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St Clarets GFC: You'll come because of the football and stay because of the people.

No Good Will For Big Phil

News in Brief

Claretian die-hard Mike Shea almost paid the ultimate price for his devotion to the club after the recent Tir Chonaill Gaels 7-a-side tournament in Greenford.

While dancing by himself in the middle of an empty dance floor, Shea was swept off his feet by a keen, determined and incredibly strong older lady.

However, during a performance that was described by one on-looker as "like watching Bambi being hoisted in the air by a fork lift truck" (with Mike playing the role of Bambi), Shea was viciously slashed in the hands by his dance partner, an act that led to him being rushed to the *Adam and Eve* for an emergency alcohol transfusion.

Doctor's expect Mike's blood alcohol level to be restored to it's normal readings very soon.

St Clarets chairman John Kelly expressed his gratitude to club members who helped both Sean McCarthy and Paul Myers to find their way back Kingshill Ave last Sunday.

Having been missing for some considerable time, the club had almost given up on ever seeing the duo again.

Immediately upon hearing news of their return, club veteran Paddy Donaghy set about finding a young fattened calf to spit-roast.

"They were lost and now they are found" said a joyful Donaghy. "The whereabouts of Joe McCarthy and Marc Collentine is still obviously a concern for all of us, but today's events give us hope" he added.

Passengers on the London Underground were this week asked to be extra vigilant when travelling, following a spat of disturbing incidents involving a 6ft 7in Cavan man known simply as "Big Phil".

In the latest of these incidents, the giant Shercock man was rumoured to have decided to live full-time on the tube, in a joint protest against rising rents in London and the exorbitant daily maximum fare charged to his Oyster card.

In a desperate attempt to beat the system, the towering St Clarets defender is said to have moved out of his flat and moved all his belonging on to a train on the Piccadilly Line, figuring he could both live and travel in London for the bargain price of £7.40 a day.

Big Phil's stance has been likened to that taken by anti-capitalist protesters in the recent "Occupy London" campaign, although he himself told the Echo that he had no issue with capitalism.

"Listen, I'm a proud Cavan man, so money's very important to me, especially finding ways of saving

money, or at least not spending it. It's part of my DNA" he said.

"I've no issue whatsoever with people making loads of money, just so long as I'm getting my share" he explained.

"Back in Shercock, I got a cut of everything, going right back to the national school, when I'd turn boys upside down to get their pocket money.

"There's no point being 6ft 7 if you're not going to take advantage of it" he continued.

However, having spent an enjoyable first day travelling up and down the Piccadilly Line, Big Phil's master plan hit a major stumbling block, when security staff at Cockfosters woke him from his sleep and ordered him off the train at 1am, advising him that the service was now terminated for the day and that all trains had to be vacated.

Shocked by this unexpected flaw in his plan, *Big Phil* ended up paying £70 for a taxi back to West Drayton, where he had heard fellow Claretian Patrick Lynott had a room to rent.

Sadly for Phil, Patrick had the

volume turned up full blast on his newly acquired "Glory Glory Man Utd Vol.56" DVD and didn't hear his team mate's desperate knocks on the door.

It wasn't until the morning that Lynott discovered Big Phil sleeping in the front garden and



Big Phil makes himself at home on the Underground

promptly charged him £40 for the night's rent.

Sadly for Big Phil, it appears that there's no cheap way to beat the system in London.

Mayoral candidate Ken Livingstone has blamed Boris Johnson for Phil's plight, while Johnson has offered to open up the underground for all money conscious Cavan people in return for their vote.

A Wii Problem

St Clarets legend Erik Kinlon this week had to fight off speculation that he has become addicted to the Wii game of golf.

When approached by the media, the highly decorated Kildare man insisted that everything was under control. However, sources close to the former dual-star paint a very different picture and say that Kinlon is allowing the game to rule his life.

Erik was unwilling to comment further, as he was in 'the zone', but his

wife Emma, spoke freely to reporters and explained the way in which Kinlon's obsession took hold.

"It started last October when he hit a hole-in-one playing against our youngest. Thereafter, there was no stopping him, it was just Wii, Wii, Wii, that's all we heard, morning, noon and night" she explained.

"Next thing I knew, he'd quit work, our eldest (who's 5) had been taken out of school to be his caddie and Erik was applying to the PGA for a Tour card, he was so convinced he could 'make it' in the pro game.

"But it didn't stop there. He then convinced former Clarets team mate

Alec MacIndoe to leave his job as manager of Newbury and Crookham Golf Club and he's now on call 24/7 to assist Eric. Alec's better-half is none-too-pleased I can tell you.

"It's getting difficult to live in the house, as our middle boy walks around with a 'Quiet Please' sign and whenever I try and say something, this thing gets waved in my face.

"I suppose you could say it's become a Wii bit of a pain" Emma joked, before ducking to avoid a flying Wii controller, flung by Erik after finding the bunker on the 16th at Augusta, while trying to avoid yet another quadruple bogey.