

UCD NEWS



The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 21

November 2005

WELCOME TO THE twenty-first issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of Neil Gallagher, a look back at the curious incident of the referee at...well, not at Belfield Park anyway and, as usual, the Belfield Diary.

The last month has been a strange one. Two Fridays off, but two weekends with two games. One match without a referee and, unfortunately, one match without a defeat. Derry and Cork go into the month with five defeats between them, Waterford and Pat's had two wins in their last 31 – one of them being Saints' win over Waterford. And, of course, Waterford beat Derry and Pat's beat Cork on the same day, both away from home with Pat's finishing with nine men. The odds for this are reckoned to have been around 150/1, but coupled with our own current run of 1 win in 13, the only important thing is that we're suddenly in trouble.

In fairness, it wouldn't be a proper season at UCD without something to play for on the last day – in this case, a home game against Shamrock Rovers. Our past six final days have seen us miss out on the First Division title, get relegated, avoid the play-off, finish comfortably mid-table (!), avoid relegation/win a play-off and qualify for Europe. With any luck, next year's final day will be no more nerve-wracking than an FAI Cup Final victory...

No such worries for our U-21 team, partly because there aren't any relegation play-offs, but partly also because they're through to the semi-final stage of the league after another fine win over Cork City, whom they beat in last year's final. They now face the winners of the delayed St Pat's v. Bohs quarter-final for a place in the final away to either Finn Harps or Shelbourne.

In the meantime, the Supporters' Club awards are up for grabs again. The nominations are with the body of this e-mail, or are listed on the [UCD Forum](#). Just send your 1-2-3 to us at UCDAFC@Yahoo.ie, and we hope to make the presentation before the Shamrock Rovers game on the last day of the season. And as the end of the season is coming around, UCD News will be going on its usual sabattical. Our next issue will be sent out around the New Year – once the transfer dealings have started – so let us be the first to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

BELFIELD DIARY

4th October – UCD's U-21s beat Kildare County 3-0 in Belfield Park to seal their progression to the quarter-finals.

7th October – Ireland's U-21s are fortunate to come away with a point from Larnaka in a 1-1 draw with their Cypriot counterparts. Darren Quigley and Gary Dicker are unused substitutes, while UCD's match against Waterford the same night is postponed due to international call-ups. Has a nice ring to it!

8th October – For the second time in 24 hours, Ireland get one result better than they deserved when beating Cyprus 1-0 – Stephen Elliot scores the only goal, while Shay Given saves a penalty. UCD's U-21s finally beat Bray – 1-0, with Conan Byrne scoring the only goal.

11th October – Another defeat for Ireland's U-21s – 1-0 against Switzerland in Tolka. Dicker and Quigley are again unused subs; the game is first-choice keeper Wayne Henderson's last at this age level.

12th October – Ireland's World Cup dream is over after a 0-0 draw with Switzerland. Ireland will now be seeded fourth in the draw for the 2008 European Championships.

14th October – Yet another scoreless draw between UCD and Pat's – this time in Richmond. It's the fifth 0-0 in the last eight games between the two.

17th October – An interesting start to a crucial game against Waterford as no ref turns up. The game starts 45 minutes late and Waterford race into a 2-0 lead. UCD, for whom a draw would pretty much guarantee Premier Division safety and who have lost just one of the last 13 games against the Blues, miss a penalty before coming back to equalise through Podge McWalter and Anto Murphy. With the last header of the game, though, Pat Purcell wins the three points for Waterford.

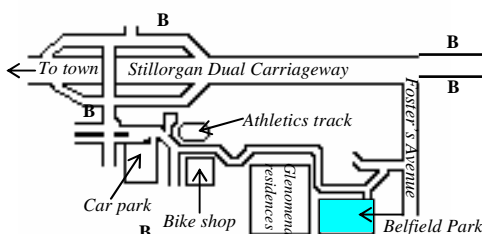
22nd October – In the U-21 semis, UCD face Cork in Bishopstown, whom they beat in the final last year to end their two-year reign as national champions. A Conan Byrne strike sees UCD repeat last year's feat and advance to the semis.

23rd October – UCD's Ladies team suffer their first ever WFAI Cup defeat, going down 2-1 to the Mayo League. After three Cup wins in a row, the result means that UCD won't now be in the UEFA Cup next season.

27th October – Bohs win 3-1 in Belfield – Podge McWalter scores for UCD, but Anto Murphy and Robbie Martin are taken off injured; Murphy will miss the rest of the season. Remarkably, Waterford win in Derry and St Pat's win in Cork, so suddenly UCD are just three points above Shamrock Rovers in the play-off spot...

31st October – A much-improved performance but the same result as UCD lose 2-0 at home to Derry.

WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



Buses to Belfield:

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

SPOT THE REF!

From The Irish Times (18/10/05)

There were farcical scenes in Belfield Park last night when the kick-off was delayed 46 minutes because of a refereeing mix-up. At 7pm, some 45 minutes before the scheduled start, it became apparent no referee, linesmen or fourth officials had been marked down to officiate.

The fixture was originally down for 7th October but was postponed because UCD players Darren Quigley and Gary Dicker were involved with the Ireland under-21 side against Cyprus and Switzerland.

The eircom League had rescheduled the tie on 28th September but it appears the FAI-controlled referee's department then assigned no match officials for the night.

As both teams conducted their pre-match warm-up, frantic calls were made to cobble together a team of officials who could tog out at the 11th hour. Eventually, Dubliner Paul Tuite was contacted and agreed to race across the city. He arrived at the stadium just after 8pm and was joined by assistants Fran Cunningham and Neil Doyle while Declan Hanney acted as fourth official.

Pat Dolan, acting in an advisory role with Waterford until the end of the season, said he was "flabbergasted" by the situation. "Waterford are fighting for their lives", he said. "This was an amazing situation when you think of how many Waterford supporters made the 200-mile round trip to this game. It's disrespectful to both sides."

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

John Byrne, the acting director of the eircom League, has apologised to players, officials and supporters of UCD and Waterford United after an administrative oversight saw no officials appointed to take charge of Monday night's Premier Division clash between the sides.

The game was delayed for around 45 minutes before emergency referee Paul Tuite got the fixture under way.

Waterford advisor Pat Dolan slammed the league authorities over the error, and new procedures for appointing officials have been put in place as a result of the mistake.

In a statement released on Tuesday morning, Byrne said: "On behalf of the eircom League, I would like to apologise to both clubs, supporters and the media for any inconvenience caused as a result of events at Belfield Park last night."

WHO?

Or "Just a funny story I heard"

Before UCD's recent U-21 quarter-final against Cork City in Cork, Pete Mahon and the team were in the Rochestown Hotel preparing. Coming out to go to the match, they chanced to bump into Cork's first-team manager, Damien Richardson. "Are you going to the match, Damien?", Pete asked. "What match?" replied Damien.

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FOCUS ON – NEIL GALLAGHER

Name – Neil Gallagher

Date of birth – 20/01/85

Place of birth – Newry

Position – Goalkeeper

Joined UCD – September 2003

Signed from – Dundalk

UCD debut – A v. Bray

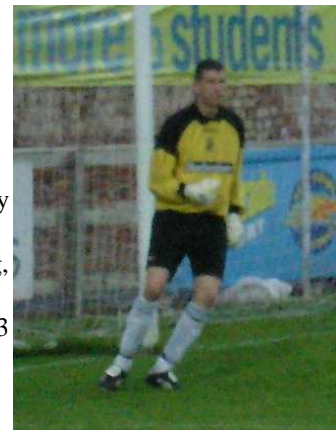
Wanderers, 19/03/04 – won 2-0

First goal – We're still waiting, unsurprisingly!

2005 UCD statistics – Played 3 (3 League Cup)

UCD career statistics – Played 21 (18 league, 3 League Cup)

Did you know? – Neil was Pete Mahon's first signing as UCD manager in curious circumstances. In Mahon's first game in charge, he dropped Austin O'Neill for Pat Jennings Jnr. O'Neill promptly stormed out of the club and Gally was signed as a replacement. The Irish U-19 international took over the No 1 jersey after Jennings left for Derry, but lost his place to Darren Quigley midway through the season, though not before **keeping nine clean sheets in 18 games.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

5th November – Another long trek to Harps, and possibly the last for a couple of years. What was a nothing game a few weeks ago is suddenly a six-pointer...

12th November – Away to Longford, who are on a dire run of form lately, even losing to Drogheda!! Two points from seven games, four goals scored and 16 conceded. Surely?! There's a Supporters' Club bus going to this one – E15 return, leaving the Montrose at 4:00. E-mail us at UCDAFC@yahoo.ie for more info.

18th November – Home to Shamrock Rovers in what could be a vital game for both clubs. The league has confirmed that all Premier Division games on the last day will be at 7:45 on the Friday.

13th February – 2006 fixtures announced, followed by...

10th March – ...the kick-off of the 2006 season.

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 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 has been launched and is at www.STIGOnline.com.