The Echo: Stop the world, Keith wants to get off

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issue
Where's
Gary going?



Euro battle commences within Clarets camp

Unsuspecting Claretians were this week treated to an impromptu concert from former drag artist Keith O'Neill, as he launched his bid to represent Ireland at the Eurovision Song Contest in Stockholm next year.

O'Neill stunned teammates last Sunday when he took to



"Stop the world and let me off", a performance that led to a three minute standing ovation from regular patrons at *The Man of Aran*.

After the show, Keith told The Echo that the bid for Eurovision glory was all part of his plan when he first joined St Clarets.

"As you know, Pat Lynott persuaded me to leave my job as a ladyboy in Bangkok and join this great club. I was delighted to be helped by Patrick, but it wasn't so much the football that attracted me, but more the

history of dance and music. Patrick told me all about Joylly, as well as about Denis McCarthy in *The Sound of Silence*, The Crecheheads and also the history of dance in the Kelly household. It just felt right.

"My bid for Eurovision glory is genuine, and it will mean that I will be missing from training even more than I usually do, but you can bet, when I'm on stage in Sweden, I'll be wearing a St Clarets jersey with pride."

However, the news has not been well received by management duo Tony Murphy



O'Neill: song and dance man and Tadhg Lee, who are said to be furious with O'Neill's decision to enter the competition, as they had been planning to enter themselves, reviving that timeless classic "My lovely horse", first brought to global attention by a couple of singing priests back in the 1990s (far left).

Take me to my island

Claretian tongues were wagging last week when



Advice: Kelly and Shea

die-hards John Kelly and Mike Shea were spotted deep in conversation.

Rumours suggested that Kelly was making a last ditch plea to supernanny Shea to come and help with the raising of his "man-child" son Luke, while others speculated that the Kellys might be welcoming a new arrival.

However, The Echo can

reveal that neither is true, and that the topic of the meeting centred solely around what Shea was going to do with all the money he had won from Paddy Donaghy following Kerry's win over Tyrone at the weekend.

At present, Shea is said to be considering purchasing his own island — namely Coalisland — Donaghy's home town.

What happens in Vegas!

Echo staff were stunned to receive a call from the Nevada Gambling Control Board looking to trace Barry Lynch, who had placed a large bet on Kerry winning last Sunday's semi-final in a casino in Las Vegas. Bizarrely, Lynch was in London at the time, but The Echo has learned that flatmate Aidan Donaghy was in Vegas. CCTV footage shows the Tyrone man placing a large bet on the Kingdom, avoiding suspicion by using his favourite alias, Barry Lynch.