

# UCD NEWS



## The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 14

April 2005

**WELCOME TO THE** fourteenth issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of Brian Gannon, a (pretty varied!) look at how the media reckon we'll fare this season and, as always, the Belfield Diary.

Well, where to start?! Off the pitch seems to be better, given how the season's started! The club recently launched its new website - www.UCDSoccer.com. This is designed by the same people who do the Dublin City website, but will be updated by the club, with match previews, reviews and general news. More features will be added over time, so keep an eye! The club's main unofficial messageboard/forum remains at www.Foot.ie for all the random gossip which the official website can't lower itself to!

A new TV deal was announced as well, of course. Thirty live games plus the Setanta Cup means scope to include every club at least once. The first two games to be shown were, of course, Dublin derbies, and it appears that there will be no more live games until June. UCD games probably won't be high on the TV channels' wish-list, but we may just sneak into the FAI Cup coverage, which is to include ten games. Seeing as we've reached the quarters twice in the last four years, our best chance to be live on the box seems to be there. Hopefully, of course, everyone will be at the game rather than stuck in front of the telly!

Shels don't owe us money any more, though another team do. Hopefully, we'll be able to report the full story once it's been sorted in our favour, as the club are confident it will. It doesn't say much for the way the other clubs in the league are run though!

So to the pitch. The friendlies went as well as any club in Ireland really. The trend for clubs not to play teams in the same division meant that we - along with pretty much every other Premier Division team - didn't play any Premier opponents, but four wins from four against Monaghan, Kilkenny, Dundalk and the Irish the Irish Amateurs was welcome, as were the ten goals scored from eight players. Some other clubs went abroad to prepare for the season - Longford, Rovers and Shelbourne to Spain, Drogheda to Turkey - but after our trip to Malta preceded nine straight defeats at the start of the 2003 season, we're quite happy staying at home for the while!

We kicked off the league early after Shels moved our game to avoid a clash with the live Rovers-Bohs game on the Friday. This meant that, for twenty minutes at least, we were top of the league after Damien Dupuy gave us the lead on his debut. Though Shels equalised with a late penalty, the draw was no more than UCD deserved and surely boded well for the tie the next week against Drogheda, who had only won once in 23 visits to Belfield?!

Alas, no. Drogheda beat us in Belfield for the first time since 1981 or so, while Bray then beat us for the first time since 2001. A draw against Cork showed that at least we have a hex over them still!

The only other bit of news in the last month appears to be the confirmation of a new ground in the next two or three seasons - the club will be moving to a new ground at the Belfield Bowl, home of the rugby team, who will be groundsharing with the soccer team. The ground is expected to meet minimum UEFA requirements - 1,500 covered seats being the main one. Belfield Park is likely to be built over for student residences.

## BELFIELD DIARY

**19th February** - The fixtures is out at last - UCD have the easy opening day task of a trip to champions Shelbourne. This is followed by another Mahon-Doolin grudge match as Drogheda are our first visitors the following week.

**21st February** - The suspensions list shows Anto Murphy and Tony McDonnell suspended for the Shels game; Mick O'Donnell will have to sit out the League Cup First Round tie, much to his apathy!

**22nd February** - Former UCD captain Aidan Lynch is in training with UCD after being released by Drogheda, while Paul Somers and Martin Russell join the coaching staff. Somers joins from Cherry Orchard, while Russell's last job was with Pat's last season, though he was formerly on the books at Manchester United.

**26th February** - UCD's pre-season begins with a 3-0 win over Kilkenny; Podge McWalter, Adrian Murphy and Micko Donnell all score. Aidan Lynch made an appearance as a second half sub, but no contract was agreed and he moves on to train with Bray. Another triallist - a Hungarian - played in centre-mid, but again, nothing permanent came out of it.

**28th February** - In the Collingwood Cup - the national collegiate competition - UCD draw 0-0 with hosts UL. The UCD squad features McWalter, Neil Gallagher, Gary Dicker, Brian Shortall, Stephen Hurley, Conor Sammon and Paul Byrne. DIT show we don't have the monopoly on eircorn League players - they have Bray's Éamon Zayed.

**1st March** - UCD thump Magee College 5-0; McWalter (2), Conor Sammon (2) and Paul Byrne score. Pat Sullivan is ruled out for the season with illness.

**3rd March** - After UL only beat Magee 2-0, UCD are through to the semis, where they beat DIT 2-0 to reach their third final in a row...

**4th March** - ...and waiting for them, for the third time in a row, are UCC. And indeed, beating them, for the third time in a row - 3-0 the score as UCC wrap up a fourth consecutive title.

**5th March** - UCD beat Monaghan United 3-1 - Anto Murphy against his former club, Gary Dicker and Tony Mac with the goals. Philip Hughes played for Monaghan after being released by UCD last season.

**7th March** - Another friendly win - 3-1 over the Ireland Amateurs team this time. Robbie Martin scores one...but such was the low-key nature of the game, we don't yet know who scored the other two!!!

**12th March** - UCD beat Dundalk 1-0 with an Adrian Murphy penalty. France beat Ireland in some rugby match.

**13th March** - The league's final transfers list is announced as the transfer window closes - former UCD forwards Pat Burke and Tadhg Purcell move to Kilkenny, Lloyd Colfer and Niall Donnelly sign for Bray

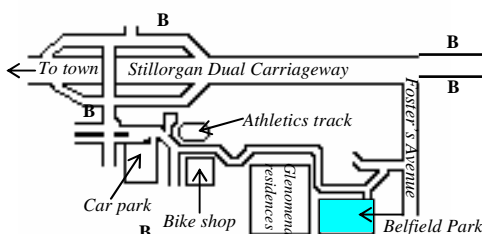
**16th March** - UCD and Shels kick off the new season in a game moved to the Wednesday so as not to clash with Rovers v. Bohs live on telly on the Friday. Damien Dupuy scores a debut goal to put the Students into a shock - but arguably deserved - lead and also rocket UCD temporarily to the top of the table; Shels need a late Stuart Byrne penalty to rescue a point. Apart from Dupuy, Stephen Hurley, Adrian Murphy and Brian Shortall make their debuts.

**26th March** - UCD launch their new website at www.UCDSoccer.com. The Alan Cawley case is finally settled a year after UCD had the cheek to ask Shels for a E20,000 transfer fee, but another club now owe us money...This is hoped to be sorted out shortly. On the pitch, a disappointing performance sees us lose 2-0 to Doolin's Dregs - former Student Gavin Whelan scores the all-important second goal.

**1st April** - A trip to fellow promotees Bray, as they seek to extend their unbeaten home run of 17 games - since we beat them on the opening day of last season, in fact! An improved but still poor performance sees us lose 1-0 to a slightly fortuitous goal from St Vincent and the Grenadines international Wes Charles.

**8th April** - Ever unpredictable, UCD head to Cork and come away with a point. Conor Sammon makes his debut, while Aidan Lynch returns after signing during the week - as he was a free agent, the transfer window restriction didn't apply.

## WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



### Buses to Belfield:

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

## How Will We Do?

*From various newspapers in the pre-season. It should be pointed out that eircom League journalism is still pretty tame and formulaic, so some of the previews below contain what can only be described as rubbish!*

### Sunday Independent

"If new signing Damien Dupuy can make the same impact in the Premier as in the First Division, Pete Mahon's men might escape relegation. It's a big 'if'"  
(Note – the Sindo had seven teams down for a relegation battle!!)

### The Mirror

"UCD were promoted back to the Premier Division at the first time of asking, but have lost two of their most influential players, Seán Finn and Willie Doyle. With only one team being relegated and one facing a play-off this season, the Students should be safe, but a top three spot may be beyond them."

### Aertel

"Finn Harps, with hot-shot Kevin McHugh leading from the front and UCD, who have signed Damien Dupuy from Galway, should do well in the Premier Division, but College may need a play-off to stay up."

### The Star

"As the manager says: 'We were talking about Europe and Gary Dicker said we'll be in the InterToto Cup next season. With that kind of attitude, we can't go wrong.'"

### Aertel preview eile

"Boss Pete Mahon began last season insisting there were no expectations of promotion from his Students. Rebuilding and consolidation were the operative words. In reality, College challenged from the start, swapping top spot with Finn Harps all the way before settling for runners-up.

In so doing, UCD scored 67 goals in 33 games, more than any club in either division. If bouncing straight back up to the top flight was considered an overachievement, more of the same will surely be needed if they are to avoid a relegation scrap.

The fact that Mahon hasn't moved to strengthen his defence must be a worry as they come up against the best strike forces in the country.

The versatile Pat Sullivan's loss to Drogheda will be particularly felt while Sean Finn and Willie Doyle have left for Waterford.

On the plus side, Belfield Park should be the place to be for goals galore as Mahon has brought in striker Damien Dupuy, Galway's joint top-scorer last season, along with the exciting potential of Adrian Murphy from Athlone Town."

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

## Focus On – BRIAN GANNON

**Name** – Brian Gannon

**Date of birth** – 11<sup>th</sup> April 1985

**Place of birth** – Dublin

**Position** – Full-back

**Joined UCD** – March 2004

**Signed from** – Bohemians

**UCD debut** – A v. Bray Wanderers (19/03/04). A two-minute cameo which involved two forty-yard runs to beat about six players, and also a yellow card for Maurice Farrell, who'd already had enough by the end!

**First goal** – H v. Galway United (09/04/04) – the fourth goal in a 4-0 win, our biggest league win last season.

**2004 UCD statistics** – Played 14 (10 league, 1 League Cup, 1 FAI Cup), scored 1 (in the league).

**UCD career statistics (league only)** – Played 12, scored 1.

**Did you know?** – Brian was the captain of the UCD U-21s team which won the national title last season. In the final against Cork City, he played a captain's part, scoring from the spot twice to seal a 3-2 win.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**8<sup>th</sup> April** – Another trip down south – not to face Cobh, but for a game against Cork City, whom we knocked out of the Cup last season. The Cork fans took it stoically, claiming they didn't care about the Cup because they wanted to concentrate on the league...!

**15<sup>th</sup> April** – Waterford United bring two recent defectees (Judases if you will!) to Belfield Park in Seán Finn and Willie Doyle. We'll be hoping the boardroom shenanigans which recently saw their chairman quit to much delight from the fans affect the team's performance!

**22<sup>nd</sup> April** – A trip into town to the delights of the Richmond Park Stadium of Light...

**12<sup>th</sup> March** – Derry City's turn to visit Belfield as they aim to keep up the form which has made them early title contenders.

**6<sup>th</sup> May** – Bumper crowd guaranteed as Bohs are in town – they're not much good this year either, so we're hoping for good things from this 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.fast.ie/forums> – the UCD messageboard, which will continue to provide match reports all season – drop by and have your say!
- RTÉ Medium Wave and Newstalk 106, both of which offer regular eircom League commentary on Fridays.
- [www.ucdaccet.com](http://www.ucdaccet.com), the new official UCD website
- [www.eleven-a-side.com/ucd](http://www.eleven-a-side.com/ucd) - A handy site for UCD news and match previews.