

MY LIFE IN FOOTBALL

THE WOMAN WHO

LIVES FOR FOOTBALL



KELLY CATES

TV & radio presenter

Age 42

Team Liverpool

Favourite player Kevin de Bruyne



Kelly's dad Kenny with the Premier League trophy

ACTION IMAGES, COLORSPORT, GETTY IMAGES (4), PAPHOTO (5/2)

You don't need to be a pro player to work in football. Kelly Cates grew up with the game. Her dad, Kenny Dalglish, was a famous player and manager! She tells us why she loves her job as a football presenter

When I was a baby my mum took me to matches to watch my dad play. I don't remember a time when I didn't go to football games – my earliest memories are of being in the players' lounge with the other players' children.

I support Liverpool because that's who my dad played for. When he became a manager and moved clubs, I always wanted his teams to do well, even when they were playing Liverpool. When my youngest sister was in school she was asked what her dad did and she said: "He stands in a small box and points!"

When I was 11 I was playing football on some concrete. I ran down the wing thinking "Oh, this will be easy", tripped over and knocked myself out! That was the end of my football career.

One of the nicest games I've been at was Liverpool v Blackburn in 1995. My dad was the Blackburn manager and they had the chance to win the Premier League. It was at Anfield and lots of Liverpool's fans wanted Blackburn to win the league instead of Manchester United. Liverpool won 2-1 but Manchester United only drew with West Ham so Blackburn still won the title!

I didn't always want to work in football. I did a degree in maths but after I left university I wanted to do something different. The Sky Sports News channel was being launched and they were looking for young people who loved football.

Working in enemy territory



Following in her father's footsteps

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Signing for Sky Sports News



Interviewing Steven Gerrard after Liverpool's FA Cup final win in 2006

It was new and no one was watching so they pretty much said to us: "Go and play at being on the telly!"

I also work on radio and I love the variety. TV is much more analysis-based because you can show the pictures and discuss them. On radio that's harder because you are trying to paint a picture with words.

I still get nervous - nerves are a good thing, they mean you are excited!

Growing up around footballers means I have a different understanding about how they think. Especially with managers. You are often asking them questions in the heat of the moment straight after a game. I've had managers get a bit annoyed by a question but it's often not me they are angry at. They are under a lot of pressure.

The best thing about my job is being surrounded by experts. I can ask why a player did a certain thing and they give me the best answers possible!

One of my favourite moments in football was when Liverpool won the 2005 Champions League in Istanbul. I had been over at the game as a supporter and then got to cover the victory parade in Liverpool while I was working for Sky Sports News. It was the first thing I had presented on my own, so it was a huge moment for me. Even though it was the day after the game the players looked absolutely stunned at winning the trophy. It was really special and it felt like they'd let me do a proper grown-up job!



Presenting this season's Friday Night Football



Celebrating Liverpool's amazing Champions League win in 2005



Showing her true colours in the studio