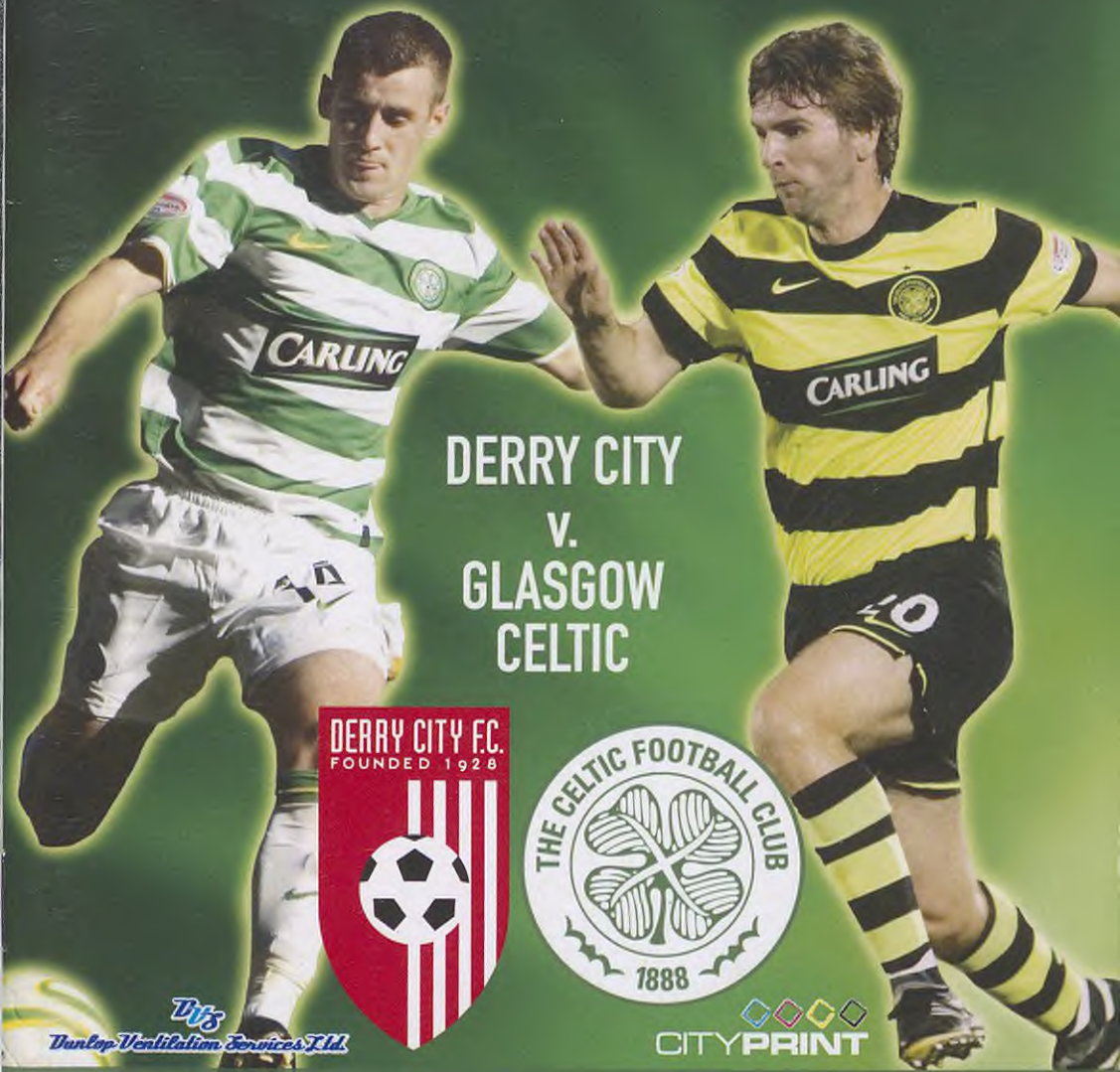


THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF
DERRY CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

CITYVIEW



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DERRY CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

HISTORY & HONOURS

FORMED 1928

Ground Brandywell Stadium

Members of Irish League

1929 - 1972

Elected to League of Ireland

1985

Club Colours Red & White

Striped Shirts / Black Shorts

Manager Stephen Kenny

First Team Coach

Declan Devine

Physio Colm O'Neill

Club Doctor Joe McElroy

IRISH LEAGUE HONOURS

League Champions: 1964-65

IFA Cup Winners:

1949, 1954, 1964

City Cup Winners: 1935, 1937

Gold Cup Winners: 1964

Top Four Winners: 1966

LEAGUE OF IRELAND HONOURS

League Champions:

1988-89, 1996-97

1st Division Champions:

1986-87

FAI Cup Winners:

1989, 1995, 2002, 2006

League Cup Winners:

1988, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1999,

2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

Shield Winners: 1986

CITYVIEW is the official Match Day Programme of Derry City Football Club. The views expressed are, however, not necessarily those of the Board of Directors or indeed the Programme Committee.

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Welcome to Glasgow Celtic

IT'S hard to believe that Celtic are returning to Brandywell tonight, almost a year to the day when the last visited Foyleside.

That game, staged to celebrate Derry City's 80th anniversary celebrations, proved a phenomenal success and, hopefully, tonight's game will also attract significant attention as we prepare to face the run-in to the 2009 season.

Our links with the men from "Paradise" are now well established with two of our former players, Paddy McCourt and Niall McGinn, now performing regularly with the "Bhoys" and, indeed, with the Northern Ireland international team.

Unfortunately for us, both Paddy and Niall, will not be gracing the Brandywell turf this evening as both have been called into Nigel Worthington's squad which flies out to the Czech Republic early next week for a World Cup qualifying game and we wish them both every success.

Another member of the Celtic squad, Daniel Lafferty, hails from the Carnhill area of the city and, hopefully, the defender has been selected to travel. Danny, a former member of local junior club, Oxford United Stars, has been at Park head since he was 16 years of age.

He has been playing regularly in the club's reserve team but has yet to play a competitive game in the

SPL due to the current strength and quality of the Celtic defence. Hopefully Danny will get his chance this season and, no doubt, he will impress team boss, Tony Mowbray.

May we also take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all those who have supported this game. It's been well documented that the "Candy Stripes" have experienced a pretty traumatic season in 2009 with financial problems again rearing its ugly head not to mention an injury crisis which has had a major effect in recent games.

Our physio, Colm O'Neill, has certainly been one of the hardest working members of the staff, regularly treating members of our playing staff in an effort to get players back to full fitness as soon as possible.

We've no doubt that Derry City supporters will tonight appreciate the talents of many of Celtic's up and coming stars and, indeed, get to watch some of our own talented youngsters who are continuing to develop their careers in our Youth Academy and Under-20 squad.

Let's hope the game will be fluent, exciting and enjoyable for all those watching but, more importantly, that everyone in attendance will experience a safe journey home after the final whistle.

Enjoy the game.

DERRY CITY F.C.
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Welcome from the Chairman

Scottish giants return to Brandywell

IT IS with great pleasure that we welcome the players, management and supporters of Glasgow Celtic Football Club back to the Brandywell for what is sure to be an exciting and competitive fixture for all those in attendance this evening.

Celtic are, without doubt, one of the world's biggest and best supported teams and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to seeing how our team compete on the same stage in a friendly fixture as part of the deal that saw our own Paddy McCourt move across the water to join up with the 'Bhoys.'

Indeed it's also interesting to note the recent performances of both Paddy and Niall McGinn, who are both starting to make a name for themselves in Scotland and further afield with some fantastic displays.

It goes without saying that all those associated with Derry City are absolutely delighted to see them both doing so well and we wish them every success in their future careers at Celtic.

As a result of the recent transfers of Paddy and Niall, we have formed a good relationship with Celtic and that's something we very much welcome. Indeed we also hope to develop that relationship further as such a situation does our club no harm at all.

We have, of course, played Celtic on numerous occasions in the past and who can forget the thrilling 3-2 victory we recorded in Lansdowne Road back in 1997 when we represented the League of Ireland in the four team Carlsberg tournament.

On that occasion Derry caused a major shock when defeating the famous "Hoops" before losing narrowly to Newcastle in the final. That was a fantastic time for the club and came as a result of our last League

Championship victory under Felix Healy.

Obviously we would one day like to come up against Celtic in a competitive European game but for now we'll have to make do with a friendly fixture that is sure to deliver goals, excitement and produce a great atmosphere.

Let's hope tonight's game is as exciting as that one in Lansdowne Road in 1997 and everyone will go home happy. Enjoy the game.

Pat McDaid, Chairman, Derry City FC





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Celtic visits have been memorable

I HAVE a number of memories relating to the links between Derry City and Glasgow Celtic, the first one centred on Nigel Melly signing for the Celts at the start of the 1990's.

I remember that Liam Brady was the manager of the "Bhoys" at that time but I'll admit to judicious use of the internet to confirm that he was signed in April, 1991. It was a certainly big deal at the time and although Melly never made a first team appearance at Parkhead, the former Derry City reserves defender returned home to play for Omagh Town for a number of years.

In fact, the Brandywell club received £25,000 for the player as part of the UEFA 'Principles of Co-Operation' ruling as Melly had held an amateur contract with Derry and that deal, as far as I remember, was when Brady travelled over to discuss the issue with members of the Derry City Board of Directors.

There was the period under Roy Coyle and Tony O'Doherty when Derry City appeared to be single handedly ensuring the viability of Loganair flight from Derry to Glasgow. A succession of short term signings including Gary Lennox, son of the Celtic legend Bobby, graced the Brandywell turf. Unfortunately none of them with any great distinction.

A "Celtic select" visited Brandywell in 1995 in Stuart Gauld's Testimonial. My father was on the Testimonial Committee and we were down at the Everglades ensuring that the players were

settled in.

Paul Byrne, later of Bohemians, was with the Celts at the time and he asked could a few players get a lift to the bookies. We ended up taking them to the bookies in Spencer Road which, in hindsight, may not have not been the wisest move at the time. They emerged unscathed but I am not sure if any of their bets proved fruitful.

During the League winning season of 1996/97, City signed former Finn Harps captain, Declan Boyle, from Celtic around Christmas time. Richie Purdy was the Derry full-back at the time, but Boyle slotted into the right back spot and was part of the side that ran away with the League that year.

The Donegal man cost £10,000 and it was an expensive purchase, but he was a solid defender both for ourselves and Finn Harps during his lengthy career.

Memorable Moment

However, one of City's most famous games against Celtic was the shock victory in the Carlsberg Tournament in the summer of 1997 at Lansdowne Road.

The four team tournament featured Derry City, Dutch representatives PSV Eindhoven, Newcastle United and Celtic. City met Celtic in the first semi-final and produced a stunning 3-2 victory. Gary Beckett's sublime lob for the opener and Ryan Coyle with the winner saw Derry defy the odds and advance to the final.

Paolo Di Canio put on a one man show for Celtic that day and new manager, Wim Jansen, must have been wondering what he had let himself in for. City fans delighted in running it in to the Derry based Celtic fans that day.

During City's serious financial troubles in 2000, Martin O'Neill led a star-studded Celtic side to the Brandywell to help the club through the difficulties.

Anyone who was attending games during that period will remember that it was a very bleak time, but there was a siege mentality round the club. From the emotional meeting in the Delacroix Inn, Pat Dolan's speech on the pitch, the victory over Bohemians a week later or the friendlies against Celtic and Manchester United, it was a scary time, but the spirit exhibited was brilliant.

The games in recent years have been much lower key affairs and a lot of supporters felt "burned" from the last time Celtic were here. That certainly won't help the attendance at the today's game but we can learn a lot from the visitors. The way they have branded themselves, the loyalty of their support, their niche in the market, the size of support they can attract in what essentially is a two team League.

Celtic went through financial pain and success was in short supply during the early nineties. But Fergus McCann transformed the club, a process which is still ongoing today, and Celtic are all the stronger for it.

Paddy, Niall prove Celts got a real deal

SO LET'S see, that's Bohs, Linfield, Cork, Rovers and Celtic all in the space of a fortnight; at least from a fan's perspective, it doesn't get much better than that.

Once again, however, the spotlight shines brightly on events off the field at Brandywell and it looks pretty clear now that major surgery is on the way.

Without knowing the full facts it does appear that the recent criticism from players, past and present, regarding some issues with the current Board has hardly helped restore confidence among the Faithful.

Whatever mistakes may or may not have been made can hardly be changed now, but you can be sure that Pat McDaid and his team took every decision with the best interests of Derry City Football Club at the top of their agenda.

On a day when we're welcoming the Scottish Premier League leaders to Brandywell, however, it is probably best to leave that to another time. The SPL side are here, as we all know as part of the deal that took Paddy McCourt to the east end of Glasgow, a piece of business that will be looking an awful lot more attractive to them now than may have been the case a few months ago.

Unfortunately, Paddy and Niall's success on the park will see to it that neither plays today, both having been called into the Northern Ireland squad so we will be hoping that the Celts send us at least a few names that we can associate with them.

Like Tony Mowbray, City fans

have always known that Paddy is capable of goals like we've seen recently, but also like the Celtic supremo, we are well aware how often it happens. To be fair to him though he looks determined to give it a real go at Parkhead, and he has certainly been making all the right noises and it's easy to see him going on to become a real cult figure at the club if he addresses those shortcomings and gets an injury-free run.

Equally impressive

If anything, although he doesn't have the spectacular goals to his name, Niall has been even more impressive. I was speaking to a Parkhead regular a few days ago and they have really taken to him.

Celtic fans say they have been crying out for a genuine winger and although McGeady and Nakamura had been used in the role, both are much more comfortable coming in.

McGinn, on the other hand, is happy to stay wide and attack the full backs, although the only problem now for Celtic is that they could do with someone who can get on the end of Crosas (sorry!).

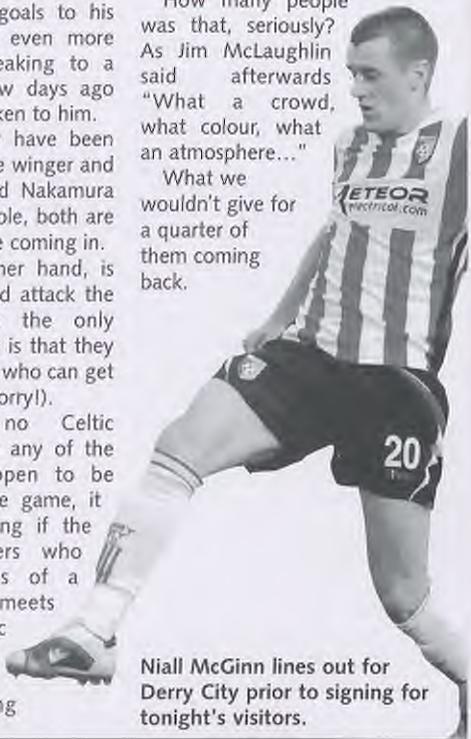
Anyway, we're no Celtic publication although if any of the "Hoops" players happen to be reading this before the game, it would be no bad thing if the handful of youngsters who might harbour hopes of a scribbled autograph meets with a more sympathetic approach than the last time. I'm sure the chances of being

kidnapped in the Brandywell are quite minimal (before 8.00 p.m. at any rate) so we'll happily guarantee your safety from our marauding under-10's.

And the final word tonight to MNS for the 'trip down memory lane' last week with that tribute to our 'treble' winning side. There were some wonderful highlights in there; Liam's classic nutmeg, the demolition of Dundalk and Felix's 'treble' clincher among them but they all paled into insignificance compared with the camera panning the Derry fans during the cup final.

How many people was that, seriously? As Jim McLaughlin said afterwards "What a crowd, what colour, what an atmosphere..."

What we wouldn't give for a quarter of them coming back.



Niall McGinn lines out for Derry City prior to signing for tonight's visitors.

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Paddy steals the show

NEIL LENNON hailed the "maverick" talents of Paddy McCourt and admitted Celtic's Irish playmaker was simply unstoppable in the first-half of the recent 1-0 friendly win over Cork City.

McCourt lit up the Turner's Cross Stadium with an impressive opening 45 minutes and capped his performance with a wonderful solo strike which gave the "Hoops" a hard-fought victory.

The former Derry City player could have added two more goals as he showed off his full repertoire of tricks and Lennon, who took charge of Celtic at the Munster venue, applauded his natural talent.

He said: "Paddy was brilliant in the first half. He's a maverick really and some of the stuff he does with a ball is tremendous. He does things off the cuff and his goal showed that.

"He's a talented boy and he can only get better. Paddy is still learning the game at professional level but he is a stand-out player at times. There is no doubt about that.

"How far can he go? That's up to Paddy really. If he keeps progressing the way he is, then he'll do well. He's already caught the manager's eye and he's come off the bench a few times this season."

While McCourt stole the show, there were other real positives for Celtic as Barry Robson and Mark Wilson both completed 90 minutes, while Jason Marr played the second half on his return from injury.

Youth defender Declan Gallacher also had an excellent debut.

Lennon said: "It was a great exercise for the likes of Barry, who really needed 90 minutes, and Jason

Marr - who is just coming back from a long injury as well. The younger players will also take a lot out of it.

"I thought we were excellent in the first half but we made six changes to give everyone a game and that sort of disrupted the rhythm a bit. But Cork gave as good as they got in the second half.

"I was impressed with Cork. There's a lot of talent in Ireland and scouts are flocking over all the time. We have a few Irish lads in the squad and we'll keep coming over because I think it's important that we have players from this part of the world coming through the ranks," he concluded.

Paddy's Progress

McCourt's progress at Celtic Park has been quite literally hamstrung by injury, but having hit two goals in consecutive starts, the player is finally beginning to show his undeniable talent.

The Derryman's goals against Falkirk and St Mirren came at the end of mazy runs through the heart of the opposition ranks, the kind of which have been witnessed in reserve appearances over the past year at Celtic.

Now as more crucial games loom, the Shantallow man has said that the best is yet to come.

"There's no way I'm near the finished article," said McCourt at the time. "I'll still get fitter and I'll still get better, but at the minute it's nice to get a few starts and some goals.

"That's the first time I've played two games in a week for a long time and I was feeling it towards the end. But it's nice to get a couple of goals.

"It's brilliant just to be involved at this club," he added. "It's something I've always dreamed of doing."

Boyhood heroes

While McCourt was delighted to join his boyhood heroes, his time at Celtic thus far has been consistently interrupted by injury.

"When I came from Derry City I was nowhere near ready to play here," McCourt explained. "I was lucky that my ability was getting me through games in the League of Ireland.

"The jump in terms of fitness was massive for me and it took my body a while to come to terms with it. Luckily this year I've been able to get a full pre-season and do every day at training without any setbacks," he continued.

McCourt is well aware of the challenge that lies before him, with Shaun Maloney and Aiden McGeady established as regulars on the flanks, but hopes that he has a part to play this season.

"Nowadays wingers have to track back as well as create, and that's not a natural part of my game," he admitted.

"I enjoy the attacking side of the game and trying to beat players but I need to work on my defensive side. If I can blend the two together hopefully I can be a regular in the side.

"Aiden McGeady and Shaun Maloney are the first-choice wingers at the minute. But it's a challenge to get in the side with those two fantastic players in front of me. All I can do is do my best when I get the chance and hopefully score a few goals," the player concluded.