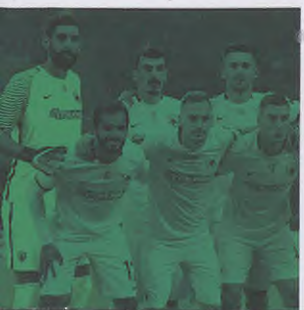


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# CELTIC

v AEK ATHENS







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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 use funds to provide food for the poor in 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 at the responsibility of being a major British social institution promoting health, well-being and social integration.

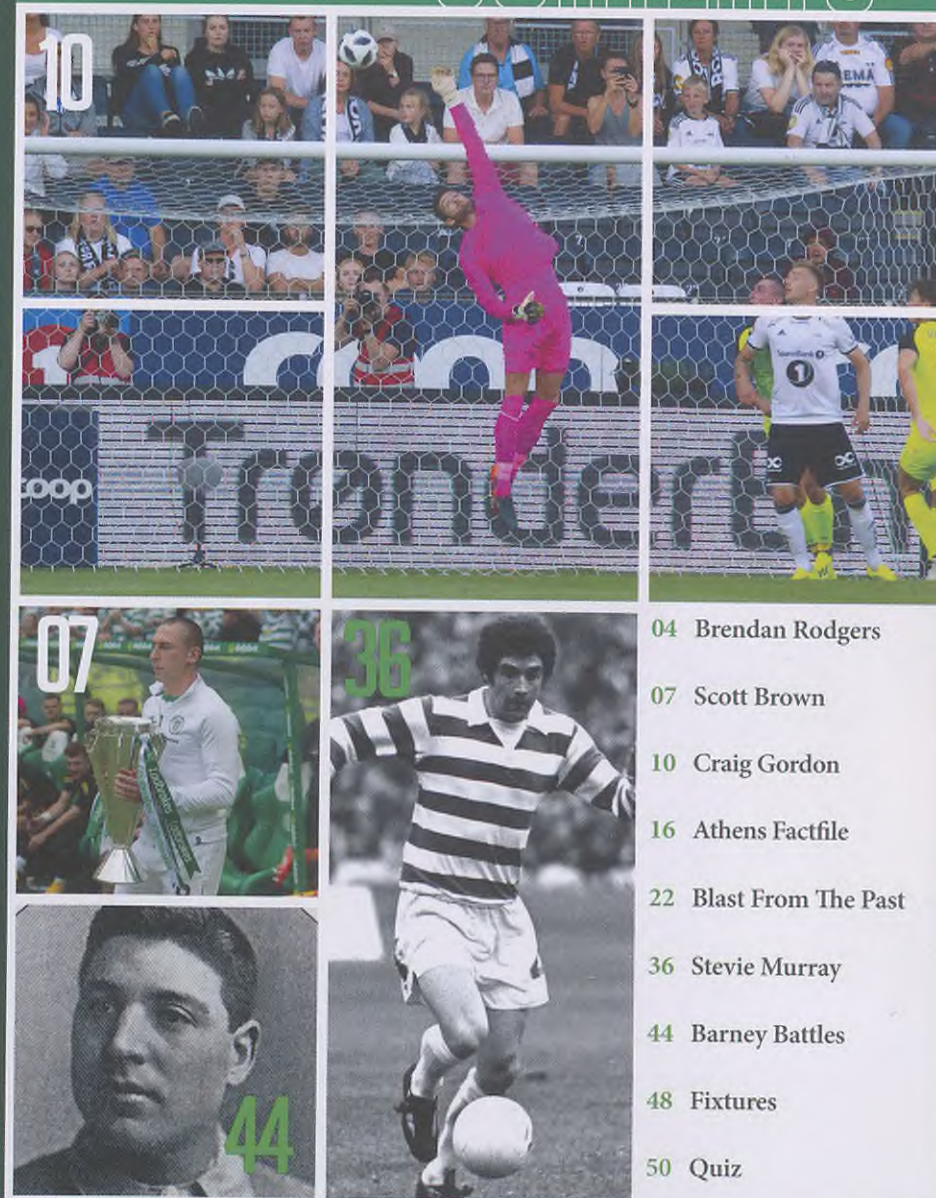
### Who is Celtic Football Club for?

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 dissociate 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 best team of the people.

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Manager's Notes...

# BRENDAN RODGERS



## We're up and running in the league but we'll have to be at our best against AEK

**GOOD evening and welcome to Celtic Park for tonight's UEFA Champions League qualifier against AEK Athens, and I would like to extend that welcome to our visitors from Greece.**

We've already managed to successfully negotiate two qualifying rounds and we know that, as we progress, the challenge becomes more difficult each time.

The fact that AEK Athens are only entering the tournament at this stage is an indication of their quality and we know that we face two very tough games, here tonight at Celtic Park and then next Tuesday with the second leg in Athens.

While our opponents have yet to start their league campaign, we got ours up and running with a good win on Saturday against Livingston.

It was a great day, with a sell-out crowd, and the Premiership flag being raised by a Celtic legend in Danny McGrain, and I thought the players produced a very good performance, particularly on the back of what had been a tough midweek game over in Norway against Rosenborg.

We played with good energy and tempo, and our only disappointment was conceding a goal at the end, which also serves as a reminder to be focused and concentrated for every moment of the game. Apart from that, though, there were so many positives and we started with a win, which was very pleasing.

I thought we looked very dangerous in that final third of the pitch. Some of our play and the speed of our play was exceptional and on the back of a UEFA Champions League game, the intensity was very good.

Tonight we face another challenge against AEK Athens, and it's one that we've been focused on and have been preparing for these past few days.



Our experience of European football has shown that the tie is not won after the first 90 minutes, but the importance of a good result – ideally a victory and a clean sheet – is something we're all aware of.

At the same time, we know our opponents will come here looking to get a positive result to take back to their own stadium, so we will have to be at our best tonight to meet the challenge they will pose.

We're also looking forward to playing in front of our own supporters.

European nights at Celtic Park are always special occasions, and with your fantastic backing we go into the game full of confidence and aiming to get a positive result tonight. Enjoy the game.

**Brendan Rodgers**  
*Without Fear*





new balance

AUDAZO

#RUNTHEGAME



RUN  
THE  
GAME







A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN

## We know it's going to be tough, but we're looking forward to it and we're going into this tie full of confidence



**THE games are already coming thick and fast for us, and tonight is another massive one as we look to try and reach the group stages of the UEFA Champions League for the third season in a row.**

We know it's going to be a tough tie, both tonight and then next week in Greece, as AEK Athens are a top team with a lot of quality in their squad, but it's something that the lads are all looking forward to.

We've done well to beat Alashkert and then Rosenborg in the previous rounds, so we're going into this tie full of confidence, and we will be focused on getting a positive result here tonight.

We all know the impact our own fans can have on a game, and on big European nights they can make all the difference.

It was a brilliant atmosphere on Saturday and I'm sure that a packed Paradise will give all the lads a real boost tonight.

It was good to get the league campaign off to a winning start, and I thought we played well against Livingston. It was also great to see some of the boys back in the team and getting some valuable game-time.

We're going to need everyone in the squad to play their part in the weeks and months ahead, and I know that

whoever is called upon will be able to do that.

We've been working hard these past few days on the training ground in preparation for tonight's match against AEK Athens, and now that it's here, we're all looking forward to it and ready to do everything we can to get a good result tonight for everyone to enjoy.



CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 1888

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## Pavilion box office re-open: Get your Celtic The Musical tickets now

**DON'T** miss your chance to secure your place at the must-see show for all Celtic supporters, when **Celtic the Musical** returns to Glasgow, with shows running from **Wednesday, September 5 to Saturday, September 29** at the **Pavilion Theatre**.

Back by popular demand, **Celtic the Musical**, tells the remarkable tale of the club through story and song. From Brother Walfrid's vision, through to the unprecedented Invincible Treble and updated to include last season's historic Double Treble winning success under Brendan Rodgers.

The performance tells of Celtic's ever-evolving story and is a perfect show for all Celtic supporters, young and old.

It's the first show back at the newly-renovated Pavilion Theatre, and tickets are selling fast, so head to the Box Office now before it is too late!

Tickets start from £20, and are available online at [paviliontheatre.co.uk](http://paviliontheatre.co.uk) or by phoning 0141 332 1846.



## PERFECT FLAG DAY AT PARADISE

FLAG Day at Paradise is always a special day, and with Celtic legend Danny McGrain unfurling the flag ahead of the game against Livingston, it was already a great atmosphere inside the stadium.

For William Ferry, however, the day got even better at half-time as he won the Paradise Windfall jackpot and picked up a cheque for FIFTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS.

The draw, sponsored by Laurie Ross, was made by Stilyan Petrov, who was also promoting

the forthcoming 'Match For Cancer' charity game on Saturday, September 8 at Celtic Park.

The winning ticket was X2500 but William, from Shawlands, Glasgow, wasn't able to get down on to the pitch at half-time from his seat in the North Stand Upper.

So he had to wait and pick up the cheque at the end of the game, which he was delighted to do as he also got to meet Celtic striker, Leigh Griffiths.

The other winning tickets drawn were: R3812, Y2913, A1235 and W3469.

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