

# UCD NEWS



## The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 10

September 2004

**WELCOME TO THE** tenth issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of in-form striker Robbie Martin, a look at one of our former players and some of our new players, and of course the Belfield Diary.

The big talking point in the past month has been the FAI Cup. After progressing to the quarter-finals with an expectedly comfortable victory over Drumcondra, we watched as more shocks reduced the number of Dublin teams left in the competition to just one – us. Derry's win over Shels – Alan Cawley missed and Ciarán Martyn scored in the last round of penalties – and, more impressively, Kildare's win over Bohs have really opened up the draw. Non-league Rockmount remain, as do First Division Athlone and Kildare. Of the Premier teams, Longford, Waterford and Derry are having poor seasons, while only Drogheda would seem to have any sort of form.

Of course, the Quarter-final draw has taken place already, and we have drawn Premier Division leaders Drogheda United at home. There'll be no fearing them, especially after they way we beat Cork in the Second Round, and with our excellent record against the Dregs (one defeat in 23 home league games), coupled with the grudge match status which goes with another return for Paul Doolin to Belfield, there's every chance of making it through to the semis. Drogheda needed a replay to beat Dundalk before beating St Pat's 2-0 at home in Round Three. Though their recent form is impressive, five of their last six league games have been at home. Drogheda, incidentally, dropped from Cup favourites to joint third-favourites after the draw was made! We are fifth-favourites at 8/1.

The tie will mark our seventh Cup quarter-final, although in four of those years, the quarter-final was the round after the First Round! Our only other two appearances were fairly recent – in 1998 and 2002. We've only ever won once in the quarters – in 1984, when we went on to win the competition – and, seeing as the semis are usually live on RTÉ, there'll definitely be no shortage of motivation to win through this time!

The transfer window closed last week, with UCD fairly busy, bringing in five new players to bring to 30 the number of players signed this season. Philly Hughes has signed on loan from Dublin City until the end of the season, and made an immediate impression in Kilkenny, when he set up Robbie Martin's goal five minutes after coming on for the injured Tony McDonnell. Anto Murphy has signed from Monaghan and made his debut against Bray last week. However, he has a one-match ban to serve after being sent off for Monaghan last month, which means he will miss the Athlone Town game. Paul Whelan, the sub keeper from the U-20s World Cup in Malaysia in 1997, has signed from Dublin Bus and ousted Neil Gallagher from the bench in Bray. The other two are Mark Dempsey from Drogheda United (rumoured to have quit playing and gone into physiotherapy though) and Séamus Long from Douglas Hall in Cork.

On the injury front, Tony McDonnell is expected to be out for four or five weeks after damaging his hamstring in Kilkenny. However, Willie Doyle came on as a late sub in Bray and is pushing for a starting place against Drogheda on Friday. He will certainly be welcomed back as we look to start putting teams away rather than dropping silly late points, as happened in Kilkenny and Bray. Meanwhile, Hugh Davey has left the club to take up a scholarship in Florida.

## BELFIELD DIARY

**1<sup>st</sup> August** – UCD's bogey side come back to haunt them as some woeful finishing and appalling refereeing result in Cobh somehow sneaking a 1-1 draw from Belfield. Seán Finn scores again, Tony Mac missed about five chances, including from ten yards after four UCD players beat the offside trap. The referee apologises after the match for the sending off of Cobh's goalscorer in injury time after being told incorrectly by his fourth official that he'd just booked him for the second time. Paul Doolin is seen at the game – at half-time, he goes into the hospitality area for a cup of tea, pausing to ask if there was any poison in it first!

**2<sup>nd</sup> August** – UCD's reward for their heroics against Cork is a home tie against non-League Drumcondra, for whom Pete Mahon played for five years, in the Third Round of the Cup.

**3<sup>rd</sup> August** – Former UCD winger Darragh Ryan scores in a pre-season game for English Conference side Crawley Town against local side Three Bridges, but is not given a squad number and looks like continuing his search for a new club.

**7<sup>th</sup> August** – A third away win on the trot as Colm Kierans' first league goal for the club seals a 2-1 win in Sligo to put UCD back on top of the table after Bray and Harps had both won earlier in the weekend.

**8<sup>th</sup> August** – The UCD U-21s beat Mullingar Athletic 2-0 to complete the first round of matches – only two points dropped from 24 so far as UCD sit eleven points clear of third, with the top two going to the league quarter-finals.

**12<sup>th</sup> August** – Current Northern Ireland U-21 international Hugh Davey leaves the club to take up a scholarship in American, studying business in a college which is noted for producing astronauts...

**13<sup>th</sup> August** – Unlucky Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> for Dundalk as UCD win more comfortably than the scoreline suggests. Robbie Martin scores for the first time in twelve league games, while Alan McNally scores for the first time this season.

**15<sup>th</sup> August** – UCD's U21s lose their first game of the season – 4-2 away to Bray, with John Brophy scoring twice. However, they are still eight points clear of Garda in the race for a quarter-final spot, with seven games to go.

**18<sup>th</sup> August** – Ireland draw 1-1 with Bulgaria at Lansdowne Road; Andy Reid scoring the goal. The Ireland Schools team is brought onto the pitch at half-time, including current UCD keeper Darren Quigley and reserve players Damien Kelly and Conor Sammon.

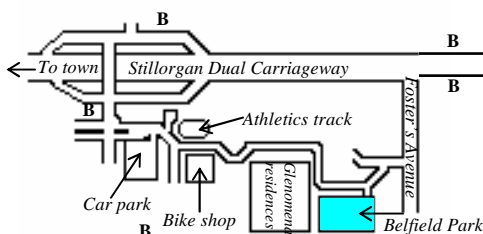
**19<sup>th</sup> August** – Former Irish international Gareth Farrelly is the new player-manager at Bohemians, ending speculation linking UCD manager Pete Mahon with a return to Dalymount, although this was never likely to materialise.

**21<sup>st</sup> August** – A comfortable 5-0 win over Drumcondra sees UCD into the quarter-finals of the Cup – Pat Sullivan, Pat McWalter, Mick O'Donnell, Tony McDonnell and Robbie Martin all score. Bohs are shocked by Kildare, so only four Premier Division sides will be in the last eight. Even our bogey team Cobh are knocked out by Athlone. Is the draw opening up for UCD?

**22<sup>nd</sup> August** – The U21s fail to emulate the senior side, losing in the quarter-finals of their cup competition 7-6 on penalties to Belgrove, Pete Mahon's former side, after a 0-0 draw in Whitehall.

**28<sup>th</sup> August** – UCD throw two points away in the dying minutes of their game in Kilkenny, coming away with a 1-1 draw after Robbie Martin had given the Students the lead. Philly Hughes comes on for the injured Tony McDonnell to make his UCD debut.

## WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



### Buses to Belfield:

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

## KEEPING TABS

*From the Crawley Town FC website – link is [here](#)*

### Three Bridges 2-4 Crawley Town

Crawley eased to another friendly win as near neighbours Three Bridges unveiled their newly relaid pitch at Jubilee Field on Tuesday night.

The Red Devils' goals came from Allan Tait, Darragh Ryan, Charlie MacDonald and Neil Jenkins while the management team also took the opportunity to give a number of trialists and youth team players a run out.

Ryan Palmer, Scott Kirkwood and Ryan were given a chance to start in a strong first-half line-up and the Conference side cruised into a 3-0 half-time lead.

The first goal arrived after just five minutes as Ryan's left-wing cross was met by Tait's downward header and deflected off a defender's shoulder and into the net with goalkeeper Alan Mansfield rooted to the spot.

Bridges' Danny Smith was carried off with an early injury and Crawley began to create numerous chances. Fiston Manuella and Tait combined to put MacDonald clear after thirteen minutes, but he was denied by an excellent recovery tackle, while the impressive Charlie Mapes' opportunistic 20-yard effort was palmed over by the alert Mansfield.

The second goal came after 27 minutes, as Ryan lashed a left-footed shot from the edge of the box which went in off the right-hand goalpost.

Number three arrived eight minutes later as Mapes and Neil Jenkins combined on the left to send MacDonald scampering clear and last season's Dr Martens Player of the Year made no mistake, firing into the roof of the net.

Mansfield pulled off a tremendous stop to deny Manuella, who had been fed by Kirkwood, and the young goalkeeper was at it again just before the break, denying Tait before skipper Kevin Hemsley headed over from a neat ball in by MacDonald.

Strikers Loui Fazackerly and Mark Windsor, plus right-back Kenny Otolor, were the first of numerous second-half substitutions by the Reds, with Palmer switching across to centre-back.

Within two minutes of the restart a Hemsley header was cleared off the line by a defender before Darren Freeman gave Andy Little the chance to show that Mansfield did not have a monopoly on spectacular saves as the Reds No. 1 pushed his shot around a post.

Mapes was denied by the home keeper after a tidy pass from Manuella before the crossbar thwarted Crawley twice in 30 seconds as first Manuella and then Hemsley thundered shots against the woodwork.

Ryan Hackett missed a decent chance from close-range for the home side. Bridges did get on the scoresheet after 70 minutes when ex-Red Damian Webber nodded in a near-post corner.

Crawley might have regained their advantage from the restart but Mansfield again did superbly to stop Windsor's point-blank range effort after a Fazackerly centre.

Freeman's stooping header made it 3-2 after 76 minutes but home hopes of an upset were ended when Liam Buchan chipped a pass over a static Bridges defence and Jenkins raced onto it before coolly lobbing Mansfield.

**Website Reds Man of the Match:** Darragh Ryan.

## 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. This month's winners are Philip Gormley and Lorcan McArdle.

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

## FOCUS ON – ROBBIE MARTIN

**Name** – Robbie Martin

**Date of birth** – 27<sup>th</sup> July 1982

**Place of birth** – Dublin

**Position** – Striker

**Joined UCD** – June 2000

**UCD debut** – H v. Derry City (lost 1-0), 15/10/2000

**First goal** – H v. Kilkenny City (won 1-0), 28/01/2001 – his third game for UCD, all as sub.

**2004 UCD statistics** – Played 27 (22 league, 3 League Cup, 2 FAI Cup), scored 11

**Career statistics (league only)** – 108 games, 28 goals. The goal against Bray moved him up to joint sixth-highest league scorer in UCD's history.

**Did you know?** – Robbie turned down the chance of trials in England to join UCD, including an offer from Ipswich Town, who were then in the Premiership. His brother, John, played for the College for seven years before leaving for Longford in the pre-season. His dad, Paul, once missed a penalty in a European Cup Second Round First Leg game for Athlone Town against AC Milan! The game ended 0-0, with Milan winning the return 3-0.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**10<sup>th</sup> September** – Home to Drogheda United in the quarter-finals of the FAI Cup, kick-off 7:45pm. With Drogheda flying high in the Premier, and us just not liking them very much, this is bound to be a fascinating Cup tie, with a definite possibility of a shock. If you make one game this month, make it this one!

**17<sup>th</sup> September** – Home to Athlone Town, who nearly sneaked a point from their last visit to Belfield with two late goals. Alas, we haven't learned since, it seems... However, we haven't won in our last two games in the league this season, which is as long a winless run as we've had, so we should be due a victory here. Let's just hope there's no Cup hangover!

**25<sup>th</sup> September** – A crunch promotion tie away to Finn Harps, who have changed their home matches to Saturday evenings. With Harps recently knocking us off the top of the table, a defeat here – as suffered on our last visit – would be a huge hit for our title hopes.

**1<sup>st</sup> October** – Having easily disposed of the Doolin menace for another year, it's time for the Cup semi-final. Only two games away from Europe now! On the off-chance that we don't make it through, Galway United will visit Belfield instead, looking to improve on the 4-0 thrashing they suffered way back in April.

*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
- 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.foot.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/~ucceer](http://www.ucd.ie/~ucceer), the official UCD website
- [www.ucd.ie/~ucceerup](http://www.ucd.ie/~ucceerup), the unofficial website.