



# FC MIDTJYLLAND CELTIC FC

Onsdag 28/7 kl. 19:45  
MCH Arena





## FC Midtjylland

FC Midtjylland is a Danish professional football club based in Herning and Ikast in the midwestern part of Jutland. The club is the result of a merger between Ikast FS and Herning Fremad. Midtjylland competes in the Danish Superliga, which they have won three times, most recently in 2020.

### Honours

#### Danish Superliga

Winners (3): 2014–15, 2017–18, 2019–20  
Runners-up (4): 2006–07, 2007–08, 2018–19, 2020–21

#### 1st Division

Winners (1): 1999–2000

#### Danish Cup

Winners (1): 2018–19  
Runners-up (4): 2002–03, 2004–05, 2009–10, 2010–11

### Club history

Stadium of FC Midtjylland. MCH Arena

FC Midtjylland was founded by Johnny Rune, a carpenter and owner of a private business in the wood-supply industry, and Steen Hessel, an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.

The two men wanted to unite the football clubs Ikast FS (founded 1935) and Herning Fremad (founded 1918) – clubs that for decades had been strong rivals, but had never played any significant role in Danish football.



Ikast FS had some success in the late 1970s and '80s and made three Danish Cup final appearances, but had never been a top team in the Danish league. At least ten years had passed with the two clubs being unable to agree on a merger, but on 6 April 1999, a deal was finalised and announced at a press conference the next day.

In 2000, Midtjylland were promoted to the top-flight Danish Superliga after a season in which the team had gathered more points than any other team in the history of the first division.

In July 2014, Matthew Benham (owner of English Premierleague side Brentford) became the majority shareholder of Midtjylland's parent company FCM Holding. In the 2014–15 season, they won the Danish football championship for the first time. Later on, they won two league titles in 2017–18 and 2019–20, then qualified to the 2020–21 UEFA Champions League group stage for the first time in their history.

FC Midtjylland er en dansk fodboldklub fra byerne Herning og Ikast i Midtjylland. Klubben spiller i den bedste danske fodboldrække, Superligaen.

Klubben blev danske mestre for første gang i sæsonen 2014/15, og gentog bedriften i sæsonerne 2017/18 og 2019/20.

I sæsonen 2018-19 blev klubben for første gang pokalmestre.

Hjemmekampene bliver spillet på MCH Arena i Herning, som blev klubbens hjemmebane i 2004. Den har en kapacitet på 11.809 tilskuere.

Champions League hymnen, er blevet spillet tre gange på arenaen i Herning. Dette skete for første gang i sæsonen 2020/21, hvor man havde besøg af Liverpool, Ajax og Atalanta. Her endte klubben med 2 point i gruppen og fik dermed en 4. plads.

FC Midtjyllands største rival er den midtjyske naboklub Viborg FF. Kampene mellem de to klubber betegnes ofte som et derby.



# Match preview

Following an eventful first leg encounter last week, Celtic continue their quest for Champions League qualification with a trip to FC Midtjylland on Wednesday.

As the Hoops were held at home by the Danish side and have failed to win any of their three most recent friendlies, the pressure is already starting to mount following a woeful 2020-21 campaign.



Entering the qualification process at the second round stage last Tuesday, Celtic saw former Australia coach Ange Postecoglou's tenure begin with a draw against Midtjylland that saw both sides reduced to 10 men - and the home side's dominance of possession going unrewarded despite Liel Abada's debut strike.

Their hopes of building a lead to take to Jutland were diminished when Nir Bitton impetuously picked up a second yellow card in short succession; clashing with the visitors' Anders Dreyer. The Danish winger was also sent off later on, but Evander then managed to beat Celtic goalkeeper Vasilis Barkas with a free-kick to level the game.

With 9,000 fans welcomed back to Parkhead to witness their first competitive fixture in well over a year, it proved a frustrating conclusion for Postecoglou and his new charges, who were crushed 6-2 by West Ham United in a pre-season warm-up at the weekend.

Such a setback - while irrelevant in terms of points or prizes - can have done nothing for the Glasgow giants' confidence, as they seek a return to the Champions League group stages for the first time since 2017.



Having fallen at the equivalent hurdle to Ferencvaros last year, Celtic's continental woes have been compounded by seeing domestic dominance stripped away by their loathed arch-rivals in recent months.

Certainly, they have endured a difficult year, and their new boss will need to adjust to his new role rapidly if Midtjylland are to be overcome on home soil - just three days before the Bhoys begin their Premiership season away to Hearts.

Signs that his team will build from the back and play at the high tempo so beloved by Celtic's fans may offer some encouragement, however their capacity for individual errors appears to remain undimmed.

With the opportunity to meet either PSV or Galatasaray - most probably the former, given their 5-1 first-leg lead - in the next round providing motivation if any more were needed, Midtjylland will expect to make the most of escaping Glasgow with a draw last week.

After kicking off the 2021-22 season with an unexpected league defeat to Odense, the Ulvene have resumed normal service during the past few days, having followed their hard-earned result at Celtic Park with a 1-0 win over Aab Aalborg on Saturday.

It was perhaps a more comprehensive display than the scoreline suggests, as last term's Superliga runners-up switched to a three-man defence - ahead of former Huddersfield Town goalkeeper Jonas Lossi - which allowed the opposition next to nothing offensively, while the forward line created several presentable chances.

The prospect of things clicking into place will give new manager Bo Henriksen a boost before the biggest night of his career so far, as he seeks to lead his troops past Celtic and into the third qualifying round - with a guaranteed Europa League spot available should they go on to lose at that stage.

Having managed to dig out draws against Liverpool and Atalanta in last year's Champions League group phase though, the ambitious club have their sights set higher once again.

Celtic coach Ange Postecoglou will be without defensive lynchpin Nir Bitton in Denmark, due to the Israeli's red mist earning him a red card in last week's first leg, so Stephen Welsh is expected to lead the

back line in his absence - with young Dane Murray his potential partner.

At fault for Midtjylland's goal at Parkhead, under-fire goalkeeper Vasilis Barkas was replaced by Scott Bain at half-time during the humbling loss to West Ham - with the former Dundee stopper faring little better - so it remains to be seen who will be handed the gloves on Wednesday.

Soon after Bain's appearance, Postecoglou made wholesale changes by swapping his entire outfield selection, but Liel Abada, Odsonne Edouard and Ryan Christie at least impressed in the hour they played and each is likely to start again in a 4-3-3 formation.

Kristoffer Ajer left the club last week - completing a move to Midtjylland's partner club Brentford - while both Mikey Johnston and Karamoko Dembele have been out injured and are not expected to feature.

The home side, meanwhile, have fewer concerns ahead of the game, but teenage winger Aral Simsir has been absent due to self-isolating with COVID-19 and Anders Dreyer will serve a suspension after his second-half dismissal in Glasgow.

Australia international Awer Mabil - who made a mark in European competition last year following his return to the Superliga club - is set to replace the latter on Wednesday, lining up on the opposite flank to Pione Sisto in support of Junior Brumado.

However, Bo Henriksen could throw a spanner in the works should he opt to retain the three-man rearguard he picked in the league at the weekend. In that case, former Brentford defender Henrik Dalsgaard would shift across from right-back, with Joel Andersson featuring in a more advanced role.

#### **FC Midtjylland possible starting lineup:**

Lossi; Dalsgaard, Sviatchenko, Andersson; Juninho, Charles, Evander, Paulinho, Mabil; Brumado, Sisto

#### **Celtic possible starting lineup:**

Bain; Ralston, Murray, Welsh, Taylor; McGregor, Soro, Turnbull; Abada, Edouard, Christie



# PLAYERS & STAFF



**JONAS  
LÖSSL**

1



**ELIAS  
OLAFSSON**

16



**JARED  
THOMPSON**

30



**VALDEMAR  
BIRKSØ**

90



**DION  
COOLS**

2



**DANIEL  
HØEGH**

5



**JOEL  
ANDERSSON**

6



**HENRIK  
DALSGAARD**

14



**RASMUS  
NICOLAISEN**

20



**ERIK  
SVIATCHENKO**

28



**DA SILVA  
PAULINHO**

29



**NIKOLAS  
DYHR**

44



**PIONE  
SISTO**

7



**FERREIRA  
EVANDER**

10



**AWER  
MABIL**

11



**OLIVER  
SØRENSEN**

24



**MIKÅEL  
ANDERSON**

34



**RICON MATOS  
CHARLES**

35



**ANDERS  
DREYER**

36



**RAPHAEL  
ONYEDIKA**

37



# PLAYERS & STAFF



VICTOR  
**TORP**

39



JENS-LYS  
**CAJUSTE**

40



NICOLAS  
**MADSEN**

43



GUSTAV  
**ISAKSEN**

45



SORY  
**KABA**

9



FREDERIK  
**HEISELBERG**

47



MADS  
**HANSEN**

48



VICTOR  
**LIND**

53



HOSINE  
**BILITY**

50



VIKTOR  
**BAK**

55



JOSE CARLOS  
**JUNINHO**

73



OSCAR  
**FRAULO**

54



ARAL  
**SIMSIR**

58



JUNIOR  
**BRUMADO**

74



**KRISTIAN BACH BAK**

ASSISTENTTRÆNER



**SØREN BJERG**

CHEFANALYTIKER



**CHRISTIAN CLARUP**

CHEF FYSISK TRÆNER



**LASSE HEINZE**

MÅLMANDSTRÆNER



**B.S. CHRISTIANSEN**

MENTALTRÆNER



**RENE S. ANDERSEN**

A+ OG TRANSITIONSTRÆNER





**Goalkeeper**

1 Jonas Lössl	01.02.1989
16 Elias Olafsson	11.03.2000
30 Jared Thompson	23.02.1999
90 Valdemar Birksø	17.03.2001

**Defender**

2 Dion Cools	04.06.1996
5 Daniel Høegh	06.01.1991
6 Joel Andersson	11.11.1996
13 Søren Reese	29.07.1993
14 Henrik Dalsgaard	27.07.1989
20 Rasmus Nicolaisen	16.03.1997
28 Erik Sviatchenko	04.10.1991
29 Paulinho	03.01.1995
44 Nikolas Dyhr	18.06.2001
50 Hosine Bility	10.05.2001
55 Victor Bak	03.10.2003
73 Juninho	01.02.1995

**Midfielder**

7 Pione Sisto	04.02.1995
10 Evander	09.06.1998
11 Awer Mabil	15.09.1995
24 Oliver Sørensen	10.03.2002
34 Mikael Anderson	01.07.1998
35 Charles	19.06.1996
36 Anders Dreyer	02.05.1998
37 Raphael Onyedika	19.04.2001
39 Victor Torp	30.07.1999
40 Jens-Lys Cajuste	10.08.1999
43 Nicolas Madsen	17.03.2000
45 Gustav Isaksen	19.04.2001
54 Oscar Fraulo	06.12.2003

**Forward**

9 Sory Kaba	28.07.1995
47 Frederik Heiselberg	11.02.2003
48 Mads Hansen	28.07.2002
53 Victor Lind	12.06.2003
58 Aral Simsir	19.06.2002
74 Junior Brumado	15.05.1999

**Goalkeeper**

1 Vassilis Barkas	30.05.1994
15 Joe Hart	19.04.1987
29 Scott Bain	22.11.1991
45 Ross Doohan	29.03.1998
65 Conor Hazard	05.03.1998

**Defender**

2 Christopher Jullien	22.03.1993
3 Greg Taylor	05.11.1997
4 Carl Starfelt	01.06.1995
23 Boli Bolingoli-Mbombo	01.07.1995
26 Osaze Urhoghide	04.07.2000
56 Tony Ralston	16.11.1998
57 Stephen Welsh	19.01.2000

**Midfielder**

6 Nir Bitton	30.10.1991
12 Ismaila Soro	07.05.1998
14 David Turnbull	10.07.1999
17 Ryan Christie	22.02.1995
18 Tom Rogic	16.12.1992
28 Luca Connell	20.04.2001
30 Liam Shaw	12.03.2001
41 Scott Robertson	27.07.2001
42 Callum McGregor	14.06.1993
47 Dane Murray	26.06.2003
49 James Forrest	07.07.1991
52 Ewan Henderson	27.03.2000
James McCarthy	12.11.1990

**Forward**

8 Kyogo Furuhashi	20.01.1995
9 Leigh Griffiths	20.08.1990
10 Alban Ajeti	26.02.1997
11 Liel Abada	03.10.2001
19 Mikey Johnston	19.04.1999
22 Odsonne Edouard	16.01.1998
54 Adam Montgomery	18.07.2002

## Celtic 1-1 Midtjylland

Ange Postecoglou's tenure as Celtic boss began with an incident-packed 1-1 draw with Midtjylland as both sides ended the Champions League qualifier with 10 men.

New Hoops signing Liel Abada, the 19-year-old Israeli winger, marked his competitive debut by scoring in the 37th minute of the first leg at Parkhead.

However, Celtic defender Nir Bitton dampened the enthusiasm among the 9,000 home fans when he was sent off late in the first half for needlessly picking up the second of two yellow cards for remonstrating with Anders Dreyer after he had dived in the box.

The Danish wideman was sent off 10 minutes into the second half for another dive and as the game swung from end to end Evander levelled for the visitors in the 66th minute with a whipped-in

free-kick to set up nicely next week's second leg in Denmark, with the away goals rule not applying this season.

Celtic's biggest home crowd since coronavirus restrictions came into place in March 2020 lent a raucous atmosphere to their side's first meaningful game of the campaign.

Postecoglou had voiced concerns over his squad's fitness and over how long it was taking to get new faces into his under-strength squad but he fielded almost his most experienced team.

There was a familiar face in the opposition, former Hoops defender Erik Sviatchenko, who captained the Danish side.

There was some concern for Postecoglou in the 10th minute when Bitton, after some treatment to a face injury following a challenge by striker Junior Brumado, went up the tunnel leaving the Hoops with 10 men.





Moments later, Raphael Nwadike also went off with a head injury after a challenge by Anthony Ralston and both sides were a man down before both casualties returned to the fray.

In the 24th minute striker Odsonne Edouard fired a shot on the turn over the bar from the edge of the box.

The match burst into life in the 36th minute, however, when Hoops attacker Ryan Christie struck the post from close range from Abada's cross and then headed over from the same player's delivery.

A minute later, Abada showed how it should be done when he swiftly flashed a rebound into the net after Midtjylland keeper Jonas Lossli parried a powerful drive from Christie.

More drama soon followed.

Bitton, booked earlier for a foul on Brumado, was sent off by referee Sandro Scharer for lifting his hand to Dreyer after the Midtjylland player appeared to go down too easily in the box.

Dreyer was also booked while 18-year-old defender Dane Murray replaced Abada to make his competitive debut as Postecoglou reshuffled.

The Celtic fans cheered when the Danish winger received another yellow when he went down at the edge of the box under the close attention of new Hoops captain Callum McGregor.

Then, as the belief returned to Parkhead, the Scotland midfielder skimmed the bar from the edge of the box with a terrific drive before Edouard was put through only to hit Lossli with an unconvincing strike – and Celtic soon paid for that miss.



# Celtic FC

The Celtic Football Club is a Scottish professional football club based in Glasgow, which plays in the Scottish Premiership.

The club was founded in 1887 with the purpose of alleviating poverty in the immigrant Irish population in the East End of Glasgow.

They played their first match in May 1888, a friendly match against Rangers which Celtic won 5–2. Celtic established themselves within Scottish football, winning six successive league titles during the first decade of the 20th century. The club enjoyed their greatest successes during the 1960s and 70s under Jock Stein, when they won nine consecutive league titles and the 1967 European Cup. Celtic have played in green and white throughout their history, adopting hoops in 1903, which have been used ever since.

Celtic are one of only five clubs in the world to have won over 100 trophies in their history. The club has won the Scottish league championship 51 times, most recently in 2019–20, the Scottish Cup 40 times and the Scottish League Cup 19 times. The club's greatest season was 1966–67, when Celtic

became the first British team to win the European Cup, also winning the Scottish league championship, the Scottish Cup, the League Cup and the Glasgow Cup. Celtic also reached the 1970 European Cup Final and the 2003 UEFA Cup Final, losing in both.

Celtic have a long-standing fierce rivalry with Rangers, and the clubs are known as the Old Firm, seen by some as the world's biggest football derby. The club's fanbase was estimated in 2003 as being around nine million worldwide, and there are more than 160 Celtic supporters clubs in over 20 countries. An estimated 80,000 fans travelled to Seville for the 2003 UEFA Cup Final, and their "extraordinarily loyal and sporting behaviour" in spite of defeat earned the club Fair Play awards from FIFA and UEFA.



