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CELTIC v RANGERS

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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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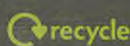
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'We know how much a derby game means to everybody - and the players will give everything in order to try and enjoy a successful 90 minutes'



GOOD afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's game against Rangers. It's a match that we're all looking forward to, and it's good to be back after the international break and playing at home.

The important thing, on the back of players being away with their respective countries, is to have them all report back injury-free and ready for our next match.

So this week, as we've been preparing for this fixture, the players have been returning to join up with the squad and the hope is obviously to have a full squad to choose from.

Every game is an important one for us, and our aim, as always, is to do everything we can to be

successful. This would give us another valuable three points and that is certainly our target.

We have established a good lead at the top of the table, and our focus is on maintaining that, if not increasing it.

However, we take nothing for granted, no matter the fixture. Certainly, in a derby game we know how much it means to everybody, and the players will give everything in order to try and enjoy a successful 90 minutes here at Celtic Park.

The two previous derby games this season have gone in favour of the home side, and we hope that is the case again this afternoon.

The last game also serves as a reminder of how dangerous Steven

Gerrard's team can be, and we will have to be at our best in order to get the right result.

Our supporters, too, can play their part as they so often do on these occasions. The backing that you give the team in every game, home and away, is one of our greatest strengths, and today that incredible backing can help the players throughout the course of the match.

Hopefully, we can all enjoy a successful 90 minutes here this afternoon. Enjoy the game.

Neil Lennon



new balance



AUDAZO

#RUNTHEGAME

RUN
THE
GAME





A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN



We're aiming for a result to add to the scorelines we've already delivered since the turn of the year

GOOD afternoon and welcome to today's game. It's another match that we are all looking forward to after a break since our last home game here at Celtic Park.

That last game here was our 0-0 draw with Aberdeen and, although we never won the game, it did maintain our unbeaten domestic run this year, and we followed that up with our 1-0 win over Dundee at Dens Park thanks to Odsonne Edouard's late goal.

We have now gone 13 games unbeaten in the SPFL and Scottish Cup, with 12 of those games won and one game drawn, but we don't need reminding that our last defeat at the end of last year was against today's visitors.

It was a scoreline that was frustrating for all of us, especially after our run of victories against Rangers,

but we didn't play well on the day and we only have ourselves to blame for the defeat just before the winter break.

That break away in the sun of Dubai did us the world of good, though, and that's been shown by our run of results since then and, as I said, we are looking forward to this afternoon's game, even though we know we will face a stiff test today.

Rangers will also be focused on trying to get the win, quite apart from the obvious addition of this being derby day in Glasgow, and we all know the importance of this match as we near the league split which is just a couple of games away.

We are ready for the challenge, though, and we are aiming to get a result today to add to the scorelines we've already delivered since the

turn of the year and make sure the supporters go home happy with another league win.

We are in a good position just now, both league-wise and with players coming back into the reckoning following injury, so we are intent on capitalising on that with another three points today to strengthen our place at the top of the table.

With your help by inspiring and urging us on from the stands, I know we can do that as your backing has driven us on before and I'm sure it will do the same again in this important fixture. Enjoy the game.



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Celtic Soccer Academy's new partnership with Palatine Celtic SC

CELTIC Soccer Academy are delighted to welcome Palatine Celtic Soccer Club to its International Partnership Programme in North America.

This relationship will see Celtic Soccer Academy Coaches travel to Illinois to deliver camps to the Palatine Celtic players, and will also give the players the opportunity to attend the Elite Player Programmes in Illinois, as well as the chance to travel to Glasgow to visit Celtic.

The Palatine Celtic SC coaches will also gain access to the monthly Coach Education WebEx's as well as the online Coaches Curriculum

Palatine Celtic Soccer Club Director of Soccer Operations JJ Ruane said: "We are excited to partner with Celtic FC, a club known throughout the world. Our founder, Jimmy Kinsella, was a huge Celtic fan and named



Palatine Celtic after them when he came to the US. We are excited to give our players, parents, and coaches soccer learning opportunities with one of the top clubs in the world."

International Soccer Academy Manager Willie McNab added: "We have been in discussion with Palatine Celtic for a while now and we are thrilled to have them as part of our Partnership Programme. There is already a

connection between both clubs and we are excited to build upon this over the coming years."

Celtic Soccer Academy has over 30 partner clubs in North America, and if your club or organisation would like to be part of our ever growing programme then please get in touch with Willie McNab (International Soccer Academy Manager for North America) on wmcnab@celticfc.co.uk

ANOTHER EXCITING PARTNERSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL SOCCER ACADEMY

WE are thrilled to add another club to our Partnership Programme in North America, with Kenmore Soccer Club becoming the first club partner of Celtic Soccer Academy in Buffalo, New York.

This unique partnership programme will see Celtic Soccer Academy Coaches deliver camps in Buffalo, giving the players of Kenmore SC the opportunity to attend the Elite Player Programmes in North America as well as the chance to travel to Glasgow to visit Celtic.

The coaches of Kenmore Soccer Club will gain access to our monthly Coach Education WebEx's as well as our online Coaches Curriculum.

Kenmore Soccer Club Operations Manager Ken Voght said: "Kenmore Soccer is excited to enter into this partnership, which will provide opportunities for our players that are unmatched in our area. In addition to the life lessons that youth sports can provide, we will also provide players with international experiences they will never forget."

International Soccer Academy Manager Willie McNab added:

"It is fantastic to see Kenmore Soccer become our first club partner in the Buffalo area and we are excited to work with them in the future. The structure and philosophy of Kenmore Soccer was one of the main reasons we have partnered with them to build a long lasting relationship."

Founded in 2006, Kenmore Soccer Club has quickly grown to be one of the largest soccer clubs in the Buffalo, New York area with 600+ youth players participating in competitive soccer competitions. Over 50 coaches support the programmes offered by the club, and its affiliation with the KidsPlay instructional programme and several adult programmes allows it to offer soccer opportunities for ages 3-50, including local and regional league play, as well as international soccer trips.

Celtic Soccer Academy have over 30 partner clubs in North America, and if your club or organisation would like to be part of our ever growing programme then please get in touch with Willie McNab (International Soccer Academy Manager for North America) on wmcnab@celticfc.co.uk