



Rio Fergus McCann Celtic Supporters Club Nnewsletter Season 2011/12 No. 001

THE WEST WING – RIO STYLE

Whoosh!!! Bang !!!!! Clatter !!!!!

And there it wiz. Rarer than an unbroken shop window on the Tottenham Court Road, your loveabale, soaraway Nnewsletter. More awe inspiring (nearly) than the Presidency of the Rio Fergus McCann CSC (but mair on that later), read on.....

1. THE CELTIC

Celtic 0 Swiss Chocolates 0

After the previous week excitement of seeing the Legends back in the hoops (was it good to see the King of Kings in the hoops again or was it GOOOOOD?) there was great expectations that we could give FC Sion a Tober(leron)ing last night. Sadly, it was not to be.

Injuries to key players (Izzy, Kayal, Hooper and to a lesser extent Kelvin Wilson) took the balance out of the side. That plus a liberal sprinkling of Lenny's ever changing tactics during the match and some toothless attacking play saw us struggle against a team who looked like some sort of Swiss Family Robinson version of Inverness Caley Thistle.

Anyway, here's a summary of how the good guys fared (or not as the case maybe):-

The Players

FOSTER6 After all the wailing and gnashing of teeth about our lack of a keeper, we get big (and at 6ft 7ins he's BIG) Fraser back. Steady (re)debut apart from a horror final 5minutes when he flapped, flailed and half punched several cross baws.

CHA DU RI.....7 MOTM A man who is normally more Jackie Chan than Jackie MacNamara. Had a good night last night after a long spell out the first team. Extra mark for one last ditch superbly timed tackle in the final five minutes.

MAJSTOROVIC.....6 For such a big man he really is the proverbial spare pr!ck at a hoor's wedding when it comes to posing an aerial threat at set pieces.

MULGREW6 Started in central defence and moved more left than Tommy Sheridan's lower testicle as the game progressed. OK day at the office for Chas Mulgrini.

WILSON (THE MARK VARIETY).....6 Celtic's regular RB, started at LB and ended up in CD.

BROWN.....6 (Another) one of those game where Broony got dragged into a snarlin, a thumpin', a pointin' and a hollerin' at the opposition. Other than that he was....well...just Captain Broony really.

KI.....6 Maybe showed a bit of delayed jet lag? (at least that's the excuse we'd use). Looked sluggish and far from his Imperious self.

LEDLEY....6 Never really came over that much on the telly. Was unlucky with a second half heeder.

COMMONS.....5 The modern Billy Stark had a real off night and was (rightly) hooked to make way for Forrest.

STOKES.....6 A poor day at the office for wee Anto. Hashed a weak penalty claim with an over theatrical dive and was (rightly) booked.



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SAMARAS.....6 Five goals in fifty five games does not, good striking stats make. Sami really is an puzzle, wrapped up in a conundrum inside an enigma. Still at least he tried.

Subs

FORREST (on for Commons). Gets better the more appearances he makes.

MALONEY (on for Stokes). The "nearly" man of Celtic, WSM injected an edge into our lacklustre attack when he came on and was unlucky with his free kick.

McCOURT (on for Samaras). The Monaghan Messi didn't really get on long enough to make an impression.

2. THE RIO FERGUS McCANN CSC

Well in the close season we had our AGM and there was a dramatic reshuffling of the board. So here's a wee preview of the men and woman who will be responsible for the welfare of the RFMCS this season.

The President



One of the men in this foto is an internationally renowned, rock star (or should that be star of rocks?) who follows the Celtic. The other is Roderick David Stewart.

Yes, after serving his time as the Sorcerer's apprentice, Big Drew's relinquished the "Vee" and henceforth shall just be known as the "Pee"

When asked immediately after his election, a tearful Drew said *"I'm so happy I just want peace and world harmony. I've watched all the West Wing programs and read the Thatcher diaries (twice) so I think I'm more than ready to be the man for the job"*.

The Vice President



Following on from an impressive 2010/11 season (anybody who can make an 08:30 ko after being out all night in Lapa has got to be a player of note). Step up John Bradley.

A man noted for taking no "Pish" at interviews (well O Globo one's at least) new VeePee John said *"The previous fellow did'nt put enough emphasis on the **"Vice"** in Vice President. I intend to use my extensive knowledge of Rio to rectify that. Tequila, anybody?"*



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The Treasurer



One of the people in this foto is a highly qualified, "bean counter". The other manages all the RFMCSC finances.

The only office bearer to retain his post since the inception of the RFMCSC. Take a bow Brucie "the Balance Sheet" Howe.

Due to domestic commitments (Jane said he'd do the Hooverin) Brucie couldn't make the AGM but said in a telephone interview "Ach yeez only voted me in cuz ah wasna there"

The Secretary



Meet Marie, the Gilmour Ghirl, a signing to the RFMCSC during the 2010/11 season.

Although not exactly sure what's she's signed herself up for, Marie said "The prospect of twenty seven beers before midday on a Sunday was just too good an offer to resist. What's that? You've to pay for them? Awww Naww!"

Marie is currently believed to be hiding in some obscure Greek Island resting her liver.

The WebMaster



The man who makes it all happen (no not the hairy, bearded, beer wielding wan). Meet Flavio "Smoother than Linux" Ameiro.

Flavio's main ambition is to write a program which will see him predict the likelihood of him going to a Celtic game and NOT having a beer. So far he has burnt out two Cray 2 computers on this mission.

Part time 'mengo fan, Flavio said of his role "Sh!t happens, dude"



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Last season saw us meet some new faces, some old faces even some blue faces. This season we'll be hoping for more (much more) of the same.

The Games – Live on the B(A)BC

Next live televised game at the Blue Agave is:-

Sunday, 21 Aug 11:00 Home to Saint Johnstone (SPL)

Santa Margarida Boys Club

Another season and buoyed by the success of last year we'll be hoping that maybe some more lads will get a chance at the big time this year.

However, it all just doesn't magically happen and Coach Gerson spends countless, selfless hours working with the boys, organizing, planning and arranging games. All of which take time and that ever scarcer commodity – money.

We're committed to supporting the Rio Boys as far as we can but every season the burden of maintaining this level of support becomes more difficult to sustain and it's only through the collective efforts of all involved with the Rio Fergus McCann CSC does this continue to happen. So here's looking forward to your continued support this season.

3.ELSEWHERE

a) This Years Finances (the Big Bhoys)





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Celtic Football Club PLC – Summary of Results

Operational and Financial Highlights:

- Winners of the SFA Scottish Cup.
- Runners up in the SPL and League Cup.
- Appointment of Neil Lennon as Celtic football manager.
- Two home European matches (2010: 5).
- Group revenue £52.56m (2010: £61.72m).
- Investment in football personnel of £10.29m (2010: £13.64m).
- 51 international players between U15 and senior levels.
- Year-end net bank debt of £0.53m (2010: £5.85m).
- Profit before taxation of £0.10m (2010: £2.13m loss).
- Operating expenses before exceptional items £52.50m (2010: £57.25m).
- Profit from trading before asset transactions and exceptional items of £56,000 (2010: £4.46m).
- Exceptional costs of £3.99m (2010: £3.14m)

So let's see using the massive financial insight we've gained whilst coontin' welding rods, what do we make of the all of the above?

Well quite a lot really.

Firstly, it's worthy to note that revenue is down a whopping 17% and but for the sale of McGeady, Boruc and (the likes of) McManus things would've been far from pretty. To echo the Blessed Martin's famous post Seville words "*Welcome to the slow lane*" indeed. We are now, like it or not, in a situation where European football each season is a **MUST** if the financial situation is to be stabilized.

We can (and do) laugh at the tax troubles of FC Enron and their wee Embra cousins, but it's a **FACT** that our attendances are falling faster than either. There is no room for complacency in the above. The Sion game is now the biggest game this club will face all season. **FACT**.

Meanwhile what are the board members doing?

Sir John Reid gets off the hook. Well (like all good Board leaders, eh Drew) he's retiring isn't he.

Dermott Desmond – He would appear to be sitting on his investment as he knows that if/when the time comes he will cash in big time. Meantime, he seems content to be the only billionaire club owner who is seeking to make his profit and get his divvies every year. Like it or not, until DD gets his "big time" day the club is effectively on ice until then.

Peter Lawell – Hey we're all for seeing somebody getting on. Even splashing out 1.5m on a mansion (with undersoil heated driveway) is good if everybody's else is rolling in it. But we're not Peter, are we?



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Based on a basic salary of 750k that makes our CEO cost approx 1.5% of our total revenue. How many other CEO's, nevermind fitba, ANYWHERE can boast that sort of percentage take?

No, for this bhoys, having a tidy balance sheet is nice but it's not the end and all and be all. I mean what would you prefer to see on proud display in the big cabinet at Paradise - some nice big shiny cups or the Company accounts?

Sadly, for the reasons above that's the (current) reality. Now, if only we had a board worthy of the support - now that would be some combination.

b) John Kennedy - A Celtic Legend is (re)Born

Last Tues night over 55,000 people gathered in Paradise to watch the Celtic Legends knock a Magnificent Seven bells out of Man Utd (Actually the score was 5-2, but that's not as Larssonnesque. Is it?). However, one man stood head and shoulders above the assembled giants that night and wrote his place into the annals of Celtic history. Step forward, **John Kennedy**.

John's career as most will know was cut brutally short by a criminal tackle while at the age of 26 representing his country in a meaningless friendly.

Despite, a lengthy rehabilitation program John never fully recovered a fraction of his previous form and last year officially retired from the game.

Most players would have grabbed greedily at the chance of a testimonial but not John. In the best of Walfraidian traditions John donated all his gate money (over 300k GBP and rising) from his testimonial to the East Africa Appeal.



John you may not have fulfilled your potential as a player but you've certainly earned the right to be considered as a Celtic Legend.

John Kennedy. Celtic bhoys and man. A legend is born.

c) Robbie Keane. When I'm Sixty Four

Much has been written these past few weeks about Robbie Keane's move to LA Galaxy, most of it in scathing "How could he do SUCH a thing" tones. Well, consider this, when Robbie Keane eventually sits down to tell his grandchildren he might just tell them the following:

I played for Celtic,
I captained his country,
I earned over a 100 caps,
I scored more than 50 goals,



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I was 12th in the list of all-time top international goalscorers,
I was the 9th highest scorer in Tottenham Hotspur's history,
I was the 10th highest scorer in the Premiership's history,
I played for 3 European Cup Winning teams,
I was signed by a world cup winning manager for £13m.

They might just say, "Wow – my Granda was a bit of a player in his day, eh?"

Wonder what our's will say????

d) Gratuitous Sexist foto (one for the ladies)

Our new secretary is all for us cleaning up our act, so here's one for you, Marie.....



e) And finally.....this weeks competition



.....just what can the Fat Paul LeGuen be saying and/or doing here?

Viva A Revolução Verde!!!!