitor their progress during the rest of the season to see who is ready to make the step up to the first team.

"It will be a big thing this year as the coaching staff are taking a big interest in the youth games and one of them will be at every game so there is every chance for us to prove ourselves," Lindsay told the matchday programme in an exclusive interview.

"It always helps as you know if you are doing well enough then you are going to get a chance as the manager looks for youth, so it's always good to know

that if you are doing well you can get a reward from the manager."

Callum McGregor's elevation to the starting XI in the opening weeks of the campaign, following a series of impressive pre-season displays, has provided further encouragement.

"It gives the younger boys hope when you see people like that playing and training with the first team every day," added Lindsay.

"You know if you are doing well and if you get a chance and take it then you have an opportunity of being involved. We just have to keep working hard to prove our case to everybody."

The fast, attacking approach preferred by the management team has also found favour with Lindsay and his young colleagues.

"I played against Spurs and John Collins was there," he said. "It's been really enjoyable. Everything is high tempo and about passing which is the way want to play."

"We all press from the front as we don't want teams to settle on the ball so we all press high up the pitch and press from there.



"They want everything to be done at a tempo - the passing has to be sharp and fast. We have always tried to play like that but because there are new faces, everybody is up for a new challenge. It's been good."

And the 18-year-old knows he must keep persevering in training and in games to catch the eye of coaching staff.

"I will just keep playing away and working hard in training and hopefully I will get some rewards for it," he said. "I just need to keep my head down and keep working hard."

Lindsay lined up for the young Celts as they opened their league defence with a 1-1 draw against the St Mirren in Greenock.

Left to rue a number of spurned opportunities in that contest, Stevie Frail's side will be determined to bounce back with three points this week away to Dundee United.

"The first game of the season was everyone just getting back into the swing of things but we were obviously unhappy with the result," said Lindsay.

"We know Dundee United will be a hard game as they always have a good team. It's always a hard place to get a result at but we are all looking to bounce back and get a win."

"We created a lot of chances against St Mirren, but we need to be more clinical in front of goal and hopefully we can do that this week."

The trip to Tayside will evoke memories of the dramatic last-day title triumph at Tannadice in May for the young Hoops.

Requiring three points to seal a fifth successive title, goals from Lindsay and Paul McMullan in each half were enough to claim victory and the championship.

"Before my goal we were starting to panic a wee bit but it settled us down," recalled the midfielder. "In the second half we just tried to get a goal straight away to finish it off, as if knew it was only 1-0, they would still

You know if you are doing well and if you get a chance and take it then you have an opportunity of being involved

have a chance of getting a goal back.

"There was a stage in the season when we slipped up a few times and everyone was wondering if we would win it. But we all pulled together. We had to win our last three games - St Mirren, Rangers and Dundee United - and we managed that."

"It was a great day but before the game we were nervous as you are never guaranteed to win and you never know what can happen in football. But, thankfully, I got the goal and Paul scored in the second half to finish it, so it will be good going back there."

Although Lindsay made a decisive contribution in that crucial contest, he is looking to improve his goal tally over the coming campaign.

"The season before last, I went on a wee run and scored quite a lot of goals and scored in the cup final as well," he said.

"But sometimes last season, I was playing as the deepest midfielder of the three and didn't get as many so hopefully this year I can start scoring goals again and add that to my game."

The Bhoys will be targeting six-in-a-row this season and they are desperate not to relinquish their hold on the trophy.

"If you win the league then you want to win it the next year and the year after - you just want to keep being champions," said Lindsay.

"It's the same with the Youth Cup. Everyone was absolutely gutted last season when we were knocked out as we had won it for four years in a row, so hopefully this year we can try and get that back as well and it will be a good season with more trophies."

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THE Wee Green Book, or the 2014/15 Official Celtic Guide to give it its Sunday name is back on the shelves.

Packed with everything you want to know about the champions and their opponents for the coming season, it's the ideal pocket-sized companion for settling those arguments at the game or in your local.

It is the ultimate Celtic reference guide and everything about the club is packed into its 228 pages all for the amazing price of only £4 - see below for the jam-packed Celtic content.

The Celtic matchday programme has a batch to give away in an easy-to-enter competition and all you have to do is answer the following question?

Which side did Celtic beat to clinch the title last season?

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Debi's putting her best foot forward for Celtic FC Foundation

ON Sunday, October 5, the streets of Glasgow will be packed with thousands of runners taking part in the annual Great Scottish Run event.

As ever, many of the runners will be raising money for charity, and Celtic FC Foundation are set to benefit from the efforts of one supporter.

Liverpool and Celtic fan, Debi McMillan, is running the half-marathon on behalf of the Hillsborough Justice Campaign to raise funds for Celtic FC Foundation.

For Debi and the Campaign, it's another way of saying 'thank you' to the Celtic fans for the unwavering support they've shown during the campaign for Justice for the 96 and the survivors of the Hillsborough Disaster since 1989.

Debi said: "I signed up for the Great Scottish Run because I want to run in

places that I love. I've obviously ran in Liverpool, and with my husband, Paul, coming from Glasgow, it's my second home, I just wanted to run there.

"And after we did the walk round Celtic Park with the banner thanking the Celtic fans for all their support, I just thought it would be great to run for Celtic FC Foundation. So we had a meeting and the Hillsborough Justice Campaign thought it was a great idea.

"I've joined a running club so hopefully that will help me get my speed up a bit, but it's all about logging the miles just now.

"I've only been running for a year-and-a-half. I began by doing the Parkrun every Saturday, along with a friend, and I fell in love with it. You actually have to stop me from running now. On my rest days, I still want to get out there and run."



To donate to Debi McMillan's fundraising page, go to <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/debimcmillan1>



STARS SIGN UP FOR MAESTRIO MATCH

Heroes from on and off the pitch line up for charity extravaganza

FORMER Celtic striker Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink is among the latest players to join the likes of Jack Whitehall, Louis Tomlinson, James McAvoy and Martin Compston from the entertainment world along with Ryan Giggs, Phil Neville, Paul Scholes and Jamie Carragher for the MAESTRIO match on September 7.

Marc Overmars, Andy Cole, Martin Keown, Nicky Butt, Joe Cole and Jody Morris are also on Rio Ferdinand's All-Star teamsheet while a host of heroes from the Hoops will form Paul McStay's Maestros.

Lubo Moravcik

"I'm always happy to come back to Celtic Park because it's a great place and I have a lot of good memories of it."

James McAvoy

"We started as a charity and the fact that Celtic have managed to remain connected to those initial roots and the genesis of the club is amazing. It will be fantastic. Even if I only get on for five minutes, it's just an absolute honour to be invited."

Simon Donnelly

"For the guys like myself who have hung the boots up and want to go and play, if the crowd are there it just makes it all the more special."

Tom Boyd

"The success of the day will be determined by the fans turning out but we know they will. They are easily, by far, the best supporters in the world for giving to charities."

Jonathan Gould

"Some of us are very, very lucky to have had these opportunities so to be able to provide a path for someone that has a talent, such as Rio's charity and Celtic FC Foundation do, is fantastic."

Tosh McKinlay

"Hopefully on the day the people will be turning up for the charity and hopefully to see Celtic score a few goals."

Stiliyan Petrov

"I'm really looking forward to coming back and being part of this game and I'm also looking forward to seeing all the players who are going to be playing for Celtic and for Rio Ferdinand's All-Stars."

Jackie McNamara

"Fans will go along and enjoy the



day. I remember watching Paul as a kid but it's not until you actually train and play with him that you realise how influential he could be in a game. He was a fantastic player and captain for Celtic."

Peter Grant

"Playing alongside Paul for the amount of years I did, through good times and hard times, throughout it all we had a pride in pulling on the Hoops every week."

Harald Brattbakk

"I think the most important thing is to show everyone around the

club, the supporters, and even people who don't support the club or those who are not football fans that this is something we are going to go through with, especially with the history of Celtic."

Phil Neville

"The memories that I have of playing at Celtic Park are really special. People talk about the atmosphere and the support and you're always reading about it in the media and I have been fortunate to play there myself."

Jamie Carragher

"I'm delighted to be invited to play at Celtic Park. It brings back some great memories and it's nice to get the boots back on. More importantly, to play in a game that helps Celtic FC Foundation and Rio's Foundation is an honour."

Martin Compston

"To be playing in Paul McStay's team, who is one of my idols, will just be a phenomenal experience. It's unreal as a fan. It's going to be a great day again for the Maestro team."

Get your tickets for the MAESTRIO match



Paul McStay's Maestros take on Rio Ferdinand's All-Stars in the MAESTRIO match, sponsored by Flip and Magners, at Celtic Park on Sunday, September 7 and tickets are on sale now – maximum of 10 per person - priced at £10 for adults and £5 for concessions.

Tickets are also available to purchase at www.celticfc.net or by calling 0871 226 1888*** or by visiting the Celtic Ticket Office.

Premium tickets (£35) and corporate packages (£125) are also available by calling 0871 226 1888*** (Option 4) or emailing matchdayhospitality@celticfc.co.uk

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Going for Gold at Keppoch Campus

SUMMER Camps are a core part of Celtic FC Foundation's support for the young people in our communities.

One of our initiatives in this area is a joint programme with NG Homes and supports young people in the Possil and Springburn areas of Glasgow.

Following the success of the initiative last year, we teamed up again in 2014 for a five-week Camp based at Keppoch Campus School supporting over 100 young people in total over the period.

The area is home to a number of refugee and other recently settled families who are in particular need of support. The Summer Camp format also helps bring parents into a school environment and engage in educational, sports and healthy lifestyle activities.

This year's Summer Camp came to a close last week with a medals ceremony hosted with Team Jamaica Commonwealth Games athletes Kimberly Williams (Triple Jump Gold), D'Dayne Richards (Shot Put Gold) and Novlene Williams (Silver in the 400 metres).

Sadie Docherty, Lord Provost of Glasgow, said: "Putting young people first is a key focus for me in my term as Lord Provost.

"Our city has great potential and our young people are a great asset. I'd like to commend all of the parties in this project because it has had a positive effect on young people's lives but also because it brings together what can be achieved by making the best of the city's resources.

"Schools, foundations and community groups have come together in a programme which promotes citizenship, healthy choices in life and family engagement in education."

Celtic Chief Executive Peter Lawwell said: "Celtic fans and staff work hard to raise the funds which make our work with young people in Glasgow's communities possible.

"I want to pay tribute to those who make personal donations and those who attend our fundraising events and to the Celtic team on the ground at programmes such as this. Together with our partners we are helping to create better outcomes for young people across the city."

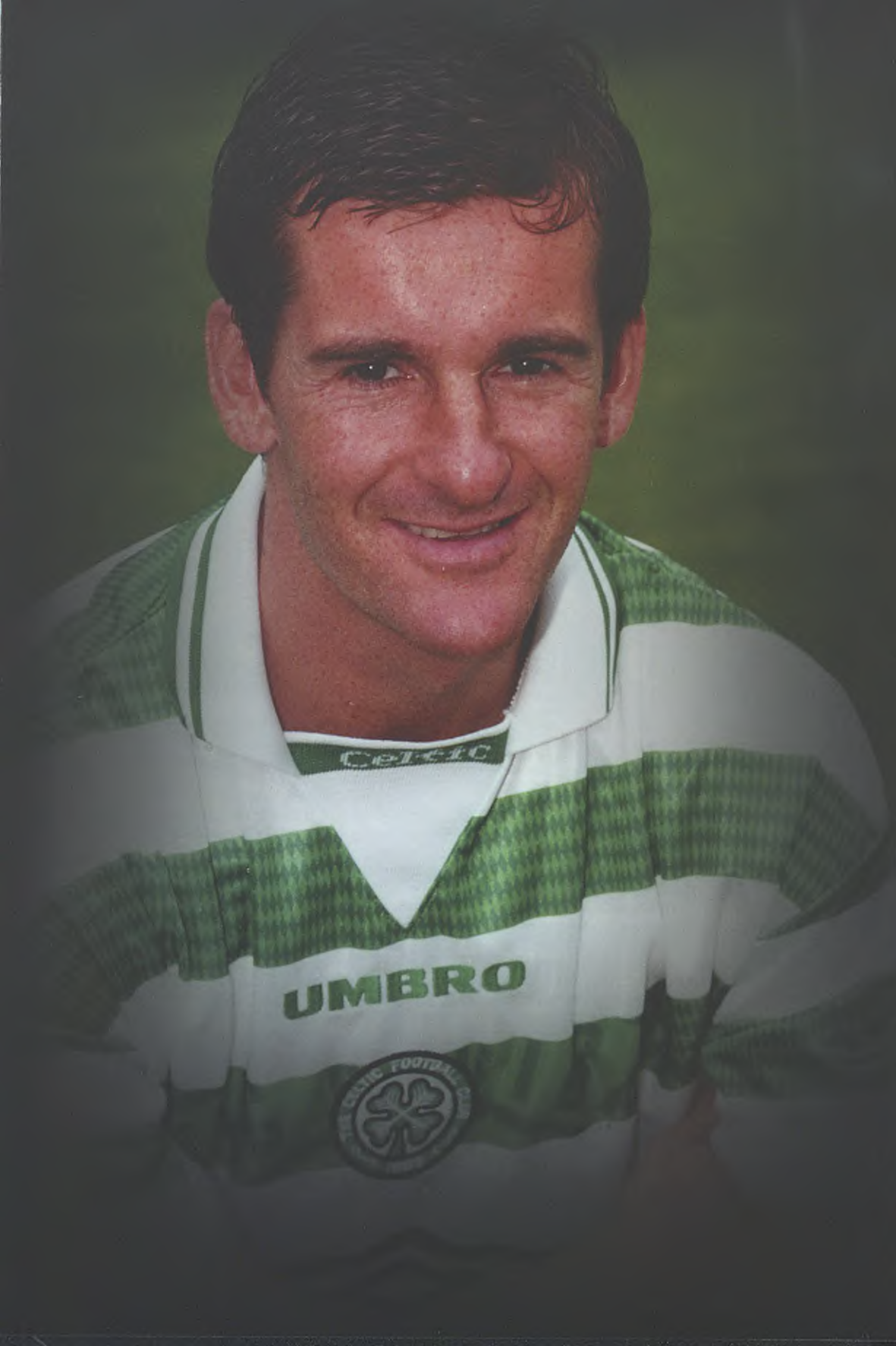
Evelyn Gibson, Head Teacher at Saracen Primary, one of the participating schools said: "This has been a great experience for a large number of families in our community.

"The event turns what would otherwise be a very challenging time for young people in this area into a very positive engagement with learning and sport."

D'Dayne Richards, who won Jamaica's first medal at Glasgow 2014, said: "It was really great to meet the children and hopefully inspire future generations of Commonwealth Champions.

"I think what NG Homes and Celtic FC Foundation are doing here is excellent and I enjoyed my visit".

Celtic FC Foundation thanks the Muriel Jones Foundation for their support for our Summer Camp work.



A CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Tosh McKinlay was part of the new team that ushered in success under Fergus McCann

Exclusive interview: **Mark Henderson**



TOSH McKinlay will always treasure being present in the early stages of Fergus McCann's Celtic revolution and he's delighted that 'The Bunnet' is returning to unfurl the league flag ahead of today's clash against Dundee United.

Signed from Hearts in November 1994 - eight months after McCann's takeover - the flying full-back symbolised the adventurous style of Tommy Burns' swashbuckling side with his enterprising runs down the flanks.

And it was from his cross in the Scottish Cup final of that season that Pierre van Hooijdonk headed home the winner against Airdrie to seal the club's first trophy in six long years.

That piece of silverware coupled with the redevelopment of Celtic Park - only possible thanks to incredible backing of the Hoops faithful in a record-breaking share issue - heralded a new era in Paradise. The gloom and despondency had lifted and been replaced with hope and excitement.

As a player and a lifelong Celtic supporter, the former Scotland internationalist is proud to have played his part on the park in this momentous moment in the club's history and watch all the success that followed.

And no one will cheer louder than the 49-year-old this afternoon as a third successive championship is celebrated in Paradise.

Are you pleased to see Fergus coming back to Paradise on this special occasion?

It's great he's coming back as I was obviously there at the time of the revolution, when I was one of the first signings as part of the new regime. I think he will get a good reception coming back and everyone knows what he

has done. I was in at the stadium the other day and when you look around the place, it's a fantastic arena. But it's not just him. The punters have to take a lot of credit as well for the biggest share issue in Britain. As part of that, he was leading the ship in terms of trying to push it forward. He, along with the supporters, did a magnificent job.

What it was like joining the club at that time when the club was undergoing its transformation?

It was a dream come true for me. Tommy Burns was obviously trying to build a team to try and stop the runaway train that was Rangers at that time. The team he assembled played the best football since the Lions. Unfortunately, we didn't win the league and you are deemed a failure because of that. But the platform that Tommy Burns, the directors and the team built was for everybody else following on - the modern Celtic you see now. But the platform and the foundations were laid by the directors - Fergus McCann, Eric Reilly, John Keane, people like that. They identified that Celtic had to be pushed forward. Tommy Burns brought the passion and enthusiasm back, along with the football we played. So I think it was set in place for the modern Celtic which is what you are seeing now.

As a Celtic supporter, you must have been delighted to see the restoration of the club following a period of stagnation and underachievement?

Absolutely, I wouldn't change my time for anything there. Obviously, when Rangers got eight it was our best opportunity and in the 1995/96 season we only lost one >

EX- PLA- YER

Tosh McKinlay



> game yet didn't win the league so that sticks in the throat. But I wouldn't change it for anything. Looking back to the start of the revolution, Hampden wasn't the best but at the end of that season we ended the barren spell there after not winning a trophy for six seasons. I had a wee hand in van Hooijdonk's goal which earned us our first trophy in six seasons, so it wasn't all bad at Hampden. Then we went back to Celtic Park and the new North Stand was opened up against Newcastle United with Rod Stewart, Billy Connolly and everyone else there. It was really great. The only thing I would change would be winning the league as I felt Tommy Burns' team deserved it. But it was a great spell because the punters were back in droves, we were playing great football, we were back chasing Rangers - it was a fantastic period to be playing as whole rebuilding process was taking place. I always look back on that with great pride.

Given it was such a seminal moment in Celtic's new history, your contribution for Pierre van Hooijdonk's winner in the 1995 Scottish Cup final will never be forgotten. How does that make you feel?

It wasn't the best final in the world but I would rather be going up the steps at Hampden having won the cup than playing good football and being a runner-up. The goal came very early and we thought it would settle us down and we would go on to win by three or four that day. But one was enough. It was great to be part of that. I had been at Hampden with my Dad and my Grandda to see Celtic lifting all sorts of trophies, the first being against Hibs when we beat them 6-3 and Dixie scored a hat-trick. You always dream that one day you would get an opportunity like that and thankfully that day I did. It was great to see Paul McStay lifting the trophy, his first as captain. He had taken the club on his shoulders and been through the great times and the barren spells. It was brilliant to see him lift that trophy and it was fantastic for everybody concerned. Getting over that hurdle of winning something again built the foundations for other teams following on. Now Celtic play in a fantastic stadium and are in a great position as the No.1 team in Scotland. I was quite happy that I was part of that squad and team that started all that off.

How would like to be remembered by the Celtic support?

I was in the other day with Stubbsy. And an old boy, who had obviously seen all the greats, came up to me and said, 'one thing about you is that you certainly cross the ball and you always gave 100 per cent'. That is what I would always want to be remembered for and I was really grateful for that. It was great to hear to hear that coming from the older generation, from someone who has seen great teams in the past. It definitely gave me a wee boost. That's what it's all about. You go into Celtic Park and someone comes up to you and asks for your autograph or says things like that you. It makes it all worthwhile.

What was Fergus like as a character?

Not long after I signed I went in at Hampden, I was standing with Alan Gordon, a reporter who is unfortunately no longer with us. Fergus walked up and



said hello to Alan Gordon and then he asked who the young guy was with the Celtic tie on - he just didn't have a clue who I was! That was Fergus. Obviously he knew me after that, but I had just signed so he didn't have the first clue who I was. He was more the business side and moving the club forward. It was a wee funny tale, though.

What do you think his greatest legacy is at Celtic?

Getting Celtic back on the map again. I think he will look back on that fondly. He told you at the time what would happen, that he would win the three domestic trophies and build a fantastic stadium. But while he had the business sense, without the share issue and the punters coming up with all sorts of money, it wouldn't have happened. It went hand-in-hand. He drove the business forward but without the magnificent supporters those plans wouldn't have been put in place. The team also had to be doing the business on the park. The punters have to look at it and see a bright future football-wise, and they bought into it. I always beat the drum for the punter as I'm one myself. They have to take a lot of credit as well.

Can you remember you Celtic debut in November 1994, which came in an away fixture against today's opponents Dundee United?

I can. It was a wee bit sweet and sour for me as I got a wee injury and had to go off. I set up a goal for John Collins which was nice but unfortunately I then picked up a hamstring injury. I also never got to wear the Hoops that day as it was a black strip so I had to wait a wee while for that. But to run out at Tannadice as a Celtic player was fantastic. It was great to pull on that jersey and then to go on have a great spell at the club. I really enjoyed myself and the main thing was being part of Celtic as now I can go back now and meet the greats like Billy McNeill, Bertie Auld and Bobby Lennox. I was with all of them the other night and it's fantastic for me to be able to do that.

Are you pleased to see your former team-mate John Collins back at the club as Ronny Deila's assistant manager?

I am because his heart is in Celtic. When a place means something to you it helps. I had a good relationship with

John Collins when I was here and hopefully he does well, as he had a fantastic spell as at Celtic a player.

Celtic have a new manager in charge. How important is it for him to be given time to put his mark on the side?

I always look back on Tommy Burns' time. We didn't have the best of seasons at Hampden but eventually we found our feet and the football we played was really good at times. Okay, we didn't win the league but we gave it our absolute best shot. And that goes a long way. If you give 100 per cent, the punters identify with that - so long as you play for the jersey and give value for money, they will back you all the way. Then Wim Jansen came in and he didn't get off to the best of starts and the best player I played with, Henrik Larsson, didn't get off to the best of starts at Easter Road either. You can't judge people over a couple of games, you have to give them a bit of time. Jansen went on to stop Rangers doing 10-in-a-row and Henrik became one of the best-ever players at Celtic. So people need a bit of time to settle in and hopefully that can happen under the new manager and Celtic can have another successful season.

Your former team-mate Jackie McNamara will be in the opposition dugout today. What have you made of his performance as manager and do you think Dundee United will be another force again this season?

Jackie was part of the jigsaw as well. He obviously went on to greater success after I left under Martin O'Neill. Jackie was one of the best young players in the country and Tommy Burns identified him, got him from Dunfermline and he then went on to establish a great relationship with Simon Donnelly on the right-hand side to stop Rangers doing 10-in-a-row. For me,

Will you be here to see the league flag unfurled and what are you most excited about for the new season ahead?

I will be at Celtic to see another flag unfurled. I have been there many times as a supporters and I have been lucky to be there as a player when the flag gets unfurled. It's a great occasion for the supporters and players and hopefully it's another successful season. We are the No.1 team in Scotland and long may that continue.

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ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 16

1902 Celtic's first action on August 16 came back in 1902 when they travelled through to Edinburgh to play Hibernian. It was the opening game of the season and it finished in a 1-1 draw, with Johnny Campbell scoring Celtic's goal in front of a crowd of 7,000. Campbell finished the season as Celtic's top goalscorer, netting 15 goals in all competitions. Hibernian, meanwhile, would go on to win the league that season, losing just one game, while the Celts finished fifth. And in the Scottish Cup, Celtic went out in the quarter-final to end the season trophyless.



1919 Tommy McNally made his debut against Clydebank on August 16, 1919, and he made an instant impact, scoring a hat-trick in a 3-1 victory for the Hoops. And he followed that up with another treble in his next game against Dumbarton. McNally was an exceptionally talented player who was a great favourite with the Celtic support, but he was also someone whose character sometimes saw him clash with the powers-that-be at Celtic. He had two spells with the club - 1919-22 and 1925-28 - making 213 appearances and scoring 127 goals. It could have, and should have been much more.

1927 Celtic beat Kilmarnock 6-1 on this day in 1927 and Tommy McNally, in his second spell with the Hoops, scored twice in the victory at Celtic Park. Jimmy McGrory, Paddy Connolly and Adam McLean also netted, while there was also an own goal. Celtic finished third in the league that season, although they did lift the Scottish Cup, beating East Fife in the final, with Connolly and McLean among the goals again. McGrory, not surprisingly, was the club's top goalscorer with a staggering 57 goals, including 48 in the league.



1969 Celtic faced Raith Rovers in a League Cup sectional match in 1969, and it was a comprehensive 5-0 home win for the Hoops. Willie Wallace scored twice, while there were also goals for Harry Hood, Billy McNeill and John Hughes. Celtic would go on to lift their fifth consecutive League Cup that season, beating St Johnstone 1-0 in the final, thanks to an early Bertie Auld goal, while there was also a fifth league title in a row. There was European Cup disappointment, however, as Jock Stein's side lost out to Feyenoord in the 1970 final, going down 2-1 after extra-time in Milan.

BIRTHDAY BHOY

It was on this day in 1940 that John Fallon was born, and the Bhoys from Blantyre would go on to enjoy an impressive career as a goalkeeper with his beloved Celtic. He made his debut in a home game against Clyde on September 26, 1959 as the Hoops drew 1-1, and he would go on to make 184 appearances for the club over the next 13 years, recording 61 clean sheets. He was between the sticks in the 1965 Scottish Cup final, when Celtic won their first trophy under Jock Stein, while he proved an able deputy to Ronnie Simpson before becoming first-choice when Ronnie retired. He was also Celtic's only substitute in the 1967 European Cup final. He was, is, and always will be a Celtic supporter as well a Celtic great, and a popular figure with his fellow fans. Happy birthday and Hail Hail, John!



1997

Celtic's 1997/98 league campaign got off to a terrible start as they followed up an opening day defeat at Easter Road with a 2-1 loss at home to Dunfermline Athletic on August 16. An Andy Thom penalty wasn't enough to stop the Hoops from losing, and it was the worst possible start for new manager, Wim Jansen. However, he remained resolute and guided Celtic to their first league title in a decade, stopping Rangers' bid for 10-in-a-row in the process. For good measure, the Hoops also lifted the League Cup.



2003

Celtic's last action on August 16 came 11 years ago, and it was today's visitors, Dundee United, who were also the opposition on that day. Celtic ran out comfortable 5-0 winners, with Shaun Maloney getting the scoring started after just 12 minutes. Didier Agathe made it 2-0 on 27 minutes before Alan Thompson extended the lead from the penalty spot on the stroke of half-time. After the break there were further goals from Jackie McNamara, now manager of Dundee United; and Henrik Larsson.

AND ANOTHER THING...

It was on this day in 1977 that the King of Rock 'n' Roll died. Elvis Presley was just 42 when he passed away at his home in Graceland, Memphis. He was one of the most important and influential cultural icons of the 20th century, and he remains a much-loved and revered figure to this day.





HIS GREATEST GAME

**Harry Hood v Rangers
December 5, 1973**

IN a new series for this season's matchday programme, STEPHEN MURRAY looks back over Celtic's history and picks out what he believes was the greatest game by a particular Celt.

First up is Harry Hood, whose hat-trick against Rangers in the League Cup semi-final at Hampden in December 1973 remains the last competitive hat-trick scored by a Celtic player against Rangers...

IN December 1973, Celtic and Rangers came face to face in a League Cup semi-final at Hampden on a cold, wet Wednesday evening during a period of time which is best recalled for the industrial strife in the country between unions and the government of the day, which caused electricity black-outs and the three-day week for many workers.

Rangers were said to be confident going into the game as Celtic were going through a period of transition and there had been some discontent in the Celtic camp already that season, especially the

situations of Davie Hay and George Connelly, who had asked for transfers only weeks previously.

Harry Hood took his place in the Celtic forward line and he was a player who often reserved his best form for derby games and who was a particular thorn in the side of Rangers' captain John Greig.

Hood was a touch player who had great technique which was in total contrast to Greig's robust, physical style and he had previously shown that he had the guile to overcome the Rangers defenders' aggression.

The SFA had restricted the Hampden attendance to 100,000 although only 54,864 actually turned out on a night of vile weather and heavy rain. However, the conditions did not affect Harry Hood in any way and he opened the scoring in 35 minutes.

Willie Mathieson cleared a Kenny



Dalglish shot off the line but Dalglish showed great awareness to chip the ball across for Hood to score with a firm header from close-range.

Alex MacDonald equalised with a long-range shot before half-time, but in the second half Celtic took hold of the game.

With the superb Stevie Murray and Davie Hay establishing a foothold in midfield, Celtic were now in total control. In 55 minutes Billy McNeill headed a Tommy Callaghan free-kick across goal for Hood to touch home and in 73 minutes the Celtic striker, now in full flow, strode on to a Dalglish through ball to calmly place a left-foot shot home to put the match well beyond Rangers' reach.

He had now scored the perfect hat-trick of header, right foot and left foot.

Hood was now clearly on top form and seconds after completing his hat-trick he raced forward and struck a tremendous shot past Peter McCloy for a fourth goal, which was the pick of the bunch, only to be flagged offside when he was clearly two yards on.

The Celtic fans, standing soaked to the skin on the uncovered Kings Park end of the ground, were enjoying this to the full and loudly sang their own rendition of the Gene Kelly hit song, *'We're singing in the rain, what a glorious feeling, we're happy again'* as the goals flew in and at time up they had taunted their rivals by chanting *'Easy!...Easy!...Easy!'*

Jock Stein had opted to play two of his younger players, Pat McCluskey and Paul Wilson, and had been vindicated in doing so as they both had fine games on the night.

It was a sign of Celtic's strength that their unused substitutes during the game were George Connelly and Jimmy Johnstone who, at that time, could have walked into any team in Britain.

The next day the *Glasgow Herald* reported on Celtic's on field superiority and their supporters' singing: *'Celtic, with absolute assurance and occasional arrogance, last night trampled over Rangers and thus walked into their 10th successive League Cup final... with Celtic songs being sung loudly and enthusiastically, if untunefully.'*

This game was Harry Hood's finest in a great Celtic career and he remains the last Celtic player to join the exclusive club of scoring a hat-trick against Rangers, something that the likes of Kenny Dalglish and Henrik Larsson couldn't emulate in the years after that.

It remains a pity that the linesman denied him the honour of scoring four!



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Celtic FC Foundation and GAA at Inverclyde



CELTIC FC Foundation and the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) have teamed up once more, this time to provide a summer camp in Inverclyde for boys and girls aged 12 to 16.

This highly-successful camp - the second of a series of three scheduled for this year in Scotland - recently took place at the Port Glasgow Community Campus.

The activities included Gaelic Football, soccer and lessons in lifestyle choices. The event was also supported by Inverclyde Community Learning and Development who provided the 'lifestyle coaches' free of charge.

Close to 60 youngsters from all backgrounds and levels of ability took part in the four-day camp. The soccer coaching was provided by Celtic FC Foundation and the Gaelic Football practices were under the supervision of GAA coaches.

A major contributor to the success of the camp was the excellence of the facilities. The coaching activities took place on the new state-of-the-art astroturf pitch. The school staff were extremely supportive and helpful which made the running of the camp so much easier for the coaches.

Another plus-factor was the excellence of the weather, which was warm and sunny throughout most of the time spent outdoors.

On the final afternoon all the participants were presented with a certificate highlighting their 'fair play and sportsmanship' and a souvenir T-shirt with the logos of Celtic FC Foundation and the Gaelic Athletic Association.

When we looked in on the final day to see the presentation of certificates and the free training kit, it was immediately apparent that the camp had been a resounding success.

What was particularly noticeable at this closing ceremony was the rapport and respect between the coaching teams and the young players. This was clearly demonstrated as the youngsters individually and spontaneously made a point of saying thanks and giving a 'high five' to their coaches as they left.

Celtic FC Foundation would like to thank Ronan McCarthy and his team of GAA coaches and to camp coordinator Steven Dougan and his Celtic FC Foundation coaches whose hard work and enthusiasm made the camp such a huge success.

Tony Hamilton, CEO of Celtic FC Foundation, said: "It was fantastic to be in Inverclyde - one of our key priority areas. Our association with GAA is going from strength to strength and this week we are also in Limerick doing it all over again.

"Our time in Inverclyde follows a success in North Lanarkshire and in October we'll be back in Glasgow where we can do this again. We feel that many young people benefit greatly from these camps and Celtic FC Foundation is all about creating such opportunity.

"I'm very grateful for all of the support we've had but particular thanks to James Houten, a Celtic supporter in Inverclyde, who opened many doors for us with the event last week."



The new Belgian Bhoys

CELTIC'S latest signing Jason Denayer is eager to for his first taste of action with the Hoops.

The new Bhoys was in Scotland with Manchester City only a matter of weeks ago when they took on Dundee in a pre-season friendly but now he has returned north of the border after signing on loan with the Scottish champions.

The highly-rated 19-year-old defender is now keen to prove himself to the Celtic fans and start the season on the right foot

with the first home game of the campaign today against Dundee United.

He said: "I was in pre-season with the Manchester City first-team but I didn't have much chance to play in the squad so I asked to go on loan and Celtic were the club who gave me most assurance to play.

"It's a good chance for me because Celtic is a good club with good history and hopefully we will have a chance to play in the Champions League as well.

"When I spoke with Ronny Deila

he said he will give me my chance. After that it's not down to him, it's me. I need to show him I can play."

And the talented Belgian defender is well aware of the pressure and expectancy to win every game at Celtic.

He has assured the club's fans that he is ready to meet that challenge and is hoping for a place in the squad for tonight's match.

"I believe I'm ready to play," he said. "Before I came here I thought of all this. If I wasn't ready I wouldn't have come.

"I know Celtic is a big club with

great history and great fans. I'm fast, strong, and I try to play football, not just kick the ball."

Having started his career in the youth set-up in Anderlecht before his move to the Elite Academy Jean-Marc Guillou, Denayer has acquired a wealth of experience already prior to his move to Manchester City and now Celtic.

He has also played with some of the up-and-coming stars of the Belgian national set-up so he knows what will be expected of him when he steps on to the pitch as a Celtic player for the first time.

"I play with Adnan Januzaj and with Divock Origi at international level so I know it's normal for the fans to expect things," he said, "so I will try my best to make them happy."

"When I spoke with Ronny Deila he said he had watched my games and my style. That's the difference between Celtic and the other clubs. That's why I have come here."

He also revealed that Manchester City star Vincent Kompany convinced him to join Celtic on the season-long loan deal from the English champions.

The highly-rated Belgian defender has drawn comparisons with his decorated compatriot, who captains both club and country.

And when the Hoops expressed an interest in bringing the 19-year-old to Celtic, he sought out Kompany for advice.

"He is a big influence and it's good that people see me like the new Kompany as that means people see something in me so this makes me stronger," he said. "I am fast, strong and I like to play with my feet. I don't like to play the long ball."

"Vincent is someone with who I speak with when I have questions and he helps me

every time so he is a good person. I spoke to him about coming to Celtic and I asked him if it was a good choice and he persuaded me to go.

"I'm very happy to come here because it's a big club and it will be a great experience for me to play here."

And having spoken to Celtic manager Ronny Deila, he is relishing the opportunity of playing for the Scottish champions and helping to deliver further success.

"At City, I never really had my chance in the first team and I wanted to go on loan. The Celtic manager liked me and called me and asked if I wanted to come for one year here."

"He told me there are some great players here which I can take experience from and this can help me. I hope I can do something good with this club. I want to play a lot of games, gain experience and help the club do something good."

"I know Celtic are the biggest club in Scotland and a good club in Europe as well. Last year the club won the Championship, so I hope this year will be the same and we can do well in the cups as well."

And Denayer - who joined his new team-mates for training at Lennoxtown this morning - admitted the prospect of playing in Paradise and in front of the Celtic support was something he was looking forward to.

"It's really exciting. I can't wait for it and I hope it will be good," he said. "I have never been to the stadium but I have seen it on TV, and everybody has told me there is a great atmosphere and the supporters are very good."

"Everything is exciting for me - the great supporters are great, the atmosphere in the stadium and the chance to win trophies."

Aleksandar Tonev delighted to join Celtic



BULGARIAN internationalist Aleksandar Tonev has joined Celtic on a season-long loan, with the club having the option to buy him at the end of the loan period.

The 24-year-old attacker joined from Aston Villa, having moved to the English Premier League side last summer from Lech Poznan. He has also been capped 15 times by Bulgaria.

A delighted Aleksandar said he's looking forward to playing for the Scottish champions this season.

"Joining Celtic is unbelievable, and I feel really good about it," he said. "I'm delighted to have joined the club and I can't wait to meet up with my new team-mates and start playing for Celtic."

"I already knew all about Celtic. Everybody in Bulgaria knows Celtic. I spoke to Stilyan Petrov and he was very happy for me. He wished me good luck and I hope I can do as well for Celtic as Stilyan did."

"I'm an attacking player, and usually play on the left side of the park, and I like to create and score goals."

Speaking of his new signing, Celtic manager Ronny Deila said: "Aleksandar's a very quick player and he has two good feet which he can shoot with."

"He has scored a lot of goals during his time at Lech Poznan and I think he can help bring the club forward with his qualities. We can also make him better."

THE CELTS GO MARCHING ON

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

McDIARMID PARK

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2014

ST JOHNSTONE 0 CELTIC 3

(STOKES 55, BITTON 76 PEN, MCGREGOR 85)

CELTIC kicked off their title defence with a 3-0 victory over St Johnstone at McDiarmid, a result which also gave Ronny Deila his first Premiership victory as Celtic manager.

After a goal-less first-half, which saw goalkeeper, Craig Gordon, produce a superb save to deny Steven McLean, the Hoops stepped up and fired home three goals without reply.

Anthony Stokes opened the scoring on 55 minutes after Kris Commons had done well to dispossess Steven Anderson.

The Irishman coolly rounded St Johnstone goalkeeper, Allan Mannus, before slotting the ball into the back of the net.

Almost 20 minutes later, Celtic doubled their lead through Nir Bitton with his first goal for the club.

Derk Boerrigter was challenged by Dave Mackay inside the box and referee, John Beaton, pointed to the spot.

With Commons and Stokes off the pitch, having both been substituted, it was Bitton who stepped up and covered the penalty.

And there was further joy for Celtic and Callum McGregor netted his third competitive goal for the club with a shot which squirmed out of the grasp of Mannus and into the back of the net





CELTIC FC FIXTURES & RESULTS



Key

- 1 Number of Goals scored
- Booked
- Sent Off
- Home games in **bold**
- 1st 2nd 3rd Sub
- SPFL - The Premiership
- UCL - Champions League
- SC - Scottish Cup
- SLC - League Cup

Stats correct up to and including 14/08/2014



Comp	Date	Opposition	Result	Starting 11
UCL	15 Jul	KR Reykjavik	1-0	Forster
UCL	22 Jul	KR Reykjavik	4-0	Lustig
UCL	30 Jul	Legia Warsaw	1-4	Lustig
August				
UCL	6 Aug	Legia Warsaw	3-0*	Forster
SPFL	13 Aug	St Johnstone	3-0	Gordon
SPFL	16 Aug	Dundee United (12.45pm)		Matthews
UCL	20 Aug	NK Maribor (UCL Play Off L1)		Lustig
SPFL	23 Aug	Inverness CT (12.30pm)		Matthews
UCL	26 Aug	NK Maribor (UCL Play Off L2)		Lustig
SPFL	31 Aug	Dundee (12.30pm)		Matthews
September				
SPFL	13 Sep	Aberdeen		Matthews
UCL	16/17 Sep	UCL Group Stage MD1		Matthews
SPFL	20 Sep	Motherwell		Matthews
SLC	23/24 Sep	Scottish League Cup R3		Matthews
SPFL	27 Sep	St Mirren		Matthews
UCL	30 Sep/1 Oct	UCL Group Stage MD2		Matthews
October				
SPFL	04 Oct	Hamilton		Matthews
SPFL	18 Oct	Ross County		Matthews
UCL	21/22 Oct	UCL Group Stage MD3		Matthews
SPFL	25 Oct	Kilmarnock		Matthews
SLC	28/29 Oct	Scottish League Cup R4		Matthews
November				
SPFL	01 Nov	Inverness CT		Matthews
UCL	4/5 Nov	UCL Group Stage MD4		Matthews
SPFL	08 Nov	Aberdeen		Matthews
SPFL	22 Nov	Dundee		Matthews
UCL	25/26 Nov	UCL Group Stage MD5		Matthews
SC	29 Nov	Scottish Cup R4		Matthews
December				
SPFL	06 Dec	Motherwell		Matthews
UCL	9/10 Dec	UCL Group Stage MD6		Matthews
SPFL	13 Dec	St Mirren		Matthews
SPFL	20 Dec	Dundee United		Matthews
SPFL	27 Dec	Ross County		Matthews
January				
SPFL	01 Jan	Partick Thistle		Matthews
SPFL	04 Jan	Kilmarnock		Matthews
SPFL	10 Jan	St Johnstone		Matthews
SPFL	17 Jan	Hamilton		Matthews
SPFL	21 Jan	Motherwell		Matthews
SPFL	24 Jan	Ross County		Matthews
SPFL	31 Jan	Kilmarnock		Matthews
SLC	31 Jan/1 Feb	Scottish League Cup SF		Matthews
February				
SC	07 Feb	Scottish Cup R5		Matthews
SPFL	14 Feb	St Johnstone		Matthews
UCL	17/18 Feb	UCL R16 L1		Matthews
SPFL	21 Feb	Hamilton		Matthews
UCL	24/25 Feb	UCL R16 L1		Matthews
SPFL	28 Feb	Aberdeen		Matthews
March				
SC	07 Mar	Scottish Cup R6		Matthews
UCL	10/11 Mar	UCL R16 L2		Matthews
SPFL	14 Mar	Dundee		Matthews
SLC	15 Mar	Scottish League Cup Final		Matthews
UCL	17/18 Mar	UCL R16 L2		Matthews
SPFL	21 Mar	Dundee United		Matthews
April				
SPFL	04 Apr	St Mirren		Matthews
SPFL	08 Apr	Partick Thistle		Matthews
SPFL	11 Apr	Inverness CT		Matthews
UCL	14/15 Apr	UCL QF L1		Matthews
SC	18/19 Apr	Scottish Cup Semi Final		Matthews
UCL	21/22 Apr	UCL QF L2		Matthews
SPFL	25 Apr	TBC		Matthews
May				
SPFL	02 May	TBC		Matthews
UCL	5/6 May	UCL Semi-Final L1		Matthews
SPFL	09 May	TBC		Matthews
UCL	12/13 May	UCL Semi-Final L2		Matthews
SPFL	16 May	TBC		Matthews
SPFL	23 May	TBC		Matthews
SC	30 May	Scottish Cup Final		Matthews
June				
UCL	05 Jun	UCL Final (Berlin)		Matthews
TBC				
SPFL		Partick Thistle		

Domestic games kick off at 3pm unless stated. European matches at 7.45pm. Celtic score shown first. All fixtures subject to change. *Legia Warsaw forfeit the match - Celtic awarded 3-0 win.

Substitutes

Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor	Commons	Griffiths	Stokes	Zaluska	Matthews	O'Connell	Kayal	Henderson	Boerrieger	Pukki
Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor	Commons	Griffiths	Pukki 2	Zaluska	Matthews	Bitton	Kayal	Henderson	Boerrieger	Watt
Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor	Commons	Berget		Zaluska	Izaguire	Bitton	Kayal	Boerrieger	Stokes	Griffiths
Johansen	Mulgrew	McGregor	Commons	Bitton	Stokes	Zaluska	Berget	Kayal	Henderson	Forrest	Pukki	Griffiths
Johansen	Bitton	McGregor	Commons	Forrest	Stokes 1	Zaluska	Ambrose	Denayer	Kayal	Boerrieger	Berget	Pukki



QUIZ

celticfc.net

1 *Against which two clubs have Celtic raised the Championship flag in the last two seasons?*

2. Which two current Celtic players have in their careers played for Sunderland in the English Premier League?

3. Which two players in the last five seasons have captained Dundee United in Scottish Cup finals?

4. Which player was the top goalscorer in the 2014 World Cup with a total of six goals?

5. How many league winner's medals did Billy McNeill gain as player and manager?

6. How many successive league clean sheets did Fraser Forster keep last season to establish a new Scottish record?

7. Which club did Dundee United teenager Ryan Gauld join in July?

8. Which Celt is the only non British/Irish player to win the Scottish PFA Young Player of the year award?

9. Who was the last player to score a league hat-trick for Dundee United, doing so in 2012/13?

10. Which three Celtic players were last season voted into the PFA Scotland team of the year?

11. Who was the last Dundee United player to win international caps for Scotland?

12. Which player in July left British football and became the third most expensive player of all-time?

13. Which team provided the opposition on the last occasion that Celtic played a competitive match in front of over 100,000 people?

14. Which two current Celts played in the 2014 World Cup Finals in Brazil?

15. Against which two clubs to date has Kris Commons netted hat-tricks for Celtic?



- ANSWERS**
1. Aberdeen (2012/13); Ross County (2013/14).
 2. Andy Webster (2010) & Sean Dillon (2014).
 3. Andy Webster (2010) & Sean Dillon (2014).
 4. James Rodríguez (Colombia).
 5. 13: Nine as player and four as manager.
 6. 13 matches.
 7. Sporting Lisbon.
 8. Silljany Petrov (2000/01).
 9. Johnny Russell v Kilmarnock.
 10. Kris Commons; Fraser Forster and Virgil van Dijk.
 11. Andy Robertson v Poland and Nigeria.
 12. Luis Suarez (Liverpool to Barcelona) £75m.
 13. Dynamo Kyiv (European Cup) 1986/87.
 14. Emilio Izaguirre (Honduras); Eric Amrose (Nigeria).
 15. St Johnstone (LC) 2012/13; Hearts (SC) 2013/14.



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MANAGER: RONNY DEILA



MANAGER: JACKIE McNAMARA

ADAM MATTHEWS	2	○	○	1	RADOSLAW CIERZNIAK
EMILIO IZAGUIRRE	3	○	○	2	SEAN DILLON
EFE AMBROSE	4	○	○	3	CONDOR TOWNSEND
VIRGIL VAN DIJK	5	○	○	4	JON SOUTTAR
NIR BITTON	6	○	○	5	JAROSLAW FOJUT
SCOTT BROWN	8	○	○	6	PAUL PATON
ANTHONY STOKES	10	○	○	7	NADIR CIFTCI
DERK BOERRIGTER	11	○	○	8	JOHN RANKIN
KRIS COMMONS	15	○	○	9	BRIAN GRAHAM
JO INGE BERGET	16	○	○	10	STUART ARMSTRONG
AMIDO BALDE	17	○	○	11	GARY MACKAY-STEVEN
HOLMBERT FRIDJONSSON	19	○	○	12	KEITH WATSON
TEEMU PUKKI	20	○	○	13	MARC McCALLUM
CHARLIE MULGREW	21	○	○	14	CALLUM MORRIS
JASON DENAYER	22	○	○	15	MICHAEL GARDYNE
MIKAEL LUSTIG	23	○	○	16	MARK WILSON
LUKASZ ZALUSKA	24	○	○	17	CHRIS ERSKINE
STEFAN JOHANSEN	25	○	○	18	RYAN DOW
CRAIG GORDON	26	○	○	19	MARIO BILATE
ALEKSANDAR TONEV	27	○	○	20	CALUM BUTCHER
LEIGH GRIFFITHS	28	○	○	21	CHARLES TELFER
JOHN HERRON	31	○	○	22	AIDAN CONNOLLY
BERAM KAYAL	33	○	○	23	SCOTT SMITH
EOGHAN O'CONNELL	34	○	○	24	BLAIR SPITTAL
BAHRUDIN ATAJIC	37	○	○	25	JORDAN MOORE
DARNELL FISHER	41	○	○	26	MICHAL SZROMNIK
CALLUM McGREGOR	42	○	○	27	SCOTT FRASER
MARCUS FRASER	44	○	○	28	KUDUS OYENUGA
DYLAN McGEOUCH	46	○	○	29	DARREN PETRIE
JAMES FORREST	49	○	○	32	JOE McGOVERN
LIAM HENDERSON	53	○			
FILIP TWARDZIK	56	○			

16.08.2014

RESULT: H/T F/T SCORERS:
 Celtic
 Dundee United

NEXT GAME:

v NK Maribor
 Wednesday, August 20, 2014
 UEFA Champions League play-off round
 Stadion Ljudski vrt, 7.45pm

TODAY'S OFFICIALS:

Referee: Craig Thomson
 Assistant 1: Graham Chambers
 Assistant 2: Alan Mulvanny
 Fourth Official: Stephen Finnie