

Manchester City 3-0 Inter Milan: Daily Mirror match report

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Mario Balotelli went from zero to hero by helping Manchester City thrash old club Inter Milan to lift the inaugural Dublin Super Cup.

Balotelli was hauled off by Roberto Mancini for showboating during last week's friendly with LA Galaxy after attempting a bizarre backheel goal when clean through.

The controversial Italian got back in Mancini's good books by burying a bullet header at the end of the first half to set City on course for their first piece of silverware of what they hope will be a historic season.

Blues boss Mancini said: "Mario played well. If he plays like he did today then we will be happy. It is important that he concentrates.

"We had a conversation in Italian when he came off. I was just telling him that sometimes he needs to be more selfish. But it was not a problem. I talk to him every day.

"I hope he has learned from what happened last week. I think he has to but I don't really know. We will see in the future.

"What I do know is that today he was one of the best players on the field."

Balotelli's goal added to by second half strikes from Edin Dzeko and substitute Adam Johnson crowned an excellent win for City against last season's Serie A runners up.

Mancini was expected to hand a debut to new £38m striker Sergio Aguero but the Argentine was held back for next weekend's Community Shield clash with Manchester United at Wembley.

Italian Mancini afterwards warned want-away Carlos Tevez he faces a fight to get into the team if he does stay at the club.

Mancini - who also told Craig Bellamy and Emmanuel Adebayor they can leave Eastlands - said: "When Carlos comes back to training on Thursday we will have four strikers.

"That's good for us. We need that competition. Players fighting for the shirt is a good thing.

"It is possible that there have been conversations about Craig Bellamy between us and Celtic. I would be happy for Craig to go.

"He is a good striker and needs to be playing. It is the same with Adebayor. We can't carry six strikers. He needs to play and I would be happy for him to go back to Real Madrid."