

NORTHERN IRELAND

OFFICIAL
MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME
PRICE £4



Northern Ireland v New Zealand
Vauxhall International Challenge Match
Friday 2 June 2017
National Football Stadium At Windsor Park
Kick-Off: 19.45





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Cover The artwork featured on the front cover of the programme was created by James Jones from Dundonald. James (21) was the winner of a design-a-cover competition run through the Irish FA's social media channels. He says the artwork represents the youth on the streets that are the future of football in Northern Ireland

Please note that the views in this programme do not necessarily reflect those of the Irish Football Association.

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Oliver Norwood Brighton and Hove Albion
Shane Ferguson Millwall
Stuart Dallas Leeds United
Paul Paton St Johnstone
Matthew Lund Burton Albion
Kyle Lafferty Unattached
Josh Magennis Charlton Athletic
Liam Boyce Ross County
Shay McCartan Accrington Stanley

Green and White



NEW ZEALAND

Anthony Hudson Head Coach

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Tamati Williams RKC Waalwijk (NED)
Glen Moss Newcastle Jets (AUS)
Andrew Durante Wellington Phoenix (NZL)
Thomas Doyle Wellington Phoenix (NZL)
Storm Roux Central Coast Mariners (AUS)
Michael Boxall SuperSport United (SA)
Kip Colvey San Jose Earthquakes (USA)
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Marco Rojas Melbourne Victory (AUS)
Alex Rufer Wellington Phoenix (NZL)
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Shane Smeltz Borneo FC (Indonesia)
Kosta Barbarouses Wellington Phoenix (NZL)

All White / All Black

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Assistant Referee 2
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David Mateus Santos Luxembourg
Daniel Da Costa Luxembourg
Alain Durieux Luxembourg





PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



On behalf of the Irish Football Association it gives me great pleasure to welcome the players and officials of the New Zealand FA to the National Football Stadium in Belfast for this evening's Vauxhall international friendly game.

I am sure there will be a number of people with New Zealand roots and connections coming along and I extend a warm welcome to everyone.

The game will be the first between our countries at full international level and an opportunity to forge new friendships for our respective associations.

It is also a great opportunity for both management teams to get some match practice in advance of important competitive games later in the month.

Our visitors are on a mini European tour in preparation for the FIFA Confederations Cup tournament in Russia and the Northern Ireland squad are preparing for the World Cup 2018 qualifier against Azerbaijan in Baku next Saturday night when they will seek to build on the excellent win over Norway at the end of March.

Away from football New Zealand has historic connections with Northern Ireland/Ulster. Three of New Zealand's Prime Ministers were born here, one of whom was John Ballance, who was inspirational in the formation of the Ulster New Zealand Trust which is based at Ballance House, Glenavy, Co Antrim.

Demand for stadium and heritage centre visits has been high and the response positive to the Association in the acquiring of two friendly games during this World Cup campaign, against Croatia in

November and this evening against New Zealand. Thanks to all who have come out in significant numbers to support the team.

The All Blacks, who are currently hosting the British and Irish Lions, have been to these shores in the past and now it is the turn of the All Whites to play a full international here. I do hope that the travelling party enjoy their time in Northern Ireland and take home lasting memories of their visit.

At the March game against Norway the Association was to present Aaron Hughes with a specially commissioned cap to mark his 100th international but an injury necessitated Aaron returning to his club.

Aaron, a role model for any young player making their way in the professional game, has been a great servant to Northern Ireland football and currently has 104 caps. Tonight we hope to make the cap presentation to our first outfield centurion just prior to kick-off.

I hope that you all enjoy the game, and the stadium experience, and have a safe journey home..

David J Martin
President
Irish Football Association

EXCEPTIONAL MEDICS TAKE TOP AWARD

The medical team who look after Northern Ireland's senior international squad have received a top award for their work at the Euros last summer.



The Northern Ireland medical team with their Football Medical Association award for exceptional achievement. They are (from left) physiotherapist Neil McCullough, sports scientist Paul Walsh, Head Doctor Dr David White, Head Physiotherapist Caroline Woods, physiotherapist Darren McMaster and Head of Sports Science Dr Richard McCann.

The team were recognised ahead of other home nations and top clubs across the UK as they received the Exceptional Achievement Award from the Football Medical Association (FMA).

The FMA is an independent membership organisation for medics, therapists and science personnel in professional football.

Head Doctor Dr David White was full of praise for his medical colleagues and the wider team who look after the senior Northern Ireland players.

He said: "This award is great for all the hard work we put in at the Euros last year. It was a first for all of us and everything went so well.

"It's nice to get recognised by the wider football medical community with an award like this and on behalf of the medical staff I would like to thank all association staff who helped us prepare for the Euros, in particular Michael O'Neill, David Currie,

Craig Stanfield, Greg Shields and the kitmen, Raymond Millar, Colin McGiffert and Stephen Ferguson."

Head Physiotherapist Caroline Woods received the award at a glittering ceremony at the Radisson Blu East Midlands Hotel last weekend.

She also heaped praise on the day-to-day work of the team. She said: "It is nice for the medical side of things to get recognition. We are a small team and association who work very hard. The Euros were such a success from all aspects, not just the performance of the team but from a medical aspect, too.

"We've been working hard behind the scenes for a long time and for our first appearance at a major tournament to go so well definitely stood us apart from the competition."

Words: Peter Gilpin



MANAGER'S VIEW

It is a cliché, and one often repeated by managers and coaches, that the next match is the most important.



However, and with no disrespect to our antipodean visitors tonight, I think we all know that in the quest for that coveted WC 2018 play-off slot this challenge match is probably not as important as the one in eight days' time in Baku.

Of course, tonight and the opportunities it gives us is going to be vital in the preparation for the World Cup qualifier against Azerbaijan.

Recently we have built up an enviable record here at the National Football Stadium, with the only blip being against Croatia last November, and we all are aware that we want to go into our autumn programme with our solid home form intact.

The New Zealand squad will represent an interesting challenge for us. Not only is the game a vital part of our preparation for the World Cup qualifier, as many of our players will not have played for a few weeks following the completion of their season, but it is always intriguing to test yourself against unusual opposition.

Not that New Zealand are unknown. We know many of their players, such as Chris Wood and Winston Reid, from English football and I know that for them - as they make their way to the Confederations Cup tournament in Russia - tonight is just as important.

Our focus will always be to win all of our matches and tonight will be no different, but I would be lying if I said this match will not be played with one eye on what we need in Baku next week.

There are few enough international dates and most are taken up with the strenuous business of trying to qualify for championships so there is an onus on trying to make the most of the opportunities these matches provide, both from a coaching and preparation perspective and from the chances that such games give to players. I trust that we will benefit positively from this game.

Once again I would like to pay tribute to you, the fans. You have been behind us every step of the way and everything that the team achieves is doubly satisfying when we can see your support and reaction.

I can assure you that we are all focused on providing even more memorable nights here at the stadium.

Thanks for your continued support..

Michael O'Neill
Northern Ireland Manager



**HERE
TO
CREATE**



GOOD EVENING

Welcome to the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park for the Vauxhall International Challenge match against New Zealand.

We are delighted to host the All Whites for the first ever full international between our countries and we wish them good luck in the FIFA Confederations Cup in Russia later this month. Perhaps they can pave the way for ourselves to make an extended trip to Russia next summer!

For Michael O'Neill this game is a key part of his squad preparation for next weekend's crucial FIFA World Cup qualifier in Azerbaijan and I'm sure New Zealand will prove to be a stern test for us.

Many of our players will have ended their competitive season a few weeks ago so the training camps we have had in the lead-up to this match, plus the game of course, are all aimed at having the players in peak condition in Baku.

It has been a busy season for us at the Irish Football Association, with the final completion of the rebuild of the National Football Stadium back in October and the opening of the Education and Heritage Centre in March.

More than 2000 people have already experienced the Education and Heritage Centre and I have yet to meet anyone who hasn't enjoyed the experience. After all, where else can you see the British Championship trophy and the original Irish Cup, try to tackle David Healy or Keith Gillespie and then try your luck against Pat Jennings from the penalty spot?

The latest additions to the supporter experience at the stadium are the refreshment kiosks where food

and drink (including alcohol) are now available and - brand new today - the automated turnstile gates where your tickets are electronically scanned to allow entry to the ground.

Whenever we go abroad for internationals or perhaps visit a professional ground in England or Scotland we take all of these stadium facilities for granted so it is nice to have them now as part of our own supporter offering.

Finally today I would like to mention the UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship finals which take place in Northern Ireland from 8-20 August.

It seems like a long time since UEFA awarded hosting rights to us for this prestigious tournament, and now it is only 67 days to the opening game here at the National Football Stadium. We will know who we play against in this and our other group games on 22 June when the tournament draw takes place at Belfast City Hall. Tickets for all games are available now via Ticketmaster.

Enjoy the game tonight, have a good summer, and we look forward to seeing you here again for the Czech Republic game in September.

Patrick Nelson
Chief Executive
Irish Football Association



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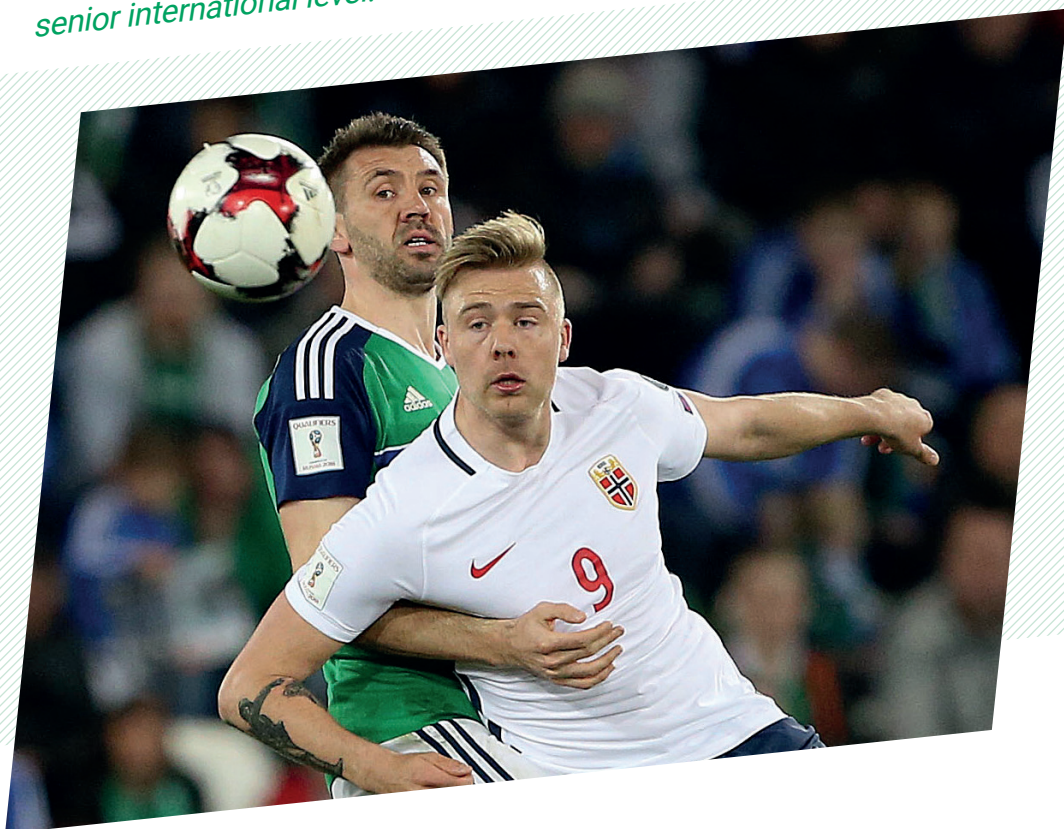
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SPONSOR'S WELCOME



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Tonight's match at the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park sees Michael O'Neill's side face a friendly against New Zealand in what will be the first ever meeting between the two nations at senior international level.



We know that the support given to the team in recent years will continue during this summer and into the autumn as Northern Ireland bid to reach the biggest football stage of all: the World Cup Finals.

The achievements in France last summer will live long in the memory and, as lead sponsor of the Northern Ireland Team, Vauxhall will be there every step along the way as the players do their best to emulate that feat in this campaign.

The National Football Stadium at Windsor Park crowd can make the difference and we have no doubt that you will show your great support to Michael O'Neill's side again tonight. #GetIN

Join us on Twitter @VauxhallNI for matchday conversation.

To find out more about our Vauxhall #GetIN campaign, competitions and exclusive players content, visit vauxhallfootball.co.uk.

NORTHERN IRELAND 2

Ward (2'), Washington (33')

NORWAY 0



EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS



2018 WORLD CUP EUROPEAN QUALIFYING GROUP C

26.03.2017

National Football Stadium

at Windsor Park, Belfast

Attendance 18,161

STATS



TEAMS

1 McGovern	1 Jarstein
20 Cathcart	14 Elabdellaoui
4 McAuley	3 Hovland
5 Evans	5 Valsvik
16 Norwood	2 Skjelvik
2 McLaughlin	6 Nordtveit
8 Davis	8 Johansen
11 Brunt	18 Elyounoussi
14 Dallas	7 King
19 Ward	11 Elyounoussi
9 Washington	9 Soderlund

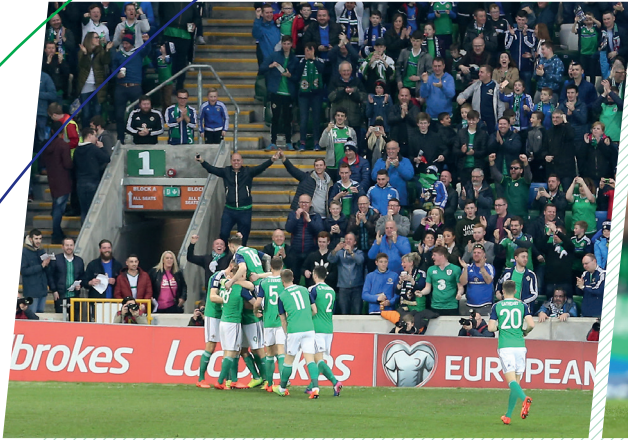
Substitutes

3 Lafferty D	4 Reginiussen
6 Hodson	10 Konradsen
7 McGinn	12 Nyland
10 Lafferty K	13 Berge
12 Mannus	15 Moller Dæhli
15 Boyce	16 Svensson
17 Lund	17 Hedenstad
18 Paton	19 Berisha
21 McLaughlin	20 Diomande
22 Flanagan	21 Semb Berge
	22 Hansen
	23 Berget





NORTHERN IRELAND 2 NORWAY 0





50 AND COUNTING...

Prior to kick-off in the Norway game Irish FA President David Martin presented Niall McGinn, Jonny Evans and Kyle Lafferty with special commemorative caps to mark their respective 50th appearances for Northern Ireland.

THIS IS NOT A CAR. **THIS IS NEW INSIGNIA.**



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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/42.2 (6.7), Extra-urban: 65.7 (4.3), Combined: 54.3 (5.2). CO₂ emissions: 136g/km.#

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NORTHERN IRELAND SQUAD



ROY CARROLL
GOALKEEPER

Club
Linfield

Age	Caps	Goals
39	44	0



MICHAEL MCGOVERN
GOALKEEPER

Club
Norwich City

Age	Caps	Goals
32	20	0



ALAN MANNUS
GOALKEEPER

Club
St Johnstone

Age	Caps	Goals
34	9	0



AARON HUGHES
DEFENDER

Club
Heart of Midlothian

Age	Caps	Goals
37	104	1



GARETH MCAULEY
DEFENDER

Club
West Bromwich Albion

Age	Caps	Goals
37	71	9



JONNY EVANS
DEFENDER

Club
West Bromwich Albion

Age	Caps	Goals
29	59	1



CHRIS BRUNT
DEFENDER

Club
West Bromwich Albion

Age	Caps	Goals
32	57	2



CRAIG CATHCART
DEFENDER

Club
Watford

Age	Caps	Goals
28	33	2



CONOR MCLAUGHLIN
DEFENDER

Club
Fleetwood Town

Age	Caps	Goals
25	24	1



LEE HODSON
DEFENDER

Club
Glasgow Rangers

Age	Caps	Goals
25	19	0



DANIEL LAFFERTY
DEFENDER

Club
Sheffield United

Age	Caps	Goals
27	13	0



ADAM THOMPSON
DEFENDER

Club
Southend United

Age	Caps	Goals
25	2	0



**RYAN
McLAUGHLIN**
DEFENDER

Club
Oldham Athletic

Age Caps Goals
22 2 0



**TOM
FLANAGAN**
DEFENDER

Club
Burton Albion

Age Caps Goals
25 0 0



**STEVEN
DAVIS**
MIDFIELDER

Club
Southampton

Age Caps Goals
32 93 9



**NIALL
McGINN**
MIDFIELDER

Club
Aberdeen

Age Caps Goals
29 51 3



**OLIVER
NORWOOD**
MIDFIELDER

Club
Brighton & Hove Albion

Age Caps Goals
25 44 0



**SHANE
FERGUSON**
MIDFIELDER

Club
Millwall

Age Caps Goals
25 29 1



**STUART
DALLAS**
MIDFIELDER

Club
Leeds United

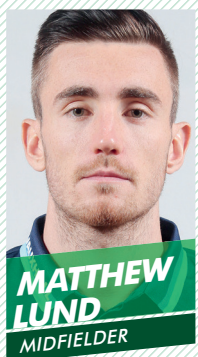
Age Caps Goals
25 20 1



**PAUL
PATON**
MIDFIELDER

Club
St Johnstone

Age Caps Goals
29 3 0



**MATTHEW
LUND**
MIDFIELDER

Club
Burton Albion

Age Caps Goals
26 2 0



**KYLE
LAFFERTY**
FORWARD

Club
Unattached

Age Caps Goals
29 60 20



**JOSH
MAGENNIS**
FORWARD

Club
Charlton Athletic

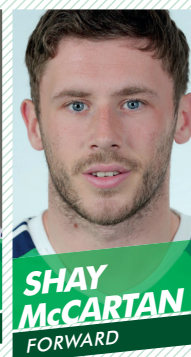
Age Caps Goals
26 27 1



**LIAM
BOYCE**
FORWARD

Club
Ross County

Age Caps Goals
25 8 0



**SHAY
McCARTAN**
FORWARD

Club
Accrington Stanley

Age Caps Goals
23 0 0





OLLIE IS A FLYING HIGH SEAGULL

Oliver Norwood plans to continue blending folklore with football as he prepares for one of the most exciting years of his career.

Twelve months on from starring in Northern Ireland's first ever Euro finals experience in France, the midfielder is fresh from helping Brighton end their 34-year exile from the Barclays Premier League.

The last time the Seagulls soared in the rarefied air of English football's top flight was in 1983 when international boss Michael O'Neill was a fresh faced 14-year-old.

With Northern Ireland also in the midst of targeting a place at next summer's World Cup finals in Russia, Norwood has many landmark moments to look forward to in the months ahead.

"It's an exciting time," said the Burnley-born playmaker, who is relishing Brighton's return to the top rung of English football.

"It's an incredible achievement because it's getting harder to get into the Premier League from the Championship," he pointed out.

"To go back in pre-season as a Premier League club will be terrific and it's something the chairman, management team and players have worked so hard for.

"We'll be underdogs next season but I'm used to that. I've been part of a (Northern Ireland) team that has been the underdog before and we have achieved great things.

"There's no reason with the squad and togetherness we have at Brighton why we can't stay in the Premier League.

"Everything is there; the infrastructure, stadium, training ground, chairman, manager and players. We just have to make it work.

"The likes of Burnley and Bournemouth have gone up in recent seasons and stayed in the Premier League, so they are an example we can follow.

"They have spent some money - you have to - but not the millions and millions the big boys have spent and they have managed to sustain their Premier League status, so it can be done."

With his full focus back on the international stage, Norwood is eager to build on the confident start Northern Ireland have made to their World Cup 2018 qualifying campaign.



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At the midway point, Michael O'Neill's men boast 10 points from a possible 15 and lie second in their group behind runaway leaders Germany.

Beat Azerbaijan next Saturday and the prospect of sealing a runners-up berth and potential play-off route to Russia will increase.

Norwood said: "We're in a good position and to only have lost to Germany, the world champions, in our opening five group games isn't too bad.

"At the start of the campaign we spoke about getting to 10 points as quickly as we could and our next aim is to hit the 13 mark as soon as possible."

Following next week's trip to Baku, Northern Ireland conclude their campaign with two double headers in September and October against San Marino (a) and Czech Republic (h) and then Germany (h) and Norway (a).

"Azerbaijan is a very important game for us," said Norwood. "If we can get three points from that fixture, I think six points from the remaining games - which is do-able - could be enough to see us take second place."

On tonight's friendly against New Zealand, he added: "I think it's a good game for us heading into the Azerbaijan qualifier.

"It'll be tough but it will also be a nice test for us at home in front of our fans who will be there in good numbers."

Words: Darren Fullerton, Daily Mirror

OLIVER NORWOOD

Position
Midfielder

Date Of Birth
12.04.1991

Place Of Birth
Burnley

Height
180cm

Weight
76kg



MIDFIELD

CLUB RECORD



SQUAD NO **12**

CLUBS

Manchester United	0
Carlisle United (loan)	6
Scunthorpe United (loan)	15
Coventry City (loan)	
Huddersfield Town	80
Reading	81
Brighton & Hove Albion	21

INTERNATIONAL RECORD



SQUAD NO **16**

Debut	Caps
10.08.2010	44
v Montenegro	Goals
(A) Lost 0-2	0

Northern Ireland U19	7
Northern Ireland U21	11
Northern Ireland B	1

DID YOU KNOW?

Words: Marshall Gillespie

If Northern Ireland find the net versus New Zealand this evening it will be their 650th goal in international competition since 1882.

Other milestone goals over the years have been:

- 1st goal** Samuel Johnston v Wales (a) Feb 1882
- 50th** Andy Turner v Wales (a) Feb 1896
- 100th** Billy Gillespie v England (h) Feb 1913
- 150th** Jimmy Dunne v England (a) Oct 1930
- 200th** Billy Simpson v France (h) May 1951
- 250th** Billy Bingham v Wales (a) April 1960
- 300th** Derek Dougan v Scotland (h) Oct 1965
- 350th** Tommy Cassidy v Scotland (a) May 1974
- 400th** Ian Stewart v West Germany (h) Nov 1982
- 450th** Alan McDonald v Faroe Islands (h) Sep 1991
- 500th** James Quinn v Belgium (h) Feb 1997
- 550th** Warren Feeney v Azerbaijan (h) Sep 2005
- 600th** Paddy McCourt v Faroe Islands (h) Aug 2011



Manager Michael O'Neill has used a total of 21 players in Northern Ireland's five World Cup qualifying games to date. Four of those players have played every minute of the campaign. They are; skipper Steven Davis, the West Brom defensive duo of Jonny Evans and Gareth McAuley and goalkeeper Michael McGovern.

Since losing 4-2 to Portugal in a World Cup qualifier in Belfast on 6 September 2013 Northern Ireland have lost just one of their subsequent 12 internationals at the National Stadium. Nine of those games have ended in victory and two in draws, with the only defeat coming against Croatia in a friendly last November. Impressively Michael O'Neill's charges have scored 23 goals, conceding just six.



The top Northern Ireland scorers in England and Scotland during 2016-17 were:
Liam Boyce (Ross County) 24 in 40 games
Billy Kee (Accrington Stanley) 15 in 46 games
Niall McGinn (Aberdeen) 13 in 50 games
Shay McCartan (Accrington Stanley) 11 in 39 games



The 47 goals Northern Ireland have scored during Michael O'Neill's reign as boss have been spread among no fewer than 16 players. Leading the way is, of course, Kyle Lafferty with a very healthy 12 goals.

The full list is:

Kyle Lafferty	12 in 30 games
Gareth McAuley	7 in 36
Steven Davis	5 in 42
Jamie Ward	4 in 29
Niall McGinn	3 in 34
Martin Paterson	3 in 10
Conor Washington	3 in 10
Craig Cathcart	2 in 24
David Healy	1 in 4
Dean Shiels	1 in 5
Will Grigg	1 in 10
Stuart Dallas	1 in 19
Chris Brunt	1 in 21
Conor McLaughlin	1 in 23
Josh Magennis	1 in 24
Shane Ferguson	1 in 29



Northern Ireland have only previously played one game on home soil on 2 June which was back in 2001 when Bulgaria were the visitors to Belfast for a World Cup qualifying game. Unfortunately they left Windsor Park with a 1-0 victory thanks to a second half goal from Georgi Ivanov.

Thirteen of Kyle Lafferty's 20 international goals for his country have been scored at Windsor Park, with 10 of them notched in front of the GAWA seated at the Kop/West end of the stadium. Perhaps surprisingly only one has been a header, which came in the 2-1 Euro 2016 success over Finland in March 2015.



Kyle Lafferty became the 27th substitute to come on and score in an international match for Northern Ireland when he found the net twice in the 4-0 victory over San Marino at the National Stadium last October. He was, however, the first ever substitute to score twice in the same match.

Skipper Steven Davis has played in 42 of Michael O'Neill's 45 games in charge of Northern Ireland, more than any other player. The Southampton midfielder has started 40 of those matches and has come on as a substitute twice. In total he has played 3570 minutes and scored five goals, four of them at the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park.

Striker Liam Boyce scored more domestic goals than any other Northern Ireland player in England and Scotland during 2016-17. His tally of 23 in the Scottish Premiership (24 in all competitions) made him the league's leading scorer, two ahead of Celtic's Scott Sinclair.



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THESE ARE THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS

There are some things which still, despite my grey hair and ancientness, bring a tear to my eye and make the hairs rise on the back of my neck and goosebumps appear on my arms.



Time to celebrate... Jonny Evans is congratulated by team-mates David Healy and Gareth McAuley after finding the net against Poland in a World Cup qualifier in Belfast in March 2009.

You know the sort of thing... a dramatic and picturesque sunset on the North Antrim coast, the smell of the roast turkey on its removal from the oven, the haunting resonance of the cello in Pachelbel's canon.

Or the freshness of the spring's new growth in the hedgerows, the clarity and purity of the voices of Kiri Te Kanawa and Hayley Westenra (Ed: that's enough New Zealand singers please), the melancholic sweetness of Art Garfunkel's voice on Bridge Over Troubled Water.

As you get older you appreciate these things more, I think. There might be less rushing around and a little more time to enjoy the world's diversity and wonderfulness.

What does all that have to do with Northern Ireland international football, I hear you ask.

Well, for me among all that beauty and tranquility, resting somewhere near the chaotic first steps of a new born lamb and the thumping rock intro to Bruce Springsteen's Born To Run, sits Northern Ireland international goals.

And I'm talking about goals of all hues - well worked ones, deflections, tap-ins from six inches, ricochets off someone's shin, own goals, whatever way they come from inside the box and out, set pieces and open play. You name it, I'll take it and celebrate wildly.

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PROUD TO WORK WITH NORTHERN IRELAND



There can be few more beautiful things than the ball in the back of the opponents' net and your heroes whirling away to jump on top of each other.

And for me, a sufferer of a long international drought through the early years of this century, any goal - winner, equaliser or consolation - is a thing of great beauty and a thing to bring tears to the most hard-hearted.

Among the world's most precious things is the feeling of elation when Kyle or Josh or Niall (but probably and most likely Gareth) or whoever puts the ball into the rival's net.

It used to be so simple. The Boy David in his heyday just needed to turn up and we knew goals were on the menu.

We have been spoiled in our recent past with goals nearly always coming at the National Stadium as we traversed the heights firstly of Euro finals qualification and latterly as we try to manufacture second place to the world champions and play-off qualification on the way to Russia and the World Cup next summer.

Sometimes in the IFA, as we discuss matters of huge importance and the conversations ebb and

flow, we are known to have the odd disagreement. We are correct, of course, to argue our corner and are entitled to hold the views we do.

There are just a few exceptions to the rule. When we have discussions with Mal Donaghy (quiet and unassuming as he may be) it is hard to contradict a man with 91 caps and the exemplary record he had for our wee country.

The other exception is perhaps more dramatic. In conversations with Ian Stewart it is difficult not to remember that only one person in the debate has scored the winner against Germany, and despite the best efforts in my dreams it was not, sad to say, myself.

So back to the enjoyment and appreciation of beauty. Let's hope that we can have some tonight.

With all due respect to our friends from the other side of the world it's a green-shirted scorer that will make me want to sing and dance tonight, not Kiri's mellifluous tones, and long may it remain so!

Words: William Campbell



Another beauty... Stuart Dallas scores for Northern Ireland in an international friendly against Qatar in May 2015 at Gresty Road, home of Crewe Alexandra.

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NEW ZEALAND THE COACH

At 36 years and 98 days old, Anthony Hudson will be the youngest coach in Confederations Cup history when he leads out the All Whites for the opening match against Russia at the 2017 tournament later this month



The son of former England, Chelsea, Stoke City and Arsenal midfielder Alan Hudson, his career in football has seen him move between four continents: Europe, North America, Asia and Oceania.

As a teenager he played in midfield for the youth team at West Ham United, and he had a spell at Luton Town.

In 2001 he joined NEC Nijmegen in the Netherlands but after six months he moved to the USA to play lower league soccer.

However, it is as a coach that Tony has made his mark on the world game. Appointed head coach of Real Maryland Monarchs in October 2008 at 27, he was the youngest professional head coach in the USA at that time.

After two seasons in the States he returned to the UK to coach Tottenham Hotspur Reserves.

In April 2011 he was appointed manager of Conference Premier club Newport County and steered them to ninth in the table. However, in September 2011, after Newport won just one of their first dozen games, he left the club.

In March 2012 he was appointed coach of Bahrain's under-23 Olympics team by former England manager Peter Taylor, then coach of the Bahrain senior team. Bahrain reached the final of the 2012 U23 Gulf Cup, losing 2-0 to Saudi Arabia.

He then worked under Argentinian coach Gabriel Calderon after Taylor's sacking but was sacked himself in October 2012.

In the 2012-13 season Hudson studied with Real Madrid and Jose Mourinho and later with Marcelo Bielsa at Athletic Bilbao. In August 2013 he was appointed manager of the Bahrain national team and helped them qualify for the 2015 Asian Cup.

In July 2014 he resigned as manager of Bahrain and was appointed national coach of New Zealand the

following month, taking charge of the senior team and the country's other men's representative teams. Hudson's first game in charge of the senior team was a 3-1 defeat away to Uzbekistan in September 2014.

The following year he began to show his prowess when New Zealand achieved a 1-0 win over Oman, ranked 67 places higher at 92nd in the FIFA rankings.

Under him New Zealand U23s won all three pool games and the semi-final without conceding a goal in their Oceania Olympic qualifiers at the Pacific Games in July 2015, but they were disqualified for fielding an ineligible player

Despite a lack of warm-up matches, the All Whites won the Oceanic Confederation Nations Cup in June 2016. The Kiwis won four matches on their way to the final where they secured the trophy after winning a penalty shootout against Papua New Guinea.

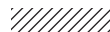
New Zealand became the most successful team in the competition's history, having won the tournament five times, and qualified for the forthcoming Confederations Cup in Russia.

Last September Hudson appointed former Hull City, Crystal Palace, Leicester City, England Under-21 and stand-in England manager Peter Taylor as assistant coach with special responsibility for the New Zealand players based in the UK.

In October 2016, after two away games against Mexico (lost 2-1) and USA (1-1), former All Whites captain Ryan Nelsen said the team had gone up a level under Hudson and he had "never seen New Zealand teams play this way".

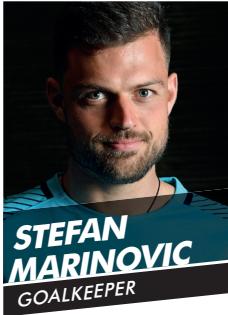
In March 2017 Hudson guided the Kiwis to top spot in Group A of the third stage of Oceania World Cup qualifiers.

Words: Roy Kitson



NEW ZEALAND PLAYERS TO WATCH

Words: Roy Kitson



Club Unterhaching (GER)

Age	Caps	Goals
24	14	0

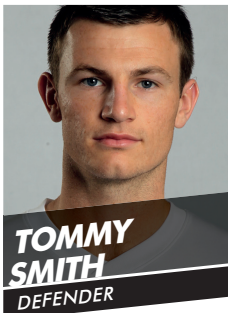
THE KEEPER

The 6ft 3ins keeper joined Bavarian League club Unterhaching in the summer of 2014 from 1860 Munich where he played for the reserve team the previous season. Had previously been with third level Wehen Wiesbaden, joining them in the summer of 2009. In 2011 Marinovic travelled with the New Zealand under-20 side to the U20 World Cup in Colombia where he made two appearances.

He was called into the New Zealand senior team in March 2015 by coach Anthony Hudson to play a friendly against South Korea. And he made his debut in the match in Seoul, playing the full 90 minutes. He saved a penalty kick before conceding the only goal of the game.

In June 2016 Marinovic saved two penalties in a 4-2 shootout win against Papua New Guinea in the OFC Nations Cup final following a 0-0 draw after extra time.

Played in the 2-0 home and away wins against Fiji in the Round 3 games in the Oceania WC 2018 qualifiers. NZ have progressed to an Oceania play-off and if they win that they will play against a South American team in a play-off for a place at Russia 2018.



Club Ipswich Town

Age	Caps	Goals
27	31	2

A KEY DEFENDER

Born in England, Smith spent several years as a youth in New Zealand and thus has dual nationality. And he represented England at youth level before declaring for the Kiwis.

The 6ft 2ins defender began his career at Ipswich Town, signing a professional contract at the age of 17. He played on loan for Stevenage Borough (2008), Brentford (2010) and Colchester United before returning to the Tractor Boys in March 2010.

Since August 2010 he has been a regular at the Portman Road club, making over 250 appearances and scoring 23 goals.

Made his international debut in March 2010, in a 2-0 friendly defeat to Mexico. Made his first World Cup Finals appearance in New Zealand's opening game in South Africa, a 1-1 draw against Slovakia, and then played every minute of New Zealand's two other group games at WC 2010.

In June 2012 he scored his first goal for New Zealand in a 1-0 win over Fiji in a WC 2014 qualifier. He was also a member of New Zealand's 2012 Olympics football team.

Played as a sub in the WC 2018 qualifier away to Fiji in March and played the full 90 in the return game.



Club Melbourne Victory

Age	Caps	Goals
25	32	5

THE KIWI MESSI

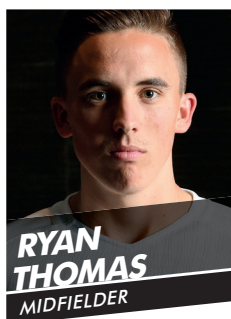
Rojas is a winger/attacking midfielder whose technique and superb skill on the ball have earned him the nickname of the Kiwi Messi.

He is right-footed but can also operate on the left flank or as a second striker. Plays for Melbourne Victory, rejoining the Australian A League team last August after three years in Germany with VfB Stuttgart where a foot injury hindered his progress and saw him spend most of his time with the reserve team or on loan, including 18 months with FC Thun in Switzerland.

Made his senior international debut as a sub in a 1-1 draw with China in March 2011 before he had played for any junior NZ sides. Won his second senior cap against Australia in May 2011 (5-0 defeat) when he came on as a second half sub.

Played in the Oceania U20 Championship in April 2011, playing in all four matches as the Junior All Whites won the tournament to secure qualification to the 2011 U20 World Cup, where he laid on the opening goal in the game against Uruguay (1-1).

Scored his fifth international goal just over two months ago away against Fiji to clinch a 2-0 victory in a WC qualifier.



Club PEC Zwolle (NED)

Age	Caps	Goals
22	9	2

MIDFIELD SCHEMER

A quick, busy player with superb technical ability, the 5ft 7ins winger plays mainly on the left for his club but can also operate on the right. With New Zealand he is mainly used in a central attacking midfield role.

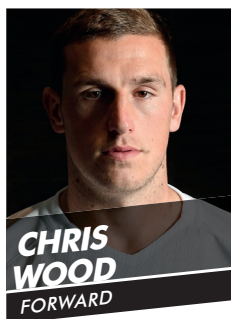
The highly rated Thomas joined Dutch Eredivisie club PEC Zwolle in August 2013 following a trial. He soon became a regular choice and has scored seven goals in 87 league matches for Zwolle.

Starred in the 2014 Dutch Cup final. He scored the first and second goals for Zwolle in a historic 5-1 win against Ajax Amsterdam.

Had a good second season, scoring three goals. Was looking to further impress last season but suffered an injury during a match against Ajax and missed much of the campaign.

Thomas played a key role when the Kiwis earned a place in the WC 2018 Oceania play-off to be staged this autumn. He notched both goals in NZ's second match against Fiji back in March.

He made his international debut in a 4-2 friendly defeat to Japan in Tokyo in March 2014. Voted Oceania Footballer of the Year in 2015.



Club Leeds United

Age	Caps	Goals
25	47	19

STAR STRIKER

A top class finisher, the 6ft 3ins striker joined Leeds from Leicester City in July 2015 for £2.7 million. He scored 13 goals in his first season and this season he notched up 27 league goals and was named in the Championship team of the season.

Made his international debut against Tanzania in June 2009 in a warm-up match for the 2009 Confederations Cup.

At 18 Wood was the youngest member of the NZ squad which travelled to the World Cup Finals in South Africa in June 2010. He came on as a substitute in all three group games, the 1-1 draw against Slovakia, the famous 1-1 draw against Italy and the 0-0 draw against Paraguay.

'Woodsy' scored his first official international goal in October 2010 in a 1-1 draw with Honduras.

He was also a member of the NZ 2012 Olympics football squad, scoring in a 1-1 draw against Egypt.

Played in the WC qualifier away against Fiji in March, scoring in the first leg (2-0) from the penalty spot. He missed the return in Wellington with a back injury. A key man for club and country, he will captain the Kiwis this evening in the absence of West Ham United defender Winston Reid, who misses the game due to a knee injury.



Club Borneo FC (Indonesia)

Age	Caps	Goals
35	51	24

VETERAN FRONTMAN

The 6ft 1ins striker may be the oldest player in the All Whites squad but he has proved to be a vital cog in the present team with his know-how and skill.

Smeltz is widely travelled. Born in Germany, his parents moved to New Zealand when he was six months old. When he was aged six his family moved to Australia, and he later became a dual Australian and New Zealand citizen.

Played for various Australian clubs before moving to England where he played for Mansfield Town, AFC Wimbledon and Halifax Town (2005-2007).

After that he returned Down Under where he had two successful seasons with Wellington Phoenix in the Australian A League. He was voted Oceania Footballer of the Year in 2007 and 2008.

There followed spells with Gold Coast United in Australia, Shandong Luneng in China, Gençlerbirliği (Turkey), Perth Glory and Sydney FC in Australia, Kedah (Malaysia), Wellington Phoenix before he joined Borneo FC in Indonesia last month.

Scored his first international goal in an away friendly in April 2006, against Chile. He was a member of the NZ squad in South Africa for both the 2009 Confederations Cup and 2010 World Cup, in which he scored against 2006 World Cup winners Italy. Also played for New Zealand in the 2012 London Olympics.

NEW ZEALAND FACTFILE

Association football has traditionally been the poor relation of rugby in New Zealand.



The All Whites, as they are known, have struggled for space on the sports pages when up against rugby and cricket, and also for crowds at international matches compared to the famous All Blacks rugby union superstars.

However, football in New Zealand can boast a proud tradition. The oldest club in the NZ Football Association, North Shore United from Auckland, can trace their roots back to 1886. There were representative matches between the major towns and cities in the late 19th century, while the first official competition began in 1892.

Mind you, it was really only in the early 1950s that the game began to make major strides, and in 1970 the first national league was formed.

Nowadays there is a Premiership with 10 clubs. The champions for season 2016/17 were Auckland City, who won the title for the fourth season in succession.

Since their foundation in 2004-05 Auckland City have won the Premiership eight times, while Waitakere United have won it five times.

And one New Zealand club, Wellington Phoenix, currently play in the Australian A League.

Last June New Zealand won the Oceania Cup Final - for the fourth time - against hosts Papua New Guinea (4-2 on penalties after a scoreless 120 minutes). It was a victory which qualified the All Whites for this summer's Confederations Cup tournament in Russia where they will play the host nation, Mexico and Portugal.

Next summer the All Whites are hoping to return to Russia for the World Cup Finals but will have to navigate their way through a couple of play-off games later this year for that to become a reality.

New Zealand and the World Cup

In 1948 New Zealand became a member of FIFA and began to play friendlies against Australia

and club teams from Europe. They were founder members of the Oceania Federation in 1966 and entered the 1970 World Cup where they lost at the first hurdle, 6-0 to Israel on aggregate.

Frustration followed until 1982 when the All Whites qualified for the World Cup Finals in Spain with a play-off victory against China.

Their opening game at Espana '82 was against Scotland. They lost 5-2 with Steve Sumner and Steve Wooddin grabbing their goals.

Next up were Soviet Union and the Kiwis lost 3-0. Their last group game was against Brazil and they were beaten 4-0.

New Zealand qualified for a World Cup Finals tournament for a second time 28 years later after defeating Bahrain in a play-off.

Their 2010 adventure in South Africa opened with a 1-1 draw against Slovakia – Winston Reid scored in the 93rd minute.

But the highlight for the Kiwis came in their next game when reigning world champions Italy were the opponents.

The game saw the All Whites take the lead through a Shane Smeltz tap-in. The Italians then bombarded the New Zealand goal and eventually equalised from the penalty spot through Vincenzo Iaquinta.

The Italians continued to pile forward but the Kiwis held out, with defenders Ryan Nelsen and Winston Reid producing magnificent performances in particular.

There followed a 0-0 draw with Paraguay and New Zealand finished in third place in Group F behind Paraguay (five points) and Slovakia (four) but ahead of Italy (two). New Zealand were the only team not to lose a match in the tournament.

Words: Roy Kitson

WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE WELL, SORT OF...



Northern Ireland have never met New Zealand at full international level before this evening. However, we have played the Kiwis in an international game in the past.

Back in October 1979 an Irish FA XI defeated the full New Zealand team 2-0 in a representative match at the Oval in Belfast.

It was effectively a Northern Ireland B team which took to the field that autumn evening.

And among their number was Mal Donaghy, who would go on to make his senior international debut the following year and amass 91 caps for his country in a glittering career - and play at two World Cup Finals.

Also included in the team that faced the touring Kiwis were Tom Sloan and Warren Feeney Snr, who had already been capped at full international level, and future Northern Ireland players Jim Cleary, Colin McCurdy and Peter Rafferty, who was the captain.

Linfield striker McCurdy grabbed one of the goals in the game, which was watched by 3000 spectators. The other was notched by Everton striker Brian Quinn.

The line-ups on October 10, 1979 were:

Irish FA XI: McDonald (Crusaders), McCreery (Glentoran), Cromie (Ards), Walsh (Glentoran), Rafferty (Linfield), Quinn (Everton), Sloan (Ballymena United), Donaghy (Luton Town), McCurdy (Linfield), Armstrong (Glenavon), Feeney (Linfield). Subs (used): Davey (Glenavon), Cleary (Portadown), McCusker (Cliftonville).

New Zealand: Wilson (Newman's Nelson United), Sibley (Mount Wellington) - captain, Almond (Trans Tours United), Adam (Blackhouse Bay), Elrick (Hanimex United), C Turner (Manurewa), B Turner (Mount Wellington), Sumner (Trans Tours United), Bright (Manurewa), Verweij (Trans Tours United), Nelson (Mount Wellington). Subs (used): McDermid (Hamilton), Malcolmsen (Eastern Suburbs), Rufer (Stop Out FC).

Words: Nigel Tilson



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DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE MEN IN WHITE

Cunningham Peacock believes we should not underestimate the team from the land of the long white cloud in the Southern Hemisphere...



The All Whites famously drew with Italy at the 2010 World Cup.

A few years ago a tall New Zealander joined the teaching staff in our local school. He was a big hit with the pupils because he was crazy about sport and encouraged them to have a go at all kinds of games and outdoor activities.

The kids especially loved him because he taught them the Haka, that Maori war dance which the New Zealand rugby team, the mighty All Blacks, perform before international games.

It was one school lesson which the kids were keen to repeat at home, encouraging mums, dads, grandparents and little sisters to join in performing the ritual.

For the other team there is something very intimidating about the Haka. They have to adopt an aggressive posture themselves, often by linking arms and trying to outstare the All Blacks. Coaches fear the Haka sows seeds of defeatism in their teams before games even start.

Although the All Whites do not perform it, the Haka is a reminder that New Zealand is a great sporting nation with a large proportion of the population sport mad.

Success in sport matters down under. Rugby rules supreme on the North and South Islands and the All Blacks often rule the world with the oval ball.



The All Blacks perform the Haka prior to kick-off in their game against the Ireland rugby team in Dublin last autumn

Their cricketers are useful, too, and at times teach a few lessons with bat and ball to the 'big boys' of Australia, England, South Africa, India and Pakistan.

But, alongside rugby and cricket, football is the poor relation in the land of the long white cloud.

Having said that, given their attitude to sport and sporting achievement, opponents of the New Zealand football team, known as the All Whites, underestimate them at their peril.

All fans of Norn Iron over a certain age are inspired by the spirit of '82. There is even a supporters' club with that name. Memories of the 1982 World Cup Finals in Spain mean a lot to us fans of the Green and White Army.

Some may not be aware, or remember, that our visitors tonight also played a part in the drama of those finals.

Back in 1982 the All Whites also qualified for the football jamboree - and faced Brazil, Soviet Union and Scotland in Group Six at the finals. It was their first appearance at a World Cup tournament.

Scotland played England in their last home game before heading to Spain. This clash of the titans, this confrontation of old enemies, this game full of tradition and historic passion, was for the Scots just a warm-up for their opening group game against New Zealand.

That match in Malaga saw the Scots coast into a 3-0 lead before being pegged back with goals from Steve Sumner and Steve Wooddin; these were the first goals ever scored by New Zealand in the World Cup Finals. The Scots ended up winning 5-2 but the All Whites had made their mark.

In 2010 they were back again and in style. New Zealand departed from the World Cup Finals in South Africa undefeated. They drew 1-1 with Slovakia, 1-1 with Italy and 0-0 with Paraguay. But the real triumph was their position of third in the group because mighty Italy finished fourth!

Michael O'Neill is using this game as a warm-up for the vital away qualifier in Azerbaijan next week. But the All Whites are also treating tonight as a warm-up for their Confederations Cup games in Russia against three elite teams: the hosts, Mexico and European champions Portugal.

The New Zealanders can only improve when mixing with such distinguished company. And, who knows, when next we play them it could be in Russia at the 2018 World Cup Finals?

Like Norn Iron, the All Whites are in with a real chance of making it. Their recent 2-0 home win over Fiji (another rugby playing nation) means that they are well placed to be the Oceania Football Confederation's representative in Putin territory.

Warm-up games can establish players and change the direction of teams. Last summer our home game with Slovenia saw Conor Washington emerge as an international striker. The game with Belarus saw Will Grigg find the net for our wee country for the first time and we all realised that the irritating Will Grigg song was about to go viral.

Whatever happens in tonight's match one thing is certain: both managers are looking for that magic ingredient which will make all the difference. It makes for an entertaining June evening. Bring on the All Whites!

LIAM'S FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

When Liam Boyce missed out on a place in Northern Ireland's Euro 2016 squad last summer he was backed to come back with a bang.

Michael O'Neill agonised over the decision but he knew the former Cliftonville striker would respond in style.

Fast forward a year and the Ross County man has just ended the SPLF season as top goalscorer.

With Conor Washington unavailable and Jamie Ward injured, Boyce's goalscoring exploits for the Dingwall club have catapulted him into the forefront of the manager's mind.

"Obviously last summer was disappointing but I watched the lads and was delighted to see how well they did," said Boyce.

"I had to use that disappointment as another motivation to kick on this season and hopefully I've been able to do that.

"Playing for Northern Ireland means so much to me and I'd love the opportunity to impress.

"I understand it's been difficult to get into the side because we have been doing so well for a few years, but all I can do is work hard when we meet up and score goals for my club.

"It was a great season for me personally, and if I can top that off with another cap that would be great."

Boyce, 26, admits he is hungry to see how much further he can progress in his career but is more than happy plying his trade in the Highlands.

Having experienced the lows of full-time football in Germany with Werder Bremen earlier in his career, Boyce appreciates what it takes to make it at the top level.

Even though a host of Scottish and English clubs are now scrambling for his signature, Boyce is in no rush to leave Ross County.







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He pointed out: "For any footballer, it's normal. You want to see how far you can go, and see how good you actually are.

"If you start getting too comfortable it's a waste really. You want to keep pushing yourself to see how much you can achieve.

"Then at the end of your career you can say I reached this level, I know how good I was, and be proud of what you have done.

"I've been caught up in transfer speculation before when I was younger, when people were talking about me scoring lots of goals. I was only 19. Everyone talks and you start to think you are better than you actually are.

"If you think people are watching, you can start to do stuff to impress those people and end up taking your mind off the game.

"I now have enough experience to know my job is to go out and play football and score goals. I leave the rest to my agent and the club. Obviously it is their decision in the end. I'll just concentrate on putting the ball in the net and doing my best for Ross County."

Since moving to Scotland, Boyce's career has improved year on year.

He explained: "For the first six months I was at Ross County, I didn't really play. I was struggling for fitness.

"I thought it was going to be like Germany all over again and I would probably end up back home.

"Then our caretaker boss, Steven Ferguson, started me in the first game after Derek Adams left - and we got hammered!

"I thought, 'Oh no, that's my only chance gone'. But then the current gaffer (Jim McIntyre) came in and I worked my way into his plans, starting on the bench and coming on.

"The way we play just suits me down to the ground, putting balls in the box.

"But I really didn't think I'd be past 50 goals for Ross County by this stage. It's just brilliant to be part of things at this club."

Words: Mark McIntosh, The Sun

LIAM BOYCE

Position

Striker

Date Of Birth

08.04.1991

Place Of Birth

Belfast

Height

184cm

Weight

84kg

STRIKER



CLUB RECORD



SQUAD NO

10

CLUBS

Cliftonville	52
Werder Bremen II	3
Cliftonville	85
Ross County	99

INTERNATIONAL RECORD



SQUAD NO

14

Debut

09.08.2011
v Scotland
(A) Lost 0-3

Caps

8

Goals

0

Northern Ireland U19	6
Northern Ireland U21	9

A BIG BUBBLE OF HAPPINESS...

Heidi McAlpin reflects on joyful occasions in France during the summer of 2016



Heidi McAlpin (standing) and hubby Ray Allen with the Victors from Toronto in Paris, June 2016.

This time last year this city and our wee country experienced a euphoria not witnessed since those glory days of Espana '82.

From the moment Northern Ireland beat Greece on that magical October night in 2015, and the players flung Michael O'Neill into the air, fans started planning their French odyssey.

The most appealing fixture for us was, undoubtedly, Northern Ireland v Germany in Paris. Travel arrangements were made with match tickets

pending. Ticketgate averted, we waited for postie to arrive with the precious envelope, like children for their 11-plus results. Except this was more important.

It was as if we were shrouded in a big bubble of happiness. Facebook went into Norn Iron overdrive; profile pics and private forums galvanised the faithful. Fanzones were set up, team billboards appeared and a Chuckle Brother emerged on the old David Healy mural in east Belfast.



3D Shark with the boul Jecky

People of all ages and backgrounds were proudly wearing the team strip. T-shirts were printed and banners designed. Musicians were also inspired, with one band, 3D Shark, securing the boul Jecky as lead vocalist on their opus Jackie Fullerton Says. The Beautiful Game had truly taken flight.

And then there was the Euros' unofficial anthem. In the future when we tell children of a life before Will Grigg's On Fire they won't believe us. Never in the history of sport has one player's fame eclipsed their appearances on the pitch. Even Eric Cantona got in on the act.

June had well and truly arrived; let the games begin! The Nice opener against Poland may have ended in a 1-0 defeat but fans were already reinforcing their bon homie reputation with everyone embracing the Norn Iron party faithful. Thirty years waiting and we were here to enjoy ourselves no matter what.

Then came possibly the best night of the lot: Our Cranes 2 Ukraine 0. Kings of Lyon. The headlines wrote themselves. And McAuley and McGinn were elevated to hero status.

Back in Belfast fans were going ballistic in bars and down at the fanzone at Titanic Belfast, and I was in floods of tears watching at home.

Even thinking about it now brings a lump to the throat. It was time to bring on the world champs - and our trip to Gay Paree.

What a trip... it seemed Paris was in perpetual party mode, with the boulevards and bars awash with

GAWA. Round every corner you could hear the Will Grigg chant. And, meanwhile, Iceland and Wales were making their wee countries ridiculously proud, too. GAWA and COYBIG were also embracing as one.

Walking past a Parisian café I heard my name shouted out. It was Toronto Supporters' Club supremo Gordon Victory (what a name!) and his delightful wife June.

I first met Gordon in the early 1990s when I was working at the Toronto Sun and Gordon made me an honorary member of his club.

Three decades later and there we all were, toasting our boys on the eve of yet another historic match. Fabulous stuff.

Next stop Parc des Princes, whose emerald blades were tended by Co Antrim-born groundsman Jonathan Calderwood... surely another good omen?

And so it was that Northern Ireland and German fans walked together to the stadium, one draping a red, yellow and black garland around my neck. The atmosphere was electric, both inside and outside the ground.

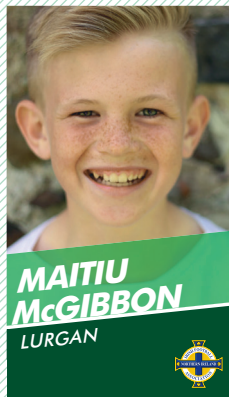
The fans sang non-stop before, during and up to 45 minutes after the match. The Germans looked bewildered, entertained and not a little jealous. 'Shall we sing a song for you?' we asked as we wallowed in the glorious 1-0 defeat. Another hero emerged in the acrobatic form of Michael McGovern, and the team were through to the knock-out stages.

Me and my husband reluctantly flew home, knowing Northern Ireland would be returning to the same turf just a few days later. Many others stayed on, and were almost rewarded with a win against Wales. But now isn't the time for might-have-beens.

Remember June 2016 as a moment that shook our souls for the better and ignited passions and belief not seen since Spain. We're not Brazil and Will Grigg's not necessarily on fire but we do exist and we are, let there be no doubt, Northern Ireland.

TONIGHT'S MASCOTS







UEFA

**WOMEN'S
UNDER-19
CHAMPIONSHIP**

NORTHERN IRELAND
8-20 August 2017

NORTHERN IRELAND MATCHES

MATCH DAY 1: Tuesday 8th August 2017, **7.00pm**

National Football Stadium at Windsor Park

MATCH DAY 2: Friday 11th August 2017, **7.00pm**

Mourneview Park, Lurgan

MATCH DAY 3: Monday 14th August 2017, **7.00pm**

The Showgrounds, Ballymena

SEMI FINALS:

Thursday 17th August 2017, **3.00pm & 7.00pm**

National Football Stadium at Windsor Park

FINAL:

Sunday 20th August 2017, **7.30pm**

National Football Stadium at Windsor Park

Tickets on sale now via Ticketmaster

For further information go to:

Official website: www.irishfa.com/ufawu19



UEFAWU192017



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INTERNATIONAL RECORD

2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA QUALIFIERS - GROUP C

RESULT

Sunday 4th September 2016

Czech Republic 0-0 Northern Ireland

Saturday 8th October 2016

Northern Ireland 4-0 San Marino

Tuesday 11th October 2016

Germany 2-0 Northern Ireland

Friday 11th November 2016

Northern Ireland 4-0 Azerbaijan

Sunday 26th March 2017

Northern Ireland 4-0 Norway

FIXTURES

Saturday 10th June 2017

Azerbaijan v Northern Ireland

Friday 1st September 2017

San Marino v Northern Ireland

Monday 4th September 2017

Northern Ireland v Czech Republic

Thursday 5th October 2017

Northern Ireland v Germany

Sunday 8th October 2017

Norway v Northern Ireland

GROUP C TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Germany	5	5	0	0	20	1	19	15
Northern Ireland	5	3	1	1	10	2	8	10
Czech Republic	5	2	2	1	8	4	4	8
Azerbaijan	5	2	1	2	3	8	-5	7
Norway	5	1	0	4	5	9	-4	3
San Marino	5	0	0	5	1	23	-22	0

Northern Ireland have played 621 full internationals since 1882. We have won 155, drawn 144 and lost 322. The goals for are 649 and against 1,196.

AGAINST THE BRITISH COUNTRIES THE AGGREGATE RESULTS HAVE BEEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A
England	98	7	16	75	81	323
Scotland	96	15	17	64	81	261
Wales	96	27	24	45	132	191
Total:	290	49	57	184	294	775

AGAINST THE FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Against foreign opposition since 1922, Northern Ireland have played **331** full internationals against **65** nations from outside the United Kingdom. We have won **106**, drawn **87** and lost **138** with **355** goals for and **421** against.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Albania	9	5	2	2	13	5
Algeria	1	0	1	0	1	1
Argentina	1	0	0	1	1	3
Armenia	4	0	2	2	1	3
Australia	3	2	1	0	5	3
Austria	9	4	3	2	17	15
Azerbaijan	5	2	2	1	7	3
Barbados	1	0	1	0	1	1
Belarus	1	1	0	0	3	0
Belgium	3	2	0	1	6	2
Brazil	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bulgaria	7	2	1	4	7	9
Canada	3	0	1	2	1	4
Chile	4	0	0	4	1	6
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	2
Croatia	1	0	0	1	0	3
Cyprus	6	3	2	1	11	1
Czech Republic	5	0	3	2	1	4
Czechoslovakia	2	2	0	0	3	1
Denmark	11	2	5	4	9	14
England	98	7	16	75	81	323
Estonia	4	2	0	2	4	6
Faroe Islands	6	4	2	0	16	3
Finland	9	4	2	3	12	13
France	9	0	3	6	4	22
Georgia	1	1	0	0	4	1
Germany	9	0	3	6	5	20
West Germany	7	2	1	4	8	15
Greece	7	3	0	4	10	9
Holland	6	1	2	3	4	14
Honduras	1	0	1	0	1	1
Hungary	6	1	1	4	4	8
Iceland	6	2	0	4	6	7
Israel	9	3	5	1	11	8
Italy	9	1	2	6	6	17
Latvia	7	5	0	2	8	4
Liechtenstein	5	4	1	0	15	3
Lithuania	2	1	1	0	3	2
Luxembourg	3	1	1	1	6	5
Malta	7	5	2	0	11	1
Mexico	2	1	0	1	4	4
Moldova	2	0	2	0	2	2
Montenegro	1	0	0	1	0	2
Morocco	2	1	1	0	3	2
Norway	9	2	0	7	10	20
Poland	10	4	2	4	13	14
Portugal	13	2	7	4	13	14
Qatar	1	0	1	0	1	1
Republic of Ireland	10	2	4	4	4	17
Romania	6	3	1	2	6	6
Russia	6	1	2	3	2	6
San Marino	3	3	0	0	11	0
Serbia & Montenegro	4	0	1	3	2	5
Scotland	96	15	17	64	81	261
Slovakia	4	1	1	2	2	4
Slovenia	5	3	1	1	3	2
South Africa	1	0	0	1	1	2
Spain	18	2	5	11	11	38
St. Kitts & Nevis	1	1	0	0	2	0
Sweden	7	3	1	3	10	7
Switzerland	4	2	1	1	3	2
Thailand	1	0	1	0	0	0
Trinidad & Tobago	1	1	0	0	3	0
Turkey	12	5	2	5	12	12
Ukraine	5	1	2	2	3	3
Uruguay	4	2	0	2	4	2
Wales	96	27	24	45	132	191
Yugoslavia	8	1	1	6	4	14
Total:	621	155	144	322	649	1,196

*The Ireland/Scotland game in 1902 for the Ibrox Disaster is now recognised by FIFA as a full international. Scotland won 3-0.

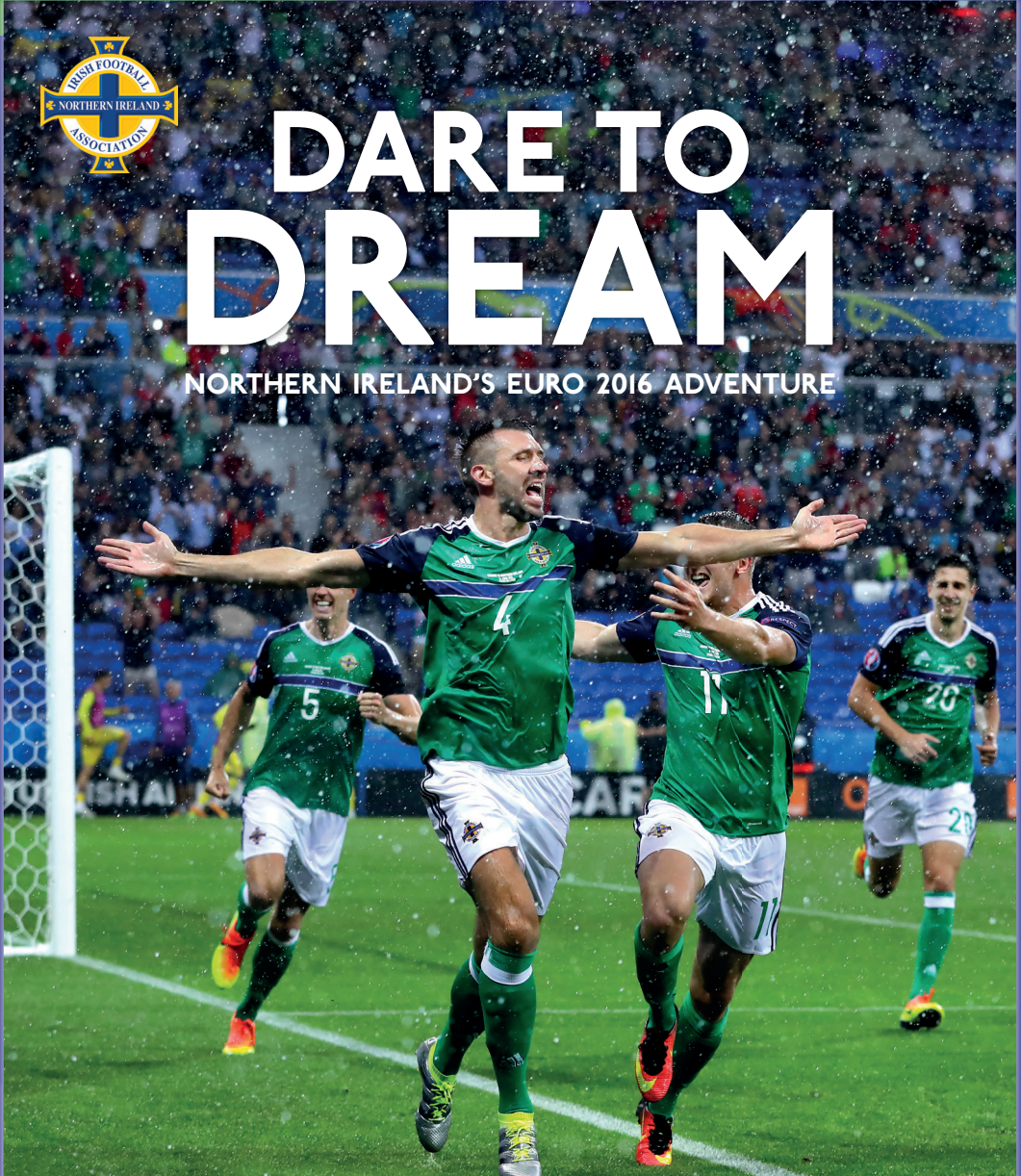
*The Ireland/South Africa game in 1924, which South Africa won 2-1, is also officially recognised.

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Foundation

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