

What's the News in FEBRUARY



Stranger than Fiction

As a kid I always used to like the "Stranger than Fiction" column in "Ireland's Own" and last month's tales from the SPL certainly fell into that category. Forget Sky Sports and their Super Sundays, we've had Jawdropping January. The most talked about transfer target coming from...St Johnstone! People being out bid for new signings by...St Mirren! Then there was something I never expected to see happen in my lifetime...Davie Weir retiring. Plus our boy Forest making the FIFA worldwide rising player to watch in 2012 list! No offence to wee Jamsie who's saved the day on more than one occasion this season - but exactly how long is that list - and does it just mean they'll be a long line of Championship outfits (and Tottenham) trying to tempt him away with half a kitkat and the promise of playing at big time venues like Ipswich and Doncaster. Almost everyone at Celtic - Hooper, McCourt, Matthews, Commons - even the lassies on the tills in the Celtic shops - seems to have had the same sort of offer from a championship outfit - £6m - and thankfully so far each time the "Not for sale" sign has gone up. Who do they think we are - Rangers? Which all makes it even stranger that the one thing everyone thought was a dead cert to happen this month - hasn't yet...and at the time of writing Jelavic is still in Scotland. Maybe he likes our pies? Don't worry though Ally if it comes to the last day and there's still no takers - I'm sure St Mirren'll be able to scrape together enough cash for him.

2011-12 Memberships

If you haven't got round to renewing your membership, we've just 15 - 2011-12 membership badges left. So renew now to avoid disappointment. This year we've introduced a half price kid's membership - £7.50 and the £25 family membership covering a couple and their kids. If you have renewed but not claimed your badge yet speak to Aidan Lennon.

Name Calling

"Celik, Celik come on you...." "boy in blue?" Yeah, somehow it doesn't have quite the same ring to it. Of course, I'm talking about Mervan (pronounced More-than) the new Rangers player whose name has caused quite a 'kerfuffle' over at Ibrox. Just now players you've never heard of with Scrabble board names seem to be all the rage, particularly with Rangers taking a leaf out of Tesco's book with the "Buy one, Get one free policy" - though option A seems a lot less popular. The web is full of daft jokes that Mervan's dad is called "Mon" and his brother is called "Glaszki" but what really made me laugh the most is that the Huns have made him put his first

name on the back of his shirt so as not to cause offence to the Bluenose Brotherhood. Can you seriously imagine any other team in the SPL reacting like that - Hibs say getting shirty with a German prospect called "Hertz" or Celtic and Aberdeen worried about what they're going to tell the fans if they win a bidding war for dutch forward they were both after called "Wim Vorangers". Message to the Southsiders - Catch yerself on.

Getting your goat

What's getting your goat right now? Eejits with short memories claiming it's all done and dusted - and the season's in the bag ...now we have that massive 4 point lead? The fact Scottie Broom's weekly wage is bigger even than Harry Rednapp's dog's? Well with me, it's the way new signings keep getting compared to our past heroes. Mo Bangura ...the next Larsson. Aye right - maybe they were talking about Stieg cos it certainly couldn't have been Henrik? And now we have Lenny saying new bhoys Ibrahim is the next Nakamura. No offence to the boy but I'd rather we all wait to pass judgment until a) he's actually played a match b) he's actually scored c) he's SPL player of the year d) he has Kilmarnock managers on suicide watch and offering to drive him to the airport - and finally e) up on the terraces they are singing "he eats chow mein and votes sinn fein...walking in a Naka wonderland" or something similar. Until that time all he'll be is the next Ibrahim.

To a tax dodger...

This week we were passed a wee homage to Burns which has been doing the rounds. Sadly, we've not enough space to reproduce the full poem but these first few stanzas may give you a giggle.

"Nae twa happ'nies, short ae cash, No allowed tae sing the Sash. And in my plans I didnae Vector. For a visit from wee Hector. So oota here a'll have tae scurry. Or ma names no David Murray. Because wae him I've been so lax. So he caught me fiddlin tax. Afore ma schemes are aw laid bare. A'll need nae tae find a billionaire. But only sell tae wan who's right. Aw feck aw that there's Craigie White."

Thanks to the author whoever you are...you've given us all a laugh.

MATCH DAYS

Sat 4 Feb Inverness v Celtic (Scottish Cup) - 12.45 + TV
Wed 8 Feb Hearts v Celtic (SPL) - 19.45 + TV
Sat 11 Feb Celtic v Inverness (SPL) - 15.00
- 1 ticket remaining, TV TBC
Sun 19 Feb Hibs v Celtic (SPL) - 15.00 + TV
Sat 25 Feb Celtic v Motherwell (SPL)
- 2 tickets remaining, TV TBC - 15.00

Happy Birthday Nigel

Hail, hail - and here's hoping for Hampden on the 18th March

P.S. There are still 3 pre-split season book tickets going spare. Check out the website for full details.