

The Official Celtic Football Club Matchday Magazine 2010/11

hoops



03



vs FC Utrecht

Thursday, 19th August 2010, Kick off: 7.45pm, £4



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social mission statement

Introduction

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

History

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

Current Positioning of Celtic Football Club

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

Who is Celtic Football Club for?

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

Summary

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

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Design Ben Goddard

CRE8
publishing ltd.

tel: 01367 851120
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GOOD evening and a warm welcome to Celtic Park for our UEFA Europa League play-off match with FC Utrecht. It's a vital European tie for us and our objective tonight is to win the game and, hopefully, take a healthy lead to Holland next week. That won't be easy because we know that Utrecht are a good side, but we will be doing everything we can to achieve our aim.

The prize for both clubs is a place in the group stages of the competition and it's important for our football club that we enjoy a decent run in Europe. It's a platform that we've become accustomed to competing on, and we want to be there again this season. However, the same goes for FC Utrecht, so we will have to be at our very best tonight.

We go into this game on the back of a victory last Saturday against Inverness Caley Thistle in our opening league match of the season. It's never an easy place to go to, so to get the three points, and to play in the manner we did was very pleasing.

I thought our performance, particularly in the second half, was excellent, and we could have scored more than the solitary goal we got. It was also pleasing to get a clean sheet and our defence

had a solid game, while offensively, I thought our play going forward was very good at times and we created a lot of chances in the game.

It was important to get our league campaign off to a winning start and I was pleased for the players, and also for our supporters who had made the long journey up to Inverness who not only saw a victory but a good performance as well.

We want to do that again tonight, and we'll need your backing from first minute till last. Celtic Park can be an imposing and intimidating venue, particularly on a European night, and that's what we're looking tonight.

We know that FC Utrecht, like all Dutch teams, will possess a lot of quality in their ranks, but we have a lot of quality in our side as well. And what we do have to our advantage tonight is a magnificent support who can help drive us on to victory. Enjoy the game and let's hope we'll be celebrating a victory tonight.

Neil Lennon