



# ENGLAND

## v Republic of Ireland

8:00PM, WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2013

WEMBLEY STADIUM

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £6



# FAMILIAR FACES

NEIGHBOURS COME  
TOGETHER AT WEMBLEY IN  
PREPARATION FOR KEY GAMES  
ON THE ROAD TO BRAZIL



VAUXHALL

THE ENGLAND TEAM SPONSOR





# THE BIG PICTURE

This Euro '88 group game in Germany was the last occasion Republic of Ireland defeated England. Chris Waddle shields the ball from Frank Stapleton and Mick McCarthy (left), but over 90 minutes England couldn't resist the Irish, who won 1-0.

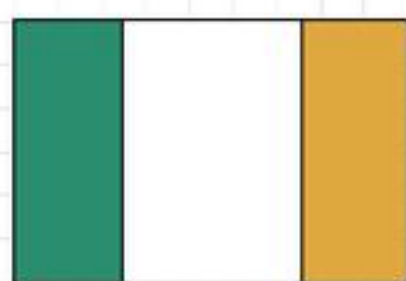


# MATCH ZONE



The Coach / Tactics / Team Profiles / Player interview /

WORDS Sean Creedon



## REP. OF IRELAND

After reaching Euro 2012, the Irish are now hoping to qualify for the World Cup next year



The glory days of 1990 seem a little distant, but after reaching Euro 2012 things are looking up for a return to the world stage.

If Scotland's Gary Mackay was an Irish hero in November 1987, scoring that famous goal in Sofia to defeat Bulgaria 1-0 and inadvertently secure Jack Charlton's Republic of Ireland team a berth at Euro '88 (and their first major international championship), then David Alaba could be the player who has spoiled the Republic's play-off chances for Brazil with a late goal for Austria at the Aviva Stadium in March.

The Irish drew 0-0 with Sweden in Stockholm on 22 March and four days later, against Austria in Dublin, it looked like the return from the two qualifiers would be four points, but then Alaba struck that equaliser.

With five qualifying games to be played it's now going to be tough for the Irish as they battle with Sweden and Austria for the runners-up spot, with Germany eight points clear at the

### SQUAD NEWS

**THEN AND NOW...** Compared to **EURO 2012** a number of the team's most experienced players will be missing from the team sheet, including Aston Villa goalkeeper **SHAY GIVEN** and Fulham winger **DAMIEN DUFF**, who made his 100th and final appearance for the team in the defeat to Italy last June in the Municipal Stadium Poznan. Wolves winger **STEPHEN HUNT** has been omitted, despite being a part of the Euro 2012 squad, while fitness problems have also denied **KEVIN DOYLE** a place in the squad, with the Wolves striker due to undergo an Achilles operation.

top of Group C. However, both Giovanni Trapattoni and his players remain confident of the task in hand (see over page for interviews with both the manager and forward Simon Cox).

It took England World Cup winner Jack Charlton, who became manager in March 1986, to show them the way. Just 20 months later the Republic had qualified for Euro '88, thanks in part to that Mackay goal. Then Jack got them to the World Cup Finals for the first time in 1990, and the good times continued at USA '94.

Mick McCarthy, a captain under Charlton, lost two play-offs, against Belgium for France '98 and Turkey for the Euro 2000 Finals, but made it at the third attempt. Ireland qualified from the group stages with Germany at the 2002 World Cup Finals but were beaten in the last 16 by Spain on penalties.

Trapattoni seemed made for the Irish; born on St Patrick's Day, his team were denied at least a penalty shoot-out by Thierry Henry's hand-ball in 2009, but made it to Poland for Euro 2012 via the play-offs.

### AT A GLANCE

**COACH** Giovanni Trapattoni  
**CAPTAIN** Robbie Keane  
**STADIUM** Aviva Stadium  
**HONOURS** 1990 World Cup quarter finals  
**FIRST INTERNATIONAL** 1-0 v Bulgaria, France, 28 May 1924  
**LAST RESULT** 2-2 v Austria, Dublin 26 March 2013  
**BIGGEST WIN** 8-0 v Malta, Dublin, 16 November 1983  
**BIGGEST DEFEAT** 0-7 v Brazil, Uberlandia, 27 May 1982  
**MOST-CAPPED PLAYER** Shay Given (125 caps) 1996-2012  
**TOP SCORER** Robbie Keane (54 goals) 1997-  
**DOMESTIC LEAGUE** It may be rare for a member of the Irish squad, in recent times, to play in their home country, but there is a striving League of Ireland. The current Premier Division was founded in 1985 and consists of 12 teams. The season runs from March to October and current champions Sligo Rovers have qualified for next season's Champions League second qualifying round. The recognition of titles dates back to 1922 and Shamrock Rovers top the champions table with 17 titles.



Ireland's Kevin Sheedy and Italy's Roberto Donadoni battle for the ball

### IN NUMBERS

The Republic of Ireland's World Cup record

10

Goals scored and conceded in World Cup tournaments

39

Percentage of games won in World Cup qualifying since 1934

1-1

The final score in the Republic's first ever World Cup tournament game - against England in 1990





opta

# STAT ATTACK!

Everything you need to know about the two sides battling it out this evening

Excluding penalty shoot-outs, England have one defeat in 15 games under Roy Hodgson. The last manager to lose just one of his first 15 games in charge was Graham Taylor (one defeat in first 23).



**1**  
Giovanni Trapattoni's side have lost only one of their last nine international friendlies (W4, D4).

**TRAVEL SICK**  
Republic of Ireland have failed to score in five of their last seven international away games.

**4**

England's recent record against Republic of Ireland is poor, having drawn three and lost one of their last four meetings with them in international football (excluding the abandoned game in 1995).



England's last win against Republic of Ireland was back in 1985 – a 2-1 win in a friendly at Wembley, thanks to goals from Trevor Steven and Gary Lineker.

**5** Wayne Rooney has scored in five successive England appearances and in six of his last seven games.



Rooney now has 35 goals for England – the fifth highest goal scorer in England's history and is just five goals away from Michael Owen in fourth place (with 40 goals).

**1-1**

The last three meetings between England and Ireland have all ended 1-1.

**3**

England have suffered three defeats in their 17 international friendly matches at the new Wembley Stadium – all coming against European sides (Germany, France and Netherlands).



## GOAL FEST

The Three Lions have scored in every one of their 17 international friendlies at Wembley Stadium since it was rebuilt and opened in March 2007.



## PLAYING AWAY

Under Trapattoni, the Irish have suffered just two defeats in 22 away games (W9 D11), with the two losses against Spain and Italy.

The Three Lions have won seven of their last nine internationals against one of the home nations, with just two defeats to Northern Ireland in 2005 and Scotland in 1999.



Events up and down the country on the Sir Bobby Robson National Football Day will help raise awareness of the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation which focuses on the early detection and treatment of cancer and the clinical trials of new drugs that will eventually beat it. To find out how you can help, visit:  
**[www.sirbobbyrobsonfoundation.org.uk](http://www.sirbobbyrobsonfoundation.org.uk)**

Robson on the bench at the 1990 World Cup in Italy. He managed England for eight years, taking charge of 95 games

Words Louis Massarella

MY HUSBAND PLAYED FOR ENGLAND



# "EVERY GAME MEANT THE WORLD TO HIM"

With The FA National Football Day being named in Sir Bobby Robson's honour, we recall the great man's England player and manager days with the help of Lady Elsie Robson

"My husband was immensely proud to represent England, both as a player and a manager," says Lady Elsie Robson, widow of the late national team Manager.

Yet, despite winning 20 caps and scoring four goals for England, Robson acknowledged to this correspondent in an interview in 2006 that "very few people ask me about my playing career". Probably because the majority won't be old enough to remember the inside-forward who served Fulham (twice) and West Bromwich Albion, as well as his country, with distinction.

"To have come from a small Durham mining village and to go on to represent his country was such a big thing," recalls Lady Elsie. The biggest thing of all, according to her husband: "The best part of your career is your playing days, no question," he said. "People ask me what my proudest moment was and I always say it was being asked to play for my country for the first time. In fact, I would say it was the most thrilling moment of my life."

It was November 1957 when Robson, knowing the England team and subs – "squads came later" – were due to be announced for the upcoming friendly against France at Wembley, stopped to buy an evening newspaper on the way back from Wolverhampton races with some of his West Brom team-mates. "And there was my name – R. Robson. But I couldn't share my excitement with my wife because we didn't even possess a telephone back then! I had to wait until I got home to tell her."

Playing alongside the likes of Tom Finney and Johnny Haynes, Robson scored twice in a 4-0 win. "His

parents were so proud," recalls Elsie. "Bob gave them one of his England caps and they had a glass case made to display it in their bungalow."

For the next game against Scotland at Hampden Park, Robson was replaced by "a young fella called Bobby Charlton", but was back in the team by the time the 1958 World Cup Finals in Sweden came around.

But with Charlton the only one of Manchester United's England players to survive the Munich Air Disaster that February, Robson has mixed memories of the time. As well as being part of the "the whole country's bereavement", Robson believed the tragedy affected England's chances of winning the World Cup "considerably".

The 25-year-old started England's first three games – describing the second against would-be champions Brazil as his most memorable in an England shirt – before being replaced for the group play-off with the Soviet Union, which ended in a 1-0 defeat.

"Little did I know it would be my only World Cup Finals as a player," said Robson, who scored the opening goal in England's 9-3 defeat of Scotland on the way to establishing himself as a key member of the team in time for the 1962 tournament, albeit in a slightly more defensive role. But injury in a warm-up game ruled him out of action in Chile and his replacement, a 21-year-old called Bobby Moore, did rather well.

Proud of his achievements as an England player although a little unfulfilled, Robson was "determined" to make up for it as manager when The FA came calling in 1982. "It was no small thing for Bob to give up being manager of Ipswich," insists Lady Elsie of her husband's domestic



Robson in his England playing days. He won a total of 20 England caps

and European success in Suffolk, "We had a wonderful quality of life, but he just didn't feel he could turn his country down. For him, it was a huge honour to be asked and he never took that role for granted. Every game and every result meant the world to him and I think it's that passion and commitment which people remember so fondly now."

Not to mention a couple of near misses at the World Cup, narrowly losing to eventual winners Argentina and West Germany in the 1986 and 1990 Finals respectively.

"He was so close to success in Mexico and Italy and he loved working with the England players. They were so supportive of him and he was never afraid to follow his own

ideas, even when those tactics weren't popular with others. It really was the pinnacle of his career."

Robson carried that enthusiasm and work ethic into a post-England club career that took him to Holland, Portugal and Spain, then finally back to his native north-east, where he led his beloved Newcastle to a string of top-six finishes.

Even during his fifth and final battle with cancer, which he lost in July 2009, that trademark tenacity was there for all to see.

"Bob launched his cancer charity in 2008 and never lost his own boyish enthusiasm for the game," explains Lady Elsie. "He'd also want to know the ins and outs of all the football planned for the day, wherever it was in the country. He always wanted to know the finer details."

It's fitting, then, that as part of The FA150 celebrations, National Football Day on 10 August this year will carry the name of the former England manager (and player). "I'm thrilled that The FA is involving my family and the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation in their 150th anniversary celebrations," says Lady Elsie. "I'm especially proud that the National Football Day is being named in Bob's honour. He'd have loved that."

**For more information on the Sir Bobby Robson National Football Day, visit [TheFA.com/FA150](http://TheFA.com/FA150)**

"PEOPLE ASK ME WHAT MY PROUDEST MOMENT WAS AND I ALWAYS SAY IT WAS BEING ASKED TO PLAY FOR MY COUNTRY FOR THE FIRST TIME"

# MY PERFECT



# XI



**DAVID SEAMAN**

He had a great sense of calm about him. I'll have David with no ponytail and moustache.



**UGO EHIOGU**

England U20 coach and former international defender Ugo Ehiogu, who played over 350 games for Aston Villa and Middlesbrough, earned four caps for the Three Lions, netting in a 3-0 win over Spain in 2001.

Next month, he'll join Peter Taylor's staff as England U20s embark on the FIFA World Cup in Turkey. England U20s begin their campaign on 23 June against Iraq. They also face Egypt and Chile in the group stages. For all the latest from the tournament visit: [TheFA.com/EnglandU20s](http://TheFA.com/EnglandU20s) Here, Ugo selects his all-time England XI...

WORDS Nick Moore



**GARY NEVILLE**

He was just so consistent – tackle after tackle. Gary was the best all rounder and a great character, too.



**BOBBY MOORE**

He'd be my captain, and is an inspiration to all defenders. Very cool, and the ultimate leader.



**DES WALKER**

I think Des is so underrated – he was world class. He was just totally relentless as a defender.



**STUART PEARCE**

Pretty much any of my back four could be captain! There's never been a more gritty English left-back.



**DAVID BECKHAM**

I was in the squad the day he produced his heroics against Greece. He was an inspirational player.



**BRYAN ROBSON**

Another incredible figure. He was also a leader off the pitch and one of the lads – which I think is important.



**PAUL GASCOIGNE**

When you trained with Gazza, some of the stuff he would do with a ball was just astonishing.



**JOHN BARNES**

A skilful winger with some real tricks, who can go past players and put crosses in. He beat men with real ease.



**ALAN SHEARER**

We just used to call him 'Shots'. He could score from anywhere and was unbelievable in the air.



**PETER BEARDSLEY**

I'm putting two Geordies up front. Peter was such a clever footballer and could both score and make goals.