

# Celtic



V  
**PARTICK THISTLE**

BETFRED LEAGUE CUP

25/09/2019 • 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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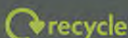
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**'We go into the game as favourites, but there will be no complacency within the squad – we want to ensure we're in the semi-final draw'**



**GOOD evening and welcome to Celtic Park for our Betfred League Cup quarter-final against Partick Thistle. I also want to extend that welcome to our visitors from across the city.**

This is an important game for us and it's one that we're all looking forward to. We've enjoyed tremendous success in this competition in recent years, winning the trophy for the past three seasons, and it's something that we'd clearly like to replicate again this season.

The aim at this club is to try and win every competition we enter, and that obviously includes the Betfred League Cup.

The success of previous campaigns has been built on preparing well for each cup-tie, and our focus since the weekend has been on tonight's game.

I thought the players produced an excellent performance against Kilmarnock on Sunday, and we want to produce something similar tonight in order to ensure that we're in the draw for the semi-final.

However, we know that Partick Thistle will come here equally determined to achieve the same thing. They are now under new management, and I wish Ian McCall all the best in his new job, though obviously I hope he doesn't get off to a winning start tonight!

We know that we go into this game as favourites to win, being the cup holders and also having home advantage, but there will be no complacency within our squad.

Cup competitions can always provide shocks and surprises, and Partick Thistle will come here looking

to deliver a cup shock, with their players wanting to impress their new manager.

So we will be ready for whatever this cup-tie brings up, and we go into the game full of confidence. The players will also receive the customary great backing from our supporters who, as always, were magnificent on Sunday.

I thought the atmosphere was great in that game, and I'm sure it will be the same again tonight as we look to deliver a positive result. Enjoy the game.

**Neil Lennon**



CELTIC FC ▼



**new balance**

2019/20



NEW BALANCE ▲

# ON TO VICTORY

HOME KIT



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## 'We go into tonight's game in good form and we don't want that to slip'

**WELCOME** back to Celtic Park tonight for our second home game in four days after nearly a month without a game here, and you will be as pleased as me that we kept up our form by maintaining our winning start to the league with the 3-1 victory over Kilmarnock.

That came on the back of a very positive 1-1 draw at the home of Rennes in France in the UEFA Europa League – another scoreline we were delighted with, but we also felt we could have come home with all three points on our opening Group E game.

Tonight, though, it's all about the League Cup and our full focus turns to Partick Thistle as we go into the game intent on progressing in a tournament we have won for the past three seasons.

As we well know, though, these games are far from easy, as we found out in the last round against

Dunfermline when they took us to extra-time and not far away from a penalty shoot-out.

Thistle haven't had the start to the season they would want and last week wasn't the best for them, but we all know how dangerous that makes teams, especially in cup competition against a team from a higher division, and, with Ian McCall returning as manager just this week, their tails will be up.

So we have to be aware of the threat that can pose to us from a team who will be keen to start with a fresh slate but, as ever, we will be prepared for the game just as we are for every opponent.

Thistle will want to cause a shock result, but we know if we play as we can do, then we have an excellent chance of being in the draw for the semi-finals and another trip to Hampden, and I'm sure that you, the

supporters, would be happy with that as well.

As I said, we go into tonight's game in good form and we don't want that to slip as we haven't been losing many goals at the back and the goal count up front has come from all around the team. That is to our advantage, as our opponents in each game will be wondering where the threat is coming from.

Hopefully, that will be the case tonight and we hope that we can give you plenty to cheer about in a competition we aim to be successful in again this season.

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**SCOTLAND'S champions got their UEFA Europa League group stage campaign off to a strong start in France, following an impressive away performance in Roazhon Park. Now Paradise awaits, as we prepare for more magic under the lights here at Celtic Park.**

Supporters have been snapping up their three-match packages in their thousands as anticipation rises for European action on home turf. Don't miss your chance to be here!

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- Thursday, October 3: Celtic v CFR Cluj (KO: 8pm)
  - Thursday, October 24: Celtic v Lazio (KO: 8pm)
  - Thursday, November 28: Celtic v Stade Rennais (KO: 8pm)
- Buy online now or via the sales line on 0871 226 1888\* (option 2).

The deadline for Season Ticket holders to purchase their seat has now passed (5pm Wednesday, September 11).

Season Ticket holders can however, still take advantage of discounted ticket pricing at £72 for adults, £57 for concessions and £42 for under-13s direct from the Ticket Office, or by calling direct on 0141 230 1967. These prices can no longer be purchased online or via the booking line. Season Tickets cards can no longer be activated for the match.

*\*Calls cost 13p per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Booking fees apply online and via booking line.*