

NEDBALL

By

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EXT. STREET - EVENING.

We follow from behind as a hooded figure walks at pace down an alley, its dark and shadowy, the alley cuts behind the back of smart tenement blocks, in West-End of Glasgow. There is a strong sense of urgency here.

He looks behind him and we can sense that he is being pursued.

He moves swiftly on and vaults a brick wall.

EXT. TENEMENT BUILDING - THAT SECOND.

The figure drops down on the other side of the wall. We see him look at a ground floor window that's open, party music can be heard.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING - THAT MOMENT.

The living room is furnished with mismatched furniture, it's very studenty with smokey nicotine stained walls, tatty chairs and a low table in the centre which is covered in drinks and overflowing ashtrays.

We are with a group of young guys, dressed very NEDISH. They are loud with thick west-coast accents. It feels like it could kick off between the two guys talking.

DOUGIE

You could have tapped that...
you're a fuckin pussy!

MARK

Who you caw'in a pussy??

DOUGIE

You ya fuckin prick!

MARK

You're just jealous she wasny lookn
at you. Ah didnae see you go n try
talk to her.

We cut between the two guys and girls who are dressed as SENGAS. They are standing at the entrance to the kitchen and occasionally looking over to the "childish" behaviour of the boys (Mark / Dougie).

(CONTINUED)

One the girls CARLA, 22, pretty without any make up, sits talking to her friends including JANE, we sense immediately that although she is wearing a white tracksuit, she's a bit upper middle class and a drama queen. She looks about the room in disgust.

CARLA

I'm so bored. This is some party!

JANE

It's always the same people.

CARLA

If you had to choose between the boys who would it be?

JANE

None of them. They are all immature.

CARLA

You need to choose one tho?

We see them look over at the guys who are still at each others throats.

DOUGIE

You didnae talk to her, you just stood there pissing yerself, before walkin away way yer tail bet'ween yer legs.

Some of the other guys laugh.

DOUGIE (CONT'D)

Yer just a fuckin pussy!

Mark and Dougie, square up to each other, (could still kick off) but its just a show of bravado.

Mark gives Dougie a playful couple of slaps to the side of the face and they both laugh and sit back down. They fall out of their NED characters and resume talking about exams or something studenty.

BRENDAN is the kind of guy who wore uncool trainers at high school and who never stepped out of line. He suddenly comes from inside the kitchen with two buckie bottles in his hands and offering them to Jane and Carla.

BRENDAN

What happened to that American you were seeing?

JANE

That American was Canadian and we parted.

Brendan throws her a concerned look.

JANE (CONT'D)

Are you really going to make us drink that?

Brendan fills up a glass and passes it to her.

BRENDAN

Just try it!

She takes a drink and is pleasantly surprised. They leave the frame. For a short moment the frame is empty and then we see Boaby peeking around the corner from within the kitchen. He's pleasantly surprised that it's a NED party.

INT. KITCHEN.

Boaby is rummaging through a loose change bowl. He picks out a scrunched up fiver and pockets it.

He brazenly helps himself to one of the bottles of BUCKFAST.

He unscrews the top and slugs from the bottle, he suddenly lurches toward the sink and spits the wine into the sink. (It is not Buckfast that's in the bottle)

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

Brendan comes over throwing himself down in the couch next to DAVE. They have been friends since high school, Dave is much cooler and looks more like a rugby player than a geek.

A pack of beers sits beside the couch. Dave hands Brendan one of the cans.

Brendan sits a little uneasy, drinking, looking about at the people in his flat.

BRENDAN

Why did you invite so many people?
I don't want the flat getting trashed.

Dave puts his arm around him.

(CONTINUED)

DAVE

Chill out Brendan. It's a party!

More people arrive. One of them is a foreign student. (a Chinese girl) She hasn't dressed up.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Whits this?

He is up off the couch.

DAVE (CONT'D)

You're meant to be dressed as NED
... don't think you'll be helping
yourself to a can then...
...unbelievable!

He throws himself back into the couch, sinking deep.

DAVE (CONT'D)

You know what I was thinking? We
should go someplace in the summer.

BRENDAN

I'll need to get a job.

DAVE

Fuck the job. Listen, foreign chics
are the way to go, think about it,
you go over there, have a good
time, get laid, then fly home. You
never actually have to break up.

BRENDAN

I don't want to go on holiday.

DAVE

...live a little...we go on
holiday, you can see some Thai girl
firing fruit and ping-pong balls
from their...(he whistles)

BEAT

DAVE

...Poland we can go there, my
brother said the chics are well
flirty, they wear the tightest
jeans, almost painted on, loose low
cut tops...

Brendan laughs.

(CONTINUED)

DAVE (CONT'D)

Just try and talk to some girls
tonight okey, who knows you might
get a pity fuck.

Brendan is looking at Carla, who is chatting away, Dave catches him checking her out.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Carla??

BRENDAN

Shhhhush keep your voice down!

DAVE

You've no chance!
(shouting over to her)
Carla, Brendan has something he
wants to say to you...

Brendan elbows him hard in the side.

BRENDAN

What are you going to do after
university?

Dave passes Brendan the joint. He takes a hit.

DAVE

Join the Police!

Brendan cracks up. Dave laughs hard too.

Dave gets up and walks into the room. We hear him off screen announcing the dirty pint.

The next section is happening overlapping in time from the moment the Chinese student comes in.

Some of the students are trying to explain what a NED is to the Chinese student.

CARLA

A NED?? ...It's a derogatory term
here in Scotland for
underprivileged youths that wear
sports clothes.

DOUGIE

listen to her... ...they are
uneducated twats, anti-social,
little wanks, who torch yer motor
just for a laugh.

(CONTINUED)

MARK

You must have seen them, socks
outside their trousers, baseball
caps... ..talk funny...all
nasally?

DOUGIE

Wear their tracksuits to funerals!

Mark impersonates a NED talking. Dougie does his own
impression.

The girl doesn't understand.

MARK

Do they still sniff glue?

DOUGIE

Whit? Were you born a retard or did
your muther drap ye?

MARK

I remember my old man used to call
them the glue sniffers?

DOUGIE

They are thievin scumbags that
would knife yer granny for her
bread n milk!

JANE

They're just bored, so they sit
about the park drinking and taking
drugs!

DOUGIE

(To the Chinese girl)
a bit a sun, an they cut about, way
ther taps aff, built like whippets,
cans ae super strength and chatin
up every bird in sight...daffties.

The Chinese girl still doesn't have a clue what their
talking about.

CARLA

It's about getting sex, they spray
some cheap macho body spray, ask
some guy going into the shop to buy
them a bottle of buckfast, then
they transform from normal into a
swaggering tracksuited alpha lion
establishing their territory, the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARLA (cont'd)
feet start moving like a boxers',
the arms swing loose, the shoulders
swaying back and forth...

She demonstrates.

...then they go up to a girl and
say something like, "how about it
darl'in, fancy a shag?"

She does some pelvic thrusting, getting right into it.

INT FLAT - REVELERS SIT ON THE FLOOR - A LITTLE LATER.

Dave messily pours aftershook and passes them out.

Brendan is sat next to Boaby. Jane on the other side of
Boaby.

BRENDAN
(introducing himself to Boaby)
I'm Brendan.

Boaby clinks his shot.

Dave sees this. His reaction instantly tells us he knows
Boaby shouldn't be here. He smiles as though he knows it
could get interesting.

BOABY
Awright, am Boaby.

JANE
(to Boaby)
Love the costume, the scar looks
really real.

Boaby is a bit surprised but is happy to get the attention
of a 'bird' and downs one of the shots.

Boaby pours lager from his can into a pint glass.

He passes the pint on and other people pour in their own
drinks, they toss a coin. (The idea being, if they call it
wrong, they must down whatever is in the Dirty Pint.)

The students watch more drinks get poured in, Boaby reminds
them.

BOABY
Nae excuses, you have tae drink it!

(CONTINUED)

DAVE

(talking to Brendan)

What about Jane? Carla is well out your league. But Jane, you might stand a chance with.

BRENDAN

That would be weird, we went to primary school together.

DAVE

Come on she's from Bearsden, Her parents are doctors so your parents will love that...and they have a swimming pool?

The glass gets past on, people are getting more competitive.

The pint glass is now back with Brendan.

He calls it wrong. By now, there is Lager, Buckfast, Cider, vodka and Tequila in the glass.

Brendan looks at the contents of the glass. It turns his stomach thinking about what's in it.

Dave catches his eye, he's signaling for him to look at Carla. Brendan knows he needs to go through with this if he wants to impress the girls.

The room starts to chant, 'DRINK IT, DRINK IT, DRINK IT.'

1ST ROUND.

CLOSE-UP of Dave as Brendan's boxing trainer, digging his fingers deeply into the neck muscles of Brendan's upper back and neck.

COMMENTATOR

Well, I've got be honest, Brendan doesn't look confident... ..He knows what's at stake...I've seen fighters in far better shape...he looks like he's just off the couch...

The BELL RINGS...Brendan lifts the pint, he's going to try this.

He quickly takes a sip and gags.

(CONTINUED)

DAVE
(laughing)
Just don't think about it!

BOABY
The big yin 's gonny boke!

CARLA
You need to drink it Brendan.

Brendan suddenly lifts the glass and gives it his all.

Brendan's head violently swung back by a punch, his eyes show fear. He coughs and chokes, he cant keep it down. He leaves the glass and runs off towards the bathroom. The room booh him, it's quite savage. Boaby lifts the dirty pint and drinks it with ease. EVERYONE cheers.

BOABY
To the quality party! Boaby is really enjoying himself.

COMMENTATOR
Well we have our CHAMPION... ..The boy was badly outclassed... I feel quite sorry for him.

We see Carla looking at Boaby a little transfixed. Suddenly she's attracted to him.

INT HALL - MOMENTS LATER.

Brendan coming out the bathroom. The door bell RINGS.

FRONT DOOR.

Brendan walks towards the front door, not in a particular hurry. The letter box is rattled - the door banged HARD. He unlocks the door and is surprised to find two UNIFORMED POLICE standing. Brendan immediately shouts on Dave.

COP 1
You live here?

BRENDAN
Yeah. What's up?

Dave appears with a stethoscope around his neck. The cops notice this.

There is some chatter on one of the police radios.

(CONTINUED)

Some of the DRUNK STUDENTS burst into the hall, seeing the cops they laugh and boo them.

COP 2

A neighbour says, she saw someone
climb in a window at the back?

A particularly drunk guy appears just in time to hear this. He holds up his hands, drops to his knees and says;

DRUNK GUY 1

It was me officer! Cuff me!

Another student joins in, pushing the first guy out the way.

DRUNK GUY 2

Don't listen to him, he's drunk. It
was me. I dit it! Arrest me!

Another student, joins in the fun, students are laughing, more and more of them are pushing to see what's going on.

The third student has his arms around one of the cops legs. Refusing to let go.

Neither of the cops find this amusing.

COP 1

Get this prat off me!

Brendan tries to pull him off/to get him on his feet. The student lashes out and accidently smacks the officer in the face.

COP 2

(pissed off)

You lot are about to get yourself
arrested.

Cop 1 turns away to talk/answer his radio.

BRENDAN

Sorry they didn't mean anything by
it. They are just drink.

We see Booby walk past in the background helping himself to another can.

One of the cops talking on radio. He signals his partner.

COP 2 (CONT'D)

You better hope we don't need to
come back here.

(CONTINUED)

Brendan closes the door. Dave has a huge smile on his face.

BRENDAN

Who was it Dave, who the fuck
climbed in my window?

Dave laughing. And Brendan finally gets it. It's Boaby obviously.

Brendan storms towards the living room. Dave follows a behind. Being curious what's happening now.

LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

Brendan re-enters the party, which is a little out of control. The camera pulls to Boaby. Boaby is making out with Carla. They are completely oblivious to fact cops have been at the door.

BRENDAN

Okey guys, more drinks! He holds up
a bottle of vodka, shaking it,
slushing the vodka up the sides.

He points at Boaby with the bottle.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

You and me!

Dave looks at Brendan wondering when he grew the balls.

MIDDLE OF THE LIVING ROOM.

Brendan and Boaby stand in the centre of the room, the rest of the students have formed a circle around them.

Suddenly the magnitude of the fight, catches Brendan, in a few moments he will face one of the biggest challenges of his life, this really is his ROCKY moment.

Boaby strikes a boxing pose and puts on an impressive display of hand speed. A ring side CROWD ROAR. Boaby and Brendan stare hard into each others eyes.

COMMENTATOR

The champ is smiling, we already
know it doesn't take much to
unsettle the princess... ..I just
hope this isn't embarrassing. Well
here we go...

The BELL SOUNDS Dave and Boaby clunk glasses, they drink the large vodkas. They both finish.

(CONTINUED)

COMMENTATOR

So far so good.

SERIES OF SHOTS.

Vodkas being poured messily and downed.

DAVE

Keep going, you're doing great!

When the glasses are filled again. Brendan stares at the vodka. He's not sure.

He's on a seat in his corner.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Wanna keep goin'?

BRENDAN

Would you keep going?

DAVE

Absolutely!

They go again and both feel the burn as the vodka goes down their throat. We now cut between a real boxing fight and the drinking competition. Booby catches Brendan flush on the jaw. Brendan staggers. Brendan looks around, as if for help.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Watch your guard. Keep moving,
you're doing great.

Brendan moves cautiously towards Booby.

Booby throws another punch, it catches Brendan on the side of the face.

BOOBY

Whit you dae'n? we drinkin or whit?

Brendan is back standing in the living room, staring at the empty glass, everyone is quiet just looking at him, he looks pale, like he could collapse.

Dave looks unsure, but he starts to fill his glass again.

DAVE

Cover the ribs, elbow down, stand
straight, you can do this!

The BELL RINGS it sounds distant/muffled. Brendan is in a bit of a daze.

(CONTINUED)

The supreme moment of his life is slipping away.

Boaby waves for Brendan to come towards him, Brendan looks groggy from the booze, but suddenly, a moment of clarity.

He knows it's now or never. He almost sprints towards him, he is too eager and meets Boaby's right, which strikes the larynx.

Brendan staggers back. He looks straight at Boaby, he has somehow grown in stature.

BRENDAN

You think ah wis dun fur, big yin?

Everyone is surprised by how he sounds, the punch to the larynx has caused his pitch to go into NED mode.

Brendan comes forward with a right hook striking the temple.

But Boaby releases a terrifying uppercut that Brendan takes time to recover from.

Brendan comes out again, he looks surer this time, like he's learned from his mistakes, he unleashes a stream of rapid lefts and rights.

Boaby, retaliates, now they are matching blow for blow, with every punch Brendan takes, he seems to grow in confidence, he is turning into a decent fighter and unbeknown to him, becoming a real NED.

Suddenly out of nowhere Brendan displays incredible footwork.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

(to the crowd)

Ten bob, ah take this numpty doon!

Carla is now seen pushing forward to see, ringside, she watches the battle, enthralled by it.

COMMENTATOR

Not only has he taken a beating, he is refusing to give up... ..what a battle!

SHOT of more vodka being poured.

And a punch, the mother of all punches, a lethal uppercut.

It's Boaby falling backwards, Boaby has been dropped.

Boaby's eyes show disbelief.

(CONTINUED)

COMMENTATOR
Jesus he's down!

The room EXPLODES.

On a high Brendan jumps up and down with his arms in the air, he's a CHAMPION, he runs around the room. He has a swagger, he's acting like a NED.

He finds himself facing Carla, he grabs her and forces his tongue into her mouth. Something about Carla has changed, she's turned into a SENGA herself. Maybe its how she moves, her swagger...she's enjoying it.

Brendan and Carla walk off the frame obviously to have a decent shag in the bedroom.

Back into the frame comes Boaby. A bit dizzy but suddenly realising that he can transform students into NEDs! He looks in the round of students.

A student (MARK) comes up into the frame with two buckfast bottles. He gives one to Boaby. They both getting ready for their fight. Fixating each other. Grinning. Both start drinking and we know what will happen with the student at the end. Freeze frame at the moment they start drinking. Chanting crowd in the background.

END.