

Celtic - League Champions

Out of seeming nothing;
Out of shadow and gloom;
Out of a hollowed vacuum
Came something to keep us in tune.
Something to interest and please us;
Something we call our own;
Something we almost worship;
Loving beyond control.

Boys by practice and training;
Diligently keeping fit;
Men by planning and scheming
Built it bit by bit.
Loyally working together;
Faithful to their scheme;
Out of little or nothing
Came the champion Celtic team

- Crossbar, 1901



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Belfast Celtic Society

*Accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue
under reference XR 77528*

Belfast Celtic Society

The Grand Old Team



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"When we had nothing, we had Belfast Celtic. Then we had everything."

The legendary Belfast Celtic Football Club was the leading light in Irish football from 1891 to 1949. Despite being twice forced to withdraw from competition due to the political upheavals of the time, the Celtic team won numerous trophies and gained the admiration of the sporting community in Ireland and further afield before withdrawing from League competition for good in 1949.

During their time in competition, Celtic had won the Irish League fourteen times, the Irish Cup eight times, the City Cup Winners ten times and the Gold Cup seven times. The Belfast Celtic team was the pride of Irish football until it was forced out of competition after the dramatic game against Belfast rivals Linfield on Boxing Day 1948.

The Celtic team had to run from the pitch for their lives when Linfield fans poured over the terrace barriers at the end of a 1-1 draw. Centre forward Jimmy Jones was thrown over a parapet, kicked unconscious and left with a broken leg. Defender Robin Lawlor and goalkeeper Kevin McAlinden were also seriously hurt.

At a meeting the same night Celtic's directors decided to withdraw from football once the season's commitments had been fulfilled.



Belfast Celtic 1925



Celtic 1932-33

The city of Belfast never recovered from its loss and neither did Irish football. The formation in 2003 of the Belfast Celtic Society is living proof that the Grand Old Team is not forgotten.

The Belfast Celtic Society

The Belfast Celtic Society was established in November 2003 to encourage an appreciation, knowledge and awareness among the general public of the historical and cultural heritage of Belfast Celtic Football and Athletic Club. The Society has been granted charitable status and one of our main aims is to raise funds for charitable causes.

The Belfast Celtic Society is an inclusive, non-sectarian, anti-racist organisation in the spirit of the Belfast Celtic Football and Athletic Club. Membership of the Society is open to individuals irrespective of age, gender, ethnic identity, nationality, sexual orientation, race, religion or political opinion.

The main aims and objectives of the Belfast Celtic Society are to promote awareness of the history and cultural heritage of Belfast Celtic Football and Athletic Club. It is our intention to arrange open lectures and public

meetings; maintain a travelling photographic exhibition; establish a permanent collection of Belfast Celtic memorabilia in Belfast; collect filmed recordings of Belfast Celtic and actively use the internet to raise awareness of the traditions of the Grand Old Team.

A copy of the Belfast Celtic Society Constitution is available on request from the Honorary Secretary at the post address below or on our website at www.belfastceltic.org.



The final tour

Belfast Celtic Society

The annual membership subscription is currently £10.00 stg or the equivalent in your currency. The application form can be obtained from the Honorary Treasurer or by downloading it from the website. Cheques should be made payable to the Honorary Treasurer. Payment can also be made by PayPal to paddymcilroy@tiscali.co.uk.

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