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CELTIC V AIRDRIEONIANS



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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

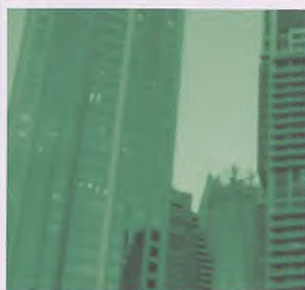
Celtic Football Club is a Scottish football club with proud Irish links. The primary business of Celtic is as a football club. It is run on a professional business basis with no political agenda. However, the Club has a wider role and the responsibility of being a major Scottish social institution promoting 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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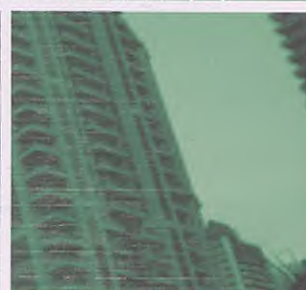
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MANAGING DIRECTOR Steve Hanrahan
EXECUTIVE ART EDITOR Rick Cooke **SENIOR EDITOR** Paul Dove
PROGRAMME EDITOR Paul Cuddihy **DEPUTY EDITOR** Joe Sullivan
REPORTERS Tony Connelly and Joe Donnelly
DESIGN Lee Ashun **PRODUCTION** Niek Moreton
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Claire Brown
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Manager's Notes...

BRENDAN RODGERS



'We're favourites - but the history of cup competitions shows that nothing can ever be taken for granted'



GOOD evening welcome to Celtic Park for tonight's Scottish Cup tie against Airdrieonians.

It's also our first game of 2019, so it's the first chance to wish all of you a Happy New Year.

It is great to be back here at Paradise – it's our first home match in nearly a month – and we're all looking forward to the game.

We've enjoyed a good break at the turn of the year and a very productive training camp, and we're ready for the second half of the season, with another busy schedule of games on the horizon.

Going into 2019, we have already won the League Cup, are top of the Premiership with a game in hand and are in the last 32 of the Europa League, so there are many positives from the first half of the season, with much to look forward to in the coming months.

We've seen in the past two seasons the benefits of the winter break and the chance to spend some time on the training pitches, and

we're hoping that will be the case again this time around.

The competitive action starts tonight with our Scottish Cup tie against Airdrieonians, and I would also like to welcome their management, players and supporters to our stadium.

Ian's side enjoyed a great result over Dumbarton in the previous round to set up this match, while they've also been on a good run of form over the past few weeks, with three wins and a draw in their last four games.

We know that we'll go into this match as favourites to win and progress to the next round, but the history of cup competitions shows that nothing can ever be taken for granted.

Our success over the past couple of years across all the domestic competitions has been built on a lot of hard work and preparation, taking each game as it comes and giving every opponent the respect they deserve.

That will be the case for Airdrieonians this evening, who will come here not only to enjoy the occasion but determined to try and cause a cup upset, so we will be totally focused on ensuring we are at our best in order to enjoy a successful 90 minutes.

I'm sure that all of you will be looking forward to a return of competitive football, and will give a great welcome to the team tonight, both our established players and also the new players who have joined us in recent weeks.

This is the first of four consecutive home games for us and, as always, your support will be crucial for us. We hope to kick off this run of matches with a win this evening. Enjoy the game.

Brendan Rodgers
Without Fear



new balance

AUDAZO

#RUNTHEGAME



A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN



We aim for the Dubai trip to have been as beneficial as it has been for the past two years

SINCE this is our first game of 2019, I'd like to wish all of you a Happy New Year and I hope we can give you something to cheer tonight in your first visit to Celtic Park this year.

It's also the first in a run of four home games over a 12-day period as we are also set to face St Mirren, Hamilton Accies and St Johnstone in the league inside the next fortnight, so we are in for a testing time.

However, it's all about the visiting Airdrie side tonight and that is the only game on our mind at the moment as we have won the competition for the past two seasons, and we obviously aim to do our best to win the Scottish Cup again this year.

Airdrie will have other ideas, though, and we know that the visitors will be

intent on causing a shock and that's something, as always, we have to be prepared for, so we will be paying Airdrie every respect in this evening's game.

They've had a few decent results lately but we come into tonight's meeting refreshed after our warm-weather training camp in Dubai.

It was great to get in some decent training and coaching sessions with time to concentrate on that rather than preparing for two games a week.

We are back to that busy schedule now, though, and we aim for the Dubai trip to have been as beneficial as it has been for the past two years by delivering more wins and trophies.

The road to that target starts tonight with the visit of Airdrie and that has been the focus of our attention

since we returned to training up at Lennoxton, and we have had a few new faces joining us over the past week or so.

I know you will give the new Bhoys a traditional Celtic Park welcome to the club and the additions to the squad can only strengthen our bid to deliver more success and add to the quality of the players already vying for a place in the team.

All that remains for me to say is welcome back to Celtic Park, enjoy the game and we fully aim to be in the hat for the draw for the next round of the cup.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 1888

SIDE-BY-SIDE...



**WITH THE
BHOYS
IN GREEN**

**THINK 100% IRISH
LOOK ON THE SUNNY SIDE**


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Damien Duff and Stephen McManus join Celtic's Academy coaching team

CELTIC Football Club is delighted to announce that it has made two hugely important appointments within its youth set-up, with Damien Duff joining the club as reserve team coach and former club captain Stephen McManus being appointed the club's under-18s' coach.

Former Chelsea, Newcastle Fulham, Blackburn and Republic of Ireland winger, Damien Duff, joins Celtic from Shamrock Rovers in Dublin where he was part of the first-team coaching staff.

The two-time English Premier League winner joins Celtic with immediate effect, and he will team up with Tommy McIntyre in managing Celtic's reserve team.

Stephen McManus delivered a huge level of success to Celtic as a player, lifting three league titles, two Scottish Cups and two League Cups.

He re-joins Celtic from Motherwell where he played from 2013-17 and

has more recently held a coaching position with the Fir Park club. Stephen will work with Celtic's Under-18 team.

Damien Duff said: "I am absolutely delighted to join Celtic in this new role and be part of a club for which I have such huge respect. It is a massive honour to be given this opportunity and I am looking forward to playing my part in developing our young players of the future.

"We will be aiming to do all we can to create a good environment for our young players, to promote positive, attacking football, to play the Celtic Way and make them ready for the challenges of first-team football.

"I can't wait get started in my new role and do all I can to make a positive difference to some exciting players we already have at the club."

And Stephen McManus added: "The passion and respect I have for Celtic is well-known and it really is a fantastic honour to join this great club again.

"I had the huge privilege of pulling on the Celtic jersey and enjoying some tremendous moments which will stay with me forever, playing on the highest stage and being part of a team that brought success and silverware to some of the best fans in the world.

"It was a real dream come true to reach the Celtic first team and now it will be an absolute privilege to work every day with our young players to see if they can live their own dreams, to wear such an iconic jersey and play their part in creating history for the club. I am really looking forward to this challenge and being part of Celtic once again."

Celtic manager, Brendan Rodgers said: "We are delighted to welcome Damien and Stephen to Celtic. Both men are real high-calibre individuals who have a huge knowledge of the game.

"We are really pleased they have agreed to join the club and I know the ability they have as coaches and the experiences they have, being part of top-level football for so many years in their own careers, will be of huge benefit to our younger players."

