

Celtic



V

ROSS COUNTY

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

25/01/2020 • CELTIC PARK • KO 3PM





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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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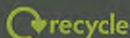


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'We're into a busy schedule of games, so we'll need everyone in the squad to play their part, and I know they're relishing the challenge'



GOOD afternoon and welcome to Celtic Park for what is our first home game of 2020. We've enjoyed a good start to the year and we want to continue that today against Ross County.

That began with a Scottish Cup win over Partick Thistle last weekend. The most important thing in these games is to ensure we're in the draw for the next round, and we did just that, but in our first game back after the winter break, we produced a good performance and were comfortable winners in the end, despite the narrow scoreline.

We followed that up with an excellent display at Rugby Park on Wednesday night. It's always a difficult venue, for a variety of reasons, but I thought we controlled the game and could have won by a bigger margin than we did.

It was great to see the two strikers both get on the scoresheet, and they combined well throughout the game.

That's now two goals in two games for Leigh Griffiths, and it's great to see him back doing what he does best – scoring goals.

Now our attention turns to Ross County, and our aim is to take all three points this afternoon. However, we know that they will come here determined to take something from the game, so we'll have to be at our best to ensure that doesn't happen.

I know that Steve and Stuart will have been disappointed at their Scottish Cup result last weekend, but they bounced back during the week with a good point against Hearts.

We've returned from the winter break and are immediately into a busy

schedule of games, with four fixtures this month followed by eight games in February.

With those demands across three different competitions, we'll need everyone in the squad to play their part, and I know the players are relishing the challenges ahead.

Our supporters, too, will play their part. The backing we got at Firhill and Rugby Park was brilliant, as it always is, and we'll be looking for that again today as we aim for another league win. Enjoy the game.

Neil Lennon


new balance

THE NEXT WAVE



OF EXECUTION



FURON



'We expect nothing other than another stiff test against Ross County who will be determined to stop us in our tracks'

WELCOME back to Celtic Park for our first home game of a new year and a new decade, so I hope we deliver another win to mark the occasion as well as maintain our position at the top of the Premiership table.

We go into today's game against Ross County on the back of two good away wins over the past week in both the Scottish Cup and the SPFL, and that should stand us in good stead for this afternoon's meeting.

Our run of domestic cup wins was kept going with the 2-1 win over Partick Thistle last Saturday evening at Firhill, and we were delighted to successfully begin our defence of the trophy in our first game back after the winter break and our warm-weather

training trip to Dubai. I was pleased with the performance against Thistle and I'm delighted that we carried that form into our other away game against Kilmarnock with an important three points up for grabs in what could easily have been a difficult game for us.

Kilmarnock always pose a threat on their own ground, but we coped with that nicely and were well worth our 3-1 win under difficult conditions, and it was good to see the goals spread out as well during the game.

That brings us to today, and we expect nothing other than another stiff test against Ross County who will be determined to stop us in our tracks here at Celtic Park and we have to be wary of that as we go into the game.

This, of course, is the third meeting this season between today's teams and, although we won the other two games both home and away with goals to spare, we will be reading nothing into that and have been ignoring those scores in our training for today's match.

Still, we hope that we can give the Celtic support something similar in your first trip to Celtic Park in 2020 and we all hope that you enjoy the game.

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FUNDRAISING MATCH TO BE STAGED TO HELP LOCAL CAUSES



Fraserburgh and Celtic line up before the 1970 fundraising match which the Hoops went on to win 7-0

CELTIC Football Club has announced that it will be taking part in a special fundraising match this year against Fraserburgh FC in memory of the victims of the Fraserburgh Lifeboat Tragedy.

The announcement was made on Tuesday, January 21 - the 50th anniversary of the Fraserburgh Lifeboat tragedy.

On January 21, 1970, the local lifeboat was overturned by a freak wave in gale-force conditions while escorting a Danish fishing vessel to safety, leaving five women widowed and 15 children mourning the loss of their father.

The joint funeral of those who perished was attended by 13,000 people.

Just three months after the incident in 1970, a Celtic team, including members of the Lisbon Lions who had won the European Cup only three years earlier, travelled to Bellslea Park for a

charity fundraising match in memory of those who had lost their lives.

It was a hugely emotional occasion, with Celtic's legendary manager, Jock Stein, paying a huge tribute of respect to the victims and their families just a few days before his side were in European Cup final action again in Milan's San Siro Stadium.

The Celtic team was littered with stars, including Billy McNeill, Jimmy Johnstone, Bobby Lennox and Bobby Murdoch, as they prepared to meet their Fraserburgh counterparts.

A total 6,500 people braved the elements that day to see Fraserburgh take on the Glasgow giants at Bellslea and, in the process, raised around £2,000 for the benefit of the disaster fund.

Now, to mark the 50th anniversary of a tragedy which rocked the North East and Scotland as a whole, Celtic have committed once again to playing its part in support of the local

community with funds raised going to local causes including RNLI Fraserburgh.

Celtic is delighted to confirm that it will send a team to play against Fraserburgh, with further match details now being discussed.

Celtic Chief Executive Peter Lawwell said: "Clearly we have a very close connection to the tragic events of 1970, with Jock Stein and the club ensuring in 1970 that the local disaster fund was supported.

"We know for many in the local area that these events will still cause hurt and pain even after 50 years.

"However, after discussions with Fraserburgh FC we felt that once again we should mark this anniversary year, come together and pay our respects to those who were lost and their families".

Celtic will work closely together with Fraserburgh FC and match details will be announced in due course.