

Tiocfaidh Ár Lá for Celtic and Ireland

Ezine Issue No.4

January 2012



NEW YEAR!

NEW LEADERS!

NEW EZINE!!!

INSIDE THIS MONTH

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WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

UP THE RA AND ALL THAT

THE IRISH CONNECTION

THE CATALPA ESCAPE

AND MORE.....

**GOVERNMENT
ADVISORY**

**MAY CONTAIN ILLICIT AND
OFFENSIVE MATERIAL**

FOLLOW TALFANZINE



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

All of us here at Talfanzine would like to wish all our readers and supporters a Happy and Prosperous 2012.



It's the new year and we are all back to mundane everyday life, so I thought we could have a little chuckle at the expense of Mr. Hugh Keevens

Here are some of his finest foot in mouth moments.

HK: *Josef Venglos will live to regret his decision to play this unknown Slovakian ahead of Mark Burchill in such a vital "OF" Game.*

Cue Lubomir Moravcik scoring twice as the huns are molligated 5-1.



HK: *O'Neill won't lift the title without PLC cash. Rankers have all the money, all the players and all the help they need in the boardroom to maintain their domination of the championship.*

Cue Martin O'Neill leading Celtic to The Treble in his first season, including a 6-2 molligation of the huns in his first game against them.

HK: *Old Trafford on Champions League night is no place for Nakamura, and his blend of tippy-tappy football.*

Cue Absolute bedlam, as Naka flights one of sublime beauty over a £100m wall, and into the back of the ManUre net.



HK: *I suspect he simply is not up to the job, he'll be gone by the end of the season, and Celtic will, once again, be back to the days of rummaging around for a new manager while Rankers move ahead. Cue Gordon Strachan leading Celtic to three back-to-back titles as he sees off the challenge of three Rankers managers in as many seasons.*

HK: *Celtic will NOT win in Moscow, because they simply CAN'T win Away.*

Cue the full-time scoreboard in the Arena Khimki reading : Dinamo Moscow 0 Celtic 2

HK: *Jelavic and Lafferty - they will win the game for Rankers. Bocanegra and Goian will keep the back door closed, and St Mirren will not get a goal. Rankers will likely get two or three.*

Cue Yellowbitch misses an absolute sitter, Bocanegra and Laugherty are subbed, and Golan is red-carded as St Midden gub the huns 2-1.



Hugh Plonker



Stephen Lawrence: Justice or Politics?

Two excellent articles on the Lawrence case.

<http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php/site/article/11947/>

<http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php/site/article/11955/>

THE COURTS THEY GIVE JUSTICE, AS
JUSTICE IS GIVEN BY WELL MANNERED
THUGS.

Remember Bloody Sunday

30th January 1972



THE SEASON SO FAR.....

THIS SEASON HAS been a bit of a rollercoaster ride hasn't it? After the disappointment of last season many of us went into this new season fully thinking it was going to be a stroll in the park against a huns team under the stewardship of fat Sally.

Things never got off to the best of starts for their new gaffer and in his first competitive game they could only share the spoils with Hearts at the Reichstag and shortly before the weans were back at school after the summer holidays they were already out of the Champions League haven fallen at the first hurdle against Swedish minnows FC Malmo.

How we rejoiced, many were already claiming that the league was over at this very early stage as it would be impossible for them to bring in any new players as there was no money and the tax man was lurking.

By this stage the SPL was just underway and Celtic had started reasonably, picking up 3 wins before the first hick-up of the season - a one nil defeat at home to St Johnstone - sadly this was to be first of many.

We then went onto face FC Sion of Switzerland in a Europa League qualifier. In years gone by we would have sailed past this sort of opposition, but following a boring 0 - 0 draw at Celtic park we crashed out of the competition in spectacular fashion with a 3 - 1 defeat in the away leg. Out of Europe at the first hurdle, doh! how the huns laughed. The mock laugh from the Reichstag was scant consolation for them though as they too had managed to bounce out of the Europa league as well. Things weren't going so well for the new darling of the Scottish sports press pack.



On the other hand things seemed to be looking up for Celtic as it was announced that UEFA would be taking disciplinary action against FC Sion after they had fielded 5 ineligible players against us. The result of this latest action was that FC Sion were expelled from the competition for breaking a previous UEFA imposed transfer embargo and we were back in the competition.

Celtic entered the group stages and we were drawn with Atletico Madrid, Udinese and Rennes. Not the easiest group we have ever faced in Euro competition, but it was a lifeline we could hardly knock back. Even though many of us were slightly embarrassed that Liewell had complained to

UEFA, we adhered to the rules and regulations of the competition. If other clubs don't, we are perfectly within our rights to question that and if those who govern the sport think they deserve to be punished then we must take advantage when those decisions favour us.

In the competition itself I think we acquitted ourselves reasonably well, even in the away performances we showed signs of improvement, but it still wasn't good enough to get through the group stages. Neil Lennon can be proud of the effort shown by our boys. Since the introduction of group football in Europe, we have claimed some big scalps but we have also suffered embarrassment away from home. This year though, apart from the debacle in Sion, I think we can be proud of our efforts.

We went to the Reichstag in mid-September already trailing them by a point. As if that weren't bad enough we came away from there with our tails firmly between our legs. The latest member of the GB 2012 Olympic diving team, Stevie Naismith, had given them the lead before Gary Hooper equalised and McShagger made an absolute howler from an Kaddouri shot which seen us going in at the break 2 - 1 up. Despite our performance being dire we had the lead but this wasn't to last long as Jellyneck equalised 10 minutes after the break and Lafferty put them in front before the 70 minute mark. The game finished 4 - 2 and they had opened up a 4 point gap.

Domestically, the SPL was proving to be tough going for us. A combination of bad defending, poor finishing and tactical faux pas by the manager were costing us. It seemed we were doing our best to sabotage our own league campaign as we started dropping points for fun.



Moving into October, we had slipped to a 2 - 0 loss at Tynecastle and Struggled to a 3 - 3 draw with Kilmarnock having been 3 goals down at half-time. The furore on social media and forums was far reaching. Many fans were calling for Lennon to chuck it. Rumour has it that Lennon himself had been considering his own future during the break of that game at Rugby Park. Before the month was out, we had slipped up again, this time a turgid 0 - 0 draw away to a struggling Hibernian team that we had pumped 4 - 1 three days previously.

On the 5th of November the huns went 15 points clear at the top of the SPL, although we still had 2 games in hand. We were off to face a high flying Motherwell the next day and with the way things were going, we could never be too confident of heading to Fir Park and getting a result. Within 9 minutes we were trailing to a goal from Higdon. Game over! I'd finally been broke!!

But from somewhere, the team had found a resolve that had been lacking in previous games this season. Anthony Stokes equalised and Gary Hooper nicked a winner with 11 minutes remaining. From that point onwards we haven't looked back.

We have gone on an 11 game SPL winning streak scoring 23 goals and remarkably only conceding 5 goals. What an upturn in fortune. The players and the management deserve a pat on the back, but prizes aren't given out at this stage of the season. The same social media sites and forums that were previously ablaze with cries of Lennon to quit and certain players to be shipped out, had been sparked into overdrive with claims of the league already being in the bag. The same folk who were shouting Lennon down were now declaring their full trust in the man from Lurgan.

I am a bit longer in the tooth and although I am happy to give Lennon praise for turning things around, I am not yet ready to proclaim him as a saviour. Some of his comments in the media about elements of our support have left a bitter taste in the mouth and I can't help but think that he has been a little lucky with the way the huns have imploded. But I will take stock at the end of this season and make my judgement on him then. For now though I wish him and the players the very best of luck and hope they continue in the form we have been in since November.

Neil Lennon is a very likeable fella and there is something about him that makes you want things to work out well for him but he is controlled by his paymasters and is rolled out like a puppet by Liewell when the fans need shouting down. Lennon should have more backbone and tell Liewell were to go, but he still has his own insecurities about his position and won't stand up to the board.

MIND THE GAP

101 Uses For Dermot Desmond



No46 - candle holder



On Scottish Cup duties, we moved passed Peterhead with a comfortable 3 – 0 victory, we are 2 points clear at the top of the SPL and we have unearthed some diamonds in the shape of James Forrest, Viktor Wanyama and Adam Matthews. Kelvin Wilson and Emilio Izaguirre have fought their way back to fitness. Tony Stokes is firing goals in for fun and Big Sammi is playing like a superstar. Fraser Forster has been impressive of late by keeping 7 clean sheets in his last 10 SPL games, Thomas Rogna has got a few games under his belt without being side lined by injury and Charlie Mulgrew has turned into Mr Reliable and strengthened his case to be the next permanent captain of the club. It is also pleasing to see Joe Ledley back from injury and back in favour, as he is a player I think adds so much to our team both as an attacking and a defending option. When looking back at this season although there have been some horror results and performances, we must also remember that we haven't had much of a settled side, with injuries

to key players at certain times. Thankfully though most, if not all, of our first team regulars are back fighting fit and ready to push on for the remainder of this season. The only exception is the recently injured Beram Kayal who's likely to be out for the next 4 months.

Overall things are looking really positive as we press on in 2012. We're the only club still capable of delivering a domestic treble which seems startling given how bad things looked in early November.

In closing I wish to pass on best wishes to Neil and the boys from myself and all other contributors to TAL Fanzine for the rest of the current season. And to paraphrase another organisation close to many of our hearts **ONWARDS TO VICTORY . . . Beir Bua**

by

The Armchair Bandit



We Shall Not Be Moved

BY HOLLOWAY GAEL

Let me begin with a statement of fact, Celtic Football Club has no relationship with the Republican movement, and it is not the 'sporting wing' of the IRA, a slur often cast by some of the more narrow minded, suggestible elements among our detractors.

However what does exist for many Celtic supporters, myself included, is a relationship with Irish Republicanism. This is borne out of the origins and history of the club, and is part of a wider cultural identity. Some of us are Celtic fans who have become Republicans through political education. Others were Republicans first and foremost who were drawn to Celtic having learnt about the ethos and culture of the club.



If that sounds like empty rhetoric then my own experience is a good case in point. At eleven or twelve years of age I'd heard of James Connolly and Michael Collins but not George Connolly or Bobby Collins. Ten years later I knew as much about Evan Williams and John Hughes as I did about Tom Williams and Francis Hughes.

Once you understand the history of Celtic you begin to appreciate why so many of its supporters are Irish Republicans. Celtic's story is Ireland's history. The two are, and always will be, inextricably linked. And nowhere is that bond more manifest than in the Irish songs of resistance, rebellion and liberation that continue to be sung at Celtic games, and have been ever since the Club was founded.

It comes as no surprise then that much of the ill conceived and badly drafted 'Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Bill' that Scottish Parliament has introduced, is aimed at criminalising the singing of such songs. If there is a desire on their part to see this implemented then we have to look at ways of rendering it ineffectual now that it has become statute. We must remain resolute in our determination to uphold and protect the right to express our identity, beliefs and aspirations, whether at Celtic Park in particular or Scotland as a whole.

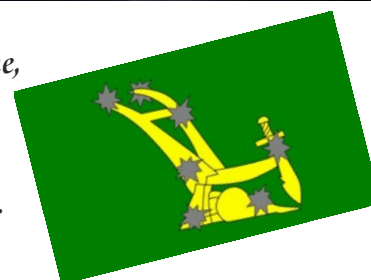
But in doing so we as Celtic supporters have to act above and beyond reproach. It is time to accept that we have to sing our songs in the manner in which they were meant to be sung. We need to eliminate the needless ditties that tarnish some of our most stirring ballads, including, but not limited to, Willie Maley (fuck the queen and the UDA) and the Fields of Athenry (Sinn Fein IRA). These songs are evocative and rich in their own right and such add-ins are demeaning and only serve to belittle the sentiment, insult the songwriter and of course leave us open to accusations of offensive chanting.

As for those ballads that implicitly invoke the IRA, Boys of the Old Brigade being the one most frequently sung by our support, we must defend at all costs our right to sing them. In relation to 'BOTOB' it is not sectarian, it is not obscene, it is not triumphalist and it is not intended to cause offence.

I will leave you with one more fact; Celtic is a Scottish club. Its parent body is the SFA (albeit an unloving parent) and it competes in the SPL, and in European competition under a saltire. But in doing so it carries the hopes, dreams and expectations of tens of thousands of Irish supporters. It's status maybe Scottish but it's heritage is undeniably Irish and always will be. No amount of legislation, threat of legal action or intimidation will ever change that.



*I'll wear no
convicts uniform,
Nor meekly serve my time,
That Scotland might,
Brand our fans right,
to sing our songs a crime.*



UP THE RA AND ALL THAT

BY JIM SLAVEN

SINCE THE SNP government passed their Offensive Behaviour Bill in the Scottish parliament, much has been written and said about the draconian and anti free speech nature of that legislation. In essence people have been restating positions which were already well laid out in advance of the vote and not many minds, on either side of the debate, have been changed. If anything, we have seen opinions become more entrenched as the language has become more intemperate. It is not my intention here to go over our opposition to the legislation all over again. Life is too short and many others, including many I usually disagree with, have done so far more eloquently than I could.

Now is the time turn our attention to some of the wider implication of this law for Scotland's Irish community and particularly how this new law targets the interconnection between culture and politics for many Irish Scots. It is by now very clear that this Bill is, at least in part, an attempt to drive any reference to the IRA out of public discourse in Scotland. From Salmond's repeated references to 'a terrorist organisation' to the SPL directly linking offensive behaviour to groups proscribed under the British state's Terrorism Act we can see who it is that is in the sights of the state. This law is aimed directly at the Irish community and instead of protecting a community which is up to six times more likely to be a victim of hate crimes than Scots Protestants, it is attempting to criminalise certain expressions of Irishness.

First of all it is obvious that the Irish community, by which I mean the ethnic, multi-generational group rather than those of Irish nationality, are not a homogenous group. Like other immigrant communities the Irish in Scotland are a complex, diverse (politically as well as economically) and often contradictory group. So, not all Irish Scots will be affected by this law. It follows therefore that the following analysis relates only to a section of that community, that section which identifies with radical republicanism and for many that means the IRA. It is a minority of the Irish community in Scotland for sure, but it is a larger minority than many Scots wish to admit.

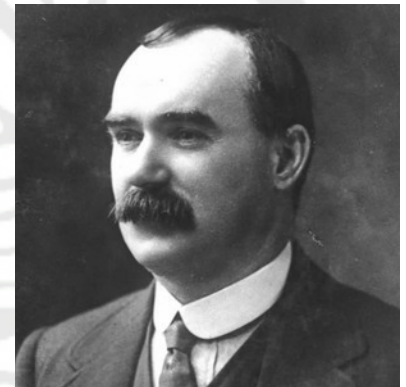


When the United Irishmen rebelled against the British in 1798 they were supported by the United Scotsmen. In the various nineteenth century rebellions, whenever Irish men and women have challenged British occupation, Irish Scots have rallied to the cause. This revolutionary tradition continued throughout the various phases of struggle in

the twentieth century and continues to the present day. For many this means direct involvement in Irish politics rather than Scottish politics. For others it means a keen interest in Irish affairs whilst engaging politically in Scotland through one of the political parties or the trade union movement.

However for a huge amount of Irish Scots it means a cultural affiliation with the politics of resistance, with the songs and the iconography of struggle. While this culture itself is not an engagement with revolutionary politics, politics cannot be disassociated from this revolutionary culture. For many of us the periods of revolution and resistance (including the IRA) in Irish history are a source of pride and identification. The new law attempts to outlaw certain expressions of Irishness. It seeks to reduce our history and culture to limited, acceptable (to the state), confines such as St Patricks Day. It attempts to exclude the revolutionary content from that history and culture altogether.

It may be offensive to many Scots, and to the Scottish government, but many Irish Scots have a deep connection with Ireland and part of that, for many of us, is a strong sense of solidarity with Irish resistance to British occupation. Our families may have come to Scotland (and as Scots never tire of telling me I was born here) but our interest in Ireland, and Irish politics, remains.



This is not unusual and is entirely in keeping with the experience of other immigrant communities in Scotland and indeed with the Irish internationally. Indeed, given Ireland's history of emigration, the right of the Diaspora to contribute to debates about the future of the nation is enshrined in the Irish constitution.

In most parts of the world this has been accepted and indeed celebrated. In places as far apart as Brooklyn or Birmingham or Buenos Aires the Irish contribution to the host society is welcomed and the community participates in Irish culture or discusses Irish politics and there is not a problem. The same cannot be said of Scotland. Following the IRA ceasefire and the development of the peace process many commentators talked about a 'peace dividend'. They explained that this would not only boost the Irish economy and promote a more welcoming image of Ireland internationally it would also boost the Diaspora. During the late 1990's and early 2000's I took part in several meetings where this was discussed. I was always very impressed by how the peaceful backdrop created by the IRA had allowed for Irish enterprise and culture to develop globally.

At each of these gatherings I pointed out that no such 'peace dividend' would develop in Scotland. My simple rationale was that for many Scots we would always be Fenians. Scotland has a problem, and this law is not part of the solution it is part of that problem. Implicit in the legislation and the political discourse which accompanied it is a view of racism (and bigotry) as psychological and individual phenomenon. More than that it reinforces the myth of Scotland as an egalitarian

society, where a progressive (anti racist) consensus exists and is only sullied by the behaviour of a few (mostly working class) football fans.

According to this worldview the state is neutral playing no role in the creation (or reproduction) of discrimination. In fact the state is not a neutral arbiter but is an active participant in these social ills. If the Scottish government wants to end anti Irish racism and bigotry they should start by taking a good look at the state institutions they control. Instead they have given these state apparatus more power over the Irish community including allowing the police to determine what (unspecified) displays of Irishness will be offensive and illegal. As many have pointed out the target of the law is often explicitly stated to be political expression, despite the fact politics by its very nature is contentious. It should also be pointed out that for a party that claims (although only recently) to be interested in ending bigotry the SNP seem strangely reticent about challenging or even mentioning the Orange Order!

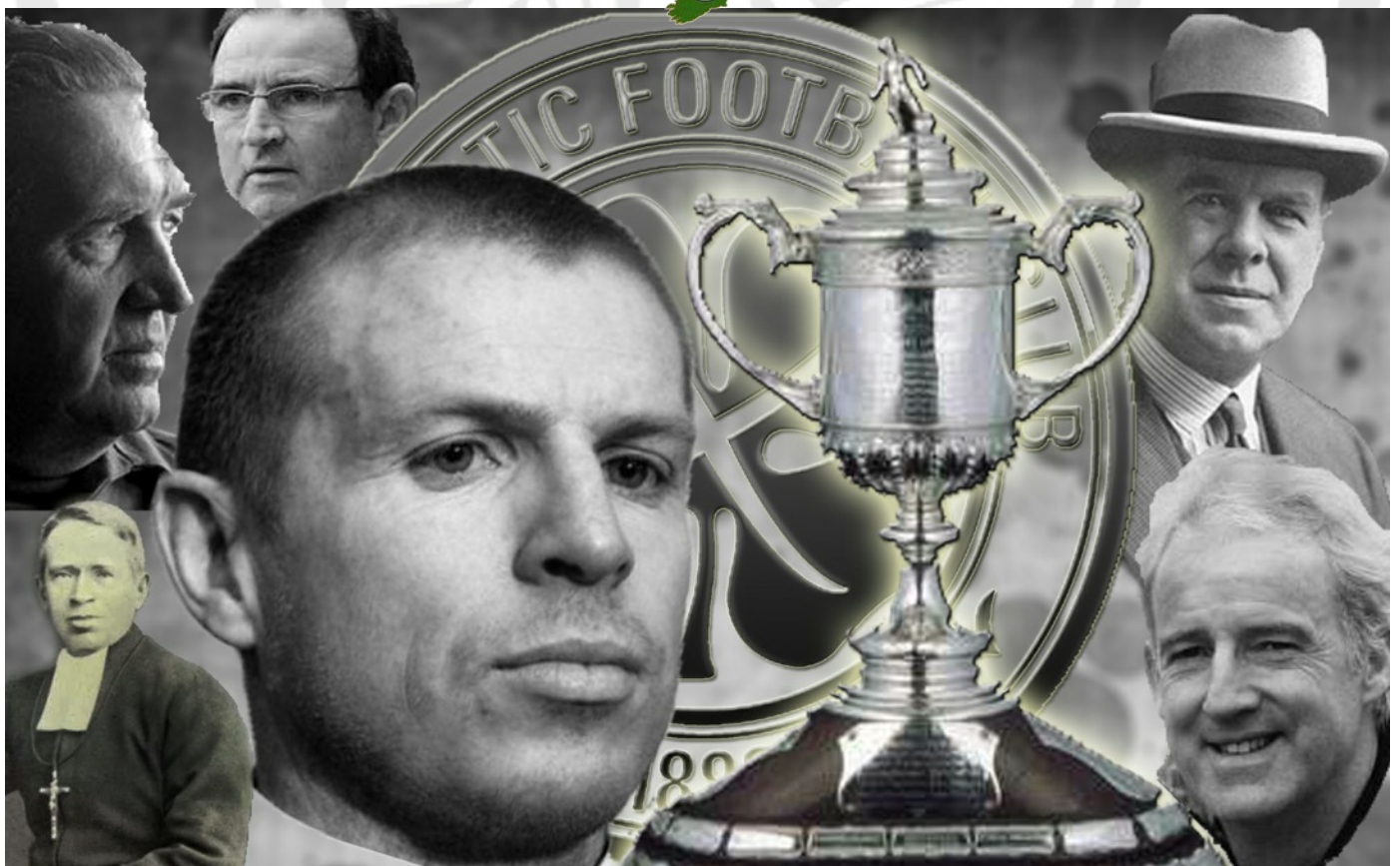
The James Connolly Society started campaigning on the issue of anti Irish racism in 1992. Our view then, as now, was that to describe the societal problems labelled 'sectarianism' as intra-Christian disputes as the Scottish government does is absurd. Equally absurd are attempts to reduce Irish ethnicity to religion

or football. The ethnic and historical dimensions are crucial to developing a better understanding of the problem. In 1992 most people, including some of our own community, questioned whether such a community existed. We have come a long way since then. The Irish in Scotland have gained their consciousness. And part of that consciousness is an understanding of our revolutionary history, politics and culture.

The radical Irish tradition in Scotland needs to be contextualised rather than marginalised, or worse criminalised.

As Scotland moves towards independence we also need to move beyond the limited and conservative vision offered by the SNP, of which this law is only one part. Scotland needs to create space for a proper debate to take place about what kind of country we want to live in. For many of us who advocate the breakup of Britain that must also mean an end to monarchy and to British militarism. It will be a Scotland which 'cherishes all of the children of the nation equally' and celebrates (rather than criminalises) divergent

views. It will be a Scotland of Thomas Muir and Wolfe Tone, of MacLean and Connolly, and of Bobby Sands. We believe in independence not because we believe Scotland is a great country but because we believe it could be. Rather than criminalising expressions of radical republicanism indigenous Scots need to recognise it as a shared heritage for Scotland and Ireland. Its time has come



It's a widely accepted wisdom that sport and politics don't mix. I always had some respect for that position. But we don't live in an ideal world. In real life the world of Politics with a capital P encroaches into every aspect of our lives whether we realise it or not and whether we like it or not.

Celtic FC and its supporters are a 'broad church'. There are literally millions of Glasgow Celtic fans across the globe and many of them came to support the club by different routes. I had no Scottish connection or Glaswegian contacts. I supported my local club which was Sheffield United and for several years I was a season ticket holder and followed the Blades all over England.

I was also a secret admirer of Celtic but wouldn't claim to be a fan as I had no opportunity to see the Hoops play. My parents were Irish immigrants and the 'John Thomson' song featured among their sizeable collection of Irish rebel songs. I later discovered John Thomson was of the Protestant faith. He was a hero to my parents who were Catholics. Religion didn't matter. It is used by those who would divide us as a smokescreen, a label and a tag like the colour of your skin.

The pivotal event in my developing political consciousness as a teenager, as it was for so many others, was the 1981 Hunger Strikes in the Maze prison. I was 14 and attended a Catholic comprehensive school. We would have debates in our English class and one day the teacher asked 'What should the Government do about the Hunger Strikers?' An immediate chorus of 'Let them die' rang out from fellow classmates. I was shocked at their callousness.

A year later Britain was at war with Argentina in the Falklands and the boot was on the other foot as the same classmates fretted over British casualties in the South Atlantic.

I soon found myself sticking up for Celtic in debates and arguments with friends and acquaintances. Even at a Catholic school it was deemed somehow cool to identify with Rangers. I later understood the anti-Celtic attitude as an expression of anti-Irish prejudice stemming from the republican struggle. You were invited and expected to join in the wave of public revulsion and condemnation of IRA bombings and if you didn't you were ostracised.

Celtic FC and more specifically its supporters were identified with the Irish republican cause regardless of what British apologists among the Celtic support might think. Rangers were Loyalist and Unionist. Football was inextricably linked with

Politics.

•The next great upheaval I remember was the 1984 Miners Strike. The picket lines chanted 'Maggie Maggie Maggie, Boom Boom Boom' following the Brighton Bomb. The atmosphere on the terraces was febrile. Blades fans rioted at an end of season 'make or break' game at Bramall Lane against Wimbledon which we lost with policemen dragged off their horses and bricks thrown at 'Black Marias' in running battles between police and fans outside the stadium.

I've met some Celtic fans who are wary or dismissive of fans of English clubs who also profess an allegiance to Celtic. Our allegiance is viewed as spurious or disingenuous. I'll quote Robert Louis Stevenson in response: *"To know what you prefer instead of humbly saying Amen to what the world tells you ought to prefer, is to have kept your soul alive."*

I was told by a Celtic supporting friend from the Scottish Highlands that 'Celtic has got nothing to do with Ireland.' To which I replied 'If that's the case why is there an Irish tricolour flying over the stadium?' Still he rejected the Irish connection. That conversation took place over 20 years ago and the debate is still raging today with periodic complaints in the media about the flying of the Irish tricolour over Celtic Park.

Now we have the so-called 'anti-sectarian' legislation seeking to ban Celtic supporters from singing selected Irish rebel songs in what amounts to an orchestrated campaign of official intimidation and exclusion if you don't toe the line. Plus ca change.

The Irish connection will never be eliminated from Celtic Park. The supporters are the guarantors of that. What is Celtic FC denuded of its Irish identity? What is there to be ashamed of?

The 'neutralising' agenda has already made inroads at the club. The proposed 'anti-sectarian' legislation is designed to purge what are now seen as 'toxic' elements of the Celtic support. It is an attempt to criminalise a Rebel mindset because it refuses to conform to the new 'consensus' that deems an Irish republican outlook beyond the pale. The authorities are politicising the football arena not the fans.

Celtic FC truly fits the legend of 'more than just a club' but some people in positions of influence and authority are intent on turning Celtic into just another club. A PLC that is PC and inoffensive. Replacing a 'political' identity with a corporate one. That would be tragic. Politics isn't a dirty word.

BY HAL



Talfanzine is always on the look out for new contributors to the Forum, Fanzine & Ezine. If you have anything that you can write about or even if you have a bit of artistic touch, Why not join the forum or contact admin if you already have something in mind.

<http://talfanzine.proboards.com/index>

CATALPA

THE GREATEST ESCAPE OF THEM ALL

BY
MATTY BHOY

ESTER WEEK OF 1876 saw one of the greatest escape tales that has ever taken place; unfold in the British penal settlement of Fremantle, Western Australia. A tale of daring, a tale of courage and a tale of republican activists and sympathisers for the Irish cause co-ordinating a plan that would span more than half the world! This is the tale of the *Catalpa*.

The late 1850s saw the rise of Fenianism, a political descendant of Wolfe Tone's United Irishmen some 60 years previously. The Fenians, a name deriving from the warriors of ancient Erin, the Fianna, were republican, democratic and anti-clerical and had a strong working class base. They were members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, dedicated to establishing an "independent democratic Republic".

The Fenians made an ill-fated insurrectionary attempt in 1867 that was easily quelled by British occupying forces in Ireland.

After this, a wave of oppression followed and members and supporters of the IRB were rounded up and either incarcerated in harsh conditions or shipped to Australia.

On January 9, 1868 a ship named the *Hougoumont*, carrying 62 Fenian prisoners, approximately 17 of whom were militant activists, arrived in Fremantle, Western Australia. The prisoners were moved to the "Convict Establishment," now known as Fremantle Prison. The Establishment was one of the most remote prisons in the world, and as such was thought to be practically impossible to escape from. However, after just 18 months of imprisonment John Boyle O'Reilly managed to escape on board the American whaling boat, the *Gazelle*.

1871 saw the release of all Fenian prisoners, however this amnesty was not given to militant Fenians and as a result, 10 prisoners remained in The Establishment on hard labour.

"Releasing these Fenian soldiers would be subversive of discipline," claimed the Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief of British Forces. John Devoy, one of the Fenians who was granted amnesty, had settled in New York and received a letter that had been smuggled out from the Convict Establishment.

The author, James Wilson, pleaded with Devoy to hatch a plan for the escape of the remaining Fenians held in this remote outpost. Devoy was at this stage head of the Clan na Gael, the American Fenian movement. He spoke to O'Reilly, who had settled in Boston and another pardoned Fenian, Thomas McCarthy Fennell, about the letter he had received from Wilson. Fennell concocted a plan to buy a ship and carry legitimate cargo so as to not arouse suspicion and set sail to Western Australia.

Devoy approached the Clan, who eagerly agreed to fund the operation, and the whaling ship the *Catalpa* was purchased.

Under the guidance of Irish Republican supporter Captain George Anthony, the *Catalpa* left New Bedford, Massachusetts in April 1875. At the same time two Fenian agents, John Breslin and Tom Desmond had travelled to Australia and met with Michael Cody, head of the IRB in Australia. Breslin and



Desmond were in charge of the "land" side of the operation. Cody managed to fund their expedition by collecting up to £7000 in donations from Australian and New Zealand supporters.

By September of 1875, Breslin booked into Emerald Isle Hotel, Fremantle, under the name of James Collins and masqueraded as an American millionaire, in search of business opportunities. Breslin must have played the part well, because he soon met with Sir William Cleaver Robinson, the governor of Western Australia. Robinson in fact took Breslin on a tour of both his residence and the Convict Establishment! It was here that Breslin witnessed the slave labour that was to be available for whatever business purposes he brought to the area. During this time Desmond took a job as a wheelwright and recruited a couple of local Irishmen who were to cut telegraph wires on the day of the escape. This was to be done to prevent spreading news of the impending escape.

James Wilson, unaware that his original letter had been acted upon, smuggled another letter to the IRB, this time in Ireland, again calling for help. Another two Fenian agents were dispatched from the homeland, and had landed in Australia.

Breslin also became aware of a further two IRB agents that had arrived in Fremantle from New South Wales, meaning there were literally three escape parties in the area, an indication to the solidarity shown by IRB members, but it also increased the



John Devoy



of detection. Breslin rounded up all the IRB members in Fremantle, and alerted them of their plans to rescue the Fenians from the Convict Establishment. All that was left to do now was to wait patiently for the arrival of the *Catalpa*.

On the 27th of March, 1876 the *Catalpa* anchored in Bunbury, on the Western Australian coastline, having made its journey halfway across the world without garnering the suspicion of British intelligence agents, a testimony in itself to the meticulous planning by Clan na Gael. It was here that Captain Anthony met with Breslin and the pair devised a plan for the most important phase of the operation. Bad weather forced a delay on the original day of escape and finally the 17th of April, 1876 was nominated – Easter Monday. This was also the date of the Perth Regatta, when all officialdom would be up the river and out of the way of the Fenian escape plot.

The *Catalpa* dropped anchor in international waters, between Rottnest and Garden Islands and dispatched a smaller rowboat to shore at Rockingham. Prior to the escape, prisoners were allowed to conduct manual labour outside of the prison fence; such was the isolation of the area. The authorities believe there was simply nowhere to escape to. It was surrounded by desert to the East and shark infested waters to the North and West.

Somewhere between 7:30am and 8:30am the Fenian prisoners, Thomas Darragh, Martin Hogan, Michael Harrington, Thomas Hassett, Robert Cranston and James Wilson, were working outside the walls when they were met by the Fenian agents, Breslin and Desmond, who were riding in two horse drawn buggies. The six men bundled into the buggies and rode approximately 30 miles south to Rockingham and Captain Anthony who was waiting with the rowboat, reaching there at approximately 10:00am.

A local man named James Bell asked the group of men what they wished to do with their horses and buggies when he witnessed them climbing into the rowboat. When the men replied that they did not care what he did with them, Bell decided to ride to Fremantle to alert the authorities, arriving at approximately 1:00pm.

What transpired back in Fremantle is perhaps best described by the following eyewitness letter that was sent to the Liverpool United Irishmen newspaper:

“They (the prisoners) were not missed for about an hour and a half, and then there was the scene of wildest excitement, officials running here and there, mounted policemen with orders and despatches... I need hardly tell you that the Irish people here are in the highest state of jubilation at the escape of the prisoners”.

The rowboat faced a severe storm upon its return to the *Catalpa*, with Captain Anthony later stating that he did not expect the small vessel to survive. The police sent their fastest cutter to Rockingham, with it arriving just in time to see the small rowboat head towards the horizon. The cutter returned to Fremantle and the steamer *SS Georgette* was commissioned to search for the escapees.

The rowboat gained sight of the *Catalpa* at approximately 5:30pm but by 7:00pm the Fenians had lost sight of the mother ship due to the ailing light and were forced to spend an

unwelcomed night on the seas. The following day, Tuesday the 18th of April, 1876 both the police cutter and the *SS Georgette* returned to search for the Fenians. It was the *Georgette* who spotted the *Catalpa*, and pulled up alongside her. The Superintendent of water police, J.F. Stone, requested that he be let on board to check for escapees. It was a request that was denied, however the men at large, were still in the process of rowing towards the *Catalpa*! The *Georgette*, complete with a 12 pounder field piece, was forced to return to shore to refuel.

By 2:00pm the *Georgette* was back in the area and spotted the rowboat fast approaching the *Catalpa*. Once the men were aboard, the *Catalpa* immediately set sail for the Indian Ocean, and international waters, with the *Georgette* in hot pursuit. It was not until approximately 8:00am the following morning that the *Georgette* caught up to the Fenian escapees. Stone called for the *Catalpa* to stop and fired warning shots across its bow and stern.

The British captain called out through his speaking trumpet: *“Heave to”*.

Captain Anthony replied: *“What for?”*

“You have escaped prisoners on that ship,” replied Stone.

Anthony bravely stated: *“You’re mistaken. There are no prisoners aboard this ship. There are none but free men aboard.”*

Losing patience, Stone replied: *“Are you going to heave to?”*

As cool as ice, Anthony pointed to the Stars and Stripes flying proudly above the *Catalpa*. *“No, sir... This ship is sailing under the American flag, and she is on the high seas... If you fire on me, I warn you that you are firing on the American flag!”*

Stone, uncertain as to whether they were in international waters or not, and not wanting to cause an international debacle, decided to pursue the *Catalpa* until it was forced to return for further refuelling.

Due to the telegraph wires that had been cut by Desmond’s men, news of the great Fenian escape did not reach London until June. John Boyle O’Reilly also received news that the escape had gone to plan and released the news to the press, causing massive celebrations in the United States and Ireland

Catalpa Memorial, Rockingham W.A.



and anger in Britain. Reaction in Australia was more evenly balanced with the majority of public sympathies leaning towards the Irish escapees. Songs and poems were written about the now famous escape. The Ballad of the Catalpa, written in Western Australia, so enraged the colonial authorities that it became a punishable offence to sing it!

The *Catalpa* returned to New York harbour on August 19, 1876. Many receptions were held in the honour of the escaping Fenian's in New York upon their arrival to safe shores. In Ireland, a massive celebration wound its way through the Dublin streets. At the end of the procession two effigies – one of British Prime Minister at the time Benjamin Disraeli and the other of the Duke of Cambridge were hoisted above the masses and set alight.

Captain George Anthony could no longer sail in international waters due to the threat of arrest by the British Navy. Anthony was chosen to lead the operation largely because he was a man known to keep his word. John Devoy sensed he was a man that exuded bravery and as such was the right man for this perilous mission.

Despite not having a drop of Irish blood, Anthony accepted responsibility for the *Catalpa*. He knew that if he were captured by the British he would either serve out the remainder of his life in a penal colony or he would meet the hangman's noose. Anthony's ancestors had fought the British in the American War of Independence and he considered himself a proud American and a free man. Devoy told Anthony of the brutal treatment dealt out to the Fenians by the British and Anthony wanted to help because he thought it "was the right thing to do."

Today, a memorial stands in Rockingham, Western Australia consisting of a statue of six wild geese. The term "Wild Geese" was given to Irishmen who served in European Armies after being exiled from their native land. It was a phrase that was adopted by the Fenians transported to Fremantle, many years before they partook in the greatest escape of them all!

The Ballad of The Catalpa

*She was a Yankee whaleship,
Called the Catalpa by name,
Came out to Western Australia
And stole six of our convicts away.*

Chorus

*So come all you screw warders and gaolers,
Remember the Perth Regatta Day,
Take care of the rest of your Fenians,
Or the Yanks they will take them away.*

*The Georgette well manned with bold warriors,
Went after this Yank to arrest,
But she hoisted her star-spangled banner,
Saying 'You'd better not board me I guess'.*

*For seven long years have they served you,
And seven or more would have stayed,
For defending their country, Old Ireland,
It was for that they were banished away.*

*You kept them in Western Australia,
Till their hair began to turn grey,
When a Yank from the States of America,
Came out here and stole them away.*

*Now remember these Fenians colonial,
And sing o'er these verses with skill,
And remember the Yankees that stole them,
And the home that they left on the hill.*

*For they're now in the States of America,
Where all will be able to cry,
'We hoist the Green Flay with the Shamrock,'
Saying 'Hurrah for Old Ireland we die'.*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oxdIzA_AGg

Re-NameThe Lennoxtown Training Ground 'The Tommy Burns Training Academy'

For Celtic supporters there are many names from throughout the clubs history with whom the rank and file fans identify with and feel a particular kinship with. •From Jimmy Quinn, John Thomson , Jimmy McGrory , Patsy Gallagher , Bertie Peacock, Jock Stein, Joe McBride, Jimmy Johnstone and recently Henrik Larsson all have earned the undying love and adoration of the Celtic faithful. •If you were to ask any Celtic supporter, "Does Tommy Burns merit mentioning in that company?" there would be few objections, few who would say that "oor Tam" was not a Celtic legend.

•As a young player in the late 70's early 80's, a seasoned veteran in the Centenary Double winning squad or as manager of one of the most entertaining Celtic teams ever assembled in recent memory, Tommy Burns epitomised everything that was noble and decent about Celtic. A total of 500 appearances in all competitions with 83 goals Tommy was a fantastic servant to the club as a player.

In the latter stages of his time at Celtic Park Tommy modern, 21st Century training facility that reflected the game, a facility that I'm sure Tommy hoped would be "Maestro". Sadly Tommy did not live to see the fruits of 2008, 20 years and one day after winning the Scottish Double winning squad, Tommy lost his battle with cancer and was taken from his family and those who loved him at the age of 51.

To pay what we feel is a fitting tribute to an outstanding the most sincere, humble and compassionate men the Facebook page have expressed a desire that Celts Tommy Burns Training Academy. This page is open to all allegiance to Celtic. Terminology such as "hun", "dirty administrative team. This is not a page to raise grievances about current events in Scottish football, nor should it be used as a forum/vehicle for anti-Rangers sentiments. Please use the page in the manner in which the page founder intended it to be used, to secure a fitting and worth tribute to a truly unique and genuine man who did not have a bigoted bone in his body.



was instrumental in ensuring that Celtic had a the clubs stature and standing within the Scottish produce another "Quality Street Gang" another of the new training facility. On the 15th May Cup as part of the great Centenary Season

cancer and was taken from his family and those Celtic player, manager and coach as well as one of Scottish game has ever known, members of this training complex at Lennoxtown be renamed the football supporters, not just those who have an orange", "fenian", "taig" will not be tolerated by the about current events in Scottish football, nor should it be used, to secure a fitting and worth tribute to a truly unique and genuine man who did not have a bigoted bone in his body.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Re-NameThe-Lennoxtown-Training-Ground-The-Tommy-Burns-Training-Academy/151455734938631>

REVIEWS

CAIRDE NA HÉIREANN have released an album to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1981 hunger strike and the deaths of ten republican hunger strikers that year. A number of bands who play on the thriving Irish rebel music circuit in Scotland have contributed and recorded new songs for the CD.

There is a song about each of the ten brave men on the album. Gary Og has recorded a stunning version of Bik McFarlane's tribute to his comrade Bobby Sands, Song for Marcella. After hearing Gary sing this song at live gigs through the years it is great to have his version finally recorded. Claymore cover Christy Moore's powerful ballad about Francis Hughes, The Boy From Tamlaghtduff. Chris from Adelante recorded the beautiful ballad My Name Is Ray McCreesh which was written by New Yorker Dan Hannon (who also wrote Mandela/The Legend). Up and coming band Fianna sing 'Kieran's Song' and added in a new verse to mark 30 years since his passing.

One of the newest and exciting bands on the scene, Glasnevin, composed an original song for the album. Kevin Lynch Is My Name, which is the first original song wrote by the band, is an instant classic and has been well received by audiences in Scotland and Ireland since the band started playing it. Alan and Pat from Shebeen sing a fantastic new ballad about Martin Hurson. This song is based on a poem written by Dean O'Hara, who is an excellent writer and good friend of TAL for many years.

Other songs on the album include Ninety Miles from Dublin, a descriptive song about life on the blanket protest and performed by Podgie from Shebeen and Sean Lyons. Podgie is a singer who in my opinion is continuing to improve every time I hear him and does a wonderful version of this song. The Rising sing

Roll Of Honour which is still sung proudly by the Celtic support despite the authorities attempts to incorrectly brand it as sectarian.

The 1981 hunger strike period inspired many great songs and through song we ensure that the memory of those who died will never be forgotten. TAL highly recommends its readers to buy this CD and it would be a great addition to any Irish rebel

collection. The CD can be bought from the Cairde Na hEireann shop on the Gallowgate and is priced at £10.

Tracklist

Song for Marcella - Gary Og

The Boy From Tamlaghtduff - Claymore

The Time Has Come - An Spiorad

My Name is Ray McCreesh - Adelante

Joe McDonnell - The Rising

Martin Hurson - Alan and Pat Shebeen

Kevin Lynch is my Name - Glasnevin

Kieran's Song - Fianna

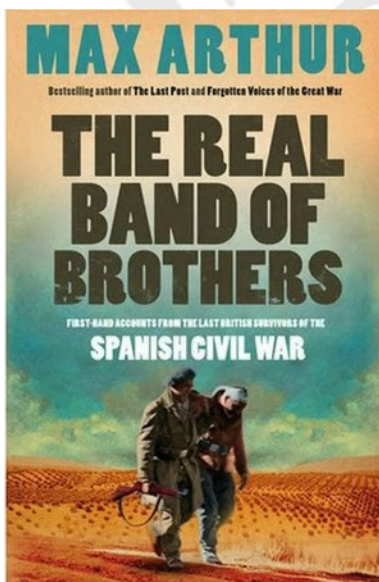
Farewell to Bellaghy - Erin's Rogues

Ultimate Sacrifice - Saoirse

Ninety Miles From Dublin - Podgie and Sean Lyons

Death Before Revenge - Mise Eire

Roll of Honour - The Rising



TWO THINGS REALLY stand out from The Real Band of Brothers; first the honesty and vividness of the accounts, secondly it's published by Harper Collins of all people. If it was actually about the WW2 Band of Brothers of the 101st Airborne made famous by the HBO series it wouldn't surprise me. But this is about those who went off to fight the Civil War in Spain, including members of the 15th International Brigade. It takes the format of personal accounts recounted to the author Max Arthur. Amongst the men and women interviewed are Bob Doyle and Jack Jones, but it also includes Nurses, Shop Stewards and surprisingly an Egyptologist?!

The book is unashamedly left wing, working class in its outlook and pro-republican (Irish as well as Spanish). It demonstrates the solidarity and the selflessness, but also the reality of how under resourced the republican forces were. Definitely a worthwhile read for Republican Socialist or Anti-fascist. The International Brigades Memorial Trust had a lot of copies available quite cheaply for a while but it also seems to be commonly available through most libraries as well. Recommended to anyone in TAL readership!

Talfanzine Merchandise



*T Shirts, Mugs, Clocks, Mouse Mats, even a jacket for your dog.
Check out Talfanzine's merchandise page @ the cafePress link below.
New products are being added all the time,
So be sure to check back regularly !!
Many more designs and products at our website.*

<http://www.cafePress.com/talfanzine>



fundraiser for Sean Dolans GAC, Derry

The Creggan community & those affiliated with the club have been left in shock after a recent arson attack on the Sean Dolans GAC. The selfishness of those involved will hopefully not go unpunished and the culprits dealt with accordingly.

When the Black and Tans raped and burned their way through Ireland, they would burn down buildings used by the communities. It seems now, we can rely on people who have the nerve to call themselves Irish to continue their handy work.

As these people set out to attack structures of the community, we in turn have set out to show them how wrong they are in supporting the rebuild of the building. This fundraiser in the Squirrel Bar is to show our solidarity with the people of Derry, the Creggan and the Sean Dolans GAC.



We hope you all can make it in show support for the Creggan and Sean Dolans GAC. Tickets are £5 and donations will be greatly appreciated.

Venue: Squirrel Bar, Gallowgate,

Friday, January 20th 2012

8:00pm til 11:00pm - Tickets £5

Sean Dolan - Derry Brigade

Glasnevin, after playing in the club for the last year or so, and developing a relationship with the staff and regulars, are proud organise a night to raise as much money as possible by the community here in Glasgow to help our comrades in the Creggan to rebuild their club.

THE PROCLAMATION OF
POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed in Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE.

SEAN Mac DIARMADA,
P. H. PEARSE,
JAMES CONNOLLY.

THOMAS MacDONAGH,
EAMONN CIZANNT,
JOSEPH PLUNKETT