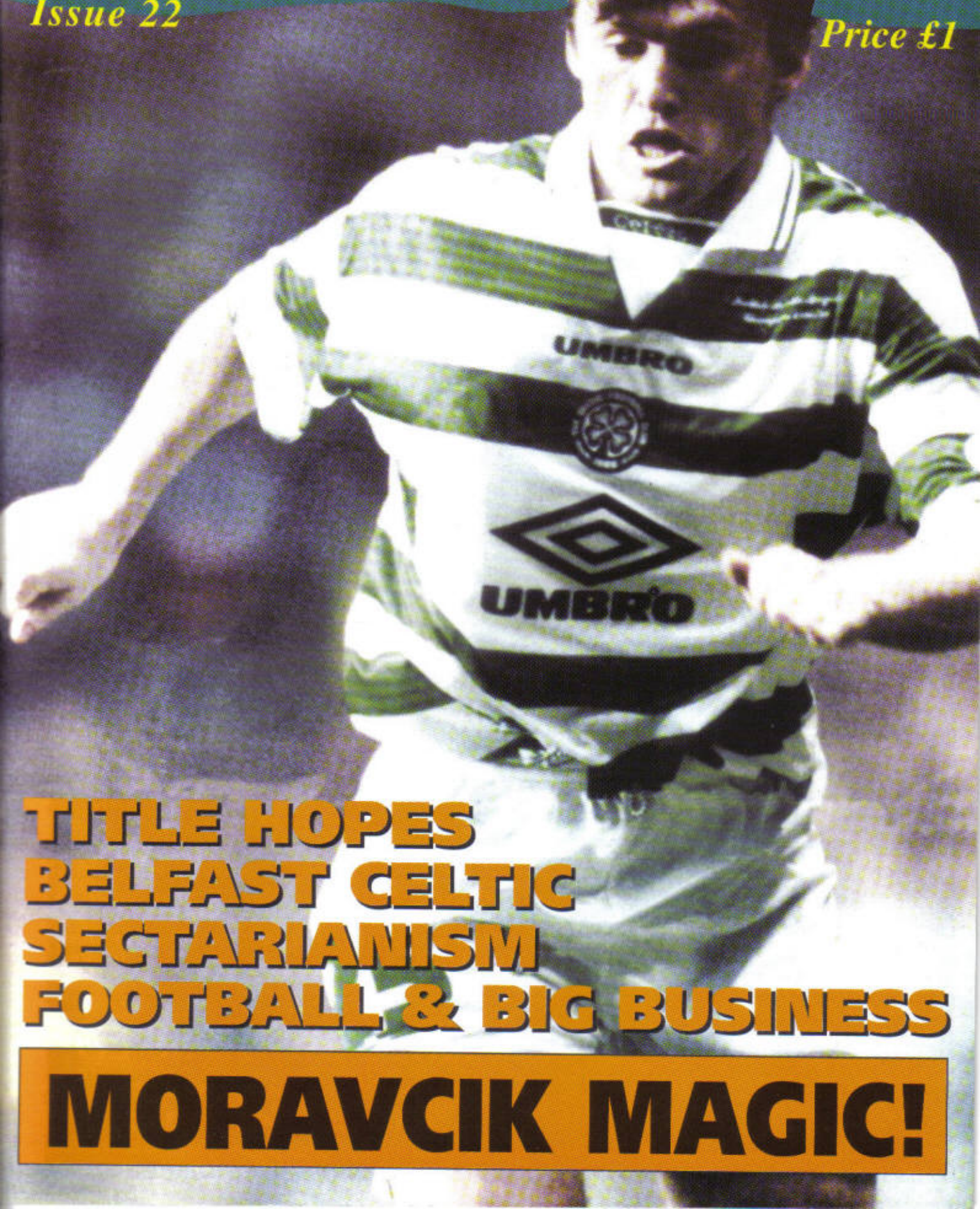


Tiocfaíobh Ár Lá

for celtic and ireland

Issue 22

Price £1



**TITLE HOPES
BELFAST CELTIC
SECTARIANISM
FOOTBALL & BIG BUSINESS**

MORAVCIK MAGIC!

Tíocfaidh Ar La!

Will Ye Just Go Fergus!

Well, it won't be too long to wait now before Fergus finally departs for pastures new. When he does swan off to Bermuda to annoy his neighbours there, he will take with him a nice big nest egg of between £35 and £45 million from his sale of his shares. Not a bad return on his original investment and a far cry from the statement that he made when he joined the board and said that he would be happy to walk away with a 10% return on his investment. Funny how the memory fades when your counting the poppy, isn't it. A future issue of TAL will assess Fergus' overall contribution to the club (and we're not talking purely financial contributions here). It is enough to say for now though that this fanzine will shed no tears when he does leave, quite the opposite. We do not share the views of Jock Brown and the Bhoystone fanzine that Fergus' legacy will be seen to have been on a par with that of Jock Stein's in future years. Just wait till the dust settles after he goes and we see exactly what he has left us with. His legacy, despite his best public relations efforts to present the opposite case, has been to create division where previously there was none. His departure gives us the opportunity to reunite the fans around the club and all of its history, not just the selected and revised parts according to the Book of Saint Fergus, Bhoys Against Bigotry. If it survives his leaving, will have to change into a genuine fan-based campaign against sectarianism and racism, rather than the one man personal crusade against a significant part of our own support. It is interesting that at the recent Equality Goal conference held at Celtic Park, PR Officer Peter McLean, claimed that a survey conducted by the club among the supporters found that 97% of the fans wanted an end to the singing of rebel songs in the stadium. I don't know if Peter knows the phrase, "*Lies, damn lies and statistics*", but that is exactly what his survey amounts to. You can get the answer you want if you ask the questions in a certain way. It was pointed out to McLean that his statistics could not possibly be true because the sales of this fanzine and its extended readership base reflects the opinions of, at the very least, between 20 - 30% of the supporters. This tends to suggest that we are representative of ten times the number of fans that the club claims. Peter McLean must have been taking lessons from the political spin doctors who run the country.



Catching Up On the Title Race!

As we keep saying the title race is far from over, but we haven't made it easy on ourselves due to dropping so many unnecessary points during the first half of the season. However, we have started off well after the winter break with the cup victory over the wee Huns from Airdrie and the demolishing of St. Johnstone (why couldn't we do this to them earlier in the season?). The contract wrangles appear to be settled one way or the other. There certainly won't be any more new signings before Fergus leaves, so the team we are watching at the moment is the side that will have to win the title. I think that we can do it. We still have the Huns to come again at Parkhead. Hopefully another beating will burst their bubble.

Join The TAL Supporters Club

In response to the growing demands of our readers and the absence of a working class solidarity movement worthy of the name, we at **Tíocfaidh Ar La!** are establishing our own 'supporters club'. The response to the initiative has been brilliant and confirms our reasons for starting the club. There are no restrictions to membership, other than a commitment to Celtic, Ireland and the political independence of working class people. The main reason for starting the club is to create a network of Celtic fans who want to do a bit more than just sing songs and wave flags. As individuals we can achieve little. Together we can make our views heard and our actions count.

Solidarity isn't about how many songs you know or how many books you've read or even how many marches you've been to. Don't talk about how much you do - ask yourself, "What difference do I make?" If you don't make a difference, then you aren't involved in effective solidarity work or effective political action.

The Chucky Charter

• **Tíocfaidh Ar La!** is for an independent Ireland, an independent Scotland, an independent Wales, and a politically independent working class.

• Membership is open to Celtic supporters wherever they live. All existing subscribers will be automatically enrolled as members of the TAL Supporters Club and will receive a club membership card. The cost of membership to non-subscribers is nominal. Simply send £1 for a membership card. This fee also covers the cost of regular mailings.

The benefits of membership will be that you can offer solidarity without the necessity of having to support the anti-Irish, anti-working class agenda of the British Labour Party and its "left wing" apologists.

• The club's campaign to eradicate all traces of our Irish identity must be fought against. TAL will be organising, with your help, a series of initiatives aimed at highlighting the political and cultural identity of Celtic supporters.

• As a TAL Supporter, you will be kept informed of, and invited to participate in, the activities of Celtic Anti-Fascists (CAF) and of Anti-Fascist Action (AFA) in your local area.

You will also be notified of the events and activities of other political organisations which we consider worthy of your participation, such as the South West Support Group, AFA, Red Action and The Independent Working Class Association (IWCA).

**TAL BOOKS, BM BOX 266,
LONDON, WC1N 3XX**

Contracts, Agents & Shrinks Madness, Money and Mind Games

In order for Celtic to have any hope of ending this campaign as we started it - as champions - the team cannot afford any slip-ups in the second half of the season. In other words, we have to have believe that we can win every game from hereon in.

The ten point lead of the Huns is not insurmountable. Rangers are not that good a team and they are prone to mistakes. The important thing now is that Celtic must punish them for every point that they drop.

The big dilemma for us is whether a team which seems to attract every scandal and problem that football has to offer off the park can get it's act together for a consistent run at the championship.

Now that the Mad Marco Viduka Affair appears to be reaching a settlement and the player is back at Celtic Park training, we can get on with regaining the title. The farce at Heathrow Airport was unnecessary and you wonder what is going on with players and agents when things like that happen. Fergus, of course, relished the opportunity to use his famous fax machine diplomacy. Well, he had to be good at something, didn't he? When you consider the shite that Fergus has thrown at Van Hooijdonk, Di Canio and Cadette since they left, I'd say that the egg was all over the small bald one's face regarding the Viduka deal.

Viduka almost lost the fans before he even kicked a ball, although his team mates have made him welcome since his arrival at Celtic Park. There will still be suspicion and doubt in the minds of the fans about Viduka's commitment to the club given his carry-on before he eventually pulled on the hoops. Hopefully, that will make him even keener to perform well and he will start banging in the goals in his efforts to win over our affections.

We also have our out of contract "rebels/stars" (depending on the paper you read and the day of the week). This problem should be the simplest one to solve. It might not be the most popular suggestion, but I would dump Donnelly and McLaughlin and use the savings from paying their wages to partly finance the new contracts for Burchill, McBride and Wieghorst (Let's face it. If Wieghorst was fit, would we even be considering extending O'Donnell's contract?).



Some fans may be surprised that I have picked out Simon Donnelly as a player who I believe can be allowed to leave Celtic. Simon has been an 'up and coming youngster' for years now. He only seems to play with fire in his belly when we have a few goals to cushion us in matches against weaker opposition. I offer one piece of evidence as damning proof of Simon's lack of bottle when the occasion requires it. Donnelly has now played against Rangers 20 times and has yet to score a goal against the Huns. I rest my case, your honour.

In most of those games against the Huns you would have hardly have known that Donnelly was playing were it not for the fact that his name was announced before the match. If Walter Smith can be persuaded to part with some money before Donnelly's contract expires, we should take it. If not, then it's tatty-bye at the end of the season.

O'Donnell has hit a rich seam of form just in time for his contract negotiations. Either Phil O'Donnell is a conman or a comedian. I mean, anyone who can only turn in just over 40 appearances in three years and asks for a pay rise has got to be taking the piss or having a laugh. Nevertheless, I do think that on present form he was probably worth another extension on his existing contract, but I'd also keep hold of Weighorst as back up.

As for 'Bridget the Midget' McLaughlin, I couldn't believe that this chancer was still on Celtic's books, never mind trying to renegotiate his contract. He should be laughed off the premises with the full 60,000 fans splitting their sides as he goes. New contract? You must be fucking joking, son!

Let's accentuate the positive though. Mark Burchill may well not be the finished article, but from what we have seen of him so far it would have been sheer neglect if Celtic had let him go. After all, what about all the talk of the need to rear local talent? Burchill is certainly that. Yet, when a talent like his is discovered, it's dollar signs that Fergus' sees. There should be no penny pinching or needless exploitation in the face of such talent at the club. Apart from anything else, Marc Burchill is Celtic, through and through. He doesn't want to play for any other team. That commitment to the cause coupled with his obvious talent is good enough for me. I, like all the rest of the Celtic support, breathed a big sigh of relief when Marc put pen to paper.

Another young player who has all of the precocious talent of a young Paul McStay in midfield is John Paul

McBride. Rumour has it that John Paul is extremely unhappy with his lot at Parkhead and he has become embittered at being continually passed over for a first team place. This player, who is regarded as one of the best midfield prospects in British football, is about to walk out the door of Celtic Park and no-one seems to want to stop him. If the rumours are true we may have already passed the point of no return in terms of keeping hold of McBride. Remember the name because if he is allowed to go, you can bet your bottom dollar that John Paul McBride will be back to haunt us in later years.

The situation with Morten Wieghorst is only a problem because the guy has been injured since coming back from the World Cup. The real irony is that the club are favouring Phil O'Donnell over Wieghorst in the contract stakes. O'Donnell is fit now, but for how long? Certainly, Phil has turned in a decent shift since returning to full fitness, probably his best phase since his sensational debut game for the club. That Morten Wieghorst has not even been talked to by the club about his future is disgraceful. The guy played his part in winning the championship last year and deserves better. Indeed, considering the injury prone history of O'Donnell who we have given a rise, it is the club's responsibility to look after Big Morten and not to shun him just because he has been crocked for the season. I still think that the big Dane has a role to play at Parkhead, but I'm not so sure that Fergus sees it that way.

Elsewhere in the team the signs appear to be good. Big Johann Mjallby looks like a really good signing. He is composed and skilful at the back, rarely panics and even manages to pop up in goal scoring positions now and again. Hopefully the rumours that Marc Rieper might be crocked for good are only rumours because having Rieper, Mjallby and Stubbs playing in defence would be a dream come true. Aside from anything else, it would certainly give us potentially our best defence for years and would sharpen up, the competition for places at the back.

Lubo Moravcik continues to be a revelation. What a player! It's a pity that we have got him now that he's 33, because I could enjoy watching this guy play for years to come. His skill is immense and he stretches defences all over the place. Dr. Jo, who knows him best, appears to allow him a sort of free role to move between midfield and attack. A great foil to Laarson's trickery up front.



I thought that Stephane Mahe had one of his best games for Celtic in the 2-2 draw with the Huns and we should have got the penalty when he was chopped down in their area. He can still be a bit erratic, but the addition of more quality at the back in the shape of Mjallby appears to have calmed his nerves and his resemblance to Anton Rogan seems to have subsided for the moment.



Tommy Boyd's legs are not what they once were, but I have to say that I think his time as captain of Celtic has been a good one. He conducts himself very well both on and off the park and is a really good ambassador for the club. I don't know if he can maintain consistent form but, again, like Mahe, the extra quality in defence appears to have calmed his nerves. He is still good for the runs up the park and crosses into the box for the strikers.

Lambert continues to do what Lambert does best. Sit tight in the midfield, slow things down when we need to and make some telling passes. He is quality and I reckon he could be in line for the captain's armband when Tommy's legs give up completely. Smell the glove, Paul!

As for the crocked Burley, he is another player that we know will give his all when he comes back. There's no worries there. Get well soon Craig!

Regi Blinker continues on the fringes and looks unlikely to break out of them. Maybe, just maybe, one day Regi will surprise us all, but don't hold your breath waiting for it. Time is running out for Regi at Celtic Park.

Just when you go and write Harald Bratbak off he goes and confounds us with a hat trick against St. Johnstone. Still not enough to convince me that he's about to become the goal scoring machine that we were led to believe he was when he signed from Rosenburg. Still, it will boost his price when we come to sell him. His countryman, Riseth, still looks out of position playing on the right but he is starting to adapt and his confidence grows with each victory.

Last but not least, we have the imminent departure of Saint Fergus to look forward to. Hopefully, his departure will give the team a much needed boost in their run-in for the championship. At least they won't have to look into the stand and be greeted by his miserable face staring back at them. Those who do eventually take over the reins of the club will have a few weeks to assess what Fergus & Co have left and sort out any damage done by them to players and contracts. The sooner the better Fergus... *Kidder*

**team
talk**

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

During last year's World Cup in France, Franz Beckenbauer stated that he thought that within ten years international football would be dead. In other words, club football would supercede the national team game and the World Cup as a tournament would diminish in importance.

This was the first verbal attack in what looks like being a long war. There is a three sided fight shaping up between FIFA, with it's international bureaucracy who want to keep their stranglehold of the game and, more importantly, on the pursestrings. Secondly, we have the clubs with delusions of grandeur who want to see a European Super League outwith the control of UEFA or FIFA. That's what Berlusconi at Milan is after and it's also the long term reasoning behind Murdoch's bid for Manchester United. Thirdly, there is the strange sight of UEFA rebelling against it's masters in FIFA. This was very evident when Sepp Blatter, FIFA's chief bureaucrat, put forward a proposal to hold the World Cup every two years. Blatter's proposal was given short shrift by UEFA's chief executive, Gerard Aigner, who described it as disastrous for the football clubs, their players and fans. For Aigner and UEFA the situation couldn't get much worse. Already fighting for their existence against the sporadic moves by the richest clubs to break away to form a super league, they now have a second front to fight in the shape of FIFA's plans for the World Cup which threaten to end the European Championships.

As we have seen in Scotland and England with the creation of the Scottish Premier League and the English Premiership, the top clubs are seeking greater autonomy from their national league structures. Big business is ready and waiting to take full advantage of the situation. The English National Investment Company (ENIC) already have their claws into clubs all over Europe (including our friends at the Govan Reichstag). Rupert Murdoch is after Manchester United and, of course, the Dalglish/Kerr Consortium is backed by an investment company owned by Deutsche Bank. There is a financial war being fought in the world's stock exchanges between major multinational companies because of the globalisation of the game and the lucrative returns that

satellite, cable and digital TV offer. The winners will effectively control the media coverage of the game on a world-wide basis and the megabucks that come with it. Football will effectively become a brand leader for the expansion of these new media outlets. Let no-one be kidded by the hype, these multinationals have no love for football as a sport. For them football is simply the means to an end - massive profits.

In Celtic's case, we still have the opportunity to opt out of this financial chess game. The present role of big business at Celtic Park is unclear due to the fact that Fergus has managed to obscure where exactly his money has come from, who his financial backers have been and what their links to major financial institutions are. Suffice to say that the trail for McCann's millions goes cold in the strange and suspicious banking system of Jersey. Britain's answer to a secret Swiss bank account.

The involvement of Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr with a major financial institution does not mean that they as individuals do not have the best interests of Celtic at heart. There is no doubt that they are desperate to take a hand in putting the club back at the top, not only in Scotland but in Europe too. Dalglish and Kerr are not the problem. It is their involvement with Deutsche Bank that is the problem. How can Celtic fans trust a corporate bank? Don't forget that the German bankers were not the original guarantors of the consortium's bid. Originally, their bid was backed by BT Capital Investments, who were in turn bought out by Deutsche Bank within a fortnight of the consortium declaring an interest in Celtic.

If Deutsche Bank were to gain control of Celtic PLC there will be no way back for Celtic as a club. The club would be left completely vulnerable to the wheelings and dealings of the market. To the bank, Celtic would become just another commodity in it's overall portfolio. That means that Celtic would be vulnerable to runs on the stock exchange, takeovers and buy outs. It would not be inconceivable that like Everton we could conceivably be forced to sell our major assets (i.e. star players) in order to balance the books. I can't see any

interpretation of this possibility that would be in the interests of the club or the fans.

There's no doubt that football is currently going through it's greatest upheaval since the break between professionalism and amateurism. What we are left with we will only know when the dust settles. Therefore to argue against the increasing greed of big business and the machinations of small minded men with big wallets is not to stand in the way of progress. Rather, it is a genuine attempt by football supporters to preserve what is already theirs and take stock of what the globalisation of football really means for the most important part of the game - the supporters. That's the missing link in all of the discussions about leagues, superleagues and megaclubs. The lifeblood of football are not the millions of couch potatoes who watch from the comfort of an armchair, but the thousands who pack grounds like Celtic Park, week in and week out. That is something that big business will never understand. They don't have a product worth buying if there's no atmosphere inside the stadiums. Their bid to control every aspect of the sport, financially, and otherwise, has led to a sanitisation of football. It is to be repackaged, made cosmetically acceptable and resold to the middle classes. Working class football supporters with their banners, songs and chants are considered an embarrassing hangover of a bygone age. The tail is now wagging the dog. It's about time that the dog bit back.

Kidder

Joanna Dee's

A warm welcome awaits all Celtic supporters at Joanna Dee's

Live Irish Music

(before every home game)

At the corner of Duke Street and Todd Street (Nr. The Forge Shopping Centre)

5 minutes walk to Celtic Park

Buses Welcome

BARÇA

With the increasing domination of big business in football, it is refreshing to know that some clubs still belong to the fans and that such clubs are not amateur shitkickers from nowhere. Far from it.

FC Barcelona remains firmly in the hands of its fans - all 105,877 of them. The club president Josep Luis Nunez was elected by the club's entire membership and if they are dissatisfied in any way with what he is doing they can kick him out again. Barcelona are living proof that democracy in a football club does not always lead to mediocrity. Barca are the most successful club side in Europe in the 1990's with five Spanish championships and four European trophies. The Nou Camp Stadium is the largest in Europe with an all seater capacity of 105,000. Their average attendance is more than 90,000 (the highest in the world) and they have 85,000 season ticket holders with 1,230 officially registered supporters clubs. These aren't just buses, they are social clubs like the one in London Road - 1,230 of them! Barca really does belong to its fans.

Contrast this with our own situation at Celtic or with the power games that are taking place at Manchester United and you can see that regardless of what Fergus claims he wants to do with his shares, whatever happens it will not be us who end up running the club. Yet, the similarities between Celtic and Barca are not only superficial in terms of a similarly fanatical fan base. It goes deeper than that.

During the decades of fascist rule in Spain under General Franco, FC Barcelona became a symbol of resistance for the Catalan people. Their language was banned, their flag was banned. The football terraces became the focal point for the outpouring of Catalan nationalism and anti-fascist resistance. In fact the club's motto to this day is "More Than A Football Club". Remind you of anything? Just as Celtic has become the focal point for the political expression of a hidden community in Scotland, the Irish; so too did Barca become the expression of all things Catalanian.

Barcelona's board are elected on a four yearly basis by all 100,000 plus members of the club, known as socis. And it costs only £77 per year to become a member. The president and the other 39 board members do not take a single penny out of the club and the club's accounts are examined on a yearly basis by two companies of independent accountants and their audit is then

subjected to a vote at a general assembly of more than 3,000 fans representatives. Corruption of the general Assembly is guarded against because the representatives are obliged to change every two years by a notarised draw. Effectively, Barcelona is run as a Sports Club. The members are everything. There are no shareholders which means that there are no shareholders dividends to pay. Every penny of profit is either put in the bank or reinvested in the club.

An independent study rated Barcelona's potential stock exchange value at £1 billion. That's almost double what Murdoch recently offered for Man Utd! However much greedy fatcats might like to get their hands on Barca, stock exchange flotation is not possible because every club member owns a little piece of the club and every piece is of equal size. There's no Mr. 51% at Barcelona, it's one person one vote. A recent survey by the Italian league placed Barcelona as the second-richest football club in the world with a yearly turnover of £70 million.

There are club's in Britain which claim a higher value but that includes assets like their stadiums and players. Barca's value would multiply if the same criteria were used. They not only have the Nou Camp, they also have another stadium for their B squad which seats 16,000 people. Also on the same site are their football academy, training pitches, basketball stadium, ice hockey rink and a superb museum. Their assets alone are valued at more than £100 million. They have megadeals with sponsors including a new £88 million deal with Nike. The local Catalan TV Station pays £2.7 million a year just to show Barca's friendly games! Pay per view has been going for two seasons in Spain and Barcelona expect to earn £21 million just for this season alone. The truly amazing thing is that Barcelona don't even have a shirt sponsor! Splashing a company name across the shirt is considered by the members (fans) as a sacrilege to the team colours.

And how much does all this cost the fans, I hear you ask? It must cost a fortune for a season ticket, eh? Nope. Barcelona are the cheapest team to watch in the Spanish league. The most expensive seat at the Nou Camp costs £289. Add that to your £77 membership fee and it still only costs £366 per year for the best seat in the house. Seats in the upper tiers of the stadium come in at as little as £92 per season. This is not a dream. I'm not making it up. Check it for yourself, it's all true.

So, the next time you read the likes of Matt McGlone in the Celtic View talking of the brave new world of football or read in Bhoystone that there is no alternative to Saint Fergus, just say one word - Barcelona. Maybe if we all clicked our heels together at the same time and said, "There's no place like the Nou Camp", we could turn Celtic into Scotland's Barcelona and wish Fergus and all the other money grabbers out of existence!

(Eck)

There's no 'Mr. 51%' at Barcelona...

Every club member owns a little piece of the club and every piece is of equal size...

It's one person one vote.

We reproduce an article which appeared in the January edition of the *Bhoyszone* fanzine which attempts to rewrite history and somewhat disingenuously presents the case for *Bhoys Against Bigotry* (BAB) and all things Fergus. It appeared in the Bill Caesar's Forum column. We do not agree with either the article's conclusions or its smart arsed patronising tone. Wee Eck replies for TAL on the opposite page.



Kiss and Make Up Time (from *Bhoyszone*, No. 19)

For the past couple of years, Celtic fans have been deeply divided on their opinion of how the club is being run. As a fully paid up member of the "Fergus is God" tendency, I have struck a few blows for our ride in this fhanzine (*sic*), at home with recalcitrant in-laws, in the pub with fellow Tims, and at work with Daily Record lookers (the word "reader" is hardly applicable now is it?).

Although guys like me enjoy a verbal scrap from time to time, there comes a time in every argument when one has to try to see the other guy's point of view. Despite my incredulity that any Celtic supporter sentient enough to walk along the street in something that approximates a straight line could possibly find serious fault with the Bunnet's stewardship of the club, I have come to a startling conclusion.

All of those guys who called me a Hun for supporting Fergus (however deranged they seemed to me) were simply exercising their own passion; their deep love of Celtic; and voicing concern over what damage they thought was being done.

What I see as ingratitude and allowing themselves to become the pawns of the Hun meeja, was in fact a deep rooted fear that Fergus was changing the nature of Celtic forever. I've got news for them. He was changing the face of Celtic forever. We will never again be the big fish in the small pond Celtic. As the club's progress continues over the next few years, we will find ourselves part of a big picture - and we will be major players at the major feature. For a man who only wanted to remain for 5 years at Celtic, it surprised me that he had the balls to take on the BAB thing (*we take it that BAB is Bhoys Against Bigotry - Tal*). The cynical in our midst aver that this is only a ploy to make Celtic more attractive in the stock market, thus increasing the value of Fergus' shares (Ah, if I had a pound for every time I've heard the last part of that phrase, I would not be doing a great deal of graft for the rest of my natural). This is of course nonsense, because BAB will not bear any extra marketable fruit for Celtic until well after McCann departs, but there is a grain of truth in that embracing the principles of BAB was a courageous - and necessary move in the cause of making Celtic a really big player internationally. BAB though id part of the club. Sure there are those who eschew its principles, but most who do simply fail to understand it. BAB is not about proscription for the sake of one's political beliefs. People with Irish republican sympathies may find contempt in the columns of the British press, but not amongst the descendants of Irish nationalist immigrants in Scotland. They may not find agreement, but they will certainly find no antagonism. People from Irish backgrounds will always have a home at Celtic Park among the vanguard of Timdom.

BAB underpins that in fact, but BAB also asks those of us from families whose parents and grandparents were discriminated against to learn from those experiences and extend our understanding of prejudice to embrace others who are discriminated against NOW. The Irish of today in Scotland are the Asians, the unemployed, the 16 - 18 year olds who have no right to benefit. They are the kids who are being deprived of an education and adequate health care because our government has its priorities in other areas. The Irish of today are the children of the six counties (both sides) who have never known, and could never imagine a life without prejudice or destruction or people dying in the streets as a matter of course.

All of the above groups - and more - have benefited from BAB, and its practical applications through the underpinning of the Celtic Charities Fund. That is something of which we should all be proud. Celtic, like the rest of the world around us, is becoming more cosmopolitan. We have to look outward to express the values of the community from which we come. We have to share those values with others, and be happy to welcome others into the Celtic fold. To achieve that is of infinitely more value than retaining the freedom to sing a few songs at a football match. All that is good and is of value in being of Irish descent can be far more eloquently and effectively portrayed in how we treat others. That is the only way to keep the spirit of 111 years ago alive. Much more effectively than shouting loudest from the terracings.

However we feel about it, what's done is now done. I think it's time - in view of Fergus' imminent departure, for us all to put the arguments behind us, and to get on with supporting the club and the team in their efforts to make us all famous. We owe ourselves an outbreak of peace, and in case no-one noticed, its all the rage these days across the water. (Bill Caesar's Forum)

Collaborators Will Be Shot!

It is very curious that now, as Fergus McCann's departure from Celtic becomes imminent, the Bhozone fanzine should start their attempts to rehabilitate themselves with talk of 'burying the hatchet' after supporting McCann's attacks on the Irish heritage of Celtic fans for the last five years. The arch-hypocrite McGlone even heralded the arrival of a new Irish fanzine in his Pravda column recently and has started talking up fans' concerns. As you can probably tell, it will take some convincing that these guys are anything other than chameleons who are intent on changing the colour of their skin as they await the new regime at Celtic Park. It's a bit like those people of the Vichy Regime in France who during the war collaborated with the Nazi occupiers, sending French Jews to the death camps. When the communist resistance overthrew the nazis, those French fascists who had collaborated cried that, "It would have been worse if we had not been there to temper their worst excesses". Wisely, the communists shot the collaborating fascist bastards. Now, I'm not calling for anyone to be shot for collaborating with McCann's regime, just letting them know that some of us have long memories when it comes to settling old scores.

Let's look at the very existence of *Bhozone*. This must be the only fanzine which was not a product of supporters' discontent and which started life *after* the fans had achieved the victory over the old board. It's only function appears to have been to shore up support for Fergus McCann. It reminds me of a fanzine that appeared a few years ago and which ran for only a couple of issues. It was called *Hail Hail!* and was widely suspected to have been financed by the old board in order to create confusion with other fanzines like our own and NTV. Even if *Bhozone* is not financed or produced by the hierarchy at Celtic Park, it might as well be, because it says little of consequence and offers little criticism of how the club is run. These guys even lamented the departure of Jock Brown. Indeed, they were his strongest supporters. It is, therefore, with our usual dose of cynicism that we greet their offers to "kiss and make up".

Perhaps the greatest insult contained in Bill Caesar's article is to lecture and patronise us about racism and oppression. When did these chancers discover that there was a big world outside of Celtic Park? We don't need any lessons about fighting racism from *Bhozone*, who have been conspicuously silent about the issue until now. Funny that they suddenly start showing concern about the plight of the Asian community just as Celtic PLC launch an initiative to link up with Asian business organisations. The campaign called The Equality Goal has a veneer of anti-racist rhetoric but is simply a PR exercise aimed at increasing business sponsors for the club. Anti-racism repackaged as a marketing exercise.

One very insulting statement in the article is, "*The Irish of today in Scotland are the Asians...*" This ill-informed statement supposes that anti-Irish racism no longer exists and that the Irish have been integrated and accepted into wider society. Tell it to the Birmingham 6, the Guildford 4, Judy Ward and the countless other Irish victims of British 'justice'.

I have news for Bill Caesar, there are 50,000 people from Donegal in Glasgow and, along with those from other counties like Mayo and Cavan, they form the biggest ethnic minority in this city. They are, however, in relation to other ethnic minorities, under funded and underrepresented. If the Irish from Glasgow were living in an English city they would be awash

with funds and community centres provided by their local councils. Here in Scotland, the normal reaction to the Irish is to tell us to keep the head down and, worse, to deny our very existence as a community. This integrationist approach covers not only the Bhozone idiots and the Celtic boardroom, it is also widely promoted by political parties from Labour and the Tories to elements of Scottish republicanism.

We are told to celebrate everyone else's culture and diversity, except of course when it comes to our own culture and heritage. That is precisely why Celtic as a club became the outward expression of our Irishness - because we weren't allowed to celebrate our culture anywhere else. The argument is deeper than Bhozone seem to realise. This is not about "...shouting loudest from the terracings", it's about our fundamental civil rights as a community to celebrate our Irishness and our culture - our very existence. It is interesting that the argument about "*the Irish of today...*" was repeated virtually word for word by Peter McLean, Celtic's Public Relations Officer, at The Equality Goal conference held at Parkhead. Who is writing the script, I wonder? The Irish in today's Scotland are still the Irish, no matter what Mr McLean and Bhozone try to tell us. Catholics in Scotland make up a disproportionate part of the prison population (three times as likely to be jailed according to official reports) and are the victims of what can only be described as racially and politically motivated crimes.

By all means, we should make common cause with other victims of racism. This fanzine has promoted that idea since our foundation. More than that, we have actually gone out and done it. We have been on the anti-racist demos, we have physically confronted fascists on the streets of Glasgow, Edinburgh and other Scottish towns and we have taken up the issue of sectarian attacks upon Celtic supporters. We don't need any lessons from some Bhozone smart arse who has suddenly been prompted by the PLC into taking up these matters. That's where the real cynicism lies, with the likes of Bill Caesar and Celtic PLC who see anti-racism and anti-sectarianism as a commodity to sell the club's corporate image to Asian businessmen rather than to show solidarity with people under attack.

When *Bhozone* were approached to support the **Campaign Against Sectarian Attacks**, all that they could say was, "*We don't like what you say about Fergus!*" That was all they had to say in relation to those of us who wanted to do something about the murders and attempted murders of Celtic fans at Bridgeton Cross. How can Bill Caesar be trusted to show solidarity with the Asian victims of racism when he can't even show solidarity with his own fellow Celtic supporters? We do not judge people by what they say but by what they do. *Bhozone* have contributed diddly squat to the fight against racism, sectarianism or any of the other of society's ills that were included in Bill Caesar's list of charity cases. They're very good at telling the rest of us what we should be doing but where's the examples of their own commitment to these issues apart from just repeating the slogans of Bhoys Against Bigotry?

Bill's reference to "*peace.. being all the rage across the water*" is deeply insulting to us as Irish Republicans. The current peace process was actually initiated by the Republican Movement. They have been the major movers and players throughout the process. We take very seriously the suggestion, however flippantly made, that we are not interested in 'peace' because we are still prepared to fight for equal rights at Celtic Park.

(Wee Eck)

Farewell Dermo

"Yes! Yes! I'm on!" He exclaimed as he took his seat next to us on the 7am morning flight out of Dublin, heading for Glasgow; heading into that never to be forgotten weekend in May. Clearly, he was overjoyed to be boarding the plane because minutes earlier he had no seat and was concerned about his chances of getting one of the standby places. He was, however, determined to be in the city for the afternoon even if he had to take a connection flight to London or Manchester, because this was going to be the biggest thrill of young Diarmuid O'Leary's life - hopefully, seeing his beloved Celtic clinch the league title for the first time in his years of travelling over for matches. The next time we saw Dermo was proof, if proof was needed, that Celtic had done exactly that. The party was in full swing in the Clada Club and he had been partying hard that day (which one of us wasn't partying?). Dermo and his mates took their leave and retired early to their hotel on the sort of highest high that only true Celts felt that night. Dermo was living his dream.

My own celebration party moved from the Clada Club on the Saturday night and continued on to McCormick's Bar in Bellshill on the Sunday for many hours of joy and happiness. The rest of us were oblivious to the harsh news that would greet us when we woke up on the Monday morning. Dairmuir O'Leary had been tragically killed in a hotel fire on the Sunday morning. The smoke inhalation had overcome him while he was asleep. By the time the firemen had rescued his friends, who had been in a sort of heaven when he left us the night before was sadly to stay there. One of our Celtic brothers would not be travelling back with us. It is impossible to explain the feelings that went from elation about our team's success to despair at hearing this news.

Dairmuir O'Leary's father, Jer, is well known to Celtic fans and republicans around Dublin, not least for his poetry and speeches at commemorations and at Celtic ballad sessions. Jer had also been in Glasgow for the game and by pure chance had met up with his only son after the match, outside the stadium. They both shared the moment of triumph together, but only for a short time. This brief encounter proved to be of great comfort to Dermo's grieving father later.

The measure of esteem that this family are held in could be judged by the enormous number of mourners who thronged the church for Dermo's funeral almost two weeks later. Representatives from many Celtic Supporters Clubs throughout Ireland, politicians, councillors, actors, friends from Glasgow and of course those friends who had survived the fire. There were many who did not know Dermo personally, football fans who had been touched by the tragedy. There were cards of sympathy from all over, including one from the Celtic Ticket Office staff. Disappointingly, there was no official representative from Celtic at the funeral despite the PR department being contacted. Considering the tragic circumstances of Dermo's death and the media coverage, it would have been a courteous act for the club to have been officially represented.

The funeral was like no other, a very sombre occasion but also a very poignant one for the Celtic fans who attended. The priest's

constant references to Johnny Thompson and other Celtic legends who have left before their time and who Dermo would now meet was very comforting. A lone piper led

the cortege from the church very slowly and as he 'aired' the Celtic Song, followed by The Ballad of Johnny Thompson, there wasn't a dry eye in the church. Men of stone were moved that day. Then to the churchyard where the piper was joined by another, significantly younger piper and they led us to the burial ground where a friend of too few years would be laid to rest. An absolutely moving oration at the graveside from Robert Ballagh of the Irish National Congress and, after a beautifully read poem about Big Jim Larkin, Dairmuir O'Leary's body was laid to rest... He will be sadly missed.

(By Smiler)

Slan Go Foill, Dermo. A dhia na bhfeart, Suaimhness siorai da anam.



Over and Over

He had gone for to be one of the people, to circle again the mystic stone, to dip his bread in Brother Walfrid's bowl. On the most joyous day of his young life, he was to be taken without explanation, lost in his tenement bothy as once they were in the rat-straw hell of Kirkintilloch.

Always. inexplicably, I thrilled on seeing the boy. He had the cut, jut and strut of his father, his mother's soft watching eye, the loving, giggling bond of his sisters. There was first that awkward shyness, a struggling conversation until we minded Jimmy McGrory and Charlie Tully, Jinky Johnstone and King Billy McNeill, Bonner, Nicholas and Dalglish, the warp, weft and twine of that special plaid woven for him by his father and grandfather.

Francis Devine: Dawn, 12 May 1998.

RED ACTION

Red Action is now available in its new regular magazine format for the very cheap price of 70p plus a 1st class stamp from TAL. For unique analysis of working class issues issues, anti-fascism and Ireland, buy Red Action. The best political magazine around.



Manic Street Preachers - This Is My Truth, Tell Me Yours (Epic) Wales' finest live up to their reputation with this great album. Confident and fearless, with songs about Hillsborough, Welsh flood disasters and the Spanish Civil War. Thought provoking stuff. (HRD)

Roddy Frame - The North Star (Independiente) Roddy Frame was the main man with Aztec Camera, one of the best jangly guitar bands from Glasgow (well, East Kilbride to be exact) in the '80's. This is not a patch on the Aztec's finest moments but should keep his cult following happy. (Eck)

Delakota - One Love (Go Beat) Ex Senseless Thing, Cass Brown, makes an impressive debut as Delakota. This is a mixture of acoustic guitar and harmonic sounds. Definitely one to watch. (HRD)

REM - UP (WEA) REM are regarded by many as the true inheritors of the "kings of the three minute pop song" title. Their illustrious career has spanned tunes that will one day rank alongside anything the Beatles and Stones produced in their '60's heyday. In their dotage they have become a bit more pretentious and lyrically obscure. Nevertheless, Up is one of the best albums of '98. (HRD)

Paurescence - Only Forever (Island) This moody Mancunian four piece are in with a shout in '99. They need a little more originality in their music, but the vocals are superb. (HRD)

Sinead Lohan - No Mermald (Grapevine) Sinead is full of passion, but all too often she falls into the wannabe Alanis Morissette category. She should have the confidence to develop her own obvious talents. (HRD)

Jackie Leven - Night Lillies (Cooking Vinyl) Leven has a voice I once heard described as "like a world weary 15 year old Malt". A genuinely great songwriter who, like a good Malt, gets better each year. (HRD)

The Beautiful South - Quench (Go Discs) The seventh album from the greatest band ever to come out of Hull (apart, of course, from Paul Heaton's previous incarnation, The Housemartins!) They don't get the recognition or credit they deserve for their brand of pop. (HRD)

Paul Weller - Modern Classics (Island) Paul Weller has been around now for more than twenty years and judging by Modern Classics, he'll still be banging out great songs in another twenty years. This is a 'best of...' hits album, but it's also the best of the best of '98 by a long way. I like the way his first hit is played last here. Weller is simply 'God-like'. I'm a fan, as if you didn't know. (HRD)

Martin Carthy - Signs of Life (Topic) The standard setter of the British folk scene does it again. Good lyrics, good songs. (HRD)

Alanis Morissette - Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie (WEA) To follow Jagged Little Pill was always going to be hard and this 17 track effort stops and starts so many times that it sounds badly put together. Only half as good as her last effort. (HRD)

Fatboy Slim - You've Come A Long Way Baby. (Skint) Norman Cook does it again! Music you can't stop singing along to and dancing to. Check it out now... (HRD)

Kristin Hersch - Murder, Misery and then Goodnight. (4AD) What the fuck is this all about? Music to hang yourself to. Every Hun deserves one. (HRD)

Audioweb - Fireworks City (Mother) Second album from a band who deserve to be massive. Their music is a mix of great sounds. Will '99 be their year? (HRD)

Rae & Christian - Northern Sulphuric Soul (Grand Central) More Mancunians doing hip-hop, but this time doing it with some style. The mixing on the tracks is excellent with some great vocals to add. (HRD)

The Levellers - Best of (China) 15 years down the line and every track is brilliant. Don't be put off by the smellies and crusties who follow them because the Levellers are well ahead of their 'anarcho' audience. Great collection of songs on one CD. If you haven't experienced the delights of the Levellers political anthems, this is the album for you. (HRD)

Portishead - NYC (Go Beat) They have only produced two studio albums so far, so it seems a bit early to be putting out a live one. However, who's going to argue about Portishead because anything by them is worth listening to and this is live music at its best. (HRD)

Divine Comedy - Fin De Siecle (Setanta) This is a strange album, but then again The Divine Comedy are a pretty strange bunch. Sounds like Noel Coward to me. This is a 'love it or hate it' album from a 'love them or hate them' band. (HRD)

The Paradise Motel - Flight Paths (Infectious) Despite the dodgy middle-of-the-road sounding name and the progressive rock sounding album title, this Australian band are the business. A hidden gem of a band waiting for the big break. This, their second album might just be the one. (HRD)

They Might Be Giants - Severe Tire Damage (Cooking Vinyl) Since the hit single 'Birdhouse In Your Soul' TMBG have not produced anything worthwhile. Severe Tire Damage sees them back on form. (HRD)

Ash - Nu Clear Sounds (Infectious) Ash are to the late 90's what the Undertones were to the late 70's, and that's high praise indeed. Some great tracks from one of Ireland's finest on this their third album. Best tracks 'Jesus Says' and 'Death Trip 21' (HRD)

Andy White - Compilation Andy White is a Belfast man who is often compared to Billy Bragg and Elvis Costello. From the Irish punk scene, this is a collection of his finest moments. (HRD)

Rebel Des - Margini Rebel Des are an Italian ska band who are proof positive that the Italian anti-fascist skinhead/ska scene is the best and most innovative in Europe. Although there are only a couple of songs in English on this CD, you don't need to understand the words to dance to the catchy beat of their music. I liked Heila Pelota and Nobody Cares especially. (Eck) Their website is at www.rebeldes.com.

The Chieftans - Tears of Stone (BMG) Some of the world's greatest female singers are featured on this, yet another of the Chieftans' 'theme' albums. Joni Mitchell, Sinead O'Connor and Bonnie Raitt to name but a few. This type of album is becoming a bit of a speciality for the Chieftans and they rarely fail to disappoint. For a bunch of old codgers they're still up there with the best of them. (HRD)

Blood or Whiskey - Blood or Whiskey (Sound Records) This CD should have been reviewed a couple of issues ago, so apologies to the band for letting them down. Blood or Whiskey hail from Co. Kildare and sound like a mad bunch of bastards if this record is anything to go by. The songs are original and the music is brilliant. Shane MacGowan watch out because Blood and Whiskey are after your crown. Sounding like the Pogues in

their heyday, these lads would wake the dead with their noise. I loved it, but I still wouldn't want them for neighbours!!! (Eck) Enquiries to: *Blood or Whiskey, c/o PO Box 45, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, Ireland.*

Seanchai & The Unity Squad - Rebel Hip Hop (Unity Records) Seanchai is the alter ego of Black 47 rapper and ex-NY copper, Chris Byrne and friends. This is their third album and it lives up well to the previous two which in my opinion were superb. A little bit more subtle and moodier than the previous two, I was well impressed with it. Chris lyrics about the war in Ireland and historical events are really the best stuff being currently written. Anyone who has seen them perform at the Ardoyne Fleadh in front of thousands will know the energy and commitment that the band put into every concert. The music is a varied mix of styles, from hip-hop and reggae to folk and rock. A band who proclaim their politics proudly and defiantly. They should be huge, but, like Black 47, their upfront Irish republicanism probably means that cult status will be their lot. Rebel music for the new millenium. See the interview elsewhere in this issue. (Eck) For further info contact: *Seanchai, c/o Rocky Sullivan's Bar, 29th Street & Lexington Avenue, New York, NY, USA. Website - seanchai.com*

Volunteer Billy Reid RFB - 20th Anniversary CD (Phoenix Records) It's unusual to hear flute band music on a CD, but our good friends from the Vol. Billy Reid RFB have made this great rebel rousing listening. If you're as mad as I am, you'll probably end up marching around the living room playing imaginary flutes and drums! The band's members come from the general area around Celtic Park and the east end and have played just about everywhere that a flute band can play in their 20 year history. An added bonus on the CD is the collaboration of the popular rebel folk band, Shebeen. They have added 4 tracks to the CD which makes it an absolute must for republicans. (Eck) £11 (inc. p&p) *Contact: Vol. Billy Reid RFB, c/o WOSBA, Box 25, 1353 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow, G14 9UZ*

In the next issue of TAL, we will review the excellent new book, Defenders by Gerry McGeogh.

Seanchai: A Fenian Bhog From New York

Chris Byrne is *Seanchai*, lead singer, musician and songwriter of the band of the same name. Chris is also a member of the New York Irish band, *Black 47*. Regular readers of TAL will know that we are great fans of both bands and it was a thrill for us to meet the man in person and interview him. It might come as a shock to our readers, but Chris is a former Captain in the New York Police Department. However, this unconventional ex-cop is a rebel rouser who now owns Rocky Sullivan's Bar in New York City. O'Malley welcomed Chris to Scotland recently and then fired a few rapid shots from the hip which Chris parried well...

TAL: First up Chris, what's the score with Black 47 and Seanchai. Does the emergence of Seanchai mean that Black 47 are finished?

Seanchai: *No, far from being finished, Black 47 has two albums ready to be released. It's only a matter of fitting it all into a schedule that we can all work to.*

TAL: Given the political content of your songs and the detail and knowledge of Irish history in them, which I might add is spot on, what is your own background.

Seanchai: *My family hails from the west of Donegal. I still have lots of relatives there. In fact I'm heading there for my holidays tomorrow.*

TAL: We are sorry to hear that due to a busy schedule you will be unable to see any Celtic games this trip, not even a tour of Celtic Park, but I understand that you now have a Celtic Supporters Club based at your bar, Rocky Sullivan's in New York.

Seanchai: *The New York Fenian Bhoys CSC now runs from Rocky's. In the past, at the local Celtic Club, there used to be a bit of a dispute about what the music should be at half time when we were watching the games. Our crowd wanted Eire Og, the other lot wanted more traditional folk stuff, so we decided to start our own club in Rocky's for like-minded people. So, if you're in New York and you like watching Celtic and listening to bands like Eire Og, come to Rocky's and be with people like*

yourself. If you like the traditional folk stuff, go to the other place.

TAL: Why the New York Fenian Bhoys CSC?

Seanchai: *The lads named it after "Fenians", a track on our last CD, 'There Will Be Another Day', and it suits them just fine.*

Fenians

**Fenians: Pump your fist if you love Freedom,
Fenians: Pump your fist if you love culture,**

**For 150 years you been creating us,
Be hating like Satan by berating us,
In Punch cartoons you depicted us as swill,
And wack TV shows like that dead fool Benny Hill,**

**Amazing you never came to your senses,
Figured out you'd have to face the consequences,
Sent us across the water but you didn't stop the tide,
And now the tide is rising worldwide,**

**Fenians: Pump your fist if you love freedom,
Fenians: Pump your fist if you love culture,**

**From Devoy to O'Neill and John O'Mahoney,
To Joe McGarritty and Michael Flannery,
Sedition's our tradition and it won't just go away,
Say it loud, say it proud that I will stay an,**

**Unrepentant Fenian Bastard,
Unrepentant Fenian Bastard,
Unrepentant Fenian Bastard,
Respect to all who refuse to be mastered**

TAL: Is Rocky Sullivan's likely to be full of cops?

Seanchai: *The bar is popular with some local cops. I just hope it will be full!*

TAL: And will visitors get their pints pulled by Chris Byrne? Is it a hands-on type of pub?

Seanchai: *Yes, it's a small bar. A hundred people and we are packed, but it all lends to a great atmosphere. And, yes, I will be behind the bar unless I'm somewhere else like off on tour with the band. But I'm not going to let it give me a heart attack. The bar is looked after when I'm not there and I don't phone up to find out what kind of crowd is in.*

TAL: Your new CD, 'Rebel Hip Hop' has just been released. Rachel Fitzgerald

singing "The Ballad of Mairead Farrell" is the highlight for me. Are you getting a good reaction to the new bigger band?

Seanchai: *Yeh, Rachel is very popular and a great talent. The new enlarged band is going down a treat. Every time I turn around someone else is in the band! The bigger the better!*

TAL: What kind of music do you listen to yourself if you're, say, driving around in the car?

Seanchai: *Without a doubt, Bob Marley and, at the moment, The Boys of the Lough. I'm also really looking forward to getting hold of Bob Dylan's new CD as it has been highly recommended to me.*

TAL: You were over at the West Belfast Festival again. You seem to be in residence in Ardoyne come August. Is this going to be a regular part of your diary now? Are you coming back again in 1999?

Seanchai: *I hope so. When I play the West Belfast Festival, it's not work, it's my holidays. I like the travelling and meeting people, so yeh, I will definitely be back.*

TAL: We recently watched the new Arthur Mac Caig film, "War and Peace in Ireland". I was pleased to hear that Seanchai's music was used in the film as it really adds something to it. I also heard that, along with Brush Shiels, you gave a lot of support to the film. Bearing in mind that Black 47 did the soundtrack for

"The Saint of Fort Washington", is there any chance of Seanchai doing the score of a mainstream film?

Seanchai: *It is great to be associated with the films of Arthur MacCaig. I am a great admirer of his work. We are showing the film in New York with Art MacCaig as special guest. As for films, if someone liked our sounds that would be great, but we are not going to hold our breath waiting for it!*

TAL: Finally, any last words to TAL readers?

Seanchai: *Yes. If you're in New York, look us up at Rocky Sullivan's Bar. It's at 29th Street & Lexington Avenue. Seanchai are on most Sunday nights and the first beer is on Rachel!*

O'Malley

Sectarian Attacks In Belfast

The most recent attacks in Belfast increased in the weeks prior to Christmas. firstly, a taxi driver narrowly avoided assassination when, during a late night run, the car in front of him ground to a halt, dispensing a passenger with an automatic rifle who quickly took aim. The taxi driver saved his own life by accelerating round the would-be assailant and making off. Around the same time there was an attack on Catholic homes on Broadway, just off the Falls Road. A mob of loyalists had come up from the nearby Village area in the early hours of the morning, and after trying to drag a council worker from his truck, resorted to smashing the windows of residents and shouting the names of the UVF and Red Hand Defenders. The loyalists were eventually forced back by locals.

Another incident occurred when a Queens University student was abducted by loyalists in a car near the university area. After being severely beaten he was driven around until finally being dumped at the side of the road.

The New Year has seen a concerted attack on Nationalists living in the Markets area of Belfast. A man walking home on New Year's morning was the victim of a frenzied knife attack, receiving wounds to the chest, back and head in what can only be described as a concerted attempt to kill him. When the police arrived they refused to treat the incident as sectarian despite the insistence of residents who had witnessed the attack. To show how thorough the RUC investigation must have been, locals later came across the blood stained weapon, used in the assault, discarded nearby.

A second murder bid occurred in the same vicinity when three people walking from the Lower Ormeau one night were attacked by Loyalists near Donegal Pass. An assailant pulled a gun and tried to fire it as one of the victims ran away. Luckily, the gun jammed, but one of the three was caught and badly beaten. Eyewitnesses

claimed that one of the attackers was a well known local UVF man.

The sudden upsurge in sectarian attacks is said by some to be connected to the wider manoeuvrings within the peace process. It is argued that there are many in Loyalist circles who (despite the fact that they do not agree with the process anyway!) fear that Trimble will eventually give in to Nationalist demands and the proposed executive will be formed. Hence, as in the past, any real advance towards power sharing or agreement has seen the resumption of a sectarian murder campaign in an attempt by Loyalists to distract Nationalists away from such aspirations - and perhaps even possibly to tempt the IRA back to war. The paranoia expressed by Loyalist paramilitaries, coupled with evidence to suggest (particularly in Belfast) that the current round of assaults and attempted murders is directed by those within organisations like the UVF and UFF using different, "cover" names (i.e. Orange Volunteers, Red Hand Defenders etc.) makes for a very fragile peace. *(The Chain Gang, Belfast)*

CELTIC FANS AGAINST FASCISM



Stickers
£4 for 100

(cheques
payable to
'TAL')

Disembowel...

Dismember...

Disband... aach...

...Fuck The RUC!

Glasgow republican folk band, Shebeen, have been having some unusual problems with their new CD. It would appear that the CD Insert has been giving cause for offence! Can't think what could have caused the stooshie considering that two titles were passed over before the band

settled on a name for the disc. The first choice for the title track was *Disembowel The RUC* (ooyah!); and the second choice was *Dismember The RUC* (ouch!). No doubt as a concession to the more moderate times that we live in, the more topical and appropriate, *Disband The RUC* was chosen.

However, somewhere along the line in the production and printing process complaints were made about the wording on the CD Insert. What might have caused the complaints is anybody's guess, but the problem could well be some of the lyrics contained in the title track. One line describes a certain RUC initiation ceremony which involves a rolled up trouser leg, an apron and a goat. I won't go into further detail as this is a family fanzine. Still the ritual is, I am led to believe, pretty standard for policemen across the British Isles. Still, I can see their point for trying to cover it up. Some things are best left behind the closed doors of the "lodge".

We should not keep quiet, however, about this absolutely first class recording from Shebeen. A band who just get better on each recording and each time you see them. Two tracks; *Disband The RUC* and the tribute to IRA Volunteer, Paul Kinsella, mark the band's first recording of original material. Together with the previously unrecorded *The Youngest Of Them All*, the two tracks and the others here make this CD well worth having. That the band have given over all of the profits from this CD to the Prisoners Dependents Fund (PDF) speaks volumes about their commitment to the cause.

(O'Malley)

The CD and tapes will be available very shortly at all of the usual republican outlets.

**Disband The RUC...
Support The Prisoners...
Support Shebeen...**

Write to: Shebeen, c/o Smiddy, McCormick's Bar, Motherwell Road, Bellshill, Lanarkshire, ML4.

A tragic day when heroes who walked tall were cut down in their prime

The following article recently appeared in the Belfast newspaper, the Irish News. It was written by journalist,

Malcolm

Brodie, who witnessed the

disgraceful scenes in December, 1948, which effectively caused the demise of (until that date) Ireland's most successful league side, Belfast Celtic. Despite Brodie's claims, which have been repeated by others, that little sectarianism appeared to exist and that it was more of a 'friendly rivalry' that existed between the two clubs, this is not the recollection of many old Belfast Celtic fans who recall the absolute sectarian hatred that they and their team were held in by the fans and directors of Linfield, who operated a similar official sectarian policy regarding the signing of Catholics as their counterparts at Rangers.



●The front page of the Irish News the day after the 'Jimmy Jones Incident'

The scene is still videoed in memory.

A private room in a Belfast hospital 18 hours after one of Northern Ireland football's most infamous days - Monday, December 27 1948, when Jimmy Jones, Belfast Celtic's 20-year-old centre-forward, found himself in world headlines with his right leg fractured in five places by rampaging Linfield fans at the end of a 1-1 draw at Windsor Park.

Authorities had thrown a security screen around Jones to protect him from the dozens of newspaper men seeking that exclusive interview. Yet, by clandestine means - I had a consultant friend on the staff - I eventually succeeded in breaching the barrier to learn at first hand the sad saga of what is now known as 'The Jimmy Jones Incident.'

There he lay, his leg encased in plaster, the newspapers scattered on the bed. His spirits were high but deep down you realised he was aware his career, particularly the ambition to enter English football, would, perhaps, never be the same again.

Jones could recall in minute detail the events on that fateful afternoon, his diagonal run across the pitch from the

corner flag at the end; how fans had cut off his exit to the dressing rooms as they howled "We'll fix you".

Without any sign of emotion, he described to me how a policeman came to his rescue and shouted: "If you don't stop kicking him I'll use my baton!"

Twice Jones repeated that sentence, then gazed at his leg - he was left with a limp - but instantly changed the topic to his prospects of being fit for Celtic's historic United States tour in which they were to defeat Scotland 2-0 in New York... he never did make it.

How ironic. Here was Jones, a Protestant, being attacked by a Linfield crowd - and saved by a Catholic. (It was his team mate Sean McCann who threw himself on top of Jones which probably saved Jones' life - TAL)

As Christmas Day fell on a Saturday the traditional Linfield-Belfast Celtic Boxing Day match was played that year on the Monday. Fixtures between these renowned clubs - and I covered many of them - were always against a background of excitement settling on a crowd in the minutes before kick-off, but without a real overtone of sectarian tension.

December 27 1948 was no different. Yet who in that packed crowd could have envisaged the scenario about to develop and that half a century later, it would be the subject of international recall, a tragic chapter in Irish football history which eventually led to Celtic's withdrawal from the Irish League, leaving a void never filled.

The focal point came after 35 minutes when Linfield centre-back Bob Bryson was carried off with an ankle injury after an accidental collision with Jones.

Linfield forward Jackie Russell collapsed after he took the force of a point blank shot on the chest and he too was carried

off with severe bruising, leaving Linfield with nine players as no substitutes were then permitted.

The stadium had become a tinderbox waiting for a flame to be ignited, and it did when Linfield secretary Joe Mackey undiplomatically announced over the public address system that Bryson's leg had been broken.

(Jones maintains to this day that Mackey's announcement was a malicious act to incite the crowd: "That's Mackey's fault that my leg's like this. You see, I wouldn't sign for Linfield. Mackey asked me to go and talk with him. I listened. But when he said: 'Jimmy, you belong at Linfield with your friends, not across the road with that crowd of Taigs,' I was sickened. I slammed the door behind me. So Mackey had the knife in my back. He told me to name my price, anything I wanted and Linfield would provide it. But he said what he said. I never spoke to him again. I honestly believe Mackey's actions were to draw attention to me..." - TAL)

More mayhem followed when Celtic's Paddy Bonner and Linfield's Albert Currie were ordered off in the 72nd minute. Fights broke out among the spectators on the Spion Cop terracing and neither side had managed to break the deadlock.

With 10 remaining Linfield full back Jimmy McCune, scythed John 'Jackie' Denver as he went through and referee Norman Boal awarded a penalty from which Harry Walker scored.

Celtic with ten players seemed certain winners against nine-man struggling Linfield, whose supporters immediately started exit-marching from the ground but the final act of this sorry episode had not yet been enacted in the semi-darkness of this pre-floodlit era.

Four minutes remained when Isaac McDowell sprinted down the flank, found Billy Simpson with a cross which he turned into the net for the equaliser. Pandemonium.

Onto the pitch surged the (*Linfield*) fans. Celtic keeper Kevin McAlinden was manhandled. So too, was Bud Aherne, but Jones was targeted because of that Bryson incident.

(It's interesting that this violence was the Linfield fans way of celebrating their equaliser. Now where have we seen the same kind of triumphalist violence, I wonder? - TAL)

The usual after-the-match boardroom hospitality was curtailed; there was an atmosphere of disbelief with Linfield officials overwhelmingly embarrassed, while those of Celtic, particularly chairman Austin Donnelly, were incensed. For months I was involved in the follow-up stories.

Donnelly went into conclave with his fellow directors and that night issued this statement: "The attack, the directors feel, in its gravity, is without parallel in the annals of football... Jimmy Jones, the Celtic centre forward, received multiple injuries, including a broken leg which might totally incapacitate him from football. During the whole of this concerted attack, the protection afforded to the unfortunate players may be described as fairly inadequate. In the circumstances the directors wish to make the strongest possible protest against those responsible for player protection failing to take measures either to prevent the brutal attack, or to deal with any degree of effectiveness afterwards."

Within 24 hours Linfield chairman Harry Midgley called an emergency meeting, and announced that they were disgusted at how fans had besmirched the name of the club.

As the late Bill McKavanagh said in his introduction to John Kennedy's book 'Belfast Celtic': "There was magic in the name. It whispers nostalgia and sentiment and pride reaching back across the mists of yesteryear to touch that most bittersweet of emotions, our lost youth, when the world was bright and innocent and heroes walked tall."

Calling Belfast Celtic Fans

TAL would be interested to hear from Belfast Celtic fans. Your memories of the club, it's achievements and the political circumstances which killed it.

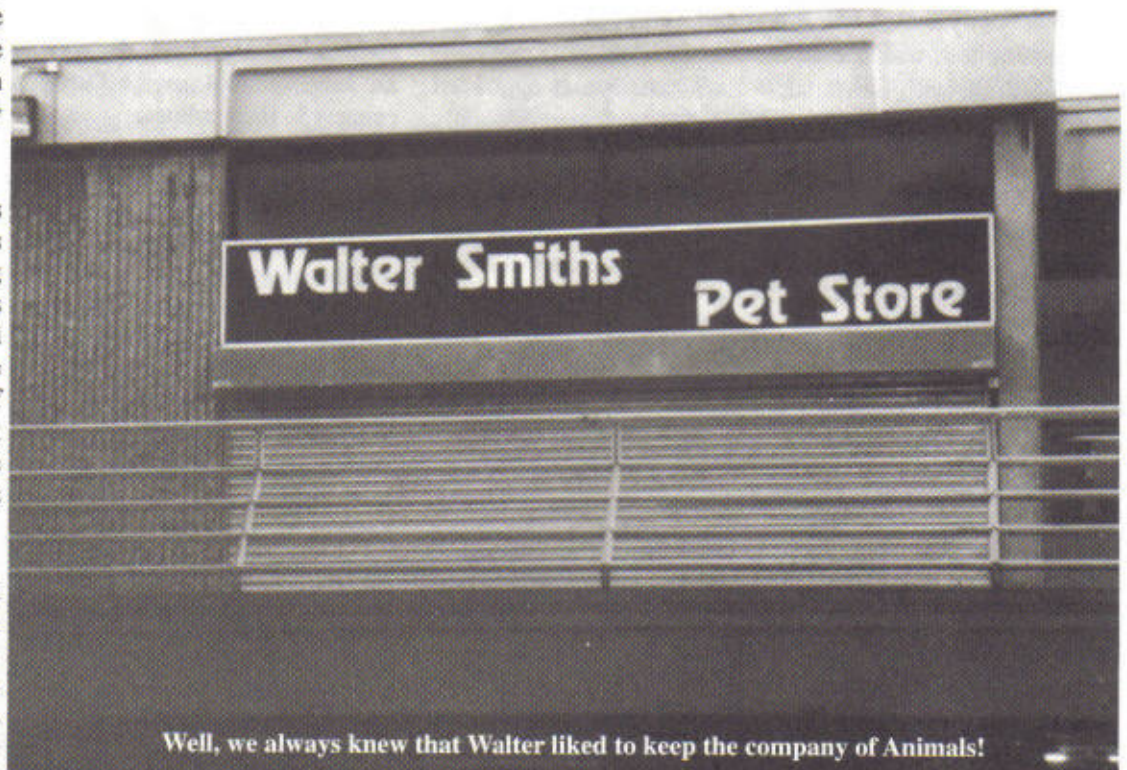
McCormick's Bar

Motherwell Road, Bellshill

Drop in for a drink and a
Sunday Session
with

Shebeen

Live Irish Music
Every Sunday Afternoon



Well, we always knew that Walter liked to keep the company of Animals!

Viva St. Pauli!

St. Pauli are a most unique club, not only in Germany but probably in Europe. There is a club which, like our own means a lot more to their fanatical supporters than just going to watch the team play football on match days. Every game is treated by the supporters as a major social occasion. Some cynics might say that considering the poor performance of their team this season, the St. Pauli fans would need to find other entertainment on the terraces to occupy their minds. However, those of us who have been to their Millerntor Stadium in good times and bad can tell you that the attitudes of their fans rarely change. They support their team wholeheartedly and when the going gets tough, they continue to party.



TAL readers will know that a couple of years ago 80 St. Pauli fans came to Glasgow on what for them and us was a truly memorable visit to see their second love, Celtic. A wild weekend was had by Celts and St. Pauli-aners alike! But what is it about their club that makes them so unique. Some St. Pauli fans spoke to TAL about their club, their politics and why they love Celtic and Ireland.

Sven formerly worked full time for the supporters organisation and was one of the first St. Pauli fans to make the connection with Celtic supporters many years ago. Last year, Sven moved from supporters work to officially working for the club. Many, mainly trendy lefty wankers, thought that this would lead to a situation like we have experienced with Matt McGlone at Parkhead. That, like McGlone at Celtic, Sven working for St. Pauli would be a sell-out and that he would leave behind his principles. However, quite the opposite has happened. Rather than selling out on what he previously believed, Sven has taken his politics and commitment into the club with him. A committed anti-fascist, he does the equivalent job to George Douglas at Celtic Park, and a bit more besides. However, rather than use his position to attack his own fans, as Douglas does, Sven sees his role as an extension of what he did previously as a fans representative. To liaise with and provide St. Pauli fans with the best security and endeavour to carry out their wishes. Last year, St. Pauli played a couple of very high profile games where the fascist hooligan fans of their opponents attempted to gain publicity and cause trouble inside the stadium. Sven takes up the story...

Sven: When Leipzig from eastern Germany came to play St. Pauli, around 400 of their hardline fascist supporters came into the St. Pauli district. They marched up the Reeperbahn, causing trouble and shouting fascist slogans. When the game started these guys were inside the stadium. They put up banners with Nazi slogans and anti-St. Pauli slogans. I went to the police and told them that, as the Security Chief, I wanted the banners removed from the fences and from their fans. When, in my opinion, the police did not move fast enough to do this, I took another steward with me and went into their end and tore the banners down myself!

Somehow we couldn't envisage George Douglas heading into the Huns end to remove objectionable banners and flags from the fans of The Forces of Darkness!?! St. Pauli also have plans to build a new stadium on their present site. Included in their plans have been consultations with their supporters about what kind of stadium the club should build:

Sven: When the first plans for the new stadium were floated, representations were made by the plans to the club. At the time I was still working in the Fanladen (supporters HQ and shop). The club agreed with us that all seater stadiums were shite. The plan now is to build a new stadium that includes seats and terraces. From the present 15,000 terracing places, we will increase it to 19,000. The seating will go from 5,000 now to 14,000. So that will mean that the capacity will go up to 33,000. The terraces will be interchangeable (they can change it to seated areas depending upon whether there was an international match/European match or even a rock concert in the stadium.

Also in the plans for a new stadium, we are lobbying the club to include conference rooms and a concert hall that could accommodate 500-600 people. Restaurant and Cafe facilities will be included as well. The club had a meeting in the St. Pauli district to show the plans to the supporters and the community. They invited ideas and suggestions about the kind of facilities they wanted. One of the main points that came out was that the facilities should be available for the local people of the district. So, although there would be a charge for the use of the conference and meeting rooms, it will depend on the nature of the group using them. Like, if some rock star is in Hamburg and wants to use the facilities for a press conference, it will cost him thousands of marks,



but if a local tenants group want to hold a protest meeting they should only have to pay a nominal fee for the cleaning of the room after they've used it.

Next, we asked Sven what were his impressions of Celtic Park since it changed from the old stadium with terracing to the new all-seater stadium:

Sven: I think that the atmosphere has changed completely at Celtic's new stadium. It is not as good as it was at Celtic Park in the old days. I was lucky enough to have been to the old Jungle twice and it was brilliant. I've also been to matches in England at Millwall and Manchester United and the atmosphere has just gone completely. The songs, the enthusiasm, the jumping around - It's all gone! The other very disappointing aspect of the all seater stadiums in Britain is the way that the prices have rocketed, which is a real shame because the ordinary working class and unemployed fans find it really hard to afford to go to the matches. In the past in Germany it was always to Scotland and England that we looked to for the models of atmosphere, but now, more and more it's to Southern Europe that we plan trips. If you go to Italy there is a brilliant atmosphere despite the fact that the stadiums are all seater. The fans there ignore the seats- they use them to stand on! it's a great atmosphere and the weather is also much better!

TAL: But the diehard rebels still come to Glasgow don't they?

Sven: Yes, but even coming to Celtic now is a disappointment for us - to see how Celtic deal with their own supporters. But for the fans at St. Pauli the solidarity is towards the Celtic supporters and not towards the people who are presently running the club. The difference with the plans for the new St. Pauli stadium and the new Celtic Park is that we recognise that in the new ground, which will be bigger, we will also, like Celtic, need to attract more supporters. However, the St. Pauli club's marketing company has asked the fans what they want from the new ground. So, while we want to attract new supporters we don't want to lose the old atmosphere; keeping the old style and traditions.

I then put it to Sven that for years we believed him to be a jinx because every time he came over to see Celtic we lost!

Sven: Yes, but that was the experience of most St. Pauli fans with Celtic because nearly all of the matches we saw were your away matches in Europe - and those were nearly always shite games! My first victory was a midweek match, standing in the old Celtic End with you and we won 2-1

against Dundee United. The next victory was when we brought the 80 fans to Glasgow and saw Pierre score in the last minute against Motherwell.

TAL: Two victories in all those years! You definitely suffered with the rest of us.

Sven: Yes, I saw so many 0-0 draws and 1-0 defeats in Europe. I was also at this terrible game in Neuchatel when Celtic lost 5-1. But the great thing has always been the hospitality of the Celtic fans wherever we meet them or wherever we go together. It's always: "Hey, St. Pauli! Have a beer!" Even when St. Pauli fans have gone to Glasgow and not met anyone from TAL, they've gone to Celtia pubs like Bairds Bar and they always get a warm and friendly welcome, and even sometimes a bed for the night. There's always someone who says; "Hey St. Pauli, we met you in Hamburg/Paris or wherever else in Europe!" Every St. Pauli fan says this about the welcome that we receive in Glasgow.



Knowledge of St. Pauli has grown over the years among Celtic fans, but there are still Celtic fans who, perhaps because of Murdo McLeod and Paul Lambert still have a soft spot for Dortmund. I asked Sven what he thought of this.

Sven: The Celtic fans should know the way many Dortmund fans

treat us. They say we are shit because we bring politics into the game! Yet at the same time they are wearing Celtic scarves - It's bullshit! I won't say anything more, but Dortmund will make friends with anyone - and I mean anyone! When Celtic were over for the European match against Hamburg, Dortmund fans who were up to see Celtic, were abusing us in front of our own pub saying, "Bringing politics into football is shit, St. Pauli!" At the same moment more than 100 Celtic fans were singing rebel songs beside us in the street! So we said look at the Celtic fans - politics and football! Now fuck off! Football, life and politics are all bound together. You can't separate them.

In the next issue of TAL, we talk to more fans of St. Pauli about how they have gone about making their voices heard within the club. Pressure groups, fanzines and supporters organisations tell us of their fight to democratise the club, involve a greater number of supporters in club membership and their achievements in getting supporters elected onto the board. Fans from the Splitter & Der Ubersteiger Fanzines and The Fanladen talk to us about their club, anti-fascism, Celtic, Ireland and much much more. *Don't miss Part 2*

SECTARIAN ATTACKS

Dear TAL,

I am writing this letter hoping that you will print it in a future edition of TAL. It's a story about myself when I was attacked on a service bus by fifteen Rangers thugs.

I was travelling a six mile journey out of Girvan. As the bus approached the last stop before leaving Girvan, fifteen Irish Rangers' fans boarded it. I was seated up at the back wearing my Celtic top. They all sat around me singing their songs. I looked out of the window trying to ignore them when one of them came up and spat on me. He then pulled my crucifix off my neck and attempted to set fire to my Celtic top. By this time I started to get really frightened not knowing what would happen next. They were all laughing and began chanting "Dirty Fenian Bastard" at me.

After that, another boy asked me if I had ever been gang raped. Luckily they never tried anything but I didn't know what to expect from the way they were acting.

The driver must have known that they were giving me bother, but didn't do anything to try and stop them.

At last my stop was coming up. I felt as if I had been on that bus for hours and couldn't wait to get off, but I knew I was going to have to push past them to get out. As I did they were all kicking me and throwing drink over me. I heard one of them shout out, "Stab her!" then I heard another one shouting at them to leave me alone and let me get off. He was the only half decent one amongst them. I eventually managed to get past them and went down to the front of the bus. I told the driver that I would be phoning the police to get them off at the next town. The driver told me not to be daft and to take it as a joke!

I was in a terrible state, covered from head to toe in beer and blackcurrant Hooch. I phoned the police and told them the town in which the bus would be passing through next and they were going to stop it.

The police came to see me later that night and told me the Rangers fans weren't on the bus. The police had asked the driver what happened and he said that both parties had been as bad as each other and that the girl gave as good as she got! He was obviously the same as them and must have let them know that I was going to phone the police. He must have told them to get off before they entered the next town. How could he say that I was just as bad when it was fifteen boys against one girl? I was terrorised for wearing my team colours and wasn't doing anyone any harm.

When everyone heard about it where I live, I was amazed at the amount of Rangers fans who came to apologise for what had happened. They said that it was people like

them who give them all a bad name, which is true as there are some good as well as bad. My Dad wanted me to contact the newspapers to let everyone know what they are like, but at the time I was really upset and I thought that it was better I didn't. When I look back now I realise that I should have as its not as though it was a one off. They are known to carry out these attacks, but I am one of the lucky ones, as many people have suffered a lot worse from animals like them.

I can still picture some of their faces in my mind and God only knows what I'd do if I was ever to set eyes on them again. I was brought up not to be bitter, but these thugs have made me a bitter person because of what they did to me. And I know that fifteen Celtic fans would never stoop as low as to do that to a girl sitting on a bus wearing a Rangers top. They would maybe give her some stick but nothing like that.

Yours Thankfully, Angela, Girvan, Ayrshire.

An Everyday Occurrence

We received this letter from Angela telling us about an incident which happened to her two years ago when she was subjected to a frightening ordeal by Rangers fans. At the time Angela was just 17 and it is an indication of how deeply this incident affected her that she is still reliving it two years later. Some might say, well no real physical harm was done. That's not the point. We have received other letters from victims who have suffered more serious injuries. One young man who wrote to us was attacked in Dumbarton Road, Partick, as he passed by a loyalist pub because he was wearing a Celtic T-shirt. He received more than forty stitches to his face.

It is the very casual nature of the attack on Angela, the ordinariness of it, that will strike a chord with most fans. This is the sort of incident that happens practically on a daily basis to Celtic fans, particularly those who live in predominantly loyalist areas. You don't have to have your throat cut to be the victim of a sectarian attack. The sheer threat of rape from a large crowd of men would be enough to terrorise any woman. The kicks, spitting and beer throwing reinforced the terror for this young girl.

Every Celtic fan knows that this stuff happens. In Scotland it hasn't yet reached the murderous proportions of the loyalist murder campaign in the north of Ireland, but the differences are only in degrees. In Ballymoney, three little boys were burned to death because their presence in the area was resented by loyalist bigots. In Glasgow and other parts of Scotland, Celtic fans can be subjected to harassment and attacks for the

very same reason. There isn't a part of this city where a Rangers fan could not wear their colours for fear of physical attack. It doesn't happen to them. I have been at the Celtic end at Ibrox selling this fanzine and lone Rangers fans and groups of Rangers fans in their teams colours have walked through the mass ranks of Celtic supporters before and after games and received not a single punch or spit from our fans. That's how it should be. I'm not saying that our own fans are angels. Sure, they will boo and jeer at Huns, but that's part of the wind up between rival fans. It's a completely different mindset that threatens wee girls with rape and cuts the throat of a 16 year old boy for wearing a Celtic shirt. Such attacks are fuelled by a fascist ideology that sees the Catholic community in Scotland as second class citizens who must be kept in their place by means of terror.

Loyalist Murderer George Egan Politically And Racially Motivated

TAL has recently received information that the sectarian attacks upon Celtic supporters at Bridgeton Cross were indeed, as we suspected all along, being politically directed by leading loyalists in the area. The recently murdered loyalist 'hard man' George Egan was the man who was directing the attacks. This was his way of bleeding young loyalists. The police in the area knew that Egan was behind these attacks yet did nothing to stop him. As far as we know Egan wasn't even interviewed about the murder of mark Scott or the attempted murder of Sean O'Connor. We understand that he was an accomplice in both attacks. After Thomas Longstaff stabbed Sean O'Connor in the neck he ran to a waiting car which took him away from the scene. We believe that the car was driven by Egan. People in the area remained silent about Egan's role in these attacks because of his fearsome reputation. He had previously served ten years for the murder of a disabled man in an argument about football while on holiday in Blairgowrie.

It seems, however, that not all of the loyalists in the Bridgeton area were happy about Egan's influence over their young folk and a plot was hatched to deal with him. Rumour has it that those who murdered George Egan were members of a very well known loyalist family who held Egan responsible for the incarceration of their son. The police have shown little inclination to bring his killers to justice. In fact, we have heard that senior cops in the area were delighted to hear of his demise. We at TAL shed no tears over the loss of this bigot, but that doesn't excuse the cops for their lack of investigation into Egan's activities when he was alive. Their lack of concern for what amounted to a murder

Racism and Sectarianism Two sides of the same coin

conspiracy mirrors the Metropolitan Police' failure to properly investigate the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence.

If these attacks were happening to the Asian community in Glasgow there would have been calls for the resignation of the Chief Constable and the disciplining of senior officers for their failure to properly investigate these matters. But these are not what are defined by the police as 'racially motivated incidents' because the victims are white, Catholic and Irish.

Elsewhere in this issue of TAL we have taken up the mistaken belief in the Celtic boardroom and other fanzines that the only real victims of racism and oppression are black people. Black people undoubtedly have to bear a great deal of racism and race attacks

and we should endeavour to give them every bit of solidarity that we can muster, but race attacks are not the end of the story. Sectarian attacks in parts of the West of Scotland are on a par with racist attacks in areas of London. The difference is that there are no monitoring groups to recognise them and take them up with the appropriate authorities. Therefore, the victims of sectarian attacks have no voice. That is something that this fanzine attempted to address through the Campaign Against Sectarian Attacks and we were pilloried for it by the club and the press. The attacks continue and Celtic PLC continue to ignore them or simply dismiss them as a security matter to be dealt with by George Douglas and the police.

Campaign Against Sectarian Attacks

We will continue our campaign against these attacks. We invite Celtic fans who have been the victims of such incidents to keep sending

us their accounts as we appear to be the only people who take the issue seriously. Therefore we will monitor the incidents and put pressure on the appropriate authorities where possible.

We are absolutely opposed to any counter attacks upon ordinary Rangers fans. If people want a fight they can have a fight with groups of 'lads' who are up for that sort of thing any Saturday. Don't come to meetings of the Campaign Against Sectarian Attacks if that's what you want to do. It is totally counter productive. We're trying to stop sectarian attacks, not add to them. That is not what our campaign is about and we have been greatly misrepresented by the club and the press with regard to this. We want to build maximum unity among our supporters around this issue, but first of all we believe that there is a need to convince some people at the club, especially those who make the loudest noise about being against bigotry, that these incidents are actually happening.

Anne McKay

It is with great sadness that TAL learned of the recent death of our friend Anne McKay. Anne was tragically killed in a car crash on the Falls Road in Belfast. Originally from Clydebank, she had moved over to live in West Belfast. Anne previously worked behind the bar in The Brazen Head in Glasgow and will be known to many of the Celtic fans who were regular visitors to the pub. She accompanied the TAL Team over to Belfast in August 1997 and visited republican POW Gerry "Blute" McDonnell in Long Kesh in our company. After that first trip she became a regular visitor to Belfast and to Long Kesh, eventually moving to the city. Anne was only 20 years old when she was tragically killed. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. TAL sends our condolences to her family and friends. By way of tribute to her we have printed a photo of Anne (on the right of the picture) carrying the Celtic Fans Against Fascism banner during her trip to Belfast with us in August, 1997. (TAL)



CAMPAIGN AGAINST SECTARIAN ATTACKS

c/o AFA, PO BOX 180, GLASGOW, G4 9AB

Celtic Fans Against Fascism

c/o BM BOX 266, LONDON, WC1N 3XX

ANTI-FASCIST ACTION

PO BOX 180, GLASGOW, G4 9AB
PO BOX 421, EDINBURGH, EH11 1QD
BM 1734, LONDON, WC1N 3XX
PO BOX 3355, DUBLIN 7, EIRE

Norwegian Celts*Dear TAL,*

Here's the money for the fanzines I got outside Celtic Park on that fantastic day last year when we won the league. The TAL's were all sold out in a couple of days, so I think that there will be no problem to sell 50 next time. We are a strong Celtic fanatics group here in Oslo and Celtic even manages to unite groups of supporters from both Vaalerengan and Lillestrom who usually can't spend five minutes together without a big punch up!

Unfortunately, we do have a few Hun supporters in my Vaalerengen Supporters Club, but they're very few and very ugly, but they don't know very much about their club's disgraceful fascist history. I am also proud to say that ours is the only club to have *Vaalerenga Against Racism* on our shirts for the last two seasons. This campaign started last year as we did not get a shirt sponsor and the club launched this idea because the club is based in the working class areas of Oslo East, where the vast majority of immigrants have settled down. The club try to get all the nationalities to join together and are doing a lot of social activities to get young people away from criminality, drugs and so on. So I feel that I can say proudly that we can join the company of anti-fascist clubs out there. Lillestrom also have a majority of politically aware supporters who kick the nazi bastards back to hell.

Anyway, thank you again for a great football fanzine. I would like 3 copies each of all your available back issues and 50 copies of every issue from now on for me to pass around the Lillestrom and Vaalerenga supporters.

Ooh Ah Up The 'Ra,
Marius, Oslo, Norway.

Polish Solidarity*Hi,*

My name is Maciek. I'm very interested in doing an international Anti-Nazi Football Fanzine. I am one of the anti-Nazi football fans of Polonia Warsaw. At our club we have a section that is anti-fascist. I am also very interested in co-operating with Celtic fans (you're anti-Nazi attitude is well known throughout Europe). Many of the Polish anti-fascists even think that your fan club is stronger than at FC St. Pauli or Manchester United. I would be very grateful if you could send me some issues of your magazine. Also, if possible could you send a short history of your fans, including the numbers of anti-Nazis who follow Celtic. I hope to make this contact with Celtic fans. Please don't fuck me about because that's what "Show Racism the Red Card" did.

Yours, Maciek, Warsaw, Poland.

Roman Rebels*Dear Comrades,*

I'm writing to you from Rome, Italy. I'm an anti-fascist and pro-Republican. I received TAL No. 20 and I really like it. I'm in a committee called CETAMON, "for the self determination of the Irish people". For ten

years now we have supported the Irish struggle, organising meetings, concerts, demonstrations. We also have a radio programme every week on Radio Onda Rossa (Red Wave) in Roma. We go to Ireland every year especially in West Belfast for the festival at the beginning of August. Maybe we will meet you there this year? The reason I wrote to you is to say keep up the good work and hello to all Celtic and Ireland supporters (especially to my friend Paolo in London who probably sent me that copy of TAL!). Destroy fascism, racism, sexism.

Slan, The Roman Brigade.

Avid Reader*Dear TAL,*

I am an avid and regular reader of your magazine and always seem to agree with everything that you write and report about. I am a season ticket holder and member of a supporters club, but would be interested in joining TAL's Glasgow supporter's club.

Yours in Celtic, DT, Hamilton

What More Could You Want?*Dear TAL,*

Just decided to drop you a wee line to say that TAL just keeps getting better and better. I especially liked the last issue (No 21), a great variety of articles and a colour cover and poster. What more could you want?! With this in mind I was wondering if you could send me some back issues...

Finally, keep up the excellent work. You are all much needed, along with the fanzine, to keep Celtic and its fans up to date with social and political issues.

Yours in Celtic, Robert, Glasgow.

A Mature View*Hello Fellow Rebels,*

Just a few lines to say keep the fanzine coming 'cos we need it at Celtic Park to keep the flag flying (and you know what flag I mean!). I must say that your last issue was most impressive and it really blows every other publication on sale away, official and unofficial. I also think that you have developed the mag well beyond it's original, sometimes romanticised, view of Celtic and Ireland into a mature and reasoned fanzine which I think is a must for all Celts now, even those who don't go along with your more extreme political views. I don't know if this maturity is down to the fact that you have all grown up with the fanzine (I hope that doesn't sound too patronising, it's not meant to) but TAL is all the better for it.

Keep the faith, James, Glasgow.

Killie Nationalism!?!*Dear TAL,*

I recently received a bundle of previous TAL's from a friend and was pleasantly surprised by their content, especially the newer ones which seemed more balanced and less propaganda driven. I was pleased to see that there is also a campaign for a free Scottish Republic as this is as important as the fight for a united Ireland. Celtic fans must remember that a vote

for Labour is a vote for unionism, the Queen and a British-occupied Ireland. If Scotland becomes independent, there will be no union left so who will the Loyalists be loyal to? I've been a member of the SNP for a while now and just about everyone I speak to are republicans with no religious majority evident. Labour have for years lied that they represent the working class and the Catholic communities when they really represent the crown and the middle class. The likes of Brian Wilson and Jim Murphy are patronising bastards who only turn up at Parkhead when corporate hospitality is on offer or the chance of some publicity beckons. Murphy is nothing but a middle class Tory in disguise. When were they last at Dens Park on a pissin' Wednesday night?!

The real problem is to convince Protestants in the north of Ireland and non-Catholics in Scotland that unionism is politically bankrupt and bigoted. This message is getting through in Scotland, apart from those Orange and Loyalist scum. Once we take religion out of the equation (both in Scotland and Ireland) then half the troubles are already solved because, politically, the loyalists don't have a leg (or legs!) to stand on.

Finally, I forgot to mention, I'm not a Celt, but a Killie season ticket holder. I hope that all you Celts know that your politics isn't defined by what club you support. Likewise, just because you support Celtic and sing 'The Boys of the Old Brigade' doesn't make you politically active. The only gripe I have is when Killie fans are called 'Huns'. This really pisses us off because we hate those bastards with a passion. OK, so Celtic aren't our favourites either, but that's down to all the Old Firm buses that leave from Ayrshire instead of following their local side. After all, that's how teams got their names, from the area. The reason why Tommy Burns got such a bad response was due to the fact that we worshipped him, along with the many other Celtic-connected players. We're also one of the few teams who don't fly the imperialist flag of murder (unlike Hearts, Motherwell, Dundee, Shitty Ayr, Airdrie). Killie has a proud history of trying to compete with the Old Firm and have always had one of the best supports in the country for a provincial club. Two further examples to dispel the 'Hun' myth include Killie fans confronting two Nazi skins baiting Celtic with a Union Jack at Hampden a few years ago, resulting in them being kicked out. Incidentally, we have had some anti-fascist skins for years.

Another event took place at Scumerset Park when a load of us were confronted by guys handing out leaflets to protest at the two Scots Guards jailed for murdering an innocent man in Belfast. Anyway, they were told in no uncertain terms to fuck right off! Those two should rot in hell! British justice eh? All the best to TAL for the future and to Celtic fans in ridding the club of that wee Tory McCann. Our board actually drink in our social club and talk to us about any problems. That's how it should be!

Soar Alba! *Mac The Knife, Ayrshire.*

it's celtic first, celtic last, and celtic over all

In 1888 the boys a group of Irishmen,
They formed a brand new football team, in
Glasgow's dark east end,
And Brother Walter then addressed them in St
Mary's Hall
He said, " Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic
over all."

The Rangers club they came to open dear old
Paradise,
And Neil McCollum scored the first, then he
realised,
The game was over and then James Kelly handed
them the ball
And said, " Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic
over all

In 1892 the cup was won on throx soil
The Queens Park team had no trophy, they met
with Jigs Dan Doyle,
Who celebrated all night long, the Irish one and
all,
Sang " Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic
over all."

The early twentieth century saw Glasgow Celtic
win,
Six flags in a row with Somers, Loney, Hay and
Quinn,
Napoleon and the icicle with Adams big and
tall,
Sang " Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic
over all

The war to end all wars was on but Celtic did
not sigh,
The Easter Rising of '16, had kept our spirits
high,
With Sunny Jim and Charlie Shaw and snipper
Jim McColl,
Sayin', Celtic first and Celtic last, and Celtic
over all."

All through the twenties we produced some
men of great amaze,
McErory, Wilson and McLean, the Thomsons
and McStays,
When Patsy did a somersault with feet around
the ball,
He said, " Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic
over all

The Empire Exhibition came to Glasgow on the
Clyde,
As hard they tried the Sunderland and Hearts
were swept aside,
And Everton their hearts were broke, as Divers
Green and all,
Sang, Celtic first and Celtic last, and Celtic over
all."

Those bigots from the side were plain to be
seen,
They tried to take away our flag of Orange,
White and Green,
The banner stays, Sir Robert says in answer
to our call,
He said, " Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic
over all

In 1953 the Coronation Cup was won,
Then Celtic 7 Rangers 1, 'Twas Hampden in the
sun,
When Bertie Peacock held aloft the cup we
heard him call
" Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic over
all."

Bill Shankly said to Stein one afternoon in
Lisbon town,
" Hey Jock, now you're immortal with the
European Crown,
All Glasgow was a sea of Green that night as
I recall,
We sang, " Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic
over all

We've Protestants and Catholics here together
dice again
Just like the days of yore with the United
Irishmen,
Nine in a row it goes to show, the greatest
team of all,
It's " Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic over
all."

Now in a new Millennium, we're yearning for
a team,
To match our brand new stadium, I hope it's
not a dream,
Gh Croadh Mìoo Croidhe, I long to see the writing
on the wall
Sayin', " Celtic first, and Celtic last, and Celtic
over all

In the next issue of Tìocfaidh Ar La!

FAREWELL TO FERGUS - An assessment of the 5 year
reign of Fergus Mc Cann at Celtic Park.
THE EASTER RISING - SPECIAL FEATURE ON 1916
RISING
TAL ISSUE 23 - Out in March 1999

" Celtic First, Celtic Last, Celtic over All" is another great song written by Charlie and The Boys which fairly
sums up the history of Celtic and the relationship between the two great loves of Celtic Supporters - the team and
the republican cause. Thanks for the song, lads, keep them coming

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