



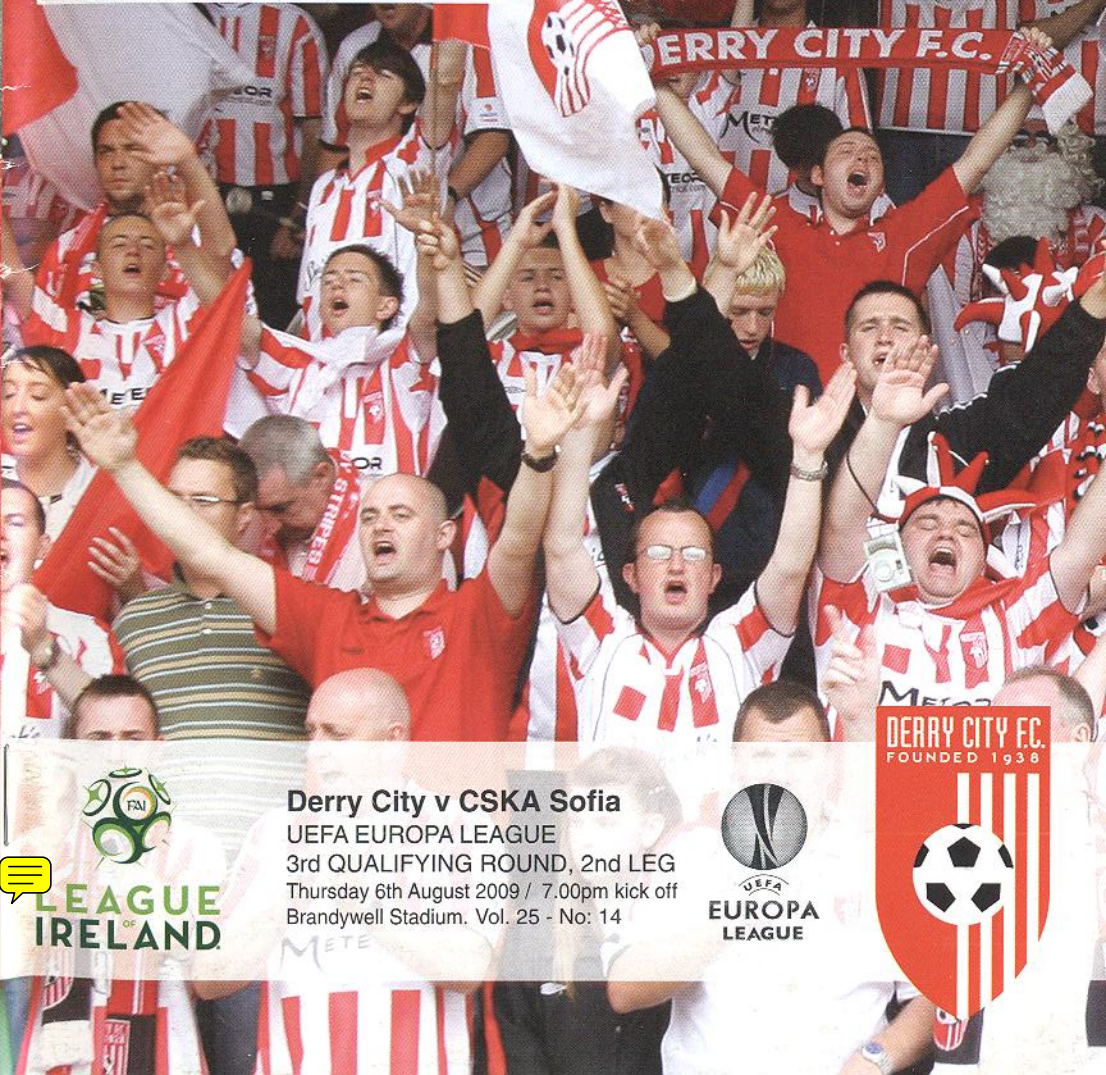
CITY VIEW

The Official Matchday Programme of Derry City Football Club

2009 SEASON



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Derry City v CSKA Sofia
 UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
 3rd QUALIFYING ROUND, 2nd LEG
 Thursday 6th August 2009 / 7.00pm kick off
 Brandywell Stadium. Vol. 25 - No: 14



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HISTORY & HONOURS

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Members of Irish League

1929 - 1972

Elected to League of Ireland

1985

Club Colours Red & White

Striped Shirts / Black Shorts

Manager Stephen Kenny

First Team Coach

Declan Devine

Physio Colm O'Neill

Club Doctor Joe McElroy

IRISH LEAGUE HONOURS

League Champions: 1964-65

IFA Cup Winners:

1949, 1954, 1964

City Cup Winners: 1935, 1937

Gold Cup Winners: 1964

Top Four Winners: 1966

LEAGUE OF IRELAND HONOURS

League Champions:

1988-89, 1996-97

1st Division Champions:

1986-87

FAI Cup Winners:

1989, 1995, 2002, 2006

League Cup Winners:

1988, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1999,

2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

Shield Winners: 1986

CITYVIEW is the official Match Day Programme of Derry City Football Club. The views expressed are, however, not necessarily those of the Board of Directors or indeed the Programme Committee.

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Welcome to CSKA Sofia

TONIGHT IT is with pleasure that we welcome our latest Europa League opponents to Brandywell for the second leg of our third preliminary round tie.

And what an occasion it promises to be for everyone concerned as the prize for the winners is a place in the final qualifying round before the group stages of the competition.

To CSKA we offer a warm welcome, to their manager, their players and their fans who have made such a long trip to the banks of the Foyle, it's great to see you here and let's hope we can put on a show to make both sets of supporters proud.

Victory tonight is the objective for both clubs, but while there is an awful lot at stake, it's great that Derry City has once again made friends with Bulgarian opponents.

Back in in 1995, Derry City faced Lokomotiv Sofia in the UEFA Cup and while we recorded a 1-0 victory at Brandywell in the first leg, we lost 2-0 in the Levski Stadium to depart the competition on a 2-1 aggregate score.

However, there's no doubt that tonight's opponents present us with an even bigger challenge as CSKA are considered one of the top sides in Bulgaria at the moment.

Therefore, the scale of the task facing those bedecked in the 'Candy Stripes' tonight is immense and despite our recent trials and tribulations in the League of Ireland, there is an expectancy that we can continue our European odyssey.

To do that however, we must

overcome one of the top sides to visit Brandywell for a competitive fixture. CSKA are a major club who have a fantastic history in European competition and it is great for Derry City fans to welcome such a quality opponent to our Brandywell home.

Like Derry City, CSKA Sofia are a side hoping to make an impact in Europe this season by reaching the group stages of the Europa League and such an achievement would be warmly welcomed by both clubs.

CSKA have recorded victory at high profile venues such as Anfield in the past, therefore they boast a great pedigree in European football.

But Derry City will certainly not be granting them any favours this evening - on or off the terraces - but one thing is sure, CSKA will receive as warm a welcome this evening as they would at Anfield or indeed any other ground across Europe.

While our visitors will be welcomed, once the first whistle sounds the vast majority of fans will be hoping for a home win. While Derry City lack an away goal from the first leg last, there is a belief that we can build on those memorable nights in Gothenborg and Glasgow and progress despite the odds.

CSKA will undoubtedly be a tough nut to crack, but we've absolutely nothing to lose and given our experiences in Sofia, everyone associated with the Brandywell club holds the view that we certainly have a chance.

It's all to play for and let's hope the Derry City dream remains alive.

Derry City Football Club would like to thank the Brandywell Greyhound Racing Company for their help and co-operation in the staging of this match.

Signed Pat McDaid, Derry City Chairman

We've experienced a very interesting week in Irish football

The Revenue Commissioners, the department responsible for the collection of taxes for the Irish Government, rigorously attempted to put Cork City out of business last week.

Stephen McGuinness, the chairman of the PFAI, who has a lot of experience in these cases, was shocked at the sheer ruthlessness of the Irish Government's policy in relation to Cork City's difficulties

In short, Cork City faced a tax bill of E400,000 of which they paid E200,000 up front and had plans to settle the remaining E200,000 in instalments over the next 12 months, but this proposal was surprisingly refused point blank by the Revenue Commissioners.

Indeed, but for a E200,000 loan from an anonymous Cork City supporter, in lieu of the forthcoming friendly match against Celtic at Turner's Cross, the club would have gone out of existence.

The legal fees for all of those days spent in Court will, undoubtedly, be in excess of the amount of money owed by the football club. In fact, this is a government which has seen billions of euro wasted and lost on reckless and misguided policies involving the banking sector with no-one deemed accountable, yet the government was willing to close down a non-profit making community football club, a club which has the potential to play a real significant role within the city of Cork, by effectively making 30 employees redundant.

Had Cork City FC ceased to exist,

the Province of Munster would have been without a Premier Division club and, indeed, no league of Ireland club in the Cork area with Cobh Ramblers having opted to return to the junior ranks.

The irony is, that in a week the Toaiseach, Mr. Brian Cowan, attended the recent Shamrock Rovers v. Real Madrid game in Tallaght, which was screened live by Sky Sports, the government was on the verge of closing Cork City down!

Tonight's game at the Brandywell is yet another great occasion for all those associated with Derry City with the visit of CSKA Sofia and we welcome the club's head coach, Luboslav Penev, his staff and players. They have a great pedigree and are the most successful club in Bulgaria's history as well as having a great tradition of success in European football down the years.

Our players have played really well to progress to his stage. We recorded good performances against Skonto-Riga, both in Latvia and at the Brandywell, to win on a 2-1 aggregate, particularly after conceding an early goal in the 'away' leg.

But tonight we find ourselves 1-0 down after a really hard-fought game in Sofia. That presents us with a difficult challenge tonight, but one which we must collectively rise to overcome in pursuit of what would be a famous victory.

And that presents a tremendous motivation for the players, knowing that a favourable result would be one of the greatest results ever recorded by an Irish

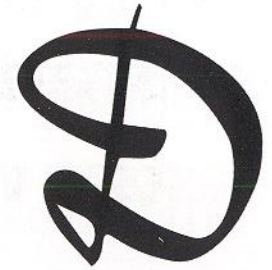
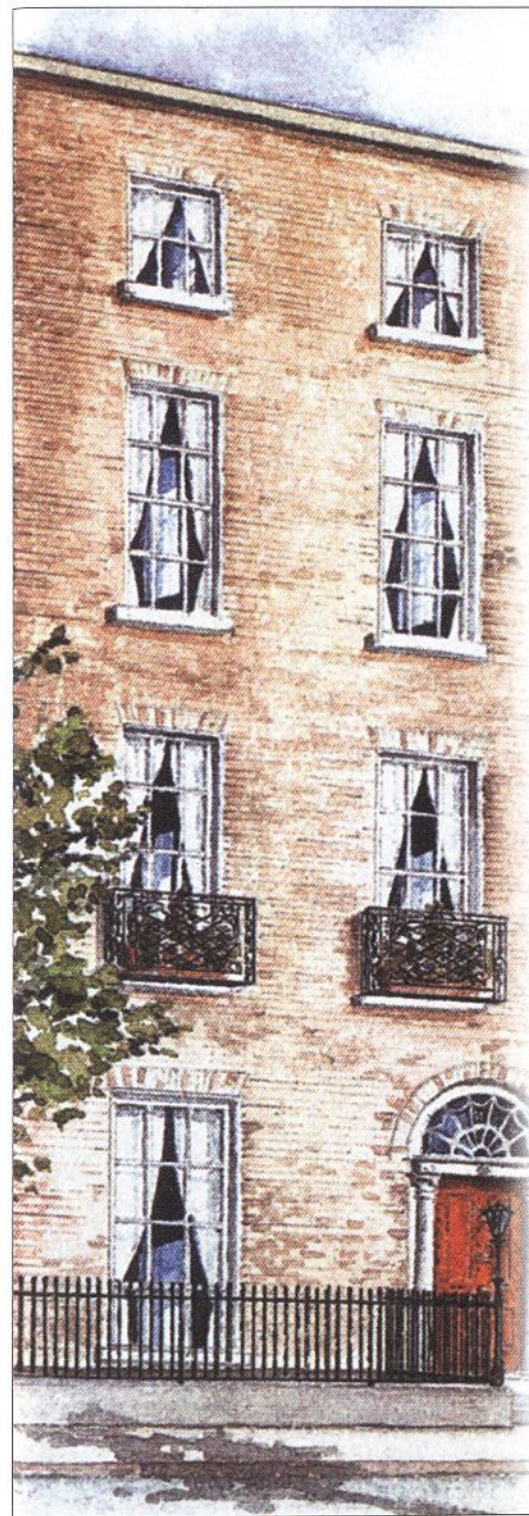
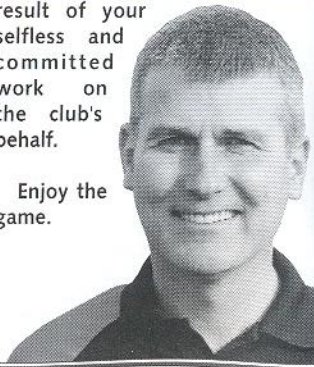
team in Europe.

We enjoyed great travelling support to both Riga and Sofia and, of course, to Dublin over recent weeks and, make no mistake about it, we will need that support twice for our trips to Sligo next week. The presence of our supporters is really appreciated by the players, particularly when league results in recent weeks have been disappointing.

May I also take this opportunity to thank Declan Devine, Colm O'Neill, Aidy Canny and Dr. Joe McEvoy for their terrific assistance behind the scenes in helping prepare the team and my thanks also to our underage coaches Eddie Seydak, John Quigg and Hugh Harkin for the quality of their work and their undoubted commitment to Derry City Football Club.

Finally, I would also like to pay tribute to all of the volunteers who regularly contribute to Derry City Football Club, indeed, their presence is the very reason we exist and thrive and there is no doubt that these great European nights at the Brandywell come as a result of your selfless and committed work on the club's behalf.

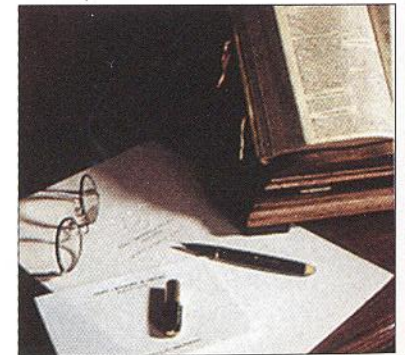
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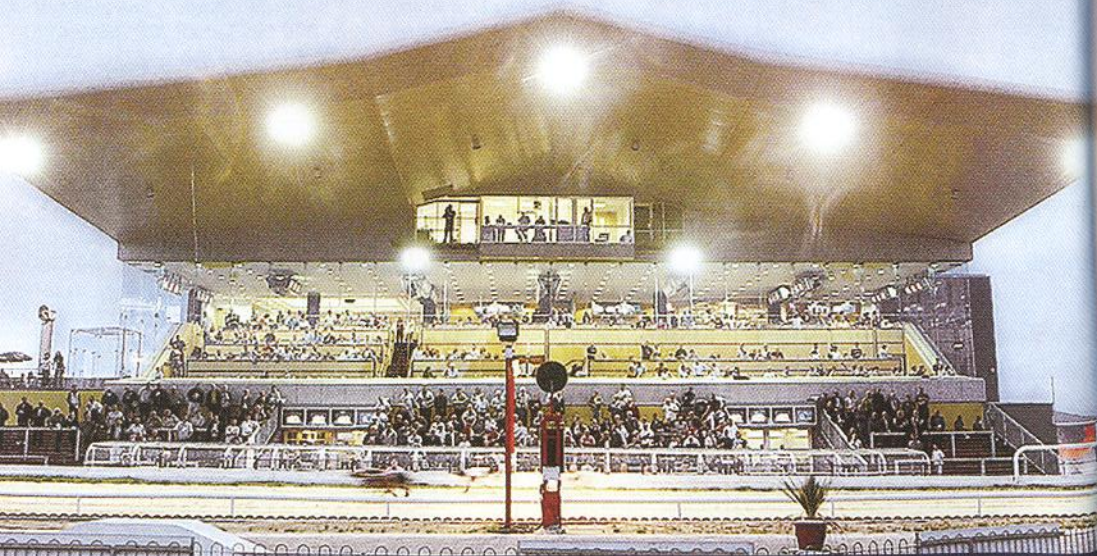
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Around the Europa League

Skonto boss believes Derry can progress

WHILE MOST fingers will be crossed in Brandywell tonight that Derry City can build on last week's impressive first leg display in Bulgaria, one man who believes that the "Candy Stripes" can give CSKA Sofia all they want is Skonto Riga boss, Paul Ashworth.

Indeed, the Skonto boss, whose side was eliminated from the competition at the Brandywell two weeks ago, holds the view that there is enough quality and desire in the Derry City side to cause their Bulgarian rivals no shortage of trouble.

"I really believe that Derry City can put it up to CSKA. They are still in pre-season and have a lot of new players in the team. As a result, if Derry City can get into their faces early and stay in their faces as they did in Bulgaria last week and I believe they can secure what would be considered an unlikely victory," said Ashworth.

"I am convinced there is enough quality in this Derry City side to progress and they should approach the game in a positive frame of mind.

"We knew when we arrived at the Brandywell that we would have to be at our best to keep Derry City at bay, unfortunately, we weren't good enough and I believe that if Derry approach the game positively, start well and maybe get an early goal, then they can give the Bulgarians all the trouble they want," he went on.

No doubt Ashworth's comments will inspire those in the home dressing room tonight and if they can take confidence from their

performance in Sofia last week, then there is no reason why Stephen Kenny's men cannot look forward to the fourth round draw in Switzerland tomorrow morning.

On the edge

While Derry City will be hoping to cause a shock by eliminating a well known European club at Brandywell this evening, another big name is also on the edge of oblivion.

Former European champions, FK Crvena Zvezda (Red Star Belgrade), who have also played at this venue in the past, are among the sides facing an early end to their Continental travels this season as the UEFA Europa League third qualifying round concludes this evening.

The Belgrade giants won the European Champion Clubs' Cup in 1991, but are 2-0 down as they look ahead to the home leg of their tie against FC Dinamo Tbilisi, winners of the 1981 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup.

There looks to be no danger for most of the bigger sides in the round – the likes of Galatasaray SK, Fenerbahçe SK, Fulham and 1986 European champions, FC Steaua Bucarest, all seemingly in control – but there are exceptions, with Club Brugge KV, FC Basel 1893 and Athletic Bilbao confronting uncomfortable tasks in the concluding legs of their ties.

Athletico lost 1-0 at home to BSC Young Boys last week, and must now win the return in Berne to have a chance of going on to the play-offs, while YB's Swiss rivals Basel –

2008/09 UEFA Champions League group-stage participants – still have work to do against Iceland's KR Reykjavík, though they came back from 2-0 down to earn a 2-2 draw in last week's away leg.

A last-gasp Jonathan Blondel goal earned Club Brugge a 3-2 win at home last week against FC Lahti, but with two away goals against them, they face a difficult trip to Finland.

Meanwhile, in Baku, Lahti's Veikkausliiga rivals FC Honka Espoo will look to avoid becoming the next victims of FK Qaraba?, who ousted Norwegian giants Rosenborg BK in the last round. The homeless Azeri side are 1-0 up from the first leg and have a foot in Friday's play-off draw, where the winners of the 35 third qualifying round ties will be joined by the losers of the 15 ties from the same stage of the UEFA Champions League in addition to 26 new entrants, including Werder Bremen, Everton, Villarreal CF and S.S. Lazio.

The winners of the 38 play-off ties will be joined by the losers of the ten UEFA Champions League play-offs in the inaugural UEFA Europa League group stage.

Taking nothing for granted

Samuel Yeboah has urged his Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC team-mates not to take for granted a place in tomorrow's UEFA Europa League play-off draw despite holding a 3-1 advantage over IFK Göteborg following the first leg of their third qualifying round tie last week. Göteborg are, of course, a side

Around the Europa League (continued)

which Derry City has dispensed with in recent seasons and they look like making another swift exit this season.

The teams meet in Israel tonight with the Swedish two-time UEFA Cup winners, needing to score at least three times to progress. Unlikely though that may seem, the 23-year-old striker witnessed enough in the first half at the Ullevi Stadium to appreciate that IFK – who led at half-time before Hapoel struck three goals in the final 17 minutes, including one from Yeboah – cannot be discounted.

"We're almost through but it's not over; we have to get through the second leg at Bloomfield to reach the next round," the Ghanaian international told uefa.com. "In the first half we were down, but we thought that we could do better in

the second half so we came out and pushed and we deserved to win."

That win was all the more noteworthy given that last term's Ligat Ha'Al runners-up are still in the midst of their pre-season programme, while IFK are 17 matches into their Swedish Allsvenskan campaign where they lie third, one point behind Kalmar FF.

Benfica problems

Another side which Derry City have played in European competition, Benfica, have been dealt a blow ahead of the start of their 2009/10 campaign.

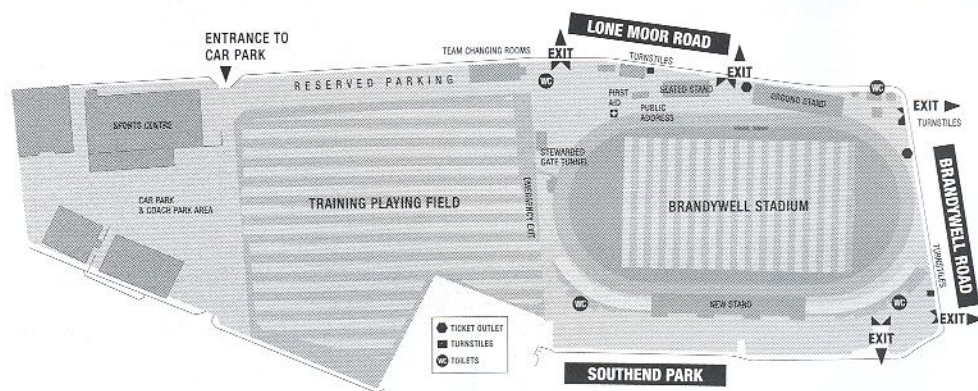
They will be without Maxi Pereira for their UEFA Europa League play-off tie on 20 and 27 August after the right-back underwent surgery on his right knee, ruling him out for up to two months.

The 25-year-old Uruguayan international limped off during a 4-0 friendly win against English Premier League side Portsmouth last weekend with a meniscus injury.

In a statement, the club said: "Maxi Pereira underwent surgery this afternoon at the Sant'Ana Hospital in Parede on his right knee. The operation went well and from tomorrow the player will begin his functional rehabilitation. We estimate that the recovery time could extend to eight weeks."

Maxi has scored three Liga goals in 51 appearances since his arrival from Defensor Sporting Club in his homeland at the beginning of the 2007/08 season. Benfica will discover their opponents in the play-off round when the draw is made in Nyon in Switzerland tomorrow at lunchtime.

Brandywell Layout



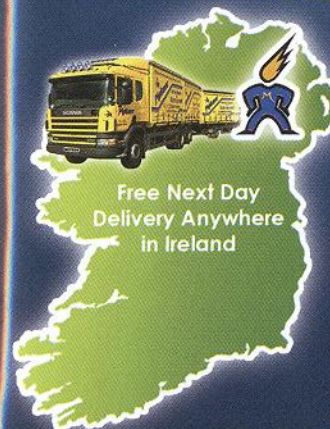
UEFA 10-Point plan

Derry City Football Club is an equal opportunities club and will not tolerate any form of sectarianism or racially offensive behaviour or chanting. As part of our ongoing commitment to the FAI backed "Show Racism the Red

Card" campaign and to equality, anyone caught making racist or sectarian comments, may be prosecuted and banned from the club. If you hear any abuse of this nature, please report it to your nearest steward.

We ask that all supporters follow the instructions of the stewards on match day

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A View From The Terraces ...

All to play for as the gloom begins to lift

IT'S VERY doubtful that anyone here tonight would have turned down a 1-0 defeat in Bulgaria last week had they been offered it before the start of this Europa League tie.

The performance by the team in such energy-sapping conditions last Thursday, however, once again highlighted a number of key factors.

For a start it showed that adversity, if correctly harnessed, can be a great motivator. Just 10 days after finding out that the full-time status of their employment is nowhere near as secure as it once was, the players turned up at City of Derry airport on Tuesday morning to be met with 'Biggles' sitting on the runway. They then arrived in Sofia (much to their relief, I'm sure) and conditions that couldn't have been less favourable had they spent the day poking the sun with a stick.

A slick passing, athletic, home side didn't make the proposition any easier, however, with a steely determination and excellent game plan, the lads rode it out. The fact that they could barely lift their arms to acknowledge the travelling support at the end told it's on story and gave rise to the hope that the season is a long way from finished just yet.

The other thing that immediately sprung to mind was the total disregard that League of Ireland clubs in Europe are being afforded by the governing body. Thursday, Sunday, Thursday, Sunday, just keep going as long as you can seems to be the proviso.

Last weekend's game at home to Cork was a case in point as the team

again struggled with the tempo, this time though obviously feeling the effects of a very long week. It appears to have escaped the attention of the decision-makers that the performances of our clubs in Europe dictates future standing and rankings and with both City and St Pat's working with limited squads that is putting a massive strain on players and management. Mind you, the recent debacle involving Cork City would also indicate that if the lunatics haven't yet taken over the asylum, several have put their names forward for the board of governors. I won't pretend to be fully au-fait with all the events at Turners Cross, but if Pat Spillane's reasoning is anywhere near accurate then there are an awful lot more questions than answers.

Cork City apparently arrived at the Court with half of their debt ready to be handed over. They owed the Revenue something in the region of 440k and by every means at their disposal had raised over 200k of it by Friday's deadline.

Revenue rebate!

The bundle included deferred wages from everyone at the club and, get this, a 10k rebate from the Revenue! Truthfully speaking, the 'Leesiders' have pretty much dug this hole for themselves but one remark that Derry City fans will be able to relate to is that in an interview after the Court hearing, a club spokesman drew reference on more than one occasion to the suggestion that it seems that over the past few years there have been

different rules for different clubs. We couldn't possibly comment on that, sir!

Unfortunately however, the current climate dictates that it is every man for himself and whilst the vast majority of us wish Cork City no harm, it is solely the fortunes of Derry City Football Club that stirs our interest for now. And where it was lots of doom and gloom a month ago we have been given a new lease of life with the announcement of the survival of the Setanta Cup.

Make no mistake about it, winning our first round European tie was pivotal to the club's finances but the sight of the All-Ireland competition rising from the dead has much more far reaching implications.

And City drew Linfield as well; four years running, eh? Just as the Blues were about to exit stage left after making it perfectly clear that it's not really worth their while entering the competition too!

You'd have thought they saw enough of this place after that embarrassing trouncing they took on their last visit, but it would appear not. My only personal disappointment was that we didn't get Coleraine this time as having thumped both elements of the comically named "Big Two" in recent years I, like many City fans, hanker for the day that the 'Bannsideers' get what's coming to them.

Still, we mightn't yet have seen the last of big DJ making his way across the Brandywell clenching his fist when all around him were

thinking he should be pulling his coat over his head. Happy days.

Anyway, I've got badly sidetracked this evening with all that's been going on; sorry about that. There is a huge game taking place this evening that could make for one of the biggest stories in the club's history if the lads can pull off a win.

Make no mistake about it, this is as tough an ask that you could wish for, not least because expectation among our own support is much higher than it should be. Yes, the result in Sofia gave rise to the hope

that a one goal deficit can be overturned at the Brandywell this evening but it's not that simple.

European pedigree

Bear in mind that this is a side with real European pedigree but more importantly bear in mind also that the philosophy of teams competing in Europe has changed in recent times. Winning by 4 clear goals is fine if you can manage it but, nowadays teams worry only about keeping a clean sheet at home and trying to win the game. They will take 1-0 every time

knowing that if they score away their opponents need three. That's why patience will be paramount tonight and Stephen Kenny will be delighted to go into the last half hour still at 0-0 knowing that the Bulgarians will then be thinking about defending their lead as much as adding to it.

The performance out there last Thursday night was spectacular but strangely enough it has to be even better tonight if we're to progress.

Mind you, if the old place is rocking for 90 minutes you just never know ...

The Bulgarian Army Club . . .

A glimpse at CSKA Sofia

PFC CSKA Sofia is a club based in the Bulgarian capital city of Sofia. CSKA stands for Central Sport Club of the Army. The club was officially founded on May 5, 1948 and remains the most successful club in Bulgaria having won the league title on 31 occasions and the Bulgarian Cup 19 times.

The home ground of CSKA Sofia is the Bulgarian Army Stadium which was constructed in 1967 and stands on the same spot as its predecessor, the "Atletik Park."

It is situated in the Borisova Gradina (Boris' Park), in the centre of Sofia. The stadium has a capacity of 22,000 seats, of which 2,100 are covered. The stadium complex also includes tennis courts, a basketball court and gymnastics facilities, as well as the CSKA Sofia museum.

The Stadium's Press Conference facility accommodates 80 seats but this year the stadium is currently being renovated, increasing the club's capacity to accommodate

30,000 seats in order to achieve an "Elite Ranking" by UEFA.

While refurbishment is currently taking place, it is hoped that the stadium will be ready should CSKA qualify for the UEFA Champions League Group stages after the 2009/2010 season.

As was witnessed last week, Derry City faced CSKA in the home of the club's great rivals, Levski Sofia in the Levski Stadium which will be used for this season's Europa League campaign.

CSKA Sofia is the best supported club in Bulgaria with 180,000 organised supporters who are represented by 798 supporters' clubs around the world, including fans from almost every country in which there are a large number of Bulgarian natives. The official fan club was formed in 1990.

CSKA Sofia History

Founded: 5th May 1948

Bulgarian Champions - 31 times - 1948, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1966, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1997, 2003, 2005, 2008

Bulgarian Cup Winners - 19 times - 1951, 1954, 1955, 1961, 1965, 1969, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1993, 1997, 1999, 2006

Top European achievements

Champions League semi-final - 1967 - FC Inter v. CSKA 1-1, CSKA - FC Inter 1-1, FC Inter v. CSKA 1-0; - 1982 - CSKA Sofia v. Bayern Munich 4-3, Bayern Munchen v. CSKA Sofia 4-0.
Cup Winners' Cup semi-finals - 1989 - Barcelona v. CSKA Sofia 4-2, CSKA Sofia v. Barcelona 1-2.

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Bulgarian sports journalist, Dimitar Shopov writes ...

CSKA happy with first leg advantage

QUITE A few world class players have started their careers at CSKA Sofia, none more so than former Spurs and current Manchester United striker, Dimitar Berbatov, a fact which continues to highlight the standing of CSKA in European football.

Other players who started their careers with the Bulgarian club include legends such as Hristo Stoichkov, Emil Kostadinov, Martin and Stilian Petrov, Trifon Ivanov, Stoycho Mladenov, Dimitar Yakimov, Yordan Letchkov, Dimitar Penev, Georghi Denev, Georghi Velinov and current head coach, former international striker, Luboslav Penev - all of whom became recognised names in European football and, indeed, brought great glory to their native country.

Before the start of the current season, CSKA appointed legendary Bulgarian striker, Luboslav Penev, as the club's head coach. He started working with the team at the beginning of year, inheriting the role from his uncle, the most successful Bulgarian coach of the 20th century, Dimitar Penev.

Luboslav Penev enjoyed a lengthy playing career in Spanish football and many people hold the view that his coaching style now reflects what he experienced while in Spain.

Penev insists on fast, high-tempo, technical and well-controlled play on the pitch. He's a great believer in flair and skillful players and likes his team to play an open, fluent game, with both flanks heavily involved in attack but, at the same time, always recognises the possibility of playing through the centre of the park despite having fast players operating



CSKA coach Luboslav Penev with Derry City manager Stephen Kenny following the away tie.

as wingers.

This season CSKA have decided to build a new team, therefore, the club opted to sign several young and inexperienced players from the Bulgarian League such as: Kosta Yanev, Spas Delev and Ivan Stoyanov, a nephew of the legendary Yordan Letchkov.

Penev believes that these new recruits will help increase competition for places in the first team and, at the same time, have a strong substitutes' bench available to change games if that is required.

Captains injured

Unfortunately, CSKA's recognised captains, Vladimir Manchev and Todor Yantchev, considered the class

players in the panel, are currently out injured and neither will appear for a competitive match before September.

CSKA held their summer training camp in Austria, and played several pre-season games while there. During those games CSKA defeated fellow Europa League representatives, Steau Bucharest 2-1.

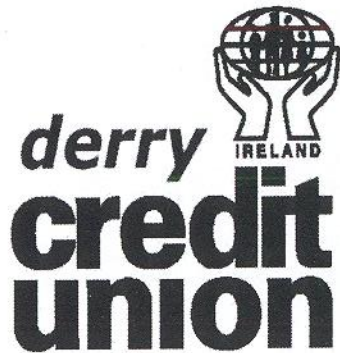
Therefore, last Thursday night's match in the Vasil Levski Stadium represented CSKA's first competitive game of the new season and Penev was happy with the response of his players during the 1-0 victory over Derry City.

Indeed, he had hoped to win by a larger scoreline, but due to Derry City's strong defensive display, CSKA were happy not to concede a goal and carry a 1-0 lead to this evening's game in Derry City's Brandywell Stadium.

Penev realises that Derry will prove difficult opponents, especially in front of their own supporters, and he insists that the Irish team will receive respect from CSKA, but he also feels that the 1-0 lead could prove significant.

The CSKA coach also said he had a huge respect for Derry City's head coach, Stephen Kenny, Penev admiring the defensive style deployed by Derry City in the game in Bulgaria and he knows nothing can be taken for granted in the second leg tie.

The CSKA first team outfit is made up a red shirt, white shorts and red socks, while the away kit is composed of white shirts, white or red shorts and white socks which will be worn at Brandywell Stadium this evening.



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Mick McBride strolls down Memory Lane ...

'The Eagles have landed'

Derry City 1
Benfica 2

September 13th 1989

WHAT with us all once more doing the 'European Dance' and having given a great account of ourselves against CSKA Sofia in Bulgaria last week, I thought that tonight it just might be appropriate to remind ourselves, from the mists of time, of yet another great European night at the Brandywell.

It's hard to believe now, but almost 20 years have passed since little Derry City came out of the European Cup hat with those giants of football, Benfica, nick-named 'The Eagles of Lisbon.'

When I first heard about the draw, I can tell you that it took some persuading from quite a few people before I was convinced that it wasn't a 'wind-up.'

This was swiftly followed by a quick dash to the travel agent to change a provisional booking I had made for Spain to, yes you've guessed it, the Algarve in Portugal, to coincide with the return leg of the tie with mighty Benfica.

The media hype was immense and both R.T.E. and the Portuguese national network announced that they were televising the game 'live', which was a 'first' for the Irish network involving a L.O.I. club in Europe.

Of course, the fact that the first leg was at home was a tremendous fillip for the club. Match tickets sold like 'hot-cakes' and a capacity Brandywell crowd of 12,000 was guaranteed as football fever gripped the city and beyond. What would we not give to have such a crowd tonight!

For their part, the Portuguese



Felix Healy and Liam Coyle attempt to make space for an attack.

aristocrats were taking this tie very seriously, as you would expect from a club of their stature. Their travelling party, which included 22 players, checked in to the Everglades hotel on Monday night at 5.00 pm and one hour later were holding an energetic training session at the adjacent Prehen playing fields.

Eusebio

Wednesday night couldn't come quickly enough for the fans, and what a night it turned out to be!

The occasion will go down as one of the many memorable nights in the history of Derry City F.C. and the build up at Brandywell was simply superb. The packed enclosure was a carnival of colour and noise and when that footballing legend Eusebio, then a coach with Benfica, took the field to acknowledge the fans, what a warm and emotional

reception he received!

Meanwhile, the multi-millionaire president of Benfica, Mr. Joao Santos, was busy handing out special souvenirs of the club to some supporters in the crowd.

Finally the big moment arrived when the two sides emerged from the shadows into the brilliant sunlight and onto a beautifully manicured pitch, to a tumultuous reception from the eagerly awaiting fans.

So the scene was set! Benfica, twice winners, and four times runners-up, in the European Cup, against the best in Ireland at the time, Derry City, current 'treble' winners and Ulster Tyre champions!

Benfica boasted three Brazilian, six Portuguese and two Swedish internationals, whilst their manager was another Swede, Sven-Goran Eriksson, later to become England's

manager. Derry started the game in brisk fashion, moving the ball around with some authority and showing little respect for their more illustrious opponents. In fact they nearly opened the scoring after only five minutes play.

A baby faced Liam Coyle 'nutmegged' a defender and slid the ball to the intruding Felix Healy who blasted his shot narrowly wide of the target.

Derry's Yugoslav striker, Alex Krstic, then twice came close to scoring. First he narrowly failed to get his head to an overhead kick from Stuart Gauld and then he did get his head to a free-kick from Healy, only to see Benfica 'keeper, Silvano, parry the ball away to safety.

Benfica, for their part, were showing glimpses of their immense talent with some good first touch passing and some flowing moves, but never really threatened the Derry goal.

At half-time the City fans were very happy with our performance to date, and the more optimistic amongst us even began to fancy our chances of a shock win!

This feeling was enhanced after only four minutes of the second half when Coyle left defender Foncesca for dead just outside the penalty box and fired in a low hard shot, which Silvano was very happy to smother.

However, on the hour mark, disaster struck! Benfica got away on the right and substitute Vata sent over a cross which was partially cleared by Vaudequin. The loose ball was picked up by Swedish international, Thern, who struck a low shot, aided by a slight deflection, past Derry 'keeper Tim Dalton.

Five minutes later, Benfica went two up with a very controversial goal. From a corner kick the ball was



THE DAY EUSEBIO MET A LEGEND — Benfica manager, Sven Goran Eriksson looks on as Eusebio meets Jon Clifford at the Brandywell.

sent goalwards by Aldair, his shot was blocked, but the lurking Richardo followed up and his effort was headed out by Kevin Brady, standing on the goal line.

Immediately the linesman (no, he was not Russian) signalled for a goal and the Belgian referee, Mr. Guy Goethals, allowed the goal to stand, much to the chagrin of the City defenders and Brady in particular.

Was it a goal? The television pictures later, failed to clear the matter up.

This second goal seemed to knock the stuffing out of a gallant City side, which, to a man, had been outstanding, but there was still something left in the tank.

Carlyle cracker!

In the 74th minute, Paul Doolin won a crunching tackle in midfield, and the ball went to Coyle via Brady. He, in turn, laid a perfect ball into the path of Healy, who sprinted into the box and unleashed a cracking shot at goal, only to see his effort

come crashing off the upright. Despair quickly turned to joy as the rebound fell invitingly to Paul Carlyle and his shot fairly screamed into the Benfica net! Sheer bliss!

The goal revitalised both City players and fans alike. The last five minutes were played out to a crescendo of noise as Derry went in search of the equaliser, but alas, to no avail.

The final whistle brought down the curtain on a thrilling and thoroughly entertaining match in which our wee team gave a tremendous account of themselves, with everyone a hero.

DERRY CITY - Dalton, Vaudequin, Brady, Curran, Neville, Doolin, Carlyle, Coyle, Krstic, Gauld, Healy. Subs (not used) Speak, Hegarty, McGuinness, Keay, McBrearty.

BENFICA - Silvano, Veloso, Richardo, Foncesca, Aldair, Thern, Paneira, Abel (Chalana), Brito(Vata), Valdo, Magnusson.

REFEREE - Mr. Guy Goethals (Belgium).

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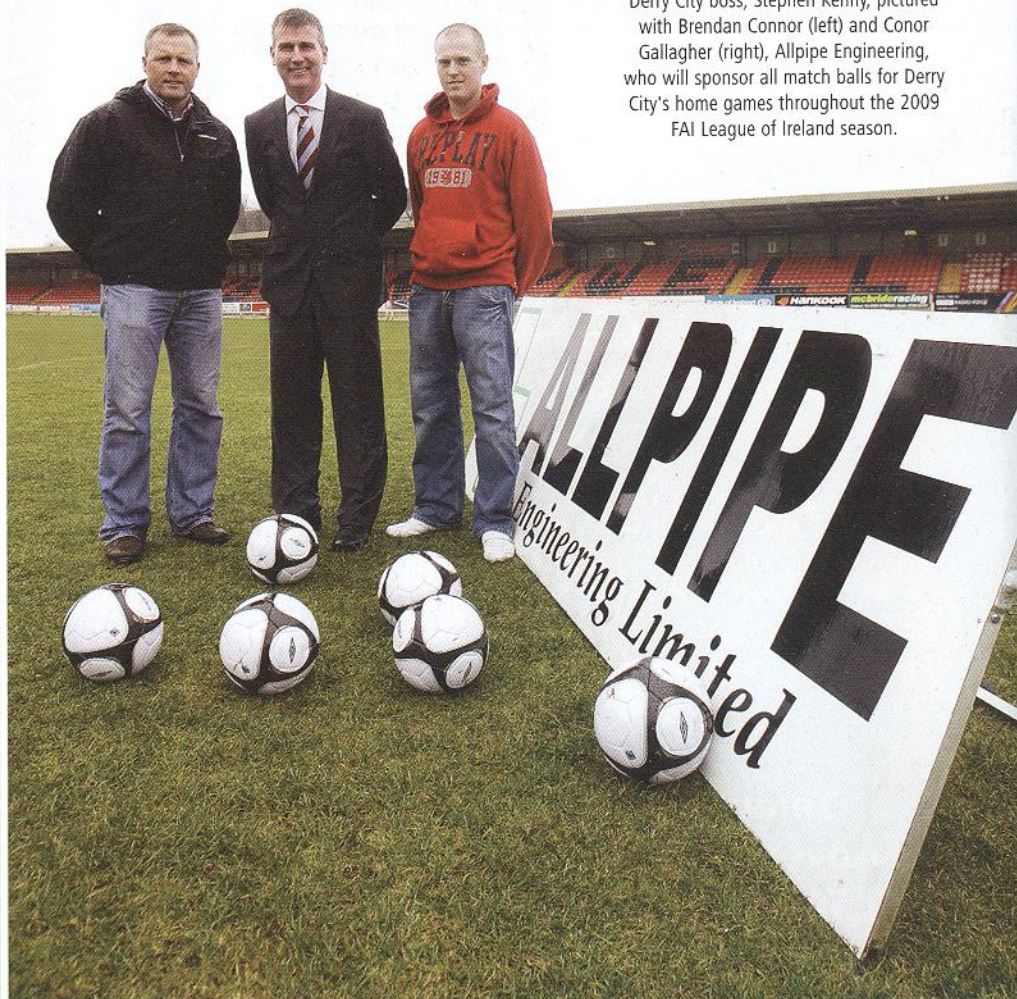
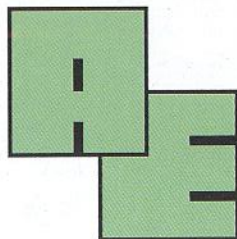
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Derry City boss, Stephen Kenny, pictured with Brendan Connor (left) and Conor Gallagher (right), Allpipe Engineering, who will sponsor all match balls for Derry City's home games throughout the 2009 FAI League of Ireland season.

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- 3 DELANEY Clive
- 4 HUTTON Peter
- 5 McCHRISTAL Mark
- 6 GRAY Steven
- 7 HIGGINS Ruaidhri
- 8 MARTYN Ciaran
- 9 MORROW Sammy
- 10 STEWART Thomas
- 11 KEARNEY Liam
- 12 O'BRIEN Ger
- 14 McGLYNN Gareth
- 15 DEERY Kevin
- 16 JENNINGS Patrick
- 17 MOLLOY Barry
- 18 FARREN Mark
- 19 McCLEAN James
- 20 SCULLION David
- 23 McMANUS Tam

Manager :
STEPHEN KENNY

- 1 CHAVDAROV Zdravko
- 2 VIDANOV Pavel
- 3 MENDES David
- 4 STOYANOV Kostadin
- 5 YANCHEV Todor
- 6 KOTEV Kiril
- 7 MANCHEV Vladimir
- 8 TIMONOV Todor
- 10 MIGUEL Rui
- 11 ORLINOV Orlin
- 12 KARADZHOV Ivan
- 13 BRANEKOV Aleksandar
- 14 PETROV Svetoslav
- 15 IVANOV Ivan
- 18 ZHEIROV Atanas
- 19 POPOV Apostol
- 20 MANCHEV Nikolay
- 21 YANEV Kosta
- 22 MARQUES LIMA Elidiano
- 27 PETROV Ivaylo
- 28 MALACHIAS Marcos
- 30 TODOROV Yordan
- 52 MINEV Yordan
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- 99 SAIDHODZHA Dormushali

Head Coach: **LUBOSLAV PENEV**

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Kevin McDaid writes ...

Another fabulous European night beckons!

AFTER THE result last Thursday night, discussions on the bus back the hotel centred on how a win for Sofia had probably been fair on the balance of play, but that the tie was still alive.

Discussions on the Sunday after the game were based around how we failed to take something from a game in which we thoroughly dominated possession and chances. Tonight, I'd love us to just to be lucky. I love good performances but I would trade the moral victory for a horrible game and a famous result.

Tonight isn't about league points, or a title challenge. It isn't about a derby, a relegation battle or a visit from a Dublin club. It isn't about the Bohs, Shels, Harps or Rovers. There will be no Ian Stokes, no Richie Winters, no Terence Moyne. There will be no Pat Fenlon, no David Jeffrey, no Paul Doolin. It doesn't matter how far behind we are after tonight, or how many times we have each team home or away. Tonight is all about European football.

Thursday was a heroic performance and we were close to getting a draw. As it is, we trail by one goal but we still have a real chance. Players and supporters alike, we have to believe. It isn't going to be easy but we are 90 minutes away from another historic result.

Coupled with Pats in Russia, this could be another famous night for the much derided League of Ireland. Indeed, my piece this week

was going to be on the paradox between Cork City in Court fighting for their very existence, whilst the League continues the fight for credibility. However, to quote Donald Sutherland from Kelly Heroes, "Enough with the negative Moriarty!"

There are enough columnists with axes to grind against the League of Ireland in the national media to do that for me. Tonight is about pride and passion.

The two performances I saw last week are enough to make me believe that we can progress. Is it going to be easy? No. But if it was easy, then Bohs would be able to do it.

The Fighting Irish!

We may have lost the last few games, but it hasn't been through lack of effort or lack of will power. Even in Sofia, backs against the walls, we had chances. McGlynn in the first half, Tam and Farren in the second. The Bulgarian papers the next day talked about how CSKA had dominated the game but how they could have been caught on the break by the fighting Irish.

Nights like tonight are those which make me really proud to be a Derry fan. As a location, we are nothing more than a limpet on the arse of Europe, holding onto the very corner of the Continent. No one knows us, no one rates us. No one cares about us. However, we have another chance to make Europe sit up and take notice of this little "Candy Striped" limpet.

We have a chance, and that's all we can ask for. No one hands us anything here, no one makes it easy for us but we're still here.

The Irish League sides have bowed out with a record of P8 W0 D1 L7 F4 A32. Half of the League of Ireland representative is already out. Ourselves and Pats are left flying the flag and let's hope that both will advance to the draw tomorrow morning in Neon.

We played some great football away in Sofia and, indeed, at Tallaght on Sunday. It wasn't rewarded and let us hope there is a change tonight. If the players perform to the best of their ability there is nothing more we can ask of them. If we are beaten by a better team then so be it, but if we play to our potential then we have a chance.

I'll leave the manager to tread the fine line between the need for a goal against the problems if we concede one. All we can do is support the effort the best that we can from the sidelines.

Players and supporters: don't leave anything behind. No regrets. Tomorrow morning, next week, next month; don't find yourself stopping and thinking "I could have given something more."

Leave here tonight knowing there was nothing more you could have done for the team. I will leave you with the words on one of the best football banners I have ever seen: "Players: you live our dream, now play as in our dreams!"

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The death of a real footballing legend ...

The Late Sir Bobby Robson

LAST WEEK, world football lost one of its greatest ever figures with the passing of former England manager, Sir Bobby Robson. He was 76 and died after a long battle with cancer.

A highly successful manager at club and international level, his last involvement was as Steve Staunton's assistant with the Republic of Ireland. A mild and well-mannered man, he was hugely respected by all involved with the game, be they fellow managers, players, directors, administrators or fans around the globe.

Possibly Robson will be best remembered for leading England to the 1990 World Cup semi-final, a game they lost to Germany on penalties, the night "Gazza" cried. He had qualities no one gave him credit for, not to mention his ability to get the best of out his players.

At club level, he cut his managerial teeth at Fulham before establishing his credentials at Ipswich Town where he won the FA Cup and UEFA Cup in a 13-year tenure. Spells at PSV Eindhoven, Sporting Lisbon, Porto and Barcelona followed before he went on to manage a club he supported as a boy, Newcastle United.

Robson, who was born in County Durham and watched the "Magpies" from the terraces, returned to his native north-east in 1999 in what was to be his last managerial role.

After leaving Newcastle, he was a consultant for the Republic of Ireland side while he battled cancer, and later took on an ambassadorial role for the Football Association of Ireland.

Many floral tributes have already been laid at St James' Park and Newcastle have said the ground will also be open over the past week and Newcastle United's players and staff held a minute's silence at the training ground on Friday morning, while flags at the Football Association headquarters in London's Soho Square and at Wembley Stadium also flew at half mast.

Ipswich flags were also lowered at Portman Road and there was a minute's silence before Friday evening's friendly against Spanish side Real Valladolid.

Brave battle

Robson, who was first diagnosed with cancer 18 years ago in 1991, fought a brave battle against the disease. He beat bowel cancer in 1992, a malignant melanoma in 1995 and a tumour in his right lung and a brain tumour, both in 2006.

In 2007 he vowed to "battle as I've always done" following the start of chemotherapy treatment after being diagnosed with cancer for the fifth time.

He made his final public appearance at a charity match at St James' Park on Sunday week last when an England side, featuring Alan Shearer and several members of the 1990 World Cup squad including Paul Gascoigne and Peter Shilton, beat a Germany team 3-2 in front of almost 30,000 spectators. The game was a repeat of the 1990 World Cup semi-final.

A statement issued on behalf of Robson's family said: "It is with great

sadness that it has been announced today that Sir Bobby Robson has lost his long and courageous battle with cancer.

"He died very peacefully this morning at his home in County Durham with his wife and family beside him. His funeral will be private and for family members only. A Thanksgiving Service in celebration will be held at a later date for his many friends and colleagues. The family would very much appreciate it if their privacy could be respected at this difficult time."

As a player, Robson, who played as a wing half, was a key member of the Fulham and West Brom teams during the 1950s and 1960s and also won 20 caps for England, but it was in management that he established himself as one of the greats of the game.

After a brief spell as a player-coach with Vancouver Royals in the North American Soccer League, he took over as boss of Fulham in January 1968 but was sacked by Christmas.

He took over as Ipswich manager in 1969 and guided the unfashionable East Anglian club to FA Cup and UEFA Cup victories in 1978 and 1981 respectively. He also twice led the Portman Road outfit to the runners-up spot in the old First Division. Robson's Ipswich success led to him succeeding Ron Greenwood as England manager after the 1982 World Cup.

Failure to qualify for the 1984 European Championship was followed by a run to the quarter-finals of the 1986 World Cup in



Sir Bobby Robson watches over a training session with the then Republic of Ireland manager, Steve Staunton.

Mexico where England lost 2-1 to Maradona's 'Hand of God' goal and a superb individual strike by the Argentine legend.

The 1988 European Championship were also a write-off with England failing to win any of their group games, but at Italia 90, Robson came within a whisker of guiding the national team to its first World Cup Final since winning the tournament in 1966.

England needed extra-time to defeat Belgium and Cameroon in the knock-out stages, but came unstuck on penalties against West Germany in the semi-final. Gary Lineker forced extra-time with a late equaliser, but Stuart Pearce and Chris Waddle missed from the spot as England bowed out.

Speaking of Robson's death, Lineker said: "It is a sad day and a great loss. He was a wonderful man and will be deeply missed by everybody in the country. I never played for a more enthusiastic man.

He gave so much to the game."

During the tournament, it was revealed that Robson would be leaving his England role to take over at Dutch side PSV Eindhoven, where he went on to win successive league titles in 1991 and 1992.

He moved on to Portuguese side Sporting Lisbon at the end of the season, but his stay lasted only 18 months but it was at rivals Porto that he collected more silverware. The 1994 Portuguese Cup was followed by two more league titles.

That success sparked interest from Barcelona and Robson moved to Spain in 1996 where he won the European Cup Winners' Cup and Copa del Rey in his first season in charge. And Robson also had the foresight to appoint a Portuguese interpreter as his assistant - that man was, of course, one Jose Mourinho - so Robson it seemed saw something "special" in him. The pair formed a superb and successful partnership.

A brief return to PSV preceded his 1999 move to Newcastle and he led his beloved "Magpies" from the bottom of the Premier League in that campaign to fourth place in 2001/02 and third the following season.

He was sacked by Newcastle in 2004, when he was 71, following a poor start to the season - but he was later given the freedom of the city.

In May 2008, he was given the freedom of Ipswich to mark the 30th anniversary of their 1-0 FA Cup win over Arsenal.

His role with Steve Staunton and the Republic of Ireland brought the curtain down on a highly successful career. While it didn't work out in his final job, Robson gained the respect of all those he touched.

There are too few real legends in the sport, Bobby Robson was one of them.

May he rest in peace.

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All the best for the FAI League of Ireland season to Stephen and the lads

Brian Dunleavy keeps takes note ...

Recent Derry City landmarks

OVER THE past few weeks a number of milestones have been reached by players representing Derry City Football Club.

In the recent defeat by Bohemians at Dalymount Park, goalkeeper, Gerard Doherty, made his 50th league appearance for Derry City. The net minder first played for City under Felix Healy in August, 1998, in a 3-2 home victory over Sligo Rovers in the League Cup. Greg O'Dowd and Darren McCaul made their debuts in the same game.

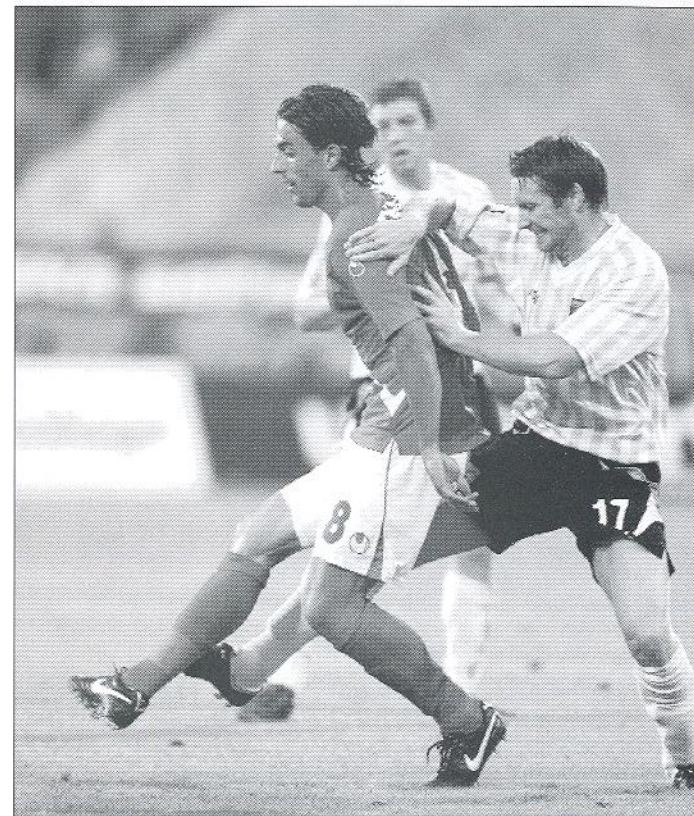
Gerard was snapped up by Derby County shortly after that game, before returning to the Brandywell at the beginning of last season.

Indeed City have had few, if any better keepers since 1985. In total the Creggan man has played 74 times for the club. In his 50 league games, Gerard has conceded just 35 times, and kept 24 clean sheets. The City keeper is the 58th player to reach this landmark for the club.

The first to do so was Kevin Mahon in a home game against Galway United on December 20th, 1987. The last to reach the 50 league game milestone was Mark McChrystal earlier this season, in a match also against Bohemians at Dalymount Park.

In the same game Barry Molloy made his 100th league start for the club. Like Gerard Doherty, Barry has also been on the books of Derby County before returning to Ireland with Drogheda United.

Stephen Kenny made him one of his first signings, snapping him up for the start of season 2005. Due to injury, Barry's first game was delayed until May of that year when



Barry Molloy, who recently made his 100th league start for Derry City, pictured in action against CSKA Sofia

Derry defeated the Mayo League in the League Cup at Brandywell.

And Barry's presence was instrumental as we went within one game of two consecutive league titles and a brilliant run in Europe.

Since his arrival at the Brandywell, Barry has played 166 games for his home town club. He is just the 22nd player to start 100 league games for Derry City in the League of Ireland.

The first to do so was Paul Curran, who made his 100th league start in a 0-1 defeat against St Patrick's Athletic at Brandywell in September, 1990. Mark Ennis scored for Brian Kerr's side, while Pat Fenlon was sent off for the visitors.

The last players to reach this milestone came last season, when both Mark Farren and Kevin Deery started their 100th league games.

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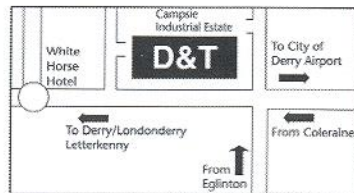
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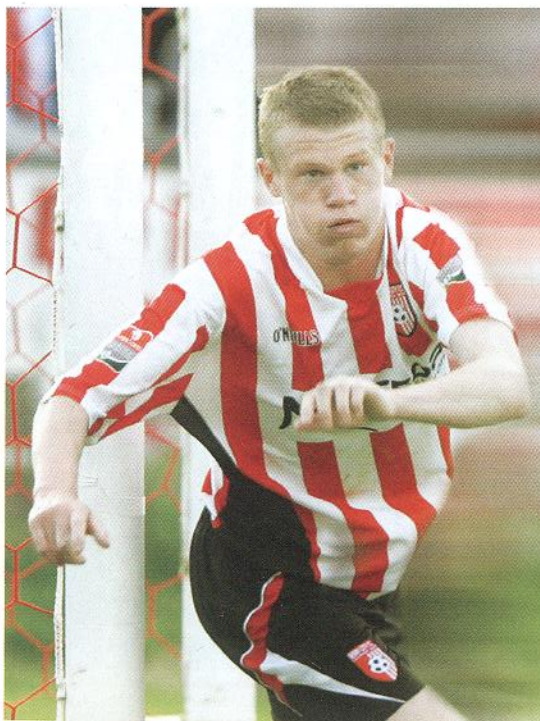
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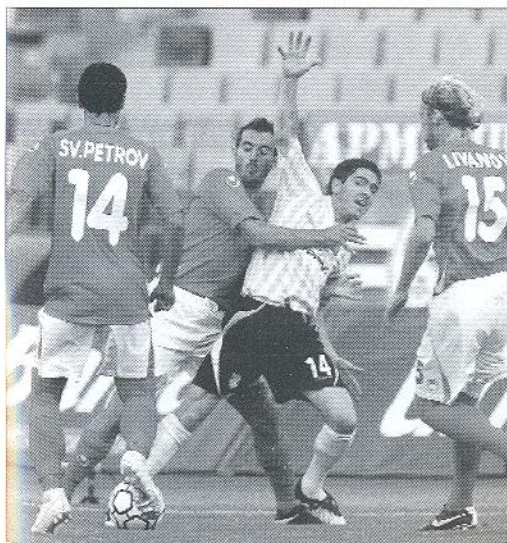


Derry's Clive Delaney tackles Ivan Stoyanov of CSKA Sofia during the away tie at the Vasil Levski National Stadium in Sofia.



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Gareth McGlynn is shut out by the Sofia defence



Derry City's Thomas Stewart challenges for the ball.

Quiz

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one

Which French club did Mark Hateley and Glenn Hoddle play for in the 1980's?

two

Who did Derry City defeat over two legs to win the 1986 FAI Shield?

three

Which club did John Hartson play for at Brandywell in the early 1990's?

four

Which former Derry City manager once played for the New York Apollos?

five

In which year did Norman Whiteside score the winner in the FA Cup Final?

six

Which Irish League team were the opponents for Sean Hargan's testimonial?

seven

In which stadium in Paris did Derry City play Paris St. Germain?

eight

Which Italian side did current Chelsea coach Ray Wilkins join from Manchester United?

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