

The Echo

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The Echo: News like you've never known it

Sporting thought for the week:

"I spent 90% of my money on women and drink. The rest I wasted." George Best

No-Watergate

Trouble has broken out in the O'Connell household this week, as the fall-out from what is now being dubbed as "No-Watergate" continues.

Stories emerged from the senior team dressing room last week that Ryan O'Connell had failed to fulfil his kit washing duties. As a result, the team took to the field wearing a kit that had been fermenting in the boot of his car for the entirety of the mini-heatwave experienced over Easter.

When challenged on the situation, O'Connell was adamant that there was little he could have done about the situation, given that Thames Water had cut the supply off to his house for the two-weeks due to repair works.



O'Connell: Divorce

However, an investigation by *The Echo* has discovered that there was nothing wrong with the water supply to the house. Friends say Ryan is privately blaming his mother, Marie, for not washing the kit for him, but gallantly made up the water excuse to save her blushes.

Relations have soured so much within the homestead, that Ryan has sought legal advice about divorcing his mother, given that this is the second time this season that she has failed to wash an entire team's kit for him.

Younger brother Daniel has intervened in the situation to try and prevent it from spiralling, and this week both Ryan and Marie attended a family counselling session aimed at mending bridges.

The Echo has obtained a secret recording of the session, during which Ryan is heard to lambast his mother saying: "How hard would it have been to go to the boot of the car, take

the kit out, wash it, dry it, fold it and put it back in the boot of the car again? Not very hard I think. It's not rocket science."

Marie's reply was short and to the point, reminding her son that: "I'm not Dot Cotton you know", a reference to the famous EastEnders laundry attendant.

"Too f**king right you're not. Dot would have washed the kit" an angry Ryan was heard to snap back.

In an attempt to prevent any further trouble within the O'Connell camp, Claretian good-guy Tadhg Lee volunteered to take the kit this week, and upon arriving home, promptly handed it to his wife Claire to wash.

And in a dramatic late twist, photos have emerged of Marie deep in conversation with well-known environmentalist Ronan Gaughan, who famously withheld a consignment of jerseys intended for desperate Africans in order to prevent himself ever having to waste water washing a jersey again.

Could it be that Marie has chosen to follow the eco-warrior path carved out by Gaughan?



Eco warriors: Gaughan and Marie



Couple of Spacers

Claretian Sean Hill has revealed how he has been taking personal and sporting advice from a disgraced former US astronaut, whom he met on the dark web.

"Sean Hill living on the moon! That sounds about right" was all boss Pat McLoughlin would say.

Pick Of The Bunch

Claretians across the globe have been quick to congratulate senior player Mikey Lavelle, after he landed the role as presenter of the new TV game show *Take Your Pick*.

The Mayo native was a surprise choice for the role, but the show's producers are convinced that they have managed to land themselves a star for the future.

"There's something about Mikey" one insider told *The Echo*. "It's hard to put your finger on it. He's a bit green but he cer-

tainly has a nose for showbiz."

Lavelle has assured senior manager Pat McLoughlin that he will be about for the remainder of the season, despite spending most of the week in the TV studios, working out what the TV company have termed as "a few boogies in Mikey's performance".

McLoughlin is said to be delighted for Lavelle and told our reporter: "I'll be the first to shake his hand when he comes to training. Provided he's washed it first of course."



A real nose for success: Lavelle