

OPPOSITION DOSSIER

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Prepared by
Darren Melling
Opposition Analysis



STALYBRIDGE CELTIC

Analysis of the previous five matches covering formations, attacking and defensive profile, set pieces and our game plan.

W L D D W

RECENT FORM

Team Snapshot: Last Five Matches

12

GOALS SCORED

Across the last five games

4.47

EXPECTED GOALS

Overperforming their xG

23.32%

LONG PASS SHARE

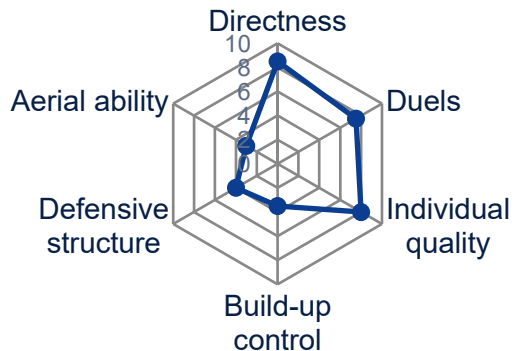
Clear tendency to go direct

60.94%

PASS ACCURACY

Wasteful in possession

TEAM STYLE PROFILE



HEADLINE READ

- Direct, vertical team who thrive on chaos and second balls.
- Threat comes from individual actions, not structured patterns.
- Loose in build-up, with 60.94% pass accuracy inviting turnovers.
- Shape collapses in transition when the full-backs are high.
- Set-piece danger is concentrated on Chalmers.

Formations

4-2-3-1

57%

Base shape, used in every match

KEY POINTS

- Front four play very narrow
- Width comes from the full-backs
- Double pivot isn't compact
- Inconsistent build-up play
- Defence collapses when stretched
- Strong in duels

4-3-3

18%

Usually when losing

KEY POINTS

- Tongue + Doyle/Butterworth + Scarisbrick as a three
- Wide players push high
- Full-backs advance aggressively
- Structure becomes stretched

4-1-4-1

17%

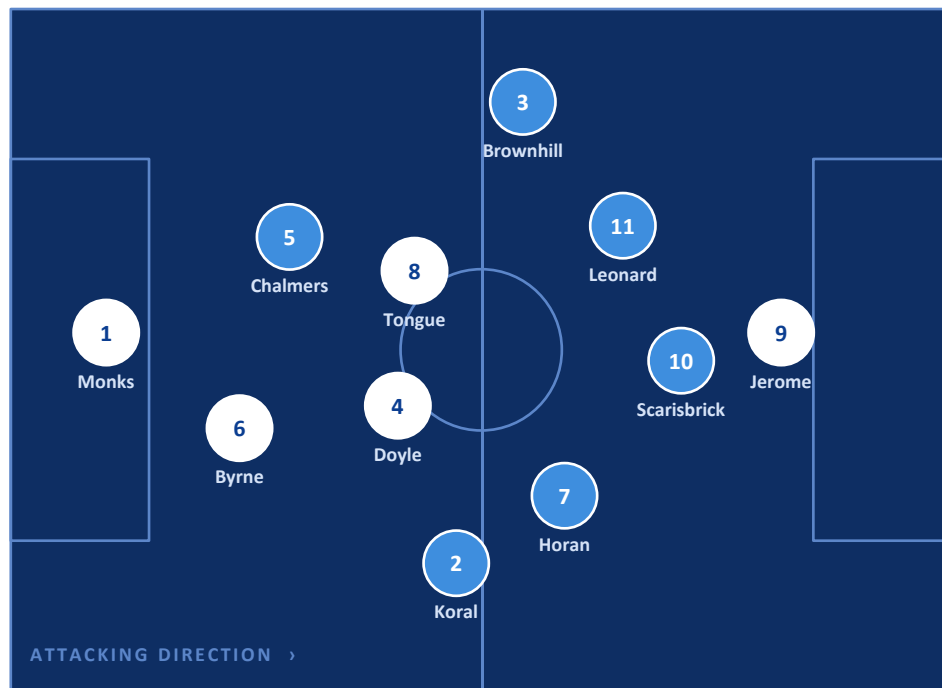
To protect leads or stabilise

KEY POINTS

- Doyle/Butterworth as a single pivot
- Scarisbrick + Tongue ahead
- Wide players tuck in
- Full-backs more conservative

Structure is stable across all three shapes. Personnel rotate but the roles stay consistent.

Average Positions & Movement

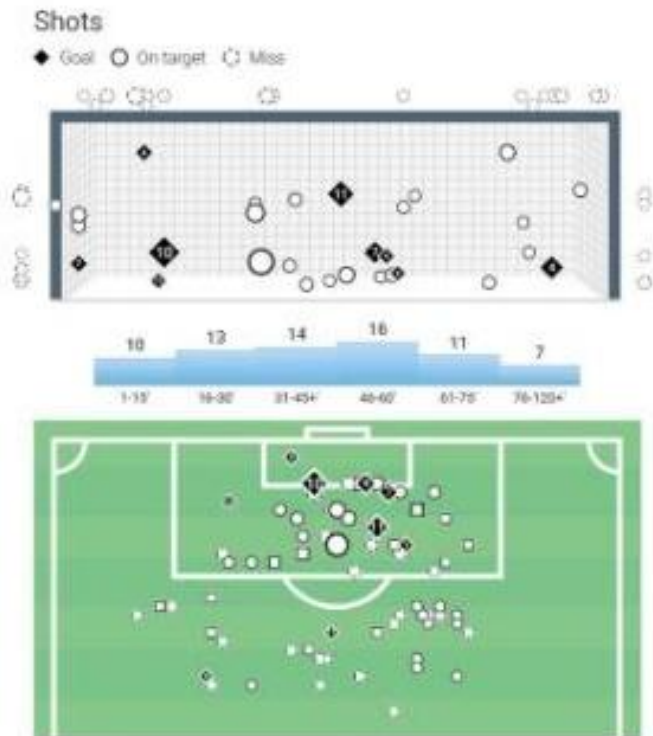


Average positions in a 4-2-3-1, previous five matches. Highlighted players move furthest from their nominal position.

WHAT THE MAP TELLS US

- 1 Full-backs push up very high, vacating the space behind them.
- 2 Chalmers (LCB) steps out of shape aggressively.
- 3 The 10 drifts, often becoming a second forward.
- 4 Leonard (LW) plays narrow, like an inside forward.
- 5 Horan (RW) drops in to combine but won't run in behind.

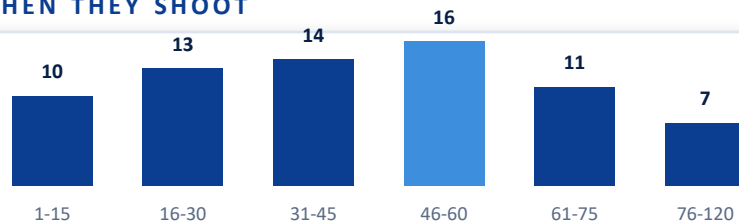
Shot Map & Chance Locations



READING THE SHOT MAP

- Low shot volume but good chance quality, with most efforts come from central zones inside the box.
- Goals cluster around the penalty spot and the six-yard area, from cut-backs and second balls.
- Shots from wide areas are speculative and rarely on target.

WHEN THEY SHOOT



Shots by period in minutes. Their heaviest spell is just after half time.

Attacking Profile: Outputs

Threat comes from individual actions, not structured patterns. 6 goals in 5 games from an xG of 5.48, so slightly overperforming, largely down to Scarisbrick and Chalmers. Low shot volume, but good chance quality.

KEY ATTACKING PLAYERS

Scarisbrick

No.10, main carrier

2 goals · 8 shots on target · 15 dribbles

Horan

Right wing, left footed

2 goals · 4 assists · 21 crosses

Chalmers

Left centre back

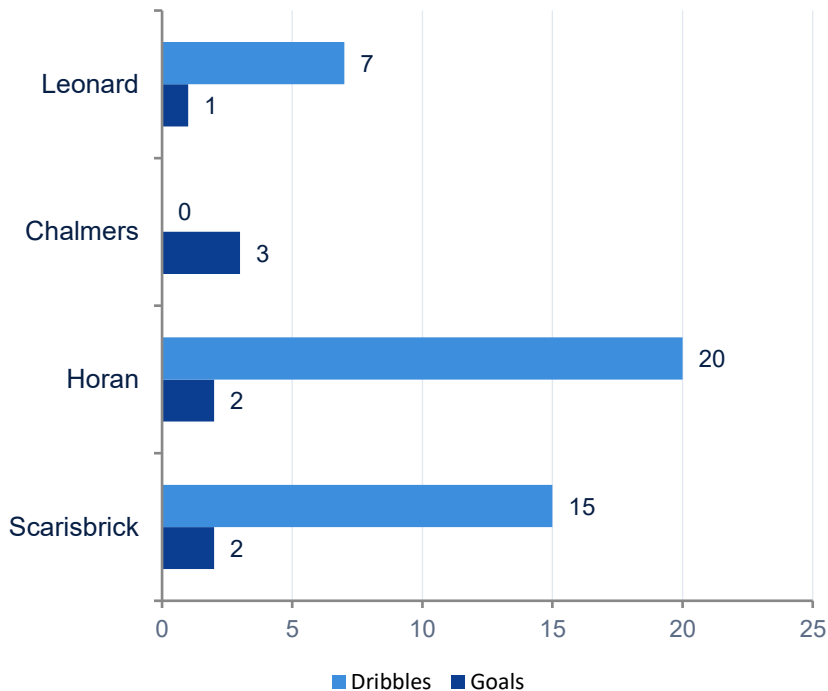
3 goals · 3 deep completions · 68 progressive passes

Leonard

Left wing, inside forward

1 goal · 11 shots · 9 touches in the box

INDIVIDUAL OUTPUT, LAST FIVE



Patterns of Play

1 Attacks down the left

LB Brownhill

Plays high and wide, creates a 2v1 on our right back but leaves space behind.

LW Leonard

Drifts inside to open the lane for Brownhill.

RCM Tongue

Supports progression with forward passes.

2 Combinations down the right

RW Horan

Drives inside to link with the 10 and CF, then crosses with his left foot.

RB Koral

Overlaps to cross, but crossing accuracy is very low.

No.10 Scarisbrick

Drifts right to create an overload.

3 Direct balls into the CF

Both centre backs

Play long, slightly diagonal balls.

CF Jerome

Wins only 31% of his duels.

Second balls

Picking these up is central to how they attack.

4. Individual actions: dribbles and 1v1s

Scarisbrick 15 dribbles · Horan 20 dribbles · Leonard 7 dribbles. They will look to isolate our defenders and beat them one-on-one rather than combine.

5. Set pieces & attacking transitions

Chalmers is the main aerial threat; delivery volume is high but inconsistent. In transition they break instantly through Scarisbrick and Horan, with Leonard arriving late, but it collapses if the first action is stopped.

Summary: Attacking Profile

- Direct, vertical team who prefer long balls and second-ball attacks.
- Narrow front four, reliant on inside movement from Horan and Scarisbrick.
- Full-backs, especially Brownhill, provide most of the width and progression.
- Heavy dependence on individual actions rather than structured combinations.
- Scarisbrick is the main ball-carrier and creator between the lines.

- Horan cuts inside to shoot or combine; crossing accuracy is inconsistent.
- Leonard arrives late into the box but rarely runs in behind.
- Build-up is loose. 60.94% pass accuracy shows risk and turnovers.
- Long pass share of 23.32% highlights their direct tendencies.
- Dangerous in broken play; predictable in settled possession.

Set-piece threat runs almost entirely through Chalmers attacking deep deliveries.

Defensive Profile: Shape & Structure

They defend in a 4-2-3-1 that becomes a 4-4-2 mid-block, but the structure is inconsistent and breaks down when stretched. They rely on winning individual duels rather than being organised as a unit, and once the full-backs push high or the pivot is dragged out, the back line is exposed.

BASE SHAPE: 4-4-2 MID-BLOCK

- AMF steps up alongside the centre forward.
- Compact when settled, breaks down under pressure.
- Wingers drop in but don't track runners consistently.
- Double pivot sits deep and becomes disconnected.

STRENGTHS

- Chalmers wins 61 of 112 defensive duels.
- Tongue and Doyle have a high tackle success rate.
- Brownhill defends aggressively on the front foot.
- Very compact when allowed to settle.

WEAKNESSES TO ATTACK

- Full-backs sit extremely high, isolating the centre backs in the channels.
- The two holding midfielders are easily split and dragged out of position.
- Wingers don't track full-back runners.
- Not strong in the air.
- Huge gaps appear between the lines when they are pressed.

Defender & Midfield Profiles

Player	Strengths	Weaknesses to exploit
A. Chalmers LCB, best defender	Aggressive, front-foot, dominant in duels. 39 sliding tackles at 62%. 68 progressive passes, 38 into the final third. Main aerial threat at set pieces.	Dragged wide when full-backs push high, leaving space inside. Average recovery speed when isolated in big spaces.
J. Byrne RCB	Solid in ground duels, 71% won.	Poor aerially (26 of 33 duels lost sequences). Struggles turning under pressure. 60 losses in own half. 54% pass accuracy. Targetable with diagonals and back-post crosses.
K. Brownhill LB	Very aggressive front-foot defender, 72% of duels won. Good recovery pace.	Pushes extremely high, leaving huge space behind. Poor anticipation, with only 1 interception. Vulnerable to switches and 2v1s. 8% crossing accuracy.
M. Koral RB	Energetic, gets forward to overlap.	Inconsistent: 47% ground duels and weak aerially. Leaves space behind. Slow to react to inside runs. Easily overloaded in transition.
L. Tongue CM (defensive)	Hard worker and strong tackler.	Dragged out of shape, slow to recover when bypassed. 80 losses in own half. Triggers long, inaccurate clearances. Doesn't track runners.

Defensive Transitions: Their Biggest Vulnerability

When they lose the ball the full-backs are high, the pivot is stretched and the centre backs are left defending large spaces. Tongue and Doyle are slow to recover, the wingers don't track, and the team becomes disconnected. Opponents who counter quickly or switch play early expose them repeatedly, and this is where they concede their highest-value chances.

01

Ball lost

Full-backs caught high, huge spaces behind.

02

Pivot bypassed

Tongue and Doyle slow to recover.

03

Wide 2v1s

Wingers don't track the runners.

04

CBs exposed

Dragged wide, defending large spaces.

05

Shape collapses

Fast counters cause them huge problems.

Counter fast and switch early. Teams who attack the moment of turnover cause them repeated problems.

Set Pieces

Attacking corners

TAKERS Horan · Brownhill · Scarisbrick

TARGETS Chalmers · Byrne · Jerome

PATTERNS Near-post flicks, back-post overload, deep outswingers

Defending corners

MARKING Hybrid, zonal and man to man

WEAKNESS Struggle with runners to the back post

TARGET Poor in the air. Attack Byrne and Koral. High xG against.

Attacking free kicks

TAKERS Horan · Brownhill · Scarisbrick

TARGETS Back post and centre, mainly Chalmers

PATTERNS Almost always direct, rarely short. Volume in the box to create chaos

Defending free kicks

RELIANCE Too dependent on Chalmers winning first contact

WEAKNESS Byrne and Koral poor in the air; slow to the second ball

KEEPER Monks sticks to his line. Inswinging back-post deliveries hurt them

Summary: Defensive Profile

- Base shape becomes a loose 4-4-2 mid-block with inconsistent distances.
- Full-backs push high and leave large spaces behind in transition.
- Wingers don't track runners, creating repeated 2v1s in wide areas.
- The pivot sits deep but is slow to recover when bypassed.
- Centre backs struggle when dragged into wide channels.

- Weak aerially on the right, with Byrne and Koral targetable at the back post.
- Shape collapses when the press is broken; units become disconnected.
- Vulnerable to switches of play, cutbacks and second balls around the box.
- Monks stays on his line and rarely claims crosses.
- Concede most from transitions, back-post crosses and deep free kicks.

WHERE THEY ARE VULNERABLE

Wide channels & 2v1s



9/10

Defensive transition



9.5/10

Back post / aerial



8.5/10

Settled possession



4/10

How Do We Win? Eight Principles

01

Exploit the full-backs

02

Press their build-up

03

Attack the back post

04

Quick counters

05

Force them to settle

06

Control the tempo

07

Stop their three threats

08

Be aggressive on set pieces

The game plan in eight lines. Detail follows on the next slides.

Game Plan: Exploit, Press, Attack the Back Post

1. Exploit the full-backs

WHY

Their centre backs hate defending wide spaces, the pivot is slow to cover and their recovery runs are poor.

HOW

Early balls into the channels behind Brownhill and Koral. Wide rotations to drag the full-backs out, quick switches of play, and 2v1s on both sides.

2. Press their build-up

WHY

60.94% pass accuracy, and they repeatedly turn the ball over under pressure.

HOW

Force the ball into Byrne, who panics when pressed, or into Tongue and Doyle, who are slow to release. Squeeze back passes to Monks.

3. Attack the back post

WHY

Byrne and Koral are weak aerially, the wingers don't track runners and Monks doesn't come for crosses.

HOW

Back-post overloads from wide areas, deep crosses from the right onto their RB/RCB pairing, and late midfield runs into the far-post zone.

Game Plan: Counter, Control and Contain

4. Quick counters

WHY

Full-backs are high, the pivot gets stretched, the wingers don't recover and the centre backs are exposed in huge spaces.

HOW

Quick vertical counters straight through the middle, third-man runs that go untracked, and switches of play to isolate their centre backs.

5. Force settled possession

WHY

They are predictable in structure but dangerous in chaos. When settled they run out of ideas and force long balls.

HOW

Stay compact, let them play in front of us, win the first duel and then break.

6. Control the tempo

WHY

Stalybridge want chaos and confusion. That is when they are at their most dangerous.

HOW

Slow the game down in possession and be patient, speed it up in transition, and avoid 50/50 battles in midfield where they thrive.

Stop Their Three Threats & Own the Set Pieces

7. STOP THEIR THREE THREATS

Scarisbrick

Main ball-carrier

Show him outside and block his central drives.

Horan

Right wing, left footed

Show him onto his right foot. His crossing accuracy is poor.

Chalmers

Left centre back

Avoid aerial battles with him; he is their main set-piece threat.

8. BE AGGRESSIVE ON SET PIECES

They concede from

- Back-post crosses
- Inswinging deliveries
- Second balls
- Crowded six-yard box situations

How we attack them

- Deliver inswingers onto Byrne and Koral.
- Attack second balls aggressively.
- Block Monks. He won't come through traffic.

The Match in One Line

Be compact, make them play in front of us, win the first duel, then attack the space behind their full-backs at speed and flood the back post.