

# The Claretian Echo

Our 50th edition .... who'd have thought it would be possible!

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St Clarets GFC: Fool if you think it's over .... we've just begun

## Valentian coup defeated

### Hats off to Hanna

James Hanna was this week hailed a real life Forrest Gump after completing the Belfast Marathon on May 6<sup>th</sup> and then just continuing to run.

Hanna (below) ran for 20 days non-stop until, delirious and in a state of semi-paralysis, he fell onto Aidan Donaghy's doorstep in Finchley at 2am last Monday morning, demanding money for a cab. He was just 18 miles from his final destination in Wimbledon.



Barry and Baff appear in the police line up. The identities of the others has been protected.

Bad boy Barry Lynch found himself in trouble on Sunday after he and accomplice John 'Baff' O'Connor unsuccessfully attempted to declare an independent state of Valentia in several London districts.

The pair took advantage of the Bank Holiday mood by launching an audacious coup in the *Claddagh Ring* in Hendon.

Arriving at 11pm, they attempted to pass new "official" Valentia Island currency across the bar and

when prevented by staff, demanded that bouncers unhand them immediately, due to them being members of the Valentian Royal Family.

Having unsuccessfully attempted to invade north London, the pair headed south to Stockwell, where they tried the same stunt in *The Swan*, this time jumping on top of the bar and demanding that everyone hand over their sterling in exchange for the new Valentian currency.

Police were called and despite

claiming diplomatic immunity, the pair spent the night in a cell, where they regaled officers with stories of Valentia.

In the morning they were placed in a line-up where they were easily identified by bar staff from several different parts of London.

Police have decided not to press charges, as they felt the pair do not pose a threat to society, given that no one had ever heard of Valentia Island and they didn't believe such a fairytale place could exist.

## Healy's no fancy dress footballer



Old favourite: the Arab

Claretian party-boy Matt Healy was at the centre of a dress-code dilemma last week when he attended his close friend Freddie's fifth birthday party.

The jelly and ice cream affair clashed with a vital St Clarets fixture, and Healy chose dancing over defending.

The invite stated fancy dress and Healy was left with the choice of resurrecting either

his Elmo costume or his Knights of Arabia outfit.

Seeking advice from work colleagues, it was suggested that Healy go dressed as a footballer, to which Healy replied: "Let's be serious here lads. I might be able to pass myself as an Arabian Knight or a character from Sesame Street, but no one would ever believe I am a footballer."



Old furry: Healy dressed as Elmo