

HOOPS SCENE



Shamrock Rovers FC v DJURGÅRDENS IF

UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE
GROUP F – MATCHDAY 1
TALLAGHT STADIUM
THURSDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER, 2022
KICK OFF: 8.00pm



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Welcome to

TALLAGHT STADIUM

Welcome to Tallaght Stadium for tonight's UEFA Europa Conference League Group Stage game with Djurgårdens IF.

More seasoned Hoops supporters will remember our previous meeting with tonight's visitors in a 2002 UEFA Cup qualifier. That game was played in Tolka Park so it is with particular pleasure that we extend a warm welcome to the supporters, players, management and officials of Djurgården on their first visit to Tallaght.

We are delighted to be here! Since we made Tallaght our home, and particularly in recent years, development of our club and the stadium have gone hand in hand. The construction of the North Stand and the upgrading of the West Stand, scheduled for completion in the Summer of 2023, will see Rovers playing in a fully-accredited Category 4 Tallaght Stadium. In the meantime, we are grateful to UEFA for granting us permission to play our 2022 Group Stage fixtures at our home ground and we would also like to thank the FAI and South Dublin County Council for their support in making the case for Tallaght.

wonderful journey that Stephen Bradley and his team have taken us on in the past four years. From a cup win in 2019 to a league double in 2020 and 2021, this Rovers squad has gone from strength to strength and in 2022, has taken another giant step forward by reaching the Group Stages of European competition. A worthy stage for a fantastic group of players and a challenge they have prepared for and will look forward to.

Confidence will come from our record in Tallaght this Summer, four home wins in four qualification rounds and another reason to be pleased to be playing at our home ground. Attendances have been high for all our fixtures to date and with the incredible support of our fans, we have already had some memorable European nights in Tallaght this year. Thank you to all our supporters for the part you have played in getting us to this point and we look forward to more special nights in the weeks ahead, starting tonight.

Tonight's game is just the latest step in the

Enjoy the game and keep on hooping.



Roll of Honour

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: 1922/23, 1924/25, 1926/27, 1931/32, 1937/38, 1938/39, 1953/54, 1956/57, 1958/59, 1963/64, 1983/84, 1984/85, 1985/86, 1986/87, 1993/94, 2010, 2011, 2020, 2021 (19)

FIRST DIVISION WINNERS: 2006 (1)

FAI CUP WINNERS: 1924/25, 1928/29, 1929/30, 1930/31, 1931/32, 1932/33, 1935/36, 1939/40, 1943/44, 1944/45, 1947/48, 1954/55, 1955/56, 1961/62, 1963/64, 1964/65, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1977/78, 1984/85, 1985/86, 1986/87, 2019 (25)

SETANTA SPORTS CUP: 2011, 2013 (2)

LEINSTER SENIOR CUP: 1923, 1927, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1938, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1964, 1969, 1982, 1985, 1997, 2012, 2013 (18)

LEAGUE CUP: 1976/77, 2013 (2)

Andrew Blair White talks to

Stephen Bradley



Shamrock Rovers return to Tallaght Stadium this evening for a return to European Action as they play their first game of the Europa Conference League Group Stages against Djurgardens IF. Rovers will be looking to bounce back after falling to a 1-0 defeat in the league to Bohemians last Friday Night in Dalymount Park. Stephen gave his views on the game and the excitement of Group Stage football to Andrew Blair White.

"I thought we were poor on the night to be honest. I don't think we were up at our normal levels but the players have been fantastic for a long time and just have had one poor night. We still had a few chances to go ahead in the game but overall we were below where we have been. It was a poor enough game all round and the stoppages in the first half really disrupted any flow or rhythm to be developed within the game."

The Europa Conference League Group Stages poses a different challenge to this Rovers team; they found out a week ago that they have drawn Molde, Gent and Djurgarden in this group. "It's a tough draw but they were all going to be tough at this stage of the competition. All three teams we have drawn are doing very well in their leagues domestically. We know it's a difficult draw but we're really looking forward to having group stage football and we will be doing our best to do as well as possible."

"We have to give them all the respect they deserve. Djurgarden are right near the top of the league, Molde are top of the league, which shows their quality and we know that Gent play

in a really difficult and competitive league. However, we won't fear anyone and we will be looking to go and win each game."

The club was very firm on making sure the home games would continue to be played at Tallaght Stadium, with The Aviva mused as a potential ground change. "It was very important that we wanted to keep playing in Tallaght, it was very important for all the staff and players and for the fans as well. For the fans that follow us every week and travel with us around Ireland and around Europe, it was important for them as well to get Tallaght and keep things at home. We're delighted that it's the best possible outcome in that regard."

The first game in the group is tonight against Djurgardens IF, who currently sit second in the Swedish top flight. "They're a very good side and they are a typical Scandinavian side in the way that they play and set-up. They are very dangerous in certain areas of the pitch, and we are going to have to make sure we are ready for that and we're set up right on the night. It was one of our goals at the start of the year to get Group Stage football. It's a different challenge, it's a fresh challenge and really makes you think. We are all really looking forward to it."

"It's everything you want. You want big home games in front of your own fans and we have that till the end of the season both domestically and in Europe. It's a brilliant time to be around the club, whether it's a player, staff or fan. It's a really exciting time and hopefully we can go and make some special memories in Tallaght over the next few months."

Group Stage Essentials

Home Jersey:

- Adult **€70** / Kids **€50** (YXL **€60**)

- Adult Training Shorts: **€35**

- New Era Adjustable Caps (Black & Green/Navy): **€30**

- New Era Bucket Hats (Black & Navy): **€25**

- Passport Cover: **€15**

- Pride of Ireland Scarf: **€12**

- Proud to be a Hoops Scarf: **€12**

- Holdall: **€35**

- Backpack: **€30**

- Cufflinks: **€30**



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Goalkeeper Coach: Jose Ferrer Montagud
S&C Coach: Eoin Donnelly
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1899 Suite: Philip Boland, Pat Hilliard
Mascot Co-ordinator: Paul Clayton
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Turnstiles/Ticket Booth/Shop/PA: Mick Quinn, Richie Carroll, Daniel Mullane, John McDonnell, Karen McSweeney, Ryan Lagrue, Daniel Cleary
Junior Hoops: Bill Gleeson, Paul Weaver, Siobhan Keane
1899 Suite DJ: Jamie Heaton & Gavin Fitzpatrick
Reception: Kay McRann

From The Editor

With so many games and everything that has been happening of late the fact that Shamrock Rovers are about to reach the milestone of 100 years of League of Ireland membership deserves to be highlighted. The 1922/23 season was a milestone for the club given its turbulent history prior to that point. Every person who played a role in keeping the club going and getting us into senior football deserves recognition for the achievement.

The actual 100th anniversary of our very first game as league members is Friday of next week and had we a home fixture then we probably would have made more of the occasion in Hoops Scene. One idea was to have a four-page insert representing how a match programme may have looked back then but it wasn't to be. There is a further piece on the milestone of reaching the 100 years on Page 23 of this issue.

As this issue of the programme is a special 64-page edition I am sure regular buyers will understand that we will not be producing a separate programme for the visit of Finn Harps on Sunday next. This is not a double issue either as European games are very special and we wanted to present this issue as a European edition along the lines of previous issues this season. We do acknowledge the visit of Finn Harps though with three pages of related coverage elsewhere in this issue. Harps have always shown the Hoops a special warmth on our many visits to Ballybofey and we look forward to our continued friendship with the Donegal club as they count down the days to getting in to their new stadium in Stranolar.

European nights are very special and the fact that Rovers are in the group stages of the Conference League makes this one even more special. Playing at this level brings with it a new challenge for not just the team and management but also for the club administrators. Having the opportunity to see at first hand the inner workings of clubs in other leagues provides our club with a whole new wealth of knowledge that will assist us on the journey we are currently undertaking to transform the club into something only wildly dreamt of before. Some people may say those aspirations are unattainable but the fact we are where we are right now as a club is serious evidence that we are not looking from the outside of where we want to be but rather we have taken a step inside and are now on the inside looking out.

Robert Goggins
Editor



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The Welcome Growth of Women's Football

Last Thursday Tallaght Stadium was rocking to a cracking atmosphere created by just under 7,000 passionate and excited supporters. The Republic of Ireland senior Women's team played Finland here in a crucial World Cup group qualifying game. Lily Agg came off the bench to score the only goal of the game from a header to ensure a historic result for Ireland.

The win guaranteed Ireland a place in the play-offs but then last Saturday England beat Austria 1-0 in what was the third of three results needed to see Vera Pauw's practically guarantee themselves a place in Round 2. Ireland were due to play Slovakia on Tuesday of this week.

The Women's World Cup Finals will be staged jointly by Australia and New Zealand next year and follow closely on from the hugely successfully-staged European Finals held in England during the summer of this year. It would be some achievement for the Republic to qualify for the finals but the aspiration is far from being unrealistic.

The Women's game in this country is on the trajectory. This year record numbers participated in key introductory programmes as listed below:

- INTERSPORT Elverys FAI Summer Soccer Schools – over 7,000 girls
- AVIVA Soccer Sisters Easter Camps – over 3,500 girls
- UEFA Disney Playmakers – over 1,650 girls
- SPAR FAI Primary 5's – over 25,000 girls

This information was contained in a media release from the FAI issued just a couple of weeks ago. In an interview in Hoops Scene earlier this year, SRFC Head of Women's Football – Jason Carey – responded to a question asking why there are not more women coaches. He said there was an ongoing programme to address this aspect of the game. UEFA have made funding available for female only education courses and a record number of the Ireland players who lined out at Tallaght Stadium last week are current participants.



Our Under 17 team in their pre-match huddle before the game against Waterford at Roadstone last Saturday.

The huge upsurge in interest in the game by females is an extremely exciting development that is gaining momentum. One only has to look around our own fanbase here at Shamrock Rovers to witness the record number of females who are attending our games.

Ireland captain Katie McCabe led the team out last Thursday. Her younger sister, Lauren, is currently with the Shamrock Rovers Under 17 side and has shown herself to be adept at getting goals. Currently, we have two underage female teams, both of whom operate in the National League. The aim is to have more teams at different age groups including a senior team that will become members of the Women's National League next year.

There are plans to invest further in the facilities at Roadstone. Planning permission has been granted for the erection of floodlights for the grass pitch and other improvements will also be carried out at the venue in the time ahead. As Shamrock Rovers strive to become the number one club on the island in women's football, there will be a knock-on benefit for the club as a whole.

The revolution is happening. Watch this space!

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Tales From The East Stand

by Karl Reilly

Aggregate. In Europe, Rovers have never lost either leg of a knockout tie and still gone through.

Byrne. The last European game Jack started was against AC Milan in 2020.

Coady. Celtic were the last opposition side to win a competitive game at Milltown (1986 European Cup) while John Coady scored Rovers' last European goal there against Honved a year prior.

Djurgardens IF. This is the 30th game between League of Ireland and Swedish clubs. Only Scottish teams have faced the League more often (34).

Equal. Ronan Finn is now level with Gary Rogers' record 54 European appearances while Stephen Bradley has matched Stephen Kenny's 12 wins.

Fortress. Rovers have won an incredible nine of the last 11 European games at Tallaght, if you include the Ilves penalty shootout victory. The Hoops can go 25 league matches unbeaten at home against Finn Harps on Sunday, which would be our best run since 1966.

Greene. Hoops number nine Aaron has scored a European goal for three different clubs, which only Glen Crowe and Neale Fenn have also done.

Harps. The Donegal men hold the unwanted record of the League's heaviest defeat in a game (12-0) and on aggregate (16-1) to Derby County in the 1976 UEFA Cup.

Intertoto. Bohs had the honour of the first (1995) and last (2008) games in the Intertoto Cup.

Jansson. Goalkeeper Oscar, on loan from Spurs in 2012, was Rovers' only ever Swedish player.

KAA Gent. Rovers face Belgian opposition for the first time (Ekranas went on to play Anderlecht in 2012) and next Thursday's game in Ghent will be our 100th in European competition.

Late. Gary O'Neill scored in the 97th minute against Shkupi. Scenes.

Mccann. 'Maxie' scored the League of Ireland's first goal in Europe, for Shamrock Rovers at Old Trafford in the 1957 European Cup.

North. Irish League clubs haven't won any of their 10 matches against teams from the Republic in UEFA tournaments but Linfield edged past Rovers on the away goals rule in the 1984 European Cup.

Oswestry. Sligo this year technically became the first League of Ireland side to win a European game in England, as Bala Town held their Conference League home leg at the Park Hall Stadium in Shropshire, close to the Welsh border.

Patterson. Derry striker Rory Patterson was the first player to score a European hat-trick (Aberystwyth, 2014).

Qualified. Conference sides Ballkani, Djurgardens IF, Dnipro-1, Pyunik, RFS, Silkeborg, Slovaccko, Vaduz and Zalgiris are all making their debut in a UEFA competition group stage.

Record. Rovers will play an unprecedented 14 games in three different competitions in this European campaign, having already become the first Irish club to win five games in one year.

Shelbourne. The only club to play a play-off (vs Belenenses in 1964), a home game in a different country (vs Rangers in 1998 at Tranmere) and the Reds are the only champions not to participate in Europe the following season (2007).

Tallaght. Rovers have never moved a European game to the Aviva Stadium, playing there four times - the 2010, 2019 and 2020 FAI Cup finals and a 2014 friendly with Liverpool.

UCD. One of three times the FAI Cup holders met the FA Cup holders, against Everton in 1984. Martin Moran, who played in that tie, is the League of Ireland's only undefeated manager, as the Students drew 0-0 and 3-3 with FC Velbazhd of Bulgaria in the 2000 Intertoto Cup.

Vorwaerts Berlin. Drumcondra managed to win matches against teams from both West and East Germany in the 1960s.

White Hart Lane. Stephen Rice (pictured) famously scored the first ever European group stage goal by an Irish club, against Spurs in 2011.



Xamax. Shelbourne's Swiss opponents in 1999, Neuchatel Xamax FCS, are the only football club in the world with two x's in their name. Former players include Joey N'do and Don Givens.

Yehuda. The Israelis were the first European visitors to

Tallaght in the 2010 Europa League.

Zayed. The only man to be top European goalscorer at two different clubs - Sporting Final (2) and Drogheda United, a record Eamon shares with Graham Gartland (3).

Rovers & Me ... Darragh Kelly

What age are you?

I'm 11 years old

Do you play for a club?

I play for Kilnamanagh FC

In what position do you play?

I'm a striker

Who is your favourite Rovers player?

Aidomo Emakhu

When did you first start going to Rovers games?

When I was 3 years old

Do you watch the games from the same spot every time?

Yes, I watch all the games from the South Stand with my mates

What has been your favourite moment to date?

Winning the FAI Cup in the Aviva Stadium in 2019

Do you follow any other club?

Yes, Liverpool and Celtic

Who is the biggest fanatic, you or your dad Alan?

Me – but my dad says it's him!

If you were to make up a new song yourself for the fans to sing which of the players would it be about?

A song for Aaron Greene. He is a local player and we know him very well

Hooperman needs to up his game; what advice would you give him?

Keep up the good work and get the fans going Hooperman!



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THE BIG INTERVIEW

Sean Hoare

By Maedara Ferris

It is time in Tallaght once again for European group stage football. Shamrock Rovers return to mix it with the elite of club football in Europe for the first time since 2011.

Back then, in their first Europa League group game and with current Rovers captain Ronan Finn in the side, the Hoops welcomed Rubin Kazan to Tallaght Stadium; PAOK and Spurs would also visit Dublin 24 during that campaign. There was more Europa League football in Tallaght in 2016 and 2020 when Dundalk played group games here in the South Dublin County Council venue. The most recent group match was Dundalk's 2-1 defeat to Molde in October 2020 when Sean Gannon and Sean Hoare were part of the Lilywhites squad in a game played out in an empty Tallaght Stadium due to covid restrictions.

Sean Hoare enjoyed his last appearance in European group stage football but is very eager to experience playing the Europa Conference League in front of spectators and particularly in Tallaght Stadium where Rovers have such a good recent home record – with four wins from the four home games played in this European campaign to date.

"The Europa League in 2020 was a bit different with no crowds," said Hoare when he spoke with Hoops Scene in the

build-up to tonight's game against Swedish side Djurgardens. "There was no atmosphere and no bite to the game. You have to get yourself going with your own motivation. I scored against Arsenal in the Aviva Stadium when they were winning 4-1. I'm sure if there was a crowd there I would have celebrated more!

"Playing games in the Aviva and the Emirates was unbelievable but they were like training matches. It definitely takes away from the experience and so I'm really looking forward to this group stage with packed houses every time."

Djurgardens will bring a sizeable travelling support to Tallaght and Rovers fans who remember when the teams faced each other in Europe 20 years ago will recall the atmosphere generated by the visiting supporters when the teams met in Tolka Park in the UEFA Cup.

"We have nothing to lose, nothing to fear and we will go out and give a good account ourselves. We have upped it against high calibre teams in this campaign before especially in Tallaght like against Ludogorets and Ferencvaros. We can take confidence from that.

"We fancy ourselves against anyone in Tallaght, in front of the crowds that we have. It is unbelievable what playing in

front of them does. You can't explain it. You come off the pitch and you go 'what was that?'. You tap into potential that you didn't even know was there in yourself when the crowd is firing like that.

"After the first legs away we were 3-0 down to Ludogorets and 4-0 down against Ferencvaros and nobody was giving us a chance. People were talking about big aggregate scores and I know we lost the ties overall but we went and beat both of them. It is a testament to the crowd and the atmosphere we play in and why it was so important that the group games are played in Tallaght."

League of Ireland sides have played 18 group games in European competition but have only one win and a draw from those games (both earned by Dundalk in the 2016 Europa League) but Hoare believes that this Rovers team can add to that tally of positive results.

"We have worked really hard to get where we are. We have to enjoy it but at the same time we fancy ourselves. We have to go at this group and get as many points as possible."

Following today's European match, the Hoops will face Finn Harps here in Tallaght in the league on Sunday before the game in Gent this day next week where a large travelling support will be cheering on



“We have nothing to lose, nothing to fear and we will go out and give a good account ourselves”

their team on in Belgium.

“Gent are a high calibre team and have mixed it in Europe with the big dogs in the last few years. They are a good team but nobody is a world beater in this Conference League.”

The away defeats in the Champions League qualifier to Ludogorets and the Europa League play-off to Ferencváros left Hoare feeling frustrated but he stressed the importance of learning lessons from those losses and also how he relishes playing against the high quality of opposition they face in

Europe.

His frustration was visible after the Ludogorets game when Rovers conceded a late third goal with Hoare ripping his own shirt after the final whistle. “To be honest I was hoping it wasn’t on camera when I ripped the jersey but it just shows how much it meant. Mal (Slattery – the Rovers kitman) wasn’t very happy with me!

“We just showed a small bit of naiveté as a team playing out from the back at that time. It wasn’t anyone individually but as a team we should have

made a collective decision to look to go long. I think when you are away in Europe especially, you have to just keep it tight enough rather than in Tallaght when you can open up and go for it more.

“But away from home these teams are so good that if you just make even the smallest of errors, you get punished. When you are playing against these types of teams, it is sink or swim, you need to adapt and get up to their level or you get beaten.”

For the group games in the Europa Conference League, the

The Big Interview: Sean Hoare

Hoops will be able to call upon the services of Andy Lyons before he makes the move to Blackpool at the end of the year.

Lyons has done superbly for Rovers this season and the 22-year-old player comes into this evening's game as the joint second top scorer for the Hoops this year in all competitions with eight goals.

"I'm delighted for Andy. He has all the talent you need but his attitude since coming in to Rovers has been top drawer. He has been performing so well for us. It is tough coming from your rivals and trying to prove yourself that you can make the step up. He has done really well.

"He keeps giving me and other centre halves stick over him being the main goal threat. He is usually the decoy but he is saying he is the main threat at the moment. We should be the decoy for him! He deserves everything that is coming to him. He has lit it up here from the get go so I wish him well."

Another standout player for the Hoops this year is one who is 18 years older than Lyons and that is goalkeeper Alan Mannus. "As a defender you can't put enough value on trust with what is behind you. When you can't, it is a totally different ball game. Alan is unbelievable, he is like a fine wine and is getting better with age.

The shape he is in and the condition he keeps himself in, he can keep going for a number of years.

"He has kept us in so many games when we needed him and he has really played his part this year. Communication is massive. If we aren't in the right position when we attack, the way we play open and expansive football it means that if a team wins the ball back and you are too open, they have a free run in on goal. We have to be so organised and that comes from Alan and the lads in the back three organising with Gary (O'Neill) and Dylan (Watts) in front of us. The gaffer puts massive emphasis on it."

The Hoops come into this evening's game on the back of a 1-0 defeat to Bohs last Friday. "It was a derby. It is usually a battle and for a few minutes here or there football breaks out. They scored a decent goal but we didn't take

any of the few chances we had.

"Their tactic of going down injured whenever they could was a bit of a joke. They were telling each other to go down from 25 minutes in. It created gaps in play. That was their game plan and on reflection it worked as they won but it is not really what you want to be seeing."

Hoare is the only player in the Rovers squad so far this season who has played in every game. "I'm loving it. I've got to the stage where I am rolling into each game. I've got myself into a good routine in my personal life and in training. I'm looking after my body well. I'm getting minutes on the pitch and that is creating confidence. Last year I enjoyed it and it was brilliant to win the league but I was in and out a bit of the team. I've found continuity this year and I'm loving life at the moment bar the result against Bohs last week!"



IMAGE: GEORGE KELLY



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The Opposition

DJURGÅRDENS IF FOTBOLLSFÖRENING

by Ryan McDyer

2022-23 UEFA Europa Conference League Group Stage, Matchday 1 – Thursday 8th September 2022, 8:00 pm

2021 season

Djurgårdens IF opened their 2021 season by participating in the 32 team Group Stage of the 2021-22 Svenska Cupen. They topped their group of 2nd tier sides IK Brage and Umea, and top-flight club Kalmar FF to advance to the quarter-finals, where they beat Östersunds FK 3-0. Their cup run came to an end at the semi-final stage, losing 1-0 at home to eventual winners Hammarby IF.

A run of four victories to begin their 2021 Allsvenskan league campaign saw Djurgårdens sitting at the top of the table, where they remained until August when losses to AIK and Sirius saw them drop to second place. A strong run of form in September saw them regain top spot with 9 games left to play, but Djurgårdens were unable to maintain their fine form. 4 losses in the final 9 games saw them finish the season in 3rd place, with 57 points from 30 games played behind Malmö & AIK who were tied on 59 points apiece, with Malmö winning the title on goal difference.

2022 so far

DIF again opened their season with the Group Stage of the Svenska Cupen. They topped their group of fellow top-flight team Halmstads BK, 2nd tier side IK Brage and 3rd tier outfit IF Brommapojkarna to advance



to the quarter-finals, where they beat Allsvenskan rivals Kalmar FF 2-0 away from home. Their cup campaign came to an end in the same circumstances as 2020-21 - a 1-0 loss at home in the semi-finals to the eventual winners, this time Malmö FF.

Three wins and a draw in the first 6 league games saw them sitting in 8th place in the 16-team Allsvenskan by the end of April. However, they have been on a blistering run of form since then, losing only one league game in the last 15 and winning 5 games on the bounce through June and July. On Sunday, a 1-0 win for DIF away to IK Sirius coupled with a late equaliser for Degerfors IF away to BK Häcken saw 2nd placed DIF move to just 1 point behind BK Häcken in the table. DIF have

44 points from 21 games played.

Djurgårdens entered European competition at the 2nd Qualifying Round of the Europa Conference League. They dispatched HNK Rijeka of Croatia and Sepsi Sfântu Gheorghe of Romania, winning all 4 legs, to set up a play-off Round tie with APOEL Nicosia. Djurgårdens won that tie 5-3 on aggregate to earn a place in the groups.

DIF opened their 2022-23 Svenska Cupen campaign with a 3-0 away win against third tier side Örebro Syrianska. Their cup campaign will continue at the Group Stage in early 2023.

The players

Joel Asoro has been with Djurgårdens since February 2021. A highly touted youngster who was scouted by PSG, Bayern Munich and the 2 Milan clubs amongst others, Asoro graduated from the Sunderland academy and made 26 appearances for the Black Cats in their 2017-18 Championship campaign. He then moved to Swansea, where he was loaned out to FC Groningen & Genoa, before joining DIF. He made his debut with the Sweden U21s aged just 17, earning a total of 38 underage caps for his country. Asoro is partnered in attack by Victor Edvardsen.

Both players have found the net 6 times in the league this season, and both have scored in Europe this season. Midfielder and Captain Magnus Eriksson, who registered the most assists in the 2021 Allsvenskan, and defender Hjalmar Ekdal were called up to Sweden's squad for the June 2022 Nations League games, and both featured in Sweden's 3-2 loss away to Norway.

The managers

Since 2019, DIF have operated with 2 head coaches, Kim Bergstrand & Thomas Lagerlöf. Both played at AIK for most of their playing careers, and they led DIF to the title in 2019, a 4th place finish in 2020 and a 3rd place finish in 2021.

The fans

DIF is one of the best supported clubs in Sweden, with 21,232 members and 10,000 season ticket holders. The official supporters group, the Järnkaminerna ("The Iron Stoves"), have won awards for their choreographies at matches.

The rivals

DIF contest the Tvillingderbyt ("Twin Derby", as both clubs were founded in 1891) with AIK. This is the biggest derby in Swedish football, and the rivalry extends into other sports, most notably ice hockey.

DIF also contest a derby with Hammarby IF. The rivalry stems

from a tug-of-war contest held between DIF & Hammarby in 1894. There is a social aspect to this rivalry, with Hammarby's heartland of Södermalm being a working-class area, and Djurgårdens hailing from the Östermalm neighbourhood.

The stadium

DIF have played their home games at the Tele2 Arena to the south of Stockholm city centre since they moved from the Olympic Stadium in 2013 following a 77-year spell. The 28,000 capacity stadium is shared with co-tenants Hammarby IF. In addition to football, the ground has hosted numerous concerts, the finals of the Swedish Bandy & Swedish American Football leagues, and will host the final of the 2023 World Men's Handball Championship.

Djurgårdens in Europe

As the reigning Swedish champions, Djurgårdens were invited to be Sweden's representatives at the first ever European Cup in the 1955-56 season. They were paired with English champions Chelsea in the First Round, but Chelsea withdrew citing pressure from the FA. They instead faced Gwardia Warsaw, winners of the 1954 Polish Cup, beating them 4-1 on aggregate before losing to Scotland's representative Hibernian FC by the same scoreline in the quarter-finals.

The following year, they lost an

Inter-Cities Fairs Cup tie 7-2 on aggregate to Manchester United, with David Herd, Denis Law, Bobby Charlton & George Best all scoring for the English side.

Djurgårdens have faced Irish opposition in Europe twice before:

- Shamrock Rovers, won 5-1 (2-0 home, 3-1 away), 2002-03 UEFA Cup Qualifying Round
- Cork City, drew 1-1 (1-1 home, 0-0 away, lost on away goals), 2005-06 UEFA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round

Djurgårdens IF Roll of Honour

Swedish Football Champions on 12 occasions:

- 4 times as winners of the Svenska mästerskapet (Swedish Master's Cup): 1912, 1915, 1917, 1920
- 8 times as winners of the Allsvenskan (Swedish top-flight): 1954-55, 1959, 1964, 1966, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2019

Superettan (Second division): 1 Title

Division 1 Norra (Second division, North): 3 Titles

Svenska Cupen: 5 Titles

DIF have also won the Corinthian Bowl once and the Wicanderska Vålgörenhetsskölden 4 times. Both of these competitions have been defunct since 1920.

Spot Kicks with ... **Lee Grace**

(Compiled by Killian McHale)

If you could invite any 3 celebrities to dinner, who would you choose?

Kevin Hart for a laugh, Matthew McConaughey because he's cool, and Cristiano Ronaldo.

If you weren't a footballer, what profession would you have?

I'd most likely still be in the army or doing a trade.

Cats or Dogs?

Dogs all day. Me & my girlfriend Emma just got a new dog named Luna and I'm obsessed.

Hurling or Gaelic Football?

Hurling.

Who was your hero growing up as kid?

I loved Alan Smith for Leeds until he broke my heart and went to Man United.

Who is your biggest fan?

My family and my girlfriend have supported me through it all, but my biggest fan would

have to be my late grandad, Mickey Barry.

What team do you support?

Leeds United.

Best moment in your career to date?

There's a few but the one I always go back to is the 2019 FAI Cup Final,

What hobbies do you have away from football?

I love going to the gym and I (try to) play a bit of golf.

Home workouts or gym workouts?

Gym workouts.

Best stadium you've played in?

AIK or Ferencvaros.

Which former professional footballer would you loved to have played with?

Nemanja Vidic - warrior or Roy Keane - ultimate leader.



Image: Sportsfile



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 **HYUNDAI**
ON TO BETTER

100 Years of League membership

By Robert Goggins

It was perhaps a cruel twist of fate that Shamrock Rovers began their tenancy at their new ground in Milltown with a defeat. The date was 16th September, 1922 when the club hosted Ringsend rivals Shelbourne United. Not to be confused with Shelbourne AFC – the club that remains in existence today – there was a healthy rivalry between Rovers and United and it was a matter of great satisfaction for the latter to inflict defeat upon their neighbours in that historic first game. That the League got going at all that season is a credit to everyone who was involved given that the newly established Free State was in a state of civil war at the time.

Rovers played in a striped kit then and the fact that the Stripes had to take to the pitch for their debut in the league without three key players hit them badly. The following week they welcomed back Bob Fullam from suspension when they played Pioneers away and won 5-1. Charlie Campbell nabbed a brace while the other goals were scored by Bob Cowzer, Fullam and a player by the surname of Briggs. With the exception of the opening day defeat, Rovers continued through the rest of the season unbeaten and claimed an historic league title in their very first year of membership.

There have been many golden moments and successes achieved throughout the 100 years that has passed since that historic first game. The history of the club is packed with the names of great players. The club has won 18 leagues and 25 (FAI) Cups – unmatched by any other club.

Many clubs have come and gone over the decades; some old adversaries remain. The years have seen the natural demise of the many great players and club directors, staff and, of course, the fans who looked forward so much to every weekend during the season.

Nobody would have predicted the fate of Glenmalur Park and it is a sad fact of life that, apart from the diehards that had continued to

ASSOCIATION FEATURES

James's Gate Defeat--Good Wins for Bohemians and Shelbourne

'SHAMROCKS' BIG GOAL SCORING

In yesterday's Football League of Ireland matches there were some surprising results. St. James's Gate, at home, suffering a defeat of 2.0. by Shelbourne, the home team hotly disputing the opening score, Shelbourne United were lucky in

support the club, nobody really cared either. Writers such as Eamonn Dunphy maintained that the League of Ireland was dead – and compared to the glory days of the 50s and 60s it was certainly very close to it.

Speaking for ourselves here at Shamrock Rovers, we never gave up. Examinership and relegation in 2005 was the low point but it also proved to be the start of the revival process. A new generation of supporters has emerged and while it might be too much to expect these fans to fully understand the contribution of those who got us going in the League of Ireland in 1922 it can certainly be said that the new fans have certainly bought into the model of what Shamrock Rovers is today.

A list of the member clubs in the League of Ireland back in the 1922/23 season:

Athlone Town
Bohemians
Dublin United
Jacobs
Midland United
Olympia
Pioneers
Rathmines Athletic
St. James's Gate
Shamrock Rovers
Shelbourne
Shelbourne United



At the game! Hoops Scene contributor Karl Reilly taking time out from his busy schedule to attend last Friday's game at Dalymount Park. Image: George Kelly

Another of our regular contributors, Harry Moore (centre) with his dad Alan and friend Tommy Nevin at the game last Friday. Image: George Kelly



A Brief History of Djurgårdens Idrottsförening Fotbollförening Foundation

by Ryan McDyer

The multi-sports club

Djurgårdens Idrottsförening was founded March 12, 1891 in a café at 4A Alberget on the island of Djurgården (literally “Animal Garden”, officially “The Royal Game Park” which was used by Swedish royalty for hunting) in central Stockholm. The club chose blue, yellow and red as its colours - blue and yellow for Sweden, and red supposedly symbolising love.

The first football pitch in Stockholm opened in 1896, and the football wing, DIF Fotbollförening, of the club was founded in 1899, their first game being a 2-1 loss against AIK in July of the same year. In 1907 they won their first trophy, the Wicanderska välgörenhetsskölden.

First Era

They became Svenska mästare i fotboll (Swedish football champions) for the first time in 1912 by beating Örgryte IS 3-1 in the 2nd replay of the final of the Svenska Mästerskapet. They were crowned Svenska mästare 3 more times through the Svenska Mästerskapet in 1915, 1917 & 1920 before the Allsvenskan was founded and the Swedish Football Champion was crowned through the league. DIF did not qualify directly into the Allsvenskan, and until the end of WW2 they only gained promotion to it on two occasions, in both cases they were promptly relegated back to the second division.



Second Era

They won their first Allsvenskan title in 1954-55 and were Sweden's representatives at the first ever European Cup in the 1955-56 season, where they beat Polish side Gwardia Warsaw 4-1 on aggregate before losing 4-1 to Hibernian FC of Scotland in the quarter-finals.

Sweden hosted the 1958 World Cup, reaching the final where they were beaten 5-2 by a Brazil side that featured a 17-year-old Pelé making his breakthrough on the world stage. Djurgårdens defender Sigge Parling was ever present for Sweden in all 6 of their games, he remains the only DIF player to play in a World Cup final.

Djurgårdens won a total of 4 league titles in the 1950s and 1960s, earning the nickname "Järnkaminerna" ("The Iron

Furnaces") for their physical playing style. Striker Gösta Sandberg, known as "Mr Djurgårdens", retired after the title in 1966. He represented DIF & Sweden in football, ice hockey, and bandy, winning a bronze medal in football at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki and a bronze medal at the 1961 Ice Hockey European Championships.

DIF struggled through the 1970s, 1980s & 1990s, yo-yoing between the Allsvenskan and the regionalised second tier. Their only major success in this period came in 1990 when they won their first Svenska Cupen.

The 2000s

DIF won the inaugural season of the national second division, the Superettan, in 2000 and finished 2nd in the Allsvenskan in 2001. They went one better the next season, winning a league and cup double, and continued their dominance by winning another 2 leagues and 2 cups by 2005. Their good fortune did not continue however, and by 2009 they only narrowly escaped relegation by winning the relegation playoffs. They were a decidedly mid-table side through the early 2010s, only returning to form with a league title in 2019. Tonight's match marks the first time that Djurgårdens IF have played in a European Group Stage.



Every Sunday Morning!

SHAMROCK ROVERS DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

New Season Starts 11th September

9.30am: Born 2018

10.30am: Born 2017

11.30am: Born 2016

- **All sessions are 1 hour**
- **Pre-registration on Mon. 5th Sept. & Wed. 7th Sept. 5.30pm-7pm in Roadstone.**
- **Registration fee is €35 and €5 per session thereafter.**



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Back to School!



*Steven Gray getting the full attention of the students in the classroom last Thursday afternoon
Image: SRFC Academy*

It's back to school for everyone and it's a new academic year also for the Transition Year students at Shamrock Rovers. The programme run in conjunction with Ashfield College has entered its second year and has been expanded to 20 students – double last year's number.

The boys who participated in the inaugural year of the programme graduated on 31st May at a special event staged at Roadstone. A large audience, including members of the current crop of students, were treated to a most informative evening that left nobody in any doubt as to the worthiness of the programme.

The setup allows for the students to continue to learn a limited number of subjects during their TY year during which they also get to develop physically using the impressive facilities installed by the club at Roadstone. In addition, they get to work on aspects of mental ability that they certainly would not get in any normal year in school.

The graduates in May are a great advertisement for the programme. Being typical teenagers of 15 years of age, they all (well almost all!) would have been shy around strangers and while fully confident within themselves of their football abilities, it is unlikely any one of them would have had the

confidence to stand up in a room full of people and make a presentation. Yet, on the night of their graduation each one of them did exactly that and did so in magnificent fashion.

What Shamrock Rovers are doing is way and above anything that any other club in Ireland can offer at this moment this time. No doubt, others will follow but Rovers will not be settling for what exists at present as the aim is to grow and grow this initiative. In European terms it is small but a lot of thought and planning has gone into this and the aim is to expand to a much greater extent.

Nobody at the club is under any false illusions as to the task ahead. The project is in its infancy and the tutors themselves are on a learning curve. The aim is to create a new breed of sportspeople (this year's class is a mix of boys and girls drawn from our own teams) who, when they reach maturity, will each play a part in bringing the game here to a new level never before thought achievable. That, of course, will benefit our first team no end.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone involved a very successful year ahead and we look forward to seeing the fruits of this very worthy initiative in the not too distant future ahead.



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The RDS Years: Hoops Supporters Club

The Hoops Supporters Club was formed in 1991 and was a split from the then SRFC (Shamrock Rovers Supporters Club). While SRSC often expressed concerns about the direction the club was going in during the latter stages of the RDS years they mainly complied with club policy and engaged in support levels such as providing programme sellers, organising match day mascots and ran their own shop at the ground. Hoops SC had a different outlook and were more members focussed. Their relationship with the football club towards the end of the RDS era was stretched at times.

The following is a communication dated 15th October sent to members of Hoops SC and signed by Secretary Eric Cullen:

“The Committee of Hoops Supporters Club recently held a meeting with Shamrock Rovers FC. We the committee questioned many aspects in the club and the RDS as a viable stadium for the future. Enclosed is a summary of points raised and answered by the club at the above mentioned meeting. We believe as a committee that our members should and will be kept up to date on any news involving Shamrock Rovers FC and the RDS. This is an undertaking that we as a supporters club have taken.

Our next meeting with the club is in four weeks’ time. Should you have any questions/queries/complaints that you wish to have raised at the meeting please forward it to the committee in writing and we will enclose it on the Hoops SC agenda.

RDS: Shamrock Rovers FC currently have a one-year lease on the RDS grounds which will expire at the end of this season.

Sponsorship: Shamrock Rovers FC will announce a new sponsorship deal at a press launch in the RDS on Thursday 18th October. We do not know the name of the sponsor at the moment only that it is a major company. The sponsorship deal will run for three years. (Tennants were later unveiled as the sponsor).

Merchandise: Hoops SC have consistently complained at the lack of merchandise in the souvenir shops in the RDS. We have been told that there are big plans to upgrade it. New club jersey should be available in the club shops for the Derry City game in the RDS. Hoops SC have

supplied the club with fifty club scarves to sell in the shops.

Admission Prices: Shamrock Rovers FC have altered the admission charges this season to the RDS. Prices are as follows: Adults - £4, Boys/Girls - £2. To qualify for the £2 admission you must have a ‘student card’ and be under 16. If you are a student and are over 16 years of age you will have to pay £4. There is no concession for social welfare/dole cards. Hoops SC have asked for this whole admission price issue to be clarified in the club programme.

Club Launch: Shamrock Rovers FC will have an official launch for the new sponsors/new club strip at a special function, probably in the Horse Show House. Hoops SC will receive an allocation of tickets for this event, they will be distributed among our members.

Club & Fans: Hoops SC stated that relations between the two are at rock bottom. The club could help matters hugely by putting a stop to crazy allegations in the press and club programme.

A later communication from Hoops SC to members referred to the meeting with the football club held on 7th November in which SRFC director Jimmy Keane stated there was no appetite amongst LOI clubs for summer football. The football club wanted feedback on best days/times for kick-offs but there were no floodlights at the RDS. It was also noted that the Simmonscourt Stand that occupied one side of the ground would be completely demolished (on health & safety grounds) by December.



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Club Snippets...

Club Merchandise

Unfortunately, our official UEFA supplier has been unable to have our range of merchandise in for the game v Djurgardens. The good news though is they will have a brilliant range of co-branded items available by the time of our next group game.

Congratulations!

Pictured is Nathan and Darryl O'Connor on Nathan's wedding day to his beautiful bride, Rachel. Darryl assisted on the day in the role of page boy.

...And 50 Years Later

It's a big, big congratulations to Hoops fan Paul Mason and his lovely wife Claire who will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary next Friday, 16th September. What a fantastic milestone. We think you both deserve to celebrate in style!

Match Pennants

Our sincere thanks to Rob Tormey for producing and sponsoring the magnificent pennants presented by the club to our opposition clubs throughout our 2022 European campaign.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Shamrock Rovers	27	17	5	5	41	16	+25	56
Derry City	28	14	10	4	46	24	+22	52
Dundalk	29	13	11	5	37	22	+15	50
St Patrick's Athletic	28	14	6	8	41	25	+16	48
Sligo Rovers	28	11	8	9	39	31	+8	41
Bohemians	28	9	9	10	35	36	-1	36
Shelbourne	27	9	6	12	25	33	-8	33
Drogheda United	29	7	10	12	29	45	-16	31
Finn Harps	28	4	6	18	27	51	-24	18
UCD	28	3	7	18	19	56	-37	16



Former Hoops: Larry Palmer

Played his minor football with St. Finbarr's before joining then League of Ireland side Dolphin. Larry joined Rovers in 1939 and succeeded Mick McCarthy as goalkeeper. He was on the Hoops team that beat Shelbourne in the 1944 FAI Cup final and again in 1945 when Rovers beat Bohemians. He later played for Drumcondra and St. Patrick's Athletic. Larry was a special guest of Rovers at the RDS in 1995 and in 2000 he was the recipient of the club's Hall of Fame Award at the Player of the Year function.





MEMBERS CLUB
2002-2022



Shamrock Rovers FC



Djurgårdens IF

- 1 Alan Mannus
- 2 Sean Gannon
- 3 Sean Hoare
- 4 Roberto Lopes
- 5 Lee Grace
- 6 Daniel Cleary
- 7 Dylan Watts
- 8 Ronan Finn
- 9 Aaron Greene
- 10 Graham Burke
- 11 Sean Kavanagh
- 16 Gary O'Neill
- 17 Richie Towell
- 18 Viktor Serdeniuk
- 20 Rory Gaffney
- 21 Justin Ferizaj
- 22 Andy Lyons
- 23 Neil Farrugia
- 25 Leon Pohls
- 26 Chris McCann
- 27 Gideon Tetteh
- 29 Jack Byrne
- 34 Conan Noonan
- 38 Aidomo Emakhu

Head Coach: Stephen Bradley

- 2 Piotr Johansson
- 3 Hjalmar Ekdal
- 4 Jesper Lofgren
- 6 Rasmus Schuller
- 7 Magnus Eriksson
- 8 Elias Andersson
- 9 Haris Radetinac
- 10 Joel Asoro
- 11 Albion Ademi
- 12 Emmanuel Banda
- 13 Hampus Finndell
- 14 Besard Sabovic
- 15 Aleksandr Vasyutin
- 16 Victor Edvarsen
- 17 Karl Holmberg
- 18 Isak Hien
- 19 Pierre Bengtsson
- 23 Gustav Wikheim
- 25 Amodou Doumbouya
- 32 Alexandros Garcia-Tsotidis
- 33 Marcus Danielson
- 35 Jacob Zetterstrom
- 40 André Picornell

Head Coach: Kim Bergstrand

Referee:

Assistants:

Fourth Official:



MEMBERS CLUB
2002-2022



MEMBERS CLUB
2002-2022



MEMBERS CLUB
2002-2022



Stats 2022

DATE	H/A	OPPONENTS	SCORE	GOALSCORERS
Fri Feb 11	N	St Patrick's Athletic (PC)	1-1	Finn [Won 5-4 on pens]
Fri Feb 18	H	UCD	3-0	Hoare, Mandroiu, Burke
Fri Feb 25	A	Derry City	1-2	Watts
Mon Feb 28	H	Drogheda United	3-1	Gannon, Byrne, Burke
Fri Mar 4	A	St Patrick's Athletic	0-1	
Fri Mar 11	H	Bohemians	1-0	Gaffney
Mon Mar 14	A	Dundalk	0-0	
Fri Mar 18	H	Sligo Rovers	2-2	Burke (p), McDonnell (og)
Fri Apr 1	A	Finn Harps	3-0	Lyons 2, Burke (p)
Fri Apr 8	A	Shelbourne	2-1	Lyons, Greene
Fri Apr 15	H	St Patrick's Athletic	1-0	Gaffney
Mon Apr 18	H	Dundalk	1-0	Mandroiu
Fri Apr 22	A	Bohemians	3-1	Lyons, Murphy (og), Mandroiu
Fri Apr 29	A	Sligo Rovers	1-1	Lyons
Fri May 6	H	Finn Harps	3-1	Lopes, Mandroiu 2
Mon May 9	H	Sligo Rovers	3-1	Burke 3
Fri May 13	H	Derry City	1-0	Mandroiu
Thu May 19	A	UCD	3-0	Cotter, Mandroiu, Gaffney
Mon May 23	A	Drogheda United	0-1	
Fri May 27	H	Shelbourne	2-0	Towell, Gaffney
Fri Jun 17	A	Dundalk	0-1	
Fri Jun 24	H	Bohemians	1-0	Gaffney
Mon Jun 27	A	St Patrick's Athletic	2-1	Lyons, Greene
Fri Jul 1	A	Finn Harps	1-0	Gaffney
Tue Jul 5	H	Hibernians (CL 1QR 1L)	3-0	Finn, Watts, Gaffney
Tue Jul 12	A	Hibernians (CL 1QR 2L)	0-0	
Tue Jul 18	A	Ludogorets (CL 2QR 1L)	0-3	
Sat Jul 23	H	Drogheda United	1-1	Emakhu
Tue Jul 26	H	Ludogorets (CL 2QR 2L)	2-1	Greene, Emakhu
Fri Jul 29	A	Bangor Celtic (FAI 1R)	4-0	Gaffney, Hoare, Emakhu, Cleary
Thu Aug 4	H	Shkupi (EL 3QR 1L)	3-1	Burke (p), Watts, O'Neill
Tue Aug 9	A	Shkupi (EL 3QR 2L)	2-1	Gaffney, Emakhu
Fri Aug 12	A	Derry City	0-0	
Thu Aug 18	A	Ferencvaros (EL PR 1L)	0-4	
Sun Aug 21	H	Dundalk	3-0	Greene, Towell, Gaffney
Thu Aug 25	H	Ferencvaros (EL PR 2L)	1-0	Lyons
Sun Aug 28	A	Drogheda United (FAI 2R)	2-1	Gannon, Lyons (AET)
Fri Sep 2	A	Bohemians	0-1	
Thu Sep 8	H	Djugarden (ECL Group F)		
Sun Sep 11	H	Finn Harps		
Thu Sep 15	A	Gent (ECL Group F)		
Sun Sep 18	A	Derry City (FAI QF)		
Thu Sep 22	A	Shelbourne		
Mon Sep 26	H	UCD		
Sat Oct 1	A	Sligo Rovers		
Thu Oct 6	A	Molde (ECL Group F)		
Sun Oct 9	H	Shelbourne		
Thu Oct 13	H	Molde (ECL Group F)		
Sun Oct 16	A	Drogheda United		
Fri Oct 21	H	St Patrick's Athletic		
Thu Oct 27	H	Gent (ECL Group F)		
Sun Oct 30	H	Derry City		
Thu Nov 3	A	Djugarden (ECL Group F)		
	A	UCD		
Sun Nov 13	N	FAI Cup (Final at the Aviva Stadium)		

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Stats 2022

Appearances 2022		League	Europe	FAI Cup	President's Cup	Total
1	Alan Mannus	26	8		1	35
2	Sean Gannon	12 (6)	3 (4)	2	1	18 (10)
3	Sean Hoare	24 (3)	8	2	1	35 (3)
4	Roberto Lopes	22	3			25
5	Lee Grace	22 (2)	8	1	1	32 (2)
6	Daniel Cleary	2 (1)	2	2		6 (1)
7	Dylan Watts	19 (6)	6 (2)	2	1	28 (8)
8	Ronan Finn	14 (2)	7	(1)	1	22 (3)
9	Aaron Greene	9 (17)	5 (2)	1		15 (19)
10	Graham Burke	9 (9)	2 (2)		(1)	11 (12)
11	Sean Kavanagh	9 (3)	2 (4)	(1)		11 (8)
14	Simon Power			1		1
16	Gary O'Neill	23 (2)	8	1	1	33 (2)
17	Richie Towell	14 (10)	5 (3)	(1)	(1)	19 (15)
20	Rory Gaffney	21 (4)	6 (1)	2	(1)	29 (6)
21	Justin Ferizaj	(3)	1 (3)	1 (1)		2 (7)
22	Andy Lyons	21 (3)	7 (1)	1		29 (4)
23	Neil Farrugia	5 (9)	1 (4)	1 (1)	1	8 (14)
24	Sean Jones-Carey			(1)		(1)
25	Leon Pohls	1		2		3
26	Chris McCann	4 (7)	5			9 (7)
27	Cory O'Sullivan			1		1
28	Gideon Tetteh		(2)	(1)		(3)
29	Jack Byrne	18 (3)	(3)	1	1	20 (6)
32	Michael Leddy			(1)		(1)
38	Aidomo Emakhu	1 (18)	1 (5)	1 (1)	1	4 (24)
	Danny Mandroiou	15 (3)			1	16 (3)
	Barry Cotter	6 (9)			(1)	6 (10)
	Kieran Cruise	(1)				(1)

Goals	League	Europe	FAI Cup	President's Cup	Total
Rory Gaffney	7	2	1		10
Graham Burke	7	1			8
Andy Lyons	6	1	1		8
Danny Mandroiou	7				7
Aidomo Emakhu	1	2	1		4
Aaron Greene	3	1			4
Dylan Watts	1	2			3
Ronan Finn		1		1	2
Sean Hoare	1		1		2
Richie Towell	2				2
Sean Gannon	2				2
Jack Byrne	1				1
Roberto Lopes	1				1
Barry Cotter	1				1
Daniel Cleary			1		1
Gary O'Neill		1			1



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From the Archives

What an impressive start the Hoops got off to for the league campaign in 1979/80. They hosted Sligo Rovers in their opening game and won 4-0 sending out an early signal that the squad was coming together in what was Johnny Giles's third season as player-manager.

David Faiers wrote in his match report in the Irish Independent: "Shamrock Rovers turned on a refreshing display of aggression and all-round assurance that bodes well for their Championship prospects and put the gloss on some superb approach work with four fine goals as they demolished an ill-prepared patchwork Sligo side, who were fortunate to escape a real drubbing at Milltown."

Robbie Gaffney swooped twice in the opening 15 minutes to put the Hoops ahead; the visitors never

recovered after that. In fact, they had the woodwork to thank for saving them twice, firstly from an effort from a young lad by the name of Alan Campbell and then from an old hand in Noel Synnott. The Hoops' squad was made up with a good blend of experience with Mick Gannon and Ray Treacy and also with the return of Paddy Mulligan to the club after a 10-year sojourn in the English League.

The young Campbell who had made his debut for the Hoops the previous season, stood out on the day. He netted twice in the course of the second half to make it 4-0 against the hapless Sligo. In addition to his own brace, Gaffney had further cause to celebrate. An unfortunate accident involving Mark Meagan during the game saw Gaffney called up to the Republic of Ireland Under 21 squad for international duty against Poland.

Know the Rules by Daniel Cleary

Each week Daniel takes a look at aspects of these rules. He has taken some of the lesser known and more controversial rules to discuss in this feature in the hope that it may provoke discussion. You may even learn something new, you never know! Discussion, comments and questions are very welcome.

Law 13 - Free Kicks

Law 13 is a very simple rule and probably contains very little that you would not have been aware of. The vast majority of free kicks are taken from where the offence occurred. One instance where this is not the case is when an indirect free kick is awarded to the attacking team inside the goal area (6 yard box). In this case, the free kick is taken from the 6 yard line. I suppose any closer would just be a bit ridiculous!

If an indirect free kick goes directly into the goal, the correct decision is a goal kick and conversely, if it is directly scored into your own goal, the decision is a corner. You actually cannot score an own goal directly from a free

kick, regardless of whether it is direct or indirect, the decision remains a corner. (Breathe a sigh of relief some of you less than talented footballers!!)

Defensive players must respect the ten yard distance at free kicks but where there is a wall, the attacking player must also respect a distance of 1m or 1yd from the wall until the ball is back in play. Law 13 goes into great detail on sanctions for offences in relation to not respecting these distances which I won't bore you with!





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Ian Kavanagh's

Half Time Quiz

- Q1** Sean Gannon, Sean Hoare, Ronan Finn, Daniel Cleary and which other Hoops player have already played in the group stages of a European competition?
- Q2** HNK Rijeka are a top flight club in which European country?
- Q3** Kevin Keegan managed which three teams to promotion to the Premier League?
- Q4** Rashidi Yekini is the all-time top goalscorer for which African nation?
- Q5** The Ayrshire Derby is contested by Ayr United and which current Scottish Premiership side?
- Q6** MLS side Inter Miami, play their home matches in which Florida city?
- Q7** Who are the only Belgian club to have played in the final of the European Cup?
- Q8** Paul Ince is manager of which Championship club?
- Q9** During the redevelopment of Lansdowne Road, the Republic of Ireland player home matches at Croke Park and which other two stadiums?
- Q10** Roddy Collins guided which club to the 2013 League of Ireland First Division title?
- Q11** Where is the 2001 Vinny Jones film Mean Machine set?
- Q12** The KSI is the football association of which UEFA member country?
- Q13** Which former League of Ireland manager is currently in charge at League One Shrewsbury Town?
- Q14** In which season did Derry City last win the Premier Division title?
- Q15** A black double headed eagle can be found on the crest of which London club?
- Q16** Which Premier League player is the captain of the Swiss national side?
- Q17** The Republic of Ireland finished second to which country in Group E of the 1994 World Cup finals?
- Q18** Name the former Premier League manager who is now in charge of Lazio?

True or False

Theo Walcott has scored more Champions League goals than Zinedine Zidane, Iroslav Klose, David Villa and Eden Hazard.

True or False?

- Q1 Chris McCann (Wigan 2013-14)
Q2 Croatia
Q3 Newcastle United, Fulham & Manchester City
Q4 Nigeria
Q5 Kilmarnock FC
Q6 Fort Lauderdale
Q7 Club Brugge
Q8 Reading
Q9 Tottenham Hotspur and the Reds
Q10 Athlone Town
Q11 A prison
Q12 Iceland
Q13 Steve Cottrell
Q14 1996-97
Q15 AFC Wimbledon
Q16 Grant Khaka (Arsenal)
Q17 Mexico
Q18 Maurizio Sarri

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10

**Graham
Burke**
Forward

21.9.1993
180cm/72.3kg

H: The Pines Gang
A: Mooney's Hyundai



29

**Jack
Byrne**
Midfielder

24.4.1996
170cm/67.1kg

H: Hoops SC
A: Ocean Electrical Ltd.



24

**Sean
Carey**
Defender

16.1.2004
183.9cm/74.8kg

H: John Lynch
A: John Colgan



6

**Daniel
Cleary**
Defender

9.3.1996
182cm/79kg

H: Paul and Richard Hayes
A: Bryan S Ryan



38

**Aidomo
Emakhu**
Forward

26.10.2003
179.6cm/81.9kg

H: Ken Lonergan
A: Mark Young

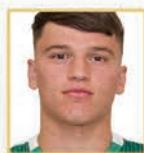


23

**Neil
Farrugia**
Midfielder

19.5.1999
186.6cm/83.2kg

H: Kevin McGlone
A: Kevin Street Hoops



21

**Justin
Ferizaj**
Midfielder

13.1.2005

H: Opa Mind
A: Hannah & Nathan Dunne



8

**Ronan
Finn**
Midfielder

21.12.1987
182.8cm/76kg

H: Roscommon Hoops
A: Cooney Carey



20

**Rory
Gaffney**
Forward

23.10.1989
184.5cm/83.6kg

H: Bridge Bar, Tuam
A: Shay O'Connor



2

**Sean
Gannon**
Defender

11.7.1991
184.9cm/73kg

H: Pride of Ringsend SC
A: Alan Cox



5

**Lee
Grace**
Defender

1.12.1992
186.1cm/83.4kg

H: Stephen Gleeson
A: Tuesday Club Scholars



9

**Aaron
Greene**
Forward

2.1.1990
181.2cm/82kg

H: Stephen Gleeson
A: Football Whispers

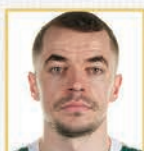


3

**Sean
Hoare**
Defender

15.3.1994
182.5cm/84.5kg

H: Alan Cox
A: Miskin Services Ltd.



11

**Sean
Kavanagh**
Defender

20.1.1994
174cm/64.3kg

H: Pride of Ringsend SC
A: Glenmalure Rovers



4

**Roberto
Lopes**
Defender

17.6.1992
182cm/82.8kg

H: Pat & Richie Byrne
A: Kylemore Motor Centre



22

**Andy
Lyons**
Defender

2.8.2000
178.1cm/78kg

H: Parkhead Communications
A: Borough Hoops SC



1

**Alan
Mannus**
Goalkeeper

19.5.1982
188cm/92kg

H: Andy & Mick Connell
A: Dunne Family

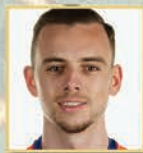


26

**Chris
McCann**
Midfielder

21.7.1987
188.1cm/84.4kg

H: Opa Mind
A: Enda Dunne

**34****Conan Noonan**
Forward17.1.2003
179.5cm/67.5kgH: John Colgan
A: Available**16****Gary O'Neill**
Midfielder27.1.1995
180.3cm/72.8kgH: Quinn Family
A: Macdara Ferris**27****Cory O'Sullivan**
Defender2.5.2006
173cm/67kgH: 911 Security
A: 911 Security**25****Leon Pöhls**
Goalkeeper1.5.1996
192.8cm/86.7kgH: Fergie & Tony RIP KOH
A: CW Hoops**14****Simon Power**
Midfielder13.5.1998
180cm/78kgH: Cocos Shop Portlaoise
A: Lyons & Calzo Accountants**18****Viktor Serdeniuk**
Midfielder

27.1.1996

H: Joe Mason
A: Available**28****Gideon Tetteh**
Midfielder30.5.2005
173cm/72kgH: Overseas Hoops SC
A: Available**17****Richie Towell**
Midfielder17.7.1991
178.6cm/82kgH: Alan Cox
A: Paddy Murphy Dry Dashing**7****Dylan Watts**
Midfielder11.4.1997
176.7cm/73kgH: Grandad
A: Online Betting Codes**Stephen Bradley**
Head Coach

Local Enterprise Office

**Stephen McPhail**
Sporting Director

David Hanly

**Glenn Cronin**
Assistant Coach

Ray & Ray Whelan

**Jose Ferrer**
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SNAPCHAT

with PAT WALKER

Karl Reilly meets the Carlow man playing and coaching in Sweden for over 30 years

Where did you grow up and what were the highlights from your early career?

I'm from Carlow Town and I started playing from when I was about eight or nine with a team called Park Celtic. We played in the green and white hoops. Then I started playing at 14 with the seniors. From there, a match was arranged with St Pat's Under-18s from Dublin to watch me, by a man called George Richardson, father of Damien Richardson the former Rovers player. He liked me and said there were a couple of clubs interested across the water. I went over on trial for a couple of weeks to Gillingham with Damien and I got an apprenticeship contract with them and started my career in England. Steve Bruce was my room-mate at the time. A highlight was scoring on my debut against Colchester to go top of the league. I was there from 1976 until 1983 and I used to play wide on the right, mostly. It was also pretty good captaining the Ireland U-21s in Dublin on St Patrick's Day against Holland. Half of Carlow was up at the match! I played with Kevin Sheedy and John Devine, some really good lads in that squad who became internationals and had great careers.

You spent one season with Bohemians in 1982/83 and then how did you end up in Sweden?

I went out on loan to Finland (OTP Oulu). It was my first taste of Scandinavian football and I still have a lot of friends there. Then I

went to Bohs and travelled up and down from Carlow every night. The likes of Rocky O'Brien, Gino Lawless and Dermot O'Brien were there. I came in the middle of the season; we finished fourth and got beaten in the Cup final by Sligo. It was a good match but it was so muddy! The pitches weren't good enough. I was visiting my wife in Sweden. She's from Gothenburg and we'd met in 1979, in Mallorca of all places and gotten married a few years later. I'd no intention of playing in Sweden at the time but a relative of hers was big friends with IFK Goteborg. He asked would I like to go and practise with them while I'm there so I did that for a couple of weeks.

With none other than Sven-Goran Eriksson at the helm....

Sven was the coach at the time and he became a legend in Swedish football afterwards. It was just fun for me but I could see the quality in the squad. It was a different atmosphere and there were some really good players. They went on and won the UEFA Cup that season. The coaches were really nice guys and they would chat to me. They were curious about how it was over in England and Sven was a big fan of English soccer. There was another guy that was out here before him called Bob Houghton (who took Malmo to the 1979 European Cup final and transformed Swedish football, along with Roy Hodgson).

You joined Hacken for three years and you were with GIF Sundsvall from 1987 to 1991. By now your two sons were born, so were you settled in the country in both your professional and personal life?

Yeah, Robert was in 1987 and Kevin was in 1989. All in all I'd about eight years as a player and a manager up in Sundsvall and similar with Orebro (where Robert and Kevin played under him, gaining promotion to the Allsvenskan in 2006). I had two stints with both of those clubs. I arrived in Sweden in 1983 and I've basically been here ever since, although I had a spell up in Norway for a few seasons (with a small club in Eastern Norway called Sandefjord, where Pat is still a popular figure after taking them up to the Tippeligaen in his first season and an all-time high of eighth place). The way they treated me was very good. Bohs were a really nice club but the money wasn't good at the time and it wasn't a career that you could live off of. I wanted to do that, I wanted to have a go and Sweden offered me that. The people really appreciated me and I got Player of the Year and the Golden Boot at Hacken. I liked the lifestyle so I felt settled in.

Was it difficult to learn Swedish and did you come back home on holidays?

I went to adult school for two years and learned the language. I did it properly and it was great fun. My wife's grandmother, she kept talking to me when I got

there. She seemed to really like me and we got on great. She couldn't speak English at all so that was one of my motivations, to be able to converse with her in Swedish. And we got there. We were home twice a year. I have a home in Carlow and that's so important to me and my sons. The lads are there every time they get a chance and they enjoy Ireland a lot.

Kevin has a music career as well as football. He said he's been fascinated with music from a very young age, ever since he heard his Irish grandfather sing. He was interviewed on the Late Late Show on RTE while visiting Ireland in 2013 and performed "Where the Streets Have No Name". How did he become a pop singer?

That was brilliant. My father was born in 1916 and worked during the war in England. He remembers sitting on his lap and we loved a sing-song. Kevin always sung, he'd be up in the bathroom singing but it was a bit of an accident really. It was up in Sundsvall and he did an open mic night with his guitar. One of the lads said to him you've got to go in for Swedish Pop Idol. He rang me and I said you haven't time for that, you're a pro footballer. So he said no, he can't but they rang him again and again and said they'll organise it so he won't have to queue! So he went there, auditioned and won the whole bloody thing. It was amazing. He sung with Robbie Williams there in the final and he



never missed a training session.

How did he do at Djurgardens from 2015 to 2020?

He did great. He was captain for a while as well. They won the league and a cup and he was adored by the crowd there. Kim Kallstrom and Andreas Isaksson (who had both made their European debut against Rovers in the 2002 UEFA Cup at Tolka Park) came back and Kevin played with them for a couple of seasons. It was a great experience for him, living in the capital. Stockholm is a lovely city.

What's your prediction for this group?

I think it's wide open. I've played

Molde on a few occasions when I was up in Norway when Solskjaer was manager. He took my captain. I wouldn't put them up there and I don't know much about Gent so I'd like to see Djurgardens and Rovers up there and I think they can do it. I really like what's going on at Rovers and the football that's being played there. It's really good to see. If they do their homework for the game in Dublin, that's going to be key but Djurgardens have a good team together at the moment. They're physically strong and you'll have to watch Magnus Eriksson with his left foot - he's a good free kick and corner taker.

ROVERS IN EUROPE: THE STATS

OPPONENTS <i>(Ties won)</i>			
Austria	Rapid Vienna (1964)	Italy	Juventus (2010)
Albania	KF Teuta Durres (2021)	Lithuania	AC Milan (2020)
Bulgaria	Botev Plovdiv (1962)	Luxembourg	Ekranas (2012)
Cyprus	Apoel Nicosia (1978)		Spora Luxembourg (1966)
	Omonia Nicosia (1987)	Malta	Progres Niederkorn (2015)
	Apollon Limassol (2019)	N. Ireland	Hibernians (2022)
Czechoslovakia	Banik Ostrava (1978)	N. Macedonia	Linfield (1984)
Czech Republic	Slovan Liberec (2003)	Norway	Shkupi (2022)
	Mlada Boleslav (2017)		Odds BK (2015)
Denmark	Randers Freja (1968)	Poland	SK Brann (2019)
	FC Copenhagen (2011)		Gornik Zabrze (1994)
England	Manchester Utd. (1957)	Romania	Odra Wodzislaw (2003)
	Tottenham H. (2011)		Universitatea Craiova (1982)
Estonia	Flora Tallinn (2011)	Russia	Rubin Kazan (2011)
	Flora Tallinn (2021)	Scotland	Celtic (1986)
Finland	RoPS Rovaniemi (2016)	Serbia	Partizan Belgrade (2011)
	Ilves Tampere (2020)	Slovakia	Slovan Bratislava (2021)
France	OGC Nice (1959)	Spain	Valencia (1963)
Greece	PAOK (2011)		Real Zaragoza (1965)
Hungary	Honved (1985)	Sweden	Djurgardens IF (2002)
	Ferencváros (2022)		AIK Fotboll (2018)
Iceland	Fram Reykjavik (1982)	Turkey	Altay Spor (1998)
	Stjarnan (2017)	Wales	Cardiff City (1967)
Israel	Bnei Yehuda (2010)	West Germany	Bayern Munich (1966)
			Schalke (1969)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	KO TIES
Shamrock Rovers	98	26	18	54	93	162	Won 14/Lost 33
Home	50	17	9	24	53	74	
Tallaght Stadium	26	11	4	11	28	34	

KNOCKOUT TIES	Won	Lost	Years
European Cup/Champions League	2	11	1957 1959 1964 1984 1985 1986 1987 2011 2012 2021 2022
Fairs Cup/UEFA Cup/Europa League	8	13	1963 1965 1982 1994 2002 2010 2011 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2022
Cup Winners' Cup	2	6	1962 1966 1967 1968 1969 1978
Intertoto Cup	1	2	1998 2003
Conference League	1	1	2021

RECORD			
Win	4-0	v Fram Reykjavik (1982)	Milltown
Aggregate win	7-0	v Fram Reykjavik (1982)	
Home attendance	46,600	v Manchester United (1957)	Dalymount Park
Tallaght Stadium	8,500	v Tottenham Hotspur (2011)	

Youngest Goalscorer	17 years, 283 days	Aidomo Emakhu v KF Teuta Durres (2021)
Oldest Goalscorer	37 years, 360 days	John Giles v Banik Ostrava (1978)

Best Unbeaten Run	4 games	2018-2019
Worst Winless Run	13 games	1982-1994

Most Goals in a Game	2	Billy Dixon v Spora Luxembourg (1966) Eric Barber v Schalke (1969) Kieran Waters v Progres Niederkorn (2015) Graham Burke v Mlada Boleslav (2017) Rory Gaffney v KF Teuta Durres (2021)
-----------------------------	---	---

LOI Player Appearances	
54	Gary Rogers
54	Ronan Finn
50	Sean Gannon
43	Patrick McElenny
41	Ollie Cahill
41	David McMillan

LOI Clubs in Europe	Apps	Games	Wins	Ties Won
Shamrock Rovers	31	98	26	14
Bohemians	28	73	17	8
Dundalk	25	90	19	14
Cork City	19	62	14	9

Club Top Goalscorers

Graham Burke	7
Liam Tuohy	4
Billy Dixon	4
Rory Gaffney	4
Johnny Fullam	3
Gary McCabe	3
Roberto Lopes	3
Aidomo Emakhu	3

LOI Top Goalscorers

David McMillan	14
Glen Crowe	11
Jason Byrne	10
Billy Dixon	7
Christy Fagan	7
Graham Burke	7
Sean Maguire	6
Michael Duffy	6

Rovers Squad Apps Rovers Career

Ronan Finn	38	54
Alan Mannus	26	52
Sean Gannon	12	50
Sean Hoare	13	37
Aaron Greene	20	27
Dylan Watts	22	26
Gary O'Neill	19	23
Roberto Lopes	21	21

Group Stage Qualifications

2011/12 Europa League	Rovers
2016/17 Europa League	Dundalk
2020/21 Europa League	Dundalk
2022/23 Conference League	Rovers

LOI Managers

	Games	Wins	Goals
Stephen Kenny	44	12	43
Pat Fenlon	35	11	43
Stephen Bradley	27	12	33
Liam Buckley	30	5	23

Group F	GNT	MOL	SHA	DJU	Stadium	Capacity
Gent	-	3 Nov	15 Sep	6 Oct	Ghelamco Arena	20,000
Molde	8 Sep	-	6 Oct	27 Oct	Aker Stadion	11,249
Shamrock Rovers	27 Oct	13 Oct	-	8 Sep	Tallaght Stadium	8,000
Djurgardens IF	13 Oct	15 Sep	3 Nov	-	Tele2 Arena	30,000



Karl Reilly & Declan Swanton

Rovers Youths in Europe

By Robert Goggins

Shamrock Rovers have drawn the well-known Dutch side AZ Alkmaar in the first round of the UEFA Youths Champions League. Logistically, the tie is relatively easy for the club to organise to get there but their opponents are top notch and the Hoops will need to be at their best over the two legs. The draw was staged on Wednesday of last week and before they took to the pitch at Roadstone for training Hoops Scene got the response of a number of the Hoops' players:

Carl Lennox: "It's a very tough draw. They are obviously one of the best teams in the Netherlands and it is going to be a great experience; it will be something different and I am really looking forward to it. They are probably one of the best teams in the competition. Their facilities are amongst the best in Holland. Hopefully we can get a good result over there and bring it back to Tallaght and get a good crowd to come along and get behind us; you never know what could happen."

Kieran Cruise: "We are very pleased and hopefully it will be a good tie for us, especially the first leg. Hopefully we can bring it back as a tight game in Tallaght and give the fans something to look forward to. One of the lads was saying Frankie de Jong's younger brother plays for them. Overall, it should be a good contest. It will be a step up to what we are used to in the League of Ireland but we are looking forward to the challenge and hopefully we can give them a good game. We have seen the lads who have played with the first team and how they have progressed at European level and that lays the foundation for us to go out and play for ourselves and believe in our abilities."

Isin Hand: "We had been waiting for the draw and we were all up early this morning to make sure we ready to watch it on the stream. We are happy; we will get to test ourselves. They are a big club and they will be a good side but we are



going to do our best to try and win the tie. I have never been to Holland so that in itself will be a good experience. We have loads of quality in our group and in the Under 17s also so we will be confident to go and get something. We are still trying to win the League and the Cup and this is something else we can really work for in training; you can't ask for much bigger than a European game so there will be a great buzz for the next two weeks."

In any other year the club would have expected a bumper crowd at Tallaght Stadium for the home leg of this tie but with a big contingent of fans expected to travel for the first team game in Gent many fans who would have definitely have been in attendance will be away. A lot will depend on the outcome of the first leg but there should still be a big crowd present for this historic occasion. This team have a good fighting spirit and you can be sure they will give it a real go.

*The winner of this tie will progress to play against the winner of the Omonia Nicosia v Red Star Belgrade tie.



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Aidan Price talks about Rovers v Alkmaar

Our Under 19 Head Coach Aidan Price spoke to Hoops Scene at the weekend and gave his reaction to the draw for the first round of the UEFA Youths Champions League that paired the Hoops with top Dutch side AZ Alkmaar.

“First and foremost, it was a great experience to go to the draw (in Nyon) representing Shamrock Rovers and seeing our name with some prestigious clubs. To get the draw that we got is going to be a great challenge for us.”

Opportunities such as this don't come around often. It's the first time for Shamrock Rovers to be in the Youths Champions League and it comes about as a result of last year's Under 19s winning the league title. “They (Alkmaar) are a really good team; they have a lot of players similar to ourselves that are in and around their first team and playing games the same as our boys are. They started their league at the weekend against FC Twente so hopefully we will get to see that game and base some of our stuff off the back of that. It's been really exciting; it will be good to see some of our boys getting to express themselves and to see them in that environment so I am sure it is going to be a great experience for everybody involved.”

Thankfully, unlike some of the trips Stephen Bradley's team have had to endure in European competition this year, the logistics of getting to the away venue should not pose any particular difficulties. “It's nice and straightforward”, says Price. “We were looking at some of the teams in countries we could have been drawn against, Macedonia or such and that would have made it a bit more difficult. Getting to Holland is pretty straightforward with plenty of flights in and out on the days so we just need to tie up some of that stuff and we will be good to go. Location-wise when we get there isn't too far from the airport so hopefully all of that side of it will go as



Aidan Price will know that head groundsman Billy Mullen will have the Tallaght Stadium pitch in top shape for the home leg.

straightforward as it seems.”

Due to age limits a small number of players in the current Hoops' Under 19 squad are ineligible but that will open the door maybe for a couple from the Under 17s. “Yes, there will be. Some boys will be involved whether they're involved in the match day or just involved in the travel but we will know more over the course of the next few days. It will be an opportunity. As you can see, Naj Razi played for us today (v UCD). I love working with Naj, I have had him through a few different age groups and watching him develop since he was four or five in the Spawell and getting to see him playing in Tallaght Stadium and still playing with that same confidence and swagger is a real joy. Hopefully some more like him will get to grace Tallaght Stadium and might also get opportunities to go and do that in what will be a really tough test.”



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Who can believe it's 20 years on?

By Robert Goggins

"If I Only Had Time" was the name of a song by a singer from New Zealand whose name was John Rowles. It just barely got into the Top 30 in the UK and yet it is a song I remember well from my childhood. If we all only had the time to achieve everything we want and need to do it would be great.

I can't believe where the years have gone. While Rovers will have played a minimum 14 games in Europe this year alone such occasions for the club were scarce in our more recent history. Having played in the Inter Toto Cup against Turkish side Altay Spor in 1998, it wasn't until four years later that we experienced a European night again. Then the opposition was provided by Swedish side Djurgardens. That was just over twenty years ago and although the Hoops were domiciled at Tolka Park at the time it was a colourful occasion from what I remember of it.

Djurgardens advised they would be bringing 1,300 fans with them. Their initial estimate proved to be spot on. The Riverside stand was allocated to them. The noise and the atmosphere generated by the visiting fans that evening was electric. The club brought their own stewards also and some Hoops fans were rumoured to have also wanted to be searched by the blond females amongst the Djurgardens' security staff!

So much has happened in that twenty-year period. It's Tallaght now and not Tolka and while we lived in hope more than anything else on the last occasion we came up against Djurgardens there is an air of justified confidence in our club that our team will be a match this time around for what the Swedes can offer. The group stages are a further step up for Stephen Bradley's team but, unlike 2002 at Tolka Park, Hoops fans will not be outnumbered. Expect a passionate away support tonight also. It should be a tremendous atmosphere.



Kim Källström and Pat Scully lead their respective teams out to the pitch at Tolka Park. This photo taken by Bobby Best shows the fantastic effort made by the Hoops fans to match the colour and noise of the visiting fans.

Captain Kim

The captain of the Djurgardens side was Kim Källström. The Sandviken-born midfielder was only 20 years of age and it was a great honour for a player so young to lead his team out to the pitch in a UEFA Cup first round game. Källström was highly rated by his club and the captaincy given to him may have been an effort to keep him on board. Already a Swedish international at senior level at this point of his career, the midfielder was bound to have attracted a lot of interest abroad. He didn't stay with Djurgardens for long though, moving to French club Rennes in 2004 and then on to Lyon, Spartak Moscow, Arsenal (on loan), and Grasshoppers before returning to Djurgardens where he eventually called a halt to his career in 2017.

2002 – Remember the teams?



15th August, 2002

UEFA Cup, Qualifying Round, First Leg played at Tolka Park

Shamrock Rovers 1 (McGuinness)

Djurgarden IF 3 (Wowoah, Scully o.g., Kallstrom)

Shamrock Rovers: Robbie Horgan, Graham O'Keefe, Pat Scully, Stephen McGuinness, Keith Doyle, Greg Costello, Jason Colwell, Richie Byrne, Noel Hunt, Sean Francis, Tony Grant. Subs: James Keddy for Tony Grant (46 mins), Shane Robinson for Francis (63 mins), Stephen Grant for Colwell (75 mins).

Djurgarden IF: Andreas Isaksson, Niclas Rasck, Markus Karlsson, Patrik Eriksson-Olhsson, Michael Dorsin, Andreas Johansson, Stefan Rehn, Kim Kallstrom, Babis Stefanidis, Samuel Wowoah, Louay Chanko. Subs: Yannick Bapupa for Wowoah (75 mins), Stefan Bergtoft for Johansson (82 mins).

Referee: Mr. Luis Cantalejo (Spain)

Attendance: 3,200

"Swedish unknown Samuel Wowoah was at the heart of the Hoops UEFA Cup woe, influential in two goals, while midfielder Kim Kallstrom completed a night of misery for Rovers" – Irish Independent

29th August, 2002

UEFA Cup, Qualifying Round, Second Leg played at Rasunda Stadium

Djurgarden IF 2 (Wowoah, Chanko)

Shamrock Rovers 0

Djurgarden IF: Andreas Isaksson, Niclas Rasck, Patrik Eriksson-Olhsson, Markus Karlsson, Michael Dorsin, Stefan Rehn, Andreas Johansson, Kim Kallstrom, Babis Stefanidis, Samuel Wowoah, Louay Chanko. Subs: Christer Mattiasson for Rehn (55 mins), Stefan Barlin for Stefanidis (64 mins), Yannick Bapupa for Chanko (79 mins).

Shamrock Rovers: Robbie Horgan, Graham O'Keefe, Keith Doyle, Richie Byrne, Stephen McGuinness, Pat Scully, Greg Costello, James Keddy, Noel Hunt, Sean Francis, Stephen Grant. Subs: Pat Deans for O'Keefe (h.t.), Jason Colwell for Francis (h.t.), Tony Grant for Hunt (75 mins).

Referee: Sten Kaldma (Estonia)

Attendance: 7,273

"Djurgarden ended Shamrock Rovers hopes of European football after completing a comfortable aggregate victory in the second leg of their qualification clash in Stockholm last night" – Irish Independent

*The reward for progressing to the draw for the second round was a tie against top French side Bordeaux with the Swedes beaten 3-1 over the two legs.

UEFA Conference League 2022/23 Groups



Group A

Istanbul Başakşehir (Turkey)
Fiorentina (Italy)
Heart of Midlothian (Scotland)
RFS (Latvia)

Group B

West Ham United (England)
FCSB (Romania)
Anderlecht (Belgium)
Silkeborg (Denmark)

Group C

Villareal (Spain)
Hapoel Be'er Sheva (Israel)
Austria Wien (Austria)
Lech Poznań (Poland)

Group D

Partizan Belgrade (Serbia)
FC Köln (Germany)
Nice (France)
Slovácko (Czech Republic)

Group E

AZ Alkmaar (Netherlands)
Apollon Limassol (Cyprus)
Vaduz (Liechtenstein)
SC-Dnipro 1 (Ukraine)

Group F

KAA Gent (Belgium)
Molde FK (Norway)
Shamrock Rovers (Rep. of Ireland)
Djurgårdens IF (Sweden)

Group G

Slavia Prague (Czech Republic)
Sivasspor (Turkey)
FC CFR Cluj (Romania)
Ballkani (Kosovo)

Group H

FC Basel (Switzerland)
Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia)
FK Žalgiris (Lithuania)
Pyunik Yerevan (Armenia)

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From the Image Archives: 21st May, 1998 – the official unveiling of the Milltown monument by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD. Image: Bobby Best

Farewell Finn Park

It will be Finn Park no more. Ever since 1969 football fans have been flocking to Ballybofey to the homely ground located on Navenney Street in the town. After what seems like an eternity, Finn Harps are poised to see work return on the new Donegal Community Stadium which will be located in Stranorlar, just a short distance from the existing ground.

The project has had to be scaled back somewhat from the original plans as costs have soared and Harps have struggled to raise the necessary funds to see the partially-built stadium completed. It's a situation that will sound more than familiar to Hoops' fans who themselves went through a long period waiting for Tallaght Stadium to be completed.

The most up to date reports on the new Harps' stadium are that a completion date sometime in 2024 will see them finally get to play at their new facility. At present, as part of their fundraising drive that is aimed to get the club sufficient capital in order to draw down on government grants, Harps are running a raffle with the top prize being €20,000.

A lot of people have come together in a groundswell of goodwill and support to get the project back up and running and completed. It seems, after so many false dawns, this is the moment for the Donegal club. Finn Harps away has always been a favourite for Hoops fans and although Finn Park will be no more, trips to the north west will remain every bit as enjoyable.

We wish Harps all the success in the world in getting the stadium project completed and opened for action.

The Finn Harps Squad

- 1 Mark McGinley**
- 2 Conor Tourish**
- 3 Regan Donelon**
- 4 Rob Slevin**
- 5 Dave Webster**
- 6 Ryan Connolly**
- 7 Gary Boylan**
- 8 Eric McWoods**
- 10 Mark Timlin**
- 11 Barry McNamee**
- 12 Luke Rudden**
- 14 Adam McCaffrey**
- 15 Jose Carrilo Mancilla**
- 16 Harry Nicolson**
- 17 Eli N'Zeyi Kibonge**
- 18 Rob Jones**
- 20 Seán O'Donnell**
- 22 Ryan Rainey**
- 23 Liam McGing**
- 24 Ethan Boyle**
- 25 James McKeown**
- 30 Damien Duffy**
- 31 Nathan Logue**
- 33 Filip Mihaljevic**
- 56 Dylan Duncan**
- 99 Gavin Mulreany**

Premier Division: Harps Next on the List

By Ryan McDyer

On Sunday, the Hoops will welcome the Finn Harps squad, management and supporters to Tallaght Stadium as European football will be set aside and league action resumed.

2022 so far

Finn Harps started the season with just 2 wins and 5 draws from 18 games before the mid-season break, a return that saw them firmly entrenched in a relegation dogfight with UCD. In recent weeks, they have picked up impressive wins over Drogheda United and Sligo Rovers, but a 2-1 loss away to UCD keeps the Students within striking distance of Harps.

Following last week's round of games, Harps were sitting in 9th place in the Premier Division table with 18 points from 28 games, 2 points ahead of UCD and 13 points behind 8th placed Drogheda.

Harps fell at the first hurdle in the FAI Cup, losing 3-1 at home to Bohemians.

Last time out

Rovers travelled to Finn Park on July 1st, buoyed by wins over Bohemians and St Patrick's Athletic the week prior to face a Finn Harps side who had picked up only 2 points in their 7 previous league games. A Rory Gaffney strike from distance on the stroke of half-time was enough to give Rovers all 3 points as the Hoops geared up for the first leg of the Champions League tie against Hibernians.

The Boss

Ollie Horgan has overseen Finn Harps since 2014 and is the longest serving coach in the League of Ireland. Following a successful spell in charge of Donegal side Farnham United, Horgan



Eric
McWoods
Image:
Sportsfile

took over at Finn Park and brought the club to the semi-finals of the FAI Cup in his first season. He has twice won promotion to the Premier Division with Finn Harps, and balances his role at Harps with a job teaching maths at St Eunan's College in Letterkenny.

Stephen Bradley's Rovers have a record of 17 Wins, 1 Draw and 1 Loss against Ollie Horgan's Finn Harps in all competitions.

Players to Watch

Jordan international Jaime Sijak joined Finn Harps at the start of September from Lebanese side Al-Ansar FC. The Madrid native is a graduate of the Real Madrid academy and played college football in the USA for the Pfeiffer Falcons of North Carolina. He was chosen 45th overall in the 2017 MLS SuperDraft by the Colorado Rapids but failed to break into the first team, bouncing around the lower-league United Soccer League for several years before returning to Madrid to sign for 4th division side Inter de Madrid. He then had stints in Kuwait, Italy & Lebanon before signing for Harps. He has earned 5 caps for Jordan in friendly matches in 2018, and scored his only international goal against Cyprus.

Croatian Filip Mihaljević and American Eric McWoods share the title of being Harps' top league scorers this season, finding the net 5 times each. Behind them, Ryan Rainey and Barry McNamee pull the strings in midfield for Harps.

All-time League Record vs Finn Harps

P	W	D	L	F	A
76	39	17	20	127	90

A step back in time...

Finn Harps 1 – 2 Shamrock Rovers

On Page 54 we referred to the many times the Hoops have played at Finn Park since the 1969/70 season when Harps became League of Ireland members. One such occasion was on Good Friday, April 5th, 1985. The Hoops were looking to retain the league title having won it the previous season for the first time in twenty years. With just a handful of games remaining, a win at Ballybofey was a must for Rovers. It was a feat they accomplished but the vital goals came late in the game.

Harps also had to win as they were desperately attempting to avoid the drop to the newly-introduced First Division. They took the lead as early as the 17th when Con McLaughlin (remember him!) sent the home fans into rhapsody. The striker benefited from a perfectly-placed through ball from Johnny Kelly to leave Hoops' netminder Jody Byrne without a chance.

Predictably, Rovers responded with force and piled on the pressure for the remainder of the game. Maybe the early goal wasn't to Harps' full advantage as they might have dug out a win had they not had to defend deeply for so much of the game.

Liam Sweeney in the first half and Liam McDermott, shortly into the second half, both came to the rescue of the home side with goal-line clearances but such was the intensity of the response by the Hoops having gone behind to that early goal that everyone present



wondered if Harps could possibly hold out and if they had managed to do so the result would have represented a major shock given the distance in the table between the sides not to mention the gulf in class with all due respect to Finn Harps.

The equaliser came in the 76th minute when Neville Steadman ran through to meet a cross from Mick Byrne and slotted home to beat Declan McIntyre

in goal for Harps. Steadman was involved in the winner also. The winger tore down the right in possession before crossing into the box where the ball was met by Noel Larkin and the Athlone native got a steady touch on it to fire over the line.

Despite their dominance, it was a close-run result for Rovers. Had they lost they would have had some cushion to still retain the title but for Harps these were points they simply couldn't afford to let slip from their grasp.

Finn Harps: McIntyre, Sweeney, Boyle, McNally, McElwaine, McDermott, McGroarty, Bradley, McLoughlin, McNutt, J. Kelly. Subs: Ferry for Kelly (31m), McGeever for Boyle (48m).

Shamrock Rovers: J. Byrne, Neville, Coady, Keely, McDonagh, P. Byrne, Steadman, King, O'Brien, Larkin, M. Byrne. Sub: Eccles for O'Brien (66m).

Referee: Paddy Daly (Dublin).

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The Literary Genius that is *Jason Maloney...*

It was exactly 11 years to the day that we were last in a draw for an UEFA competition group stages phase and the excitement and anticipation amongst Rovers supporters was palpable on social media. Everybody had their favourites as who they wanted to draw. Choices were mainly based on cities or stadiums that fans would like to see. Though, with memories of our visit to White Hart Lane and London in 2011, I think everyone wanted a trip to face West Ham. And as the draw was been made it looked like were about to be put in a group with 'The Hammers' but our hopes were soon dashed and we ended up in a group with Gent, Molde and Djurgardens.



The literary genius himself in North Macedonia

mind when I woke up at 7.15am on the morning after the draw. Usually on a day off I would turn back over and get a couple of hours more sleep. But something told me to stay awake that day and sure enough the group F UEFA Conference league fixtures were released. Gent, with it's proximity and variable routes, was always going to see the biggest travelling Rovers support. The fact that it turned out to be our first away game in the group made the game even more attractive. So I jumped on the Ryanair flight like a light and was able to book return flights to Brussels for myself and my brother for the princely sum of €75 each.

I have to admit that my initial reaction to the draw was a bit underwhelming. I had notions of going to London, Cologne or Villarreal so was slightly disappointed. I'm on record as stating regarding the draw "It's like waking up on Christmas morning and getting a cowboy suit instead of a Playstation." But now I'm really looking forward to it. Shamrock Rovers are in the group stages of a European competition. What's not to like? Personally, I wanted to experience a new country to watch football as I have already been to matches in Belgium, Norway and Sweden. Though I can't be greedy as this year already I have been able to tick Malta and North Macedonia off my countries to watch football in bucket list.

So once the draw was made we were all eagerly awaiting the publication of the fixture list. The phrase "the early bird catches the worm" is never more apt than when it comes to getting a good price on a trip away to see your team play in Europe. That saying was firmly in the back of my

There's been a lot of symmetry to this draw. As stated earlier, it happened on the anniversary of the last time we reached the group stages of European competition. When we line out against Djurgardens tonight it will be twenty years since we faced them last. Wow. That last sentence makes me feel old. That trip to Stockholm in 2002 was actually the first time I saw Rovers play away in Europe. I haven't missed too many since but it's hard to do them all. With that in mind, I need to pay my respect to the Rovers fans who have travelled to each of our 4 trips so far. At the top of my head I can think of Rob Tormey, Ryan Lagrue, Dave Dunne and Paul Hayden. There are maybe more who I have forgotten and apologies to anyone I have left out.

Tonight is a huge game. Djurgardens will be favourites and may well win the game but I think it's fair to say that Shamrock Rovers are a different proposition both on and off the pitch than we were in 2002.

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ARTHUR COX



Bill Gleeson answers some questions about the Junior Hoops

When did the Junior Hoops come into existence?

The first incarnation was during the time Michael O'Neill was manager. It ran successfully for a couple of seasons, but trailed off then. The current incarnation started in late 2016

Was anyone in particular the driving force at foundation?

I went to the club with the idea of reviving it. A call went out for a few more people to get involved, and Glenn, Paul and Anthony all got in touch. Each of us had different ideas, we all had energy and wanted to make a success of it.

What was the original aim of the group?

Initially, I went to the club with the idea of selling Junior Hoops memberships as Christmas presents to help get kids interested in Rovers and start coming along to games. But when I sat down with the lads and we started chatting, we found a lot of common ground and the planning went in a completely different way. We were all parents of quite young kids at the time. We saw that particularly little ones can get a bit bored at games and wanted to give them something to do at a match. The ideas kept coming and having the kids begin to actively participate in match nights with things like the Guard of Honour quickly became our thing.

How many children have come through the group since its inception?

In the current incarnation, probably over 500. Quite a few of them have been with us for 5 or 6 years now.

Stephen Bradley very much supports the Junior Hoops? Were any of his predecessors as co-operative?

Stephen has been the only manager that we've dealt with and we've been very lucky to have him. He gives a huge amount of time to our events, he's brilliant with the kids and is probably the only person that can keep a bunch of them quiet when he speaks.

What is the current level of membership?

We've just over 200 members now. We've grown every year from less than 50 the first season.

Are there any overseas members?

There are – we've kids in the UK, Poland, the USA and a few outposts in Australia. We send the memberships to everyone, and it's great to see the kids in far flung places get theirs.

Has the group had any opportunity to look at what other clubs abroad do with a similar initiative?

We did a bit of research at the time of setting things up. A lot of the junior fan clubs seem to be a money grab, especially in

the UK. Some clubs do have great family facilities, but the money that has gone into them has been huge. We've always tried to be self-reliant, and run all our activities and goodies out of membership fees and fundraisers. One thing that we'd certainly like to do a bit more of is a regular family friendly bus to away games.

Are there any big plans in the pipeline?

Hoping for a cup draw that is a family friendly coach trip away! We also have not been able to run Train with the Players for a few years and would love to revive that. Before the end of the season, we'll be having a Halloween party. We might tie that in with our Player of the Year award, which is now named in memory of Anthony McDonald.

Are there any golden rules the members must follow?

Stay in by the wall and no running! But no one listens to that one any more. Nothing hard and fast, all the kids we see are a lovely bunch, they are very friendly with each other, and that's great to see.

Is Hooperman an honorary member? If not, why not?

Hooperman has been banned from the Junior Hoops quite a few times now, but he always inveigles his way back in. And he's an honorary member in the sense that he's never paid for membership.



SHAMROCK ROVERS FC STADIUM REGULATIONS

1. All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Ground Regulations and to the Rules and Regulations of Shamrock Rovers Football Club and the Football Association of Ireland (FAI). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these Rules and Regulations.
2. Fireworks, flares, laser pens, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, offensive flags, offensive banners, missiles, poles and other similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon, are not permitted within the ground, and any person in possession of such an article may be refused entry or ejected from the ground.
3. The consumption of intoxicating liquors is not permitted, except in licenced bar areas, and spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground.
4. The climbing of floodlight pylons, stands, fences or other buildings in the ground is forbidden.
5. Unnecessary noise such as that from the use of radio sets and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language is not permitted in any part of the ground.
6. Any person using racist taunts or language or behaving in a manner likely to be deemed racist towards any other person may be refused entry or ejected from the ground. This applies equally to offensive behaviour of any sort.
7. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any object onto the pitch.
8. Spectators are not permitted to enter upon the field of play; anybody who does so will be ejected from the ground and banned from attending future games.
9. Any person who fails to comply with the instructions from a steward or An Garda Síochána may be ejected from the ground.
10. In general, the right of admission is reserved by Shamrock Rovers FC.
11. Shamrock Rovers FC reserves the right to refuse admission or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a police officer or steward.
12. Any person who remains in a gangway may be ejected from the ground.
13. Shamrock Rovers FC reserve the right for its servants or agents to remove from the ground any person who does not comply with the Ground Regulations or whose presence on the ground could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.
14. In line with security measures and events we request that, where possible, fans please refrain from bringing Backpacks and bags larger than size A4 are not permitted into the ground except for large fan flags which will be accommodated to the match.
15. Foul and abusive language towards volunteers and staff will not be permitted.
16. Right of admission to bar areas is reserved by Shamrock Rovers FC and can be amended on a match by match basis. All supporters must sign in to gain admittance to the bars.

Shamrock Rovers FC



A Message to Fans

Supporters are asked to treat Tallaght Stadium and their fellow fans with the utmost respect at all times.

This is our home and we encourage all fans to treat it as such. Please do not stand on the seats, or carry out any other activities that could damage the facilities in the ground. Be sure to make your way to the section of the ground that best suits your needs; don't stand in an area where others are sitting and please watch your language and manner if you are in the family section. Everyone is welcome at Shamrock Rovers, and we want to ensure that they feel this way while supporting the Hoops.

SAFETY NOTICE

Shamrock Rovers Football Club is committed to ensuring that the safety of all supporters on match days is of paramount importance. We are grateful to all attending this fixture for your cooperation with regards to the following points: In the interests of safety please note and acquaint yourself with the position of the exits. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the stadium, patrons should proceed to the nearest exit and must not re-enter under any circumstances. Should you require medical attention please proceed to the first aid room where medical assistance will be available. Paramedics are on duty at all home games and can be contacted in the main stand at the half way line. Parents and guardians are required to supervise children at all times and in an emergency are requested to supervise and evacuate their charges. The use of smoke canisters and flares in the stadium is prohibited. We don't make the rules and apart from the safety aspect, if supporters breach this regulation the club – your club – will be heavily fined. Please heed the advice of stewards and club officials at all times. Patrons are requested to ensure that all cigarettes are properly extinguished and disposed of and remember there is no smoking allowed in the stands.

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*Seb Daly of Sportsfile
captured this fine image of
Jack Byrne arriving at
Dalymount Park last Friday
evening*