

# UCD NEWS



## The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 16

June 2005

**WELCOME TO THE** sixteenth issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of our oldest player, a look back at our biggest triumph and, as always, the Belfield Diary.

A fairly poor month after the exciting 1-1 draw against Bohs which ended April. In fact, before last night, we hadn't scored in the league since! And that after playing some of the league's lesser lights too. A 1-0 defeat in Ballybofey was Finn Harps' first win of the season; a 1-0 defeat in Longford (played in front of the smallest crowd in the Premier Division this season) saw the Town move ahead of us, and a 0-0 draw against the poorest Shamrock Rovers side since, well, probably ever, would have kept them above us only for their eight points deduction. June has started better, however, with a 1-1 draw at home against Shels continuing our irritating trend of always getting better results and performances against the top teams, while struggling against the bottom ones.

Rovers' deduction is currently the only thing keeping us out of the relegation play-offs. (Rovers are apparently going to appeal the decision on the grounds that there is no basis for the eight-point deduction, although they would be fairly stupid to do so because the correct penalty for failing to file your accounts for a year is to be kicked out of the league). However, we've been unlucky (though we would say that!), with most observers saying we deserved to beat Bohs and Rovers and get at least a draw from Harps and Longford. And of course, we always start slowly, so you'd hope it'll only get better from here!

The current injury list means that improvement might be slower than we'd like. Alan Mahon recently had surgery and will be out for at least a month. Rob McAuley – out for the entire season so far – may yet need surgery, as may Anto Murphy. Aidan Lynch hobbled off after a quarter of an hour against Shamrock Rovers also. So we're currently without our two full-backs and our two wingers (Mick O'Donnell is covering at full-back), and indeed for the Shels game, short one of our strikers in Paul Byrne, who is expected to be back very shortly.

Amid all that, there was the very slight joy of winning through to the Second Round of the League Cup with a 3-1 win over Dublin City. The first team were training at the same time, so there were many unfamiliar faces in the team – Ryan Coyle, Derek Doyle, Aaron McEniff, Darren O'Brien, John Brophy and Ciarán Harte to name a few. Left-winger Doyle, making his first-team debut, scored one and was involved in the other two, both scored by Brian Gannon.

The Second Round has seen us pitted against Shamrock Rovers, so expect a similar team being put out. Rovers beat Bray 3-0 with several first-teamers involved. Playing for Bray – alongside Kevin Grogan, making his comeback from injury – was former UCD full-back Hugh Davey, who has signed from Embry Riddle Aeronautical College in Florida, the college he left UCD to take up a scholarship in Aeronautical Business Administration.

The Four Nations semi-pro tournament in Cork saw further international honours for UCD. The annual tournament sees representative teams from the Highland League in Scotland, the League of Wales, the English Conference and the eL U-21 league. Brian Gannon, Ciarán Harte, Conor Sammon and Darren O'Brien represented UCD – only Cork had more players in the squad – but it was a disappointing tournament as the Irish finished fourth and last.

Finally, those who have been at Belfield Park in recent weeks will have noticed the building work going on outside the ground – the pitch that was there is being dug up to build new flats for the student residences; by all accounts, Belfield Park itself will be in a similar condition in a couple of years, with the soccer club being relocated to the Belfield Bowl by the Sports Centre in the next couple of years, where building work has also begun.

## BELFIELD DIARY

**13<sup>th</sup> May** – Shamrock Rovers are docked eight points by the FAI after irregularities in their accounts. The deduction takes them back to zero points.

**14<sup>th</sup> May** – The first of UCD's three games in a row against the teams below them sees Finn Harps seal their first (and so far, only) win of the campaign courtesy of an early Kevin McHugh goal. UCD hit the post twice and have a couple of other good chances, but to no avail.

**15<sup>th</sup> May** – In the U-21 Shield, UCD draw 1-1 with Shels, for whom Alan Cawley scores a penalty. Conor Sammon equalises in the last minute. With only three games in the competition to go – all involving Cork City – UCD could yet finish anywhere from first to last. This is effectively only a pre-season tournament, however – UCD's defence of their title gets under way next month.

**21<sup>st</sup> May** – Another disappointing result in front of the smallest crowd in the Premier Division this season - Longford beat UCD 1-0 in Longford as College's run without an away win in the Premier stretches to twelve games.

**24<sup>th</sup> May** – Brian Gannon, Kieran Harte and Conor Sammon all start as Ireland lose 1-0 to England in the opening game of the semi-pro tournament in Cork.

**26<sup>th</sup> May** – Bray Wanderers announce the signing of former UCD full-back Hugh Davey. Ireland draw 1-1 with Scotland in the semi-pro tournament, with Brian Gannon and Kieran Harte starting again, while Conor Sammon comes on as a second half sub.

**27<sup>th</sup> May** – A dominant UCD just can't make the vital breakthrough against Shamrock Rovers, and have to settle for a 0-0 draw.

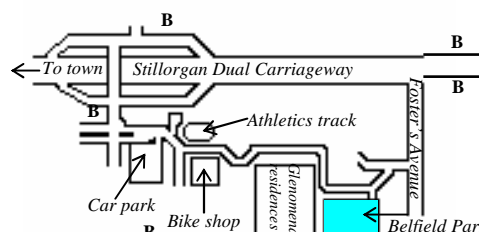
**28<sup>th</sup> May** – Ireland end their semi-pro campaign with defeat against Wales. Brian Gannon is dropped as he's needed for UCD's League Cup tie two days later, but Kieran Harte starts again while Darren O'Brien makes his first appearance; Conor Sammon is a used sub again.

**30<sup>th</sup> May** – Waterford announce that their home tie against UCD is to be put back a day to Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, with a 6:00pm kick-off, apparently because of festivities in the town. Pat Sullivan has returned to training with Drogheda United after missing the entire season so far with a mystery virus. UCD win their first away game of the season – against the unbeaten First Division leaders Dublin City...in Belfield Park. Brian Gannon scores twice and Derek Doyle notches a third on his debut as UCD cruise through to the Second Round of the League Cup on a 3-1 scoreline. Golfer Pádraig Harrington is among the sparse crowd.

**2<sup>nd</sup> June** – The league Cup draw sees UCD draw Shamrock Rovers in the Second Round; the tie is down for Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> June in Belfield Park.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June** – UCD hold champions Shels for the second time this season – Tony McDonnell gives UCD an early lead, but Glen Crowe equalises late on. Shels boast two internationals – one of whom (Joseph Ndo) was on the bench when Ireland played Cameroon in the 2002 World Cup – have another one injured and a fourth dropped, yet UCD are full value for their point.

## WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



### Buses to Belfield:

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

## WHEN WE WON THE CUP

*From the Mirror; 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2005*

At the start of the 1983/84 season, UCD left-back Martin Moran was asked by a friend how he thought the Students would do that year. Moran shrugged his shoulders, told him Shamrock Rovers would easily win the league, but UCD were good enough to be in with a shout in the FAI Cup. His friend took his advice, put £100 on UCD to claim the Cup at 66/1 and made a very handsome profit when the Students beat Shamrock Rovers in a replay in Dalymount Park.

Moran, who is now considered a UCD great having played for and managed the club, looks back fondly at that victory 21 years ago.

"It was a fantastic achievement for the club and I still can't believe it hasn't been repeated", he said. "We had a very good team but were underestimated by the media. I don't think it was that we weren't rated, but because the Shamrock Rovers team of that era was so good."

Between 1984 and 1987, Shamrock Rovers were the dominant force in Irish football, winning four league titles and three FAI Cups. Their one blemish was also UCD's greatest achievement. "That Shamrock Rovers team was winning league titles by the proverbial mile and only for us, they would have won four league and cup doubles in a row. But we had a very good team – Paddy Dunning and Alan O'Neill were former internationals, Joe Hanrahan ended up playing for Manchester United and Ken O'Doherty for Crystal Palace – so it's no surprise we did as well as we did."

The Cup final itself was really a case of the good, the bad and the ugly.

"The first match was on a Friday night at Dalymount Park on a rock hard pitch. It was 0-0 and awful", concedes Moran.

"Before the replay five days later, they watered the pitch and it was much better. We took an early lead when Joe Hanrahan scored after a mazy dribble, then won a penalty before half-time but missed it through Ken O'Doherty.

"I remember at half-time, although we were leading, there was a huge argument in the dressing room. I can't remember why, but in the second half, that missed penalty came back to haunt us. The won a penalty when Paddy Dunning fouled Liam Buckley. Jack (McDonagh) hammered it home and it looked like extra-time.

"But in the fifth minute of injury time, we won a free-kick and Ken O'Doherty insisted he was going forward for it. I remember telling him to stay back because it was so late, as were Tony O'Neill and Theo Dunne (the management team). But Ken then scored the winner and there was hardly time for Rovers to kick off before the end of the game.

"It was a great occasion for the club and we celebrated. I remember speaking to Robbie Gaffney who told me that when Rovers won the Cups, they celebrated for the night – we celebrated for the proverbial month."

In the European Cup Winners' Cup, UCD were drawn with Everton, drawing 0-0 at Tolka Park and losing 1-0 away from home in a game that they almost snatched a draw from and with it victory on away goals.

"Peter Reid says that was their hardest tie of the season and they won the competition, which just shows how good a team we were."

## FOCUS ON – ALAN MAHON

**Name** – Alan Mahon

**Date of birth** – 18/11/75

**Place of birth** – Dublin

**Position** – Full-back

**Joined UCD** – July 1997

**Signed from** – St Francis

**UCD debut** – A v. Waterford United (28/08/98); UCD lost 1-0.

**First (and only) goal** – H v.

Rockmount (FAI Cup First Round replay, 12/01/99); UCD won 2-0

**2005 UCD statistics** – Played 7 (all league), scored 0.

**UCD career statistics (league only)** – Played 162, scored 0

**Did you know?** – Alan has *never* scored a league goal for UCD! Ever! No player – including goalkeepers! – has played more league games for the College without scoring. In fact, Alan is one game away from tenth on the UCD all-time appearances chart. His dad is Pete Mahon, the current manager. He signed for UCD from St Francis, who were then managed by...Pete Mahon!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**10<sup>th</sup> June** – After comfortably defeating Dublin City in the League Cup, the two teams meet again in the FAI Cup. You can be fairly sure that few of those who started in the League Cup will start again here, but UCD will be looking for a similar result, and maybe a few more goals to boot...

**17<sup>th</sup> June** – Another Doolin grudge match – away to Drogheda. There's a bus going to this – E20 from the Montrose Hotel as usual.

**20<sup>th</sup> June** – Date is unconfirmed as yet (might be the next day), but Shamrock Rovers visit Belfield for the League Cup Second Round.

**24<sup>th</sup> June** – Bray defeated UCD earlier in the season in a game UCD were really looking to get three points from. Bray's away record is poor and ours is good – can we get those three points this time?

**1<sup>st</sup> July** – Home to Cork City – another team who rarely seem to do well in Belfield...

*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.FootieForums> – 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.UCDsoccer.com](http://www.UCDsoccer.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.

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