



## Dalglish supported by Liverpool legends Rush and Gerrard after coronavirus diagnosis

Goal - Liverpool heroes Ian Rush and Steven Gerrard sent messages of support to the king of the Kop, Kenny Dalglish, after the Scot tested positive for coronavirus.

The news was announced on Friday, in a message from Dalglish's family that said the 69-year-old is asymptomatic.

Scotland great Dalglish had been attending hospital on Wednesday for treatment on an infection when he was tested for COVID-19 and «unexpectedly» was shown to be carrying the virus.

Rush, who partnered Dalglish in Liverpool's attack in the 1980s and is Liverpool's record scorer, wrote on Instagram: «Wishing a speedy recovery to the best... Sir Kenny Dalglish. Get well soon #YNWA»

Gerrard captained Liverpool during Dalglish's second spell in charge at Anfield, which ended in May 2012, and the pair have a close relationship.

Now manager of Rangers, Gerrard wrote: «Get well soon king.»

Liverpool's current goalkeeper Alisson sent his well wishes, writing: «Love from Becker family to Sir Kenny Dalglish!!»

Reds past and present, Robbie Keane and James Milner, both sent «Get well soon Sir Kenny» messages, echoed by former England striker Gary Lineker and the Scottish Football Association.

Celtic, the club where Dalglish began his playing career, said: «Sending our love and best wishes to @kennethdalglish following tonight's news. Get well soon, King Kenny.»

Newcastle United and Blackburn, who he also managed, also rallied behind Dalglish.

Former Blackburn centre-back Colin Hendry, who helped Dalglish's team to the 1994-95 Premier League title, backed the Scot to return to full health. Hendry wrote on Twitter: «To one of the biggest influences on my career ...my boyhood idol .. my then manager .....King Kenny. Another match you'll win ...I'm sure xx»

A Liverpool statement said that prior to his admission to hospital, Dalglish had chosen to voluntarily self-isolate for longer than the advised period together with his family, and that «he would urge everyone to follow the relevant government and expert guidance in the days and weeks ahead.»

It added: «He would like to take this opportunity to thank the brilliant NHS staff, whose dedication, bravery and sacrifice should be the focus of the nation's attention at this extraordinary time.

«He would also ask that they are given the space to do their jobs during what is an extremely challenging time for them and that his own family's privacy is respected. He looks forward to being home soon.»



## Dynamo Brest: Belarusian club create «virtual fans» with mannequins

BBC - Virtual online tickets, cut-out portraits and mannequins - one Belarusian football club have come up with a new way to fill empty stands during the coronavirus crisis.

The Belarusian Premier League is the only country in Europe where football is still being played, with the decision to carry on described as «not comprehensible» by Fifpro, the world players' union.

As local supporters of reigning champions Dynamo Brest begin to stay at home, the club are filling their stands with mannequins sporting cut-out portraits of supporters.

Virtual online tickets, cut-out portraits and mannequins - one Belarusian football club have come up with a new way to fill empty stands during the coronavirus crisis.

Fans from around the world have been invited to buy virtual tickets online and in return, photos of their faces have been pasted on top of a fashion dummy sitting inside the stadium. Supporters will also get a matchday programme sent to their home address. The money raised will be donated towards fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

«Our fans from all over the world seem to be happy! Thanks for your support, guys!» the club posted on social media during their 2-0 victory over Shakhtyor Soligorsk in the Belarusian Cup on Wednesday. During the match, the stands featured supporters'

faces from countries including the United Kingdom, Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Iran.

The team next face Isloch at the Brestsky Sports Complex on Sunday and the club have put virtual tickets on sale again.

While most European countries are quarantining their citizens and shutting borders, the president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, is not worried and has even suggested citizens drink vodka to combat the disease.

The Belarusian authorities have dismissed pandemic warnings as «psychosis» and have not officially enforced a lockdown in the country, with the pro-government media playing down fears about the spread of Covid-19.

Who are Dynamo Brest?

Dynamo Brest won the Belarusian Premier League last season, their first title in the competition. They are one of only four teams to appear in every single season of the Belarus Premier League since 1992.

Before last season's title win, Dynamo Brest had finished in the top-three of the Belarusian Premier League just once previously, in the first ever campaign in 1992, coming third.

On their way to winning the Belarusian Premier League last season, Dynamo Brest did not lose a single away game (W12, D3).



## Brady criticises PFA chief Taylor over Premier League wage cuts

The Hammers official had a stark warning for clubs as the suspension of fixtures continues to affect revenues.

West Ham vice-chairman Karren Brady has criticised PFA chief Gordon Taylor's response to the coronavirus crisis, but admits «you can't manage an apocalypse».

Taylor faced criticism after refusing to take a cut to his £2 million a year salary, though he did reportedly make a £500,000 donation to the cause.

Premier League players have taken it upon themselves to set up the #PlayersTogether fund for NHS charities, but the debate over potential wage cuts or referrals continues.

«We have the players' union chief executive Gordon Taylor stubbornly resisting collective reaction to football's Covid-19 crisis,» Brady wrote in The Sun.

«I wonder why? Surely it is in the interests of his members from the elite to the everyday that as many clubs as possible remain intact. Keeping players' jobs is one of his duties.

«Some have, rather nastily, suggested that it's because his annual salary is a union world record £2.3m, which gives him earning power a 75-year-old working man can only dream of and he would face losing his ever-lasting job should

he fail to replicate the contribution of his top players in his own wage packet.

«I don't think this can be right as he has already said he is stepping down and has donated £500k of his own money to the cause.

«Taylor's no-cuts, no-deferral decision is deeply harmful to the cause he professes to serve, and now each club is having to have their own conversations with their own players.

«This will result in different outcomes for each club. Some clubs will defer/cut more than others, which seems unfair.»

Brady had a stark warning for Premier League clubs as the suspension of fixtures continues.

«If this suspension goes on for months, eventually there will be grasping for any straws to try to prevent many more clubs from drowning,» she said.

«The prospect of this possibility is the reason why I have cut my own salary by 30 per cent, just as our manager David Moyes has.

«We continue to work through all the questions and queries — the ifs, the buts, the maybes.

«But one thing I know is that if you try managing an apocalypse you can't.

«You must have the foresight to plan for when things will return to normal, whatever «normal» will mean in the future.»