

UCD NEWS



The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 17

July 2005

WELCOME TO THE seventeenth issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of a prodigal son, a look back at our biggest triumph and, as always, the Belfield Diary.

June was our best month so far this season – five games played, none lost. It's seen us through to the Third Round of the FAI Cup, the quarter-finals of the League Cup (and July has started with us through to the semis) and up to mid-table in the league. It's also seen Tony McDonnell named as Player of the Month after scoring in three consecutive games (which is now five games out of six). In the League Cup, a virtual reserve team (plus Aidan Lynch, coming back from injury) beat Shamrock Rovers 1-0, with a goal from Paul Whitmarsh. Paul played for Belgrove in their 2-0 FAI Cup defeat to UCD in 2003, and though he's now 32, he has a big reputation in non-league football and, once he gets up to match fitness (Belgrove are in their off season at the moment, of course), the hope is that he can become this season's Derek Swan...!

In the quarters of the tournament, the reserves – this time with a bit more help from first-teamers Tony McDonnell and Conor Kenna, as well as Alan Mahon and Anto Murphy, returning from injury – beat Waterford's first-team 1-0, and so we are in only our second League Cup semi-final, to face either holders Longford, Shels or Derry. We've only ever lost one semi as a league club – to Shels in the 1996/97 Leinster Senior Cup – so hopefully our luck can hold again! That run, incidentally, counts one FAI Cup semi, one League Cup semi and four Leinster Senior Cup semis. Quarter-finals are more our bogey...! Whether or not the League Cup winners qualify for the Setanta Cup has yet to be decided though.

In the FAI Cup, Dublin City were again put to the sword, just ten days we beat them in the League Cup. We've been drawn away to two-time holders Longford Town in the Third Round. The Town have already beaten us in the league this season, and the two teams meet two weeks before in the league. We've only met once in the FAI Cup – in 1988 as a First Division team when, after beating three-time holders Shamrock Rovers, we lost 2-1 to Longford at home...and this at a time when Longford were *really* bad.

In fact, we've only lost one game since our last newsletter – a record 5-1 defeat at home to Cork City, against whom we actually have a decent record; John O'Flynn scored a hat-trick, becoming the first player to score a hat-trick against since...John O'Flynn! No more about that then!

Our U-21s have gotten their league season underway with two wins and a draw – that draw coming against Shamrock Rovers, the same team whose first-team they'd beaten not long before! They currently top their division (South Leinster), and are in the Second Round of the Cup after beating Garda. The Shield competition, incidentally, remains unfinished – Cork have yet to play Sligo and UCD, with the Rebels looking likely to win the competition outright; UCD must win in Cork to have a chance.

The transfer window is open for this month only – some deals of interest to UCD fans have already gone through, including Adrian Murphy's loan transfer to Kildare County; he remains very much part of Pete Mahon's plans though. Former UCD players Alan Cawley (Shels) and Shay Kelly (Bohs) have both gone to Longford for the season.

BELFIELD DIARY

4th June – An Oscar for the Israeli goalkeeper, and an undeserved point for his team on one of those days for Ireland... Ian Harte and Robbie Keane score, but Israel come back for a 2-2 draw, while Andy O'Brien is sent off for being punched in the face for the second time in the campaign.

8th June – Ireland get back to winning ways with a 2-0 win in Tórshavn – Ian Harte and Kevin Kilbane score into the goal with the large UCD flag behind it!

10th June – UCD face Dublin City in Belfield for the second time in ten days, and for the second time in ten days beat them by two goals. This time, it was in the FAI Cup Second Round, and not as comfortable as the League Cup tie. UCD coach Martin Russell, interviewed on RTÉ Radio afterwards, is asked where goalscorer Stephen Hurley is from. "He's not from Dublin...he's from down the country somewhere!" Turns out he's only from Wicklow too!

11th June – The U-21s get their league campaign underway with a 3-0 win away to Tullamore – Conor Sammon scores twice, Adrian Murphy nets the third.

17th June – The big game – away to Paul Doolin's team. A last-minute Tony McDonnell header seals the three points after Gary Dicker had equalised former Student Gavin Whelan's strike. Pat Sullivan makes his debut for Drogheda after recovering from an illness which had kept him out for the whole season. Waterford are in serious financial trouble – Seán Finn and Willie Doyle are among those transfer listed as they look to slash their costs. The league game against Waterford is moved to Saturday to avoid a clash with the Tall Ships race.

18th June – Another win for the U-21s – 2-0 against Garda, with Derek Doyle the latest Doyle to start finding the net for UCD (after Robbie and Willie – no relation, as far as we can tell) as he scores both goals.

20th June – In the League Cup Second Round, Shamrock Rovers field a full-strength team and Roddy Collins talks about winning the competition as they won't win the league. UCD play the U-21s plus Aidan Lynch, coming back from injury. Trevor Molloy is sent off for Rovers, and they end up losing 1-0, with new signing and not-quite-under-21 Paul Whitmarsh scoring on his debut.

22nd June – The quarter-final draw for the League Cup is kind to UCD, as they are to play Waterford at home.

24th June – UCD finally beat a poor team – but only just, as they have to come from behind to beat Bray 3-2. Stephen Hurley and Pat McWalter (2) score.

26th June – The Waterford league game is moved to Sunday afternoon.

27th June – Packie Bonner draws us away to two-time Cup holders Longford Town in the Third Round of the FAI Cup, to be played on the 28th of August.

29th June – UCD's U-21s can beat Rovers' first-team, but not, surprisingly, their U-21s (and nor can our first team beat Rovers' first team! Curiouser and curiouser!) A 1-1 draw is played out in the U-21 league; Damien Kelly scores the goal.

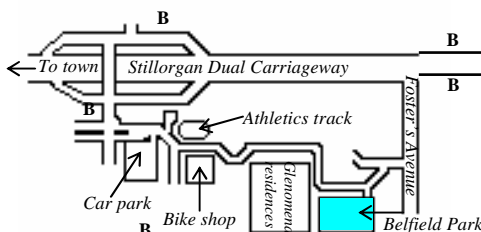
1st July – Alan Cawley joins Longford on loan from Shelbourne; UCD's Adrian Murphy goes to Kildare for the rest of the season. Cork end College's seven-match unbeaten run in rather emphatic form – 5-1 winners in Belfield in our heaviest defeat in four years.

4th July – The Waterford league game is moved back to Saturday evening, initially sometime between 4:00 and 6:00, but finally settles at 6:00. Negotiation are concluded at the League Cup game between the two teams – UCD advance to the semi-final stage on a 1-0 scoreline – Tony McDonnell scores his fifth goal in six games. Waterford field a full-strength team (allowing for the four players they've already sold/returned on loan/forced to resign), while UCD field the U-21s with a couple of first-teamers. Shels, Derry and Longford are left for the semis, which take place on the 8th of August.

7th July – UCD's U-21s beat Garda 3-0 in the First Round of the Enda McGuill U-21 Cup.

8th July – Shay Kelly joins Longford on loan for the season. Tony McDonnell is named Player of the Month for June after scoring three goals in four games as UCD go through the month unbeaten. You could argue then that the Cork game was just the traditional blip brought on by such awards, although Tony did score in that game...and the one after!

WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



Buses to Belfield:

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

PLAYER OF THE MONTH!

From various sources (including the Mirror and the FAI website) ; 8th July 2005

Tony McDonnell praised the influence of UCD boss Pete Mahon after picking up the eircom Soccer Writers' Player of the Month for June and insisted "It's time we won something."

The versatile McDonnell, who is currently anchoring the Students' midfield, has been at the club for a remarkable 13 seasons – a remarkable record.

But since he has been at the Belfield outfit, the only trophies he has won have been the First



Division and the First Division Shield in the 1990s [also two Leinster Senior Cups, though that's not exactly something to write home about! – Ed], as well as the FAI Super Cup, which was claimed in 2000.

UCD reached the eircom League Cup final in 2001 and have a chance of doing so again this season, having reached the semi-finals.

"Last season was disappointing because we were there or thereabouts", the 29-year-old said. "I think the team needs to win something to move on to the next level, so the League Cup is a good chance. If we can get a home draw, we will be happy enough. I don't think there's much to pick between Longford, Derry and Shelbourne. But we'd settle for Shels – they're on a bit of a dip at the moment."

McDonnell was inspirational for the Students during the month as they went unbeaten in their four eircom League matches and one eircom League Cup clash [it was actually three league games, one League Cup game and an FAI Cup game – Ed]. Back in midfield after a spell at centre-half earlier in the season, McDonnell was also in scoring form, netting in a 1-1 draw with Shelbourne and a 2-1 victory over Drogheda United [and also in the FAI Cup against Dublin City – Ed].

A regular for the majority of those thirteen seasons, he has clocked up 248 league appearances [250 – Ed] and scored 27 goals during his career with the Students.

"It is very humbling to receive this award", he said. "We've had a particularly good month, there's a good bunch of players there at the moment and a lot of credit has to go to Pete Mahon for what he has done."

McDonnell is a rarity in the game, given his commitment to one club – he is the longest-serving one-club player currently in the league – but the closest he came to leaving was when Bolton Wanderers expressed an interest. "There are obviously moments in your career when you'd think of moving on, but the club always looked after me. Bolton came in and it was close, but I am glad I stayed on. It has been a great experience."

Focus On – AIDAN LYNCH

Name – Aidan Lynch

Date of birth – 29/08/77

Place of birth – Dublin

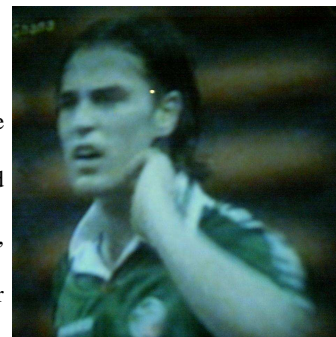
Position – Centre-back

Joined UCD – June 2005 and June 1995

Signed from – Drogheda United most recently

UCD debut – v. Shelbourne, September 1995; lost 3-0

First goal – v. Cork City, September 1996; won 2-1



2005 UCD statistics – Played 9 (7 league, 1 League Cup, 1 FAI Cup), scored 0.

UCD career statistics (league only) – Played 141, scored 8

Did you know? – In his first spell at UCD, Aidan was club captain and was part of the Ireland U-20 team which won the bronze medal at the 1997 U-20 World Cup. The above photo is from Aidan's only appearance of the tournament – the third/fourth place play-off win against Ghana. Lynch played alongside Paul Whelan (third choice keeper at UCD last season), current eL players Glen Crowe, Trevor Molloy, Thomas Morgan, Colin Hawkins, Alan Kirby, Neale Fenn and one Damien Duff. The team manager was Brian Kerr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

9th July – Waterford away. Definitely. No more changes! Their lineup is still dependent on how many players they sell between now and then.

15th July – St Pat's at home. The last time anyone hammered us (Bohs 6-0 in 2001), we played Pat's in our next home game and played a dull 0-0 draw. Now Cork are after hammering us...! Actually, quite a lot of home games against Pat's end 0-0 for some reason...

22nd July – A trip to the Brandywell to take on one of the pretenders to the title...and who lost in Belfield when last we met. And who lost the last time we played in the Brandywell too!

29th July – Bohs somehow took a point from their visit to Belfield earlier in the season, but are actually unbeaten in the league since then, and only lost narrowly to a decent Belgian team in Europe.

5th August – Harps home in a match we really would be wanting to win...having not done it the previous time... Harps still aren't much good – the question is whether we can start beating teams who aren't much good!

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 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, the new official UCD website
- www.Eleven-a-side.com/ucd - A handy site for UCD news and match previews.
- The long-talked about new Supporters' Club website is also under design and we hope to have it launched in the next few weeks. Really!

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