

UCD NEWS



The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 3

November 2003

WELCOME TO THE third issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of star midfielder Alan Cawley, Pete Mahon's views on taking up the Belfield Park hotseat, the Belfield Diary and our Supporters' Player of the Year competition, as voted by you. We'll be arranging for one fan to make the presentation on the pitch before the Longford game, so make sure and get your votes in!

The last month has been a frustrating one as Pete Mahon has tried to grind out the results to keep us in the top flight for the tenth consecutive season. Pete, for those who don't know, has arrived from non-league Belgrove – ironically enough knocked out of the FAI Cup this year by UCD. Last season, Belgrove won 26, drew 3 and lost just one of their 30 matches in their league! He's also managed league teams in St. Francis, Bohs and St. Pat's and is the father of Alan, one of our longest-serving players. The win against Derry saw him take 14 points from his first 12 games in charge – before he took over, we had just 12 points from 20 games! We've also scored more than once away from home for the first – and second – times in the season, recorded our first away win of the season, kept seven clean sheets (as opposed to two in the first twenty games of the season) and closed the gap at the bottom from seven points to three. However, there are just four games to go, and although we seem to be getting into a decent run of form (four games unbeaten now), the wins we need seem to be just eluding us. By Shamrock Rovers' Glen Fitzpatrick's own admission, Trevor Molloy was three yards offside when scoring their late equaliser at Belfield recently, while Rob McAuley missed his first penalty of the season in the last minute at Waterford to leave the score 2-2.

Our upcoming games make interesting reading. Shels are going for the league, but have already dropped two points at home to us this season. Drogheda have only ever won once in Belfield. Pat's' win over us in Richmond last August was the first time they'd beaten us since the League Cup Final of 2000/01, a run of eight games. And Longford are the only team to have beaten us three times this season, which we'll be looking to change! With Drogheda and Derry having games in hand still, we'll probably have to take at least seven points from these games to at least get into the play-offs. The play-off sees the ninth-placed Premier side play the fourth-placed First Division side (currently Limerick) over two legs, with the first leg away. Second and third in the First Division play off similarly, with the two winners meeting in a two-leg final, with the Premier/Fourth-place First Division side away for the first leg.

On the injury front, anyone at Belfield Park for recent games will have seen the encouraging sight of Alan Mahon and Pat Burke stepping up their comebacks from injury. Neither are expected back in the first team before the start of next season, but it's a nice plus to see them back with the players on the pitch at least!

Finally, a reminder of the Supporters' Awards, the nominations for which are in the accompanying e-mail. We're looking for your 1-2-3 in each category, and we'll pick one voter to make the Player of the Year presentation to the winner before the Longford game. There'll be new winners this season as the current holders are Barry Ryan (Player of the Year) and Robbie Doyle (New Player of the Year and Goal of the Season) – who are they to be??

BELFIELD DIARY

3rd October – Shelbourne sneak all three points from Belfield courtesy of a Jamie Harris goal after an hour. Mark Rooney has the hosts' best chance, but after cutting inside his marker, he sees Steve Williams make a good save. One good piece of news is Tony McDonnell's return from his latest injury setback as he comes on for the last fifteen minutes.

4th October – UCD's reserves continue their unbeaten run under new managers Eddie Wallace and Diarmuid McNally – this time with a 2-1 win in Bray. College take the lead when the Bray keeper lets a Tadhg Purcell shot through his hands, but the Seagulls were back in it when Tony McDonnell lobbed Neil Gallagher from the edge of the box for a bizarre equaliser. However, the points were sealed not long from the end when four players queued up to poke home a cross. Along with Tony McDonnell, Gavin Whelan and Pat McWalter also makes their comebacks from injury.

10th October – The first UCD Supporters' Club bus runs to Drogheda bringing eleven UCD fans, with four more waiting in Drogheda. A point isn't the worst of results, but it isn't great either, although Paul Doolin still hasn't worked out the art of winning – the game is Drogheda's fifth without victory since he took over. In Greece, meanwhile, Northern Ireland U-21s win 1-0, with UCD's Hugh Davey starting his third game in a row. They have two wins and a draw from the three games – not bad for a team which had gone 35 months without a competitive win before Davey started playing for them!

11th October – Switzerland fairly stroll to victory against a lethargic Ireland side in Basel as we fail to finish second in a qualifying or finals group for the first time since Euro 88. Switzerland head off to Portugal next summer; we're left with a friendly against Canada.

14th October – The last four matches against Pat's at Belfield finished 0-0, 1-0, 0-0 and 0-0. The score here? 0-0. There's a turn-up for the books!

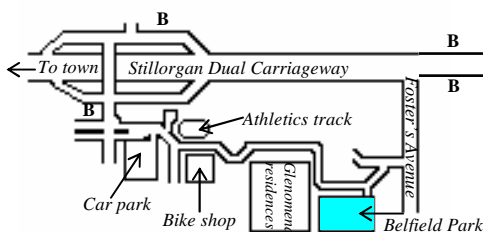
18th October – Longford take all three points from Flancare in a match which sees the return of Robbie Martin and a first UCD goal for Pat McWalter. Ironically, Rob McAuley, outstanding all match, gives the ball away for the winner just three minutes after we'd equalised. The U-21s' run continues – victors against Garda.

21st October – Bohs come to Belfield, score an early goal and sit back for the rest of the match. Not often you see that happening. A miserable night sees a world record attempt at the most number of people to stand under a single press box. St. Pat's beat UCD 3-1 to end the U-21s' season on a low note, although they have managed to end up in the top four – not bad after a season where many players have necessarily been on first team duty!

24th October – Another point, or another two dropped, depending on which way you look at it. Cork were all puff and no end result, and rarely threatened Pat Jennings. The majority of the chances went Cork's way, but UCD had the better ones – Robbie Martin could have scored after spinning his man only to drag wide; Gavin Whelan saw a volley go inches wide and Tony McDonnell and Rob McAuley came close from a couple of set pieces. Most annoying about the evening, though, was the Cork PA coming over the tannoy during the second half to tell of another goal for Drogheda...

31st October – Hallowe'en night provides a nasty ending as Shamrock Rovers grab a blatantly offside late equaliser (according to one of their own players!) to cancel out Gavin Whelan's first UCD goal.

WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



Buses to Belfield:

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

TAKING OVER

From soccercentral – link is [here](#)

Eircom League Premier side UCD have appointed Pete Mahon as manager to replace the departed Paul Doolin and his first game will be against Shamrock Rovers.

Mahon, who made his name at St. Francis before moving to St. Patrick's Athletic and Bohemians, will link up once more with Eddie Wallace, who was his assistant at St. Francis in season 1997/98.

Mahon, who was in charge at intermediate side Belgrove, whom he led to their first FAI Intermediate Cup last season, told soccercentral.ie "I would not have left Belgrove for any other club. Football is a challenge and it's going to be a difficult but enjoyable job at Belfield.

"UCD have first class facilities – some look at the club's position in the table and say it's a hot seat, but I don't see it like that. In this game, you can make plans but cannot predict things. UCD are a unique club and myself and Eddie will try and return the club to how the late Dr Tony O'Neill envisaged it would be.

"You just have to look at how strong the squad was back in 97/98 when Ciarán Martyn, Clive Delaney, etc. were involved in the scholarship scheme and we have to return to that ethos again, developing the younger players."

And from the FAI website – link [here](#)

Pete Mahon has been named manager of UCD and he now has 16 games to save the struggling students from relegation.

UCD are currently seven points adrift at the foot of the table and need to start picking up points very soon, starting against Shamrock Rovers at Belfield on Friday.

Mahon joins UCD from Belgrove, where he has been manager for the last two seasons, and replaces Paul Doolin at Belfield, who moved on to Drogheda United last week.

Eddie Wallace returns to UCD to take charge of the scholarship programme and to maintain the strong links the students have with the late Dr Tony O'Neill.

Wallace was a coach at UCD before O'Neill's death in 1999 and also has experience coaching at Shamrock Rovers, St Joseph's Boys and the Leinster Youth side.

Mahon made his name at St. Francis where, while Francis were still a Leinster Senior League side, he guided them to the FAI Cup Final where they were eventually stopped by Bray Wanderers.

After managing St. Francis when they were elected to the League, he joined Brian Kerr's coaching staff when the Republic of Ireland Under 16s won the European Championships in 1998 before moving on to Bohemians where he was assistant manager to Roddy Collins.

The Gypsies won the League and Cup double in 2000 after which Collins' contract was not renewed with Mahon taking over the reigns. However, after a promising start, Bohemians struggled to rediscover their form of the previous season and Mahon resigned.

He returned to football with Intermediate side Belgrove and, when Belgrove entered the eircom Under 21 League, he took on that role also, before making Sunday's move back to senior football.



FOCUS ON – ALAN CAWLEY

Name – Alan Cawley

Date of birth – 03/01/82

Place of birth – Sligo

Position – Right-midfield

Joined UCD – August 2002 – same time as Hugh Davey

Signed from – Sheffield Wednesday. Also played with Leeds United.

UCD debut – A v. Shamrock Rovers, 11/08/02

First goal – H v. Bohemians; 06/06/03. Technically a deflection from a free-kick, but he claims it all the same!

2003 UCD statistics – Played 29 (26 league, 1 League Cup, 2 FAI Cup), scored 2 (2 league)

Career UCD statistics (league only) – 42 games, 2 goals

Did you know? – Alan was one of the coaches at the recent UCD Summer Soccer camps. Being the modest individual that he is, he had his hair done the exact same way as David Beckham's that week and insisted that all his protégés called him "Becks"!



UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd November – Waterford United v. UCD. Or maybe on Tuesday. We don't know. Midweek sometime anyway.

7th November – UCD v. Derry City, Belfield Park, 7:45pm

10th November – Shelbourne v. UCD, Tolka Park, 7:45pm. Another midweek game – confirmed for the Monday.

14th November – UCD v. Drogheda United, Belfield Park, 7:45pm. A certain Mr. Doolin comes back to UCD after guiding us to the bottom of the league... Can he do the same to Drogheda?!

18th November – Republic of Ireland v. Canada, Lansdowne Road, 7:45pm. We're hoping that the recent availability of tickets to eircom League Supporters' Clubs will keep up for this match – we'll e-mail all members when we hear news. Tickets are about €15 and are for the North Terrace.

21st November – St. Patrick's Athletic v. UCD, Richmond Park, 7:45pm. A great chance to marvel up close at how dodgy Clive Delaney has become since he left UCD!

30th November – UCD v. Longford Town, Belfield Park, 3:15pm. All the final series of games are scheduled for the Sunday.

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.fasli.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/~soccerug, the unofficial website. We've made moves to buy a new website (one to which we will have access to the password to update it!) and should have it going soon.

WIN MATCH TICKETS

Our free match tickets giveaway has been continuing in the last few weeks – our latest winners are Hugo Byrne from Blackrock, Colm Ryan from Stillorgan and Rod Green from Glenageary. There's still three more home games, though, so there's still three more chances to win this season!

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