

# 1890

Spring 2020  
Vol. 72 No. 4  
Free To All



# 2020

Special Edition  
Matchday  
Programme



**des kelly**  
INTERIORS

**oneills**

 **Dublin Bus**



# Bohemian FC 1890 - 2020 Celebrating 130 Years



## *The all-conquering Bohemian FC team of 1927/28*

Winners of the Irish Free State League,  
Football Association of Ireland Cup,  
Irish Free State Shield & Leinster Cup

**Standing:** T. Rochford (Committee), J. Murray (Assistant Hon. Secretary),  
R. Parker (Coach), Charlie Harris (Trainer), T.J. Greene (Hon. Solicitor),  
M.J. Kenny (Committee), Dr W.F. Hooper (Committee), H.W.J. Kerr (Committee),  
P.F. Sheridan (Trustee), C.H. Heron (Trustee), J.J. Doyle (Hon. Treasurer)

**Seated:** Bob Beckett (Hon. Secretary), Paddy Whelan, Bob Thomas, Billy Dennis,  
Christy Robinson, Jimmy Bermingham, Captain Harry Cannon (Capt.), Sam Robinson,  
Johnny McIlroy, Peter Kavanagh, Johnny McMahon, Joe Wickham (Committee)

**Front:** Jimmy White, Jack McCarthy, with the Leinster Cup, FAI Cup,  
League pennant, League trophy & Shield

# editorial

It is incredibly unusual writing this and knowing that this piece and indeed the content of our Special Edition won't be going to print or sold at Dalymount.

Instead this free match programme is in electronic format and rolled out to all during this uncertain time that will be referred to for years to come as 'The Lockdown'. Why bring out a programme though?

Well for one, to keep the programme team in unison and the creative juices ticking over and also to update everyone on the work being done on and off the pitch while we ride out this storm that seems to have no end in sight. Talking to some club officials in the run up to producing this edition it's fascinating and indeed encouraging to hear that the machine is still chugging away and it's Business As Usual behind the closed doors of Dalymount Park. So enjoy your special edition of the programme and maybe this will be a collectors item in years to come... albeit digitally.

At this moment it's hard to envisage when we'll be back in Dalymount again. The league set a June return date initially while now an autumn date is being mooted, but it will take months at the very least before our daily lives may return to normal. The main thing though is that us and our loved ones emerge unscathed. That certainly surpasses anything else.

I wish to thank all the contributors to this issue; when contacted each and every one was excited at the idea of a special edition and readily forwarded copy to me. It escaped me briefly recently that this is Bohemian FC's 130th year! Whereas celebrations, gifts and a Legends match dominated recent major birthdays, this one looks like it going's to pass us by mostly which is a huge shame. At this moment all we want is to see Bohs not only take the field once more but line up for our much anticipated and long awaited European game; but we WILL be back as soon as we can be. Certainly, we'll remember the unusual episode that encompassed our 130th year. For now, enjoy your special edition of the match programme. Probably the most unusual collectable we've ever produced!

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## Premier Division

1923/24, 1927/28, 1929/30,  
1933/34, 1935/36, 1974/75,  
1977/78, 2000/01, 2002/03,  
2008, 2009

## FAI Cup

1927/28, 1934/35, 1969/70,  
1975/76, 1991/1992,  
2000/01, 2008

## League Cup

1974/75, 1978/79, 2009

## Setanta Cup

2010

## Leinster Cup

1895/95 - 2016:

A record 32 titles

## Lol Shield

1923/24, 1927/28, 1928/29,  
1933/34, 1938/39, 1939/40

## Irish FA Cup

1907/08

## Dublin City Cup

1935/36

## Dublin & Belfast

## Inter City Cup

1944/45

## Top Four Cup

1971/72

## Acieries D'Angleur

1928/29

## President's Cup

12 titles



# from the dugout

The sudden cessation of football in March was another indication that hammered home just how serious the Coronavirus would impact on our lives. **Keith Long** describes what it meant for all the players and technical staff

**On Thursday 5 March** I was asked a question at a media event to launch Eir Sports coverage of the League of Ireland.

The question related to coronavirus and the possible ramifications for the game here in Ireland. My answer at the time was that we would be guided by government and the HSE if and when that becomes necessary, which was code for *'I don't know or more to the point I don't care as we have a Dublin derby tomorrow night against Shels - stop asking silly questions...'*

Fast forward a week when we conducted our last team training session as the government announced significant measures to mitigate the spread of COVID 19. It was expected that we would play our game the following night in Cork but instead we played a training game that was very surreal and certainly not helped by a downpour of biblical proportions which added to the message we had just received.

In our football bubble we thought this can't be happening. How can this be? Why didn't we just get the Cork game played and review it then? We had more questions than answers. Questions that in hindsight are irrelevant but at the time where very real.

We quickly put into action a short term plan for the players to collect equipment from Dalymount

on Saturday 14 March to aid them working in isolation and individual programmes were busily prepared. We arranged allocated times for the players to collect their equipment and over a period of three hours they arrived.

Again it was a somewhat surreal experience as we advised the players on training programmes etc. and invited them to heed the government warnings and advice. The common response from the players was *'this is f\*\*\*\*\* mad isn't it?'* which again is not out of place for footballers who I suppose at that time didn't fully appreciate the gravity of the situation and the implications. I can't say it was the players only as the staff were absolutely feeling the same way.

As we stood in the small car park in Dalymount on the Saturday morning Bucko suggested it might be a good time for the players to have a night out as they hadn't yet done so this year. I had received a phone call the day before from Mono informing me that there was some drink in Dalymount that would go to waste; would the players like to have a few drinks in the club? Without giving it any thought I dismissed it straight away and thanked him for thinking of us. I have to say it did enter my mind that I might have been a bit hasty in turning down Mono's offer as our minds drifted to potential Saturday night plans. The

thoughts of a few beers courtesy of one of our sponsors *The Porterhouse* was becoming very appealing for the staff as we killed the time in between collections. We had the keys, what was stopping us? Until Colly piped up *'Mono got rid of it yesterday'...* that was that bubble burst as the last player arrived and we said our goodbyes again with uncertainty as to what will happen next.

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Over the next week the players conducted their individual training programmes and participated in some shall I say interesting challenges and interactions set down to them by the coaching staff.

Zoom video conferencing entered our lives. I can't remember a time it seems before Zoom, a platform I was completely unaware of before the restrictions were put in place, but now all our strength, power and mobility sessions in addition to staff meetings and other sessions are conducted online.

It is important at this time of remote working that we have positive interactions. The players and staff have been fantastic in this regard and our interactions will hopefully see us return to football in a better place, with a better, clearer understanding of who we are as a team.

On Sunday 22 March the club



released a brilliantly worded and positive message regarding player and staff contracts. The main focus of the board is to ensure the stability of the club but at the same time try to do the right thing and support its people as much as is possible in difficult times.

Things may change, we do not know what the future holds but we do know that we are lucky to work for a club that values people first. I know some of you reading this may have been laid off or working restricted hours. We fully understand that we are very lucky as a club to be in this position and that is down to the hard work that has been done at every level over the last number of years.

The following Wednesday we arranged to meet the players in the members bar at Dalymount in small groups, respecting social distancing. We had been up to that point meeting them at various locations around the city to return their GPS pods to download data. It was felt there would be another set of measures brought in soon that restricted movement to within 2km so again we had to adapt a find a different way of working. We felt it was important also to speak with the players in person to ensure they understood what the club had done for them by securing their contracts and also to ensure they understood our key messages.

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On Thursday 26 March Colly O' Connor and his partner Kim welcomed their new baby daughter Penny into the world. Colly is Bohs to the core and has been a loyal servant to the club for a decade and more. His family are steeped in Bohs and now his daughter Penny will be part of the future at the club.

I spare a thought for Colly's mam Lily who had to wait a few days before she could return to Ireland from Australia whilst at a family wedding. She had to quarantine for two weeks also on her return to Ireland and can now only see her new granddaughter from a distance, unable to hold her.

The same goes for Kim's parents. Our analyst Cian O' Brien's wife also gave birth to a baby girl so whilst we feel we are on hold somewhat, life definitely goes on.

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Training has continued over the intervening weeks and we are now into week six. We depend upon trust and self discipline from players but I feel they have adapted well to the challenges they face.

I am very lucky to be assisted by a committed backroom team that are working overtime to help the players. I have always taken a collaborative approach to management and with Trevor, Chris, Remy, Cathal, Robbie, Paul, Colly and Aaron I believe we have a fantastic backroom team who are busting a gut at this time to ensure we manage this unknown.

Paul Kirwan our chartered physio is part of an amazing national effort from our health care workers and frontline services fighting this virus for our country. It is people like Paul we will forever be indebted to, they put themselves at risk everyday on the frontline in order to protect and save lives. I would like to thank Paul for the sacrifices he is making and all those working in our essential services.

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We are still working towards the original 19 June resumption date. This is very speculative as I write but it's vital we have something to focus on. We don't know what football will look like upon resumption and there has been much speculation in the media.

This will continue until we know exactly what measures need to be taken in order to get playing again. All of which will be guided by government and with the greater good at the core of decisions made.

There are reasons for optimism, last week the Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin, hosted an online meeting with representatives of the Irish sport sector. The engagement focused on the impacts for sport of Covid 19

and they also considered the steps that need to be taken for a return to sporting activity. Those steps are yet to be fully fleshed out and there are so many questions but we are optimistic that we can return to some type of training before the end of May. What that looks like is uncertain but we have plans in place for what we feel are the likely scenarios.

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I have listened to commentators talk about using this time to your advantage. There is not doubt that this down period gives you time to reflect, review and plan ahead but it's also a time for some just to get through. Mental health is very prevalent in our society particularly in young men and some during this time are experiencing pain and loss. The social implications of this pandemic are yet to be fully realised and whilst sport pales into insignificance at this time, there is no doubt it plays a huge role in people's lives and is a void we are struggling to fill at this time.

Fans are resilient, I know you all are desperate to see the team in action but absence can make the heart grow stronger. We are missing the routine beat of a life immersed in football. It's still a puzzle we are all trying to figure out and work through but we do know that football will return when it is safe.

Let's all hope it will be soon.



# des kelly

I N T E R I O R S

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# president's message

## To all Bohemian members, supporters and fans.

Firstly, I hope you and your loved ones are all keeping safe and well. These are very strange times but it is important we keep to the government guidelines in order to reduce the numbers being affected by the virus.

I'm sure, like me, you are really missing Friday nights. It's just not the same sitting in watching some programme on television when all you can think about is when will I be able to walk into Dalymount and see the usual faces and moan about the pitch, the referee, the opposition, the players or whatever. It really is terrible.

However, once again, you have shown your support by purchasing merchandise and joining the Club Lotto. These funds are vital as we try to ensure we honour our contracts with the players who have always worked hard and performed to the best of their ability for the Club. They continue to train and maintain their fitness and, hopefully, they will be fit and raring to go whenever things get back to normal. Keith and Trevor are keeping busy and are in daily contact with all the players.

Looking at the positives, the record number of memberships and season tickets sold have brought us some stability and we will be able to survive whatever happens albeit with our reserves diluted substantially. If this had happened a few years ago I'm not sure we would have managed

to get through it. It shows the progress the Club has made over the last ten years or so thanks to your efforts.

I must also say a huge thank you to our sponsors who continue to be very supportive and without them things would be even more difficult.

It's very difficult to know when we might get back playing, the FAI are still working on commencing in June but who knows under what circumstances. Personally, I can't see big crowd gatherings being allowed as early as June so perhaps they are looking at reduced crowds or behind closed doors. All options will need to be considered. I think September might be a more realistic date for things to get back to normal but even that is probably optimistic. We'll just have to wait and see what the medical and scientific people say and follow their advice.

We still have ambitions to grow the Club and get facilities for our teams to train together because you cannot standstill and must always be striving to improve. I know things will be delayed by the present crisis but we can't simply do nothing and wait for other people to come to our aid. We must plan for the future and ensure we are ready to take advantage of any opportunities that might arise.

Most of us have a bit more time on our hands so it is important we use it wisely. Presently, the board is working on a new five year strategic plan as we have achieved most of the aims of our previous one.

*We still have ambitions to grow the Club...  
I know things will be delayed by the present crisis but we can't simply do nothing and wait for others to come to our aid. We must plan for the future and ensure we are ready to take advantage of any opportunities that might arise....*

In the last week I have been informed of the deaths of David Hammond's mother Margaret and Donal Byrne's dad Daniel. On behalf of everyone at the Club I would like to pass on our sincere condolences to David and Donal and both their families. RIP

In the last paragraph of my programme notes I am normally urging your support of the team as they play whoever it may be but today I will urge you to support the Club's fund raising efforts, if you are in a position to do so, in order that we are strong when all this is over.

Thank you and stay safe.

Chris Brien, President  
Bohemian FC

# BUSINESS AS USUAL!

## The doors to Dalymount Park may be shut but things are busier than ever in the office and club shop

*by Lynn O'Neill*

**Although I am missing** Dalymount Park, the staff, volunteers, directors, fans and friends I am keeping very busy at home. I am lucky as I live close by and have visited the office early in the morning a few times over the past month to pick up post, files, paper for printer and so on.

Directors, staff and volunteers all keep in touch on a regular basis via emails, phone and text, to deal with the ongoing daily administration issues which arise. We are there also to help each other when we can.

Regarding the additional UEFA Licence requirements for the clubs 2020/21 season, I am pleased to confirm the application which was due on 4 April was submitted on time. There are still some ongoing items with regard to licensing which are being dealt with.

Thankfully regarding the club's medical care of players it was no problem contacting the club doctor, Fiona Dennehy and physiotherapist Paul Kirwan who found the time to submit what was needed promptly and have been there to answer any ongoing questions while their own lives are going above and beyond to meet the needs of the public at this time.

Dublin City Council have today confirmed with the Groundsman's request to supply six new water tanks to add to the existing ones which is badly needed to keep the pitch up to its high standard. They also agreed for work on the floodlights last month, but have had to postpone this work until the football resumes again.

Looking forward to seeing everyone, hopefully not too far away, back in the Home of Irish Football!

*by Laura and Deirdre Clifford*

**Up until the end of March** the online store operated as normal. I do all the DHL paperwork at home in the evenings and Deirdre would pick and pack items and drop off to DHL for next day delivery.

When stricter guidelines were announced, we decided to just pick and pack orders once a week. I still do the paperwork at home and then we go to club on Sundays to pack the orders and drop them off at DHL on Monday. We remain fully operational, just slightly longer delivery times than normal.

In March there was 417 online orders. To put that figure in context, for the same period last year there was 179 online orders. So a lot of work to keep us going and great to see that level of support not just from our local fans but fans from all over the world. A few guys spring to mind, a man in southern Italy bought five items and emailed separately to say there was no hurry to send that he would wait until Covid-19 crisis was over and that he wanted to support a community club like Bohs as he loves the message on our away jersey.

Another German emailed me to ask how he could help, what can he buy. He regularly buys jerseys from us for himself and his children. I thanked him and advised we would have a third strip available and within hours of its release he bought three, and again emailed me to say I should let him know if there is ever anything he can help us with! Another family in USA bought five away jerseys.

We can't get anymore stock from O'Neill's for the foreseeable future so we are running out of sizes mostly on Home and third kit jerseys. However, we still have lots of away jerseys and plenty of hats, scarfs, red polo tops, still lots to sell. This month to date is busy though we won't top last month unless there is a big rush for next few weeks. An online gift card is a new feature now available as well so maybe people would opt for that now and use it to buy something on the future when we have more stock available.

Deirdre is staying home as much as possible. I can't seem to catch a break as my job remains open as an essential service so I'm busier than ever. My hands are washed off me and I'm dying to hug someone, anyone in fact!

Hope all the Bohs fans are keeping well and staying home. As a club we have survived worse and I've every confidence we will be back in full swing soon!





• Abbie Brophy of Bohemians pictured at the 2020 Women's National League photocall last March

# ON HOLD

## Bohs debut must wait

**Following the announcement** earlier this year that Bohemians would field a senior ladies team in the Women's National League, our long awaited ladies debut has been put on ice due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

Due to kick off on 14 March, Bohs were due to meet fellow débutantes Athlone Town at the Oscar Traynor Centre to be followed up by a trip to face last season's champions Peamount United. However, like the men's team, a tentative end of June date has been pencilled in instead but latest reports and developments from the HSE and the government indicate that this could be pushed back further.

The senior team follow hot on the heels of the u17s debut in last year's u17 Women's National League and who finished fourth, a mere ten points behind Group One winners Limerick. They achieved third place position in the Shield.

For now all we can do is wait with anticipation for another historical moment in the club's 130 year history!



with **Cristian Magerusan**

- **Favourite tv programme:**  
Has to be Prison Break to be fair, best tv programme ever
- **Favourite music/musician:**  
Chris Brown
- **If I wasn't a footballer I'd be a...**  
I don't consider myself a footballer yet because I've been out injured in the last three years
- **Team you support:**  
Liverpool
- **Favourite holiday destination:**  
That would probably be the Maldives
- **Tayto or King?**  
Tayto
- **Will an All Ireland league work?**  
I think it will, bigger opportunities for players and I think playing the same teams four times is a bit too much. I'd rather get more teams in the league and play only two games against each team.
- **Will Dublin win six-in-a-row?**  
Tough one but I think they will
- **What's your favourite Fr Ted quote?**  
I never watched any Irish tv programmes
- **Most embarrassing moment**  
My most embarrassing moment was probably when Liverpool were playing in the Champions League final against Real Madrid and we just finished training getting in the car and I saw that Liverpool scored and started screaming to Bucko '1-0 LIVERPOOL' but in a foreign accent and a squeaky voice! Since then the boys kept going in the dressing room 'BUCKO 1-0 LIVERPOOL' in that same foreign accent and squeaky voice. It was embarrassing but very funny to be fair!

**Read Tony Magner's interview with Cristian elsewhere in this special edition!**

#BOHSBUS



# NEXT STOP, BOHEMIANS!

**DUBLIN BUS ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT  
THE BOHEMIAN FOOTBALL CLUB AND THE  
LOCAL COMMUNITY.**

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83a, 122, 140 and 155 to Dalymount Park  
and Phibsborough.



• Another great day had by all! Photos by Stephen Burke

# ConwayCupSuccess!

*by Ryan Clarke*

**Before social distancing measures were being enforced**, the Bohemian Foundation held the Conway Cup in Mountjoy Prison.

A game between a team representing the Bohemian Foundation and a team of inmates who work with the Foundation took place.

The inmates who work with the Foundation are all located in the progression unit of Mountjoy, not the main prison. People in custody in this unit engage with rehabilitation and education programmes regularly and are prepared for reintegration to society.

The cup takes its name from the family of Jimmy Conway who are closely connected with Bohemian FC. Jimmy sadly passed away in February and the Man of the Match award was presented in his memory.

His family continue to play a vital role in the Bohemian Foundation. His nephews, Jeff and Graham, are volunteers for the Foundation's

prisoner rehabilitation programmes in both Mountjoy and the Dóchas Centre. Meanwhile, Jimmy's brother Ronnie presented the Man of the Match trophy on the day to his son Graham.

Continuing to grow its network of support for prisoners post-release, this year's iteration of the Conway Cup was attended by politicians who sought to see the work of the Bohemian Foundation first-hand and praise its efforts.

Social Democrats TD Gary Gannon, whose constituency includes Mountjoy, after the game praised the work that the Bohemian Foundation is doing.

"I'm delighted that I was invited in today to see for myself everything that is going on here," said Gannon.

"I would really like to be

involved again in the future with the Bohemian Foundation because they're doing a great service to the people of Dublin central. It's important for people coming out of Mountjoy to get their lives back on track and organisations like the Foundation help enormously," he added.

Also attending the event was former Dublin Lord Mayor Nial Ring, who was deputising on the day for current Lord Mayor Tom Brabazon.

"It's great to be involved with the Bohemian Foundation again. What Thomas Hynes and the Bohemian Foundation are doing, in terms of reaching out to the community is fantastic," he said.

"The Foundation does stellar work in preparing prisoners to reintegrate into the community



after their release and today was just another example of that,” Ring said.

Sinn Féin councillor, Larry O’Toole, who is a long time supporter and volunteer for the Bohemian Foundation feels the work is invaluable for Dublin communities.

“The Conway Cup was excellent today and going forward it will be a huge benefit for the people in Mountjoy and a benefit for the Foundation,” O’Toole said.

“I think we’ve built up a great thing here and you can see the rapport between the players and the lads inside is fantastic and the way Deputy Governor Walsh welcomes us is outstanding. I really think we’ve built up something special here,” he added.

Bohemian Foundation President Thomas Hynes thanked everyone for the support they have given to the prisoner rehabilitation initiative.

Seeing how the Foundation has gone from strength-to-strength and helped to rehabilitate the atmosphere of the club has given

him purpose.

“Today was a great success and to see all the laughing and smiles on people’s faces makes it all worth the effort,” Hynes said.

“I feel it is incumbent on football clubs to try to help as many people as possible and to see these guys trying to turn their lives around it shows us the power of rehabilitation.

“I believe we should help them to acknowledge why they’re in here and repent for that, but to also teach them that crime isn’t the only option available to them. These guys can benefit society if we support them by providing the right tools to better themselves,” he explained.

Hynes explains that the Bohemian Foundation has been put on hold like the rest of life in Ireland currently. They had just begun a programme of visits to local schools which had to cease for the time being, and plans for further work in the Dóchas Centre, walking football with disabled children and the elderly and comedy shows have been postponed too.

*‘Today was a great success and to see all the laughing and smiles on people’s faces makes it all worth the effort... it is incumbent on football clubs to try to help as many people as possible and to see these guys trying to turn their lives around it shows us the power of rehabilitation...’*





# STILL MAKING MEMORIES

**The first time I ever heard** the Gary Moore classic *Parisian Walkways*, was on Tom Browne's Sunday evening top twenty countdown on BBC Radio 2 in 1979. As the song faded out, the Brownester extemporised about how the music made him visualise "*gas lamps going out all over Paris, I doubt we will see them lit again in our time.*"

I have started to feel the same way about live football. As I type these words on a Saturday evening, it's now five weeks without the beautiful game and counting. When will this footballing vacuum end? Or if it goes on for much longer, what will tomorrow bring? Will we all have to get into e-sports and cheer on 12-year-old millionaires as they play FIFA 20? The future looks to be a bleak, bleak place.

Initially the lockdown, and the subsequent cancellation of all fixtures didn't bother me one iota. I was philosophical about it, recalling Arrigo Sacchi's observation about how football was only the most important of all the least important things in life. In fact, for the first couple of weekends, I couldn't recall the last time I felt so relaxed on a Friday evening what with not having to stress out on how Bohs were doing.

Seasons are getting progressively tougher with every passing year. Every single clash is a battle. I don't sleep well the night before a game, and frequently wake up worrying about Bohs. From the time I get up on Friday morning, I am thinking and agonising about the Bohs. Then during the game, I find I age about nine months over the average ninety minutes. It's not healthy, but that's the way my relationship with the club has gone.

So for those first couple of

*by Ned Simpson*



Fridays, I was happy. I got to read books I had bought but never opened. I binge watched season one of *Star Trek Picard*. I listened to Rush's entire back catalogue. I caught up on several programmes I had recorded over the crimbo. Meanwhile in the real world outside, all the supermarkets in my area had ample supplies of both beer and bog roll. "*This is OK*", I thought to myself, "*I could adapt to this football free environment, no bother at all.*"

But of course, that beatific limbo didn't last forever, and it wasn't long before the novelty wore off and withdrawal symptoms kicked in. Then I started thinking about time's arrow, specifically the way it flies whilst you dream.

Earlier today, I spoke to a 'youngster' who complained that he was "*bored out of his tree*" and how he was worried that he was going to miss out on his summer. I sighed wistfully at this, not for the first time reflecting that youth really is wasted on the young. With regards to this crisis, his generation are the

lucky ones. Time is a river in which we are all swept along. He is at the beginning of his cruise, and though he may be 'bored out of his tree' at the moment, when this is all over, (hopefully) the number of summers ahead of him will vastly outnumber those behind. Not so for me and my ilk.

Truly these are strange times we are living through. Back in the middle of March, I thought it was weird when you saw people greeting each other by touching elbows. That now seems like a quaint relic from a gentler bygone age. I suppose if we are to learn just one lesson from this strange new world we currently inhabit, it will be that when it is all over, we should never again underestimate the simple pleasure of being able to shake hands with a friend you haven't seen for a while, or hug a loved one who is worried about the future, or go for a pint on your birthday.

Or indeed, just go to a game so you can start fretting about your club again.





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# 2020Revision

**Nobody told me** there'd be days like this, strange days indeed...

The words of John Lennon, but I don't think he or even those with 20/20 vision saw all this coming. So, if you can't go to the Strip Club, the Strip Club will come to you. Whilst we all take this time to isolate and maintain social distancing, let us take the opportunity to have a look at the three shirts the club have released for this interrupted season.

Thankfully, the days when we used to change kits, change sponsors or even change crests mid-way throughout a season are gone. Nowadays, it's a carefully choreographed process between the club's marketing team and the kit supplier to ensure that we receive a shirt at a dedicated time and most importantly one that will be a hit with the fans.

This obviously has not always been achieved, we have had a few fashion faux pas over the years. But, I'm extremely happy to say that this season's shirt ticks just

Revisiting his popular Strip Club column of some years back, our very own jersey expert **Keith Murphy** returns to the programme pages to cast his eye over this season's lesser-worn offerings from O'Neill's

about every box and has been very favourably received by our fan base. In an online poll to discover our greatest ever shirt that has been running recently, this geansaí is currently standing in third place. High praise indeed for a jersey that doesn't have the nostalgia, sentimentality, memories and indeed trophies that others would have. Last season was our first one back with O'Neill's and they brought us a very decent effort. Whilst this year's is miles better, the big irony is that they've changed a lot without actually changing a lot, if that makes any sense at all. It's effectively the same cool template, but gold instead of white lines and predominantly red where it used to be black. But with the addition

of the new (old) sponsor, writing around the crest and collar, it looks very different. The change from primarily black to red takes a bit of getting used to, but this is a classy, stylish and very beautiful piece of material. One of the biggest changes, but done in a beautifully subtle way, is that for the first time ever, we have our crest in Irish. When all is said and done, this is a fantastic shirt and one that will be topping polls in many years to come. Don't even consider yourself a Bohsman if you don't buy this shirt.

The away shirt is a bit like Marmite. In case you don't know, Marmite is a sticky, dark brown food spread that is extremely salty. Their marketing brains, in



1996, used the brutally honest but incredibly risky slogan 'You Either Love It Or Hate It!' It's a slogan and a truism so powerful that the words 'like Marmite' are now regularly used to describe anything divisive.

And with that in mind, I bring you our 2020 away shirt. Before the shirt was even revealed, the message boards were already in meltdown from the teasers that we were being drip-fed.

Nothing to do with the design of the shirt, the collar or even the pinstripes, this (otherwise beautiful) jersey is all about our partnership with Amnesty International which highlights the plight of refugees and the stigma attached to the Direct Provision system in Ireland.

With a large image of a family fleeing war and the message 'Refugees Welcome' emblazoned on the chest, an Amnesty International logo at the bottom and the 'Love Football, Hate Racism' on the collar, this is a jersey that was meant to get noticed. And wow, did it get noticed!

There was a media frenzy over it with everyone from RTE to Euro News wanting to know about the collaboration. In an era where we consistently hear of a growing disconnect between English clubs and their communities due to foreign managers, foreign players and foreign owners, are we as a fan-owned club not morally obliged to show how much we care about the streets around our home and those that live on them by putting a local and national cause literally at the front of our shirts?

This, however, has been seen as controversial and has divided opinion amongst our membership. There are those who share the Club's stance but believe a football shirt is not the right promotional tool and that we should distance ourselves from political statements.

*This is a jersey that's  
crying out for a town  
square in a far-off  
country with hordes of  
Gypsies, satisfying  
their thirst,  
as company...*



Others will argue that it's a humanitarian statement and never the twin shall meet. As for the shirt... loved, hated, but certainly not ignored. Marmite anyone?

The final part of the Holy Trinity was released, with perfect timing once again, just as the Governments Coronavirus shutdown kicked in. Sales obviously have helped to plug the huge gap in revenue for the club.

What of the jersey itself? Well, this just oozes sunshine; this was made for those balmy summer evenings. This is a jersey that's crying out for a town square in a far-off country with hordes of Gypsies, satisfying their thirst, as company.

Alas, our sunny days in Kazakhstan, Amsterdam or even Azerbaijan have been temporarily put on hold, but we live in hope that we will get the warm destination that this shirt deserves. After the big changes to the home shirt and the whole hullabaloo around the white shirt, it was great to get a no-frills, no-nonsense shirt. Whether we actually need a third/alternative strip is possibly a discussion worth having another day, but it has become more and more the norm these days with clubs and kit suppliers. We've never had this colourway before, so it was of little surprise that initial demand outstripped supply (see what I did there!). We were due to take to the field in Turners Cross wearing it but alas the game never went ahead.

Hopefully, when everything settles down, O'Neill's will once again be able to supply us with a ray of sunshine in the form of this jersey.

Forget the Hawaiian shirt, white socks and sandals, do yourself a big favour and get this summer's ultimate fashion must-have. If there is such a thing as an unofficial antibody to the Coronavirus, this is it! Stay safe everyone.



A large collection of football jerseys is displayed outdoors on a gravel surface. The jerseys are arranged in several rows, with some hanging on a wooden fence in the background and others laid flat on the ground. The jerseys are predominantly red and black striped, with various sponsor logos and player names visible. Some jerseys are hanging on a wooden fence in the background, while others are laid flat on the ground. The scene is outdoors, with a wooden fence and some greenery visible. The jerseys feature various sponsor logos such as Nutri-Grain, Nivea, Kellogg's, Des Kelly Interiors, Gateaux, and others. Player names like Logan, Ward, Hunt, and others are also visible on some jerseys. The jerseys are laid out in a way that shows a variety of colors and designs, including red, black, white, yellow, and green. The overall scene suggests a collection of memorabilia or a display of sports gear.

Madness, madness they call it, madness. They say there's a fine line between loyalty and insanity. So, with a mixture of the lockdown and some decent weather, columnist Keith Murphy of The Strip Club parish recently chose to put his jerseys on show and we're not sure whether it was a sign of madness or just his way of keeping sane. Either way, we can safely say he's Bohs-mad...



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by Tony Magner

**Has there ever been** an unluckier soul to pull on the red and black shirt than Cristian Magerusan?

Three broken metatarsal injuries in 2017 were followed by an anterior cruciate ligament rupture in 2019 and almost a year to the day, the same ACL went again in pre-season training. In these strange times the lockdown has afforded him more time in his recovery as he has elected not to go for surgery and rehabilitate with the aid of Remi Tang, Paul Kirwan and the club.

His talent is undoubted but he just cannot get a free run of injuries. When Cristian did get into the team at the end of the 2018 season, he slotted in three goals in his first four games against Wexford, Bray and Waterford which to all intents and purposes made him our most prolific striker of the season. For all the world he looked like a real prospect that Keith Long could rely on for 2019.

Injuries put paid to that, but still only 20, Cristian is once again on the road to recovery and despite all the heartache, he is as positive now as he was when he first broke into the team three years ago.

"I've been very unlucky but I am working really hard to get back. It was absolutely heartbreaking for the knee to go a second time. Football is all I've ever known and I had put so much into making it back again, to have it all taken away from you in an instant.

"I just can't tell you how hard that is to take. But the rehab has been going really well and I am working on strengthening my legs so the muscles can take some of the strain away from the ligaments. Remi Tang has been amazing to work with and has really helped me along. I am working in my back garden as much as I can, what else can I do in the current situation? I use weights, dumbbells and use the rehab programme given to me by the club.

"I have a park just beside the family home where I can go for the short periods of exercise we are allowed outside. I can't work as the

# Onward Cristian Soldier



gym I am employed in has closed like most places but it is not all bad, it has given me more time with the family and we all have to take what positives we can from the situation.”

He adds, “I really hope to be back in full training when we resume. I feel good and am up to 80-90% of my speed and have started change-of-direction work which anyone with a cruciate injury will tell you is a significant milestone. Obviously I have had no physical work yet as there is nobody for me to tackle or be tackled by! I wouldn’t be quite ready for that anyway! Basically, when I look back at last years recovery programme, I have entered the final three months. I am doing some jumps to get the knee used to landing and still work very closely with Remi and Paul.”

The squad have been keeping in close contact using Zoom to keep fit and together. Cristian speaks one to one with Remi most days doing strength and mobility sessions to build the knee up but the squad have kept their fitness up by doing Zoom work-outs almost every day.

“You would never have seen the likes of this coming, would you?” he laughs. “We do various sessions every week on stretching, cardio, mobility work and even tactics and drills. We all miss training and the togetherness it brings but the Zoom sessions have been really important for fitness and morale.

“Everyone is in good spirits, enjoying family time. As much as we crave the physical contact of training and matches, we know there are so many worse off than us and we know how important it is to stay at home and beat this virus. We all have people that we love that we want to protect and it is a small sacrifice to make, to do the right thing to help those at the front line.”

### Third Time Unlucky...

Cristian’s injury nightmare dates back to 2017 when he first broke the metatarsal, the bone on the side of the foot leading down to the toes. He was out for six weeks but back running and training in advance of the summer break.

“I went back to Romania for a holiday and was playing with my friends, just keeping fit. I rolled my ankle and heard the snap.” The metatarsal had gone again and this time his season was over. The following winter he was back in training and feeling strong.

“We were two weeks out from the big kick off against Shamrock Rovers,” he recalls. “I remember Keith pulling me aside and telling me he was very impressed with how I’d come back. Dinny was injured at the time and he told me to keep the head down, that I might be considered for a start. I was thrilled. Then we were doing a warm up, just jumping over cones and as I went over the last one, I landed awkwardly and the metatarsal went again. That was the third time. I don’t mind admitting that I cried and cried with hurt and frustration.”

### From Bad to Worse...

Cristian once more put the head down and was back again the following summer. That’s when people really started to sit up and take notice. When he looks back to that time in the middle of 2018 when his progress was so marked, it seems like a million years ago for the young Liverpool fanatic.

“I was in the team and played five games. I did really well and hit three goals. It was such a relief to finally get there after the three injuries. I felt good and had a real chance of establishing myself. I didn’t take it for granted after being out for so long, I just wanted to improve myself and develop as much as I could. Sadly, I didn’t really get the chance to enjoy it. I saw the following campaign as my year to kick on but in pre-season I did the cruciate for the first time.”

He recalls that fateful day in January 2019 when everything changed and the progress he had made were all dashed in one terrible moment.

“I was doing the FAI-ETB course at the time and we were playing against Dundalk. It was a non-contact injury. The ball came into the box and I just planted the foot down as I went to touch it. I went to turn and hit it and

*‘We were doing a warm up, just jumping over cones and as I went over the last one, I landed awkwardly and the metatarsal went again. That was the third time. I don’t mind admitting that I cried and cried with hurt and frustration...’*

the left knee went. I knew it was bad straight away. I heard the pop and I was down on the ground for about five minutes with the worst pain I have ever felt in my life.”

He was to be out for nine months after having surgery on 15 January. He was back in time for the end of last season but too late to have the sharpness to get into the team for the last game or two. He was content to wait and not to rush back and to work through pre-season and back on Keith’s radar as a first team option.

### Winter of Discontent...

“I felt really good and pre-season went really well for me,” he says. “I had never felt as good actually, to be so strong and so fit after all I had been through. I was 100% sure I would play this season. Exactly one year to the day after my operation, 15 January 15th 2020, I did the cruciate again, the same one, the left ACL. We were two or three weeks back and it happened in a training match, the type we finish off every session with. I got a small touch on the knee, a total accident when another player came in from the side and the ligaments went. I was devastated.

“The surgeon had said that he had never seen an injury like that heal so well and at my six and nine months scans everything looked excellent. The first time I had damaged cartilage, the meniscus and the medial ligament as well as

the ACL, it all healed up really well and everyone was happy, most of all me. I really did feel so strong and fit and then for it to go again, I have never felt so low. I can't tell you how normal a session it was, how normal a ball it was..."

"This time I didn't realise how bad things were. In fact, the staff didn't feel it was too bad either, at least initially. They sent me for a scan. It did swell up pretty badly, but it was nowhere near as painful as when I did it the year before. The news we got back was just terrible and I couldn't but cry after all I had gone through to get back. Obviously this was all before Covid 19 and I just thought how one second can completely wreck your season."

### **National Service...**

Before his initial injury there was contact from Romania telling him he was being watched and considered for their national team underage set up. He has not given up on that particular dream but realises it is a long way away yet and that he has to prove his fitness all over again first.

"I was thrilled. The u21s went on to finish fourth in last year's Euros so it is heartening to think I was being looked at as a possibility for those. I must've been doing something right!"

### **Eastern Promise...**

Born in Bistrita, Romania, Cristian cut his teeth with his local Bistrita Arsenal side before being spotted aged just ten by scouts from the prestigious Academia Hagi, run by one Gheorghe Hagi. When he was 13, he moved to crack first division side CFR Cluj who were regular qualifiers for the Champions League.

He made swift progress through the ranks and he stayed in Romania to try and develop his football even after his family moved to Ireland. However, just short of his 15th birthday he followed them over to where they had settled in Lucan joining the local team Lucan United.

"I felt I wanted to be with my family and also that if I was good enough to make it in Romania then I would be good enough to make it in



**• Cristian with former Republic of Ireland manager Mick McCarthy during the 2019 FAI-ETB Graduation event at the FAI Headquarters in Abbotstown**  
Photo by Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile

Ireland too. Romania is full of good players but the organisation is very poor and at that time there was a bit of corruption. There was nobody helping young Romanian players get a good move."

He settled well in Ireland and very quickly began to make waves in football circles too. At Lucan he was in the same team as the likes of Mark Travers who has recently made the breakthrough at Bournemouth and Ireland u21 star Conor Masterson, formerly at Liverpool, currently with QPR. He was spotted by a familiar Bohs scout who recommended that Keith Long have a look at him.

### **Cristian Missions...**

With his FAI-ETB course completed with qualifications, he is steely eyed when asked about his future.

"I just love football and all I want to do is play for this club. It breaks my heart that I haven't had the chance to show people what I can do. I absolutely hate sitting in the

stands every week knowing that I could make a contribution if I was fit. The fans are amazing, just so supportive. I remember the noise they made when I first made the bench against St. Patrick's Athletic, I knew then I wanted to play in front of them. I know I can do this if I can just get fit, that's the frustrating thing. The lads in the dressing room have been so good to me and I've always been made to feel very much part of things. I talk to Andy Lyons who did his cruciate at just 16 and look at him now! I have to believe in myself and have faith in my ability to recover."

For now football takes a back seat but he has a closing message.

"This is bigger than football we need to look after each other.. Training, playing and being together as a squad is such a big part of our lives but if we do the right thing by everyone, we will all be together in Dalymount again, and maybe we will all appreciate it just that little bit more..."

# Player Sponsorships 2020



Keith Buckley

Home, Away, Third  
**Bohemian FC**  
Matchday Programme



James Talbot

Home & Away Jersey  
**Darryl Ure**



Stephen McGuinness

Home: SeaSide Casuals  
Away: Woodstown Bohs



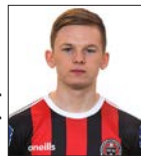
Sean Bohan

Home: Available  
Away: Available



Evan Ferguson

Home: Robert O'Rourke  
Away: Area 51 Bohs  
Third: Renovation & Building Solutions



Andy Lyons

Home & Away Jersey  
David Hammond  
Third: The McLeod Family



Michael Barker

Home & Away Jersey  
**Finnegan Steel**  
Third: Darragh Finnegan



Anto Breslin

Home, Away, Third  
**FYC**



Paddy Kirk

Home: Beano  
Away: Brian Kelly  
Third: Pat Clifford Tyres



Rob Cornwall

Home, Away, Third  
**W&W**



James Finnerty

Home, Away, Third  
**Joe O'Boyle**



Dan Casey

Home: Danny & John Gartlan  
Away: Vinnie McDermott  
Third: Alex Sheehan



Ciaran Kelly

Home: Sean Conroy  
Away: Jim Egan  
Third: The Kaiser



JJ Lunney

Home & Away Jersey  
Emily O'Meara  
Third: Woodstown Bohs



Conor Levingston

Home & Away Jersey  
Gorey Rangers Schoolboys & Schoolgirls  
Third: Bob Sheehan



Ross Tierney

Home: Robyn Kelly  
Away: Declan O'Connor  
Third: Teagan & Oran McGillivray



Luke Wade-Slater

Home & Away Jersey  
**AD/HTD**  
Third: Sean Conroy



Dan Grant

Home, Away, Third  
**NBB**



Promise Omochere

Home: Cathal O'Reilly  
Away: Adam & James Scully  
Third: B2200 BOHS



Kris Twardek

Home: Jaime Connors  
Away: Kirsten Lee  
Third: The McLeod Family



Keith Ward

Home, Away, Third  
**Blackhorse Boulevard & Eric**



Danny Mandroiu

Home, Away, Third  
**POS**



Dawson Devoy

Home: Saoirse Richardson  
Away: Ernie Crawford Trust  
Third: Jim McElroy



Dinny Corcoran

Home & Away Jersey  
Dwane Oakes  
Third: Eoin Mulvey



Glen McAuley

Home, Away, Third  
**Brickx Club D7**



Cristian Magerusan

Home, Away, Third  
**Tommy Murphy**



Andre Wright

Home, Away, Third  
**Luke O'Riordan**



Callum Thompson

Home: Cian Maxwell  
Away: Freddie Sheehan  
Third: Michael McGuire



Keith Long

Home & Away Jersey  
KillianM2 YouTube



Trevor Croly

Home & Away Jersey  
**Brisbane Bohs**





• *She's looking well... a silent Dalymount Park looking resplendent in the warm spring sun.* Photo by Thomas Hynes



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# Improve without the move





# Bohs and the last Great Pandemic

We're all stuck at home, talking a good game about catching up on our reading or perhaps finally completing that DIY project, more likely if you're anything like me you're mindlessly scrolling on your phone, or binge-watching lurid TV series on Netflix.

Things are obviously a lot different if you are a frontline worker, in one of our hospitals, a member of our emergency services or working in essential retail businesses. The stress is very real. But this is not unique or unprecedented. This too shall pass.

Just over 100 years ago Ireland faced a not dissimilar epidemic. While the Spanish Flu was something of the misnomer, it was very real, and very deadly. Conservative estimates place the Irish death toll from the virus at over 20,000 from Summer 1918 to Spring 1919. Consider also that this came towards the end of the First World War which claimed the lives of perhaps 50,000 Irish people and saw a country in a state of turmoil on the topics of nationhood, conscription, poverty and on the brink of a violent War of Independence. We can perhaps sympathise with their plight.

Unlike today however, the people of Dublin in 1918 and 1919 had football. Despite schools closing, and many businesses shutting due to illness and self-quarantine measures, football continued in something akin to its usual patterns.

To set the scene; at the end of the 1914-15 season due to rising costs, loss of players and supporters to the war-effort and the general

**As we sit (mostly) at home and wonder when football will return to Dalymount, Gerard Farrell brings us back just over a century when Bohemians not only had a global pandemic to deal with but also a global war...**

disruption brought by the War, the Irish League split into regional competitions for the rest of the War. Bohemians and Shelbourne, the two Dublin sides in an eight-team league dominated by the main Belfast clubs, returned to the Leinster Senior League, and this in effect was our main league for the War and its immediate aftermath.

The main Irish Cup competition still ran on an all-Ireland basis, though the early round draws were regionalised, while other trophies such as the Leinster Senior Cup were major priorities.

If anything, the years 1918 and 1919 brought almost a return to normality for Bohemians, the club had lost dozens of players to the War and many more in terms of supporters. At a conservative estimate some 50,000 Dubliners ended up in the battlefields of the First World War and perhaps 8,000 of them never made it home.

This impacted not just Bohemians but every football club in Ireland. The Leinster Football Association (LFA) saw a reduction in affiliated clubs which declined by 50% during wartime and by 1919 the LFA had to go cap in hand seeking a grant or loan from the IFA to try and keep the Association afloat. A major concern for

Bohemians (and many other clubs) was getting players released from their regiments in order to play for the team. In several games Bohs were hamstrung because of missing key players due to the refusal of the British armed forces to release players for matches, even after the armistice.

Despite all this upheaval there were still notes of optimism to be found, Bohemians won the Leinster Senior League - the highest level played by clubs outside of Belfast, in the 1917/18 season and came second to Shelbourne the following year. It should be noted that Bohs, despite the loss of numbers due to the War were still fielding at least two teams at the time, with a Bohemian B side competing at Leinster Senior League Division Two against the like of St. James Gate and Glasnevin F.C.

The influenza epidemic first noticeably hit Ireland in early summer of 1918 as the football season was ending, but arguably had its peak in Dublin in October and November 1918, as well as continuing into the Spring of 1919, there were perhaps three different peaks of the epidemic.

One theory for the surge in cases in November 1918 was that people congregated en masse to



• **Bohemian FC, c. 24 April 1916, Mullingar;** a photograph accompanying a postcard sent by Arthur Nolan informing those back in Dublin that the team were stranded due to the outbreak of the Rising! Those pictured suited and booted formed the nucleus of the team that endured not only the Great War but the Spanish Flu pandemic  
**Back:** J. Byrne, Bertie Kerr, Mick Hughes, Jack Kirwan (Coach), George Dagg.  
**Middle:** Paddy McDonnell, Con Drum, George Molloy, Mick Kirwan, Harry Macdona.  
**Front:** Ned Brooks, Arthur Nolan, Mick Hopper, Tommy Ryan, Tony Reddin.  
**Missing from photo:** J.J. Duff and Charlie Magwood.

*One report in The Irish Times on 16 November 1918 noted that between 28 September and 9 November, some 756 people had died of the influenza virus in Dublin City alone. Two days later Shelbourne beat Bohs in the league in front of what was described as a record crowd of the season...*

celebrate the end of the War and inadvertently helped spread the virus. Unlike most of the Covid-19 cases at present the Spanish Flu (thus described because neutral Spain reported the first cases, it had been rife in the trenches of France and Belgium months earlier) seemed to affect younger, healthier people, with many in their 20s and 30s dying and leaving young families without parents.

One report in *The Irish Times* on 16 November 1918 noted that between 28 September and 9 November, some 756 people had died of the influenza virus in Dublin City alone. Two days later Shelbourne beat Bohs in the league in front of what was described as "a record crowd of the season". It was a good time for Shels at this

point, they seemed to have the upper hand over their main Dublin rivals, the famous Bohemians, in both 1918 and 1919 their knocked Bohs out of the first round of the Irish Cup. In February 1919 they won their Cup match in Dalymount (at another resurgent point for the flu epidemic) in front of a crowd of over 8,000, which was described as a record attendance in Dublin since the outbreak of War.

Indeed, not happy with just the usual run of fixtures Bohs decided to host an alternative Cup Final on 29 March 1919. On the same day that Linfield were playing Glentoran in the first of three finals (two drawn games followed by an eventual Linfield victory on the 7 April) Bohs agreed to host beaten semi-finalists Belfast Celtic in front

of a bumper crowd in Dalymount. The Bohs would triumph 2-1 on the day.

While the Dublin public were waylaid from all sides by death, whether from War, revolution or disease, somehow football continued, in the case of Bohemians the club saw suffering in and death in the war, former players like Fred Morrow, Harold Sloan, Francis Larkin and others had died in action and many more were seriously injured. But during the Spanish Flu epidemic, partially spread by the return of so many soldiers from the front in 1918, while some quarantine measures and closures of businesses and schools did take place football continued as usual.

# Match of the Day

by Alan Bird

**I first became aware of Julian Fellowes** way back 20-odd years ago when he portrayed an uncanningly-accurate Winston Churchill during the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations in 1921 in *The Treaty*. The majority of his early

work, acting and directing, involved historical drama and he continued that trend with *The Young Victoria*, a *Titanic* mini-series, *Belgravia*, *Downton Abbey* and now *The English Game*, to name but a few.

Recently released to Netflix, this series charts the factual origins of modern day football and the divide between the upper and lower class in the game.

Concentrating principally on Old Etonians, Lancashire mill outfit Darwen FC and the personalities behind the teams, the series begins with Darwen mill and team owner James Walsh bringing two new players, and workers, on board, Fergus Suter and James Love who made their name with Partick FC in Scotland. Both are drafted in just in time for both sides 1879 FA Cup match. The guilty secret though is that Sutter and Love are being secretly paid in an era when the Cup was purely an amateur competition. Clawing back a 5-1 half deficit to 5-5, with the tactical nuances of the new Scottish imports paying

dividends in what looks like a huge shock, banker, MP and Etonians captain Arthur Kinnaird refuses to play extra time, demanding the game be replayed, something which to a working class mill team isn't easily arranged or financed.

The story evolves from that point as Love and Sutter settle into life at Darwen and become entwined in the social aspects of the day, including a mill strike, pay cuts and civil unrest in which a court hearing intervention from Old Etonian Arthur Kinnaird in the favour of Ted Stokes (who would go on to pioneer the manufacture of football shirts) begins a thaw in relations between the two footballing elements although Kinnaird comes up against opposition from his peers.

In typical Fellowes' fashion accuracy to detail is tantamount and great detail has gone in to reproduce all facets of society. If you can sit through the obligatory love story that accompanies the plot, *The English Game* is well worth a watch.



**The Sunday Game**

Yesterday at 17:19 · 📶

"The essence of the GAA is people going to Thurles, Clones, Castlebar, Killarney, making their way down Jones' Road in Du... See more



RTE.IE

**Mixed views on 'behind closed doors' championships**

...

## ***Our Hill is better than yours...***

A guffaw or two of laughter was undoubtedly emitted at this social media post by The Sunday Game early this week that discussed how this years GAA Championship could be played. As the various comments debated the scenarios that could unfold, no-one seemed to initially notice that behind the locked gates stood Dalymount Park as opposed to Croker. Dalymount has hosted many events of varying degree through the years; school sports days, rugby league, boxing, concerts and carnivals... we even have our own Hill, located by the penalty spot at the Tramway End. However I've yet to see whether a Championship match would get the go ahead!

I'd love to hear Pat Spillane and Joe Brolly's take on that!



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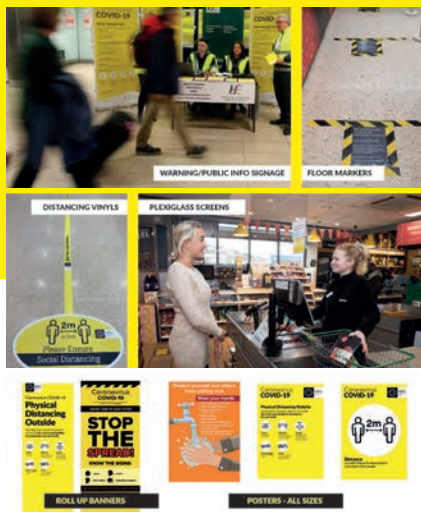
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# DalymountDays

Taking over the reigns of a stuttering Irish side won't be an easy task for new Ireland manager Stephen Kenny. He faced a similar position when taking the Bohs job in 2001 following a dip in form after the momentous Double achievement. Here we reprint **Stephen Burke's** article on Kenny which was originally published during the 2015 season in his *'Managers & Selectors'* series



**On 9 December 2001 Stephen Kenny** became Bohs' manager. His League of Ireland playing career having ended with Home Farm in 1995/96 due to injury - echoes perhaps of Sean Thomas - Kenny had first come to notice as a coach with St. Patrick's Athletic's u21 side.

As a 27-year-old he took up the reins at Longford in 1998/99, guiding them from the bottom rung of the First Division to a comfortable fifth in the Premier in 2000/2001, an FAI Cup final that same year and a UEFA Cup place - all on a very slim budget.

Longford's claims for compensation - figures of £90,000 and more were mentioned - were empty as there was no written contract. An injunction prevented Kenny from acting as Bohs' manager in their imminent FAI Cup tie away to, of course, Longford, so Liam O'Brien took charge that day. Bohs avenged a recent 2-0 defeat at Flancare Park by winning 4-1.

Form and results in all competitions immediately picked up. After a draw with Bray in the next round, the replay at the Carlisle Grounds was won 4-0. The FAI Cup semi-final with Derry City at Dalymount was a meeting of the season's top scorers (remarkably, that was now Bohemians) and the meanest defence (Derry's). The Gypsies' 2-1 victory with a late Glen Crowe penalty sent them into a third successive FAI Cup final. The opposition would be Dundalk, who had thumped Shamrock Rovers 4-0 in the other semi.

Bohs produced their best in the final league game of the 2001/02 campaign, a 4-0 home win over champions Shelbourne. With Dundalk unluckily relegated the same day it all made Bohs even stronger favourites for the Blue Riband. However, some real cup-fighting from Dundalk saw the men from Oriell Park edge it 2-1 in the sunshine at Tolka Park thus calling

a rude halt to Kenny's and Bohs' ascent.

Kenny brought in five new players for 2002/03: full back Damien Lynch, centre backs Paul McNally and Derek Coughlan, striker Paul Keegan, and goalkeeper Ashley Bayes. All would play major roles.

Bohs led the way from day one and became league champions on 12 January 2003 after a showdown away to Shelbourne that hinged on two moments: Bayes' stunning save from an Ollie Cahill header in the 61st minute, and Ryan nodding home the only goal in the 89th.

Season 2003 began with a brilliant 3-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur in a friendly at Dalymount (attendance 7,300). The first leg of the Champions League qualifier with BATE Borisov was lost 1-0 in Belarus, but the return saw a fantastic 3-0 victory. Rosenborg were next up but their international-strewn side were too





strong, winning 5-0 on aggregate. Bohs hauled themselves back into contention to retain the league title and when they beat Shelbourne 3-1 at Tolka on 4 November 2003 they went top. Ten days later and with five games to go Shels grabbed back the initiative with a 1-0 win at Dalymount. Bohs would have to settle for the runners-up spot.

It was a disappointing end to a promising year for an ever more ambitious club. Though he had so recently led Bohemians to glory, the pressure on Stephen Kenny was building. For the 2004 season he worked with a new coach, Gary Howlett, who replaced Liam O'Brien who had departed for Shamrock Rovers.

A decent start was made to the league with wins away to Longford and St. Pat's, James Keddy with a goal on his debut, Glen Crowe scoring in each of the first three games and new keeper Seamus Kelly with a penalty save in the 2-2 home draw with Waterford. Game four brought champions Shelbourne to Dalymount as well as a very encouraging attendance of

5,014. A Bobby Ryan free kick which Damian Lynch claimed to touch gave Bohs an 84th minute equaliser and a useful enough 1-1 draw.

Then came a serious dip in form. Home defeats to Drogheda and Cork City, a dismal 2-1 loss at Tolka to newly-promoted Dublin City, plus a series of draws. The next win wasn't until game 11, 1-0 at home to Waterford, Tony Grant with his first goal for the club. 0-0 away to Shelbourne, then three wins on the trot and Kenny's men looked to have stopped the rot, but a 2-1 defeat 'away' to Shamrock Rovers (now tenants at Dalymount Park) and a 4-2 demise to Dublin City – after Crowe had put Bohs 2-0 up in the 18th minute – and all was depression. Yet, four days later with a 1-0 win away to Cork City courtesy of a Grant strike, Bohs leap-frogged the Leesiders to go second. However, they were still nine points adrift of rivals Shelbourne.

The draw for the UEFA Cup paired the Gypsies against Levadia Tallinn who, as Levadia Maardu, had been memorably seen off

in a Champions League qualifier back in 2001. Returning with a goalless draw from the Estonian capital, prospects of advancing again were bright and in their only match before the second leg Bohs dismissed Ringmahon Rangers 8-0 from the FAI Cup, Stephen Ward with a hat-trick.

On Tuesday, 27 July 2004, Levadia Tallinn stepped out at Dalymount. Home nerves were rattled as early as the ninth minute when Cepauskas easily headed in a corner, home defensive frailties exposed.

The Estonians' goal was blessed in the 33rd minute, Dave Morrison thumping a shot off the crossbar, and a couple of minutes later the same luckless lad had a header saved by Kotenko. The 'keeper made another save from Crowe, then one more from Morrison before the half-time whistle.

Kenny sent on Bobby Ryan for Stephen Caffrey, moving Fergal Harkin inside to pair up with Hunt. In the 55th minute came the breakthrough, Webb curling over a free, Hunt heading it back across goal, Crowe with an instinctive volley. 1-1. At least one more goal was required and it almost came in the 62nd minute, Crowe firing at Kotenko after a goal mouth scramble. The 69th minute proved decisive with Levadia's substitute Tshelnokov tapping home at the wrong end. A desperate situation became hopeless in the 78th, Dovydenas crashing one past Kelly. It finished 3-1 to Levadia, groans and boos ringing around the ground, Bohs' hopes of fuelling their way via progress in Europe falling at the first hurdle.

Sadly, it was Stephen Kenny's last match in charge, his contract terminated the very next day. It's tough at the top, rather chillingly so at times.

• *Stephen Kenny at Bohemians photo by Stephen Burke, 2002. Stephen at the Aviva, photo by Stephen McCarthy (Sportsfile)*

Dalymount Park, Sunday 18 August 1985

# Bohs make Ireland work hard for draw

Bohemians ..... 1  
Rep. of Ireland Youths ..... 1

by Dan McSwiney

**E**ven though short three of their key players, the Republic of Ireland Youths squad had quite a satisfactory workout against Bohemians at Dalymount Park, but manager Liam Tuohy must have had reservations about their finishing.

It was not until twelve minutes from time that Liverpool's Brain Mooney, from a pass by Martin Bayly, gave them a share of the spoils which, despite the efficiency of Bohs' keeper Dermot O'Neill, should have been wrapped up by the Soviet-bound Youths earlier.

The automatic choices missing from the Irish selection were Aaron Callaghan of Stoke City, Martin Russell from Manchester United and Eamon Dolan, with West Ham United.

The Youths should have made better use of their possession off the ball. Instead, they fell behind in the 17th minute when Eugene Davis was left free to take a fine diagonal pass from Larry Wyse and float it into the middle where Rocky O'Brien was waiting to head the ball home.

Searching to fill the vacancies in his squad by the refusal of Arsenal to release Niall Quinn, Tuohy was met with another rebuttal when Wolves turned down his request for the services



• *Liam Tuohy's Ireland Youths wasted chances to win the game at Dalymount* (Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile)

of Derek Ryan. However, he had another card up his sleeve and Derek Swan, who joined Home Farm earlier this season from Belvedere Youths, has been named in the squad.

**Bohemians:** Dermot O'Neill, Alan Kinsella, Ronnie Murphy, Paul Power, Tom Conway (Joey Poutch

ht), Larry Wyse, Gino Lawless, John Reynor (John Byrne 61), Rocky O'Brien, Jackie Jameson, Eugene Davis (Paul Caffrey 61)  
**Ireland Youths:** Kelly (Longford Town), O'Kelly, Bollard, McDermott (Home Farm), O'Shea (Spurs), Kelch (Bradford), Bayly (Wolves), Collins (Southampton), Tuite (Luton), Neal (Millwall)

Ireland were drawn in Group B with Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Spain in the World Youth Championship held in the Soviet Union.

Playing all their group games at the Lenin Dinamo Stadium, Tbilisi, Ireland were on an early flight home

after three defeats; 2-1 to Brazil, 1-0 to Saudi Arabia and 4-2 to Spain. Marcus Tuite scored the consolation against Brazil while goals by Brian Mooney and Pat Kelch pulled the Spanish game back to 2-2 for Tuohy's team.

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Dalymount Park, Friday 6 March 2020 • Photos by Stephen Burke

BOHEMIAN FC ..... 2  
SHELBOURNE ..... 0





# generally speaking...

by Aidan Fitzmaurice

**Homer Simpson promised** he'd change. He'd had a near-death experience, that time he was poisoned (or so he thought) by the fugu fish in a sushi restaurant but once he survived, he promised to live life to the full and never waste a moment again, every day a new bucket list.

Of course, because it's Homer, within a day he doing what he always did; sitting on his couch, watching a non-sport on TV (bowling) and eating salty treats, as fat and lazy as ever.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic sent the country into lockdown, we've all heard the stories about people who have made big changes to their lives and routines. Old shelves were painted, gardens weeded to perfection, people began to bake and cook and learn Serbian, read those door-stoppers which had remained unread and unloved on bookshelves for months (looking at you, Hilary Mantel).

People also say they will be different once the shutters are lifted and we can have fresh air again beyond a 2km radius. We'll start with great intentions (like maybe finding clothes that fit as all my t-shirts seem have shrunk over the last month, but that could be down to me including both crisps and beer as one of my five-a-day) and have dreams of living a better, more worthy, life.

I wonder what sort of football world we will have in Ireland once this is over. At the time of writing we had no idea when football would resume, if at all this year.

Even 'resuming' was a loaded word as that could mean matches being played, but in very limited conditions, behind closed doors, only a very tiny crew awarded an entrance key. Certainly, it's hard to imagine when we'll be back to the days we knew, Dublin derbies on Friday nights, a packed Luas out to Tallaght or the queue for the toilets in Dalymount, a pre-match lasagna and pint in Fagan's in Drumcondra.

I was looking forward to doing that regularly in 2020. Now, it could be a while before Fagan's opens its door to anyone, not just hungry League of Ireland fans on a Friday evening.

Football will have changed by the time the pandemic has passed. Across Europe, some clubs will not survive. The Championship in England, a league were one club in 2019 paid out, in player wages alone, £2.20 for every £1 it earned, will have to be transformed with those who do survive. Premier League clubs may realise that paying Alexis Sanchez £400,000 a week, despite not being much good at football, is unsustainable.

In a post-Covid world, where the jobless are left to survive on social welfare, the outrageous ticket prices just to see a Barcelona home game and the combined cost of all those Sky Sports, BT Sport and Amazon subscriptions will appear to be both vulgar and un-affordable.

And what of Ireland? Well maybe people will get used to that 2km radius and start following their local

*Maybe people will get used to that 2km radius and start following their local football club, instead of looking to England, because it will be a long time before those €15 flights to Manchester return...*

football club, instead of looking to England, because it will be a long time before those €15 flights to Manchester return. Maybe we'll wonder why we send young Irish talent to a club like Nottingham Forest or Reading, whose massive pre-virus debts will only be more painful in the aftermath, and do more to keep them at home.

Having managed for months without the glamour of watching Watford and Crystal Palace bore the faces off each other, maybe we'll grow up and not switch it back on just because it's on. The sports media (and I know I work in that field) might find a "sensational tug of war" over which English club pays €100million for Jadon Sancho something to be derided, not built up into a frenzy and fed to the masses.

At a time when jobs will be very scarce, maybe we'll value the education of our young footballers more and expect them to only leave this country, if at all, once they have a Leaving Cert. Maybe the post-virus clean-up needed across the nation will make the outdated stadiums which fans pay into, the sub-standard dressing rooms that players are forced to change in, more acceptable.

Will we change? Homer didn't, and we won't do everything we promised to do once this is over. But we can start.

## // Appearances 2020

Goalkeepers	Lge.	FAI	LC	LSC	Eur.	On	Off	Ttl.
James Talbot	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Stephen McGuinness	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Defenders	Lge.	FAI	LC	LSC	Eur.	On	Off	Ttl.
Andy Lyons	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Anto Breslin	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Ciaran Kelly	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dan Casey	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
James Finnerty	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Michael Barker	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Patrick Kirk	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rob Cornwall	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Midfielders	Lge.	FAI	LC	LSC	Eur.	On	Off	Ttl.
Conor Levingston	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Danny Grant	4	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Daniel Mandroiou	4	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Dawson Devoy	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
JJ Lunney	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Keith Ward	4	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Kris Twardek	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Keith Buckley (c)	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Luke Wade-Slater	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
Promise Omochere	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ross Tierney	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Forwards	Lge.	FAI	LC	LSC	Eur.	On	Off	Ttl.
Andre Wright	4	-	-	-	-	2	1	4
Cristian Magerusan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dinny Corcoran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glen McAuley	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	4

## // League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Shamrock Rovers	5	5	0	0	15	4	+11	15
Dundalk	5	4	0	1	12	4	+8	12
Bohemians	5	3	0	2	6	3	+3	9
St Patrick's Athletic	4	2	0	2	3	2	+1	6
Shelbourne	4	2	0	2	3	4	-1	6
Waterford	4	2	0	2	3	5	-2	6
Derry City	4	1	1	2	4	4	0	4
Finn Harps	4	1	1	2	2	6	-4	4
Cork City	5	1	0	4	1	11	-10	3
Sligo Rovers	4	0	0	4	2	8	-6	0

• with thanks to Craig McMahon & Ronny Else for stats - see [wikipedia.org/wiki/2020\\_Bohemian\\_F.C.\\_season](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_Bohemian_F.C._season)

## // Goals 2020

League	
Daniel Mandroiou	2
Andre Wright	1
Dan Grant	1
Kris Twardek	1

Penalties	
Daniel Mandroiou	1

Own Goals	
Sam Bone	1



• Danny Grant - scorer of Bohs last goal in 2020 BC... Before Covid

## // Stats 2020

**Top goalscorer**  
Patrick Hoban, Graham Burke, 5 each

**Biggest home win**  
Rovers 6 - 0 Cork City

**Biggest away win**  
Harps 0 - 4 Dundalk

**Highest scoring**  
Rovers 6 - 0 Cork City

**Longest winning run**  
Shamrock Rovers, 5

**Longest unbeaten run**  
Shamrock Rovers, 5

**Longest winless run**  
Sligo Rovers, 4

**Longest losing run**  
Sligo Rovers, 4

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*photo by Peter O'Doherty*