

UCD NEWS



The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 2

October 2003

WELCOME TO THE second issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a feature on our latest international player, a profile of recent stand-in captain Johnny Martin, the first winners in our UCD tickets give-away and the Belfield Diary, looking back at the events of the last month.

And what a month it's been! We've gone from the highs to the lows, both on and off the pitch! First up was the great news of Hugh Davey's call-up to the Northern Ireland Under-21s squad. Davey signed for Blackburn Rovers last year and was a regular for the North's underage squads. However, he was frozen out on his arrival at Belfield until the personal intervention of Paul Doolin persuaded the North to reconsider. Earlier this year, he played in the Milk Cup – one of the most prestigious youth tournaments in the world – for the North's under-20s squad. Their first match was against Brazil in Windsor Park! They lost 1-0 to a late goal, and went on to finish fifth of the eight teams. Last month, he travelled to the Ukraine and made his under-21s debut – still only 19 years old! We have a report on his spectacular home debut on the next page! Being a youth-orientated club, UCD has had plenty of underage honours – our last Under-21 international was Robbie Doyle, who impressed as a second-half sub against Finland in August of last year. Darragh Ryan and Robbie Martin were both chosen for a special training camp in Bisham Abbey – the England training facilities – two years ago, and Daz was named the outstanding player. In 2000, Clive Delaney and Ciarán Martyn both played for Ireland U-21s against Greece. At other levels too, UCD have been involved – former captain Aidan Lynch was in the U-20s squad which came third in the World Cup in Malaysia in 1997, while Clive Delaney scored the winning goal in the Under-18s third/fourth play off in the European Championships in 1998. However, last month also saw manager Paul Doolin take up the reigns at Drogheda. This came less than 24 hours after one of our most impressive performances of the season, as Cork hold on for a point in Belfield. "Doolo" had been manager for just over two years since taking over from Martin Moran, and led UCD to seventh- and sixth-place finishes in his two seasons. Had last season not been shortened due to the introduction of summer soccer, we could well have reached Europe as we finished with one defeat in twelve, six clean sheets in a row and the best defence in the league! Pete Mahon was soon installed as his successor – we'll have more on him next month.

As the College year starts up again, we've signed a number of youngsters on scholarships. Mark Leech is the son of the great Mick Leech, who scored 132 goals in the League of Ireland, mostly for the great Shamrock Rovers team, as well as two goals in eight Ireland games – against Iran and Portugal in the Brazilian Independence Cup of 1972. Mark is already off the mark after a goal against Waterford, and is knocking them in in the reserves. Tadgh Purcell is another forward – he joins us from Shamrock Rovers and was on the bench against Cork. Lloyd Colfer – yet another forward! – comes from St. Pat's and has made his mark in the Under-21s league already, and made his debut against Rovers. Mark Rooney has been a regular in recent weeks and scored against Cork. John Gaffney, a defensive midfielder, has signed from Sligo, where he was in the first team for the last two years. He scored a brilliant 25-yard drive in the recent 3-2 Cup win over Shels – see here to download a video clip! Neil Gallagher is a goalkeeper who arrives from Dundalk, where again he was in and around the first team, and has been on the bench in recent weeks.

BELFIELD DIARY

29th August – Robbie Griffin ends his run of four games without a goal when scoring in Dalymount against Bohs, but two goals by our top scorer last season Robbie Doyle seal a 2-1 win for the Gypsies. Alan Gallen misses the game through injury, our fifth striker to head to the treatment room.

30th August – With transfer deadline looming, UCD snap a final couple of scholarship students – see the editorial for more details! Meanwhile, Clive Delaney puts pen to paper with St. Pat's, probably the only Dublin club not linked with him in the last couple of weeks.

5th September – Ireland's under-21s beat Russia 2-0 in Waterford with two goals from Graham Barrett. Meanwhile, Hugh Davey makes his debut for Northern Ireland U-21s in their 0-0 draw in the Ukraine.

6th September – Ireland's Euro 2004 campaign suffers a setback with a 1-1 draw against Russia in Lansdowne. The UCD Supporters' Club receives an allocation of 12 tickets for the game – however, this is expected to increase from the next World Cup.

7th September – UCD draw 1-1 with Cork in a game moved from Friday to Sunday to allow John O'Flynn play for Ireland the previous Friday as well – he lasts three minutes before being stretchered off! Mark Rooney scores his first goal for UCD after being put through by Pat Sullivan, and things look well when Derek Coughlan is sent off for hauling down Rooney, again through on goal. However, despite plenty of UCD pressure, Cork snatch a draw through Kevin Doyle, who intercepts a Robbie Mac throw to shoot past Austin O'Neill in goals. The match is to be Paul Doolin's last in charge as...

8th September - ...he joins Drogheda United the next day to bring to an end his two-year reign as UCD manager. Potential successors include Harry McCue, Tommy Dunne, Noel King and Jim Gannon.

9th September – Ireland draw 2-2 with Turkey in a friendly at Lansdowne – Richie Dunne, nephew of UCD coach Theo, is the hero with an injury-time equaliser. Hugh Davey plays and scores for the North's under-21s as they beat Armenia 3-1.

13th September – UCD's U-21s beat Shamrock Rovers, fielding a Moroccan international, 2-1 at Belfield courtesy of Mark Leech and an own goal.

15th September – Pete Mahon is confirmed as UCD's new manager, with Eddie Wallace returning to UCD as head of the Soccer Scholarship scheme.

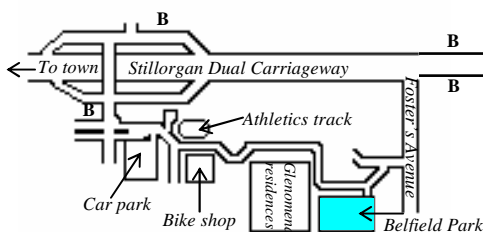
19th September – Mahon's first game ends in defeat as UCD lose away to Rovers in Belfield. Former Student Glen Fitzpatrick and Tony Grant score for Rovers; Hugh Davey is controversially sent off and John Gaffney and Lloyd Colfer make their debuts.

20th September – UCD U-21s draw 2-2 with Trinity – Mark Leech and Lloyd Colfer score. Continuing the trend of big rivals being sponsored by the same company – Rangers and Celtic by ntl: for example, Trinity are sponsored by Budweiser this year, just like their superior counterparts!

22nd September – UCD hammer Waterford 3-0, with long-range drives from Pat Sullivan and Mark Leech (his only touch of the game!) and a Mick O'Donnell header.

25th September – A first away win of the season as Alan Gallen and John Martin (with a bizarre dance as celebration!) score in Derry to bring us to within two points of the Candystripes. Former UCD manager Dermot Keely quits as Derry boss immediately after.

WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



Buses to Belfield:

3	10
11	11B
17	46
46A	46B
46C	46D
63	84
B – Bus stop	

MAKING WAVES

From the IC Northern Ireland website ([link here](#))

Roy Millar's Northern Ireland grabbed their first win in the European Championship Under-21 campaign following a sizzling second half display at the Ballymena Showgrounds.

Warren Feeney, tearaway substitute Terry McFlynn and excellent left-winger Hugh Davey were the goal-grabbing heroes.

In an amazing second session, Feeney squared the argument on 52 minutes, McFlynn struck on 72 and a close range Davey header three minutes from time made it a memorable night for Northern Ireland - earning them their first competitive success in 35 months.

Feeney's excellent angled strike, from the left side of the six yards box, began the revival. Davey's crisp delivery from a corner was touched on by Wayne Buchanan and it fell nicely for the Bournemouth player. It was Warren's first goal in seven appearances. Then it was McFlynn's turn to ease the anxiety. The 22-year-old, from Margate, was only 12 minutes on the pitch.

Then the dangerous Davey ducked and dived in the 87th minute. His first header spun out of the hands of Bete, but Davey followed up to finish off with his forehead on the line.

Millar's boys came back from the brink to record only their second European success. He said: "We badly needed the win. Our one previous victory was in the last campaign, when beating Iceland.

"We staged a terrific recovery to win this one. Their early goal set us back. But we got our passing game together in the second half. My man of the match was Hugh Davey. I am delighted for the boys because at times we've not got the result our performances have merited.

"We lost 1-0 to Spain in the 93rd minute and then have struggled to pick up points since then. But this was a good performance tonight. We dominated the second half and our passing was so much better. In the second half we pressurised them more and were able to pass it about. You could see the mood lifting after we got the equaliser and I think we deserved to get this victory."

McFlynn, who replaced Glentoran's new midfielder Gavin Mealugh on the hour, provided the killer strike. He drilled in a low speculative right footer from the edge of the box.

He was dead centre and, for a change, Irish luck helped as McFlynn's effort took a deflection to wrong foot jittery Armenia goalkeeper Bete. The ball zipped low into the right corner.

The game started on a disastrous note for the home side, conceding a goal in two minutes 30 seconds. The home defence was caught napping when the play switched from the left side by Armenia's Grigoryan, cutting out an attempted raid by Mark Hughes. All of a sudden, the diagonal cross, touched on by the hugely influential midfield giant Balep, found Lombe. Stocky Pachajyan stepped on the gas, and triggered a low right footer across goalkeeper Alan Blayney.

The Armenian strike rocked the local boys. They were almost caught again when Manucharyan fired over from 14 yards.

Gradually, the Irish came to terms with the game, and Armenia enjoyed a let off following another Davey corner. Gavin Melaugh required treatment after consuming a direct hit on the pit of his stomach. Thankfully, the midfielder recovered.

Towards the end of the first session, there was a moment of anxiety for the home team, when a right wing free kick by Mkrtchyan was back headed over the crossbar by full back Aleksanyan.

Northern Ireland had the final say, but no luck in the closing seconds, after Davey's left-footer was cleared off the line by Armenia's skipper Kirakosyan, and then the keeper threw his frame at the feet of and Distillery defender Wayne Buchanan to prevent an equaliser.

But it all came good in the second half.

WIN MATCH TICKETS

Our free match tickets giveaway has belatedly got underway - our first winner is Ronan Sweeney from Rathfarnham, who wins four tickets to the UCD v. Shelbourne game on the 3rd of October. There's six more home games after that, so there's still six more chance to win this season!

To unsubscribe from the UCD Supporters' Club, simply send us an e-mail at ucdafc@yahoo.ie

FOCUS ON – JOHNNY MARTIN

Name – John Martin

Date of birth – 24/12/79

Place of birth – Dublin

Position – Right-wing or centre-mid

Joined UCD – July 1997

Signed from – Crumlin United

UCD debut – H v. Bohemians (League Cup), 24/08/97

First goal – H v. Bohemians

(League Cup), 24/08/97. Didn't score a league goal until February 2000 though!

2003 UCD statistics – Played 27 (23 league, 2 League Cup, 2 FAI Cup – ever-present this season), scored 2 (1 League Cup, 1 league)

Career UCD statistics (league only) – 139 games, 11 goals

Famous relatives? – His brother Robbie is also on the books at UCD (or more correctly, in the treatment room at UCD!). His dad Paul played for Athlone Town in their 0-0 European Cup Second Round draw at home to AC Milan in 1975. Milan won the second leg 3-0.



UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd October – UCD v. Shelbourne, Belfield Park, 7:45pm

10th October – Drogheda United v. UCD, O2 Park, 8:00pm. We're organising a coach to this one, leaving the Montrose at 5:00, arriving back around 11:30, so if you're interested in heading up, e-mail us at the usual address. The cost of the return coach is €10.

11th October – Switzerland v. Republic of Ireland, Basel.

14th October – UCD v. St. Pat's Athletic, Belfield Park, 7:45pm.

18th October – Longford Town v. UCD, Flancare Park, 7:30pm. We're looking to do a coach out to this one as well, so if you're interested, give us a shout. The trip will probably include a rematch of the recent fans' match between Longford Town and UCD which was on at half-time in the senior game and we'll try and fit anyone interested into that as well.

21st October – UCD v. Bohemians, Belfield Park, 7:45pm.

24th October – Cork City v. UCD, Turner's Cross, 7:45pm. This one gets a bit mad...

31st October – UCD v. Shamrock Rovers, Belfield Park, 7:45pm. There's a scary thought for Hallowe'en!

Don't forget – if you can't go to a UCD game, you can keep in touch with the Students in many ways –

- Aertel page 222
- ThreeText page 237 (on TV3)
- The UCD text service – text UCD to 53131 to receive goal flashes and news! Texts cost 30p each. To unsubscribe, text "Unsub UCD" to 53131.
- <http://www.fsu.ie/forums> – a UCD messageboard
- RTÉ Medium Wave and Newstalk 106, both of which offer regular eircom League commentary on Fridays.
- www.ucd.ie/~soccer, the official UCD website
- www.ucd.ie/~soccerup, the unofficial website. A new unofficial website (one to which we will have access to the password to update it!) is being planned for the next couple of months.