

01

CELTIC

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



**HAMILTON**

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

02/08/2020

CELTIC PARK

KO 4.30PM



# UNIFORMIA UNIFORMIA



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PREDATOR



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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.

## WHAT'S INSIDE



Manager - Neil Lennon



Captain - Scott Brown



Interview - Forrest



PenPix



Last Season v Hamilton



Debut Bhoys



Ex-Player



History



Quiz

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## NEIL LENNON

'It's incredible to think this is our first game in almost five months - to say we're looking forward to it is probably an understatement'

**THE opening game of the new season is always one that everyone looks forward to, and that will be the case this afternoon when we take on Hamilton Accies.**

These are, of course, unusual circumstances and while I would normally be welcoming you all to the stadium, today that welcome is extended to you wherever you will be reading this programme and getting ready to watch the game.

Ideally, we would like to be having Flag Day in front of a sell-out crowd at Celtic Park, but current restrictions mean that football is resuming here in Scotland behind closed doors. That is obviously something we all hope is only for the short-term, and that you will all soon be back in the stadium and cheering us on.

In the meantime, however, we have been preparing well this week for today's game and our aim, of course, is to start the campaign with a win.

Hamilton will come here with the same aim in mind, and we know from our previous meetings last season that Brian's side are always very difficult opponents. Indeed, in

the game here at Celtic Park back in December, we needed a very late Scott Brown goal to take all three points, so we are taking nothing for granted today.

It's also incredible to think that this will be our first competitive game in almost five months, when we beat St Mirren 5-0 here at Celtic Park, so to say that we're all looking forward to it is probably an understatement.

The players worked well during the lockdown and since returning to training, they've put a lot of hard work into their pre-season preparations in order to be ready for the challenges ahead, starting with today's game against Hamilton.

Our three matches in France, against top-quality opposition, were beneficial for us in so many ways, with the players able to challenge themselves against some really good sides. It's fair to say that Paris Saint-Germain are one of Europe's top sides, and I thought we acquitted ourselves well throughout the game.

It was also important for us to get a taste of playing here at Celtic Park behind closed doors, and the games against Ross County and Hibernian

were ideal in that regard, as well as giving the players more game-time.

Today, we begin our bid to retain the league title that we have won for the past nine years, and we know just how important this season will be. However, as I have said many times, our approach is always to take it one game at a time. That has served us well in the past and I'm sure it will continue to do so in the weeks and months ahead.

I want to thank all of you for your incredible support throughout these difficult times, and I hope we will all be together here at Celtic Park before too long. Stay safe, enjoy the game and let's hope for a good start to the campaign.

Neil Lennon

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## SCOTT BROWN



**‘When we played Hamilton in December, we needed an added time goal to win 2-1. I can’t remember who scored that winning goal, but I do remember it was a great finish!’**

**IT IS good to be back playing competitive football again, and we’re all looking forward to getting out on the pitch this afternoon to take on Hamilton Accies.**

I’ve been lucky enough to have experienced plenty of Flag Days at Celtic Park in my time here, but today’s game will be unlike anything that’s happened before. Normally, the stadium would be completely sold out and our supporters would be creating an incredible atmosphere, celebrating the achievements of the previous season and also looking forward to the season ahead.

That won’t be the case today, sadly, and we will initially be playing behind closed doors. It’s not something that anyone wants – players and supporters – and we all hope that you’ll be back here at the stadium before too long.

We’ve had a good pre-season

and now we’re ready to get the league campaign up and running. It’s strange to think that our last competitive game was back at the start of March, so all the lads will be ready for kick-off today.

Everyone’s been working hard on the training pitch, while the pre-season games we’ve had in France and here at Celtic Park have been vital in giving us the game-time we need before the competitive football starts.

We know that Hamilton will come here looking to get their league campaign off to a good start, so we’ll have to be at our best if we want to get off to a winning start. When we played them back in December, we needed an added time goal to win 2-1. I can’t remember who scored that winning goal, but I do remember it was a great finish!

Our aim at the start of every

season is to try and win every competition we take part in, and we’ve been able to do that in the Premiership over the past nine years. That’s been down to the attitude and application of every player who has been at the club throughout that period, and for the lads in the squad now, we know what our targets are for the campaign ahead.

That starts today, and we will be doing everything we can to get our first three points on the board for 2020/21.

Scott Brown



**OFFICIAL RETAIL PARTNER**



**I AM** 



# CELTIC NEWS

## Football For Good Fund promoted on screens throughout Glasgow



**AN incredible sum in the region of £600,000 has been invested in Celtic FC Foundation's Football For Good Fund, and the Foundation is now looking for assistance to continue and develop the support provided through the Fund in the coming months, from the Celtic Family and beyond.**

And with the Football for Good Fund Appeal now underway, Celtic FC Foundation are honoured to have received tremendous support from digital advertising specialists, Ocean, to help share the message, through the use of their advertising screens across Glasgow.

Ocean operate some of the UK's most prestigious out-of-home

advertising locations and have been a consistent and regular supporter of Celtic FC Foundation over a number of years. Once again, they have shown outstanding generosity by providing complimentary advertising space throughout the city.

With advertising space having been donated at over 30 different Glasgow locations, Ocean's support has helped the Foundation to convey the message of the impact created thus far through the Fund, with a particular focus on four key statistics.

So far we have provided:

- Food and essentials to over 35,000 vulnerable families and individuals.

- Food and essentials to over 9,000 vulnerable pensioners.
- Food and essentials to over 4,000 people facing homelessness.
- Over 11,000 hot meals to frontline NHS staff.

Celtic FC Foundation Chief Executive, Tony Hamilton, expressed his gratitude, saying: "Ocean have been a fantastic supporter of Celtic FC Foundation for some time now and once again they have been extremely keen to help our cause. I have absolutely no doubt that this messaging across the city will reach so many of our supporters and encourage those who're in a position to do so, to get involved in our Appeal."

## Take part in our 'Green Day' and support Football for Good Fund



**CELTIC FC Foundation is encouraging fans to turn social media green for today and support the Hoops, as they kick off their quest for 10-in-a-row.**

So pull on your Hoops or simply wear something green for the day and tag us in a photo of you supporting the Celts. Why not get the whole family kitted out in green and show us your best virtual huddle. You can tag us in your photos on Twitter @FoundationCFC or Instagram @celticfcfoundation

or even just share your photos with your friends on Facebook.

'Green Day' supporters who wish to make a donation to our Football for Good Fund can do so by texting the word 'CELTIC' followed by '£1', '£3' or '£5' to 70085\*.

Or use any of the other donation methods listed on [www.celticfc.net](http://www.celticfc.net)

\*Texts will cost the donation amount, plus one standard rate message.