

As a passionate and dedicated communications professional, I have had the privilege of playing a pivotal role in crafting immersive and engaging soccer match programmes that go beyond the traditional confines. From designing striking covers that capture the essence of each match to curating compelling content and steering the editorial direction, my commitment to excellence is reflected in every aspect of the programme. As a key contributor to the production, here you will find some of the cover artwork that I had a hand in, the content which I have curated and the editorial direction of the programmes.



SCOUTING REPORT

THE TWO SIDES OF NICKLAS BENDTNER

ONE name that will jump off the Rosenborg teamsheet for most Dundalk fans tonight is that of Nicklas Bendtner. The ex-Arsenal man is something of a cult hero among Danish football fans. He established a reputation over the years not only as a formidable and versatile front man but all as something of a controversial figure.

He joined Arsenal at 16 in 2004 and helped Birmingham City to Premier League promotion in 2007 while on loan at St Andrews. It was there that he broke into the Danish national team, scoring on his debut. Back at Arsenal Bendtner established himself as a regular. With Robin Van Persie, Emmanuel Adebayor and Eduardo all vying for game time Bendtner's versatility saw him play a variety of attacking roles. For four seasons he was an integral part of Arsène Wenger's squad.

While at Arsenal he was one of the first names on Denmark's teamsheet at international level, ultimately earning 74 caps and playing at the 2010 World Cup and EURO 2012. Injuries and off-field distractions began to impact on Bendtner at Arsenal during 2009. He was regularly pictured partying and wrote off a car but escaped relatively unscathed in an road traffic accident. He later missed two months of the season with a groin injury. That injury was aggravated at the 2010 World Cup and Bendtner missed much of the next season. He spent 2011/12 on loan at Sunderland, helping the Black Cats to midtable security in



the Premier League. He also played all three of Denmark's group games at EURO 2012 and scored twice in a 3-2 loss to Portugal. His most memorable contribution though was to display the name of a well-known gambling company on his underwear after scoring an 80th minute equaliser. He avoided sanction at the time, but Portugal found a late winner and Bendtner was later banned for one World Cup qualifying match and heavily fined by UEFA.

Arsenal allowed Bendtner to go on loan for 2012/13 to Juventus, where he was a peripheral player before injury ruled him out for several months. Controversy struck again while he out injured

as he was arrested for drink driving. He was also banned by the DBU for six months after his drink driving conviction, but he returned to reestablish himself for Denmark during a two-season spell in the Bundesliga with Wolfsburg, then Nottingham Forest and now Rosenborg since March.

At one stage early in his career Wenger has said Bendtner was practically unstoppable. His career since then has been somewhat stop-start, giving the impression of unfulfilled potential. He's still only 29 though. If Bendtner can steer clear of injury he has every chance of being a key player for Rosenborg and indeed for Denmark.

SCOUTING REPORT

DUNDALK FC MAGAZINE

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GROUND REGULATIONS

All Persons entering Oriel Park stadium are admitted only subject to the following ground rules and regulations of Dundalk FC. Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these rules and regulations.

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DUNDALK FC MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL

European nights should never be taken for granted. Irish football is something which appears to be on the up and one of the great things about our league is that it offers the chance to supporters to experience European football. We are coming up against one of the bigger names of the last 20 years in Europe - Rosenborg BK - tonight. They have been the dominant force in Norwegian football over the past two decades and will be known to almost all in attendance tonight for their exploits in the UEFA Champions League since the late 90's.

There is always the phrase banded about that a team here needs to 'do a Rosenborg' to raise the standards in the league both on and off the pitch. To an extent that is true. All you need to do is look at the stadiums and infrastructure that Rosenborg's dominance has forced other clubs to aspire and reach to. On the other hand, dominance like that in a country like Ireland could see to interest waning and people not wanting to put in the same effort. Football isn't the number one sport in Ireland. It is the most actively participated sport in Ireland but in terms of viewership and numbers to watch it is third behind rugby and GAA. Norway is the same would you believe. The majority of people play football in Norway but falls behind Biathlon and Winter Sports in viewership. We are similar in situations but football has been developed in Norway in such a way that we could

only dream about.

Of course 'doing a Rosenborg' is one thing, the other club like that is our old pals BATE Borisov who have been utterly dominant in Belarus and in many ways are the reason for the football industry in the country. Maybe we can lead the way here and be the reason there's a football industry in Ireland.

Tonight we welcome Norwegian champions Rosenborg to Oriel Park and we extend warm greetings to the players, staff and supporters of the back-to-back Eliteserien champions to our home. Rosenborg are a team of vast European experience having competed in the UEFA Champions League group stages on numerous occasions.

We had plenty of nights to savour last year in both the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League. From the drama of FH at this stage of the UEFA Champions League 12 months ago to the euphoria of beating Maccabi Tel-Aviv in the Europa League group stages we were given memories that we will never forget. That's before we mention the night of beating BATE Borisov and the heroic point in Alkmaar. That's all last year though and it's time to create more memories in the year of 2017.

European nights should never be taken for granted. They are to be cherished and savour. Let's make some more memories together!

The journey starts tonight. Enjoy the game.

Darren Crawley





games has been a great return for us and we were a little disappointed not to win against AZ in the opener but we have put in some great performances and as well as that we have all really enjoyed it so far. It's something totally different to the league and we are doing what no other Irish club have done which is special too.

DFC: In recent times and actually in general, it has been difficult for teams to retain the hunger that they have from winning their first trophy...that hasn't happened here, players want to win and improve all the time – what has been the key to that do you think?

AB: I don't know what the key really is but we have a fantastic group of players and staff here. Stephen Kenny and the coaching staff simply won't let us take the foot off the pedal which is fantastic for us. We came back in and had another great pre-season. We probably came back earlier than most teams and earlier than we would usually be

Opening page: Andy Boyle, at 'home', away at Tallaght Stadium, home to Dundalk's UEFA Europa League matches; **Previous page:** Battling against Mark O'Sullivan from Cork City earlier this season; **Above (left to right):** In action at home to Galway United, and then being congratulated as skipper after scoring on the road to Finn Harps in Ballybofey

used to but we had a good time when we came back in early January. That's ingrained in us in the worth ethic. We are all hard working and we didn't mind coming back in, it was good to get back. The lads look after themselves when on and off the pitch, we always take care of ourselves in our time off as well so that's a big factor in us keeping everything going. We have played so many games this season. We have played so many times and we have enjoyed ourselves. We have a desire to do well and

improve every day. We want to make history and that is what drives us. We know also that winning the league and doing well will ensure that we can have many more European nights so that's our motivation which is why we are where we are.

DFC: Finally, we have Zenit Saint Petersburg tonight. A big European name, your thoughts on them?

AB: Zenit are a brilliant team. There's no denying it. They are doing well in Russia and they have shown in Europe over a number of years that they are a quality side. They have great European experience and are a Champions League outfit. They beat AZ Alkmaar 5-0 in the last match so that shows the quality that they have. We have been good ourselves in Europe. We have got some good results and we are unbeaten so we are confident in the competition. We are under no illusions how big the challenge is but we are looking forward to it and hopefully we can get a positive result.



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ANDY BOYLE



A major rock at the heart of the Dundalk defence, Andy Boyle has also been instrumental in Dundalk's progress in Europe. Darren Crawley caught up with him on the eve of the Whites' meeting with Zenit - their biggest challenge to date...

DFC Magazine: Andy, how would you assess the start that we have had to the season?

Andy Boyle (AB): It has been amazing so far. We have been having a great

time in the league at the moment and we are playing so well in Europe. The European experience has been amazing to be honest. We are close to the title however we know that we still have work to do in that and it was always going to be the case. We knew that the title race was always going to the wire so we are looking forward to that challenge over the last week of the season and we have the Cup final to come as well so it has been a

fantastic season but it isn't over yet!

DFC: You are one of the first signings from Stephen Kenny's first year as manager, you're still here after three years! You're certainly enjoying your time at the club?

AB: I have loved every minute of it so far. Ever since I came in the door nearly four years ago it has been a fantastic place and >

the success that we are getting. We are well grounded though and we want to improve every single day and win every match that we enter. We are keeping our feet on the ground and we want to stay at the top. The European adventure has taken us all to a new level and it has been the best of my life and most of our careers. Something to cherish.

DFC: One of the highlights through the season, if you're lucky enough to be involved, is European football like tonight. You have mentioned the European nights...how have you enjoyed them?

AB: It's a great bonus for league of Ireland players to play in Europe and to play in the UEFA Champions League is the pinnacle for any player. So to have that opportunity is something amazing. This year was our second year in the UEFA Champions League and I really feel that we learned from the experience last year which was shown in our results. We learned in the first game against FH where we were able to see out the game in the second leg and we were behind as we were against BATE Borisov but we were able to use the experience to go through and that was a brilliant result for us. We were a bit unlucky against Legia because I thought we played well but that got us into the groups of the UEFA Europa League and so far it has been amazing. Picking up four points from the two >

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EDITORIAL

What an occasion to be a part of tonight. The festival of football is in full swing and this team have turned it into a carnival with their level of performance and wins over the last few months. None less than their victory over Maccabi Tel Aviv three weeks ago - the nights we all want in football!

Last week at Oriel Park the match against Cork City it was a magnificent occasion. Not just because we won - that helped! But because the match captured the imagination of not just people within the league but people with any sort of interest in football in the country. Everyone was talking about it and it was a terrific spectacle between the two best teams in the land. A lot of the time these games tend to be a damp squib. They never usually live up to their billing. However last week's win over Cork certainly did and it proved how good that our league can be.

It is something that the league should aspire to. The league should be aspiring to have an atmosphere like that every weekend. Ok it's impossible to get a game of that magnitude every weekend however with how competitive the league is you get it most weekends. It can be turned into something special and in many ways last week had the feel of a big European night - like tonight - about it. These are what the league can produce. The football on show last week was first

class and matched the nature of the occasion. Now - both ourselves and Cork - are showing on the European stage that things are progressing here.

There's no doubtting the quality of Zenit Saint Petersburg. Just a quick glance at their current squad list and past players - all internationals - will tell you how good they are. Recent winners too and regulars in the UEFA Champions League the over the past decade so it shows how great the challenge is for us tonight. We have faced these kind of teams though littered with internationals and are players and management will embrace the challenge tonight. It promises to be a wonderful occasion and the nights we could only dream of in the first division and indeed this time four years ago!

Last Thursday Bob Dylan was awarded the Nobel Poet Laureate for 2016. The reason behind the decision was for "having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition". In some sort of way we can relate this to the current group of players at Dundalk and the staff. They have created new poetic expressions within the Irish football tradition and club football in this country. Stephen Kenny himself would be a worthy winner of the Nobel Laureate with some of his outstanding writing in these programmes alone! Although I think for 2017 he will be a longer shot than the 50/1 that Dylan was!

Enjoy the game and the campaign! Savour it!

Darren Crawley
Dundalk FC



UEFA
EUROPA
LEAGUE



UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE



DUNDALK FC

V FC ZENIT ST PETERSBURG



THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2016

TALLAGHT STADIUM

KICK-OFF 8.05PM

ISSUE 22 / €5



TAKING BACK THE THRONE

PLAYER Q&A

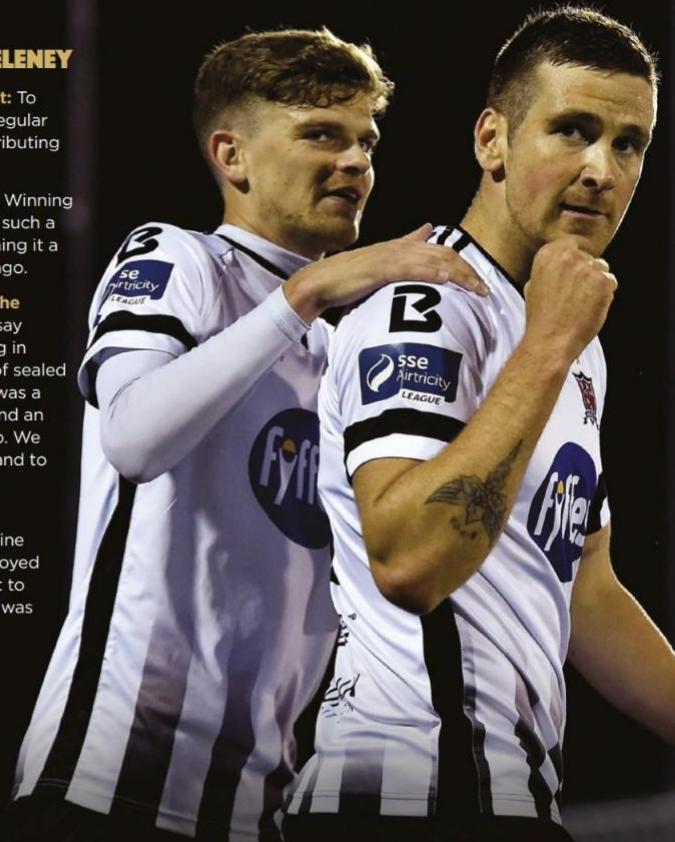
PATRICK McELENEY

Personal highlight: To be back playing regular football and contributing to the team.

Overall highlight: Winning the league, it was such a great feeling winning it a couple of weeks ago.

Turning point in the season: I would say going and winning in Cork which kind of sealed the title for us. It was a great win for us and an important one too. We had to win there and to win like we did was brilliant.

Favourite goal: Mine against UCD, I enjoyed that one and for it to put us in the final was amazing.



SEAN GANNON

Personal highlight: Getting the league title back. Once we got it mathematically confirmed against St. Patrick's Athletic it was such a brilliant feeling. Being champions again was brilliant.

Overall highlight: The

first win after we lost in Waterford. That win against Sligo set us up for the rest of the season and it put us on the winning run which we went on after that and it gave us the platform to go and win the league which is what we wanted. We really clicked into gear as a team and as a group and we didn't look back.

Turning point in the season: Waterford away. We had a discussion after that night and we got ourselves together to go on and do what we did.

Favourite goal: Michael Duffy after the Levadia Tallinn on the volley. What a goal!

TAKING BACK THE THRONE
PLAYER Q&A

SEAN HOARE

Personal highlight: Personally I have enjoyed scoring goals. I got two against Bohemians and the first one against Bohs in May in Dalymount was a real nice one to get. It was my first league goal for the club and it was brilliant to get off the mark.

Overall highlight: As a team here, beating Cork twice

was huge. They were two massive games and we had to go and beat them. They had a brilliant record against us up to this season so we had to go and beat them in those games and we knew that. We managed to get those wins which were key to winning the league.

It was tough to lose our captain that night too which was hard to take but we had a look at ourselves and how we were doing. It turned for us because we won 16 out of 17 and it was the turning of the season for us.

Favourite goal: There have been loads, Mickey's goal against Levadia was amazing. My two headers home and away against Bohs weren't bad either!

DANE MASSEY

Personal highlight: The game to win the league. To come back and get the equaliser in the last minute after being behind was brilliant. The best feeling and best way to win it.

Overall highlight: The European win in Tallinn was a great week as well for us. It's always big winning in Europe, especially away so that was a brilliant highlight for us.

Turning point in the season: The night in Waterford. It was a disappointing night for us when we lost our captain and lost the game as well but we managed to go on an incredible run after that and we won 16 out of 17 which got us to the league title so that was the turning point you'd feel.

Favourite goal: It has to be mine in Tallaght against Rovers. I took it early and was delighted to see it go in.

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FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER 2018

KICK-OFF 7.45PM

ISSUE 24 / €3



PLAYER INTERVIEW

KRISZTIAN ADORJAN

Krisztian, welcome to
Dundalk FC!

How have you settled and enjoyed your time here?

I have settled in quite well. I feel I have done well since I came in. It took a little while to get used to the new culture and the new players and the new side but I think I have done well. I had my first start last week and I enjoyed it. I like everything here. I have liked Dundalk since I got here. It has been a good experience so far and I feel that I am finding myself in the team. There's a lot of quality here in the squad and it is good to see. We have had a good start which has helped and it has been fun. The players and the staff have been very good to me since I came in a few weeks ago. They have helped me settle and made me feel at home which has been good for me. I am happy to be here and I want to make a bigger impact in the team over the next few weeks. We play good football here with Stephen Kenny and he has helped me a lot so I like it here in Ireland. I want to stay in the team but it has been good so far and hopefully I can continue.

Back in Hungary, how did it all start for you in football?

I played some youth football

back in Hungary when I was there as a youngster. My mother took me to football when I was 7 and it went from there really. I just liked to play football in my school. I had a few clubs in my youth and we were encouraged to play and pass and enjoy ourselves which I did. It was good growing up playing that kind of football. I was taken to the local club to play then. It all started from there and then I moved to MTK Budapest where there was a little bit more of a structure to play and I enjoyed it there. It was there I got the move to Liverpool when I was 16 years old.

"There was interest from Liverpool and a few others at that time. It was a good choice to have! But I chose Liverpool."

You got a move to Liverpool then...
There was interest from Liverpool and a few others at that time. It was a good choice to have! But I chose Liverpool. They already took players from the club before. I went on trial and did well so they signed me

which I was very happy about. I was there for four years. I enjoyed it. It was a good experience for a young player to go to such a big club and learn. It was good to be there and I enjoyed it. I had to go and get some first team football so I went to Groningen in Holland for a year. It was really good for me at that age and that was a great experience.

How did the Eredivisie differ from other leagues across Europe?

The big difference between the Eredivisie and most other big leagues in Europe is that they play a lot of young players. They have no problem playing young players and throwing them in which is good. They let them play and express themselves more than other years. It is a really good league for young players and I liked it there. I moved to Novara then and it was an interesting experience in Italy for me. I signed there a couple of years ago. I was in Liverpool for the pre-season and in the last few days of that in 2013 I heard about the opportunity to go and it was to give me a chance to play first team football so I took the chance to go there. It was interesting for me to experience a different kind of culture and football. Being at Novara

I got into the Hungarian senior squad which was great and I enjoyed it which was good to be around the top players we have to offer. Hopefully I get to be there more often. It gave me good experience and it gave me a chance to go to Albania to play for Partizani at the beginning of this year too. I was there before Dundalk. The coach was Mark Iuliano who played for Juventus. I played in the first half of the season. The team didn't do well overall but I did well I thought and then got the move to Ireland.

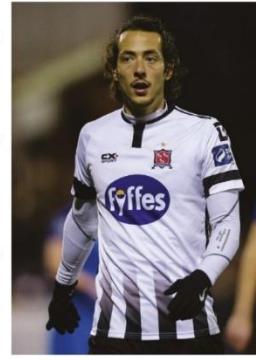
What do you hope to achieve here at Dundalk?

I am here until July at the moment so we will have to see what happens. I am a Novara player, they are my parent club so I will have to see what happens there but I want to do well for Dundalk. I have enjoyed my time here so far and want to get into the team. We have a lot of games to play over the next few weeks so I am looking forward to being a part of that. I want to help the team

in all of the competitions we have to play. The league is important but I would like to help us to win all the trophies we can. I want us to be top of the league and of course to go on and win it but we know that won't be easy. We have the Europa League to look forward to in the summer also so I want to

Finally, we have Shamrock Rovers tonight, you experienced a little bit of it in February at Tallaght. How do you see the game going?
We played Shamrock Rovers in February and it was one of my first games here. I came on and it was very physical. They were very strong physically so it was something I wasn't used to. They hit the post and it was difficult for us to get into the game. It wasn't a good game when we played them a few weeks ago. It was tough for us. We tried to keep the ball down and play but it didn't always work so we are hoping for a better result this time. Hopefully we can keep the ball down and pass like we know we can. I think we are playing well at the moment and I am hoping that we can get the win.

These are big games and we enjoy them a lot so we want to win. It's going to be difficult because they are a hard side to play against but we are happy and playing well. Being at home as well gives us a good chance and we want to win again.





FRIDAY 6 APRIL 2018

KICK-OFF 7.30PM

ISSUE 07 / €3



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DUNDALK FC MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL

Many thanks to one and all who buy the Matchday Programme. Your continued support keeps us going and means a lot to all of us.

It is hard to believe that we are already into the second round of games. It feels like only last weekend that we played Shamrock Rovers in the first series at Tallaght Stadium and here they are again. Already the second meeting between us and it is becoming apparent, even though we aren't even ten games in, that the contests between the top teams will tell who finishes where this season. There is a trend of that developing not just in Ireland but all across other leagues in Europe. Most notably in the Premier League in England where the results of the meetings between the top six generally decide where you finish. It is a fascinating subplot to the season here because it looks like the first year that it may happen here. Although results last year certainly decided first and second here. It is a fascinating league overall and it is one of the most interesting campaigns in recent memory. The top five all have had their moments with Derry City looking like they have clicked into gear and the top two the same as last year with Waterford and Shamrock Rovers of course very strong. It can be likened to the biggest show of this week - The Masters. Something which needs no introduction and is one of the most eagerly anticipated golf major championships in years. The return of Tiger Woods combined with the flock of players at the

top of the field who could win it - played on the most beautiful of golf courses played out on television to offer up drama and create an amphitheatre for everyone.

It is much like how this year will play out in the league of Ireland many feel. So far it has had its fair share of drama, intrigue and quality. There is the feeling that it will continue to increase on all of those fronts and it will provide superb entertainment for all involved and those watching on. Tonight we are on television for the second time this season and on the national broadcaster - RTE. They have picked one of the best matches to show one feels and there is sure to be no shortage of everything. It could be a war of attrition, much like the battles that were on TV years ago but nonetheless exciting and thrilling.

These are the games

which should be used to showcase our league and showcase the product which we have on offer here. People are starting to

realise that there is good quality here and that the league itself is worthwhile.

People are starting to

realise that it is worth

supporting and 2 weeks

ago 33% of the national

squad against Turkey had

featured in the league here

at some stage. The penny

has finally dropped.

Some day soon people

will realise there's no need

to hype the league higher

than it needs to. The hype

will build itself - just like

The Masters at Augusta.

Enjoy the game.

Darren Crawley
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