



*Rio Fergus McCann Celtic Supporters Club
Nnewsletter Season 2009/10 No. 001*

MOWBRAY'S LIONS ROAR IN BRISBANE

Whoosh! Bang! Wallop! Suddenly it's back – the new season looms large and so to does the Nnewsletter. So here it is, more sought after than Michael Jackson's brain, your first Nnewsletter of 2009/10.

Brisbane Roar 0 Celtic 3

Goal 1 : A sweet Naylor cross in from the left met by Killen's head to bullet in from six yards

Goal 2 : A "give n' go" 1-2 between Killen and Maloney see's Killen bury a left foot drive from the D.

Goal 3 : Superb interplay between, at least six Celtic players ends with a Koki Mizuno diving header into the Ingan bag.

Well, where to begin? A new season and a new management team and, speaking of new management team - what a refreshing sight it was to see Peter "Pointer" Grant on the sidelines directing operations like some deranged NY traffic cop on acid. Welcome back Peter we've missed your pointing.

Friendlies are pretty much the Chinese food of fitba (ie. immediate satisfaction but you're left feeling hungry again soon after) so before we get too carried away, here's a look back at how Mr Mowbray's successors performed in their debut games:-

WGS - started with a couple of unimpressive 0-0 draws against Fulham and Leicester City.

MON - won his first game by the odd goal in five against Bray Wanderers before less impressive results against Copenhagen, Sachsen Leipzig and Bordeaux.

John Barnes - started with wins against Ham Kam, the mighty Aalborg and Kongsvinger (whoever the feck they are).

Dr Jo Venglos - lost to some team called Hollandia, and;

Wim Jansen – The Curly Perm's team put 29 goals past amateur opposition in two games before losing 3-0 against Groningen.

So as you can see friendly form is no definite indicator of what lies ahead.

All that being said, Sunday's game was refreshing to watch and the 3-0 scoreline could have easily been doubled (or more). BTM (as Big Tony Mowbray shall henceforth be known on here, until we get fed up with that moniker, that is). Seems to place much emphasis on the 'pass and go' approach to football with a basic formation of 4-4-2 (expect a lot more about formations this year – you have been warned) which at times seemed to switch to 4-2-4 (see, we warned you). Something that's not been seen since the days when a certain Mr John Stein was in charge!

Another interesting thing was that BTM used all 19 players for the match with only Heid, Loovens and Willo Flood playing the full ninety. (Brown, McManus, Wilson and Robson were the only first team "regulars" who were absent from the squad) Wonder what that means?

So what about the defence we hear you say?

Well, there was the usual rustiness which is to be expected and it was difficult to say whether it's zonal or man marking will be the system adopted this season, we suspect a combination of both.



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Anyway, before, we leave this subject, "zonal marking" was a much used term last season and eventually became nothing more than (yet another) stick to beat Gordy with. All the top teams use it (look at the CL winners over the past ten years), it will not go away (but it maybe adapted by BTM).

Oh and a wee defensive footnote - Interesting to note that all shies are the responsibility of the full-backs (honest Drew, I'm not making this up).

Oh sheesh, we nearly forgot to discuss the rivals. Roar looked a decent side (in a Motherwell sort of way) and nice to see a rotund Charlie Miller and Boab Malcolm making a case for the return of that great old British system of the deportation of convicts.

Whatever! Overall based on this display, the future's bright. The future's green n' white.

Anyway, marks for the game:-

BORUC**8** **MOTM** Played the first 45 and brought off four top drawer saves to pull his defence out the broon stuff. Kept Celtic in the game for the first ten minutes. Welcome back THG.

HINKEL..... **7** The German Daniel Fergus McGrain? Composed defensive display. Overlapped well and provided an unusual high standard of crosses. A future Celtic captain?

LOOVENS..... **6** Commanded the air well but slack passing could've led to three Brisbane goals.

HEID.....**7** Took over the Captains armband when SMcD was subbed. Steady display and good to see him in there "contesting" the referee's dubious decisions (and there were a few) like a real Captain should.

NAYLOR..... **6** Our resident wee'est defender, fulltime throw-in taker and part time crosser into row "Z" had a good game.

McCOURT.....**8** If only he was fit enough to play for 90mins! The potential to be a legend (see later).

FLOOD.....**7** Tin Tin ran his heart out on the right side of centre mid playing the "protector" role. However, at five foot feck all, we're not sure if this is a role he'll fulfil in the SPL (which is a bit like his role in defensive walls)

CROSSAS..... **7** Composed in the midfield. Another performance which brings out the "Maestro" comparisons.

MALONEY.....**7** Played a half. Full of good running and support of the front two.

KILLEN.....**8** Obviously scoring two goals against the World Champions, Italy recently and the return of his old manager, BTM has done wonders for his confidence. Will always look good against mediocre defences but against the "big boys" ?? If he stays, the current favourite to take over JVoH's spot on the treatment table.

McDONALD.....**7** Captain for the day (or longer?). Was bursting to score and squandered opportunities when a lay off to a colleague would've suited better. Much the same as last year really.

SUBS (and there wuz hunners o' them)

KALUSKA.....**6** (on for THG) Didn't have much to do but appears more confident at covering the 18yd box than his Polish mate.



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CADDIS.....6 (on for Hinkel). Slotted in well at the RB position. Whether his spell at Dundee Utd has done enough to earn him a place at Paradise, or not, remains to be seen.

MISUN..... 6 (on for Naylor) Big, strong lad (think Mjallby) who was unlucky to get caught a "sair wan" and had to limp off before the end.

MIZUNO..... 7 (on for McCourt) Just because he's Japanese doesn't mean he's the new Naka, but then again the signs are there. Managed to do something which Naka failed (no we don't mean deliver a decent corner) - he scored a heider.

FERRY..... 6 (on for Crossas) Reminiscent of Neil Lennon but more forward thinking. Plagued with injury last year. A make or break season for (not so) young Simon this year then.

McGEADY.....7 (on for Maloney) The clever feet, the incisive runs and the obligatory blooter over the ball were all there. Still good to watch though.

SAMARAS.....6 (on for Killen) Apparently, one of the most talented players at Parkhead – when his confidence is up. Looked like another day at the office for Sami on Sunday.

FORTUNE.....6 (on for SMcD) Jury's out here but alarming similarities to JVoH. We hope this was just jet lag!

2. THE RFMCSC / TIP

Due to the timing (and that fact that 99% of the CSC were on holiday) the game wasn't shown in the TIP. However, here's a preview of what we expect from the squad this year

- The Bowman - Stunned by the loss of his R\$500 bet to Scouse Jay, we expect to see big things from the RFMCSC's Neil Lennon lookalike this season.
- Drew - Now that he has a limitless supply of rocks we expect another solid season in defence of the RFMCSC realm from "Caesar" this season.
- Brucinho - The RFMCSC's own Shaunaldino has been rumoured to have been putting in extensive close season training.
- Fidel - Nappy changing now added to this mans limitless list of talents.
- Padraig - TIP TV has been in deep negotiations with Setanta. Offer now stands at a box o crisps, two Bohemias and a baked tattie with tuna. Setanta said to be considering.
- Flavio / Marianna - After having shown well in their first team outings last season we expect the "dynamic duo" to establish themselves as first team regulars this year.
- Madjik Gray - Who will fill the hole left by his final disappearing act?
- Raimundão - Like WGS had problems managing last season – Here's hoping for a better season.
- John Bradley - Apparently all his time on the "Love Boat" is nearly over and we can expect big things from the Greenock Gladiator ('cept they early kick offs)



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- Texas Jimmy - Earned his spurs last year. An interesting season ahead for this Lone Star Tim.
- Dave Lennie - Dave who?
- Jim Grogan - Signed close season from the Borgland Dolphin Allstars. Welcome Jim.
- Visitors - Well who's to say who'll we meet this year?

However we already know we'll be seeing:-

- Chris "Mrs Bowman" Deans - (too) soon.
- Our very own Bhoys frae Fortaleza, Érico early August.
- Big Den frae the Desert about the same time.
- Jimmy "Scott McDonald fan club President" Logan

Oh and (maybe) some mob called "Simple Minds"

3. THIS SEASONS FIXTURES / SUBSCRIPTIONS

1) Subscriptions

Everybody is reminded that this season's subscriptions (Full Member - R\$75. Student - R\$30) are now due. Subscriptions need to be paid on, or before, Aug 15th (first game of the season) in order that we can have all members registered with the CSA.

2) New Members

Hail. Hail to Jim Grogan who was a welcome addition to the club at the end of last season. Bem vindo Jim (and mind and take your songbook wi' you next time).

Also a big welcome to our newest (and youngest member) young John Vidal Dunnet (Fidelzinho) who has assured his Mum that he'll make sure Dad comes straight home after every match. Fidelzinho wasn't overly impressed with the Brisbane game, that was until his Da reminded him of how it'd been last season. Welcome wee fellah!

3) This Seasons Fixtures

Attached at the end of this (hopefully) should be this seasons fixtures (all times are TIP times) as they stand, 12 Jul. Obviously this will get savaged by the demands of TV, cup tie and the weather. Don't say we didn't warn you.

We don't know yet which games will be shown but we're still VERY optimistic that all games will be brought to you live via glorious TIP TV - watch this space.

4. FUNDRAISING

The demands of supporting a regular donations to the Guratiba orphanage and the Rio Celtic Boys Club are digging deeper into club funds than expected. We are working to keep everything going as we said we would. However, it is not easy.

Therefore, we are asking that the all recipients of this Nnewsletter (which is free to members and associates of the RFMCSC and will remain to be free) to think about a voluntary "subscription" for this sterling magazine.



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So let your conscience be your guide – you know it makes sense (more details once we sort out the PayPal account details).

5. OTHER NEWS

1) Champions League

Well it's that time of year again and we're in the draw for the 3rd round this Friday. So here's a wee preview (thanks to Estadio Nacional for the info) of our potential opponents:-

AC Sparta Prague (Czech Republic)

Co-eff points 26.150

Finished second in league, 6 points behind Slavia Prague.

Stadium Capacity 20,000.

Well known current players: Tomáš Řepka (35), Patrik Berger (36),

Season starts 24 July.

FC Twente Enschede (Netherlands)

Co-eff points 17.826

Finished second in the league, 11 points behind AZ Alkmaar. 1 ahead of Ajax, 4 PSV, 24 Feynoord.

Stadium Capacity 24,000.

Well known current players: ?

Season starts 1 August.

Dinamo Moscow (Russia)

Co-eff points 9.525

Finished 3rd in the league, 2 points behind CSKA Moscow, 6 behind Rubin Kazan, 8 ahead of Zenit, 10 Spartak Moscow.

Stadium Capacity 36,540

Well known current players: ?

Currently 7th in league after 13 games, season started 14 March. 6 wins, 2 draws, 5 defeats. They beat Zenit 1-0 at home the other week.

FC Timisoara (Romania)

Co-eff points 7.781

Finished 2nd in league, 3 points behind FC Unirea Urziceni, 2 ahead of Dinamo Bucharest, 8 FC Cluj, 11 Steaua Bucharest.

Stadium Capacity 32,019

Well known current players: ?

Season starts 1 August.

Sivasspor (Turkey)

Co-eff points 6.445

Finished 2nd in league, 5 points behind Besiktas. 5 ahead of Fenerbache and Galatasaray.

Stadium Capacity

Well known current players: Hamed Namouchi (25)

Season starts 9 August.

We could draw any of the above and there's no such thing as an easy team. However, it's fair to say that a trip to Moscow is probably the least favoured draw. If our sources (yes there's Nnewsletter fans in Prague) are to be believed, Sparta are not the team they once were and are, on paper,



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potentially the best draw for us. However, some of the Nnewsletter team will be in Holland soon and are hoping for a draw against Enschede.

2) Paddy McCourt

Much as been said about Paddy's performances in the reserves last season, so on Sunday, Fidel (and Fidelzinho) spent 45mins really watching him play and the word's "very impressed" reach our ears.

Unlike his partner on the other wing Paddy does not overindulge in the flicks n' tricks (although the evidence is they're there aplenty) department and relies on enticing the man in and then beating him. This ability to be "reactive" (ie. waiting for a defender to commit and then deciding what to do) rather than "proactive" (ie. trying to outplay the defender) is, we reckon, what makes him such an interesting prospect. Fidel reckons that such a talent has been lacking at Parkhead since the days of King Kenny or even thon wee red headed Jinky fellah (mind you several Porters had been quaffed by then).

However, there are still doubts about Paddy's fitness and stamina. Here's hoping that BTM and his staff sort that out and we can all enjoy Derry's answer to Worzel Gummidge this season.

3) John Hartson

The Celtic world has been rocked by the news of Bog John's cancer and we wish him all the best for recovery. Lance Armstrong fought and conquered a similar disease not so long ago, so here's hoping BBJ can do similar.

Many people have made reference to BBJ's cracker against Liverpool in the Seville run in. However, the Nnewsletter team much prefer his winner against Celta Vigo that same year as a testimony to the man and his fighting spirit.

Our thoughts are with you BBJ.



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Fri 17 Jul 09		<i>Champions League (Rnd 3) draw</i>		
Weds 22 Jul 09	Friendly	Cardiff City	15:45	A
Fri 24 Jul 09	Wembley Cup	Al Ahly	13:15	N
Sun 26 Jul 09	Wembley Cup	Tottenham Hotspur	12:00	N
Tue/Weds 28/29 Jul 09	CL R3 1 st Leg	TBA	TBA	TBA
Sat 01 Aug 09	Friendly	Sunderland	TBA	H
Tue/Weds 04/05 Aug 09	CL R3 2 nd Leg	TBA	TBA	TBA
Fri 07 Aug		<i>Champions League (Rnd 4) draw</i>		
Sat 08 Aug 09	Friendly	Man City	11:00	A
Weds 12 Aug	WC Qualifier	Norway v Scotland	15:00	A
Sat 15 Aug 09	SPL	Aberdeen	11:00	A
Tue/Wed 18/19 Aug 09	CL R4 1 st Leg	TBA	TBA	TBA
Sat 22 Aug 09	SPL	St. Johnstone	11:00	H
Tue/Wed 25/26 Aug 09	CL R4 2 nd Leg	TBA	TBA	TBA
Fri 27 Aug		<i>Champions League (Group stage) draw</i>		
Sat 29 Aug 09	SPL	Hibernian	11:00	A
Sat 05 Sept 09	WC Qualifier	Scotland v Macedonia / Cyprus v Eire		
Sat 12 Sept 09	SPL	Dundee United	11:00	H
Tue/Wed 15/16 Sep 09	CL - Game 1	TBA	15:45	TBA
Sat 19 Sept 09	SPL	Heart of Midlothian	11:00	H
Tue/Wed 22/23 Sep 09	CIS Cup R3	TBA	TBA	TBA
Sat 26 Sept 09	SPL	St. Mirren	11:00	A
Tue/Wed 29/30 Sep 09	CL - Game 2	TBA	15:45	TBA
Sat 03 Oct 09	SPL	Rangers	11:00	A
Sat 10 Oct 09	Int Friendly	Scotland v Japan	TBA	TBA
	WC Qualifier	Eire v Italy	TBA	TBA
Sat 17 Oct 09	SPL	Motherwell	11:00	H
Sat 24 Oct 09	SPL	Hamilton Academical	12:00	A
Tue/Wed 20/21 Oct 09	CL - Game 3	TBA	17:45	TBA
Tue/Wed 27/28 Oct 09	CIS Cup QF	TBA	TBA	TBA
Sat 31 Oct 09	SPL	Kilmarnock	13:00	H
Tue/Wed 03/04 Nov 09	CL - Game 4	TBA	17:45	TBA
Sat 07 Nov 09	SPL	Falkirk	15:00	A
Sat 14 Nov 09	WC Play-offs			
Weds 18 Nov 09	WC Play-offs			
Sat 21 Nov 09	SPL	Dundee United	13:00	A
Tue/Wed 24/25 Nov 09	CL - Game 5	TBA	17:45	TBA
Sat 28 Nov 09	SPL	St. Mirren	13:00	H
Sat 05 Dec 09	SPL	Aberdeen	13:00	H
Tue/Wed 08/09 Dec 09	CL - Game 6	TBA	17:45	TBA
Sat 12 Dec 09	SPL	Motherwell	13:00	A



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Fri 18 Dec 09		<i>Champions League (Last 16) draw</i>		
Sat 19 Dec 09	SPL	Heart of Midlothian	13:00	A
Sat 26 Dec 09	SPL	Hamilton Academical	13:00	H
Wed 30 Dec 09	SPL	Kilmarnock	17:45	A
Sat 02 Jan 10	SPL	Rangers	13:00	H
Sat 09 Jan 10	Scottish Cup R4	TBA	TBA	TBA
Sat 16 Jan 10	SPL	Falkirk	13:00	H
Sat 23 Jan 10	SPL	St. Johnstone	13:00	A
Wed 27 Jan 10	SPL	Hibernian	17:45	H
Sat 30 Jan 10	SPL	Hamilton Academical	13:00	A
Tue / Wed 02/03 Feb 10	CIS Cup SF	TBA	TBA	TBA
Sat 06 Feb 10	Scottish Cup R5	TBA	TBA	TBA
Wed 10 Feb 10	SPL	Heart of Midlothian	17:45	H
Sat 13 Feb 10	SPL	Aberdeen	13:00	A
Tue/Wed 16/17 Feb 10	CL Last 16 1 st Leg	TBA	17:45	TBA
Sat 20 Feb 10	SPL	Dundee United	12:00	H
Tue/Wed 23/24 Feb 10	CL Last 16 1 st Leg	TBA	16:45	TBA
Sat 27 Feb 10	SPL	Rangers	12:00	A
Wed 03 Mar 10	Int Friendly		TBA	TBA
Sat 06 Mar 10	SPL	Falkirk	12:00	A
Tue/Wed 09/10 Mar 10	CL Last 16 2 nd Leg	TBA	16:45	TBA
Sat 13 Mar 10	Scottish Cup QF	TBA	TBA	TBA
Tue/Wed 16/17 Mar 10	CL Last 16 2 nd Leg	TBA	16:45	TBA
Fri 19 Mar 10		<i>Champions League (QF / SF) draw</i>		
Sat 20 Mar 10	SPL	St. Johnstone	12:00	H
Sun 21 Mar 10	CIS Cup Final	TBA	TBA	TBA
Wed 24 Mar 10	SPL	St. Mirren	16:45	A
Sat 27 Mar 10	SPL	Kilmarnock	12:00	H
Tue/Wed 30/31 Mar 10	CL QF 1 st Leg	TBA	15:45	TBA
Sat 03 Apr 10	SPL	Hibernian	11:00	A
Tue/Wed 06/07 Apr 10	CL QF 2 nd Leg	TBA	15:45	TBA
Sat 10 Apr 10	SPL	Motherwell	11:00	H
Sat / Sun 13/14 Apr 10	Scottish Cup SF	TBA	TBA	TBA
Tue/Wed 20/21 Apr 10	CL SF 1 st Leg	TBA	TBA	TBA
Tue/Wed 27/28 Apr 10	CL SF 2 nd Leg	TBA	TBA	TBA
Weds 12 May	Europa Lg Final	TBA	TBA	TBA
Sat 15 May 10	Scottish Cup Final	TBA	TBA	TBA
Sat 22 May	CL Final	TBA	TBA	TBA

Notes

- 1 All times subject to TV scheduling
- 2 Brazilian Summer time begins Sun 18 Oct 2008 and ends Sat 19 Feb 2010.
- 3 British Summer time ends Sun 25 Oct 2009 and restarts 28 Mar 2010.

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(which is infinitely better than thon Guinness stuff, don't let Paddy tell you otherwise)