

GREEN WHITE ORANGE

THE HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SOCCER SHIRT

1921-2021



EDDIE O'MAHONY

FOREWORD BY LIAM BRADY

1921 - 2021





1921 - 1927

CHAPTER 1

TANGLED UP IN BLUE

Like so many aspects of the history of Ireland, the complex relationship between the North and South has played a pivotal role in how our island is shaped in 2021. When it came to football this was to be no different. The roots of the organisation known today as the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) can be traced back to the formation of the Irish Football Association in 1880. At this time, the island of Ireland was part of the United Kingdom, and the governance of the game of association football in this country was based in Belfast, where a number of local clubs had formed the new entity. Tensions often ensued around the selection process for the national team, with clubs in the South feeling that their comrades in the North were biased in their selection process. It would not be until 1892 that the Leinster Football Association was formed, and a structure began to appear in the South. Of course, it was not just the football-related tensions that were heightened in this era. A growing spirit of nationalism was taking hold in the South, and these emotions were enhanced as a result of the Easter Rising in 1916. Matters would come to a head in 1921, when a dispute over the scheduling of an Irish Cup match saw the clubs from the South meet on the 1st June in Molesworth Hall in Dublin, and an historic agreement was

reached to form the Football Association of Ireland, to look after the running of the game in the thirty-two counties. Given the recent War of Independence, this decision was not well received by the other home nations of the United Kingdom. In 1923, in a move to foster better relations with its neighbours, who were blocking the path of the FAI to secure international status from FIFA, the FAI decided to alter its remit to the governing of football in the recently-formed twenty-six counties of the Irish Free State. A new name was also agreed upon, and the Football Association of the Irish Free State (FAIFS) came into being.

In August 1923, FIFA accepted the FAIFS into the international family of nations. Often the greatest of journeys begin with a single step, and so it was that under the auspices of the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI), who had received their recognition from the International Olympic Committee in 1922, the newly formed FAIFS entered a team into the 1924 Olympic Games held in Paris. The Irish squad for these games would hold the historic distinction of not only being our country's first-ever international football team, but also our first Olympians. The fledgling FAIFS struggled to raise the money to send the team to France. In 2021 the Ireland team travelled by private charter flights to away games, but on the 24th May 1924, when the Irish squad



PACKIE BONNER VS ROMANIA



PACKIE BONNER VS ROMANIA



KEVIN SHEEDY SCORES VS ENGLAND AT ITALIA 90



IRISH PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT PAUL MCGRATH IN ACTION VS ITALY IN ROME AT ITALIA 90



TAOISEACH CHARLIE HAUGHEY WITH JOE DELANEY OF THE FAI AFTER THE GAME VS ITALY IN ROME IN 1990



JACK CHARLTON SALUTES THE IRISH FANS IN PALERMO AT ITALIA 90



JACK CHARLTON IN RELAXED MOOD AT TRAINING AHEAD OF THE 1990 WORLD CUP



LEGENDS ARE FOREVER

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BONNER, HUGHTON, MORRIS, MCCARTHY, MORAN, WHELAN, MCGRATH, CHARLTON, HOUGHTON, ALDRIDGE, ...



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STAPLETON, GALVIN, SHEEDY, CASCARINO, QUINN

DAVID KELLY OFFICIAL ITALIA 90 BLAZER



DAVID KELLY OFFICIAL ITALIA 90 SHIRT AND TIE

KEVIN SHEEDY OFFICIAL ITALIA 90 SWEATER





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RAY HOUGHTON VS NORWAY



PAUL McGRATH VS HOLLAND FROM USA 94

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IRELAND CAPTAIN ANDY TOWNSEND VS HOLLAND



ANDY TOWNSEND'S SHIRT AND CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND BEFORE THE HOLLAND GAME



ALAN KELLY VS NORWAY



ALAN KELLY VS MEXICO



PACKIE BONNER



PACKIE BONNER CELEBRATES AT THE GIANTS STADIUM



GREEN WHITE ORANGE

IAN HARTE VS SAUDI ARABIA



MICK MCCARTHY'S BOOTS FROM THE WORLD CUP IN JAPAN & KOREA



MARK KINSELLA WORLD CUP 2002 SHOES

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DAMIEN DUFF VS SPAIN



THE IRELAND TEAM LINE UP AHEAD OF THE SPANISH GAME IN SUWON



MATT HOLLAND



PRESIDENT MARY MCALEESE AND MICK MCCARTHY AT ÁRAS AN UACHTARÁIN



THE IRISH TRICOLOUR ADORNING THE HEELS OF THE IRISH WORLD CUP SQUAD'S SHOES IN 2002

THE OFFICIAL WORLD CUP 2002 SUITS OF MATT HOLLAND AND MICK MCCARTHY



MICK MCCARTHY'S WORLD CUP 2002 SHOES



ROBBIE KEANE'S BOOTS WORN WHEN HE SCORED VS GERMANY AT THE 2002 WORLD CUP IN IBARAKI

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WORLD CUP 2002 MATCH BALL PRESENTED TO THE IRISH SQUAD BY THE MAYOR OF CHIBA CITY IN JAPAN



DAMIEN DUFF VS SPAIN. COURTESY OF A PRIVATE COLLECTOR



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TOP: KATIE MCCABE AND DIANE CALDWELL CELEBRATE A GOAL WEARING THEIR NEW UMBRO IRELAND BESPOKE HOME SHIRT.

BOTTOM: IRELAND MANAGER VERA PAUW WITH FROM LEFT TO RIGHT CIARA GRANT, RIANNA JARRETT AND JESSICA ZIU AT THE LAUNCH OF THE SKY IRELAND SPONSORSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM



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THE IRELAND TEAM IN THEIR 2020/2021 HOME AND AWAY KITS