[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Pp-vandalism](/wiki/Template:Pp-vandalism) [Template:Good article](/wiki/Template:Good_article) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox professional wrestler](/wiki/Template:Infobox_professional_wrestler) **Stephen Farrelly** ([Template:Lang-ga](/wiki/Template:Lang-ga); born 28 January 1978) is an Irish [professional wrestler](/wiki/Professional_wrestling) and actor. He is signed to the American [professional wrestling promotion](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_promotion) [WWE](/wiki/WWE), where he performs under the [ring name](/wiki/Ring_name) **Sheamus** (pronounced [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en))[[1]](#cite_note-1) shortened from his previous ring name **Sheamus O'Shaunessy**.

Prior to joining WWE, Farrelly wrestled on the European circuit and was a two-time [International Heavyweight Champion](/wiki/Irish_Whip_Wrestling#Irish_Whip_Wrestling_International_Heavyweight_Championship) during his tenure in [Irish Whip Wrestling](/wiki/Irish_Whip_Wrestling) (IWW).

After becoming part of the WWE main roster in 2009, he would go on to be a four-time [world champion](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_championship#World_championships) in WWE, having held the [WWE (World Heavyweight) Championship](/wiki/WWE_World_Heavyweight_Championship) [three times](/wiki/List_of_WWE_World_Heavyweight_Champions) and the [World Heavyweight Championship](/wiki/World_Heavyweight_Championship_(WWE)) [once](/wiki/List_of_World_Heavyweight_Champions_(WWE)).[[2]](#cite_note-2) He is also a [two-time](/wiki/List_of_WWE_United_States_Champions) [United States Champion](/wiki/WWE_United_States_Championship). In addition to these championships, he has won the [2010](/wiki/King_of_the_Ring_(2010)) [King of the Ring](/wiki/King_of_the_Ring) tournament, the [2012](/wiki/Royal_Rumble_(2012)) [Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble#Match) match and the [2015](/wiki/Money_in_the_Bank_(2015)) [Money in the Bank ladder match](/wiki/Money_in_the_Bank_ladder_match), making him only the second wrestler (after [Edge](/wiki/Edge_(wrestler))) to achieve all three accomplishments.

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## Early life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Farrelly was born in [Cabra, Dublin](/wiki/Cabra,_Dublin), Ireland and was raised in the city.[[3]](#cite_note-3) He speaks fluent [Irish](/wiki/Irish_language), having attended Scoil Caoimhin Primary and Coláiste Mhuire Secondary School, a [Gaelscoil](/wiki/Gaelscoil).[[3]](#cite_note-3) During his school years, he sang in the Palestrina Choir until the age of 13; during this time, he appeared on the *Late Late Show* and *Live at Three*.[[4]](#cite_note-4) He played [Gaelic football](/wiki/Gaelic_football) for the Erin's Isle team where once he was proclaimed sports star of the month.[[5]](#cite_note-5) He also played [rugby](/wiki/Rugby_union) for the [National College of Ireland](/wiki/National_College_of_Ireland),[[3]](#cite_note-3) where he gained a [National Diploma](/wiki/National_Diploma_(Ireland)).[[6]](#cite_note-6) He has been a fan of [Premier League](/wiki/Premier_League) football club [Liverpool F.C.](/wiki/Liverpool_F.C.) since childhood and also supports both [rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) clubs [London Irish](/wiki/London_Irish) and [Leinster](/wiki/Leinster_Rugby) and [rugby league](/wiki/Rugby_league) club the [New Zealand Warriors](/wiki/New_Zealand_Warriors).[[7]](#cite_note-7) He is a former [IT](/wiki/Information_technology) technician,[[8]](#cite_note-8) and also worked as security for a [nightclub](/wiki/Nightclub), which led to him to occasionally working as a bodyguard for [Bono](/wiki/Bono) and [Larry Mullen, Jr.](/wiki/Larry_Mullen,_Jr.) of [U2](/wiki/U2), as well as [Denise van Outen](/wiki/Denise_van_Outen).[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[43]](#cite_note-43)

### British promotions (2005–2007)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

As well as wrestling in Ireland, O'Shaunessy occasionally travelled to [Great Britain](/wiki/Great_Britain) to make appearances on the [British independent circuit](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_in_the_United_Kingdom). In April 2006 he was brought into [Wales'](/wiki/Wales) Celtic Wrestling promotion as a contender for their top title but was defeated by the champion, Chris Recall.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Later that year in November, he was employed by [London's](/wiki/London) LDN Wrestling to appear on their *Capital TV* show where, after quickly defeating William Hill, he gained an LDN Championship match against Tex Benedict which ended with Benedict winning by disqualification and O'Shaunessy attacking him after the match.[[45]](#cite_note-45) During his time overseas he worked for Brian Dixon's [All Star Wrestling](/wiki/All_Star_Wrestling),[[46]](#cite_note-46) which gave him a taste of large audiences that he had not experienced in Ireland,[[6]](#cite_note-6) as well as wrestling English veteran [Robbie Brookside](/wiki/Robbie_Brookside) and other British wrestling luminaries, including [Nigel McGuinness](/wiki/Nigel_McGuinness) and [Doug Williams](/wiki/Doug_Williams_(wrestler)).[[6]](#cite_note-6) He also represented the UK in a Battle of the Nations tag team match between the UK and Austria alongside [Drew McDonald](/wiki/Drew_McDonald) and [The Celtic Warrior](/wiki/Barri_Griffiths) in a losing effort against Chris Raaber, Michael Kovac, and Robert Ray Kreuzer at the European Wrestling Association's Night of Gladiators.[[47]](#cite_note-47) As well as making top contender appearances based on his growing reputation, O'Shaunessy also brought with him to Britain his long-standing rivalry with Galloway. He had already wrestled in Galloway's home promotion, British Championship Wrestling (BCW), twice in 2005, losing to Jay Phoenix on the day before Phoenix lost to Galloway in March,[[48]](#cite_note-48) and returning in September to defeat one of BCW's top stars, Wolfgang, via [countout](/wiki/Professional_wrestling#Countout).[[49]](#cite_note-49) In the middle of their IWW feud the following year, O'Shaunessy went back to Scotland to take part in BCW's Path To Glory tour, defeating Galloway on the first night[[50]](#cite_note-50) but conceding a loss to him the next night in May.[[51]](#cite_note-51) Though their feud finished in Ireland in August 2006, it continued on across the [Irish Sea](/wiki/Irish_Sea) when the two wrestled for the umbrella promotion [Real Quality Wrestling](/wiki/Real_Quality_Wrestling) (RQW) the following year. The two first met during April's *Taking On The World* show which ended in a double countout.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The lack of a decision led to a rematch in June, and one of O'Shaunessy's last on the independent circuit, where Galloway picked up the victory in a [No Holds Barred match](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_match_types#No_Disqualification_match) ahead of an [RQW Heavyweight Championship](/wiki/RQW_Heavyweight_Championship) match.[[53]](#cite_note-53)

### World Wrestling Entertainment/WWE[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

#### Early cameos (2006)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

On 13 November 2006, O'Shaunessy and English wrestler [Stu Sanders](/wiki/Wade_Barrett) appeared on the [World Wrestling Entertainment](/wiki/WWE) (WWE) show [*Raw*](/wiki/WWE_Raw) at the [Manchester Evening News Arena](/wiki/Manchester_Evening_News_Arena) as part of the security team ejecting [D-Generation X](/wiki/D-Generation_X) from ringside, only for O'Shaunessy to later receive a [*Pedigree*](/wiki/Facebuster#Double_underhook_facebuster) from [Triple H](/wiki/Triple_H).[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[54]](#cite_note-54) The following day, he and Galloway had a tryout match against each other. The following year in April, he received another set of tryout matches in Milan and London against Galloway, as well as Sanders, WWE talent [Jimmy Wang Yang](/wiki/James_Yun), and Monster Factory alumnus [Domino](/wiki/Cliff_Compton).[[55]](#cite_note-55) This led to an offer and signing of a developmental contract with WWE, at which point he relocated to the [United States](/wiki/United_States).[[11]](#cite_note-11)

#### Florida Championship Wrestling (2006–2009)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|right|Sheamus lost the Florida Heavyweight Championship to](/wiki/File:Sheamus_with_an_armbar_on_Eric_Escobar.jpg) [Eric Escobar](/wiki/Eric_Pérez), who is seen here in an [armbar](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_holds#Armbar) O'Shaunessy debuted for the WWE [developmental territory](/wiki/Farm_team#Professional_wrestling) [Florida Championship Wrestling](/wiki/Florida_Championship_Wrestling) (FCW) on 2 October in a double-debut match with a win over [Bryan Kelly](/wiki/Bryan_J._Kelly). While wrestling regularly, he was not part of any long feuds but did wrestle with a number of short-term tag teams alongside Hade Vansen[[56]](#cite_note-56) and [Jake Hager](/wiki/Jake_Hager) before teaming with [Kafu](/wiki/Kafu) (and managed by [Dave Taylor](/wiki/Dave_Taylor_(wrestler,_born_1957))) in the tournament to crown the inaugural [FCW Florida Tag Team Champions](/wiki/FCW_Florida_Tag_Team_Championship). They advanced past the first round after defeating The British Lions ("Thee Superstar" Christopher Gray and "The Rascal" Tommy Taylor), but lost to Brad Allen and [Nick Nemeth](/wiki/Nick_Nemeth) in the second round.[[57]](#cite_note-57) By September, O'Shaunessy had focused his attention on singles competition and wrestled his way to the top of the card, successfully defeating former partner Hager for the [Florida Heavyweight Championship](/wiki/Florida_Championship_Wrestling#FCW_Florida_Heavyweight_Championship).[[5]](#cite_note-5) He defended the title against Hager on 23 October and took on a number of competitors, with [Eric Escobar](/wiki/Eric_Pérez) and [Joe Hennig](/wiki/Joe_Hennig) consistently earning themselves into contention. Eventually, on 11 December, O'Shaunessy lost the title to Escobar in a four-way match also involving Hennig and Drew McIntyre (formerly Drew Galloway).[[57]](#cite_note-57) O'Shaunessy spent 2009 continuing to chase gold, earning two shots in January and February at the Florida Tag Team Champions [Johnny Curtis](/wiki/Johnny_Curtis) and [Tyler Reks](/wiki/Gabe_Tuft), but he and [Ryback](/wiki/Ryan_Reeves) were unsuccessful in both attempts. In March he challenged the two for the titles again, this time with McIntyre as his partner, but could not defeat them, nor could he defeat McIntyre for the Florida Heavyweight Championship the following month. He received a series of chances throughout the rest of the year, but could not win any more titles before being called up to WWE television,[[58]](#cite_note-58) unsuccessfully challenging [Justin Angel](/wiki/Justin_Angel) for the Florida Heavyweight Championship in November.[[59]](#cite_note-59) On 22 July 2008, O'Shaunessy worked a dark match at a *SmackDown* taping, losing to [R-Truth](/wiki/Ron_Killings).[[60]](#cite_note-60) The following year in May, O'Shaunessy began appearing at the Raw [brand's](/wiki/WWE_brand_extension) house shows, and on both 8 and 9 May he defeated [Jamie Noble](/wiki/Jamie_Noble)[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62) along with another dark match victory over Noble before an episode of *Raw*.[[63]](#cite_note-63)

#### WWE Champion (2009–2010)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

On the 30 June 2009 episode of [*ECW*](/wiki/ECW_(WWE)), Farrelly made his unannounced debut as a [villain](/wiki/Heel_(professional_wrestling)) under the shortened ring name of Sheamus, quickly defeating a [local competitor](/wiki/Job_(professional_wrestling)#Jobbers).[[64]](#cite_note-64)<ref name=ecw0630009results>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Sheamus soon entered into a critically well-received[[65]](#cite_note-65) rivalry with [Goldust](/wiki/Dustin_Rhodes) after defeating him on 29 July.[[66]](#cite_note-66) After exchanging victories in the following weeks[[66]](#cite_note-66)[[67]](#cite_note-67) they competed in a [No Disqualification match](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_match_types#No_Disqualification_match) on 1 September which was won by Sheamus.[[65]](#cite_note-65) Sheamus then began a feud with [Shelton Benjamin](/wiki/Shelton_Benjamin) which was [hot-shot](/wiki/Glossary_of_professional_wrestling_terms#Hotshot) into a deciding match on 27 October which Sheamus won.[[68]](#cite_note-68) His rivalry with Benjamin ended prematurely when Sheamus was moved to the [Raw](/wiki/WWE_Raw) brand. He made his *Raw* debut by defeating [Jamie Noble](/wiki/Jamie_Noble) on 26 October.[[69]](#cite_note-69) In the following weeks, he continued to attack Noble causing him to retire,[[70]](#cite_note-70) and, in lieu of competition, assaulted the timekeeper and commentator [Jerry Lawler](/wiki/Jerry_Lawler) on 16 November.[[71]](#cite_note-71) The following week Sheamus appeared on his first WWE [pay-per-view](/wiki/Pay-per-view) event, [Survivor Series](/wiki/Survivor_Series_(2009)), when he was part of [The Miz's](/wiki/The_Miz) team in a [traditional five-on-five elimination tag team match](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_tag_team_match_types#Elimination_tag_team_matches). He eliminated fellow Irishman [Finlay](/wiki/Dave_Finlay) and made the final pinfall to eliminate the opposing captain [John Morrison](/wiki/John_Morrison_(wrestler)) and survive along with The Miz and longtime former rival Drew McIntyre.

[thumb|left|Sheamus as the](/wiki/File:Sheamus_WWE_Champion.jpg) [WWE Champion](/wiki/WWE_World_Heavyweight_Championship) in December 2009 The following night on *Raw*, Sheamus won a "break-through" battle royal for wrestlers who had never won a [world championship](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_championship#World_championships), to become the number one contender to [John Cena's](/wiki/John_Cena) [WWE Championship](/wiki/WWE_World_Heavyweight_Championship). At the contract signing immediately afterward, Sheamus put Cena through the table, and the *Raw* guest host, [Jesse Ventura](/wiki/Jesse_Ventura), announced it would be a [Tables match](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_match_types#Tables_match).[[72]](#cite_note-72) On 13 December at [TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs](/wiki/TLC:_Tables,_Ladders_and_Chairs_(2009)) pay-per-view, Sheamus defeated Cena to win the WWE Championship, his first championship in WWE,[[73]](#cite_note-73) making him the first Irish-born WWE Champion.[[9]](#cite_note-9) He also captured the major title in just 166 days since his WWE debut, making it the third shortest time to capture a title since his WWE/ECW debut.[[74]](#cite_note-74) The following night on *Raw*, Sheamus was awarded the 2009 Breakout Superstar of the Year [Slammy Award](/wiki/Slammy_Award).[[75]](#cite_note-75) On 31 January 2010 at the [Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble_(2010)), Sheamus defeated [Randy Orton](/wiki/Randy_Orton) by disqualification to retain the WWE Championship, following interference from Orton's teammate [Cody Rhodes](/wiki/Cody_Rhodes).[[76]](#cite_note-76) On 21 February, Sheamus lost the WWE Championship at the [Elimination Chamber](/wiki/Elimination_Chamber_(2010)) pay-per-view in the [Elimination Chamber](/wiki/Elimination_Chamber) match after he was eliminated by [Triple H](/wiki/Triple_H).[[77]](#cite_note-77) During the match, Sheamus suffered a [concussion](/wiki/Concussion) and as a result did not attend *Raw* the following night.[[78]](#cite_note-78)[[79]](#cite_note-79) Upon his return, he attacked Triple H in revenge, setting up a match at [WrestleMania XXVI](/wiki/WrestleMania_XXVI), where Sheamus lost.[[80]](#cite_note-80)[[81]](#cite_note-81) The following month at [Extreme Rules](/wiki/Extreme_Rules_(2010)), Sheamus attacked Triple H at the beginning of the show and later defeated him in a [Street Fight](/wiki/Hardcore_wrestling). After a series of kicks to the head to win, he continued his assault after the match finished resulting in Triple H being written off television for ten months.[[82]](#cite_note-82) On 20 June at [Fatal 4-Way](/wiki/Fatal_4-Way_(2010)) pay-per-view, Sheamus won a fatal four-way match, following interference from [The Nexus](/wiki/Nexus_(professional_wrestling)) that allowed him to pin John Cena, winning the WWE Championship for the second time and being named the one-hundredth WWE Champion in history.[[83]](#cite_note-83)[[84]](#cite_note-84) He defeated Cena in a [steel cage match](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_match_types#Cages) to retain the championship on 18 July at the [Money in the Bank](/wiki/Money_in_the_Bank_(2010)) pay-per-view,[[85]](#cite_note-85) retained the title Randy Orton on 15 August at [SummerSlam](/wiki/SummerSlam_(2010)) by disqualification.[[86]](#cite_note-86) On 19 September at [Night of Champions](/wiki/Night_of_Champions_2010), Sheamus lost the WWE Championship to Randy Orton in a six-pack elimination challenge, which also included [Chris Jericho](/wiki/Chris_Jericho), [Edge](/wiki/Edge_(wrestler)), John Cena, and [Wade Barrett](/wiki/Wade_Barrett).[[87]](#cite_note-87) Sheamus received his rematch for the title on 3 October at [Hell in a Cell](/wiki/Hell_in_a_Cell_(2010)), but was again defeated by Orton in a Hell in a Cell match.[[88]](#cite_note-88)

#### Championship reigns (2010–2012)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|Sheamus as the](/wiki/File:King_Sheamus_2010_Tribute_to_the_Troops.jpg) [2010](/wiki/King_of_the_Ring_(2010)) [King of the Ring](/wiki/King_of_the_Ring) He bounced back on 29 November, with wins over [Kofi Kingston](/wiki/Kofi_Kingston) and John Morrison to become [King of the Ring](/wiki/King_of_the_Ring_(2010)), after receiving a bye through the second round.<ref name=KingoftheRing2010>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> As "King Sheamus", he faced Morrison again at the [TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs](/wiki/TLC:_Tables,_Ladders_and_Chairs_(2010)) pay-per-view for a future WWE Championship match, but lost in a ladder match.[[89]](#cite_note-89) Going into 2011, he continued to lose to Morrison in a mixture of singles and tag team matches.[[90]](#cite_note-90)[[91]](#cite_note-91) Triple H returned on 28 February and took revenge for his scripted ten-month injury by putting Sheamus through the announce table.[[92]](#cite_note-92) On 7 March, after losing a match against [Daniel Bryan](/wiki/Daniel_Bryan), Sheamus challenged him to a rematch with his WWE career on the line against Bryan's [United States Championship](/wiki/WWE_United_States_Championship).[[93]](#cite_note-93) He won his match against Bryan the following week, winning his first United States title.[[94]](#cite_note-94) The rematch between Sheamus and Bryan took place on 3 April, during the pre-show of [WrestleMania XXVII](/wiki/WrestleMania_XXVII), and ended in a draw after interference from the lumberjacks.[[95]](#cite_note-95) The next night on *Raw*, Sheamus retained the United States Championship against Bryan in a rematch.[[96]](#cite_note-96) In the [2011 Supplemental Draft](/wiki/2011_WWE_Draft#Supplemental_Draft), Sheamus was drafted to the [SmackDown brand](/wiki/WWE_SmackDown), and made his SmackDown debut on 29 April, and attacking Kofi Kingston. He brought the United States Championship to SmackDown, but lost it back to the Raw brand at [Extreme Rules](/wiki/Extreme_Rules_(2011)) when Kingston defeated him in a Tables match.[[97]](#cite_note-97)[[98]](#cite_note-98) On the 3 June episode of *SmackDown*, Sheamus lost a World Heavyweight Championship match to Randy Orton due to biased [refereeing](/wiki/Referee_(professional_wrestling)) from [Christian](/wiki/Christian_(wrestler)).[[99]](#cite_note-99) Two weeks later, he lost a match to Christian, ending his chance to compete in the World Heavyweight Championship match at [Capitol Punishment](/wiki/WWE_Capitol_Punishment).[[100]](#cite_note-100) Sheamus turned face for the first time by starting a brief feud with [Mark Henry](/wiki/Mark_Henry) over Henry being a bully, including a loss at [SummerSlam](/wiki/SummerSlam_(2011)), Sheamus went on a fourteen match winning streak that ended after interference from Christian, with whom he had been feuding.[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102) During this time, Sheamus defeated Christian in three consecutive matches at [Hell in a Cell](/wiki/Hell_in_a_Cell_(2011)), [Vengeance](/wiki/Vengeance_(2011)), and on *SmackDown*.[[103]](#cite_note-103)[[104]](#cite_note-104)[[105]](#cite_note-105) He then went on a twelve match winning streak[[106]](#cite_note-106) building towards winning the [2012 Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble_(2012)). He entered the [match](/wiki/Royal_Rumble#Match) twenty-second and won by last eliminating Chris Jericho to earn a main event championship match at [WrestleMania XXVIII](/wiki/WrestleMania_XXVIII).[[107]](#cite_note-107) [thumb|left|upright|Sheamus as the](/wiki/File:Sheamus_April_2012.jpg) [World Heavyweight Champion](/wiki/World_Heavyweight_Championship_(WWE)) in April 2012 On 19 February at [Elimination Chamber](/wiki/Elimination_Chamber_(2012)), Sheamus attacked World Heavyweight Champion Daniel Bryan after the latter retained his title, indicating he would face Bryan at WrestleMania.[[108]](#cite_note-108) On 1 April at WrestleMania XXVIII, Sheamus defeated Bryan in a record eighteen seconds to win the [World Heavyweight Championship](/wiki/World_Heavyweight_Championship_(WWE)).<ref name=whc1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> On the following episode of *SmackDown*, Sheamus was defeated by [Alberto Del Rio](/wiki/Alberto_Del_Rio) in a non-title match via disqualification, thus earning Del Rio a future title match and beginning a feud between the two.[[109]](#cite_note-109) On 29 April at [Extreme Rules](/wiki/Extreme_Rules_(2012)), Sheamus successfully defended the World Heavyweight Championship against Bryan in a two out of three falls match.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Sheamus then returned to his rivalry with Del Rio while also starting a feud with Chris Jericho and Randy Orton.[[111]](#cite_note-111) The four-way rivalry culminated in a match for the World Heavyweight Championship on 20 May at [Over the Limit](/wiki/Over_the_Limit_(2012)), where Sheamus pinned Jericho to retain.[[112]](#cite_note-112) Del Rio earned another shot at Sheamus' title on the following episode of *SmackDown*, but suffered a concussion a week before their match at [No Way Out](/wiki/No_Way_Out_(2012)) and was subsequently replaced by [Dolph Ziggler](/wiki/Dolph_Ziggler); Sheamus retained the championship in their match.[[113]](#cite_note-113)[[114]](#cite_note-114)[[115]](#cite_note-115)[[116]](#cite_note-116)[[117]](#cite_note-117) Sheamus went on to retain the championship against Del Rio and Ziggler over the next few months, including at the [Money in the Bank](/wiki/Money_in_the_Bank_(2012)), [SummerSlam](/wiki/SummerSlam_(2012)), and [Night of Champions](/wiki/Night_of_Champions_(2012)) pay-per-views.[[118]](#cite_note-118)[[119]](#cite_note-119)[[120]](#cite_note-120)[[121]](#cite_note-121) On 28 October at [Hell in a Cell](/wiki/Hell_in_a_Cell_(2012)), Sheamus lost the World Heavyweight Championship to [Big Show](/wiki/Big_Show), ending his reign, which was the third longest in the title's history, at 210 days.[[122]](#cite_note-122) Sheamus faced Show for the World Heavyweight Championship on 18 November at [Survivor Series](/wiki/Survivor_Series_(2012)), where he defeated Show via disqualification, failing to win the title. Afterward, Sheamus repeatedly hit Show with a steel chair.[[123]](#cite_note-123) This led to a Chairs match on 16 December at [TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs](/wiki/TLC:_Tables,_Ladders_and_Chairs_(2012)), where Sheamus again failed to regain the World Heavyweight Championship.[[124]](#cite_note-124) On the 24 December episode of *Raw*, Sheamus defeated Show in a non-title lumberjack match.[[125]](#cite_note-125)

#### Various feuds (2013–2014)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|upright|right|Sheamus won his second](/wiki/File:Sheamus_US_Champion_2014.jpg) [United States Championship](/wiki/WWE_United_States_Championship) in May 2014 On 27 January 2013, at the [Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble_(2013)), Sheamus entered the Royal Rumble at number eleven and eliminated five other competitors before being eliminated by Ryback.[[126]](#cite_note-126) After being a frequent target of [The Shield](/wiki/The_Shield_(professional_wrestling)),[[127]](#cite_note-127) Sheamus gained vengeance on the stable when he united with John Cena and Ryback to attack them.[[128]](#cite_note-128) This culminated in a six-man tag team match at [Elimination Chamber](/wiki/Elimination_Chamber_(2013)), where the Shield emerged victorious.[[129]](#cite_note-129) In late February, Sheamus aligned himself with Randy Orton to feud with The Shield.[[130]](#cite_note-130) Over the next weeks, Sheamus and Orton saved each other from attacks by The Shield and Big Show.[[131]](#cite_note-131)[[132]](#cite_note-132) On the 15 March episode of *SmackDown*, Sheamus and Orton were then allowed to pick a third partner to face the Shield in a six-man tag team match at [WrestleMania 29](/wiki/WrestleMania_29) and chose Ryback.[[133]](#cite_note-133) Three days later on *Raw*, however, Ryback was booked for another match at the event, leaving the spot open. Later that night, Big Show saved the two from an attack by The Shield and was recruited as their partner.[[134]](#cite_note-134)[[135]](#cite_note-135) On 7 April at WrestleMania 29, Sheamus, Orton and Show were defeated by The Shield, after which both men were knocked out by Show.[[136]](#cite_note-136) The following night on *Raw*, Sheamus and Orton faced off in a match to earn a match with Big Show, however, the match ended in a no contest after Show interfered.[[137]](#cite_note-137) Sheamus and Orton then defeated Show in two handicap matches on *SmackDown* and *Raw*.[[138]](#cite_note-138)[[139]](#cite_note-139) Later that month, Sheamus re-entered a feud with Mark Henry after the two repeatedly attacked each other backstage.[[138]](#cite_note-138)[[139]](#cite_note-139)[[140]](#cite_note-140) Sheamus and Henry then challenged each other in tests of strength, but with Sheamus unable to best Henry, he resorted to attacking Henry.[[141]](#cite_note-141)[[142]](#cite_note-142) After Sheamus attacked a commentary-bound Henry during a match, Henry whipped Sheamus with a belt, prompting a [strap match](/wiki/Strap_match) on 19 May at [Extreme Rules](/wiki/Extreme_Rules_(2013)), where Sheamus emerged victorious.[[143]](#cite_note-143)[[144]](#cite_note-144) Sheamus then began feuding with [Damien Sandow](/wiki/Damien_Sandow), when Sandow hosted a series of mental challenges on *SmackDown*, and Sheamus repeatedly interrupted and tried to solve the challenges. However, when Sheamus failed to solve the puzzles, he instead resorted to physical violence.[[145]](#cite_note-145)[[146]](#cite_note-146)[[147]](#cite_note-147) On 16 June, during the [Payback](/wiki/Payback_(2013)) pre-show, Sheamus defeated Sandow in a singles match.[[148]](#cite_note-148) The following night on *Raw*, Sheamus was defeated by Sandow and Cody Rhodes in a handicap match after Sandow pinned him with a roll-up.[[149]](#cite_note-149) The rivalry culminated in a Dublin Street Fight on the 28 June episode of *SmackDown*, where Sheamus emerged victorious.[[150]](#cite_note-150) On 14 July at [Money in the Bank](/wiki/Money_in_the_Bank_(2013)), Sheamus competed in the WWE Championship [Money in the Bank ladder match](/wiki/Money_in_the_Bank_ladder_match), but was unsuccessful as the match was won by Randy Orton.[[151]](#cite_note-151) During the match, Sheamus suffered a [hematoma](/wiki/Hematoma) on his left thigh after being thrown into a horizontal ladder, which prevented him from competing that week.[[152]](#cite_note-152) Sheamus returned to in-ring action on the 22 July episode of *Raw*, losing to World Heavyweight Champion Alberto Del Rio in a non-title match.[[153]](#cite_note-153) On 7 August, WWE confirmed Sheamus had suffered a torn [labrum](/wiki/Glenoid_labrum) in his shoulder that would require surgery, and was expected to miss between four and six months of ring action.[[154]](#cite_note-154)[[155]](#cite_note-155) On 26 January 2014, at the [Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble_(2014)), Sheamus returned as a surprise entrant in the Royal Rumble match; he was eliminated by [Roman Reigns](/wiki/Roman_Reigns) in the final three.[[156]](#cite_note-156) The following night on *Raw*, Sheamus, Daniel Bryan, and John Cena qualified for the Elimination Chamber match for the [WWE World Heavyweight Championship](/wiki/WWE_World_Heavyweight_Championship); he was eliminated by Christian in the match. This began a brief feud leading up to WrestleMania, in which Sheamus consistently was victorious. He was part of the final four in the [André the Giant](/wiki/André_the_Giant) Memorial battle royal at [WrestleMania XXX](/wiki/WrestleMania_XXX), before he and Alberto Del Rio eliminated each other.[[157]](#cite_note-157) On 14 April, Sheamus participated in the Intercontinental Championship number one contender tournament, which was held on *Raw*. He advanced to the next round by defeating [Jack Swagger](/wiki/Jack_Swagger), before losing to [Bad News Barrett](/wiki/Bad_News_Barrett) in the semi-finals on 21 April.[[158]](#cite_note-158)[[159]](#cite_note-159) On the 5 May episode of *Raw*, Sheamus won a 20-man battle royal to win the United States Championship for the second time, last eliminating the previous champion [Dean Ambrose](/wiki/Dean_Ambrose). Sheamus then began feuding with [Cesaro](/wiki/Antonio_Cesaro) and his manager [Paul Heyman](/wiki/Paul_Heyman), culminating in a match between Sheamus and Cesaro for the championship at [Payback](/wiki/Payback_(2014)), which Sheamus won. On 9 June, Sheamus defeated Bad News Barrett to qualify for the [Money in the Bank](/wiki/Money_in_the_Bank_(2014)) ladder match for the vacant WWE World Heavyweight Championship; the match was won by John Cena.[[160]](#cite_note-160) Sheamus was in the Intercontinental Championship battle royal at [Battleground](/wiki/Battleground_(2014)); the match was won by [The Miz](/wiki/The_Miz). At [Night of Champions](/wiki/Night_of_Champions_(2014)), Sheamus successfully defended the title against Cesaro and retained the championship against The Miz at [Hell in a Cell](/wiki/Hell_in_a_Cell_(2014)).[[161]](#cite_note-161)[[162]](#cite_note-162) He lost the title to [Rusev](/wiki/Alexander_Rusev) on 3 November, in a match aired exclusively on the [WWE Network](/wiki/WWE_Network).[[163]](#cite_note-163) Following this, Sheamus was written off television when he and Big Show were attacked by Rusev and Mark Henry, allowing Sheamus time off for surgery.[[164]](#cite_note-164)[[165]](#cite_note-165)

#### The League of Nations (2015–2016)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Quote box](/wiki/Template:Quote_box) On the 30 March episode of *Raw*, Sheamus returned from injury, having drastically changed his look, including a mohawk and braided beard, appearing to save Daniel Bryan and Dolph Ziggler from an attack by Bad News Barrett, but then attacked Bryan and Ziggler instead, turning heel in the process for the first time since 2011.[[166]](#cite_note-166)[[167]](#cite_note-167) Sheamus then explained his heel turn and new attitude by claiming that "the era of underdogs is over", resulting in a feud with Ziggler.[[168]](#cite_note-168) On the 16 April episode of *SmackDown*, Sheamus announced that he would face Ziggler in a [Kiss Me Arse match](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_match_types#Kiss_My_Foot_match) at [Extreme Rules](/wiki/Extreme_Rules_(2015)), which he lost.[[169]](#cite_note-169) However, Sheamus refused to follow the stipulation, and instead made Ziggler kiss his arse, despite losing.[[170]](#cite_note-170) At [Payback](/wiki/Payback_(2015)), Sheamus defeated Ziggler in a rematch.[[171]](#cite_note-171) At [Elimination Chamber](/wiki/Elimination_Chamber_(2015)), Sheamus participated in the [Elimination Chamber match](/wiki/Elimination_Chamber) for the vacant [Intercontinental Championship](/wiki/WWE_Intercontinental_Championship), but was unsuccessful as the match was won by [Ryback](/wiki/Ryback).[[172]](#cite_note-172) At [Money in the Bank](/wiki/Money_in_the_Bank_(2015)), Sheamus won the [Money in the Bank ladder match](/wiki/Money_in_the_Bank_ladder_match) to earn a [WWE World Heavyweight Championship](/wiki/WWE_World_Heavyweight_Championship) contract.[[173]](#cite_note-173) Sheamus then began a feud with [Randy Orton](/wiki/Randy_Orton), who was also part of the ladder match, with both men attacking each other and facing off in tag-team matches. Sheamus lost to Orton at [Battleground](/wiki/Battleground_(2015)), but defeated Orton at [SummerSlam](/wiki/SummerSlam_(2015)).[[174]](#cite_note-174)[[175]](#cite_note-175) At [Survivor Series](/wiki/Survivor_Series_(2015)), Sheamus cashed in his Money in the Bank contract and defeated newly crowned champion [Roman Reigns](/wiki/Roman_Reigns), after he refused to shake hands with [Triple H](/wiki/Triple_H), to win the WWE World Heavyweight Championship, thus aligning with Triple H and [The Authority](/wiki/The_Authority_(professional_wrestling)).[[176]](#cite_note-176) On the November 30 episode of *Raw*, Sheamus announced that he had formed his own stable called The League of Nations with [King Barrett](/wiki/Wade_Barrett), [Alberto Del Rio](/wiki/Alberto_Del_Rio), and [Rusev](/wiki/Alexander_Rusev). This new stable, the members of which all have been born outside the U.S., remained associated with the Authority. In addition, he proclaimed his championship reign as "Sheamus 5:15", which is a play on [Austin 3:16](/wiki/Stone_Cold_Steve_Austin) and Reigns' short-lived tenure as champion for five minutes and 15 seconds.[[177]](#cite_note-177) [thumb|left|upright|Sheamus in a tag match during a *SmackDown* event in January 2016.](/wiki/File:WWE_Smackdown_IMG_1131_(24292954481).jpg) At the [TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs](/wiki/TLC:_Tables,_Ladders_and_Chairs_(2015)) pay-per-view, Sheamus defeated Reigns in a tables, ladders, and chairs match due to interference from The League of Nations. After the match, Reigns snapped and viciously attacked Sheamus as well as Triple H.[[178]](#cite_note-178) On the January 4, 2016 episode of *Raw*, he failed to regain the title from Reigns with McMahon as [special guest referee](/wiki/Referee_(professional_wrestling)#Special_referees).[[179]](#cite_note-179) On January 24, Sheamus entered the [2016 Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble_(2016)) at number 29, where he made to the final four, before being eliminated by Reigns. This loss would end his feud with Reigns.[[180]](#cite_note-180)[[181]](#cite_note-181) At [Fastlane](/wiki/Fastlane_(2016)), [WWE Tag Team Champions](/wiki/WWE_Tag_Team_Championship) [The New Day](/wiki/The_New_Day_(wrestling)) began mocking The League of Nations, calling them the "league of booty". They then continued to mock The League of Nations in various segments and skits while simultaneously feuding with other teams.[[182]](#cite_note-182)<ref name=vsBarrett/> – 2009–present

* + - *High Cross*[[195]](#cite_note-195)/*Pale Justice*[[196]](#cite_note-196)/*Celtic Cross*[[197]](#cite_note-197) or a [chokeslam](/wiki/Chokeslam) lifted and dropped into a [side slam](/wiki/Powerslam#Side_slam))<ref name=PWTorch>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>
* **Signature moves**
  + *Battering Ram*[[201]](#cite_note-201) ([Diving shoulder block](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_aerial_techniques#Diving_shoulder_block), sometimes while [slingshotting](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_aerial_techniques#Slingshot))<ref name=vsBarrett>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[202]](#cite_note-202)[[203]](#cite_note-203)\*\* *Beats of the Bodhrán* ([Forearm clubs](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_attacks#Forearm_club) to a rope hung opponent's chest)<ref name=vsBarrett/>[[204]](#cite_note-204)[[205]](#cite_note-205)[[206]](#cite_note-206)\*\* [Cloverleaf](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_holds#Cloverleaf)[[207]](#cite_note-207)\*\* [Drop suplex](/wiki/Suplex#Drop_suplex)[[208]](#cite_note-208)