

MURRAY CALL TO SAY SORRY

RANGERS supremo Sir David Murray has apologised to Dundee's football clubs after accusing their fans of sectarian abuse.

The Ibrox chairman claimed at the weekend that abuse between fans of Dundee United and Dundee was just as bad as Old Firm fans.

But yesterday United chairman Derek Robertson said: "David Murray telephoned me this morning to offer his personal apology for any distress caused as a consequence of the article.

"Mr Murray went on to explain that his comments were taken out of context by the paper concerned and that at no time did he mean to infer that there were any sectarian issues

Con flees open jail

A MANHUNT was under way last night for a con who fled an open prison.

Frank Craig, 29, didn't return to Castle Huntly jail, near Dundee, after he was let out on licence.

Craig, of Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire, was jailed for nine years in 2006 for assault plus robbery bids.

A total of 44 cons fled Castle Huntly last year.

An SPS spokeswoman said: "We can confirm a prisoner has absconded."

RED DELIGHT

The Red Arrows will fly at the 2012 London Olympics after a petition was signed by 500,000 and backed by Gordon Brown.

RECOVERY OF A HERO: SMEATO IN HOSPITAL

When I woke up I felt as if I was in Life on Mars



Getting back to fighting fit . . . Smeato on his hospital bed yesterday, and, right, with get well cards, below, with dad Iain and mum Catherine



TRAUMATISED John Smeaton woke from his 12-day near-fatal coma feeling like he'd TIME TRAVELLED like in TV show *Life on Mars*.

He said: "When I woke up I felt I was in the show - I'd been out the game for so long it was if I was in a different era."

In the series Detective Chief Inspector Sam Tyler gets hit by a car in 2006, and finds himself in 1973.

The BBC hit centres around whether Tyler - who once in the 70s works as a DI under DCI Gene Hunt, Philip

EXCLUSIVE by MATT BENDORIS

lip Glenister, *below* - is mad, in a coma, or really has travelled back in time.

John said: "I was also so full of drugs I couldn't get a handle on where I was and what was going on." The *Cers* fan added: "I was having wild dreams that Celtic had beaten Rangers - so I knew I was hallucinating."

Former baggage handler Smeato told for the **FIRST** time yesterday of his horrifying ordeal before a quick-thinking doctor saved him from certain death.

The medic - who Smeato knew only as Dr Dickson - put him on **TWO** life support machines after his near-death asthma

attack. He was also sedated in a medically induced coma, and thankfully the machines kept him clinging to life.

The hero's parents Iain, 67, and Catherine, 68, and his American fiancée Christy McPheeran stayed at his side at Paisley's Royal Alexandra Hospital throughout.

Christy, 32, had made a mercy dash from New York to see him.

After 12 days unconscious John, of Erskine, Renfrewshire, woke. And he said: "When I finally came to, we all just hugged and cried. It was so nice to see everyone again."

"When I was told what I'd been through I couldn't believe it. The doctors said it was the worse case of asthma they had ever seen. I came within a whisker of death.

He added: "It's a miracle that I

am back in the land of the living. But I'm back - and it feels good to be alive". John had fallen ill while at his fisheries course at Bannockburn College in Dumfries and went home, where he was cared for by Iain and Catherine - but soon took a turn for the worse.

John said: "I was in the loo and just didn't feel right. I came out and told my mum to call an ambulance as I was struggling to breathe.

Oxygen

"The last thing I remember was being wheeled into the back of the ambulance with an oxygen mask on - that's it. The next thing I came to, thinking 'where am I?' and 'how do these nurses know my name?'"

Despite his ordeal John has miraculously been left with no lasting

COMA SMEAT-OK

Continued from Page One

the former baggage handler said: "I am SO lucky to be alive."

Smeato, 32, from Erskine, Renfrewshire, collapsed at his parents' home nearly a month ago.

And speaking exclusively to the Scottish Sun from his hospital bed yesterday the hero told how during his horrifying month-long ordeal his brain had SWELLED, lungs and kidneys had FAILED, and his own body nearly POISONED him to death. He was only saved when his doctor

put him on **TWO** life support machines, a procedure never tried before in Scotland. Dangerous levels of poisonous Carbon Dioxide had built up in Smeato's blood.

John, famed for 'setting aboot' alleged terrorists, said from Paisley's Royal Alexandra: "My body couldn't get rid of it. My kidneys began to fail and my brain swelled.

"It was at that point my family and fiancée were told to say their final farewells. If it wasn't for that doctor I wouldn't be here."

C R E D I T F O C U S

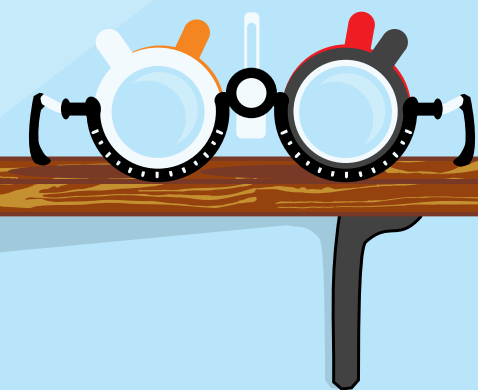
Local Business
Running an Opticians?
We couldn't focus

Avoiding late payers?
We'll help you see things more clearly

Join us and get our unique online credit management service as part of your business account - to help you spend less time chasing late payments and bad debt

To see a Local Business Manager, call 0800 015 1608 or visit barclays.co.uk/switch

BARCLAYS



The credit management service, including up to 5 credit checks, automatic credit monitoring and 1 solicitor's letter is available as part of all Barclays Business account packages until 1 September 2009. Lines are open 8.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday. Calls may be monitored for security and training purposes. Barclays Bank PLC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Registered in England. Registered No. 1026167. Registered Office: 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP.