



AGM 2011 SPECIAL

www.bhoysofcroydoncsc.com.....@bhoysofcroydon.....

Roller Coaster Year At Celtic

It's a Bhoys' tradition that a summary of the season from both the team and club perspective is given at the AGM by the club secretary, so over to Jim Bradley for this one....highs and lows - with the clear team highlight being winning the Scottish Cup, Lennon's first trophy as manager, despite a disappointing end to the season as we virtually handed the league title to Rangers. Though in a way it was all overshadowed by death threats against Neil Lennon and the disgusting treatment he gets from the Scottish media and establishment. Off the field, we had Celtic's dignified stand against bias within the SFA and among Scottish referees. Then this month we learned John Reid will give up his job as Chairman later this year, news which will probably be welcomed by the Green Brigade and others but whatever opinions we have about Reid's politics, it's unarguable he gave us strong leadership. But back to the start of the season and the Emirates Tournament (no group bookings this time but somehow the Bhoys' contingent all ended up in the same two rows behind the Green Brigade) as we drew 2-2 with Lyon and were beaten 3-2 by Arsenal. A horrendous start to the Champions' League qualifier followed. Nae telly, but a few of us watched the 3-0 drubbing by Braga at the Galicia Spanish restaurant on the Portuguese TV with some tapas, washed down with Spanish and Portuguese beer and wine. (Mibbe a formula we should try at the BGT as long as the scorelines don't suffer). We won 2-1 in the return leg but it wasn't enough and it was on to a Europa League qualifier. We beat Utrecht 2-0, then lost 4-0 in the second leg - and the European dream was over. No wee pontinental trips, unless you count Donegal that is. Inverness was the first league game with a goal from Paddy McCourt we can all still remember and a great run through August, September and October brought us within inches of a new straight wins record. Then came the 3-1 defeat against the Gers and the infamous Willie Collum penalty. Still we regrouped, till the Wednesday night at Tynecastle when we got beat 2-0 and Ledley was sent off (the only light at the end of the tunnel was the pasting the Gers got from the hibeas that night). But let's not forget all those victories against the Sheep and the text that came in from our seats at Parkhead saying "it should have been 10" as we created a new SPL record. Or the 2-0 drubbing of the Huns on the 2nd January. Then we went to Berwick for the fourth round of the Scottish Cup and a debut for Freddie Llundberg. Though after that he was seen more often in the official club designer suit than he was in the number 7. Not much later, it was Hearts again who by then were being proclaimed real contenders and one of our best displays of the season. In February, we went back to Ibrox in the Cup, came back twice from behind and all learned to do the "Broonie". From then it was looking great: 3-0 at Ibrox and the night we put the Gers out of the Cup. A draw against the Gers followed and we thought the league was ours for the taking. (I won't mention that terrible performance in the League Cup or that re-arranged fixture at Inverness with the 6pm kickoff.) But despite the disappointment, we ended on a high with the Scottish Cup - and those memories of the last SPL match. We proved to ourselves (if we needed any reminding) that Celtic fans don't head for the exits at the first sign of trouble and really are faithful through and through. Even Rod and his pals in the prawn sandwich seats want to stay right to the end singing "Let's All Do the Huddle" - and we wouldn't have it any other way.

Meanwhile.... On the Road

After a few seasons of the luxury of being able to watch nearly all the home games live at the Club, Celtic and the telly companies' decision to pull the plug meant most of us having to find our way round the internet - and checking on weird sites like Iraq goals. One of the plus points was that the Club's two season books got a lot more use this year - there was one of us at about 80% of the games - matches like Hearts on Wednesday in January being among the few exceptions. Despite being out of Europe, BoC On Tour managed two outings. In November, it was a trip to Donegal for what was supposed to be John Kennedy's testimonial at Finn Harps. But the weather was against us, after snow and ice the game as postponed and the plane got diverted to Belfast from Derry. We were forced to get a taxi costing £220 to Gweedore which took over 3 hours. Not that it got in the way of a great weekend, including a visit to a big Sinn Fein celebration in a local hotel. Next came the day trip to Easter Road for our game against Hibs - first pint Gatwick 7.15am, flight 8.15am, next pint Wetherspoons, Edinburgh 10am, on to a pub by the ground, in with the Green Brigade to watch Hooper and Stokes's 3-0 demolition of Hibs, more pubs ending up in Biddy Mulligan's in the Grassmarket, a visit to the birth place of James Connolly, back to the airport for 8.30pm and in the George, Croydon by 10.30pm. Now, all days should be like that.

Festivities At Home

Two cup finals and a record number of TFOD games meant there were plenty of excuses for a party at the BGT too. Having sorted out the new media - a new presence on Twitter, Facebook and a re-jigged website meant even as far as Peckham, they'd heard that the BGT was the place to be on those special Celtic days (and nights). Thanks to the Sweeney family, Mary Harper, Colette Luke and Sean Longden for the excellent purvey - and to Mr Dempsey for the entertainments including the Rebeloke and acoustic duo Saorse. During the World Cup, the Bhoys also ran a series of World Cup Saturdays - taking in the games and sampling the traditional food of whoever was playing. Who'd have thought the Koreans liked mince as much as Scottish people and we'd be cheering on Ki and his mates so we could try some more of their grub. (And before you ask no dogs were injured in the course of that particular celebration.) Then came the Celtic Olympics when we challenged the members to show us what they were made of in the 'real sports' of wii football, table football, indoor penalties and DARTS. Tommy Luke won the Junior Event and Tam Burke took the senior crown, after showing he was every bit as good as Commons when it came to penalty shoot outs.

Season Books & 2011/12 Membership

The AGM decided to freeze subscription fees for season books and other membership categories at 2010/11 levels. The new membership form is now online and we are taking in subscriptions for those who want to get in early. With demand for the use of the season books so good this season, the AGM also agreed to alter the scheme to ensure no one is disappointed. The season will be split in two - with requests taken for tickets up to December until the end of October - after which reservations can be made for the second part of the season. It has also been decided to limit the number of season book members to 20 on a first come first served basis - although with Family and Standard members it will continue to be a case of the more the merrier. Our first member-

ship renewal for 2011/12 has already signed up and others are welcome either via the Website or direct to John Sweeney.

Charity Thanks

We'd like to thank you all for your generosity too - both for your contributions to individual members' charitable activities and club wide fundraising. After requests went out support flooded in for Keith's charity run and for Trisha's bike ride in aid of the Accord Hospice in Paisley. This year, thanks to those raffles, badge and merchandise sales, we've been able to make a surplus for the Club which has allowed us to make a donation to charity. The AGM voted to donate this money to the Kano Foundation (www.thekanofoundation.com). This group specialise in taking disadvantaged kids and other community groups on days out to see matches at Celtic Park. With your help in Season 2011/12 we would like to be able to do the same and help another charity.

On the Ball

The Bhoys made one final charitable contribution this season - when we fielded a team in a Charity 5 a side tournament in aid of Multiple Sclerosis. Keith Young was in goal, while Des Hoar, Aidan Lennon, Declan Ferry, Willie Thomson and Tam

Burke were our outfield players. Vinnie Paton, the unused sub got as far as taking his tracksuit off, before thinking better of it, and a number of members including Pat Boyle, John McIntyre, Tony Lewis and Jim Bradley, came down to cheer on the Croydon Hoops. Around 40 other teams competed but our team stood out in two respects. No, not just that they were all wearing hoops but that none of them had remembered to bring a ball. While the other teams warmed up on the ball, our Bhoys had to pretend to do stretching exercises. And while they were hydrating themselves with energy and sports drinks, our star striker Willie had a fag in one hand and a pint of Guinness in the other. (Just like the glory days of football.) Still we managed to raise £70 for charity and a great time was had by all, especially in the bar afterwards with a rendition of "I Just Can't Get Enough". After one incident of note, in one of our games, Keith came off the park and said "I felt like Johnny Thompson out there". To which Pat replied "Sure you don't mean Frank Haffey?" And in memory of that incident and with no disrespect to the memory of Johnny Thompson, our Secretary Jim Bradley has penned this wee parody of the Johnny Thompson song.

HAIL HAIL

The Ballad of Keith Young

And old man named Keith Young,
From West Bellshill he came,
To play for the Bhoys of Croydon and to build himself a name,
On the 8th day of June, in the 5 aside he played,
In the Power League of Croydon. And many's the save he made.

The ball came down the centre, our Keith ran out and dived,
But the ball it struck him hard and strong right between the eyes,
Our Keith lay still and silent, as the players they gathered round,
To try and find his contact lenses scattered on the ground

The ref said "Can you count to ten?" cos maybe you're concussed
Our Keith he said "No I'm awright, no need to make a fuss,
But something queer had happened, cos after in the showers
He came out holding Declan's hand and a bunch of flowers

So Keith you're now a legend amongst the Celtic throng
Your daring exploits on the park are worthy of a song
You may be getting on in years but history you defied
Playing for the Bhoys of Croydon in the Powerleague 5 a side