

Celtic



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UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE • PLAY-OFF • FIRST LEG
22/08/2019 • CELTIC PARK • KO 7.45PM





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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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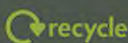
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MANAGING DIRECTOR Steve Hanrahan
EXECUTIVE ART EDITOR Rick Cooke SENIOR EDITOR Paul Dove
PROGRAMME EDITOR Paul Cuddihy DEPUTY EDITOR Joe Sullivan
REPORTERS Tony Connelly and Joe Donnelly
DESIGN Lee Ashun PRODUCTION Nick Moreton
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Claire Brown
PHOTOGRAPHY PA Photos, SNS Group
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'We are intent on delivering a positive result tonight to take to Stockholm for next week's second leg'



WELCOME once more to Celtic Park where the games are coming thick and fast at the moment, and, come the weekend, we will have played three games here in three different competitions over the course of little more than a week.

That started with Dunfermline in the League Cup on Saturday and will end with Hearts in the league on Sunday, but tonight it's all about AIK of Stockholm in the UEFA Europa League and we know how difficult this will be against a side with a strong Swedish pedigree.

So a warm welcome to Celtic Park goes to all the players, staff and supporters of AIK tonight, as Rikard Norling brings his side here as Swedish champions and, like us, they will be more than keen to progress from this play-off to the group stages.

Winning the Swedish title is no

mean feat as we just have to look at the many Swedes who became heroes at Celtic Park to know the quality of footballer the country produces.

However, we are intent on delivering a positive result tonight to take to Stockholm for next week's second leg, and we go into this game with a positive attitude as the group stages are within touching distance and we want to ensure that we are there for the draw.

We know that the backing of the supporters at Celtic Park tonight will go a long way to help us achieve that aim, and every fan here this evening will play a part in Celtic progressing in the tournament.

The team go into the game on the back of a difficult, but ultimately successful League Cup tie against Dunfermline as our winning mentality showed under testing circumstances.

We only scored twice in that match, but the team have been scoring freely, both domestically and in Europe, and the fact that our goals have come from seven different scorers around the pitch proves that we have that attacking edge to us.

The aim is obviously to shore things up at the other end of the pitch while still going for goals up front, which is the Celtic way and what the fans expect.

We hope that's what we can deliver tonight against AIK and I hope that you can play your part in driving us on to those aims. Enjoy the game.

Neil Lennon



CELTIC FC ▼

new balance

2019/20



NEW BALANCE ▲

ON TO VICTORY

HOME KIT



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'Qualification for the group stages of the UEFA Europa League is the only thing on our minds at the moment'

WELCOME to the third of four consecutive home games for us in a very short period of time, and we're aiming for a result tonight that will stand us in good stead when we play our next away game.

That, of course, will be against tonight's opponents, AIK, when we travel to Sweden for the second leg of this vital UEFA Europa League play-off tie.

It's another European night here at Celtic Park and the aim is to have a healthy cushion to take to Stockholm for the return game, so tonight's performance in front of our own fans is crucial over this double-header.

As Swedish champions, though, AIK will provide a very stern test and we will have to be at our best to ensure we fight for the sort of scoreline we want to take over to their

ground next Thursday night.

We know we have the skill and the goalscorers to achieve that aim, though, and there is confidence in the ranks here that we are up for the task ahead of us.

Qualification for the group stages of the UEFA Europa League is the only thing on our minds at the moment, and a good display and result tonight will go a long way towards achieving that.

With the support of the home crowd tonight behind us, comes the inspiration to drive us on and we have seen many times in the past how much of a spur the Celtic support are to us when we are on the pitch – especially on European nights.

I sat out Saturday's League Cup match against Dunfermline here at Celtic Park, but it was great to see the

boys chalk up our 27th consecutive win in domestic cup competitions and, of course, the 2-1 win was a good way to begin our defence of the first trophy up for grabs this season.

Like the two others from the Treble, it's a trophy we aim to keep and we hope to be taking part in future League Cup ties amid our UEFA Europa League group stage games as well.

With your support behind us tonight, we can take a massive step towards that.

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IRISH CIDER

WATCH THE GLASGOW DERBY IN PARADISE! JOIN US FOR THE KERRYDALE LIVE SCREENING

SCOTLAND'S Treble Treble champions face Rangers at Ibrox on Sunday, September 1 at 12noon for the first Glasgow derby of the season and, as the Bhoys travel across the city, fans can join us at Paradise for a LIVE family-friendly screening of the match in the Kerrydale Bar.

We'll make sure you don't miss a minute of the action from Ibrox with places available to book now for only £5 per person.

The Kerrydale Bar will open from 11am with a cash bar and breakfast available to purchase ahead of kick-off at 12noon.

At half-time you can enjoy complimentary half-time pie and snacks for all supporters, and Liam McGrandles will also be performing live pre-match and from the full-time whistle to keep you entertained until the



Kerrydale Bar closes at 4pm.

Don't miss out on what promises to be a brilliant day out.

Please note, places must be booked in advance by calling 0871 226 1888 (option 4 then option 5)* or email

events@celticfc.co.uk, there will be no admission on the door without prior booking.

**Calls cost 13 pence per minute, plus your phone company's access charge.*

CELTIC TO PLAY PARTICK THISTLE IN LAST EIGHT OF LEAGUE CUP

CELTIC will play host to Partick Thistle in the quarter-final of the Belfred League Cup following last Sunday's draw.

The cup holders, who are looking to win the trophy for the fourth successive year, booked their place in the last eight with a 2-1 extra-time win over Dunfermline Athletic at Paradise last weekend.

Mikey Johnston opened the scoring for Neil Lennon's side early in the second half, and after that was cancelled out, James Forrest scored the winner in extra-time.

Partick Thistle, meanwhile, knocked out Premiership side, Ross County, beating them 3-2 after extra time.

The tie is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25 with a 7.45 kick-off.

The other quarter-final ties are:

- Kilmarnock v Hibernian
- Hearts v Aberdeen
- Livingston v Rangers

