

# DROGHEDA UNITED FC V CELTIC XI



OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME

€4

UNITED PARK • DROGHEDA

WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2010

TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSORED BY PAT MCGEARY

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



On behalf of the Board of Drogheda United, I would like to welcome you all here to United Park for our second pre-season friendly of 2010.

I bid a special C ad Mile F ailte to our visitors Celtic on the occasion of their 2nd ever visit to the historic town of Drogheda. In 1995 the Drogs squad that played Celtic included our current assistant manager, Barry O'Connor, and, given the 2-2 scoreline, we can truthfully say that we are unbeaten against Celtic!

Drogheda United are indeed honoured by the visit of this famous club to our town and we thank them for agreeing to this match in the midst of their busy SPL season and we wish them well for the rest of the campaign.

We would also like to welcome visiting supporters to the match tonight and hope they enjoy the football on offer. While the League of Ireland has taken the brunt of justified criticism recently regarding facilities, there is no doubt that the standard of football has greatly improved over the last few years.

I would like to thank Pat McGeary, our match sponsor, for his support on this important occasion, the Boyne Valley Hotel & Country Club for their generosity in accommodating the Celtic team tonight and Scotch Hall Shopping Centre, tonight's ball sponsor. As we commence the 2010 season, with the general economic outlook as poor as it is, we owe the sponsors who have already committed themselves to the club this year a huge debt of gratitude.

It is difficult to adequately express our appreciation to the big gang of supporters who turned up at the weekend and over the last two days to help clean and paint. They have always shown, and continue to show extraordinary commitment and generosity to Drogheda United. We are also extremely grateful to those who provided plumbing, fitting, carpeting and electrical services to us. We were delighted to be joined on Saturday by six remarkable young people from St. John of God's who, along with their carer, gave of their time and energy to help with the clean-up. Drogheda United is very proud to associate itself with this organisation that integrates people with intellectual disabilities into the community. A special thanks too to Matt and Dinny, Maureen, Nooleen and Peter for their trojan efforts as always.

On this, the anniversary of Alan Mathews' appointment as First Team Manager, I would like to pay tribute to his determination and level-headedness under difficult circumstances during the past year. Alan, the players and back-room staff have been working very hard over recent weeks and we are confident of a strong performance tonight that sets the tone for the coming season.

Enjoy the match!

**JIM MACARDLE**

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# TONIGHT'S SPONSORS

MANY PEOPLE CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING TONIGHT'S MATCH HAPPEN. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE HELP OF CELTIC'S NEIL LENNON AND A NUMBER OF DROGHEDA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

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Tonight we welcome Pat McGeary and his friends to United Park. Pat has very generously sponsored tonight's match and we are grateful for his support.

As ball sponsor, I would like to welcome Scotch Hall Shopping Centre and I extend a big thank you to Mark Morgan, manager.

A special thank you also to manager, Oliver Levins, and Karen Devine of our new associate sponsors "Boyne Valley Hotel". Both have been a pleasure to deal with and I look forward to a very fruitful relationship with them. We are very grateful also to Gary Reynolds, contracts manager at Aston Carpets in Dublin 15, for his tremendous support.

Whenever Celtic play, it is always a very special occasion and tonight we are delighted to have the opportunity of hosting them in United Park.

Enjoy the match and we look forward to your continued support throughout the season.

*Peter Halpin.*

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## Club Directory

### Club Presidents:

Vincent Hoey, Charlie Hurley

### Club Directors:

Jim Agnew, Chris Byrne,  
Vincent Hoey, Brian Markey,  
Jim MacArdle, Eugene O'Connor,  
Róisín Phillips

### Chairman:

Jim MacArdle

### 1st Team Manager:

Alan Mathews

### Assistant Manager:

Barry O'Connor

### Goalkeeping Coach:

Jacko Smith

### 1st Team Liaison Officer:

Dermot McKenna

### Physio:

Danny Miller

### Club Doctor:

Conor Kelly

### Kit Manager:

Brendan Loughran

### Child Protection Officer:

Trudy Kerr

### Club Secretary:

Maureen Cooney

### Club Accounts Manager:

Noeleen O'Kane

### Commercial Manager:

Peter Halpin

**This commemorative programme has contributions from** Brian Whelan, Fran Hoey, The Claret & Blue Club, The Guardian

**Designed by** Alan McDonnell

**Photography by** Terry Collins, Shane Mullin, Larry McQuillan and Sportsfile

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All persons entering this stadium are admitted only subject to the following stadium regulations and rules of The Club. Entry to the stadium shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these rules and regulations.

Fireworks, Smoke Canisters, Bottles, Glasses, Cans, Poles, Laser pens, Flares or any similar articles or containers, including anything that could be used as a weapon, are not permitted within the stadium. Any person in possession of such as article or container may be refused entry, or ejected from the stadium.

Spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the stadium. The unauthorised climbing of floodlight pylons, stands or any other building is forbidden.

Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any object onto the field of play.

Unnecessary noise such as that from the use of radio sets and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind, including foul or abusive language, is not permitted in the stadium.

Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter the field of play at any time.

The Club Management reserves the right to refuse admission to, or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a member of An Garda Síochána.

Any person who remains in a gangway may be ejected from the stadium.

The Club Management will not tolerate any form of racist abuse or threatening behaviour and racist or obscene chanting is strictly forbidden.

The moving from one area of the stadium to another without the permission of a steward, Garda Síochána or other authorised agent of The Club is strictly forbidden.

Any person attempting to gain admission or being found within a section of the ground designated for members only without the proper authorisation may be ejected from the ground.

Only persons specifically authorised in writing by The Club Management are permitted to offer for sale or distribute any newspaper, periodical or any other article inside the stadium.

Any person found damaging or defacing the property of The Club will be prosecuted.

Persons are admitted to this stadium subject to their acceptance of these rules and regulations of The Club and regulations of the Football Association of Ireland and the League of Ireland.

Any person who fails to comply with the instructions from the stewards may be ejected from the stadium.

The Club Management reserves the right for agents to remove from the ground any person who does not comply with the ground regulations or whose presence in the ground could reasonably be constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.

In general, the right of admission is reserved to The Club Management. In the event of a match being postponed or abandoned, any refund of the admission charge will be at the sole discretion of The Club Management. This is subject to a time limitation, the details of which are available from the club ticket office.

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# DROGHEDA UNITED SQUAD 2010

**Manager**

*Alan Mathews*

1	<i>Paul Skinner</i>
2	<i>Corey Tracey</i>
3	<i>Damian Brennan</i>
4	<i>Conor Kenna</i>
5	<i>Alan Mc Nally</i>
6	<i>Eric Mc Gill</i>
7	<i>Brendan Mc Gill</i>
8	<i>Jamie Duffy</i>
9	<i>Robbie Martin</i>
10	<i>Paul Crowley</i>
11	<i>Ross Gaynor</i>
12	<i>Eoghan Osborne</i>
13	<i>Darren Mc Namara</i>
14	<i>Garreth O Connor</i>
15	<i>Jamie Harris</i>
16	<i>Mick Daly</i>
17	<i>Brian King</i>
18	<i>Glen Fitzpatrick</i>



IT'S JUST OVER ONE YEAR SINCE A GROUP OF DROGHEDA UNITED SUPPORTERS SAT IN THE HIGH COURT IN DUBLIN AS JUDGE FINLAY GEOGHEGAN DELIVERED HER JUDGEMENT.

I sat beside one fan, whose knuckles were white as he clenched his fists in nervous anticipation. I sent text updates on the proceedings to my brother who then posted them on the web for all those who waited in their workplaces or homes for word on whether Drogheda United would continue trading. I don't think the Drogheda United messageboard ever had so many viewers.

All of us who were crammed into that courtroom exchanged glances as various points were raised and then dismissed and there wasn't a dry eye in the room when the Judge finally ordered that Drogheda United could continue trading.

It has been a very difficult year since that fateful day, both on and off the field.

There will always be critics, those who may not fully understand or appreciate that running a league of Ireland club is fraught with difficulty. Some would say you should run it like a business. It's not that simple. Inevitably, people's passion and love of the game and of the club causes them to do things that you just wouldn't do in business. If Drogheda United were purely a business, liquidation would probably have been the kindest choice over a year ago.

But we couldn't do that to the people for whom Drogheda United is a way of life, something

without which no week would be complete, people who care so deeply about the club and their fellow supporters. Closing the door on United Park simply wasn't and isn't an option.

The Claret and Blue Club was set up by a few people last June to try and steady the ship financially. More recently, it has given people a real sense of belonging to Drogheda United with the ultimate aim now being that the members will own the club. That can only be a good thing.

Last Saturday we held a clean-up day in United Park with RTE filming the tremendous display of community spirit and involvement. A dedicated group of volunteers painted, ripped up carpets, filled skips, cleaned out gutters and much more. A year ago last Friday, the same group of people were filmed by RTE cheering outside the High Court. The same faces, a different place. Their enthusiasm and passion hasn't faded in the intervening year. We are all more determined than ever to keep this great club alive.

These are difficult times and we need all the help we can get. If you'd like to get involved, even in a small way, then please get in touch with any of the club members or staff.

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The current generation of football fans have grown up in an era where big spending English clubs dominate European football. Kids today could be forgiven for thinking that it was always thus, but not so.

The first team from these islands to lift the top prize in European football wasn't a moneybags team of the best talent that money could rent from around the world. Far from it.

In 1967 Glasgow Celtic, against all the odds and playing a brand of football that won them admirers around the world, took on the glamour boys of Inter Milan in the European Cup final. The all-Scottish side that Jock Stein built covered themselves in glory and became known as the 'Lisbon Lions'. Their names are still revered by Celtic fans.

# RELENTLESS ATTACK WINS EUROPEAN CUP

ALBERT BARHAM • LISBON • 25 MAY

**CELTIC 2 - 1** INTERNAZIONALE MILAN

This match report appeared in the Guardian newspaper.

Celtic flags fly triumphantly in the evening shadows here today. At last, like the World Cup, the European Cup comes home to Britain. Celtic are the new champions and worthy ones at that, having beaten Inter Milan 2-1 in the final after a remarkable match; by sheer determination when all seemed stacked against them, when frustration and defeat stared them straight in the eye.

There is no individual hero. Every man gave his all. No other British club has ever reached the final, let alone win Europe's most coveted prize. And as the shadows lengthened just five minutes away from extra time Celtic scored the winning goal. It seemed the final minutes would never pass for their 7,000 supporters, who had travelled so far and so hopefully. It was like Wembley all over again after the Scottish victory against England.

Jubilant was everywhere as the supporters cavorted around their heroes. But hope had been slim for so long. Not for an hour could the despairing Scots break the defensive wall Inter built round their goal. Inter have done it so often, so successfully, it seemed Celtic, for all Johnstone's cunning and Murdoch's support of the forwards, had not the key to prise apart the tall Facchetti from his cohorts, Burgnich, Guarneri, and Bedin. But the assistance from the backs and particularly the shooting of Gemmell from outside the wall, was rewarded in the end.

For all the great expectation of high tension no one could have expected it to erupt so sharply or suddenly. Within the first six minutes Celtic were a goal down to a penalty. It came as Craig fouled Cappellini and was scored by Mazzola for whom this must have been an emotional experience for it was here his father played his last match before he died so tragically in the air crash afterwards. Inter, for all their leisurely approach, snapped into action near goal with surprising skill and speed and only seconds before the goal Cappellini sprinted down the wing and Mazzola's low header glanced off Simpson's knees.

From that disastrous goal, however, Celtic gained in strength. Back came Inter into the old familiar pattern of massed defence behind which stalked Sarti plucking the high shots out of the air. There was no way through for Celtic. There was no way over the wall either. It had to be from outside the wall in the hope of a chink being made that success could come.

Celtic waited so long. Incident piled upon incident, thrill upon thrill. Auld hit the crossbar, a low left foot shot from Johnstone was smothered by Sarti, who in the next minute tipped a header from Johnstone over the crossbar.

Nine men were pulled back to stem Celtic. Inter were well content and determined to hold what they had. It demanded defence of the highest order against an attack as consistent and resolute as Celtic's. Sarti just managed to smother one free-kick which Gemmell deflected off this wall of defence. Later, lobbing rather speculatively, Gemmell's shot hit the bar as the evening sun glinted in Sarti's eyes. And all the while Inter had not threatened again. And when they needed to come from their defensive box they could not.

Gemmell claimed the goal which brought Celtic level after an hour, and what a beautifully taken goal it was, coming from the clever understanding of Murdoch and Craig. This time the groping fingers of Sarti could not touch Gemmell's fierce, first-time shot. With the goal came renewed hope for in spite of Inter's stubborn defence, Celtic were back with a real chance. It did not come until five minutes from time and then Chalmers was promptly submerged by his jubilant colleagues after he had scored the most crucial goal of his career. And so on to the rejoicing.

**CELTIC** - Simpson: Craig, Gemmell, Murdoch, McNeill, Clark; Johnstone, Wallace, Chalmers, Auld, Lennox.  
**INTER MILAN** - Sarti: Picchi, Burgnich, Guarneri, Facchetti, Bedin; Corso, Bicioli, Mazzola, Cappellini, Domenghini.