

What's the News in OCTOBER



Carry On Singing

Let's get this straight, I've never had a desire to be up to my knees in Orange or Fenian blood but I do like a wee sing off at a football match - the more un-PC the better. Look, if singing about something actually turned you into it - James Blunt wouldn't still have a face like a slapped arse and Rolf Harris would be going round on all threes by now. Which is why reading about the Offensive Behaviour at Football Bill (currently going through the Scottish Parliament and expected to be law by the end of the year) has had me wondering exactly what sort of numpties we have in Holyrood. Eck (Bandwagon) Salmon was so keen to get a quick soundbite in after Dioufgate, we started off with a law which was either going to be totally unenforceable or end up with Barlinnie being so big you could see it from space. No sectarian singing at grounds or pubs with tellys...but when you asked for the song list, the only tunes which were seemingly banned were three national anthems...that would have made for interesting viewing at Murrayfield and the Commie Games (or is it just football fans who are criminals). Then there were the clarifications about "aggressively blessing yourself" and you wondered what was coming next "watch out for rosaries used as numchucks". Meanwhile, NIL by Mouth haven't even been consulted. So it's no surprise, Roseanna Cunningham has now had to concede you'll 'only' face arrest if songs, chants and gestures are likely to spark "public disorder". And in a country where a man who attacks someone in front of a world-wide TV audience, the Hearts Head of Security, and then admits he did it can get a not proven verdict, you're probably still safe to call the Ref a "Dirty Orange Bastard" as long as the other 60,000 people in the stadium (or more like the 12 punters on the jury) don't disagree with you.

In Praise of Section 111

You've probably spotted that this month we have our logo side by side that of the Green Brigade. Having been present at the ICT game on 24 September, the full realisation of what it really means to have the Green Brigade in full voice and colour or have a stadium with no vocal support or banners struck home. 2-0 didn't flatter the Hoops, but neither side were setting the heather on fire. During the first half the GB held a silent protest with banners proclaiming the following in no particular order: **"POLICE STATE", "NO AGGRESSIVE FLAG WAVING", "SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND POLICE GUILTY OF THE CRIMINALISATION OF THE CELTIC SUPPORT"** **"NOT LATERAL MOVEMENT", "SMILE YOU'RE ON CAMERA" "OUR SONGS ARE NO SECTARIAN, OUR SONGS ARE**

NOT ILLEGAL, WE WILL NOT BE CRIMINALISED, WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED" Then on 50 minutes the party began, with "Let the People Sing" and Paradise was alive with passion and noise which flowed to other areas of the stadium normally either quiet or full of "fans" ranting at the team, which we all know and loathe. The last ten minutes were pure class and, the irony was not lost on anyone, except maybe the Celtic Directors, with the "Paddy McCourt's Fenian Army" chant being started by the GB, then moving to all areas of the ground, all reciprocating except the main stand director area. (Note to Ms Cunningham the Fenians - both the Fenian Brotherhood and the Irish Republican Brotherhood were fraternal organisations dedicated to the establishment of an independent Irish Republic - and both were made up of Catholics and Protestants. Celtic don't sing sectarian songs - simple.) Football can change in a week (how true is that this week), any Celtic manager is only three defeats away from a crisis, but the thunder is back and, totally inspired by The GB. There's passion in the stands with the players realising the extra dimension that can come from some of those once empty green seats. Thomas Rogne's twitter said it all **"The GB was Man of the Match"**. As the GB said in their recent statement: **"First they came for the Green Brigade, and I did not speak up, because I was not in the Green Brigade. Then they came for me, and nobody was left to speak up for me. Let the Green Brigade sing."**

A Spot of Bhoys' Business

The new membership badges for 2011-12 are available. If you haven't had yours yet - speak to Aidan Lennon. The committee has also agreed to set up a new child membership category for kids under 16 (£7.50). Season book members are reminded to check out the website for free ticket slots - the next two home matches are going spare - these tickets will also be available to standard and family members price £10 - if unbooked two weeks from kickoff. Finally, if you're off to Rennes on the Bhoys' Away Day and want to be sporting your Croydon credentials - there are just two Bhoys hats remaining (£6) but we do have a whole host of brand new Bhoys of Croydon T-Shirts in all sizes (even girl sizes) celebrating the Broonie & Just Can't Get Enough, (£12). Speak to John Sweeney for further details.

Hail, Hail

P.S. ...according to our constitution it's the pub management's prerogative to ban people from the pub and those banned in this way are automatically barred from the club. The management have informed us that any ban made from now on will be a non-negotiable life ban.

MATCH DAYS

15 Oct Killie v Celtic (SPL) - 12.30
 20 Oct Rennes v Celtic (Europa) - 18.00
 23 Oct Celtic v Aberdeen (SPL) - 15.00 - Tickets available
 26 Oct Hibs v Celtic (Communities Cup) - 19.15
 29 Oct Celtic v Hibs (SPL) - 15.00 - Tickets available

Congratulations to Mark McManus who won the Rangers match tickets.