



Rio Fergus McCann Celtic Supporters Club Newsletter Season 2010/11 No. 002

TACTICS, THE 'TIC, FRANK ZAPPA AND MORE...MUCH MORE

Well since last we put pixels to paper there's been three friendlies played and more transfer finagling. Oh, and we managed to have our AGM. Read on....

Butttt, before we start this week a small quote from the late, great Frank Zappa for you all to bear in mind when reading this (or anything else) about Celtic.

"A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it is not open."

1. THE FITBA

Well three friendlies in the space of a week, has seen us get beat twice (Philidelphia Union, 0-1 and Man Utd, 1-3) and win one (Seattle Sounders, 2-1). Always difficult to make any sort of decent judgement about preseason friendlies as players are finding their feet again. However (and thanks to the great "ticticanalysis" site for this) we thought we'd take an interest in how the Ginger Helmsman is navigating the good ship Celtica.

Philidelphia Game

The basic line-up for this game was 4-4-2, a formation which may well be NL's preferred option for the SPL this year. However, it'll be interesting to see how he intends to fill out the spine of this formation as there's few immediate stand outs in this current line up:-

		Cervi	
Hinkel	Loovens	Hooiveld (Mulgrew 45) (Rogne 72)	Misun
Caddis	Brown (Wilson 45)	Crossas (Ledley 45)	McCourt (Forrest 61)
	Rasmussen (Hutchinson 61)	McGowan (Sheridan 75)	

Man Utd Game

The starting line-up:

		Zaluska	
Wilson	Rogne	O'Dea	Mulgrew
		Crossas	
Forrest	Brown	Ledley	Maloney
		Fortuné	

For the first half of the game this was the formation which Celtic played, alternating between 4-5-1 and 4-3-3 (with Maloney and Forrest pushing forward) as the play dictated. One point about this



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"false 9" formation (ie. where the centre forward drifts wide to create space for the midfield to run into) is that if the midfield can't get forward then there's nobody in scoring positions. A quick check of our goals scored from midfield last season will show how effective (or rather, ineffective) this plan can be with the wrong players.

After giving away a poor defensive (but well taken) Berbatov goal, Celtic lost their way and came out in the second half in more of a 4-2-3-1 formation and were immediately back in the game. How much of this is down to Maloney playing in the "Ozil" role is speculation (Jeez did we just compare WSM to Ozil !!) but it certainly was effective.

The second half starting line-up:

		Zaluska		
Wilson		Rogne	O'Dea	Mulgrew
	Crosas		Ledley	
Forrest		Maloney		Samaras
		Fortuné		

However about midway through the second half the line up changed again with Celtic switching back to 4-4-2 after various substitutions were made for the final 15 minutes. Celtic lost two poor defensive goals in this final period but nothing particular should be read into that (much).

The final line-up:-

		Zaluska		
Cha		Rogne	O'Dea	Mulgrew
Forrest		Ki	Ledley	Samaras
	utchinson		Fortuné	

Only comments we had about the game were that O'Dea had a stinker, Forrest was impressive, but not as impressive as the work rate of Samaras and Maloney.

Seattle Sounders Game

We missed this game, but by all accounts Cervi was left looking foolish after a "Jubulani" moment with an incoming shot. Forrest and Samaras impressed but stand out of the night was the Derry Pelé, Paddy McCourt (an inside source tells us that Paddy was dropped on his head twice as a baby – once on Hiroshima and once on Nagasaki).



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The line up:-

	Cervi		
Hinkel	Hooiveld	Misun	Sheridan (Mulgrew)
Forrest	Ki (Crossas)	Ferry	McCourt (Hutchinson)
	Rasmussen (Fortuné)	Samaras	

So there you have it, some interesting times ahead, eh?

A Look at the Newcomers



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C. Mulgrew

Charlie Mulgrew – Should be familiar to most of us. Probably signed as LB, but can play LM or CD. Aberdeen fans will tell you that he’s a good player, especially from a dead ball, but not a great defender. Interestingly enough has taken squad number 21. Wonder why the No.03 shirt’s being left vacant?

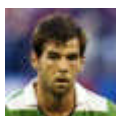


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Cha Du Rei.

Cha Du-Ri. Earlier in his career he was a striker but has had spells as a winger and now plays at right back/wing-back.

Wolfsburg manager, Pierre Littbarski is on record as saying:-
"He is really fast and gets past players, so he is most definitely an attacking right-back that you will see getting up and down the pitch. Trust me, this guy has fantastic physical capabilities and can run all day."



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J. Ledley

Joe Ledley. Has played a number of positions – mostly LM/CM, though has played at LB. So would seem comfortable carrying out defensive and/or offensive duties.

Interestingly, like Mulgrew, he is left footed. In recent years we have perhaps lacked left footed options (particularly last season) but now seem to be moving quickly to address this problem (could this be an Alan Thomson thing?).



Efrain Juarez. The odd man out in NL’s transfer dealing so far, in the sense that he’s only 5ft7 and not particularly well built (the others are over 6ft and built like brick thingmys) Can be used in a variety of positions. Mostly used as a right-back but appeared as an almost ‘box-to-box’ midfielder in the World Cup, providing driving runs from midfield. A decent dribbler too, he could be used on the wing.

Sources tell us that a 13yr old Efrain saved his sister’s life after she was bitten by a venomous snake. Young Efrain sucked the poison out saving her life. Bet Paddy McCourt would’ve killed the snake and used it for a belt!



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D. Murphy

Daryl Murphy. Another big yin and perhaps the most controversial signing so far. Although an out and out forward, not noted for his scoring ability, has been used in the wide/target man position at his previous clubs (Sunderland and Ipswich). The optimist in us says *"Lack of scoring ability – pah!! The last striker we signed with that reputation was some guy called Sutton and look what he did"*

Now the sharper amongst you will have noticed that none of the above players have been allocated the vacant number 3 or 7 (or even THG's outsized No.1) shirt. Maybe they're being held in reserve for somebody (or sombodies ??) VERY special.

With the UEFA rules saying that for a player to be eligible to play in next week's CL qualifier they must be signed before midnight, 22 Jul (except one who can be within 24hrs) it could be an interesting few days ahead.

SC Braga

A bit of an unknown quantity to most of us but any team who manage to push Porto into third place in the league are nobody's mugs. However, seven of last year's team have since departed as has manager, Domingos Paciencia (or "Sunday Patient" if you want to be silly). So that means like us, Braga will be a team with a new manager and several new players.

Braga have been known for playing good possession football but don't score a lot of goals, especially away from home, where their form has been suspect. For the home based Rio Fergus McCann CSC readers this game will be a real "Spot the Brasileiro" fixture as Braga regularly field six, or more, Brazilians.

Oh and did anybody mention that their keeper's called Quim?? (stop sniggering at the back there).

Anyway, what with our new found penchant for tactics, here's how we'd expect Braga to line-up:-



All that being said this tie is there for the taking, provided the Ginger Helmsman sets the right teams out on the day(s).



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2. THE RIO FERGUS McCANN CSC

CSC News

The Annual General Meeting was held last Friday (16 Jul) and was well attended. Good to see the our very own Brazilian Bonnie and Clyde (Flavio and Mariana) there and a big welcome to new member Andy "I prefer oval balls" M^crae.

A copy of the AGM minutes will be sent out separately to all members (non members can request a set) but in summary last season saw a drop in turnover from last year down to R\$ 11,421.00 (R\$ 14,604.20 previous season) with an associated drop in Profit down to R\$ 414.80 (R\$ 3,944,10 previous season) with membership staying steady at 16.

The major single change in the financials from last year has been the significantly increased sponsorship of the Rio Celtic boys with R\$9,308.00 being donated.

R\$ 1,000.00 has also been provisioned for the annual (Oct 12th) contribution to the Pedra de Guaratiba orphanage.

Forthcoming Games – Live on TIP TV

Thursday, 22 Jul, 21:00	Celtic v Sporting Lisbon
Wednesday, 28 Jul, 16:00	SC Braga v Celtic

Rio Celtic Bhoys FC

Late last week two of the U-15's received invitations to go for trials with São Paulo first division side, Guarani. The boys are due down there 02 Aug, so here's hoping all goes well for them. Every step is a step closer one of these boys donning the hoops for real.

Much discussion was held at the AGM about the level of financial support required to sustain the five teams (U-10's, 12's, 13's, 15's and 17's). However, daunting task that it is, we are still managing to do this – JUST!! We are desperately in the need for new ways and means of keeping this going so. So off you go and have a rake down the back of the sofa – you never know what you may find!

3. YOUR VIEWS

We've received a few letters (well two) from you avid readers out there, both (oddly enough) requested their identities be kept secret, so here they are

"Raging in Rio" wrote:-

Despite their sell-offs, the Huns still have a stronger starting line up than we do, which is a damning indictment of the way Celtic is mis-managed these days.



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At the back they are far stronger: Alexander is a better keeper than Zaluska, and in Webster, Weir Papac, and Whittaker they have a solid defence. Whittaker also gives them good attacking options.

Our defence is a shambles. There are hundreds of permutations for who could be at the back for our CL qualifier, and none of them fill me with any confidence whatsoever.

In the middle, Steve Davis and Edu are fairly strong. Ledley helps us here, but big question marks remain above Scott Brown's head. Suarez (assuming he plays here), may also help us match them or even give us a small advantage in the middle.

Up front, Miller is the best Glasgow-based striker at the moment, and he and Lafferty will be a more potent front pairing than one provided by two of Samaras, Fortune, and Murphy. The loss of Boyd will hurt them, but I think Smith knows how to adjust his team. If Miller goes, that would be tremendous news for us.

Our match-winners are McGeady and Maloney. Shaun is chronically unfit, and it looks like McGeady will be sold. Those relying on McCourt are doing so out of sentiment for the Derry Pele and not because he has shown consistent promise for us.

Whilst "Curitba Celt" wrote:-

Celtic are who we can afford. Fact!

In the next few years Celtic will rise because we have been "prudent" in all our financial dealings (Thanks largely to Fergus McCann).

Unlike many (MANY) EPL teams debt has been stopped/controlled and the necessity to cut cloth to suit has been achieved, something that EPL clubs are abruptly coming to terms with..

Celtic will rise because we can sustain a higher wage bill not funded by future revenue and debt.

We are a modern day Phoenix.

PS. See that Fidel – what a great guy!!

4.AND FINALLY

.....after the recent transfer negotiations with Burnley's Chris Eagles fell thru, we can now exclusive reveal that it was another bad case of miscommunication and this is the Eagle they were really after.....



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Olympic Ski-Jumper, all round legend and R@ngers signing target - apparently...

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