

= Jim Gannon =

James Paul " Jim " Gannon (born 7 September 1968) is a former footballer who is now manager of National League North side Stockport County . He started and finished his career as a player in Ireland , but made most of his professional appearances in the English Football League at Stockport County , where supporters elected him as a member of the Hall of Fame .

Gannon began his playing career at Dundalk , but moved to English club Sheffield United in 1989 . The next year he transferred to Stockport County , following a short loan spell with Halifax Town . He spent the next ten years at Stockport , becoming one of the club 's most loyal servants , and helped the club to second @-@ place finishes in both the Second Division and Fourth Division , as well as two Football League Trophy finals . After leaving the club in 2000 , he spent a season with Crewe Alexandra , before returning to Ireland with Shelbourne , winning two League of Ireland Premier Division titles in his three years there .

Starting a career in management , he took charge of his first club Dundalk in 2004 . After a season in Ireland he returned to Stockport County as manager . There he led the club to promotion from League Two via the play @-@ offs in 2008 . Leading County to safety in League One despite a ten @-@ point deduction for entering administration , he lost his job as part of a cost @-@ cutting measure . Heading to Scottish Premier League side Motherwell , he managed the club in the Europa League , but left after just 25 games in charge . He took charge of Championship side Peterborough United in 2010 , but stayed at the struggling club for only two months , turning down a four @-@ year contract . In January 2011 he was appointed manager of Port Vale , but lasted just ten weeks in the job . He returned to Stockport in November 2011 , as the club 's director of football and manager , before being sacked in January 2013 . He took charge at Northwich Victoria in December 2013 . He spent just over two years with Northwich before returning to manage Stockport County for the third time in January 2016 .

= = Early life = =

Gannon was born in Southwark , South London and moved with his family to Ireland at a young age . He considers himself to be ' a working class Irish Catholic ' .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Early career = = =

In 1987 he received his start in higher level football with Irish club Turlough O 'Connor 's Dundalk . Whilst with the club he played in both the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup , in a highly successful period in the club 's history . During his spell at the club they did the Irish double , winning both the FAI Cup and topping the League of Ireland Premier Division in 1987 ? 88 . His performances for Dundalk earned him a £ 70 @,@ 000 move to Sheffield United in April 1989 . However he was unable to break into the first team at Bramall Lane . He spent a brief time in 1989 ? 90 on loan at struggling Halifax Town , making two appearances for the " Shaymen " .

= = = Stockport County = = =

In 1990 he moved to Stockport County , who paid United between £ 40 @,@ 000 and £ 75 @,@ 000 for his services . He remained at the club for ten years , during which the club would win promotion on two occasions , and make four Wembley appearances . On 10 March 1993 , Gannon verbally abused Stoke City player Mark Stein , who reacted by assaulting Gannon . Gannon made a formal complaint to the police and as a result Stein was later required to appear in court for the attack . The two players ' confrontation continued the following month after Gannon 's then @-@ girlfriend spat at Stein in a post @-@ match interview . Stein was given a conditional discharge after

the court accepted he was under " extreme provocation " from what he claimed was racial abuse . During his early days at the club Gannon was criticised by supporters for his performances , but he soon won them over after moving from centre @-@ half to become a goalscoring midfielder . Stockport fans named him ' The Ghost ' , due to his knack of ' ghosting ' in at the back of the box to score from crosses . He was also nicknamed ' Big Jimbo ' .

In 1990 ? 91 , County achieved promotion from the Fourth Division as runners @-@ up . In 1992 he made his first trip to Wembley Stadium , as Stockport lost 1 ? 0 to Stoke City in the Football League Trophy final . During the same season , Stockport also reached the Third Division play @-@ off Final , but were defeated at Wembley . The following year , County again reached the League Trophy Final , but lost 2 ? 1 to Port Vale . In January 1994 Gannon joined Notts County on a brief loan spell to help him overcome some personal problems . Returning to Stockport , he finished the season with his fourth trip to Wembley in two years , as County were denied promotion from the Second Division by a 2 ? 1 defeat to Burnley . The team finally achieved promotion from the division in 1996 ? 97 as runners @-@ up . This promotion was built on a strong defence , of which Gannon and fellow centre @-@ back Sean Connelly were a major part . The following season , County achieved an eighth @-@ place finish in the First Division . He played under the management of Danny Bergara , Dave Jones , Gary Megson , and Andy Kilner .

On 21 March 2000 , during a game with Manchester City , he ruptured his anterior cruciate ligaments , keeping him out of action for several months . He was awarded a testimonial against Manchester City in August 2000 , but got into a dispute with the club over the financial arrangements . He then left the club in November 2000 , and issued employment tribunal proceedings for unfair dismissal .

= = = Later career = = =

The following month he joined Dario Gradi 's Crewe Alexandra on non @-@ contract terms . After ten games with Crewe , he returned to Ireland .

Following a break from football to obtain qualifications in accountancy , Gannon signed with Shelbourne in August 2001 . Despite being appointed as captain upon his arrival , he initially struggled to get into the first team during the 2001 ? 02 League Championship winning season , and considered a move back to England . However he found himself a key member of the defence when new manager Pat Fenlon took over . Under Fenlon , Gannon helped the " Shels " to a second @-@ place finish in 2002 ? 03 , and also played in the 2002 ? 03 UEFA Champions League qualifying rounds , scoring past Hibernians in a 2 ? 2 draw at the Ta ' Qali National Stadium . He did not feature extensively in the club 's 2003 League Championship winning side .

Gannon holds a unique record , having scored in all four English divisions , the FA Cup , the Football League Cup , the Full Members Cup , the English League play @-@ offs , the League of Ireland , the FAI Cup , the League of Ireland Cup , and the UEFA Champions League . He has received two distinguished honours from Stockport 's supporters since leaving the club ? being elected to the Stockport Hall of Fame and as Honorary Vice President of the Hatters Independent Supporters Club . His 479 club appearances puts him in third spot in Stockport 's all @-@ time appearance list and his 65 goals are ninth in their scoring records .

= = Managerial career = =

= = = Dundalk = = =

In June 2004 he was appointed to his first managerial post , taking charge of Dundalk , who were also the first club in Gannon 's professional playing career . The side finished sixth in the League of Ireland First Division in the 2004 season . On 14 November 2005 , Gannon confirmed his resignation from Dundalk after his position had been called into question as his chief supporters , vice @-@ chairman Tom Baldwin and chief executive Sean Connolly , left the club . This left

Dundalk without a manager for their final match of the 2005 season , in which they had already secured a comfortable mid @-@ table position in Ireland 's second tier of association football . Prior to Gannon 's departure , the team had drawn ten consecutive matches .

= = = Stockport County = = =

= = = 2005 ? 06 = = =

In November 2005 , Gannon was appointed as director of Stockport County 's centre of excellence for girls . After the resignation of Chris Turner as Stockport County manager on Boxing Day 2005 , Gannon was appointed as caretaker manager with the team nine points adrift of safety at the bottom of League Two , facing potential relegation from the Football League .

County went undefeated in Gannon 's first four league games in charge . After three weeks , this upturn in results saw Gannon offered the job full @-@ time , which allowed him to guide County to safety . The club won more than twice as many points in the second half of the season than they did in the first . Believing that safety would be assured on the final day of the season , he was proved correct as they managed to avoid relegation with a final day draw with champions Carlisle United . Comparisons were made to Sam Allardyce . As a committed Stockport fan , and already a legend at the club for his ten years as a player , he was loved by many County supporters . After delaying talks , he accepted a one @-@ year rolling contract in the summer .

= = = 2006 ? 07 = = =

At the beginning of the 2006 ? 07 season , Gannon and Stockport announced they had drawn up a five @-@ year plan to take the club to the Championship . Results on the field followed this statement of intent , with Gannon leading County to a League record nine consecutive victories without conceding a goal . Gannon lodged a complaint with The Football Association against Bristol Rovers when a fixture was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch , as he felt not enough was done to ready the pitch , and also a complaint with regard to the referee 's handling of the situation . Gannon was later incensed with the FA when the same referee was allowed to take charge of the postponed fixture , which Rovers won 2 ? 1 . Gannon also branded approaches from Manchester City and Liverpool questionable and unprofessional after the two Premier League clubs swooped for youngsters being trained in Stockport County 's development squads .

During the season , Gannon and Stockport began to form a close relationship with Alan Lord , the founder of Football Development School ProFootball4u . Anthony Pilkington , who began to feature in County 's first team in the second half of this season , was developed through Lord 's school . At the end of the season , Lord was taken on at County as a scout and development team coach ; he would later follow Gannon to Motherwell .

County missed out on the League Two play @-@ offs due to results on the final day of the season , missing out on goal difference despite a 5 ? 0 victory over Darlington .

= = = 2007 ? 08 = = =

The 2007 ? 08 season started with a friendly marking the death of Danny Bergara , the manager who had brought Gannon to County as a player in 1990 . The friendly was against Cardiff City , managed by Dave Jones , who also managed County whilst Gannon was a player at the club .

On 12 February , Gannon had to leave his father critically ill in hospital in Ireland to lead his team out to a 4 ? 1 victory over Rotherham United . Later in the year Gannon publicly criticised Paul Ince and the MK Dons after he felt the " Dons " were poor sports in their 3 ? 2 victory over County that ensured Ince 's side promotion out of the division .

County finished the 2007 ? 08 season fourth in the league , and subsequently won their play @-@ off semi @-@ final against Wycombe Wanderers 2 ? 1 on aggregate . The club had previously

visited Wembley four times , and Gannon had played on all four occasions . He did as a manager what he could never do as a player , and guided Stockport victory at Wembley . The 3 ? 2 win over Rochdale earned Gannon 's club promotion to League One . He refused to give a post @-@ match interview to Sky Sports following a nine @-@ month dispute with the company over a broken Skybox . Nevertheless , having quickly taken Stockport from the foot of League Two and into League One on a meagre budget , Gannon had established himself as one of the most highly rated young managers in the lower leagues . In the summer he sold Liam Dickinson to Derby County for £ 750 @,@ 000 ? a player signed by previous manager , Chris Turner from Woodley Sports for a nominal fee just over two years previous .

= = = = 2008 ? 09 = = = =

Gannon led County to an impressive start to the season following their promotion , and they spent Christmas in the play @-@ off places with the best away record in the division . The new year started uncomfortably for Gannon ; with media speculation linking him with a move away from Edgeley Park , and the club announcing they were in financial difficulty , he took interviews reassuring fans of his intent to stick by County . Gannon stuck to his one @-@ year rolling deal after rejecting new contract offers from the club .

After a touch @-@ line argument with then @-@ club captain Gareth Owen , Gannon gave a forthright interview explaining that disciplinary action would be taken , and Owen would be stripped of the captaincy . Owen , who was later released by the club , did not play another game for County . Meanwhile , Gannon was left threatening police action over a strong challenge that left Stockport striker Matty McNeil unconscious and in hospital .

On 24 February 2009 Stockport agreed to allow Gannon to hold talks with Brighton & Hove Albion , who were seeking to fill the managerial position left vacant by Micky Adams . He suggested that his family would play a large part in his decision to move clubs , with Stockport 's financial troubles looming but uprooting his family to move to Brighton being undesirable . Gannon was made favourite to be given the job by several bookmakers , and he met with Brighton chairman Dick Knight on the 25th , before announcing on the 26th that he had chosen not to take the job . Knight had indicated that Gannon was his first choice for the job , and former Stockport players now at Brighton had shown their desire for Gannon to be given the job . However , Gannon turned down the opportunity and vowed stay with at the Edgeley Park club .

During the final weeks of the season , County were placed into Administration and docked 10 points , leaving them placed dangerously close to the relegation places . On 6 May 2009 , soon after the final game of the season , Gannon was made redundant as manager of Stockport along with assistant boss Peter Ward . This was done by the administrators in order to slash the wage bill .

= = = Motherwell = = =

As speculation of a move to Hibernian came to nothing (despite his being installed as the bookmaker 's favourite) , Gannon instead was confirmed as manager of Scottish Premier League side Motherwell at the end of June 2009 , two days before the club 's Europa League first round qualifying tie against Llanelli of Wales . To do this he fended off competition from Aidy Boothroyd , Lawrie Sanchez , and Steve Staunton . At the start of his reign he had a limited squad , and had to draft in youth players for the Llanelli game . The club had sold off some of their best players , whilst loan deals had ended for others . He also brought in Peter Ward as assistant manager .

" He has a very very good tactical sense , he is a great motivator of players , he works particularly well with young players and brings them on , which is important at a club the size of Motherwell , and he has boundless enthusiasm " .

After taking the job , Gannon said that he hoped to bring in up to six players , most of them from England to bolster a squad threadbare after summer exits . On 2 July , his first game in charge in the Europa League first round qualifying first leg , Motherwell lost 1 ? 0 against Llanelli . However , on the away leg in Wales , the " Steelmen " recorded a 3 ? 0 win to send them into the next round .

Motherwell then beat Flamurtari Vlorë 8 ? 2 on aggregate after an 8 ? 1 victory in the home leg . Motherwell were then knocked out by Romanian side FC Steaua Bucure?ti 6 ? 1 on aggregate . Gannon was sent to the stand in Motherwell 's Europa League match against Bucharest ; however Gannon later stated he did not know why he , or his assistant manager were sent off by Spanish referee Carlos Clos Gómez . His first league victory was a 3 ? 1 win over Kilmarnock at Fir Park .

Gannon was named Manager of the Month for October 2009 , but he warned of a clear out in the January transfer window . His young team impressed , but proved to be inconsistent . Gannon had a dispute with the SFA head of referee development Hugh Dallas , following Gannon 's criticism of Scottish referees . Gannon had claimed the standard of refereeing was " bringing the game into disrepute " . He suggested a league table for referees . He then felt the official response to his criticisms to be disrespectful . Following this he temporarily refused to speak to the media , claiming he did not wish to cause further controversy . He also criticised his predecessor Mark McGhee , after McGhee speculated in the press on possible transfers of Motherwell players . As well as this he had a public @-@ falling out with club captain Stephen Craigan .

On 28 December , Gannon was sacked by Motherwell , with the club indicating that Gannon was " not fully committed to the club " as the reason for their decision . He had been rumoured to be looking for other jobs . Gannon was reportedly working under a temporary contract , and was yet to sign a longer term deal as had been expected . Though the board were satisfied with results on the pitch , they felt that the relationship between Gannon and the directors had broken down . Dubbed a ' loose Gannon ' , it was seen that either he or club captain Craigan would leave the club . Despite this he was praised for his signings from the English leagues , and for the good open passing football his young side could play whilst at their best . Motherwell went on to finish the season in fifth place under Craig Brown .

= = = Peterborough United = = =

On 2 February 2010 Gannon was appointed manager of Peterborough United , following the sacking of Mark Cooper . The " Posh " lay bottom of the Championship , nine points adrift of safety . He aimed to restore ' pride ' in the club , and offered a fresh start to unsettled players . He won his first game in charge , leading The Posh to a 1 ? 0 victory over QPR on 6 February . His contract due to expire in the summer , the club were keen to tie him down to a longer deal . There soon came confusion over the exact role of the manager and others at the club in terms of recruiting new players .

He utilised unique tactical formations , which earned him comparisons to Martin O 'Neill . He was particularly experimental with the front line , and was willing to use the loan market to bring in fresh talent . On 24 March , it was announced Gannon would leave Peterborough at the end of the season . Unable to avoid relegation despite a vast upturn in results , he announced that family commitments made him unwilling to stay for longer . Gannon had been satisfied with the board 's contract offer , but his family still resided in Stockport . He was replaced by Gary Johnson on 6 April , following Gannon 's own recommendation of Johnson . Though Gannon insisted that this was not ultimately his decision , but instead was down to the board . Striker Liam Dickinson was sad to seem him go , and told the media that Gannon would have little trouble finding a new management post .

= = = Port Vale = = =

In January 2011 , Gannon was one of three candidates reported to have impressed in interviews for the vacant Port Vale job , making him one of the favourites for the position . However , Paul Simpson 's dismissal at Stockport County led to hopes of a return to the club for some County fans . Therefore , he was installed as the bookies favourite to become the next Port Vale manager , and also the bookie 's favourite for the Stockport job . Gannon was confirmed as the manager of Port Vale on 6 January 2011 , succeeding Micky Adams at the helm of the promotion chasing club , signing a contract that lasted until summer 2012 . Saying that finishing outside of the top seven would be a failure , the Cheshire @-@ based manager 's first task after ' burying the hatchet ' with

Gareth Owen was to look for a new striker . Two weeks into his reign club captain Tommy Fraser left the club by mutual consent , as signs of what would be an unhappy relationship between club and manager quickly came to the surface . Gannon then brought in Romaine Sawyers and Kayleden Brown on loan from West Bromwich Albion , Jay O 'Shea on loan from Birmingham City , Exodus Geohagbon on loan from Peterborough United , and striker Tom Pope on loan from Rotherham United .

Losing four of his first five games in charge , Gannon was forced to respond to criticism over his team selections and substitutions , and announced plans to expand the club 's non @-@ playing staff . On 1 February the players met with the Chairman and rumours spread that Gannon had ' lost the dressing room ' , as comparisons were made with the tenure of Brian Clough in The Damned United . Yet the next day an O 'Shea volley gave Vale a 1 ? 0 win over promotion rivals Rotherham United to give Gannon his first win in charge at the club . However tension remained , as proven at the end of the month when it was reported that Gannon left the team bus on a pre @-@ match journey after rowing with assistant manager Geoff Horsfield . Gannon had previously told the press his staff were ' underqualified ' , though insisted any changes would be ' implemented at a later stage ' and that Horsfield was a ' great assistant ' . It was later reported in the national media that Horsfield had requested a day off to deal with a family matter , Gannon then granted him permission but subsequently wrote a letter to the board complaining of his conduct . An unnamed director then handed the letter to Horsfield , who confronted Gannon over the issue , brandishing the letter as proof when Gannon denied its existence . This came on the same day that local paper The Sentinel ran an editorial that questioned his loan signings , his decision to drop Gary Roberts and branded his tactics and team selections as baffling . Having returned to the team to steer his side to a 2 ? 1 victory over Aldershot , Gannon said " there 's been misrepresentation in the media over my part in this . I 'm completely the innocent party " . The club informed Horsfield that he would face a disciplinary hearing , whilst Gannon would not be asked to defend his actions and would merely provide a witness statement . The club took no action , and after Horsfield spent two weeks at home the pair returned to work as before . He continued to exploit the loan market , signing Dominic Blizzard from Bristol Rovers , a midfielder who played under him at Stockport .

Results continued to go against the Vale though , as on 19 March they lost 3 ? 0 at Accrington Stanley , and as a result dropped out of the play @-@ off zone for the first time in the season . Ugly post @-@ match scenes at the Crown Ground saw Geohagbon confront fans who singled him out for abuse , whilst Gannon was ushered quietly out of the back door . Roberts told the media " I don 't think the manager likes me and , to be honest , I don 't like him " . Rumours circulated that Gannon would soon be on his way out . These rumours were proved accurate two days later , as Gannon 's departure was confirmed by the club . Hugely unpopular with Vale supporters , his sacking was " quick and with little emotion " , whilst his poor man @-@ management skills helped to earn him the dubious honour of having the shortest reign in the club 's history . Despite this he did receive credit for spotting the potential talent in a teenage Sam Morsy , and for bringing Tom Pope to the club . Gannon himself made a statement on his website declaring his disappointment in the club 's decision to terminate his contract after such a short period of time , and also bemoaned that he " wasn 't able to add many new players [to the squad] " . The " Valiants " continued to struggle under caretaker manager Mark Grew , winning just two of their remaining ten games , and finishing 2010 ? 11 in eleventh place .

== Return to Stockport County ==

Following the resignation of Dietmar Hamann in November 2011 , speculation came of a return to Stockport County for Gannon ; when questioned on the possibility , club chairman Lord Snape stated that should he apply for the position then " he 'd merit very serious consideration " . In the thirty months since Gannon 's departure , the club had seen five full @-@ time managers come and go , suffered relegation into the Conference National , and had not won back @-@ to @-@ back games since February 2009 . On 14 November , he was revealed as the club 's director of football , a position leaving him " responsible for all football matters including 1st team selection and transfers

" ; Willie McStay remained at the club , as his assistant . When he took charge Stockport were seventeenth in the league , just two points above the relegation zone , having won just three of their opening twenty games . He stated that his aim for 2011 ? 12 was to avoid letting the club slip to a third successive relegation .

After losing his first five games in charge , including a 7 ? 0 thumping from Grimsby Town at Blundell Park , Gannon admitted that the club 's finances limited his ability to change personnel . He also stated that " if I didn 't take the job , this club would 've had a real chance of dying ... I 'm not proud to be the manager of a club that loses 7 ? 0 ... but this is my team now ... It has always been my club , so it 's my responsibility to make things better , and over time we will . " He released striker Antonio German , defender Chris Blackburn , and seven goal top @-@ scorer Nick Chadwick in the January transfer window . He then signed defender Joe Connor on non @-@ contract terms , and teenagers Aaron Cole and Danny Rowe on loan . His first win in his second spell at the club came on New Year 's Day , in a 3 ? 2 victory over Barrow at Edgeley Park . He then re @-@ signed former players Paul Turnbull and Matty Mainwaring on loan . Worried by the situation at crisis clubs Darlington and Kettering Town , Gannon cancelled the contracts of veterans Matt Glennon , John Miles , Mark Lynch , and Ryan McCann . He brought in 23 @-@ year @-@ old Telford defender Sean Newton and 18 @-@ year @-@ old Sunderland keeper Lewis King on loan , whilst signing 19 @-@ year @-@ old Lancaster City midfielder Danny Hattersley on a permanent transfer . The " Hatters " secured their Conference status with two games to spare , after a 1 ? 1 home draw with Braintree Town on 14 April , having lost just twice in the league at Edgeley Park since Gannon 's return . Stockport finished the campaign in 16th place , 10 points above the drop and 20 points below the play @-@ off zone .

In preparation for the 2012 ? 13 season , Gannon signed defenders Sean Newton and James Tunnicliffe , and took back Paul Turnbull on loan once again . However he was disappointed to lose striker Tom Elliott , who rejected a contract offer to switch to Cambridge United . He also appointed long @-@ time associate Alan Lord as his assistant . However County found themselves struggling in the league , and Gannon blamed the predicament on the board 's decision to slash the wage budget in the summer . An angry Lord Snape told the press that " I 'm getting pretty fed up of watching part @-@ time teams beat Stockport County . Changes are going to be made unless things improve . Jim Gannon 's pretty good at telling me how this club should be run . Well I 'm going to tell him that I 'm not impressed by the way the team is being run . If we lose a couple of our next games , we 're in a relegation battle with a much bigger budget than most of the teams down there with us , which quite frankly is not good enough . " Fourteen months into his second spell at Edgeley Park and with County sitting in the relegation zone , Gannon was relieved of his duties as Stockport manager on 16 January 2013 following the 3 ? 1 home defeat by Mansfield Town .

= = = Northwich Victoria = = =

On 9 December 2013 it was announced that Gannon would become the new manager of Northern Premier League Division One North side Northwich Victoria . He replaced Lee Ashcroft , who resigned as manager and became director of football after picking up a ten match ban for sexist abuse . The " Vics " ended the 2013 ? 14 season in ninth place . They reached the play @-@ offs in the 2014 ? 15 campaign , losing to Bamber Bridge at the semi @-@ final stage . He took the club on a successful FA Cup run in the 2015 ? 16 campaign , leaving them as the lowest rank team in the competition when they were knocked out by League Two side Northampton Town in the Second Round . Northwich had led 2 ? 0 with eight minutes to play before a late comeback from Northampton .

= = = Third spell at Stockport County = = =

Gannon became manager of Stockport County , now in the National League North , for the third time in his career on 18 January 2016 . Gannon started off well , taking the team to the Cheshire Senior Cup final and up to ninth in the table with a sequence of seven games unbeaten , including

five victories , in the run up to Easter .

= = Managerial style = =

Gannon is one of few managers in the lower leagues to hold a full UEFA Pro Licence .

Priding himself on playing flowing football in the lower leagues of the English game , Gannon has repeatedly spoken out against clubs he feels play too physically , and referees he feels do not give his players enough protection . As a manager in England , Scotland and Ireland , his teams have picked up fair play awards . He has stated that this fair play approach is based on his belief that it is " good principles that lead to good football " .

" My philosophy is good passing football , it is how I believe the game should be played and it brings out the best in players . It inspires them and motivates them to play football in the right manner . "

Gannon has also been called a ' tactical maverick ' due to his unusual formations . These formations include 3 ? 4 ? 1 ? 2 , 4 ? 3 ? 2 ? 1 , 4 ? 1 ? 2 ? 3 , and his preferred set @-@ up of 4 ? 2 ? 3 ? 1 . He has stated that he prefers formations that use four lines of players (as opposed to three lines in the classic 4 ? 4 ? 2) due to the added depth in defence and presence in midfield , and was inspired to use the formations by Carlo Ancelotti . He has also stated that he prefers the 4 ? 3 ? 3 formation to the 4 ? 4 ? 2 formation , and has criticised the way he perceives 4 ? 4 ? 2 to be ' ingrained in the culture ' of English football . He is known to be extremely thorough and meticulous in preparing his players for games .

Of an outspoken nature , he has had public fallings out with players , referees , chairmen , opposition players and managers , and authorities . The Guardian surmised this by saying that " the feeling about Gannon is that it is His Way or the Highway . "

= = Statistics = =

= = = Playing statistics = = =

Sourced from Jim Gannon profile at the English National Football Archive (subscription required)

= = = Managerial statistics = = =

As of match played 27 April 2016 .

= = Honours = =

= = = As player = = =

Dundalk

League of Ireland Premier Division champion : 1987 ? 88

FAI Cup winner : 1988

Stockport County

Football League Second Division runner @-@ up : 1996 ? 97

Football League Fourth Division runner @-@ up : 1990 ? 91

Football League Trophy runner @-@ up : 1992 , 1993

Shelbourne

League of Ireland Premier Division : 2001 ? 02 , 2003

League of Ireland Premier Division runner @-@ up : 2002 ? 03

= = = As manager = = =

Stockport County

Football League Two play @-@ offs winner : 2008

Cheshire Senior Cup winner : 2016

Individual

Scottish Premier League Manager of the Month : October 2009