

## Match Report Samples

### Dundalk FC 1-0 Cork City – FAI Cup Final, 2015

Dundalk completed their first double since 1988 with an extra-time victory over Cork City at the AVIVA Stadium on Sunday evening!

The only goal of the game was scored by the outstanding Richie Towell in the 107th minute and he was the hero as he finished to the net from 6 yards.

Dundalk were the first to threaten with a succession of corners before Ronan Finn had the first effort of the game when he received a neat pass from David McMillan however his shot on the turn went inches wide of the right hand post.

Billy Dennehy's corner from the right caused a few problems but Dundalk managed to scramble the ball clear thanks to Brian Gartland.

Andy Boyle managed to flick a Meenan free-kick towards goal but it went inches wide of the right hand post with goalkeeper Mark McNulty rooted to the spot.

The game descended into something of a scrap and McMillan had the only other shot on target before the end of the opening period which was easily gathered by McNulty.

The only other incident of note during an otherwise quiet first half was the injury inflicted on Sean Gannon by Garry Buckley which saw the right back substituted in place of captain Stephen O'Donnell on 42 minutes.

The league champions started the second half quickly and it was Dane Massey who had the first effort of the half but McNulty got up brilliantly to tip the ball over the crossbar.

McMillan had his second effort of the game but he was unable to get the ball beyond the grasp of the goalkeeper either.

It was all Dundalk for a spell and Horgan tried his luck but his effort was blocked before Rogers was called into action once again with some good handling to deal with a barrage of long punts from the Leesiders.

Richie Towell then had his first effort of the afternoon when after a Meenan corner, Gartland flicked the ball out to the midfielder but his low drive was taken by McNulty.

As the game approached the final quarter of an hour, Dundalk pressed forward and when Massey's free-kick was blocked, it was put into the path of O'Donnell but his first time effort sailed well wide of the target.

Massey then stood up a brilliant cross from the left and Ciaran Kilduff managed to get his head to the ball ahead of the advancing McNulty but it went over the bar.

In the final minute a beautifully weighted pass from John Mountney was headed into of Towell by Kilduff but the midfielder couldn't adjust his feet quick enough and his weak effort was scrambled away.

The game ended scoreless after 90 minutes and the game headed to an extra 30 minutes.

The first chance of the extra period fell to Finn and he rounded John Dunleavy and was through on goal but, off balance and with options in the centre, his shot was saved by McNulty.

Dundalk were finding pockets of space now that didn't exist before and a sustained period of pressure saw the ball find the free Finn once more but the 27 year-old fired right and wide.

Horgan took advantage of a lucky break and weaved his way into the area after Towell broke forward however he snatched at the shot and it went wide.

The lead goal was to come in the opening moments of the second period of extra-time when that man Horgan raced away through the Cork City midfield and reached the edge of the box. He squared the ball into the danger zone and found the advancing Towell. He brilliantly adjusted himself to create the chance and he composed himself before firing to the bottom left corner.

There was danger a few seconds later though as Cork forced a corner and Darren Dennehy headed onto the crossbar to the relief of Rogers and the rest of the Dundalk rearguard.

As both teams tired, Dundalk killed the clock and added the FAI Cup to their league title to complete a superb double in the season 2015!

**CORK CITY:** Mark McNulty; Johnny Dunleavy (capt), Alan Bennett, Darren Dennehy, Ross Gaynor; Billy Dennehy, Kevin O'Connor, Liam Miller (Colin Healy 59), Garry Buckley, Karl Sheppard (Dan Murray 110); Mark O'Sullivan (Danny Morrissey 79)

**Substitutes not used:** Gavan Holohan, Michael McSweeney, Liam Miller, Alan Smith (GK)

**Booked:** Miller (41), Gaynor (82)

**Sent off:** None.

**DUNDALK:** Gary Rogers; Sean Gannon (Stephen O'Donnell 43), Brian Gartland, Andy Boyle (capt), Dane Massey; Chris Shields, Richie Towell; Darren Meenan (John Mountney 77), Ronan Finn, Daryl Horgan; David McMillan (Ciaran Kilduff 70).

**Substitutes not used:** Kurtis Byrne, Shane Grimes, Paddy Barrett, Gabriel Sava (GK)

**Booked:** Shields (85), Towell (108)

**Sent off:** None.

**Attendance:** 25,103

**Referee:** Dave McKeon

## **Dundalk 2-1 Bohemians, October 2016**

Dundalk made history on Sunday night as they secured their third straight league title with a 2-1 win over Bohemians at Oriel Park!

The Lilywhites ensured that they won their 12th crown thanks to goals from centre-back duo Andy Boyle and Brian Gartland either side of half-time. Mark Quigley's penalty threatened to spoil the night on half an hour however the champions held out for the win.

Dundalk were on the front foot during the opening period and although Bohemians dealt with the pressure well David McMillan breached the backline when he headed Daryl Horgan's cross goalwards however it was straight at Shane Supple.

The outstanding Ronan Finn muscled his way through the Bohemians defence next and his shot was blocked by Lorcan Fitzgerald for a corner on the quarter hour mark.

That same corner provided the first goal. Patrick McEleney's kick from the left was through the six yard area and it couldn't be dealt with by either Supple or Bohs defence. It left Boyle free who poked the ball to the bottom left corner.

That appeared to settle the hosts however Bohemians got more of a foothold in the game when Dean O'Halloran fed it to Kurtis Byrne after winning the ball from Shields however the former Lilywhite's effort went well over the bar.

It was 1-1 on 29 minutes though when Neil Doyle somehow adjudged that Finn had brought down Keith Buckley despite there being little or no contact. Former Dundalk striker Quigley stepped up and sent Rogers the wrong way to level things up.

That subdued the atmosphere at Oriel however Finn had a superb opportunity to restore the advantage when he was played in by McMillan but the former's shot was over the advancing Supple and over the bar.

McEleney then flashed an attempted cross which turned into a shot across goal but Supple managed to deal with the danger.

It was after the interval that chances began to really flow and O'Halloran had a superb chance to turn things around for Bohs when he flicked wide of the post after Buckley's cross.

Dundalk then had an opportunity to put themselves in front once again when Horgan's cross was onto the bar and it rebounded into the path of substitute Robbie Benson. He composed himself and tried an overhead kick however he skewed it wide.

The decisive goal came on the hour mark when Finn's free-kick on the halfway line was onto the head of Massey on the edge of the box. He powered the ball across goal to the waiting Gartland and he reshaped his body superbly on the six yard line to knock the ball to the net and send Oriel wild.

Boyle had a chance to grab his second after Supple failed to assert himself under pressure from McMillan however the centre-half couldn't convert.

The last 25 minutes were played at a pedestrian pace and neither side threatened the goal

as Dundalk saw the game out to complete the three-in-a-row tilt at Oriel!

**DUNDALK:** Gary Rogers; Alan Keane, Brian Gartland, Andy Boyle, Dane Massey; John Mountney (Robbie Benson 55), Chris Shields, Ronan Finn, Daryl Horgan; Patrick McEleney (Darren Meenan 71), David McMillan (Ciaran Kilduff 81).

**Substitutes not used:** Paddy Barrett, Shane Grimes, Dean Shiels, Gabriel Sava (GK)

**Booked:** None.

**Sent off:** None.

**BOHEMIANS:** Shane Supple; Lorcan Fitzgerald, Dan Byrne, Derek Prendergast, Derek Pender; Patrick Kavanagh, Roberto Lopes, Mark Quigley (Dean Casey 83), Keith Buckley; Dean O'Halloran (Eoin Wearen 72), Kurtis Byrne.

**Substitutes not used:** Dylan Hayes, Warren O'Hara, Jake Kelly, Ishmahil Akinade, Dean Delany (GK)

**Booked:** O'Halloran (38), Kavanagh (42), Prendergast (59), Lopes (63), Pender (82)

**Sent off:** None

**Referee:** Neil Doyle.

**Attendance:** 4,637.

## **Dundalk 4-1 Galway United, October 2016**

A brace from Dean Shiels was added to by a goal in either half from Paddy Barrett and Ciaran Kilduff for the Lilywhites. Ryan Connolly pulled one back for Galway midway through the second half.

The champions started on the front foot controlling possession but it was Galway United who had the best chance on 10 minutes when Cunningham turned past Boyle but he shot straight at Sava.

That prompted Dundalk to have their first effort on goal when Robbie Benson surged forward and fed the ball to David McMillan and he watched his thunder strike come back off the crossbar thanks to the hand of former Lilywhite Conor Winn.

With their very next attack they took the lead. A wonderful flowing move which was capped by the impressive movement of Dean Shiels saw the midfielder latch onto a through ball from Kilduff and finish smartly past the sprawling Winn.

Benson was on corner duty and he found his former UCD team mate Benson with a kick on 20 minutes but the striker's effort was guided onto the foot of the post.

Like the first goal after striking the woodwork Dundalk got the second. Paddy Barrett found space and the ball 30 yards from goal. He took aim and fired goalwards. It looked to be dealt with by Winn however he got it horribly wrong and the ball squirmed under him to the net.

Daryl Horgan was next to try his luck and his header was inches over the bar from Gannon's cross while at the other end Sava came to the rescue when he tipped Stephen Folan's header just over his crossbar.

Winn deflected McMillan's effort into the path of Benson however he was ruled to be in an offside position as he rifled to the net from close range.

It was 3-0 on 37 when another superb flowing move saw Shiels pick the ball up in space in the midfield and he played a one-two with Benson on the edge of the area before beautifully chipping the ball over the advancing Winn to the net.

It should have been 4-0 on the stroke of half-time when Benson's perfect corner again was into a great area and this time to Boyle's head but it was expertly cleared off the line by Colm Horgan.

The pace slowed down somewhat in the second half but Horgan almost got in on the act when Barrett's ball was flicked behind him by Benson which took out the Galway defence but Horgan's effort on goal was clawed away by Winn.

With their next foray forward Galway pulled one back. Connolly intercepted a loose Barrett pass and found himself clear on goal but fired straight Sava. The goalkeeper parried to his right and Connolly again was the first to react finishing to the net.

Kilduff had a low shot saved by Winn as did strike partner McMillan who shot just at the goalkeeper after a clever run from Horgan which he skipped past four players.

The final action of the night brought the champions fourth goal when Kilduff ran through on goal and he finished below Winn to signal the end of the match and indeed the season.

Dundalk lifted their 12th league title at full-time to the delight of the crowd and brought the curtain down on the 2016 league of Ireland season with the FAI Cup final and Europa League ties to come over the next few weeks.

**DUNDALK:** Gabriel Sava; Sean Gannon, Andy Boyle, Paddy Barrett, Dane Massey; Stephen O'Donnell (Brian Gartland 63), Robbie Benson (Ciaran O'Connor 74); Dean Shiels (George Poynton 67), Daryl Horgan; Ciaran Kilduff, David McMillan.

**Substitutes not used:** Darren Meenan, Michael O'Connor, Keith Dalton, Gary Rogers (GK)

**Bookings:** None.

**Sent off:** None.

**GALWAY UNITED:** Conor Winn, Paul Sinnott (Conor Melody 58), Gary Shanahan ( Jessee Devers 78), Armin Aganovic, Ryan Connolly, Killian Cantwell, Kevin Devaney, Padraig Cunningham (Vinny Faherty 58), Colm Horgan, Stephen Folan, Alex Byrne

**Substitutes not used:** Jose Garcia, Gary Kinneen, Kevin Horgan (GK)

**Bookings:** None.

**Sent Off:** None.

**Referee:** Derek Tomney .

**Attendance:** 3,635.

## **Dundalk 1-1 Longford Town, June 2021**

Vinny Perth's return to the Oriel Park dugout turned out to be a frustrating one as Longford Town held Dundalk to a 1-1 draw in Friday night's SSE Airtricity League Premier Division fixture.

Aaron McNally gave Longford an early lead but Chris Shields' powerful header pulled Dundalk level before the interval and both sides had chances to win it in the second half with Patrick Hoban seeing a penalty saved by Lee Steacy.

The result did little for both teams. Dundalk are mired in eighth position, 13 points off the European places, while Longford Town are still rooted to the bottom of the table, 10 points adrift of safety.

Dundalk started brightly and were unlucky not to take the lead when Daniel Kelly met Michael Duffy's low cross but his effort was expertly saved by Steacy in the Longford goal.

Aaron McNally made the Lilywhites pay for that miss when he found space on the right-hand side of the Dundalk penalty area to lift the ball across Alessio Abibi and give the visitors the lead after 14 minutes.

The hosts were almost left with a mounting to climb when Dean Byrne tried his luck from 20 yards shortly after but his curling effort came crashing off the crossbar with Abibi beaten.

With questions being asked, Dundalk responded well and they drew level on the half-hour when captain Shields rose to meet Duffy's corner and his thundering header left Steacy with no chance and the sides went in all square at the break.

Both sides struggled to keep a hold of possession in the early stages of the second half but chances started to appear and Dylan Grimes looked odds on to make it 2-1 to the visitors when he latched on to a poor pass by Sam Stanton, broke through the heart of the Lilywhites defence and skipped around Abibi but the Scottish midfielder recovered to make a last-ditch, magnificent clearance on the line.

Dundalk raised the intensity after that and Kelly dragged a shot just inches wide from an acute angle before they were handed a golden opportunity to go in front when referee Rob Hennessy pointed to the spot after a handball in the area with 73 minutes on the clock.

Patrick Hoban stepped up but his effort was saved by Steacy with the number nine's follow up also safely gathered by the Longford 'keeper.

Dundalk continued to push hard for a winner but they left gaps at the back and Abibi had to make a stunning point-blank save from Aaron Dobbs to keep his side on equal terms.

Willed on by the 100 home supporters in attendance, Dundalk kept going to the death and substitute Greg Sloggett forced another outstanding save from Steacy and it looked like they had done enough to take all three points when substitute Raivis Jurkovskis' cross found Michael Duffy in stoppage time but his effort veered inches wide of the post.

**DUNDALK FC:** Alessio Abibi; Cameron Dummigan (Raivis Jurkovskis 63), Chris Shields, Andy Boyle, Darragh Leahy; Sam Stanton (Ole Erik Midtskogen 80), Sean Murray (Greg Sloggett 63); Daniel Kelly (Val Adedokun 72), Patrick McEleney, Michael Duffy; Patrick Hoban. Subs not used: Peter Cherrie (GK), Sonni Nattestad, Junior Ogiedi-Uzokwe, Ryan O'Kane, Han Jeongwoo.

**LONGFORD TOWN:** Lee Steacy; Paddy Kirk, Mick McDonnell, Karl Chambers, Aaron O'Driscoll; Aaron McNally, Aodh Dervin, Dean Zambra, Dylan Grimes (Conor Davis 78); Dean Byrne (Aaron Robinson 88), Rob Manley (Aaron Dobbs 75). Subs not used: Mick Kelly (GK), Shane Elworthy, Callum Thompson, Aaron McCabe, Matthew O'Brien, Joe Manley.

REFEREE: Rob Hennessy