

# City Edition



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## A word from the Chairman

**I would like to welcome all associated with the Celtic Football Club to Turner's Cross for tonight's game. The gesture made by Celtic in coming to Cork to play this game provided a huge boost to Cork City Football Club at a very difficult time, and in particular, I would like to express my thanks to Dermot Desmond and Peter Lawwell for their assistance in arranging this fixture.**

As we all know, Celtic are a club who enjoy massive support in Ireland, and Cork in particular. Their history of domestic and European success, along with their close links to Ireland mean that their fortunes are closely followed by many here, and these are links on which I believe we can build.

As a club, Celtic FC have always had a policy of retaining close links to the community. At Cork City FC, this is something on which we place great emphasis. By going out and visiting schools, soccer camps and other community groups, we are working hard to build relationships within our community here in Cork. The purpose of these visits is twofold: on the one hand it gives us the opportunity to introduce Cork City Football Club to young people all over Cork, thus beginning a

relationship between them and the club which we hope will last many years, allowing us to increase support and grow attendances. Secondly, as a club, we take our role in the community very seriously, and we also believe that our players, as the role models of many young people, should set a good example of healthy living, tolerance and respect. To that end, campaigns such as "Show Racism the Red Card" form a very important part of our visits to schools and clubs.

I hope that this evening's game will be a memorable and enjoyable occasion for all in attendance, and that those of you who may not be regulars here at Turner's Cross will enjoy your experience and return to see us again. With only two months remaining in the League of Ireland season, we have five home games here at Turner's Cross, and I would hope that the people of Cork will come out in force and support us as we bid for a successful end to the season!

Enjoy the game tonight, and support YOUR club!

*Tom Coughlan*

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# Lennon Looking Forward to Leaside Visit

by Niamh O'Mahony

**The last time Celtic were in town, Neil Lennon was part of a Bhoys side that beat Cork City 3-2 courtesy of a late goal from Mark Burchill.**

City had taken the lead through some great play from Derek Coughlan and Jimmy Mulligan – the latter rounding keeper Dimitri Kharine before slotting the ball home into an unguarded net.

Jackie McNamara levelled matters just before the break, and it was Lennon's pass to Burchill that allowed the striker fire home and put Martin O'Neill's side 2-1 ahead.

Kelvin Flanagan made it 2-2 from the penalty spot and the encounter looked set for a draw until Burchill's winner; Lennon involved again but helped by Shaun Moloney on this occasion.

The former Celtic team captain does not remember too much about the game itself but was quick to acknowledge the rousing welcome the club gets every time it arrives on these shores.

"I'm looking forward to it definitely and I think the players are as well," he revealed, speaking to *City*

*Edition.* "It's always great when we go over to Ireland because we know we have a large and passionate support over there, particularly in Cork as well.

"It's a hot bed for Celtic support and I think the players, particularly the younger players, will enjoy the experience of going over there and playing.

"It was wonderful last time. The reception we get is always great - they roll out the red carpet. Anytime Celtic go over to Ireland, there is always a great atmosphere and it creates a bit of a stir as well."

Lennon played with Celtic for seven years, and says moving into the coaching side of the game was simply a natural progression for him.

"I've enjoyed coaching. It was the next step in my career once I finished playing to be honest - it's just the next best thing to playing really. I just love the game, and I have done since I was a little boy.

"If I couldn't play, then I still wanted to be involved in some capacity. With coaching you're working with the players out on the training ground every day,

though a lot more preparation work goes into the coaching than did when I was playing.

"I'm in the middle of my Pro Licences at the minute and I'm obviously gaining a lot of experience from that working with the new manager and his backroom staff as well.

"I was in England last week seeing a couple of the clubs down there, having a wee look at how they do things and see what their training is like. It's all part of the educational process of trying to become a manager really."

And the 38-year-old for one does not believe you can move from being a player straight into a top management job.

"I think it's difficult to go straight into managing from playing. You're better off taking some time to learn the role and making your mistakes at a lower level and then when you think you are ready - because you never know when you are ready for a manager's job - you can call on that experience and hopefully not make the same mistakes as you've made before."

Lennon left Celtic in 2007, moving to Nottingham Forest and then on to Wycombe Wanderers before returning to Glasgow and joining Gordon Strachan's coaching staff at the club in April of 2008. He says his time as a player at Parkhead was incredibly special, a bond that continues today.

"It was just more of a football club than anywhere else I'd played," he recalled. "I was lucky. I played in a great team in a great era for the club. You just hope there is a lot more success around the corner.

"Obviously the priority this year is to win the title back and move on from there but I loved my time there as a player, it was just a great honour. Every day was just a joy to go in and train and play.

"When I became captain, I just wanted to become a winning captain. I only had the role towards the end of my time but I still had three years at it.

"We won two league titles, had some great memories and had, relatively, a lot of success. We had a few good runs in Europe as well and probably the highlight was getting to the UEFA Cup final. The biggest high was getting to that final and the biggest disappointment was losing it."

He went on: "It's very difficult now to compete with the Premier League clubs. We do what we can but I'm just worried that the gulf doesn't get too big.

"If Celtic were in the Premier League at this particular moment in time, they would hold their own outside the top six or seven clubs, but it's tough for us to compete with clubs in the Premier League who are even half the size of Celtic because of the TV revenue and all the trimmings that go with it."

One massive area of interest for League of Ireland supporters is the progress of former Derry City pair Paddy McCourt and Niall McGinn who have joined the Celtic ranks in recent years.

Lennon had positive reports for both men, and believes the domestic game here in Ireland - both north and south of the border - can only benefit on the back on recent exports from the league.

"Paddy has been with the first-team squad for the past six months. He had a bit of difficult adjusting to the pace of the game and the professional level for a while but he's a very talented player and now he doesn't look out of place.

"He came on as a sub against Arsenal (in the Champions League) and he has figured in the first team this season.

"Niall is improving all the time. He's a great athlete and an exciting player and I think it will only be a matter of time before he gets into the first team as well.

"I think the League of Ireland is now a hot bed for scouts. Look at Keith Fahey

- he went to Birmingham and has done very, very well.

"Roy Keane has taken (former Bhoys) Colin Healy to Ipswich, which is great, but there have been a few others that have come through over the past couple of years who will go on to forge good careers for themselves. It augurs well for the League.

"There are a lot of scouts watching games over there now and obviously we, with the Irish connection, would like to see more Irish players over at the club.

"We've got a good quota now though at the minute and we've a few more good younger ones coming through."

So who should City and Celtic fans be keeping an eye out for in the coming years?

"James Forrest. He's 19, making really good progress and if he features (at Turner's Cross), he's one of the ones to watch."



# SFAI Cup Review of Skibbreen Under 12

## Ahead of the draw for the 2009-10 competition Ger McCarthy takes a look back at the SuperValu West Cork Schoolboys League club Skibbreen's involvement in the 2009 SFAI Under 12 National Cup.

The 2009 SFAI National (Norton) Under 12 Cup competition proved a disappointing one for SuperValu WCSL clubs apart from Skibbreen who were the only team to make it past the preliminary round stages. The Baltimore Road club would go on to enjoy a terrific run in the tournament which eventually ended in December after a succession of memorable performances.

The weekend of the 20th and 21st of September marked the date for the opening matches in the SFAI tournament involving WCSL clubs. Skibbreen produced a dazzling display to knock out Wilton United of the Cork Schoolboys League, running out 2-1 winners thanks to goals from Darragh Casey and Alan Crowley.

Skibbreen's odyssey in the national competition continued on Saturday 18th October, when the WCSL side defeated the much-fancied Midleton on penalties to qualify for the third round. An absolutely enthralling encounter ended 3-3 after extra time between two evenly matched sides. Michael Hurley proved the hero for Skibb grabbing a terrific hat-trick to help send the tie to penalties.

Skibbreen held their nerve to eventually win 7-6 after one of the games of the season at Under 12 level.

Skibbreen topped their penalty shoot-out victory by causing another surprise result in the third round away to CSL side Greenwood on Sunday the 16th of November. The game ended 2-2 at the end of normal time with the West Cork side scoring twice from the penalty spot. Michael Hurley was brought down on both occasions and Gavin O'Neill kept his composure to convert both penalties. No further scoring in extra time meant for another nerve-tingling penalty shoot-out to decide the final outcome. Skibb used the experience of their win over Midleton in the previous round to hold their nerve and win 5-4 to progress to the fourth round.

The Baltimore Road club's remarkable run in the SFAI Under 12 National Cup finally came to an end away to Corinthian Boys A on the 14th of December. A 3-0 defeat marked the WCSL's side exit from the national competition against one of the top ranked Schoolboys League teams in the province. Skibbreen demonstrated their undoubted class throughout their momentous cup run playing a free-flowing style of football that impressed any fans lucky enough to witness one of their matches.

Skibbreen Under 12 squad 2009: Colm O'Driscoll, Niall

Seymour, Adam O'Brien, Colm Fitzgerald, Gavin O'Neill Alan Crowley, Aidan Pierce, Darragh Casey, John Davis, Conor Nolan, Sean O'Donovan, Alan Connolly, Sean Walsh, Stephen O'Brien, Jack O'Driscoll, Conor Hickey, Tom Maxon, Michael Hurley, Luka Azzuleos and Jake McCarthy.

## 2008/09 SuperValu WCSL Under 12 Clubs SFAI National Cup Results:

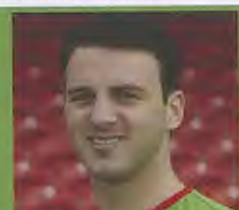
*Preliminary Round:* Drinagh Rangers 1 Castlevew 4, Skibbreen 2 Wilton United 1, Bay Rovers 2 Everton 3, Youghal United vs. Clonakilty AFC - Home Win was awarded, Bandon 0 Passage United 10, Mallow United vs. Bunratty United - Home Win was awarded.

*Round 2:* Skibbreen 3 Midleton 3 - Home Win on penalties

*Round 3:* Greenwood 2 Skibbreen 2 - Away Win on penalties

*Round 4:* Corinthian Boys 3 Skibbreen 0

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# BEAMISH

## Sponsor Message from Beamish Stout

**On behalf of Beamish Stout, we welcome the players, management, directors and supporters of Celtic FC to Turner's Cross for tonight's game.**

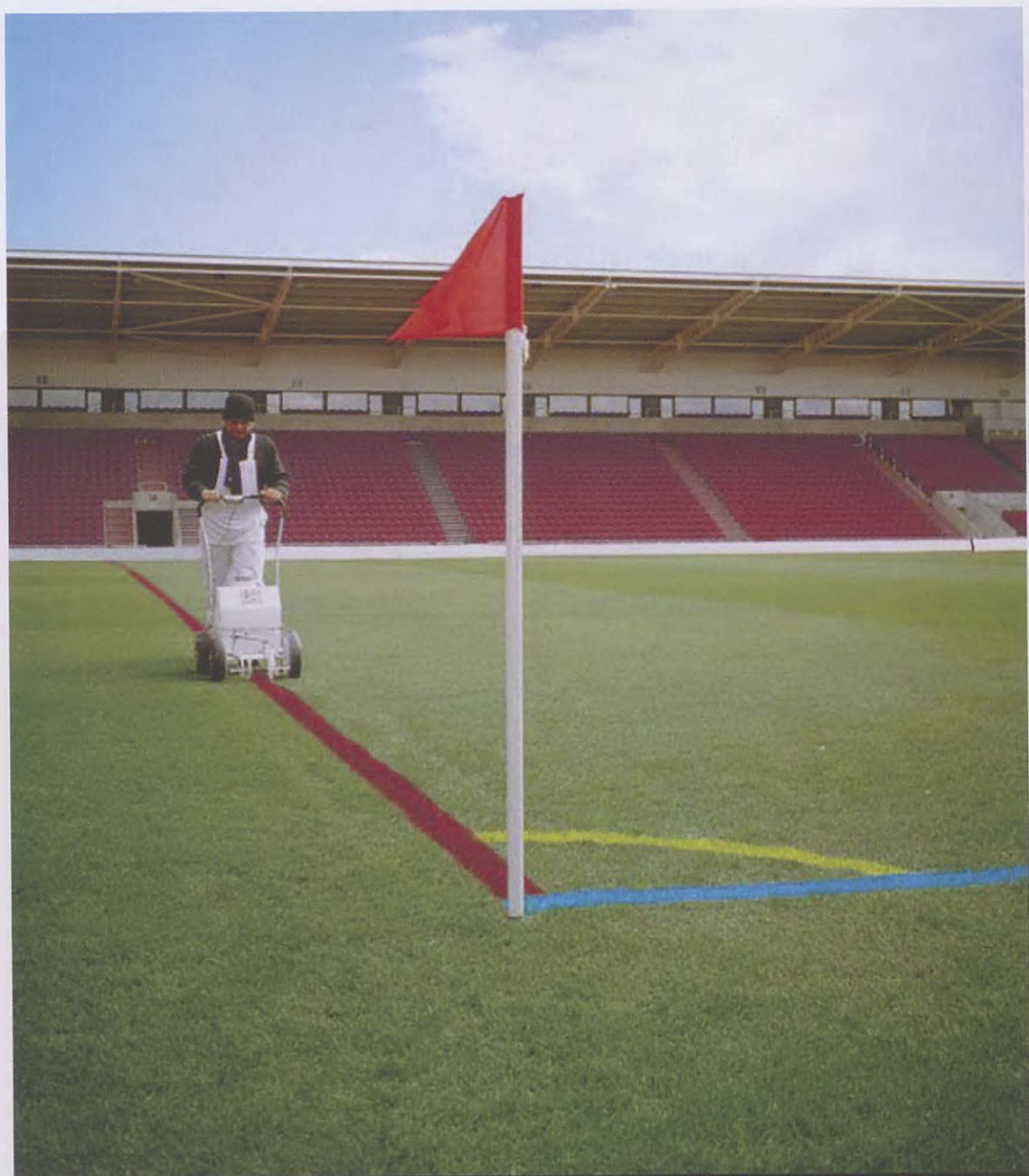
The visit of Celtic FC to Ireland is always a keenly anticipated one, given the huge support they enjoy here, and I know that their gesture in arranging this friendly match to assist Cork City FC in a difficult time is much appreciated by all connected with the club.

On Friday night we enjoyed the most comprehensive win of the league season here at Turner's Cross, as City turned in a fantastic performance to beat Galway United by four goals to two. With other results in recent weeks having gone in our favour, we can continue to dream of catching those clubs ahead of us and of a successful end to the season.

With only five league games remaining here at Turner's Cross, we are very much entering the business end of the season, and hopefully we will see City fans turning out in force as Paul Doolin and his players seek to continue their recent good form.

Great city, great club, great fans, great stout....Beamish of course!

*The Beamish Stout Team*



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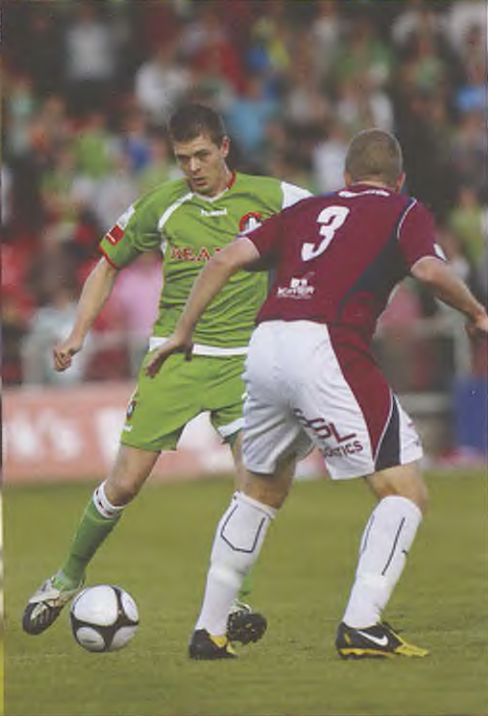
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Cork City 4  
Galway United 2

Turner's Cross,  
Friday, September 4th, 2009  
Photos: Jim Coughlan

CCFC



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