



Celtic Anti-Fascists

PO Box 266, Glasgow G42 8EA



WARK/CLEMENTS PRODUCTION TEAM SNUBBED BY CELTIC FANS

"On Saturday, May 6th, The Herald carried an article headed, "Subbed Celtic fans evoke TV denial". The article related to the endeavours of the Wark Clements production team to solicit anti-protestant and sectarian responses from Celtic fans for their Channel 4 commissioned Witness film.

Mr. Alan Clements of 'Wark and Clements' implied in his comments to the Herald that Celtic Anti-Fascists were somehow unrepresentative and that our leaflet advising Celtic fans to have nothing to do with his production was "a deliberate attempt to stir up trouble to meet the group's own political ends". Hopefully, after his production team reflect on the extremely hostile response that they were met with in the pubs where they tried to film and outside Hampden Park where they attempted to interview Celtic supporters, they will recognise the support and influence that Celtic Anti-Fascists enjoy.

It was a sorry sight to see a team of media manipulators being hounded out of pubs and away from the ground. Most Celtic fans made it absolutely clear that they wanted no part of a production that was a blatant attempt to draw them into sectarian back biting with bigotted Rangers fans. At one point, outside the Brazen Head Public House in the Gorbals, a researcher for the team, Mr Michael Morton told one of our younger leafletters to "F*** Off!" The director resorted to irrational shouting and swearing at our members after the game which resulted in the police actually intervening and advising the film crew that they should leave the area. If anyone was out to "stir up trouble" at yesterday's Old Firm game, it was the Wark/Clements production team. Mr. Clements and his team are very lucky that more serious incidents did not occur as a result of their behaviour.

The production team may well have achieved their aim of interviewing unsuspecting fans. However, it was clear to us that they had a pretty miserable day as a result of many of our supporters refusing to talk to them and treating them with the utmost contempt. At one point, the director even accused leafletters of being members of the SWP or Militant, an accusation that brought howls of laughter from a crowd of fans who had gathered around them. It's more likely that members of lefty groups like those would be behind the camera rather than talking to it. The only group that Celtic Anti-Fascists have formal links with is Anti-Fascist Action, whose views regarding the fascist presence at football and the need to fight fascism both physically and ideologically we would endorse.

Celtic Anti-Fascists are proud of the work that we put in to wrecking the sectarian motives of this production company. We are determined that bigotry, sectarianism, racism and fascism will be stamped out before it gets a foothold at Celtic. Thankfully, we do not suffer the same problems that afflict Rangers with the scum of the BNP selling papers outside Ibrox. We would extend the hand of friendship to any Rangers supporters who are opposed to the fascist presence among them and would be willing to give them every possible assistance in ridding their club of it's nazi presence.

Celtic Anti-Fascists developed from three years of hard work by a small but dedicated group of anti-fascist Celtic fans who objected to the racist taunts of black players. We can be justifiably proud that in those three years we have virtually eliminated such taunts. This has been achieved by political and, where necessary, physical action against the racists. We have sold more than 30,000 anti-fascist Celtic stickers in the last year. Our campaign is uncompromising and hard hitting. We believe that we have set an example that should be followed at other clubs. The campaign owes it's success to our tremendous support and their general endorsement of our approach.

With the European Championships in England next year and events at Lansdowne Road still fresh in our minds, it is now more urgent than ever that the fascist presence at football is tackled. Next year's championships are gearing up to be a showdown between the forces of fascism and anti-fascism in Europe. The fascists have brought politics into football, therefore, all football fans must make the choice between the fascists and the anti-fascists. Only if we mobilise against the nazis will we be able to reclaim the game for the true supporters."

Stephen O'Neill (for Celtic Anti-Fascists)

***Celtic Anti-Fascists can be contacted via the national Anti-Fascist Action
(AFA) hotline - : 0161 232 0813***