

TARTAN TRIBUTE TO AC MILAN STARS

Plaid a blinder in the San Siro



SCORE DRAW . . . Michael with his tartan

By GRAEME DONOHOE

SOCCER superstars AC Milan are the latest club to get their very own official TARTAN.

The Italian club follows in the footsteps of Scottish sides like Celtic and Rangers in having a unique plaid designed for them.

And Milan-daft fan Michael Lemetti hopes to present his tribute tartan to the club's stars today – when they jet into Glasgow to play Rangers in a glamorous friendly.

Chip shop owner Michael said: "We wanted to show our passion for the club by creating our own tartan and it looks great. The red Milan use is very distinctive.

"We can't wait to show our new kilts and scarves to Milan when they play Rangers."

Michael is desperate to see stars like David Beckham, Kaka, ex-Rangers hero Rino Gattuso, Andrea Pirlo and Alexandre Pato – and hopes they'll don his design.

Proud Michael, 50, has registered his new red and black design with the Scottish Tartan Authority.

The Scottish Parliament launches its new official Scottish Register of Tartans today.

Records

There are well over 6,000 different plaids so a publicly-funded body has needed to keep a track of all tartans.

Existing groups including the Scottish Tartans Authority and the Scottish Tartans World Register will share records with the new body.

Michael came up with the idea of an AC Milan tartan after launching the side's official Scottish supporters' club last summer. Its 200 members were desperate to celebrate their links with the Serie A team by coming up with their own club tartan.

The Milan Club Scozia has been filmed for a BBC Alba documentary on Italian culture.

The lifelong fan said: "I named my son Gianni after the Milan legend Gianni Rivera. I go to two or three games in Milan a year and I've watched them in European Cup finals against Marseille and Juventus.



TARTAN IT UP . . . how stars would look in new design, Pirlo, Beckham, Pato and Kaka

"I've been lucky that they've been over here a few times playing Celtic in the Champions League recently.

"We first met them when they were over for the game against Celtic in 2004 and they were delighted to hear they have so many fans in Scotland."

The Milan tartan is Michael's second design after creating Italian National Tartan in 2004.

Michael has developed close links with

the Serie A club – even meeting boss Carlo Ancelotti, below – and hopes they will stock his new tartan merchandise in their official club stores.

He said: "The players and officials were thrilled to be given special Italian National Tartan ties last time they were over.

"Even the club President Silvio Berlusconi received one for his 73rd birthday last year and we made Rino Gattuso his own kilt to celebrate the fact his wife is Scottish.

"They are looking forward to seeing this new tartan that has been made in their honour.

"If everything goes well it might even be stocked in their official club shop but we'll have to wait and see."

● For info on Scottish AC Milan fan club visit www.milanclubscozia.com

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FOOTBALLERS FEELING KILTY



NOU LOOK . . . Barcelona



SWEDE . . . Hammarby



SO TAFF . . . Cardiff



TWIN . . . Shenzhen



ALL HEART . . . Jambos

AC MILAN aren't the first top club to score with a tartan.

Fellow Euro cracks Barcelona unveiled theirs during a tour of Scotland last summer. Italian club Fiorentina have had a special purple plaid made in their honour.

Swedish clubs Malmo and Hammarby have their own plaids, and Chinese side Shenzhen had one registered when they were twinned with Rangers.

Cardiff City have their own while 18 Scottish clubs have registered tartans.

Partick boss John Lambie, right, famously stepped out in the Thistle tartan in 2001.

