



# APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

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## Sammy Captains Celtic

This is my idea of an April Fools joke...it actually happened

the other week at Inverness at that Scottish Cup game we were all banned from seeing thanks to the Champions League High Heid Yins. Not only that but a few days later we had Kris Commons - normally pretty switched on (particularly when it comes to dropping balls in the net from ridiculous angles) - spraffin on about how Big Georgie was a deadly striker. Two SPL goals - and we're almost at the split! No since "Tony Cannae-score-yi-no" huv we had such an unlikely goal threat, even Joe Ledley's been giving him a run for his money lately. To be fair to Lenny the idea of putting Sammy on did the trick for a bit - Boughy, McGregor and co were kept so busy trying to work out what the hell he was doing, they didn't spot the rest of the team running rings round them. But even they've got it now. And what we all want to know (including Big Tony's dad) is - what has Stokes currently the SPL's No 2 scoring striker done to deserve the "Deek treatment". As far as I know he's still free to enter any club of his choice from the Grassmarket to West Pilton. Plus he's so keen to get an early night he even gets a cab home to bed in Scotland when his mates are out on the ran-dan in London. So come on Lenny give him a run out and a crack at that SPL top striker spot, cos there'll be two moons in the sky or a sighting of Freddie Ljunberg on the pitch at Parkhead (I'm not sure which is less likely) before Sammy manages to hit those sort of goal scoring numbers.

## Time To Destroy The Old Firm Tag

Well what can you say about the CIS Cup Final? We lost the game because we didn't want it enough. Take nothing away from the Nasty Ones, they were hungrier for the trophy - end of. But let's talk about the crowd and the atmosphere. A real Cup Final with noise, passion, nervous anticipation and families. Yes I was in with my family groupings who made that final one of the best I've attended from a Celtic perspective. That part of the East Stand, next to the Green Brigade, literally rocked. I was completely knackered by the end of that 120 minute showdown. My legs were gone, jumping up and down to "Just Can't Get Enough". My voice croaking with songs and stories rolling off my tongue. Now that by and large was one half of Hampden - a real cup final. The other half even in victory sang their songs of derision, hatred - nasty sectarianism and bigoted bilge that makes a mockery of anything that could relate to the "Beautiful Game". "Up to their knees in Fenian Blood", "No Pope of Rome", "The Famine is Over". These songs rang out from all sections of their crowd while we sang about Love and comfy sofas. Not a minority - what we call a common (as muck) collective, a rabble of Orcs who couldn't even celebrate a victory without bitterness coming to the fore. Still the media does the usual "both as bad as each other" headlines - claiming pro IRA songs from the Celtic support are as bad as songs about pure hatred for anything Roman Catholic. Let's put it in perspective, as a respected academic has just done. The cause for Irish freedom came from both Protestants and Catholics. The founder of the Irish Republican movement was Protestant as were many heroes and martyrs including Emmett and Tone. The ballads of Irish freedom tell the stories of their struggles. They aren't about hatred to people of other beliefs. There is no downright sectarian chanting from the Celtic support. Sure we have a few who try to replicate the Hun hatred but it's a small element usually policed by the majority of decent Celtic fans. The term "Old Firm" has to be rejected and removed from the vocabulary of all of the Celtic support. The Huns will always be our bitter rivals and rightly so but it's time we consign the "Old Firm" tag to the bin. Until those who run Rang-

ers FC come out and do something about this dark stain of bigotry, there is no point in further dialogue whatever Regan and Salmon may say. What's that I hear you say about "then"? Something to do with "Hell" and "Freezing over".

## Sporting Success - South London Celtic Olympics

Congratulations go to Tam Burke the overall adult champion of our first ever South London Celtic Olympics. Not since Naka put one over on Man U have we seen the sort of accuracy with a ball Tam showed in the indoor penalties. He also wiped the floor with the competitors in the table football with the help of his team mate Ciaran and won the adult competition in the Wii with Maria. Although, in the Wii it was the kids (the kids' overall champion Tommy Luke and his partner Conal) not the adults who were actually the all out winners. Congratulations in the individual events go to James for the kids' penalties and his dad in the adults' darts - and Conor and partner in the kids' table football. Thanks also go to those who helped put on the excellent Bhoys' buffet - Mary Harper, Jane and the Sweeney family, and Sean Longden. The food was enjoyed by all and helped keep many a member in good voice well into the evening at the Rebel-oke which followed.

## Split On the Way - and More Tickets Available

April will decide ultimately if Celtic has the bottle to win trophies. We've seen some really good enjoyable football this season but will Neil Lennon replicate the Tommy Burns (RIP) season? No silverware and ultimate failure, coupled with attractive football but not enough bottle and experience to lift the trophies. The SPL split happens on 23/24 April. The current speculation is that we'll meet the Gers either over the Easter weekend or Bank Holiday Monday. (Although, Strathclyde police don't sound too happy about either of those options.) Celtic will have three home and two away fixtures - two, possibly three of the home fixtures (if Freddie Ljunberg isn't spotted again and we get actually the Gers at home) will be free for any season book member who is interested to request. Anyone interested now should let us know on a first come first served basis - confirming the dates they wish when the split fixtures are announced. Although, I think we can all probably guess what four of the fixtures will be: TFOD and Hearts (Away), Arabs and Killie (Home) with either Motherwell or ICT (the other Home). And no, that's no because I'm psychic but because like most Celtic fans .....I do know my history.

## HAIL HAIL

### Games for April

Apr 2 (12.00) - ICT v Celtic (SPL) - ESPN  
Apr 6 (19.45) Celtic v Hibs (SPL) - No TV These were booked before this was rescheduled but may now be free  
Apr 9 (15.00) - Celtic v St Mirren (SPL) - No TV but 1 free seat  
Apr 12 (18.00) - St Johnson v Celtic - (SPL) ESPN  
Apr 17 (12.45) - Celtic v Aberdeen (SC) - SKY  
Apr 20 (19.45) - Killie v Celtic (SPL) - SKY  
Apr 23 (H), Apr 30 A - Post split TBC.