


The Display Panels

Below is a sample of the characters, players and history which you can find on display at The Showgrounds


- Johnny Chadda
- Frazer Browne
- Merry Widows
- Keeping the ship afloat
- First games in Showgrounds
- The Bit O' Red
- Rovers first trophy
- Seamus Coleman
- Dixie Dean
- Tony Fagan
- Harry McLoughlin
- Straka penalty
- Gerry Mitchell
- Billy Sinclair
- Willie McStay
- Cobh Ramblers saga
- Paul McGee
- Joey Ndo
- Johnny Armstrong
- Raf Cretaro
- Mickey Sweeney
- Chris Rutherford
- Paul Cook
- David Pugh
- Louis Dykes

JOHN RUSSELL



John Russell has been a key component in the midfield of some of Sligo Rovers most successful sides. The Galway native began his career in the League of Ireland with his local club Galway United. He signed for Sligo Rovers at the start of the 2010 season. Russell became part of one of the most formidable midfield units in the country helping Rovers win the EA Sports Cup and two FAI Cups. John then signed for St. Patrick's Athletic in 2012 but found himself returning to the Showgrounds in 2014 after his appointment as the FAI Regional Development Officer for Sligo. In March 2018, Russell was appointed as Westport United manager. However, in 2018 John returned again to the Showgrounds as assistant manager to Liam Buckley as well as being a registered player.

FRAZER BROWNE



One of the most iconic images in the club's history is that of an emotional Frazer Browne pictured immediately after the 1983 Cup Final when his beloved Rovers finally lifted the trophy after beating Bohemians with a winner from local hero Harry McLoughlin.


Frazer had brought his distinctive 'Lucky' hat to four previous finals, starting with the 1939 Final, all of which we had lost, and that made the '83 victory all the more special.

The Browne family were from Castledergan. Frazer's father was a dispatch rider for O'Leigh na hEireann, one of the few people licensed to drive a motorcycle at that time. When Frazer came to Sligo town, he worked as a shop assistant in the Wood & Iron and also went on the road as a salesman. As well being one of our most dedicated supporters, he served on the Rovers management committee for a period.

Frazer passed away in 1992.



SIEGFRIED DOBROWITZSCH



Siegfried Dobrowitsch has the distinction of being the first player outside Ireland and Britain to play for Rovers.

He joined the club towards the end of the 1948/49 season after seeing an advert in a French newspaper.

He was formerly with Racing Club de Strasbourg, and the Hungarian international scored eight goals in the ten games he played for Rovers.

His career was cut short following a car accident near Collooney, although he joined Drumcondra for a spell after leaving Rovers.

Dobrowitsch remained in Ireland until the mid-fifties, when he emigrated to Rhodesia (Now Zimbabwe), he passed away in 1994.

ROVERS FIRST CAPTAIN



Paddy McGowan has the distinction of being Sligo Rovers first captain, leading the team when they won the Junior Cup in 1929.

Paddy was born in Flynn's Terrace, Sligo, on 27th September 1903. He was a regular right-full for Rovers in pre-League of Ireland days. He had been described as Rovers 'Dixie Dean' in the Sligo Independent in the lead up to the final on 5th May 1929.

Paddy had also captained Sligo Celtic, Sligo Town and Sligo United in previous years. He was capped for the Ireland Junior team against Scotland in April 1931. He made 110 appearances for Rovers, and was the father of another great servant of local football, Bertie McGowan.

THE TEAM OF 1928




Sligo Rovers won their first trophy in 1928 when they beat Grangegorman 3-1 to win the FAI Junior Cup.

Team: Jock Callaghan, Paddy McGowan, John McManus, Terry Rooney, Alfie McGlynn, Jack Kelly, Josie Lindey, 'Gully' McKenna, 'Guy' Callaghan, Jim Monaghan, Pa Rooney.

Also played in qualifying rounds: John Fallon, Eddie Callaghan, Tommy Conlon.

Gate receipts from final: £163-5-7

ALFIE MCGLYNN



Alfie McGlynn was born in St. Helens, Merseyside in 1908. He joined Rovers in 1938 from Torquay United, having played most of his career for Torquay and Plymouth Argyle. He made 201 appearances between 1928 and 1938, and was appointed player-coach of Rovers, and brought them to two Cup finals, 1939 and 1940.

Alfie made 60 appearances for the club and played twice for the League of Ireland. One of the players to join the club during this time was one William Ralph 'Dixie' Dean. In 1940 he moved to Distillery, where he was appointed manager/secretary. He died in September 1993.


JOHNNY CHADDA

SEAMUS COLEMAN

TONY FAGAN



LIE MCSTAY

THE STRAKA PENALTY



The Bit O'History

A Guide to Sligo Rovers Outdoor Museum



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Introduction

From the time the Showgrounds first opened its gates on 22nd July 1908 for the County Sligo Agricultural Show, it has hosted numerous sporting, cultural, and community events.

The first sporting fixture in the Showgrounds was a Gaelic Football County Final between Coolera and Keash on 9th August 1908. The first soccer game in the ground was on May 1st 1909 between the local St Mary's team and Ballina AFC.

Sligo Rovers have been playing at the Showgrounds since the club was formed in 1928. Rovers was always a welcoming club, it embraced people from all countries and backgrounds, and in doing so reflected the cultural diversity of Sligo over the 20th Century. A walk through the museum will show that the ethos and culture of the club have always been consistent with this ideal, many who came to spend time with Rovers would make Sligo their home, where they were welcomed and often celebrated by the local community.

The Showgrounds outdoor museum was officially opened on 19th October 2019; it will be an evolving facility with further panels being added in the future.

Sligo Rovers Heritage Group

Aidan Mannion (Chair), Joe Molloy, Michael Kelly, Michael Moran, Noel Scott, Anthony Kilfeather, Kevin Colreavy.
Other Members of Museum Project team:
Mark Cummins, Derek Sweeney

Graphic Design: Daragh Stuart

Sign manufacture: Ballast Signs

Since the Heritage Group was formed in 2012 it has published two histories and hosted a number of exhibitions

Foreword

It was in 1939 that the incomparable William Ralph "Dixie" Dean played for Sligo Rovers. In 1970 Dixie ventured back across the Irish Sea to be a guest of the club on their appearance in the FAI Cup final. In 2013, I joined three generations of Dixie's family to watch Sligo face Molde in the Champions League and to visit the exhibition hosted by Sligo Rovers Heritage Group in the local Museum.

But Dixie and Sligo still get talked about. As a family we discuss our trip to Sligo regularly. Recently, two Everton supporters were thrilled to learn that they were talking to Dixie's daughter Barbara, my mother-in-law, in the restaurant of the fabulous Dixie Dean Hotel which opened recently in Liverpool.

They could have spoken about his record breaking 60 league goals, they could have mentioned his status as football's first number nine, worn at Wembley in 1933, they might even have discussed the motorcycle accident which almost claimed his life long before he became one of the greatest goalscorers in football history.

But they didn't. They wanted to talk about his time in Sligo. "Great fly-fishing in Sligo," said Dougal. "Beautiful part of the world," said his pal. Then he added: "I tell my son that Seamus Coleman is Sligo's thank you to Everton for Dixie Dean playing there in 1939." It was a lovely line.

The links between Everton Football Club and Sligo Rovers are affectionate and enduring. And they started with Dixie crossing the Irish Sea for that memorable cameo in 1939.

He played eleven games for the Bit O' Red, scored 10 goals, helped steer them to a runners-up League placing and fired them to their first ever FAI Cup final. Of course he scored against Shelbourne. His family are thrilled that he occupies such a prominent position at Sligo's new outdoor museum. And they continue to celebrate the links between the incomparable Dixie and Sligo Rovers. They're not alone. And long may that continue.

David Prentice - Sports Editor, *Liverpool Echo*

The Museum Display

The Showgrounds Outdoor Museum is the first facility of its kind in the country. It consists of a series of panels detailing the diverse and inclusive history of Sligo Rovers from the time the club was established in 1928. The display is more than the story of the club, it is a social history of Sligo and a snapshot of the many people who were players, managers, volunteers or supporters.

The majority of the exhibits are circular panels detailing the contribution of various characters in the club's history, with a number of player 'cut-outs' representing a few of our iconic legends. Larger panels have been erected showing details of the club's honours and achievements, along with details of our extensive international profile.

The museum is an evolving facility and further panels will be added to the display.

