

HOOPS



v HEARTS | SUNDAY AUGUST 15 2021
PREMIER SPORTS CUP, SECOND ROUND
CELTIC PARK | KICK-OFF: 3PM





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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



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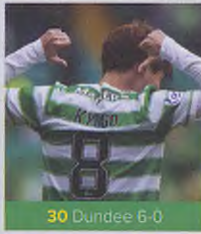
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ANGE POSTECOGLOU

WELCOME back to Celtic Park for this afternoon's Premier Sports Cup tie against Hearts in what is a busy schedule of home games for both the players and the supporters.

As I've said before, I've been lucky to come to the club just as the crowds are returning to watch Celtic in the flesh, and the backing from the fans over the past couple of games has been tremendous, and we hope to give you more to cheer about today.

Due to printing deadlines, I'm writing these programme notes ahead of our UEFA Europa League qualifier on Thursday night against FK Jablonec, and needless to say, I hope we are all here on the back of a positive result against the Czech side.

As soon as that game was finished, though, our thoughts turned to today's meeting against Hearts as we play our first game

in the Premier Sports Cup and we're all aware that a good result this afternoon will take us a step further in the competition for the first available trophy of the 2021/22 season.

That's the position we want to be in by the end of play today and in the draw for the next round of the tournament, but we know we face a difficult opponent in Hearts today as they have had a fine start to the season since returning to the Premiership from the Championship.

We have, of course, first-hand knowledge of their capabilities as we played them on the opening day of the season at Tynecastle and, although we narrowly lost that game 2-1, I'm not using the scoreline as a barometer for today's match.

There were aspects of our performance that day which pleased me despite the result, and we go into this

game knowing where we want to do better in order to make the result be one in our favour.

Similarly, we've not gone overboard with our positive results and performances since then, as we want to keep ourselves on an even balance.

In saying that, though, I'm delighted that our supporters have been enjoying our recent form and results – particularly last weekend in the 6-0 win over Dundee and it was truly magnificent to have the fans back for that game.

You will be here in even greater numbers today for this important cup tie against Hearts and together, I hope we can all help each other to have another great day.

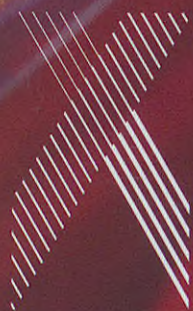
" I'M DELIGHTED THAT OUR SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN ENJOYING OUR RECENT FORM AND RESULTS"



»» THE MANAGER



adidas



SPEEDFLOW



THE CAPTAIN

CALLUM MCGREGOR

A FEW people have asked me since last weekend's game against Dundee what was said in the Huddle at the end of the game but, just like our pre-match Huddle, what was said to the players will always remain private.

But it was something I wanted to do to show the togetherness of the squad, which I think we showed in our performance anyway.

We're got a few players getting their first experience of the atmosphere at Celtic Park with the fans back in, and it was just important that they understand the importance of winning, of winning at Celtic Park in style.

We work hard every day in training, and in the games we perform as best as we can, and we'll try and send the supporters home happy every week if we can.

We always thank the fans for their support, win, lose or draw, and we'll always do that, and I just thought it was nice to show that togetherness on the pitch.

Again, given the hectic schedule of games we've got, I've had to write these programme notes ahead of our Europa League match on Thursday night but, as always, I hope we're going into today's game against Hearts on the back of a positive result which means we're in the next round of the competition.

Today, our attention turns to the League Cup and, again, it's good to be playing at home in front of what I'm sure will be a packed stadium.

At this club, we go into every competition looking to be successful and ultimately win the trophy. That has always been the case at Celtic, and it has brought the club lots of success over the years.

So as we start our League Cup campaign, our target is to win today and make sure our name is in the draw for the next round.

That won't be easy, as Hearts showed when we played them at Tynecastle a couple of weeks ago, and they followed that up with a good away win at St Mirren,

so we'll have to be at our best this afternoon if we want to be successful.

As always, your support will be vital. It is great for all of us – players and fans alike – to have you back in the stadium. We experienced that great Celtic Park atmosphere last weekend with about 25,000 fans inside, and I thought the team really responded to that.

A full stadium will be even better, and whether it's some of the boys experiencing it for the first time or, for some us, getting to experience it again, it's an incredible feeling and we want to produce a performance that matches it.

Thanks for your support, and enjoy the game.





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CELTIC NEWS

GORDON STRACHAN JOINS THE CLUB IN THREE-MONTH CONSULTANCY ROLE



CELTIC Football Club this week announced that Gordon Strachan is joining the Club on a three-month consultancy project.

Gordon will spend his time looking at our activities within our Football Academy, our Women's Team and newly established B Team, with a view to providing recommendations to Chief Executive Dom McKay on how we can develop these areas further, feeding into wider work ongoing across the Club.

Under Chris McCart, Our Football Academy continues to operate really well as it has done for a number of years, delivering quality players who have ultimately contributed so much to the Celtic First Team. Currently, the first team squad features players such as Callum McGregor, James Forrest, Stephen Welsh and Mikey Johnston who have all come through the ranks.

Likewise, our women's team goes from strength to strength, achieving Champions League status for the first time this year, under the fantastic stewardship of Fran Alonso and our B Team looks towards a bright future.

Celtic Chief Executive Dom McKay commented: "Like all high performance environments we never stand still and always seek development and improvement and I look forward to working with Gordon over the next three months, utilising the extensive expertise and knowledge

he has to the benefit of the club. Gordon brings with him a wealth of experience in the areas of football development, from both his previous time here at Celtic and from the many roles he has held within Football, including as our National Team Manager."

"Gordon achieved great things for Celtic as our Manager. It goes without saying that he has a really close connection to Celtic and of course a tremendous affection for the Club."

Gordon Strachan added: "I am really looking forward to returning to the Club to assist in these areas. The development of young players and seeing them improve and grow is a real passion for me and I will do anything I can to support the Club in these areas.

"Great people at Celtic always do great work. I look forward to building on this work, liaising with Dom and all our Celtic colleagues once again and hope we can work together for the benefit of the Club and these teams so they ultimately can develop further and bring Celtic success.

"I also look forward to continuing my work at Dundee FC where I have established a great working relationship and close bond with the Manager, Managing Director, staff and coaches."



LIGHTNING STRIKES

TWICE!

ANTHONY RALSTON IS ENJOYING A RUN OF GAMES IN THE FIRST TEAM, AND WHILE HIS DEFENSIVE DUTIES WILL ALWAYS BE A PRIORITY, HE'S ALSO CHIPPED IN WITH A COUPLE OF IMPRESSIVE GOALS

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: PAUL CUDDIHY



THERE is still a long way to go in the season, with many games to play and, hopefully, countless great Celtic goals to celebrate along the way.

It's safe to say, though, that when the time does come to select the candidates for goal of the season, Anthony Ralston's strike against Hearts at Tynecastle in the opening league game of the campaign will be among the front-runners.

The goal may have come from an unlikely source but it was a thing of beauty, started and finished by the Hoops defender, with the final touch coming from an equally unlikely source in his left foot!

And while Ralston jokingly admitted that he thought his left foot was just for standing on, he proved it was no fluke when he slotted home another impressive left-foot effort in the 6-0 victory over Dundee last weekend.

It's an obvious observation to make that the 22-year-old is enjoying the start to the 2021/22 season under Ange Postecoglou.

He has been a regular in the starting XI, and is embracing the challenge, along with his team-mates, of implementing a new style of play that the manager wants his team to adopt.

And whether it's defensively or in an attacking-sense, Ralston is eager to learn and contribute in whatever way he can.

Certainly, he has earned the praise of his manager for his attitude and application, while admiration for his prowess in front of goal has brought admiration from fans and team-mates alike.

For the player, though, he knows that the 90 minutes of the match, and whatever transpires within that, is the culmination of hard work put in behind the scenes day in, day out, and that's what he's focused on.

Ahead of this afternoon's cup-tie with Hearts at Celtic Park, the official match programme caught up with the Celtic defender to get his thoughts on how the season has gone so far.

You must be pleased with how things have gone for you so far this season?

The manager has been great since he's come in and he's

implementing exactly how he wants the squad to be playing and his style of football. It's a tough ask for all the boys because it's been such a short period of time to adapt before we're hit with all the games, but I feel that everyone has done really well to implement what the gaffer wants, and it obviously showed last weekend against Dundee. On a personal level, I'm loving being back in the squad and playing every week and I'm grateful for the opportunity and I just want to take it with both hands. Everyone is starting from scratch and everyone has a chance to impress, and that's still the case because it's still early days. He's given everyone a fair chance, and that's all you can really ask for, and we're all trying our best for the team and also, individually, try to impress the manager and implement what he wants us to do on the pitch.

How important is it to get a run of games under your belt?

Playing week in, week out, is obviously good to get your momentum going and it gives you the consistency of being in those situations in a game more often so you're able to adapt more quickly and deal with those situations, so I've been enjoying playing. It's what I want to do, and with Celtic being my club, it's where I want to be doing it, so I'm happy at the minute. Everyone in the team is being asked to do a certain role, not just individually but as a team we're being asked to play a certain way, and what the gaffer wants, both attacking and also defensively as a unit. It's a different style of football to what I've been used to and I'm really enjoying it. You have to take the challenge head on, and it's interesting to be in those scenarios where you are involved at all times – that's the message the gaffer puts across, everyone's always involved whether defensively or when we attack, so I'm really enjoying it and trying to hit the ground running and adapt and learn it as quickly as possible so I can perform the best I can on match days.

And what about those goals...

I thought my left leg was only to stand on! But I'm obviously delighted to be contributing to the team in an attacking sense



and getting a couple of goals. It's not something that I would necessarily expect, and in two league games in a row, but I couldn't be happier. From a personal point of view, it's always nice to score a goal. Again, I didn't expect it with my left foot but the most important thing is that I'm contributing to the team in a positive way and helping getting results, and that's what I want to strive to do.

How does it feel to be back playing in front of the fans at Celtic Park?

Ask any player in the world and they'll tell you they never want to play in an empty stadium, so it's important that we've got the fans back and we gave them a good performance. It was important that we sent them home with smiles on their faces because it's been a long time coming for them. It's such a big part of many people's lives – coming to the game at the weekend, so all the boys were delighted to put on a good performance for them, and the atmosphere was brilliant. I can't wait for the stadium to be full and hear the roar of the fans. It's important that we produce good performances as well as getting the results because that's what the fans are looking for as well.

And the fans really appreciated the post-match Huddle too.

There is a real togetherness in the squad, and we all want to be





successful as a team. It was a nice touch from Callum – he's stepped into that role as captain and he's a real vocal part of the team, and it was good to bring us together at the end and that's what it's about.

Today's game is our second meeting with Hearts this season, and the opportunity to get a positive result.

It's a chance for us to put things right and that's what we'll be striving to do today, but it's important that we strive to win every competition that we're in because that's always at the aim at Celtic. And that starts today in the League Cup and hopefully we're going into the game full of confidence after a positive result on Thursday night. As a changing room we all know our roles and we all believe that this could be a successful season. We've been working very hard on the training ground and doing our analysis to really understand what everyone has to be doing, and just to believe in it. That's the message from the gaffer – that we believe in everything that we're doing, and the boys definitely did that last Sunday and we all came together as a team to put in a really good performance. Hopefully this really kick-starts our season and we can go on a good run and continue doing that week in, week out.

And have you got your eye on another left-foot goal today?

I was want to keep contributing to the team and keep learning and developing in the role the manager wants me to play. And if I can keep providing some goals throughout the season then I'll be happy. As a team, we're a defensive unit and also an attacking unit. We showed that on Sunday when everyone was working defensively and then looking to contribute going forward. We all worked really hard and we're continuing to work



really hard away from matchdays to put things right and to be able to go out on a matchday and put in good performances.

You also earned praise from the manager when he spoke to Celtic TV this week.

It's always nice to be complimented by your manager, but I just want to keep doing the right things, keep taking it game by game and keep doing what's been asked of me, and doing it to the best of my ability, contributing to the team defensively and attacking-wise and keep developing my game. I'm happy getting game-time and being involved with the boys and hopefully that can continue.

FOR THE LOVE OF LIVE SPORT.



ALL THIS AND MORE.

PREMIER SPORTS

FACTS 'N' STATS

CELTIC v HEARTS

LEAGUE MEETINGS (All point tallies based on three points for a win)

| CELTIC PARK* | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|--------------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Celtic | 157 | 101 | 37 | 19 | 339 | 145 | 194 | 340 |
| Hearts | 157 | 19 | 37 | 101 | 145 | 339 | -194 | 94 |

| TYNECASTLE* | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|-------------|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Celtic | 156 | 71 | 31 | 54 | 252 | 196 | 56 | 244 |
| Hearts | 156 | 54 | 31 | 71 | 196 | 252 | -56 | 193 |

| TOTAL | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|--------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Celtic | 313 | 172 | 68 | 73 | 591 | 341 | 250 | 584 |
| Hearts | 313 | 73 | 68 | 172 | 341 | 591 | -250 | 287 |

*denotes all home venues

CUP CLASHES

| SCOTTISH CUP | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Celtic | 33 | 21 | 5 | 7 | 73 | 39 | 34 |
| Hearts | 33 | 7 | 5 | 21 | 39 | 73 | -34 |

THE CLUBS HAVE MET IN:

FIVE

SCOTTISH CUP FINALS

1900/01 Hearts 4-3 Celtic
 1906/07 Celtic 3-0 Hearts
 1955/56 Hearts 3-1 Celtic
 2018/19 Celtic 2-1 Hearts
 2019/20 Celtic 3-3 Hearts
 (Celtic 4-3 on pens)

FIVE

SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINALS PLUS ONE REPLAY

| LEAGUE CUP | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD |
|------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Celtic | 23 | 15 | 1 | 7 | 52 | 27 | 25 |
| Hearts | 23 | 7 | 1 | 15 | 27 | 52 | -25 |

THE CLUBS HAVE MET IN:
 NO LEAGUE CUP FINALS
 THREE LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINALS

WHERE IT ALL

BEGAN

AUGUST 23, 1890 (LEAGUE)



0 5



GOOD NEWS

AND BAD

BIGGEST HEARTS WIN - SEPTEMBER 14,
 1895 (LEAGUE) CELTIC 0-5 HEARTS

BIGGEST CELTIC WIN - DECEMBER 1,
 2013 SCOTTISH CUP HEARTS 0-7 CELTIC

OTHER

MEETINGS

GLASGOW EXHIBITION TROPHY

Semi-final

September 5, 1901, Celtic 2-1 Hearts

INTER CITY LEAGUE

April 21, 1900, Hearts 3-2 Celtic
 May 7, 1900, Celtic 5-0 Hearts
 March 31, 1902, Celtic 2-3 Hearts
 April 21, 1902, Hearts 4-2 Celtic
 April 20, 1903, Hearts 3-0 Celtic

HAMILTON CUP (MONTREAL, CANADA)

May 22, 1994, Celtic 1-1 Hearts
 (Celtic 4-2 on pens)

IN THE AWAY DRESSING ROOM TODAY >>> HEARTS

CELTIC face Hearts for the second time in as many weeks today, following a 2-1 defeat to the Edinburgh side at Tynecastle on the opening day of the 2021/22 Scottish Premiership campaign.

That evening, an early goal from ex-Celtic Gary Mackay-Steven was cancelled out by a fine solo effort from Hoops full-back Tony Ralston not long after the break, before a late John Souttar header one minute from normal time secured maximum points for the Jambos.

Today, Robbie Neilson's men travel from the capital to face the Hoops in the second round of the League Cup – here, we take a look at some of the players who might feature for the visitors.

#1 GOALKEEPER - CRAIG GORDON



Goalkeeper Craig Gordon needs little introduction to Celtic fans after six trophy-laden years at Paradise. Having worked under Ronny Deila, Brendan Rodgers and Neil Lennon, the 6'3" stopper helped the Hoops win five Scottish Premiership titles, five League Cups and three Scottish Cups – having also clinched the latter trophy once during his first spell at Hearts at the end of the 2005/06 campaign. The 38-year-old was an integral part of Celtic's historic Quadruple Treble feat, most frequently featured during the Invincibles Treble of 2016/17 and the Double Treble the following season. Gordon swapped Celtic Park for Tynecastle in the summer transfer window last year, and helped Hearts gain promotion from the Championship to the Premiership after just one season in Scotland's second-tier. In 29 appearances last year, Gordon conceded 22 goals and kept 15 clean sheets, and captained Robbie Neilson's side in the final stretch of the league campaign.

#3 DEFENDER - STEPHEN KINGSLEY



A product of the Falkirk youth system, Stephen Kingsley made his professional debut in 2011 at the age of just 16. After a century of appearances, the defender caught the eye of Gary Monk, then in charge of then Premier League outfit Swansea, Kingsley failed to have the same impact in the EPL in terms of game time, and was loaned out to Yeovil Town and Crewe Alexandra over the course of 2015. In the summer of 2017, Kingsley moved from Swansea to Hull on a permanent basis, where he'd go on to make 46 appearances during his three-year stay with the Tigers. Before the beginning of last season, Kingsley returned to Scotland and helped Hearts in the Championship with four goals and one assist in 24 appearances throughout their title-winning 2020/21 trail.

#4 DEFENDER - JOHN SOUTTAR

John Souttar climbed the ranks of Dundee United's academy set-up before making over 70 competitive appearances for the Tannadice senior side. In the January transfer window of 2016, Souttar's performances earned him a move to Tynecastle where he's continued to impress since. Despite two long-term injuries, the 24-year-old defender has accrued over 100 appearances in the capital and is known for his pace in transition and presence in both penalty boxes. Against Celtic in Edinburgh last month, it was Souttar's 89th-minute header which claimed three points for Robbie Neilson's men on the opening day of the Scottish Premiership. Injury ruled Souttar out of contention for much of last season, however the defender has played a full 90 minutes in five out of six of Hearts' winning start to the 2021/22 campaign.

#11 MIDFIELDER - GARY MACKAY-STEVEN

Another familiar face among the Hearts ranks is former-Celt, Gary Mackay-Steven. After spells at Liverpool's Under-18s, Fulham's reserves, Airdrie United and Dundee United, Mackay-Steven signed for Celtic in the summer of 2015 under Ronnie Deila. The midfielder went on to play an integral role in the Hoops' fifth successive league title win of 2015/16, but rarely featured the following season under Brendan Rodgers. A move to Aberdeen followed in the summer 2017, before Mackay-Steven swapped the Granite City for the Big Apple when he reunited with Deila at New York City FC in July, 2019. In the January transfer window of this year, Mackay-Steven returned to Scotland to sign for today's visitors and, with four goals in 18 appearances, made an instant impact for Robbie Neilson's men in their quest for the 2020/21 Scottish Championship title. In six appearances this year so far, Mackay-Steven has hit three goals – one of which broke the deadlock against Celtic in the league last month.

#10 FORWARD - LIAM BOYCE

Liam Boyce signed for Hearts during the January transfer window of 2020 from Burton Albion, before scoring the winning goal in a 2-1 victory over Rangers at Tynecastle just days later. Across all competitions last year, the forward hit 14 goals in 27 appearances – stats which helped him clinch the SPFA Championship Player of the Year for 2020/2021. Now 30-years-old, the Northern Ireland internationalist began his career with Cliftonville back in 2008, the first of two spells with the Belfast club, before he moved to Germany, signing for Werder Bremen. After a year there, he signed for Ross County, and over the next three seasons he made 115 appearances for the Highland side, scoring 55 goals. While he suffered a knee injury early in his time at Burton Albion, he returned to action and netted 31 goals for the club before his move to Hearts last year.

#21 FORWARD - ARMAND GNANDUILLET

French-born Ivory Coast striker Armand Gnanduillet signed for Hearts on an 18-month deal during the last January transfer window, and, on January 26, came off the bench to score twice in a 4-0 away win over Raith Rovers in the Championship. During his time at Blackpool, the forward was the Tangerines' top scorer in his last two seasons at Bloomfield Road, having spent six months at Turkish Super Liga side Altay SK prior to his move to Tynecastle. Before this, Gnanduillet's career started in France at Le Havre and AS Poissy, before he moved to England via Chesterfield in 2013. Loan moves to Tranmere Rovers, Oxford United and Stevenage came next, before Gnanduillet moved permanent to Leyton Orient in January, 2016. Seven months later and Gnanduillet moved on to Blackpool, where the forward helped Blackpool in a League Two Play-Off final win over Exeter City in 2017, netting a vital goal in a semi-final triumph against Luton Town. Gnanduillet has yet to score for Hearts this campaign, but did hit five for the Jambos between January and April earlier this year.

LAST TIME AT CELTIC PARK... »»

CELTIC 5

(NTCHAM 30, JULLIEN 46, MCGREGOR 53, CHRISTIE 66, SIMUNOVIC 80)

HEARTS 0

»» SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP // WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020 // CELTIC PARK, GLASGOW

CELTIC continued their impressive winning run as they dismantled Hearts 5-0 at Paradise. The champions outclassed their opponents with a dominant performance to increase their lead at the top of the table on the night to 10 points.

Olivier Ntcham gave Celtic a 1-0 lead going into half-time and two quick-fire goals from Christopher Jullien and Callum McGregor shortly after the restart increased Celtic's lead. Ryan Christie then made it four before Jojo Simunovic rounded off the scoring with the fifth of the night.

The opener arrived on the half-hour mark. Edouard worked some space for himself on the corner of the box and curled a shot across goal. The keeper managed to make the save, but Ntcham was in place to volley the rebound into the back of the net.

It took just one minute of the second half for Celtic to double their lead. Leigh Griffiths delivered a good cross into the box from a corner and Jullien rose above the Hearts defence and headed the ball home. The French defender was on cue to meet another corner two minutes later heading the ball down for Simunovic whose acrobatic volley came back off the post.

Celtic were firmly in control and did not let up on the pressure they piled on the Hearts defence. The champions moved the ball with speed and were able to add to their lead again less than 10 minutes after the restart.

McGregor initiated a counter-attack from midfield and coolly tucked the ball into the bottom corner with a first-time left-footed strike, finishing off a one-two with Greg Taylor.

Christie made an immediate impact upon his introduction with Celtic's fourth goal. Breaking away in

possession, Taylor tore down the left wing and whipped a cross into the box for Odsonne Edouard. A deflection off a Hearts player saw the ball fall into the path of Christie and his first-time shot from the edge of the penalty area floated past the keeper.

Simunovic made it 5-0 for the champions when he headed in from a corner with 10 minutes remaining. Celtic maintained the tempo late into the game and the visitors' frustration was summed up in Marcel Langer's late challenge on Scott Brown which resulted in a red card for the Hearts player.

CELTIC: Forster; Simunovic, Jullien, Ajer, Forrest (Elyounoussi 71), Taylor; Brown, Ntcham (Rogic 78), McGregor; Griffiths (Christie 64), Edouard

Subs: Bain, Bauer, Hayes, Bayo

HEARTS: Hart, Ralston, Taylor, Starfelt, Bitton, McGregor, Soro, Turnbull (Christie 65), Furuhashi (Edouard 65), Forrest, Abada (Rogic 65).

Subs: Pereira; Smith (Moore 70), Souttar, Clare (Langer 45), Walker, Naismith, Garuccio, McDonald (Washington 28), Halkett, Boyce, Irving

Subs: Zlamal, Ikpeazu, Damour, Avdijaj





CLASSIC MATCH »»

CELTIC 3

(SINCLAIR 53, FORREST 65, CHRISTIE 72)

HEARTS 0

»» LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL // SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018 // MURRAYFIELD, EDINBURGH

IN the last three years, Celtic have played Hearts in a number of high-profile cup clashes – not least the Quadruple Treble-winning Scottish Cup final of 2020, and the Treble-Treble-clinching final of the same competition the previous year.

With the latter cup haul in mind, the Hoops faced today's visitors in a game of two halves at Murrayfield in the semi-final of the League Cup of 2018.

That afternoon, Ryan Christie showcased his worth as a Celtic player – here we remember how the match played out.

22

CELTIC swept aside Hearts to book their place in the League Cup final with a 3-0 win over Hearts. A dominant display in the second half saw Brendan Rodgers' Hoops storm to what was ultimately a comfortable victory.

Scott Sinclair opened the scoring shortly after the break, before James Forrest doubled the lead following a goalkeeping error. Ryan Christie rounded off the scoring with a wonderful strike midway through the second period, having come off the bench at half-time to play a hand in all three goals.

It was a game of two halves as Celtic took their time to get into their rhythm, but once they were up to speed, Hearts could do nothing to keep them at bay.

The manager was forced into an early substitution when Eboue Kouassi took a knock and was unable to continue. He was in turn replaced by Sinclair, which saw Callum McGregor moved into the centre of midfield where he helped to control the pace of play.

Ahead of the half-hour mark,

Odsonne Edouard had a glimpse at goal when Forrest initiated a counter-attack in the middle of the park. The winger played a pass out to the Frenchman who cut inside to shoot across goal but his effort was blocked.

Hearts' best effort in the first half was an ambitious one from Oly Lee, whose half-volley from 18 yards was comfortably saved by Scott Bain between the sticks.

Sinclair would then force a fine save from Hearts stopper Bobby Zlamal just before the break, when his shot across goal was parried clear by a strong left hand to maintain parity on the scoreboard ahead of the interval.

Man of the moment Christie replaced Olivier Ntcham for the start of the second half, a change which proved crucial in giving Celtic the breakthrough in the 52nd minute.

After bounding into the box, the midfielder was brought down by Oliver Bozanic which gave referee Willie Collum no other option but to point to the spot. Sinclair duly stepped up and tucked the ball low

into the corner to hand Celtic the lead.

The Hoops were flying in the wake of the opener and were relentless as they upped the tempo in search of a second. That came before long when Christie tried his luck from range on 66 minutes, Zlamal spilled the ball into the path of Forrest, and the winger poked the ball home to make it two.

As the match wore on, the gulf in class became increasingly clear and as the match opened up, the Hoops dazzled with quick and fluid attacking football.

The match was then put beyond doubt with the third – courtesy of a Christie wondergoal from the edge of the penalty area. After pouncing on a loose ball, the 23-year-old fired an effort into the top corner with an expertly-taken left-footed drive.

Zlamal made up for his prior blunder with some superb goalkeeping in the final stretch of the match, which ensured the scoreline did not accurately reflect Celtic's dominance in the second period.



23

To this end, Forrest was denied a second goal by a brilliant save 10 minutes from time when after the goalkeeper readjusted to deny Christie's follow-up effort with the help of the post.

The Hoops finished on the front foot as the large Celtic support celebrated reaching another League Cup final, their third on the bounce, where Aberdeen lay in wait.

CELTIC: Bain, Tierney, Benkovic, Ajer (Hendry 79), Lustig; Kouassi (Sinclair 26), Ntcham (Christie 45), Rogic, McGregor, Forrest, Edouard.

Not Used: Gordon, Ralston, Hayes, Morgan.

HEARTS: Zlamal: Smith, Dunne, Haring, Bozanic (Morrison 70); Lee (Clare 75), Djoum, Mitchell, Naismith (Amankwaa 8); MacLean, Dikamona

Not Used: Doyle, Hughes, Garuccio, Cochrane





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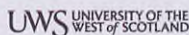
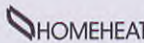
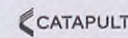
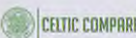
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GREGG TAYLOR



» IT appeared Gregg Taylor's European dream was over before it started, when Kilmarnock suffered a shock defeat to Welsh semi-professional outfit Connah's Quay Nomads in the first qualifying round of the UEFA Europa League in July, 2019. Fast forward five months, and the full-back made his Hoops Euro debut in a 3-1 win over Rennes in front of a sold-out Celtic Park.

That win saw the Hoops top their Europa League group with 13 points and a game to spare, and marked just how far the full-back, signed from the Rugby Park outfit in the 2019 summer transfer window, had come in the space of half a season.

Over the course of the 2019/20 campaign, the tireless left-sided defender racked up 15 appearances in green

and white, and proved a constant threat down the flank, especially when filling the role of wing-back.

Among his highlights of the 2020/21 season were scoring his first goal for the Hoops, in the 6-0 UEFA Champions League home win over KR Reykjavik, and playing in the Scottish Cup final as the Celts sealed the Quadruple Treble.

Capped at all levels for the Scotland national team, Gregg Taylor made his debut for the senior team in a 3-0 European qualifier defeat to Belgium on June 11, 2019. Still playing for Kilmarnock at the time, Taylor went on to make a further four senior appearances for his country after moving to Celtic as Scotland led up to Euro 2020.

POSITION: DEFENDER

SQUAD NUMBER: 3

D.O.B: 05/11/97

BORN: GREENOCK,
SCOTLAND

HEIGHT: 5'8"

SIGNED: 02/09/19

DEBUT: V ST MIRREN (H) 2-0,
(SPFL) 30/10/19

PREVIOUS CLUBS:
KILMARNOCK

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SUPER CELTS HIT SIX OF THE BEST »»

CELTIC 6

(KYOGO 20, 25 & 67; ROGIC 48, RALSTON 83, EDOUARD 89PEN)

DUNDEE 0

»» SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP // SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021 // CELTIC PARK, GLASGOW

ANGE Postecoglou's Celtic side marked their first home league game of the campaign with an outstanding display of attacking football that saw them hit six goals without reply against Dundee.

On an afternoon of many impressive performances, it was hat-trick hero, Kyogo, who picked up the Man of the Match award for his stunning goalscoring feat.

And no one would argue that the Japanese attacker deserved the accolade, though every one of his team-mates were also in top form to take all three points.

It was an emotional start to proceedings, as 24,500 Celtic fans provided a rousing rendition of *You'll Never Walk Alone*, and after a cagey start to the game, Ange Postecoglou's side soon found their rhythm.

The first clear chance came on 10 minutes when Kyogo and Tom Rogic combined well, with the Australian slotting the ball into the path of the Japanese striker, but his effort from 10 yards out went narrowly wide. He was not to be denied for long, however.

That first goal at Paradise for the new Bhoys – and his second in Celtic colours – came on 20 minutes. Liel Abada drove down the right and his cross into the box was met first-time by Kyogo, who steered the ball beyond Adam Legzdins in the Dundee goal.

And just five minutes later it was 2-0 to Celtic. Ryan Christie did well down the left flank, skipping past his marker, before laying the ball into the path of Kyogo to fire home his

second of the game. It was a superb strike, with the Japanese striker showing great movement inside the box to leave the Dundee defenders floundering.

And only a save from Legzdins on 26 minutes denied Kyogo a hat-trick. David Turnbull also had a couple of efforts from outside the box, with one shot producing a great save from the Dundee keeper, while Stephen Welsh had a shot saved just before the end of a breathtaking first 45 minutes.

It took the Hoops just three minutes after the break to add to their tally. Turnbull played a high ball over the top to Christie, who showed superb skill to bring the ball under control.

He laid it into the path of the Australian attacker, and he produced an effortless finish to make it 3-0.

And just before the 67th minute mark, Paradise got the Kyogo hat-trick it craved when the Japanese striker fired the ball high into the net.

As supporters acclaimed their new goalscoring hero, he was also given a standing ovation as he was replaced by Odsonne Edouard.

The Frenchman would get on the scoresheet with a penalty in the last

minute after Liel Abada was brought down in the box, with Jordan Marshall red-carded for the foul, but before that Anthony Ralston scored his second of the season with another great finish.

A short corner found its way into the box where Ralston took a touch before sliding in a left-foot finish.

There was even time for Celtic to come close to a magnificent seventh goal in added time, but while that chance went just wide, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Celtic supporters who had savoured a scintillating Celtic display at Paradise.

CELTIC: Hart, Taylor (Montgomery 72), Starfelt, Ralston, Welsh, Turnbull, Rogic (Forrest 65), McGregor, Furuhashi (Edouard 69), Christie, Abada.

Subs: Forrest, Edouard, Blitton, Ajeti, Montgomery, Soro, Bain

DUNDEE: Legzdins, Elliott (Robertson 52), Marshall, Sweeney, Ashcroft, McGhee, McMullan, Adam (McCowan 60), McGowan, Byrne, Sheridan (Cummings 61).

Subs: Panter, Wilkie, McCowan, Robertson, Cummings, Lawlor, McDaid



|  | |  |
|---|-----------------|---|
| 75% | Possession | 25% |
| 31 | Shots | 3 |
| 15 | Shots On Target | 0 |
| 11 | Corners | 3 |
| 11 | Fouls | 12 |
| 0 | Cards | 2 |





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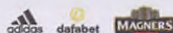
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DOUBLE DRIVE TO FIRST-TEAM HOPES

EWAN OTOO

YOUNG DEFENDER REVELS IN TWIN TUITION

EWAN Otoo believes he has the perfect leadership to help him on his path to the first team with Tommy McIntyre and Darren O'Dea showing him the way.

The Celtic B manager, Tommy McIntyre has helped many young players step up, and O'Dea himself has graduated from the Academy and into the senior side. Otoo is confident his and his team-mates' futures could not be in better hands.

"Darren's a top coach and being to learn from someone who's previously taken the same path from Academy to the first team is brilliant," he said. "I hang on to every word he says and try to learn from him because his experience is invaluable to us.

"Tommy is great with us too. They're both top coaches and we look forward to working with them every day. We know Tommy has pushed through some of the younger ones into the seniors, so we're all focused on listening to everything he has to say and implement his instructions. The ultimate aim is to get into the

first team and it gives us a lot of confidence that we're working under someone who has loads of experience in helping players achieve that."

Tommy McIntyre has hailed the improvements his side have made through playing in the Scottish Lowland Football League. A narrow defeat on the opening day was followed up with a draw and three wins prior to Wednesday night's game against Annan Athletic in the SPFL Trust Trophy, and Otoo feels those results have built confidence that will benefit them throughout the season.

"Now that we're in our stride in the league, we're improving game-by-game," he said. "We weren't sure what we were in for in the first game and we were a bit nervous but we improved massively in the following games. With each game, we've grown in confidence and built on our performances. We know we can compete with any team in this league but we also know every game is going to be really hard and we have to be really disciplined.

"It's been challenging but we're all disciplined in making sure we recover properly as soon as our game finishes because we know we're going to have to go again and put in another high-level performance. It's more the mental challenge of being really disciplined about every possible detail.

"A lot of the challenges come by way of the oppositions' physicality and their experience. That forces us to be on top of our game and play our own football to get around those challenges."

If Otoo can continue to overcome the challenges in the fashion he has been so far, his chances of moving up will look strong but he is not getting ahead of himself and is fully focused on the here and now.

"The main goal for me is to keep working hard and keep progressing and hopefully get closer to the first team by getting to train with them and being in matchday squads," he said. "I know I need to focus on showing the manager what I can do and, hopefully, he put his trust in me and I can repay him with that."

CELTIC B TEAM SWEEP ANNAN ASIDE IN SPFL TRUST TROPHY TIE

»» WORDS: JOE DONNELLY



SPFL TRUST TROPHY
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021 | NEWTOWN PARK, BO'NESS

CELTIC 2

(O'Connor 5, Robertson 73)

ANNAN ATHLETIC 0

THE Celtic B Team overcame Annan Athletic 2-0 in a dominant SPFL Trust Trophy win on Wednesday at the Penny Cars Stadium in Airdrie.

Tommy McIntyre made seven changes to the side which overcame Bo'ness United in league action the previous weekend, with a number of players who've been in and around the first team this season so far entering the manager's starting XI.

The Hoops dominated the opening stages with spells of concerted possession as they sought to unpick a tight Annan backline. Luca Connell, Kerr McNroy, Liam Shaw and Scott Robertson dictated play in central areas with the likes of Paterson and O'Connor stretching the game in defence and attack.

With just five minutes on the clock, it was the latter full-back who put the Hoops ahead when his well-struck effort on the edge of the box was deflected past keeper Fleming into the net.

The visitors duly stepped out as they sought an equaliser but Tommy McIntyre's men contained them well as they continued to pass out from the back.

Captain for the evening, Bosun Lawal, was particularly assured in the heart of the Celtic defence and was ever-keen to instigate opportunities from deeper areas. That suited the likes of Shaw and McNroy as they

»» PATERSON





pressed the Annan defence deeper with every wave of attack.

On 14 minutes, McInroy forced a solid block from Fleming with a shot from range, before, two minutes later, sending a left foot on the angle of the penalty box just wide of the mark.

From there, the Hoops created a string of half-chances, long and short, but the Annan backline held firm. Shaw's pace and strength was a regular threat moving forward, and Dane Murray was cool and composed on a couple of occasions while blocking the visitors' counter-attack.

Over the half-hour mark and the Hoops played the majority of their football in the Annan half, maintaining a high-press that allowed little space for movement from back to front. As the match progressed, Owen Moffat seemed to grow in confidence as he made a series of darting runs down the inside-left channel.

One in front at the break, Celtic were made to weather a reinvigorated Annan offensive seeking level terms in the opening stages of the second period. Typically cool defending from Murray and Lawal nullified the threat, as the Hoops strove to regain control of the match.

They quickly did so, and on 52 minutes, a wonderful piece of combination play between Paterson, Connell and Brooks culminated in the latter forward rattling the inside of the post on the angle in a move that likely deserved a goal.

As the match wore on, Annan opted to go long

with the majority of their attacks which allowed Tommy McIntyre's men to press higher into the final third in transition.

Substitute Joey Dawson combined well with his team-mates at the top end of the pitch and did especially well to feed Moffat one-on-one with goalkeeper over the hour mark – but the attacker's effort was well blocked by Fleming in goal.

Over the hour mark and it was Connell's turn to test the keeper, but his right-footed drive from 10 yards was well parried round the post.

Celtic's determination in the final third was finally rewarded on 73 minutes via a fine Scott Robertson goal. After collecting the ball in the middle third, the midfielder burst forward, played a neat one-two with Dawson and fired home into the corner of the net.

The second goal was no less than the Hoops deserved and allowed them to play with even more freedom in the closing stages of the game.

CELTIC: Mullen; O'Connor, Lawal, Murray, Paterson; Connell, Robertson, Shaw; McInroy, Moffat (Wylie 83), Brooks (Dawson 53)

Subs: Oluwayemi, Jackson, Vata, Carse, Murphy

ANNAN ATHLETIC: G, Fleming, Barnes, Lowdon, Moxon, Douglas, K, Fleming, Wallace, Docherty, Smith, Goss, McCartney

Subs: Adamson, Anderson, Birch, Hunter, Purdue



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A CELTIC HAY DAY

JIMMY 'DUN' HAY

IT WAS ON THIS DAY IN 1903 THAT JIMMY
'DUN' HAY MADE HIS CELTIC DEBUT.

»» WORDS: JOE SULLIVAN

IT was on December 12, 1880 that Celtic legend Jimmy 'Dun' Hay was born in Beith, Ayrshire.

The defender who operated at left-half and left-back started with Woodside Annbank Juniors before having a trial with Celtic on May 3, 1900 but a week later he was on the books of Annbank FC.

He moved to Ayr FC (not Ayr United) in 1902 and he also had a 'spell' with Glossop – he had signed for the English club but his father refused to let the youngster go.

He finally did sign for Celtic on March 19, 1903 although he was immediately loaned back to Annbank for their Ayrshire Cup final.

Hay made his debut for the club as the Bhoys started off the league campaign of season 1903/04 with a 2-1 win over Partick Thistle and that was the first of 255 games over the next eight years in which he scored 17 goals before signing for Newcastle United in 1911.

He captained the Hoops from 1907 until leaving the club after being an integral component of the slick Celtic side that lifted six championships in a row and he also lifted the Scottish Cup no fewer than four times for a more than productive eight years with the club.

A bit of background...

Born in December 1880, Jimmy Hay served Celtic with distinction between 1903 and 1911. After a spell learning the game in the tough Ayrshire Junior scene, Hay went senior with Ayr FC, before Celtic paid £50 for his services. Although his league debut was against Partick Thistle, he first played for the club in an Inter-City League match against Queen's Park and Hay rarely shifted from the Celtic line-up afterwards, becoming captain in 1906. A left-half, he was one part of the legendary half-back trio of Young, Loney and Hay.

The debut...

This league match against Partick Thistle was the opening game of the 1903/04 season, and therefore it wasn't only the debut of Jimmy 'Dun' Hay, but also very probably the debut of the green and white Hoops, as this was the season that Celtic switched from stripes. Alec Bennett opened the scoring in the 15th minute, only for Campbell to equalise for the visitors just before the break. It wasn't until the final minute that Jimmy McMenemy ensured that Hay, and the Hoops, got off to a winning start with a 2-1 victory.

What kind of player was he?

A tireless worker and magnificent leader of men, Hay was a driving force during Celtic's six-in-a-row run between 1905 and 1910. He could, run, pass, tackle and chip in with the odd goal. In short, he had everything you look for in a midfielder and his leadership qualities only added to his importance to this all-conquering Celtic side.

Highlight?

The aforementioned six consecutive league titles were the high point of Hay's whole career, while he also lifted the Scottish Cup four times as a Celt – in 1904, 1907, 1908 and 1911. He was a shining light in one of Celtic's most successful eras and he also made his mark on the international scene – captaining Scotland for the first time in 1910 against Wales.

Low point?

With Celtic, there weren't many, but it doesn't get much lower than being banned 'sine die' from football. Hay was one of those unfortunate players – although the circumstances are on the bizarre side. In 1925, while manager of Ayr United, he alleged that a director of the club had offered a bribe to a referee. The United director also happened to be an SFA treasurer and when Hay refused to apologise for



4 · Celtic team 1908

Back row: T. White, J. Kelly, T. Colgan, J. McKillop, J. Grant, M. Dunbar. *Middle row:* W. Maley (secretary), Young, Somers, McMenemy, Adams, Mitchell, Weir, R. Davis (trainer). *Front row:* Hamilton, McLeod, Loney, Hay, Quinn, McNair. Charity, Scottish and Glasgow Cups in centre

39

making the accusations, he was suspended for life by the national association. The ban was subsequently lifted six months later.

Where did he go after Celtic?

After a glittering career with the Hoops, Jimmy left Celtic in July 1911 to join Newcastle United, where he stayed until 1915. Rumours of a Celtic return persisted but he had wartime loan spells at Ayr United and Hearts before joining Clydebank. He became Ayr United player/coach and manager at Clydebank, before becoming manager of the Somerset Park side. That was in 1924 and two years later, the bribe scandal erupted. After being re-instated, Hay worked as a scout for Newcastle. He passed away in April, 1940.

And another thing...

Throughout his career, the Celtic legend was always known as Jimmy 'Dun' Hay. However, the origin of that nickname remains a mystery to this day. Roy Hay (Jimmy's grandson) released a comprehensive book charting his life and career in 2003, but even he was unable to answer that question. One theory is that a fellow full-back at Annbank Juniors was called Auld – leading to 'Auld and Dun'. There are other explanations, but none are definitive.



CELTIC FACTFILE

Celtic career: 1903 – 1911

Position: Left-half

Appearances: 255

Goals: 17

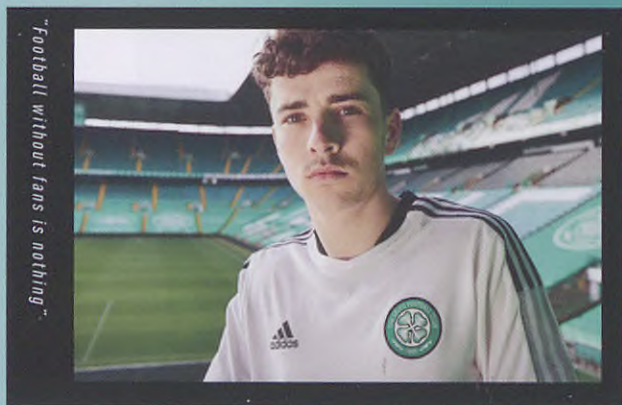
Honours: 6 Scottish Leagues, 4 Scottish Cups
Caps: 11 (Scotland)



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CELTIC FC FIXTURES/RESULTS 2021/22

Home games in **bold**. Celtic scores are shown first. **SP** League. **UCL** Champions League. **LC** League Cup. **SC** Scottish Cup. **UEL** Europa League.

| DATE | TIME | COMP | H/A | OPPONENT | RES |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| AUGUST 2021 | | | | | |
| Wed 7 | 15.00 | Friendly | A | Sheffield Wednesday | 3-1 |
| Sat 10 | 15.00 | Friendly | A | Charlton Athletic | 2-1 |
| Wed 14 | 19.45 | Friendly | A | Bristol City | 0-0 |
| Sat 17 | 17.30 | Friendly | H | Preston North End | 0-1 |
| Tue 20 | 19.45 | UCL | H | FC Midtjylland | 1-1 |
| Sat 24 | 15.00 | Friendly | H | West Ham United | 2-6 |
| Wed 28 | 18.45 | UCL | A | FC Midtjylland | 1-2 |
| Sat 31 | 20.00 | SP | A | Hearts | 1-2 |
| AUGUST | | | | | |
| Thu 5 | 16.45 | UEL | A | FK Jablonec | 4-2 |
| Sun 8 | 15.00 | SP | H | Dundee | 6-0 |
| Thu 5 | 19.45 | UEL | H | FK Jablonec | |
| Sun 15 | 15.00 | LC | H | Hearts | |
| Sat 21 | 15.00 | SP | H | St Mirren | |
| Sun 29 | 12.00 | SP | A | Rangers | |
| SEPTEMBER | | | | | |
| Sat 11 | 15.00 | SP | H | Ross County | |
| Sat 18 | 15.00 | SP | A | Livingston | |
| Sat 25 | 15.00 | SP | H | Dundee United | |
| OCTOBER | | | | | |
| Sat 02 | 15.00 | SP | A | Aberdeen | |
| Sat 16 | 15.00 | SP | A | Motherwell | |
| Sat 23 | 15.00 | SP | H | St Johnstone | |
| Wed 27 | 19.45 | SP | A | Hibernian | |
| Sat 30 | 15.00 | SP | H | Livingston | |
| NOVEMBER | | | | | |
| Sat 6 | 15.00 | SP | A | Dundee | |
| Sat 20 | 15.00 | SP | A | Ross County | |
| Sat 27 | 15.00 | SP | H | Aberdeen | |
| DECEMBER | | | | | |
| Wed 1 | 19.45 | SP | H | Hearts | |
| Sat 4 | 15.00 | SP | A | Dundee United | |
| Sat 11 | 15.00 | SP | H | Motherwell | |
| Sat 18 | 15.00 | SP | A | St Mirren | |
| Sun 26 | 15.00 | SP | A | St Johnstone | |
| Wed 29 | 19.45 | SP | H | Hibernian | |
| JANUARY | | | | | |
| Sun 2 | 15.00 | SP | H | Rangers | |
| Wed 26 | 19.45 | SP | A | Hearts | |
| Sat 29 | 15.00 | SP | H | Dundee United | |
| FEBRUARY | | | | | |
| Sat 5 | 15.00 | SP | A | Motherwell | |
| Wed 9 | 19.45 | SP | A | Aberdeen | |
| Sat 19 | 15.00 | SP | H | Dundee | |
| Sat 26 | 15.00 | SP | A | Hibernian | |
| MARCH | | | | | |
| Wed 2 | 19.45 | SP | H | St Mirren | |
| Sat 5 | 15.00 | SP | A | Livingston | |
| Sat 19 | 15.00 | SP | H | Ross County | |
| APRIL | | | | | |
| Sat 2 | 15.00 | SP | A | Rangers | |
| Sat 9 | 15.00 | SP | H | St Johnstone | |
| Post-split dates | | | | | |
| Sat 23 | | SP | | | |
| Sat 30 | | SP | | | |
| MAY | | | | | |
| Sat 7 | | SP | | | |
| Wed 11 | | SP | | | |
| Sat 14 | | SP | | | |



All fixtures subject to change.





CUP

CONFIDENCE

»» EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: JOE DONNELLY

'WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DO BUT WE WILL DO WELL IF WE KEEP ON PLAYING LIKE THIS!'

HENRIK Larsson's message to the Hoops support was clear on November 30, 1997. The Swede had only been a Celtic player for a matter of months before lifting the 1997/98 Scottish League Cup, but having just overcome Dundee United 3-0 in a dominant performance from start to finish, Larsson was confident in he and his team-mates' form and, crucially, their potential.

That night, with a new manager at the helm in Wim Jansen, and with three cup final goals from three new signings – Larsson himself, Marc Reiper and Craig Burley – change was in the air.

Celtic kick off their League Cup campaign for the 2021/22 trail today against Hearts and while they're some ways away from another final, the captain of that cup-winning side, Tom Boyd, believes there are similarities between that era and the current one.

The Hoops of course lost their first league fixture of the season against today's visitors two weeks ago, before hammering Dundee 6-0 at Paradise last weekend in what was a hugely entertaining afternoon of football.

"You can see some similarities between Ange Postecoglou and Wim Jansen, just in terms of them coming into the club, relatively unknown in the Scottish game and building a team for success," said Boyd in an exclusive interview with the official match programme.

"Judging early impressions of what Ange is looking to do here, I think he's wanting to play a little more offensive-minded – which was maybe to do with the type of player Wim was, him being a defensive midfielder.

"The freshness, the sharpness, the youthfulness combined with the experience

of others, though, what Celtic appear to have at present certainly looks like it's beginning to kick off now and hopefully that continues. It does take a little while for these things to fall into place."

Boyd captained the Celtic side which lifted the League Cup in 1997, and said while it feels like a long time ago in football terms, the desire to win silverware is omnipresent as a player no matter which generation you belong to. To that end, he still struggles to get his head around the recent success of Celtic's historic and unprecedented Quadruple Treble, but said the fact that the Hoops finished last season trophy-less will drive this team of serial winners.

He added: "We're now into a new era, we've got a new manager in, we're wanting to see what he can bring in and it'd be nice to see Celtic go all the way in a cup competition sooner rather than later.



"Having a cup run so early in the season can really set your season up nicely. Away back in '97, we took a little while to get settled, it was a similar sort of circumstances, a new team being evolved as Ange Postecoglou is doing and as we had with Wim Jansen back then.

"Ange may have lost his first league game, that season we lost our first two! So, he's ahead of schedule at this moment in time, shall we say. It's interesting times, as it was back in 1997."

Like many a Celtic fan far and wide, Boyd heaped praise on the Hoops' clinical performance against Dundee last weekend – a display he described as a joy to watch. The ex-Celt and former club captain refuses to get too carried away after just one result, but said the nature of the win, and the multitude of chances created in the process, bodes well moving forward.

Couple this with fans returning to Paradise in full numbers, and Boyd looks forward to watching this Celtic side grow and develop as a unit under the guidance of a new manager with new ideas.

"The performance against Dundee last weekend was exactly what fans needed," said Boyd. "We've been crying out for it, and we put aside a good Dundee side with expert precision at times. It could have been more than six given some of the opportunities that were missed, which was the perfect start for our first home league game which is priority.

"The League Cup would be a bonus, but don't get me wrong, it'd be more than welcomed back into the trophy cabinet if possible. But we'll wait and see how everything develops, how the team play for here and how they're continuing to play in a few months from now.

"We rightly didn't want to get too carried away from a negative standpoint when we lost the opening league game against Hearts at Tynecastle, we equally don't want to get too carried away on one great game as well.

"We won't win every game 6-0, and in doing so we might see other teams playing even more defensive than we're used to. I think Dundee did try to come out and play against us, but I think the energy and movement of Celtic just seemed to be unstoppable at times."

With today's game in mind, Boyd

expects a stuffy, defensive and counter-attacking display from Hearts – similar to how Robbie Neilson's men lined up against the Hoops at Tynecastle last month. He believes if Celtic can replicate the free-flowing, high-pressing football they showcased against Dundee last weekend then they've a great chance of progression to the competition's next stage.

Boyd is keen not to get too hung up on that one performance, but if it's a sign of things to come then he's confident in what lies ahead for the Hoops. Which, to paraphrase his one-time teammate Henrik Larsson, is his way of saying: Celtic have a lot to do this season. But they'll do well if they play like they did last weekend.

"In normal circumstances, Hearts coming to Celtic Park would be a different game compared to the other week at Tynecastle but given it's a cup game, I suspect we'll see a very similar performance from the visitors," said Boyd. "I think they'll defend deep, they'll try to catch Celtic on the counter, much like what we saw in Edinburgh a few weeks ago.

"Today, we're here at Celtic Park without crowd restrictions, which makes a huge difference for the atmosphere. You could see that last weekend, the confidence of some of our players is coming back. We obviously have a new manager which can make a huge difference, but the crowd coming back is special – they've been missed, even more than we realise."

STRIKER'S SUPPORT

AS if netting a hat-trick on his home debut last weekend wasn't enough to win over the Paradise faithful, the sight of Kyogo Furuhashi celebrating with his tongue out, a la Henrik Larsson, sent the home support wild.

One onlooker who was suitably impressed was Tom Boyd – who was equally pleased with the support the striker received from his team-mates, as he was the clinical finishing of Celtic's newest Japanese Bhoys.

"The similarities in his actions to a certain Mr Henrik Larsson were stark – his celebration, I mean, let's not go any further than that just yet," said Boyd.

"But, seriously, I think as the

manager pointed out afterwards, when you watch his movement inside the box, it's excellent. Not only the fact he's busting a gut to get in there, his composure has been great too.

"We've also got to save praise for his suppliers, who I felt just turned it on at the weekend against Dundee and you want that to continue in the weeks and months ahead.

"Kyogo deserves the praise he gets, and he'll rightly be heaping praise on the rest of his team-mates as well because if they don't play as well as they did, then you don't get those opportunities."

DEFENSIVE-MIDFIELD-FORWARD?

IN two league games this season, full-back Tony Ralston has wowed with goals any striker would have been proud of. As an ex-full-back himself, Tom Boyd has been impressed with the 22-year-old's prowess and presence of mind in front of goal – and even reckons we might need to redefine his position.

"Is Tony a full-back?" asked Boyd. "I think we need a new name for his position, a Defensive-Midfield-Forward, or something like that! That's what he is just now in terms of where he's finding positions.

"The positions he's finding himself in, though, I think that will be key over the course of season in terms of where we're finding opportunities and getting goals. Even when I played, I could, and often did, play as a left full-back. I could get up and down, but I never ventured in the same way Tony has shown he's capable of in recent games, which was reflected in my goalscoring record. It was rotten!

"And Tony's matched my entire record in two games this season alone in a couple of games. I was more supply, get wide, and get back up and down. But now, full-backs are required to be creative in their play in more advanced areas.

"The good thing about that is that when this happens, there are more players in the box, which means you have more attacking options to pick out a hooped jersey. It takes a lot of energy, it takes a lot of fitness, and it takes a lot of skill, but it's very pleasing to watch."



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CELTIC FC WOMEN FIXTURES/RESULTS 2021/22

Home games in **bold**. Celtic scores are shown first.

| DATE | TIME | COMP | H/A | OPPONENT | RES |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| AUGUST 2021 | | | | | |
| Sun 08 | 14.00 | SWPLC | A | Partick Thistle | 3-1 |
| Sun 15 | 14.00 | SWPLC | H | Hearts | |
| Wed 18 | TBC | UWCL | A | Levante | |
| Sat 21 | TBC | UWCL | A | TBC (Rosenborg or FC Minsk) | |
| Sun 29 | 14.00 | SWPLC | H | St Johnstone | |
| SEPTEMBER | | | | | |
| Sun 05 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Aberdeen | |
| Sun 12 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Glasgow City | |
| Sun 19 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Motherwell | |
| Sun 26 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Hibernian | |
| OCTOBER | | | | | |
| Sun 03 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Forfar Farmington | |
| Sun 10 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Hamilton Accies | |
| Sun 17 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Spartans | |
| Sun 24 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Hearts | |
| NOVEMBER | | | | | |
| Sun 07 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Rangers | |
| Sun 21 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Aberdeen | |
| Sun 28 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Glasgow City | |
| DECEMBER | | | | | |
| Sun 12 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Motherwell | |
| JANUARY | | | | | |
| Sun 16 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Hibernian | |
| Sun 23 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Forfar Farmington | |
| Sun 30 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Hamilton Accies | |
| FEBRUARY | | | | | |
| Sun 06 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Spartans | |
| Sun 20 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Hearts | |
| Sun 27 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Rangers | |
| MARCH | | | | | |
| Sun 06 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Aberdeen | |
| Sun 13 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Glasgow City | |
| Sun 20 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Motherwell | |
| Sun 27 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Hibernian | |
| APRIL | | | | | |
| Sun 17 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Forfar Farmington | |
| Sun 24 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Hamilton Accies | |
| MAY | | | | | |
| Sun 08 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | A | Spartans | |
| Wed 11 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Hearts | |
| Sun 15 | 14.00 | SWPL1 | H | Rangers | |



UWCL UEFA Women's Champions League, SWPL1 Scottish Women's Premier League 1, SWPLC Scottish Women's Premier League Cup
All fixtures subject to change.

»» CHARLIE WELLINGS



CHARLIE'S ANGLES

»» EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: PAUL CUDDIHY

FOR any striker joining a new club, getting on the scoresheet as soon as possible is a clear and obvious objective.

Goals settle any nerves about the change of environment, while it also shows team-mates and supporters alike the qualities that have brought you to the club.

So Charlie Wellings was delighted to net her first competitive goals last weekend in a 3-1 Scottish Women's Premier League Cup win over Partick Thistle.

The 23-year-old forward, who recently joined Celtic from Bristol City, scored twice, with fellow forward, Kathleen McGovern, providing the other goal.

That double for Wellings follows on from two pre-season hat-tricks, and is evidence of what she will bring to the Hoops squad in the season ahead and why manager, Fran Alonso wanted to add her to the squad.

Celtic are back in action this afternoon, also in a League Cup tie against Hearts, which kicks

off at the Penny Cars Stadium, Airdrie, an hour before Ange Postecoglou's side also take on the Tynecastle outfit in a League Cup tie.

And Wellings will be aiming to add to her goals tally today ahead of the team heading out to Norway for their Champions League tie with Levante in midweek.

The official Celtic match programme caught up with the Hoops forward to get her thoughts on life at Paradise...

How did the move to Celtic come about?

It wasn't actually that long before I made the decision to come here. When Celtic got in touch and shared the ambitions of the club, the fact that there will be Champions League football this season and that the club is going in the right direction, I knew it was a good opportunity for me. It's not an easy move because I'm moving quite far from my family and, obviously, things that, basically, I've known my whole life, but knowing the direction the club wants to go in has made it a much easier move. My family have been up here already so it makes a lot easier to know they're



going to be here quite a lot, and they'll soon get up for a game hopefully.

Are you looking forward to playing in Europe next week?

Every player at the club wants to play in the Champions League and be in major tournaments like that, so it's obviously a massive attraction to come up here as well as aiming to get far in the league as well. This will be my first experience of playing in Europe, which was obviously a massive attraction as well. We've had a very good pre-season, we've won all of our games, which is always nice because it gets your confidence up leading into the European games. We know how hard a test it's going to be against Levante, but we'll be ready for it with all the games we've had.

You must be delighted with your start to life at Celtic?

It helps moving in with some of the girls already, so you get to know them before you come to training, but then as soon as you're at training, everyone welcoming so it's nice. And it's always nice to get off the mark nice and early, but it's the girls that help me to get the goals so I'm thankful to them as well. I've settled in quite easily, to be honest. An understanding has come quick with the girls, which is obviously great for me because they're providing me with the goals. So I've settled in really quickly and the girls have all helped with that. It's a massive club. Everybody in the world knows Celtic and the fans are well-known for being one of the best fanbases in the world, so it'll be nice to actually get some fans in for the games.

What has been your career progression in the game?

I've always focused full-time on my football. It's a short career and I wanted to put everything into it while I was still going to be aiming to be the best. So I've fully concentrated on that because I've always known that's what I've wanted to do. I played for Birmingham all the way through from

their youth system, and then was at Bristol City for the past couple of years. From the age of about eight, I was always in a centre of excellence, so I've always been hopeful that was the way it was going to go, and the game was going to become professional, but I'm not sure anyone really knew how it would become so big so quickly.

Have you noticed a difference with being a professional footballer?

It wasn't professional when I was coming through the youth system, and it was just turning professional as I was at that age – around 17 or 18, which landed perfectly for me really. And the game changed massively, from nowhere – all of a sudden it was full-time and it was perfect timing for me. When I was just coming through at the age of 17, I was working and then going to training at night, so I've had a wee bit of experience of that, so it just makes you appreciate now how much it's changed. Every young player has got a chance now if they work hard and stick to it. If they follow the right path and stick to it, they've got a great opportunity to make it.

Who was your football hero growing up?

I actually didn't have a hero but I'd go and watch all the games with my dad and my family but I never really latched on to one person that I looked up to. My local team is Wolves – I had a season ticket there and used to go every week.

Next up for Celtic is Hearts, so you must be hoping to get on the scoresheet again?

As long as we win the game, that's all that matters, but it's always nice to get on the scoresheet. We're just taking it game by game at the minute because it's been such a hectic schedule, playing a lot of games and training every day, so we've not really had time to think about the Champions League game. We don't really look ahead that far. It's just taking each game one by one.

CELTIC QUIZ

TIME FOR SOME
FIRST-TEAM
QUESTIONS, BUT
IT MAY NOT BE
WHAT YOU THINK!
CAN YOU NAME
THE FIRST SENIOR
TEAMS THESE
CELTIS PLAYED TOP-
TEAM GAMES FOR?

1. Willie Wallace

- A Hearts
- B Stenhousemuir
- C Falkirk
- D Dundee

2. Chris Sutton

- A Norwich City
- B Notts County
- C Blackburn Rovers
- D Ipswich Town

3. Scott McDonald

- A Western United
- B Brisbane Roar
- C Gippsland Falcons
- D West Sydney Wanderers

4. Craig Bellamy

- A Cardiff City
- B Norwich City
- C New Saints
- D Tranmere Rovers

5. Joe McBride

- A Lyngby
- B Brondby
- C Aarhus
- D Dundee

6. John Hartson

- A Arsenal
- B Luton Town
- C Cardiff City
- D Southport

7. Mark Wilson

- A Hamilton Accies

B Airdrie

- C Motherwell
- D Dundee United

8. Efe Ambrose

- A Ashdod
- B Nasawara United
- C Kadura United
- D Bayelsa United

9. Mark McGhee

- A Newcastle United
- B St Mirren
- C Falkirk
- D Morton

10. Dan Doyle

- A Hibernian
- B Abercorn
- C Dumbarton
- D St Mirren

11. Johan Mjallby

- A Vasteras SK
- B AIK
- C Mjallby AIF
- D Malmo

12. Billy McNeill was known
by which name when he first
joined the club?

- A William
- B Bill
- C Willie
- D Wills



Answers:

1 Stenhousemuir 2 Norwich City 3 Gippsland Falcons 4 Norwich City 5 Kilmarnock 6 Lyngby 7 Luton Town 8 Dundee United 9 Kadura United 10 Morton 11 Hibernian 12 Bill



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CELTIC v HEARTS

MANAGER: ANGE POSTECOGLOU

MANAGER: ROBBIE NEILSON

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|--------------------|
| VASILIS BARKAS | 01 | 01 | CRAIG GORDON |
| CHRISTOPHER JULLIEN | 02 | 02 | MICHAEL SMITH |
| GREG TAYLOR | 03 | 03 | STEPHEN KINGSLEY |
| CARL STARFELT | 04 | 04 | JOHN SOUTTAR |
| NIR BITTON | 06 | 05 | PETER HARING |
| KYOGO FURUHASHI | 08 | 06 | BENI BANINGIME |
| LEIGH GRIFFITHS | 09 | 07 | JAMIE WALKER |
| ALBIAN AJETI | 10 | 08 | AARON McENEFF |
| LIEL ABADA | 11 | 10 | LIAM BOYCE |
| ISMAILA SORO | 12 | 11 | GARY MACKAY-STEVEN |
| DAVID TURNBULL | 14 | 13 | ROSS STEWART |
| JOE HART | 15 | 16 | ANDY HALLIDAY |
| JAMES McCARTHY | 16 | 17 | ALEX COCHRANE |
| RYAN CHRISTIE | 17 | 19 | CRAIG HALKETT |
| TOM ROGIC | 18 | 20 | JORDAN ROBERTS |
| MIKEY JOHNSTON | 19 | 21 | ARMAND GNANDUILLET |
| ODSONNE EDOUARD | 22 | 22 | EUAN HENDERSON |
| BOLI BOLINGOLI | 23 | 25 | CAMMY LOGAN |
| OSAZE URHOGHIDE | 26 | 27 | CONNOR SMITH |
| LUCA CONNELL | 28 | 28 | MIHAI POPESCU |
| SCOTT BAIN | 29 | 30 | JOSH GINNELLY |
| LIAM SHAW | 30 | 38 | FINLAY POLLOCK |
| LEE O'CONNOR | 32 | | |
| SCOTT ROBERTSON | 41 | | |
| CALLUM MCGREGOR | 42 | | |
| DANE MURRAY | 47 | | |
| JAMES FORREST | 49 | | |
| EWAN HENDERSON | 52 | | |
| ADAM MONTGOMERY | 54 | | |
| KERR McINROY | 55 | | |
| ANTHONY RALSTON | 56 | | |
| STEPHEN WELSH | 57 | | |
| CONOR HAZARD | 65 | | |
| KARAMOKO DEMBELE | 77 | | |

REFEREE: JOHN BEATON
ASSISTANT 1: ALAN MULVANNY
ASSISTANT 2: SEAN CARR
FOURTH OFFICIAL: ALAN MUIR

