



Rio Fergus McCann Celtic Supporters Club Newsletter Season 2010/11 No. 001

WELCOME TO LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE? NAW. SURELY, NAW???

1. THE FITBA

The Revolving Door in Paradise

Well a new season beckons and a new manager is at the helm. So will this new Ginger Helmsman do better than the last one and take us to, at least, four consecutive SPL titles, or will he gift the title like in these past few years? We know which one we want.

It would appear that Celtic now, are more or less where we were when the Blessed Martin took over all of ten years ago. Things have changed since then and the era of "jam today" big money transfers appears to be fading fast. Now it's moreso a question of whether the artificial bubble that is the EPL, will manage to quietly subside back to normality, or collapse with a "POP" which echoes around the footballing world?

Given all this, it may be fair to say that Neil Lennon appears to be building a Celtic squad based on what needs to be done to win the SPL and make a showing in the Europa Cup. He should know, he was part of a team who did just that and Celtic are rebuilding on those lines.

So what's the Ginger Helmsman done so far as far as building a new faster, better, improved formula Celtic? Well quite a bit, when you consider the following in's and out's:-

Out

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| Boruc | (1.5M GBP - Fiorentina) |
| McManus | (1.5M GBP - Middlesborough) |
| Keane | (loan return to Spurs) |
| Braaffheid | (loan return to Bayern Munich)) |
| Kamara | (loan return to Fulham) |
| N'Guemo | (loan return to Nancy) |
| Naylor | (free to ??) |
| Mizuno | (free to Kashiwa Reysol) |
| Zheng Zhi | (free transfer to Guangzhou FC) |

In

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Cha Du Ri | (RB/RM. Free transfer from Freiburg) |
| Mulgrew | (LB. Free transfer from Aberdeen) |
| Ledley | (CM. signed from Cardiff City) |

So Artur has gone, a man we signed for 600k and gave us immense entertainment these past five years. Alas, Artur's antics have, more often than not, moved him from the back pages to the front pages these days. So a fee of around £1.5M and wages of £30K a week, frees £3m to be spent



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elsewhere. Artur Boruc, the Holy Goalie, he hates the Huns. We'll miss you, but look forward to seeing who'll fill your ample shorts.

On the incoming side, we keep hearing cries of *"As far as Joe Ledley is concerned I am not sure we can afford to pay a Championship player who by all accounts is not gifted with pace and doesn't score many goals 25K per week"* Well correct us if we're wrong, but didn't we have a guy like that before? A wee ginger, haired guy from Northern Ireland. What we'd give to have that one-paced, non-goalscoring type player on a 4 year contract right now?

So who else may come/go? Our sources tell us that there's a fair chance that Aideninho's away, but in McCourt / Maloney, we have enough to cover Aiden's loss, certainly in the SPL. Oh and don't forget the potential addition of Mexico's Efrain Juarez to add to the twinkle toes department.

Elsewhere we seem to be looking at central defenders (again) with Sol Campbell/St Ledger being the most common names. However, Tomas Rogne and Milan Misun are back to full fitness, so this will be an interesting one.

So the question remains, with all this transfer wrangling, we seem to be amassing a considerable war-chest (circa 15M GBP at the last estimate). Why? What's the reason?

Is the reason Bellamy ?

Is the reason Keane ?

Or is the Ginger Helmsman planning something truly astounding ?

Interesting times, indeed.

Meanwhile over at Snake Mountain.

If you're feeling "blue" about any of the comings/goings at Paradise, spare a thought for those less fortunate than ourselves over on the other side of Glasgow.

Kris Boyd, the Devon Loch of Scottish fitba, (go on look up Devon Loch, if you're not sure) has already departed, so has Ratboy Novo, while Kevin Thomson also looks to also be on his way Midlesborough.

As if that wasn't bad enough, now that the World Cup is done and dusted, it appears almost inevitable that the likes of Madjid Bougherra and Steven Davis will become the target for some of the big hitters in England and their loss would be a grievous blow for der Hun.

In fact, the present situation represents a complete transformation from 15 years ago when the manager knew he could bolster his squad, courtesy of Sir David "smoke and financial mirrors" Murray's largesse, every summer. It didn't always guarantee success, but that constant regeneration ensured healthy competition for places and was also a relevant factor in persuading Rangers aficionados to purchase their season tickets for the new campaign.



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Nowadays, the reality is that with Murray and the new chairman, Alastair Johnston, unable to find a buyer for the club throughout the whole of last season - despite Smith leading his charges to their sixth domestic trophy in three years - and with uncertainty continuing to plague FC Tax Evasion, the 'spend, spend, spend' philosophy of Dick Advocaat a decade ago has returned to haunt them.

So what have season ticket holders got to look forward to at Iprix this season? Step forward, David Weir, who will be a central figure again in Great Uncle Walter's plans. Yes, Wattie the Cardigan, is having to trust David Weir, now 40, will have the stamina and appetite to survive another 12 months in the SPL, and that is even before we discuss the dreaded prospect of the defender having to cope with a Lionel Messi or a Cristiano Ronaldo in the Champions League.

Wonder if those fixtures will carry a Parental Guidance warning?

Champions League. Third Round draw – This Friday, 16 Jul.

We will play one of the following. So which one do you fancy?

ZENIT ST PETERSBURG - may have lost Andrei Arshavin and Anatoliy Tymoschuk but many of the others from the team that beat Rangers in the UEFA Cup final two years ago remain and are prospering. Zenit currently lead the Russian Premier League and are unbeaten after 11 games. Their impressive form owes much to Roma coach Luciano Spalletti, who arrived last December.

AJAX – Their recovery in the second part of last season's Eerdivisie almost allowed Martin Jol's Ajax to usurp long-time leaders Twente. Key to a return to free-scoring football was Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez, who netted 49 across all competitions. Holding on to their 25-year-old captain is expected to prove impossible following his exploits in the World Cup.

FENERBAHCE - Losing their title on the last day to Bursaspor condemned the Istanbul team to a Champions League qualifier and accounted for Celtic's unseeded status, which would have been secured had the lowered ranked Bursaspor stayed second. Among a smattering of imports are Uruguayan captain Diego Lugano, Brazilian Alex and Croatian Miroslav Stoch, signed last month from Chelsea in a €5.5m deal.

DINAMO KIEV - Although they finished bottom of their Champions League group containing both Inter and Barcelona last season, they managed a highly credible 2-2 draw with the eventual winners in Milan. Their squad includes a clutch of uncapped young Brazilians.

SPORTING BRAGA - Braga were the revelation of the Portuguese league, a second place finish the highest in their history - they were only pipped on the last day by Benfica. Their only honour in the past 44 years is the 2008, and last, Intertoto Cup - and even then they were "declared" winners because they progressed further in the UEFA Cup than any of the other teams entering it by the Intertoto route.



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2. THE RIO FERGUS McCANN CSC

CSC News

Hard to believe that the only registered CSC in South America (more on that later) is now entering it's fifth year in existence and it's worthwhile taking a minute to thank all for their participation and support in helping us get this far.

And on that subject a big thanks has to go to all who made the recent BCS Quiz night such a success for us. In excess of R\$3,000 was raised which will be going towards the continued support we have for the Rio Celtic Boys FC. Ever year we're getting closer to seeing one of these boys don the hoops for real!!

Don't forget this year's **Annual General Meeting** will now be held **19:00hrs, Friday 16 Jul at the TIP**. The first live game of the year (v Manchester United) will be shown straight after the meeting. So be there PROMPT!

Forthcoming Games – Live on TIP TV

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Friday, 16 Jul, 20:00 | Celtic v Manchester United |
| Sunday, 18 Jul, 16:00 | Celtic v Seattle Sounders |
| Thursday, 22 Jul, 21:00 | Celtic v Sporting Lisbon |

Welcome to the Bhoys from Montevideo

We all know about Erico's sterling exploits up in Fortaleza (outside of Rio de Janeiro, the biggest CSC in Brasil) and look forward to sharing another seasons in's and out's with him. However, apart from Erico South America's been a pretty Tim bare place – until now. So step up the Bhoys from Montevideo, who have made contact with us recently. A bit early to say yet, when we'll be having a hands across the Mar del Plata but check out the bhoy's blogspot on <http://montevideoceltic.blogspot.com/>

..see that Marriage. It's Magic!!

Many of you will have fond memories of our own Brian "Madjik" Gray. Well we heard from Madjik the other day and he tells us that he's now left Cape Town and is now astounding the citizens of Bangkok with his magical prowess (at least we think astounding was the word he used). Anyway, it would seem that the lovely Paula has managed to achieve what he all thought was impossible – she's going to make an honest man of him. So if any of you just happen to be in Huas Hin, Thailand on the 14 Aug, pop in and have a dram at their wedding.

Wonder if Madjik's told Paula we play St Johnstone that day?



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3.AND FINALLY

.....after his recent intervention at the Raul Moat siege, news has just reached us that Gazza is on his way to Ibrox armed with four cans of cider, a packed lunch and a fishing rod to help out his old pal Walter.



So that's it until another edition of this sh1te – Viva A Revolução Verde!!!