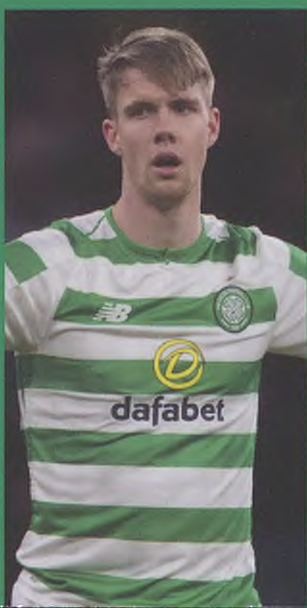




CELTIC v MOTHERWELL

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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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Manager's Notes...

BRENDAN RODGERS



'This group of players have shown that they remain fully focused on whatever challenge lies ahead'



GOOD afternoon and welcome to Celtic Park for our match with Motherwell. It's a game between the two form sides in the Premiership and it's one that we're all looking forward to.

Both ourselves and Motherwell have won our last six league games – the only two sides to do so this season – and the intention for both teams, obviously, is to do everything to continue that run.

It's great credit to Steve and his players that they're on this great run, which continued last weekend with their win over Hearts.

We don't need reminding that Motherwell are always difficult opponents, but with six wins behind them, they'll come into this game full of confidence and looking to get something from the match.

Likewise, we've been on an excellent run of domestic form since we've returned to competitive action after the winter break, with six league wins and two Scottish

Cup wins. We've scored 22 goals and not conceded any, and that's something we would like to continue this afternoon.

Last weekend's win at Rugby Park, while dramatic for the late winning goal, was also a well-deserved victory. We played very well against very difficult opponents and thoroughly merited taking all three points.

That win has given us an eight-point lead at the top of the table, which is obviously a nice position to be in, but this group of players have shown throughout my time here that they remain fully focused on whatever challenge lies ahead and we never take anything for granted.

So our full focus is on the 90 minutes ahead and we'll approach this game with a determination to produce a good performance and do everything we can to enjoy a positive outcome against Motherwell.

We go into the game on the back of our Europa League tie against

Valencia in Spain, and in having to write these notes ahead of that game, I hope that we go into today's match having acquitted ourselves well in what will have been a very tough tie.

It's one of the challenges of playing for a club like Celtic that we face these midweek European challenges while, at times, our opponents here in Scotland have a full week to prepare for the game.

However, this is something that we all relish and the players have shown over the past two-and-half-years that they can cope well with these demands.

It's always good to be playing at home, and today, with our fantastic support behind us, I hope we can deliver a positive result. Enjoy the game.

Brendan Rodgers
Without Fear

AUDAZO

#RUNTHEGAME



A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN



I'll be right there with you cheering the lads on from the stands today against an in-form side

IT'S good to be back home after a couple of tough games on the road, and we're looking forward to this afternoon's match against Motherwell. I'll be cheering the lads on from the stands today, but I'm confident that we can get a good result to maintain our strong position in the league.

Last weekend's win over Kilmarnock was a great one for us. Rugby Park is a tough place to go, as we know from our most recent visits, so to get all three points was brilliant, particularly since it put us eight points clear at the top of the table.

I was as surprised as everyone else that I scored the winning goal – you wait two years for a goal and then two come in the space of a week!

And although I was disappointed to pick up two yellow cards on the day, which means that I miss this afternoon's match, I know that the lads who are picked to play will give their all to get the win.

We're playing a Motherwell side who've been on a brilliant run of form since the end of last year, having won their last six league matches, so we know it's going to be a tough 90 minutes ahead. They're always a very well-organised side, who make it difficult for us, but we'll be aiming to get a similar result to the last time we played them here, back in December when we won 3-0.

The lads will also be going into this game on the back of what I'm sure will have been a very tough Europa

League tie against Valencia. It was always going to be a difficult task but, given the first leg result, it was made even tougher.

And even though these notes have been written ahead of the game in Spain, it goes without saying that I hope we're going into today's game on the back of a positive European result.

Thanks, as always, for your support, and hopefully the lads can deliver another three points today.



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Join exclusive Young Hoops Club events with memberships half-price



CELTIC'S Young Hoops Club had another fun-filled weekend for their youngest members recently, when they held an event in the Kerrydale Suite for their 0-3 year-old age group.

It was a day packed with fun activities for the Young Hoops fans who took part in fitness games, sensory play, story-time, arts and crafts, music and dancing, games and construction, drawing and colouring in.

There was also a special visit

from Hoopy the Huddle Hound and to top it off, the SPFL trophy was also on display for Young Hoops Club members to take photos with and created more magical memories for everyone involved.

Now, with just under half the season to go, you can sign up and become part of the Young Hoops Club for the remainder of the 2018/19 season for **HALF PRICE!** With membership packs still available for young Bhoys and Ghirls aged up to 14-years-old now priced at just £8 and £10.

You can still take advantage of all the great discounts and benefits on offer with a Young Hoops Club membership, including giving young members the chance to be chosen as a ball Bhoys or Ghirl* for a match at Celtic Park.

Memberships can be purchased online at www.celticfc.net/store, or in any official Celtic store.

**The chance to be chosen as a ball Bhoys or Ghirl is open to Young Hoops Club members aged 4 - 14 years old.*

MASCOT JOY IN THE SCOTTISH CUP

THERE were two Celtic Young Hoops matchday mascots who led the Bhoys out to Scottish Cup glory recently.

The youngsters were 12-year-old Cassie Lawrence for Aberdeen and 11-year-old Ollie Harkin from Motherwell.

They helped Scott Brown with the pre-match preliminaries after emerging from the tunnel with the Hoops.

The Young Hoops members then watched their heroes defeat St Johnstone 5-0 to reach the quarter-final of the Scottish Cup.

