

IN THE AREA!

A newsletter from AFA Ireland.

Issue 1, Summer 2010.

Fourth Annual Anti-Racist World Cup!

Over 700 international guests and locals enjoyed a weekend of football, music and politics at the fourth annual Anti-Racist World Cup in Belfast City that took place on the 16-18 June.

Friday night kicked off with a welcome session for international guests in the clubhouse of Donegal Celtic followed by a film showing and talk on Charles Donnelly, the Tyrone born poet and socialist who gave his life fighting Franco's fascists in the Spanish Civil War. DJs from 'FC United Radio', the fan-ran radio station of F.C. United of Manchester (FCUM) provided the entertainment for the night, playing a solid mix of Ska, Reggae, Northern Soul and 80's Madchester sounds.

The football tournament kicked off at 10am on Saturday morning and saw teams from Palestine, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dusseldorf, Basque Country,



Fight Racism - Fight Imperialism. One of the many banners on display. Catalonia, Hamburg, Glasgow, Birmingham and Manchester take part. This was followed by a public talk on the situation in Gaza by members of the Palestinian team. The sun came out for the highlight match of the weekend, a friendly between local side Cliftonville and visitors F.C. United of Manchester, a club formed in 2005 by Manchester United supporters following the Glazer's

controversial takeover which led to hundreds of fans defecting. FCUM, only recently back from a friendly match with F.C. St. Paul in Hamburg, took an early lead but the Reds of Cliftonville showed their class in the second half, scoring two goals and winning the inaugural Supporters' Cup.

After a long night of drinking and dancing to the musical delight of Dutch ska band The Roosterz, players had to kit out on Sunday morning and play the second round of the football tournament. Beating 23 other teams, the overall tournament was won by the Palestinian side, a heartening win for all concerned as they suffered severe problems trying to acquire Visa's for the trip to Belfast.

Football fans and political activists have already started talking about next years ARWC as rumours fly that the organisers are planning to bring FC St Pauli or Livorno FC. See you in 2011!

www.antiracismworldcup.com

AFA Ireland; An Introduction.



At any time of heightened economic strife and the steep rise of unemployment, fascists always attempt to raise their malignant heads above the parapet.

Attempting to redirect the legitimate concerns of the working

classes down the dead ends of racism and bigotry, fascists seek to divide and enslave this class while claiming to speak in its name. Ultimately however, fascism emerges as the party of attack on the working class in spite of its posturing as a "revolutionary" movement against the bourgeoisie and on behalf of the whole nation. Where they have gained power however, fascists have attacked working class struggles from breaking up strikes to the suppression of working class organisations.

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AFA Ireland Visit to Stockholm.



The scene at Area Turns Red- the Swedish anti-racist music festival.

AFA Ireland members recently travelled over to Stockholm for a weekend of politics and music.

On Friday evening, we joined a 5,000 strong Palestinian solidarity demonstration and then later a trade union blockade of an upscale nightclub organised by the SUF, the anarcho-syndicalist youth federation. (The dispute relates to the nightclub trying to force their cleaning staff to leave their trade union or risk having their jobs subcontracted.)

On Saturday, we attended the annual anti-racist music festival, Area Turns Red organised by STRONG - the Stockholm Anti-Racist Culture Association.

As the festival was being set up, two dozen nazis from the Swedish Resistance Movement (SRM) arrived at the site hoping to provoke a fight. Around 30 anti-fascists quickly armed themselves and prepared to defend the festival equipment from attack. The nazis retreated and were quickly escorted away from the area by the police.

This had the opposite effect of scaring people off and over 700 people enjoyed the free festival, under the sun, in the center of the city.

Heading the bill was the Swedish hip hop duo 'Mohammed Ali', Swedish electro act 'Centralskolan' and Canadian punk band 'The Class War Kids'. Alongside the music there was political talks, discussions and bookstalls.

At this event, we were introduced to numerous members of AFA Sweden and the class struggle, anti-fascist group Revolutionära fronten (RF, the Revolutionary Front). We discussed and compared our relative neo-fascist movements and were heartened to hear that the nazis in Stockholm, who were once a grave cause of concern, have effectively been beaten off the streets. For the first time in several years, they did not have a public march through the city to mark the National Day of Sweden.

AFA Ireland would like to thank AFA Sweden and especially RF for their hospitality and hope we can return the favour to them soon.

from front page.

In response to this, AFA embraces

the perspectives of militant working-class resistance to fascism believing that only through militant action will fascists be put down.

Since its inception in Ireland, AFA has utilised a "twin-track" policy of both ideological and physical confrontation, both parts of this strategy being political in that it is the defence of the interests of the working class. The working class at large; genuinely put upon by an unjust system that favours big business has often been encouraged to have their righteous anger deflected onto the "strangers amongst us". In working class communities however, these 'strangers' are forced to adopt the same hardships that are faced by the domestic population in working class areas and so AFA seeks unity along the lines of class not race.

In pursuit of this, AFA has always sought to harness the progressive political traditions within elements of football supporters in League of Ireland clubs and also those of Celtic, St Pauli etc in opposing fascism. AFA has also received much support from within the punk scene, although we are also interested in those that follow the electronic, hip hop and metal scenes and it is because of this that we often distribute our propaganda at both music gigs and football grounds.

It is with this in mind that we have decided to publish this new newsletter, entitled "In The Area" in order to keep our supporters up to date with our regular activity. Welcome to our first issue.

George Brown Commemoration.

On the weekend of 25/26 June, AFA attended the 3rd annual George Brown commemoration in the picturesque village of Inistioge Co. Kilkenny.

George Brown was born in Inistioge in 1906 and died at the Battle of Brunete during the Spanish Civil War in July 1937. He was one of four Kilkenny men who served with the International Brigade in the fight against Franco. Following on from the success of the 2 previous weekends which saw former Brigadista Bob Doyle (R.I.P.) in attendance the George Brown Memorial Committee (GBMC) again put together an impressive line up of speakers.

Friday night's proceedings started with a wreath laying by Tom Know, relative of Brown in St.

We then moved into St. Mary's church where guest speakers Michael Lanigan, the President of Irish Medical Aid for Palestine, Dr Hikmat Ajjuri, the Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland and Senator Dr David Norris gave very passionate and informative speeches on the 'The Palestinian Question'. The night concluded with Amanda Richards (GBMC) reciting poetry and speaking on the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. We left the church to the sound of the Labi Siffre's "Something Inside So Strong" and moved onto the local pub O'Donnell's.

Saturday saw another busy day. Jack O'Connor (SIPTU and ICTU president) spoke on the



Bob Doyle at the Commemoration in 2008.

legacy of George Brown while Harry Owens, historian gave a fascinating lecture on the aftermath of the Civil War in Spain. Following the talk, there was an outdoor concert by The Hatchery Folk group at The International Brigade Memorial at the Olive Grove and the planting of a tree Pádraig Ó Murchú (Chairperson, GBMC).

We're looking forward to next year already.

Galway Anti-Fascists Remove Graffiti.

A spate of racist graffiti in Salthill, Co. Galway has been repeatedly cleaned up by a group of anti-fascists attached to the punk scene in the city.

The graffiti, which included the phrase "ein volk, ein reich, ein fuhrer" accompanied by swastikas, was first spotted on a bus shelter on Father Griffin Road in April 2009. Over the course of the next months, the neo-nazi graffiti reappeared again and again but was removed quickly each time by anti-fascists.

Finally, the racists decided to give up and the hasn't been seen since.

It is important for anti-fascists no matter where they are in the country to remove and monitor racist graffiti. We would appeal to supporters around the country to do the following if they see any:

- 1. Take a picture of the graffiti.**
- 2. Note down what it says and its location**
- 3. Paint over the graffiti safely i.e. in a group of two or three.**
- 4. Send the pictures and details onto AFA Ireland so we can add it to our database.**



When hate slogans stay in place for a long time it gives the impression that nobody in the area cares. This makes racists feel more confident and foreigners more isolated. When they get removed quickly the opposite message is sent out.

AFA Ireland would like to thank our Galway comrades for their consistent work in removing racist graffiti and stickers from the city.



The Twelfth of July and the EDL.



The Twelfth of July annually brings out the worst in loyalism. It also attracts its fair share of British fascists.

Members of Combat 18 have in the past attended loyalist marches during the mid-1990's and also the unveiling of a memorial to sectarian killer and LVF founder Billy Wright. The weekend of the 12th has also seen the staging of British neo-Nazi 'Blood and Honour' bands in loyalist areas of Portadown.

It is interesting therefore to note that the recent incarnation of far-right street politics in Britain, the English Defence League (EDL) did not send any official public delegation to any Twelfth of July marches. A spontaneous 'rolling organisation', the EDL say that they are not fascist and are purely anti-'Islamic extremist'. But the organisation have a number of well known fascist and loyalist members.

Although a different political animal to Combat 18, its ties to the concept of loyalism are visible. This is demonstrated by the emergence of the paper organisation the Ulster Defence League to compliment the Scottish and Welsh divisions. Since the mid 1990's, loyalism became the common theme for British fascists, as distinct from racism and those who remain involved in street activity are still influenced by loyalist paramilitary and Orange Order organisations.

St. Pauli Gegen Rechts!

New St. Pauli Supporters Club in Dublin.

Mention the name St. Pauli to any self discerning football fan and you can be sure they'll know who you're talking about.

For any of you reading this who aren't football fans, St. Pauli are a team that until recently have plied their trade in the lower divisions of German football. They were promoted to the Bundesliga I in 2010. While their success on the field has rarely been spectacular (although they have pulled off some fantastic results, including a victory over Bayern Munich in 2001,) their infamy comes from the cult status attached to the club, their supporters and their philosophy, both on and off the pitch.



support, amongst punks and anti-fascists worldwide. The club have an estimated 200 registered fan clubs around the world, and as of last season, we have a new St. Pauli Supporters Club in Dublin, based in Murrays Bar on O'Connell Street where matches, home and away are shown.

Going from strength to strength, the supporters club started with small numbers in March, by the end of the season, the numbers attending games were in their dozens, culminating in a great night when St. Pauli beat Greuther Fürth to gain promotion to the Bundesliga I for the first time since 2001.

The first game of the 2010/11 season kicks off on the 21st August away to SC Freiburg at 14:30. I'm sure a number of AFA Ireland shall be in attendance to show our support for a great endeavour.

For more information, you can find the St. Pauli Dublin Supporters club on Facebook.

AFA Contact Information:

Please be sure to pass on any details of fascist activity in your area. You can contact us by any of the means listed below. As well as this newsletter, we produce a magazine, "No Quarter" which can be purchased for €2.50 also by mailing the address below.

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