

# UCD NEWS



## The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 9

August 2004

**WELCOME TO THE** ninth issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of in-form midfielder Seán Finn, Alan Cawley's views on the season and his career so far and, as usual, the Belfield Diary.

July has finished almost exactly the same as it started – with UCD just four points clear of Kildare in fourth. While the top four are now clearly breaking away – the gap has grown from six to ten points – any slip as we enter the final round of matches could be crucial. With away games against Bray, Harps and Kildare looming, let's hope that 2-0 defeat against Kildare earlier this month doesn't come back to haunt us!

In the Cup, of course, we enjoyed a brilliant 1-0 victory over Cork City to cause the shock of the Second Round. The result is all the more impressive when you consider Cork's last seven matches: victories home and away against Malmö, a defeat to Bohs in between, an away draw against Johan Neeskens' NEC Nijmegen followed by a 1-0 victory at home, and then a 3-1 defeat in Nantes – where Manchester United needed an injury-time penalty from Ruud van Nistelrooy to salvage a draw in the Champions' League three years ago – followed by a 1-1 home draw when they led for long stages and regularly threatened to get the second goal which would have seen them through on away goals. So for their next result to be a 1-0 defeat to UCD shows just how far this team has come in the ten months since Pete Mahon took over! In the Third Round, we've drawn non-league Drumcondra at home, with most observers expecting a home win. This would have us in the quarters for the first time since 2000/01, and with either Rockmount or Monaghan and either Athlone or Cobh in the hat as well, we'll be hoping for another handy tie to take us to the semis, which are usually live on RTÉ!

Speaking of live on RTÉ, Shels' victory over Hajduk Split was a brilliant one for the league in general, with Shels being supported in the ground by Bohs, Pat's, Rovers, UCD, Kilkenny, Bray, Kildare and Longford fans, and probably others I didn't see. It's one of the great traditions of the eL that fans will always support other Irish teams in Europe, and for any UCD fans wanting to support them in their upcoming game against Deportivo La Coruna, tickets are on sale already, so, though it may sound strange, bring your UCD scarf and jersey and support the Shels! Maybe Ollie can afford to pay us for Cawley after the Depor game!

Finally, the UCD Ladies' team are back from their own European adventure – they did hold the Portuguese champions, though they lost their other two games. It was a notable improvement on last season, though, and hopefully, they'll be back again next year. Qualification for Europe, for those following their progress in the match programme, is by winning the Cup, not the league, as the Cup is the only national competition. And also congratulations to Willie Doyle, who, as I'm sure you know by now, broke the UCD goalscoring record earlier this month with his 15<sup>th</sup> goal of the season.

## BELFIELD DIARY

**2<sup>nd</sup> July** – A 4-1 win over Monaghan isn't as convincing as it sounds, but is welcome nonetheless. Willie Doyle scores twice, with Pat McWalter and Tony McDonnell adding the other goals.

**3<sup>rd</sup> July** – Yet another win for the U21s – resounding 4-1 victors over Shamrock Rovers. Paul Byrne scores three, C Sammon notches the other.

**4<sup>th</sup> July** – In the FAI Cup Second Round draw on RTÉ News, Curtis Fleming draws Cork City as our opponents, with us getting home advantage.

**7<sup>th</sup> July** – Former UCD striker Mark Leech – son of former Irish international Mick Leech – signs for Drogheda, the seventh former UCD player with the Dregs after Aidan Lynch, Andy Myler, Mark Rooney, Gavin Whelan, David Sullivan (who played in a friendly match against Bray last season) and of course Paul Doolin.

**9<sup>th</sup> July** – A first home defeat of the season – indeed, a first home defeat in 13 games – as fourth-placed Kildare win 2-0 in Belfield to narrow the gap to the Students to seven points.

**10<sup>th</sup> July** – Another victory for the now rampant U-21s – 3-0 against a previously unbeaten Garda side. Paul Byrne scores two more.

**11<sup>th</sup> July** – Former UCD right-back Eóin Keating scores two points for Limerick as they draw 1-10 apiece with Kerry in the Munster Senior Football Final. However, Keating misses three long-range frees in injury time which would have won the title for Limerick for the first time in 108 years. Cork beat NEC Nijmegen to become the first team from the Republic to reach a European Quarter-final.

**13<sup>rd</sup> July** – Former UCD keeper Barry Ryan signs for Dublin City after finishing his nine-month ban from the game.

**17<sup>th</sup> July** – An easy 3-0 win over Limerick is notable for Willie Doyle breaking the UCD goalscoring record with his fifteenth of the season – and there are still 15 league games to go!

**18<sup>th</sup> July** – UCD's U-21s are held for the first time in the league this season – 3-3 at home to Bray. It could have been worse as Bray were 3-0 up with fifteen minutes to go. Darren Quigley pulls off an incredible save to help his side to a draw.

**20<sup>th</sup> July** – UCD's ladies' team open their UEFA Cup campaign with a 5-0 defeat to Montpellier in France.

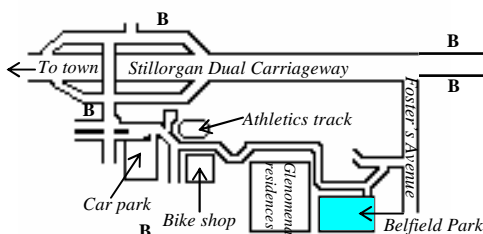
**22<sup>nd</sup> July** – A last-minute goal gives UCD a 1-1 draw against Portuguese side 1. Dezembro in the women's UEFA Cup. It is the team's first ever point in European competition in only their second season.

**24<sup>th</sup> July** – Despite going 2-1 up in the first half, UCD lose their final UEFA Cup game 4-2 to Neulenchbach of Austria. Dublin City manager John Gill resigns – former UCD head coach Noel White takes over as caretaker manager. The UCD U-21s are through to the quarter-final of the Enda McGuill Cup after beating Athlone Town 4-1 away.

**27<sup>th</sup> July** – Robbie Doyle is nowhere to be seen as Bohs suffer an embarrassing 3-1 home defeat to Levadia Tallinn in the UEFA Cup; Stephen Kenny is sacked the next day.

**28<sup>th</sup> July** – Cork City's first game after drawing 1-1 with Nantes in the InterToto Cup quarter-final is away to UCD in the Second Round of the FAI Cup – a Seán Finn goal ensures College make it through to the Third Round in probably the best result of Pete Mahon's reign so far. Darren Quigley makes an inspired first senior start outside of the League Cup. Glen Fitzpatrick puts Shels 1-0 up in Split in the Champions' League Second Round First Leg against Hajduk, who go on to win 3-2, but there's plenty of hope for the return leg.

## WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



### Buses to Belfield:

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

## PLAYING ON

*From the Irish Mirror; 14<sup>th</sup> May.*

Two hours before kick-off on the opening day of the season, Pat Fenlon called Alan Cawley aside.

Aware of the perilous implications of selecting his newly-signed midfielder to play against Shamrock Rovers, Fenlon, the Shelbourne manager had to be the breaker of bad news.

“You can’t play tonight”, Fenlon told Cawley.

All Cawley could ask was “Why?” Nearly two months later, he is still asking the same question.

In the intervening period, he has been to the High Court and back – and to put his spin on things, to hell and back as well.

But why?

The reasons are complex. Much of it can be explained by the nature of the transfer system used for Irish players under the age of 23, but the murky world of FAI politics was probably a factor as well.

In any case, Cawley was the victim. Signed by Shels from UCD at the end of last season, his former employers demanded a transfer fee, but his new ones held the belief they didn’t have to pay one.

The eircom League intervened and warned Shels of the danger of playing a player who still did not have his registration cleared.

The case then went to an independent FAI tribunal and then was brought to court by Cawley. There, a resolution of sorts was found, leaving Cawley free to play.

Now he can play again – and his mood has changed. Rather than look back, he is thinking positively about the future, about challenging for a league title and playing in Europe. His career, it seems, has finally turned. Because up until now, there has been a feeling of underachievement.

At 16, he left Belvedere Boys for Leeds United. A talented, if slight, midfielder, he fitted into the Elland Road academy well.

But by 19, he knew he was at the wrong club. Leeds were then living the dream and reaching the semi-finals of the Champions’ League.

“I had no chance of making it there”, he says. “They were signing world class players. I was an unproven kid from Sligo. I liked it there, but I had to leave to further my career.”

So his next move was to Sheffield Wednesday, another big club – but one that had fallen on hard times.

“I really fancied my chances of playing there. But the chance never came. Terry Yorath and Peter Shreeves were the managers. I felt I was good enough to get in. They didn’t. Again, I had to move. UCD were offering me a scholarship and also a game. It was no choice. Stay and be a reserve or move and play. It was UCD every time. So when I see Wednesday fall further into the mire now, I have little sympathy for them.

“They may have been a good club, but they weren’t run like one. I look at the way Shels are run and it compares favourably to Wednesday.”

## WIN MATCH TICKETS

We’ve improved our match tickets giveaway for the new season – now, in addition to four free match tickets, each winner will also pick up two match programmes and two fanzines. Only one winner this month – as we can’t do it for Cup games – and it was Andrew Downey.

*To unsubscribe from the UCD Supporters’ Club, simply send us an e-mail at [ucdafc@yahoo.ie](mailto:ucdafc@yahoo.ie)*

## FOCUS ON – SEÁN FINN

**Name** – Seán Finn

**Date of birth** – 24<sup>th</sup> February 1980

**Place of birth** – Dublin

**Position** – Midfielder

**Joined UCD** – November 2001

**Signed from** – Atlanta Silverbacks in the MLS in America; initially signed on loan, but signed permanently in June 2002

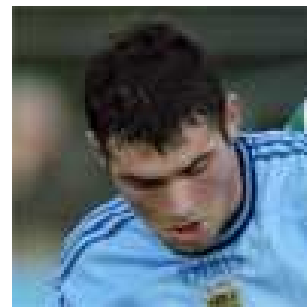
**UCD debut** – A v. St Patrick’s Athletic, 02/11/01; UCD won 2-1

**First goal** – H v. Shelbourne (lost 3-2), 23/12/01 – a free-kick from 25 yards, setting the trend for his dislike of all simple goals!

**2004 UCD statistics** – Played 15 (13 league, 1 League Cup, 1 FAI Cup), scored 4 (3 league, 1 FAI Cup)

**Career UCD statistics (league only)** – 42 games, 7 goals.

**Did you know?** – Including the FAI Cup, Seán has scored eight goals for UCD, of which only three have been from inside the area – and one of those was a penalty!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**7<sup>th</sup> August** – A tricky assignment for the College as they travel to face a Sligo team who have been in impressive form at home in the league this season.

**13<sup>th</sup> August** – Dundalk are the visitors to Belfield, just five weeks since we beat them in Oriel. Dundalk haven’t beaten UCD in nine games – a record – and we’ll be looking to stretch that against a rejuvenated Dundalk team, though one who lost 5-1 in Bray last week.

**20<sup>th</sup> August** – Drumcondra at home in the Third Round of the Cup. Though the Drums have won the FAI Cup five times and have in their day beaten Bayer München in a UEFA Cup Second Round match (having lost the first leg 6-0, admittedly!), they’re a non-league side these days and UCD are strong favourites to progress to the quarters. Bertie Ahern is a notable fan – will he actually go to a game though?

**28<sup>th</sup> August** – Away to Kilkenny as the second round of matches comes to a close – into the closing straight after this!

*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 267 (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.fut.ie/forums> – the UCD messageboard, which now includes match reports from all our matches this season as most of the rest of the papers don’t seem to care!
- RTÉ Medium Wave and Newstalk 106, both of which offer regular eircom League commentary on Fridays.
- [www.ucd.ie/~soccer](http://www.ucd.ie/~soccer), the official UCD website
- [www.ucd.ie/~soccup](http://www.ucd.ie/~soccup), the unofficial website.