

## VICTORY CHANT - GO RASCALS!

Someone posted to IRTRAD (I forget in what connection, but I'm sure it was relevant) the following:

*"Shule, shule, shule aroon  
Shule a rack shack shule a baba coon  
When I see my sally bally beel come  
bibble in a boo shy lora"*

According to the Zouki Research Institute, the above is in reality the long-lost Victory Chant used by the cheerleaders for the Roscommon Rascals football team, coached briefly by none other than Turloch O Carolan himself (who had previously coached the Portadown Planxties of the Northern League for three years).

In spite of the lively bilingual Chant, the Rascals could do no better than a 7-16 record in 1737 and an even more dismal 2-21 in 1738, a showing that probably hastened the Bard's death in that year (also helped along by management's failure to work out a long-term contract with him). Unfortunately the tune he composed on the occasion, "Carolan's Lament for a Crappy Goalkeeper", has not survived.

Despite his lack of coaching success, O Carolan remains the only blind harper to be elected to the Irish Football Hall of Fame.

It should be noted that the invention of the pompom did not take place until shortly after (some scholars would argue "because of") the French Revolution. Up until that time, cheerleaders generally used inflated animal bladders in their rituals, but the pompom seems definitely to fall in the "progress" category.

The use of Irish in the excerpt is significant, as is the reference to "Sally Bally"

and "Shy Laura", two of O Carolan's favorite cheerleaders, who later collaborated on the invention of the sadly forgotten rectangular bodhrán. "Babacoon" is probably a corruption of "bábai ciúin" or "quiet baby", the significance of which should be immediately evident from the persistent rumors of sexual dalliance between the Bard and the two cheerleaders.

The research continues.

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