

UCD NEWS



The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 11

October 2004

WELCOME TO THE eleventh issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of new signing Philly Hughes, praise from one of our main title rivals, and of course the Belfield Diary.

Annoying would be the best, if surprising, word to describe September. We started off eight points clear of fourth-placed Kildare County, won three out of four games and yet finished the month just six points clear! Our main promotion rivals – Bray, Finn Harps and Kildare County – didn't drop a single point during the month outside of their games with UCD. We have five more points than Shelbourne in the Premier from one game less, and yet where we have a two-point gap to third, Shels have a five-point gap to second! The gap between second-placed Drogheda and second-bottom Shamrock Rovers in the Premier is 15 points – the same as the gap from us to fifth-placed Galway in the First! So even though we're not streaking clear, it's been an exceptional performance in the league so far – hopefully, the final seven games will see us seal promotion back to the top flight.

The fact of us not being in the top flight reared its head in spectacular fashion around the time of the Drogheda Cup quarter-final, when former UCD manager and now Drogheda boss Paul Doolin was ever so slightly aggrieved at comments attributed to Pete Mahon about the mess Doolin had left the club in after leaving for Drogheda. There's no need to go into detail here again – almost all the national papers have covered the spat, if not our league campaign! – but the crux of it involved a lot of hot air from Doolin, which degenerated into base and unwarranted personal abuse which has seriously hit his reputation in the league. What is interesting, though, is just how much of an effect the matter has had. Here's a little time-frame of the events we've heard of...

10th September – Pete Mahon is quoted in the *Irish Mirror* and the *Irish Independent* as saying that the club had yet to recover from Doolin's time at the club. Doolin says that he thought he had been successful at Belfield Park.

14th September – The main outburst from Doolin is published in the three tabloids.

16th September – Doolin, assistant commentator for RTÉ during the Shels v. Lille match, puts Shels' poor performance down to their tiredness after a long European campaign. Afterwards, Roddy Collins – a Mahon sympathiser – is asked in the studio on the view and says that Doolin is talking "complete rubbish".

17th September – Longford Town fans sing "There's only one Pete Mahon" during their league game in Drogheda. The UCD fanzine, *Student Till I Graduate*, never one for going over the top (!), carries three pages on the rant and receives more than one request to send a copy to Drogheda.

19th September – Collins slates Doolin again in his column in one of the Sunday tabloids.

21st September – "Doolin's rant out of order, for Pete's sake" is the headline in the *Irish Times* as Emmet Malone – a sometime UCD fan – has his say.

25th September – The Finn Harps fanzine *Down To The River* has a small article headed "Poll finds that even UCD fans hate UCD!", which includes the line "Amazingly, UCD fans found themselves the third most unloved club, trailing only Derry City (too arrogant) and Drogheda United (the Paul Doolin is a sarky little bollocks who left UCD in a total shambles factor)."

In the end, it was up to Longford again to set things right, with former UCD winger Johnny Martin helping the midlanders to the FAI Cup final at Drogs' expense. Our thanks to them!

BELFIELD DIARY

3rd September – Two more points are dropped in controversial fashion as a last-kick equaliser gives Bray a 2-2 draw in the Carlisle Grounds. Add in a dubious penalty for Bray and a clear-cut one denied for UCD and it was easy to be a bit aggrieved at the two points being dropped. Once again, though, we had numerous chances to kill the game off at 2-1 and yet again failed to take them. Though at least we're creating chances to kill the game off now...

4th September – Ireland's World Cup campaign opens with a comfortable 3-0 win over Cyprus in Lansdowne Road – Clinton Morrison, Robbie Keane and Damien Duff score.

5th September – UCD's U-21s hammer rivals Shamrock Rovers 4-1 to all but secure their place in the top two, and with it a place in the last eight of the league...

8th September – Not a vastly improved performance from our last visit to Basel, but 1-1 is a better result as Clinton Morrison scores again.

10th September – A crowd of over 1,600 see UCD fairly comfortably hold Drogheda in Belfield, though they can't make the breakthrough to seal a first semi-final appearance since 1984. Drogheda have chances towards the end, but Darren Quigley makes an exceptional save to force a replay.

13th September – In the replay in front of a 2,100 attendance, Robbie Martin puts us 1-0 up within two minutes, and we hold that lead for the next 70 minutes before Drogheda start to come back into the game, and Declan O'Brien sends the tie into extra-time. O'Brien scores again shortly into extra-time, but with four minutes to go, Robbie Mac scores a sensational 25-yard free-kick. Penalties are looking inevitable, but with two minutes to go, Drogheda score the winner courtesy of a deflection off the defensive wall, and the dream is over for another year!

16th September – Shels come back from the dead to snatch a 2-2 draw with Lille in the First Round of the UEFA Cup – former Student Glen Fitzpatrick scores both goals after coming on as a sub, one from a cross from Alan Cawley.

17th September – Only four days to recover from the Drogheda defeat before the visit of Athlone. As with the previous meeting in Belfield at the start of the season, UCD build a three-goal lead, but this time don't try to throw it away!

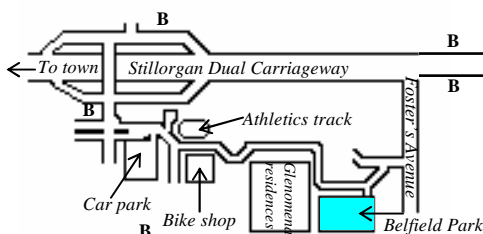
18th September – A last-minute goal gives Finn Harps the three points in Kilkenny, meaning they go into the upcoming top-of-the-table clash two points clear of UCD. UCD's U-21 team qualify for the quarter-finals of the league after a 2-1 win over Garda. Paul Byrne scored two more – we've lost count of how many he's scored now, but it's at least 15.

25th September – UCD rise to the top of the league again after an impressive 1-0 win over Finn Harps in Ballybofey – Harps' first league defeat under manager Felix Healy, who was appointed in April! Philly Hughes scores the crucial goal.

1st October – A third league win on the trot effectively ends Galway's promotion hopes – United are now 15 points behind UCD with seven games to go. Anto Murphy scores his first UCD goal since signing from Monaghan, while Robbie Martin and Alan McNally are on the scoresheet as well. It's a four horse race now, with three winners...

2nd October – UCD's U-21s win yet again, and Paul Byrne scores yet again. 2-0 is the result against Trinity, and Darren O'Brien is the other scorer.

WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



Buses to Belfield:

3	10
11	11B
17	46
46A	46B
46C	46D
63	84

B – Bus stop

HEAPING PRAISE

From eleven-a-side.com – link is [here](#)

Finn Harps forward Chris Breen has paid tribute to new First Division leaders UCD, who made the long journey north to take on title rivals Harps on Saturday night and left with an impressive 1-0 victory to regain pole position in the championship race.

Harps had led the way after an exceptional series of results, taking 13 wins and four draws in 17 matches stretching back to April.

However, College brought their unbeaten league run to a crashing end at Finn Park on Saturday, claiming all three points courtesy of Philip Hughes' first half header.

And Breen, introduced by Felix Healy as a second half substitute, was thoroughly impressed with the Students.

He said: "They battered us and could have scored a lot more. Their movement up front was brilliant. We were poor but they were excellent."

LOOKING UP

From the Irish Mirror – dated 13th September 2004

Teen sensation Conor Kenna says UCD's FAI Cup run proves one big thing – they are Premier Division material. College face Drogheda United tonight in a quarter-final replay after a string of impressive results. The promotion chasers saw off Cork City in the Second Round and kept high-flying Drogheda at bay last Friday night. In between, the Students hit five past non-league Drumcondra.

Centre-half Kenna has been a rock in defence and was named man-of-the-match against United. He's only 18, but is hot property and aims to show off his talents in the Premier Division next season.

Former Coventry City youth Kenna said "We've shown against Drogheda and Cork City that we're able to compete with the top teams. Without a doubt, we can compete in the Premier Division. We'll be up there next season. I'm sure of it.

At the same time, the longer you stay in the Cup and do well, the more confidence you get that you can hack it at a higher level."

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. Again, the Cup run ate into this, so only one winner this month - Luke Hennessy.

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

FOCUS ON – PHILIP HUGHES

Name – Philip Hughes

Date of birth – 19th December 1981

Place of birth – Dublin

Position – Striker

Joined UCD – August 2004. So recent, we don't even have a picture of him in a UCD jersey yet!

Signed from – Dublin City, on loan for the season

UCD debut – A v. Kilkenny City (drew 1-1), 28/08/2004

First goal – A v. Finn Harps (won 1-0), 25/09/2004.

2004 UCD statistics – Played 5 (all league), scored 1

UCD career statistics (league only) – Played 5, scored 1, would you believe!

Did you know? – Philly holds the record for most league goals scored in a season for Kilkenny City (15) and Kildare County (10). His nickname is Batman – though we don't know if he knows it yet...!



UPCOMING EVENTS

7th October – UCD travel to Monaghan looking for their fourth league win in a row. The game is on Thursday as the UCD team are flying out to Paris on Friday morning for the Ireland match! Monaghan's last result was an 8-1 defeat in Cobh.

16th October – The game which could decide the promotion race, as UCD travel to Newbridge to play Kildare County. A win could see UCD go up to eleven points clear of the Thoroughbreds with just five games to go. Kick-off is at 7:30pm, and the ground is right beside the train station for those interested in going. There are trains back to Dublin after the match.

22nd October – Limerick are the visitors to Belfield – UCD have won both games so far on a 6-0 aggregate score. We should be in the Cup Final in Lansdowne this weekend, but our ladies' team did make their FAI Cup final, which will apparently be played before the Longford-Waterford match.

30th October – Away to Cobh, and the only league team we've never beaten away from home. With Cobh's confidence high – see the Monaghan result! – this will be a very tricky game.

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.fsu.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, the official UCD website
- www.ucd.ie/~soccerup, the unofficial website.
- www.eleven-a-side.com/ucd - A handy site for UCD news and match previews.