

# UCD NEWS



## The UCD FC Supporters' Club Newsletter

Issue 32

September 2007

**WELCOME TO THE** thirty second issue of UCD News. In this issue, we have a profile of full back Ian Bermingham, a look at a possible change of set up next year and, of course, the Belfield Diary.

We've flattered to deceive of late – a generally poor run of results with the exception of our live games. An excellent performance away against Pat's saw us lead for half an hour before a controversial equaliser cost us two points. We then went one better in Drogheda when securing our first ever live telly win – at our seventh attempt – and there was certainly no better way of breaking that duck! Recent results have also included a win over Bohs, but a draw against Galway and a hammering in the League Cup against Derry.

It's really endemic our of inconsistency this year. Wins in Derry, Drogheda and Richmond (albeit in the League Cup) have been offset by dropped points against Galway (four), Bray (three) and Longford (five). Bizarrely, Sligo have done the treble over us for the first time ever, when just last season, we did the treble over them.

Of late though, the squad has been riddled with about as big an injury crisis as has been seen in the past decade. At the time of writing, Alan McNally, Ian Bermingham, Paul Crowley, Derek Doyle, Shane Fitzgerald, Tony McDonnell and Paul Byrne are all out, and all with more than just a one-match niggle. That's the basis of a fairly good team we're missing, and it's been showing in some of our recent results as players have been playing out of position, while others have been thrown in at the deep end. At this stage, it seems that we have just three real matches remaining – Derry in the Cup, and Bray and Waterford at home in the league, where six points should secure safety and allow us to plan for better next season.

Over in England, meanwhile, Gary Dicker is enjoying a good start to his Stockport career. He's been given the number 8 jersey and has started all bar one of their games so far. The one he was dropped for saw then go 4-0 down after half an hour, at which stage he was immediately brought on! Coincidentally (or not), the score ended up 4-2. Some may argue it smacks of small-time attitude, but Dicker is the role model for UCD players – have a couple of years in Ireland getting first team experience and education, and then head over to Division Two or Three in England to try your hand at the professional game. And if it means we get more transfer fees, all the better! Dicker is one of five UCD players to receive Ireland U-21 honours in the last two years (Conor Sammon and Shane McFaul the latest), so we are at least continuing to move in the right direction!

## BELFIELD DIARY

**10<sup>th</sup> July** – UCD draw with Stockport County in a mid-week friendly. Conor Sammon scores with a penalty, while Gary Dicker makes his County debut.

**14<sup>th</sup> July** – The u-21s beat Athlone 2-0 – Tony Doyle and Greg Bolger on the mark as the league season gathers pace.

**16<sup>th</sup> July** – In the Students' first live game of the season, Shamrock Rovers are given a bit of a run around for 50 minutes – with a perfectly good Conan Byrne disallowed – before Rovers seal the points with two second half goals.

**21<sup>st</sup> July** – After an encouraging performance against Rovers, it's a hugely dispiriting showing against Longford, where the Students lose to the bottom side in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute of a game neither side really deserved a point from. Shane McFaul picks up an injury in the warm up.

**22<sup>nd</sup> July** – The 21s suffer their first league loss of the season, 2-1 against Pat's. Greg Bolger scores.

**24<sup>th</sup> July** – With the 21s looking to get in a few games ahead of the trip to Thailand for the World Student Games, it's a second game in three days, and a win this time – 3-1 against Kildare. James O'Sullivan, Pat McWalter and Timmy Purcell are on target.

**27<sup>th</sup> July** – A week after losing to a 90<sup>th</sup> minute goal, UCD sneak a victory over Bohs with a 90<sup>th</sup> minute Conor Sammon penalty.

**31<sup>st</sup> July** – As the transfer window comes to a close, Pete Mahon swoops for two forwards – Paul Murphy on loan from Pat's and Peter Hynes on loan from Derry.

**6<sup>th</sup> August** – Another live game, and another spirited performance. Derek Doyle's excellent goal gives UCD the lead before Pat's equalise with a controversial strike, with the referee overlooking a handball in the build up.

**10<sup>th</sup> August** – Another 90<sup>th</sup> minute goal, this time costing two points as UCD contrive to draw 2-2 at home to Galway. With Alan Mahon injured in the warm up, the defence takes time to reshuffle, and Galway take an early lead, but Derek Doyle and Shane Fitzgerald have UCD in the lead by half time before Galway's late late strike.

**12<sup>th</sup> August** – Darren Quigley is in the Ireland U-21 squad for a friendly in Germany later in the month. He is joined three days later by Shane McFaul, his first call up.

**17<sup>th</sup> August** – Alan McNally's turn to be injured in the warm up, and again a bizarre defensive line up ensues (featuring Brian King at right back). Dundalk 1-2 UCD. Derek Doyle opens the scoring and nearly adds a second when his shot comes crashing off the underside of the bar. But Dundalk come back into it, equalise through Robbie Doyle and are looking far the more likely to score when Conor Sammon pops up to head home from two yards. A fourth successive FAI Cup quarter final awaits.

**21<sup>st</sup> August** – Shane McFaul makes his debut for Ireland as a sub as Ireland draw 2-2 in Germany. Darren Quigley is an unused sub. The U-21s win 3-0 in Portlaoise - Forsyth (2) and McMillan on the mark.

**23<sup>rd</sup> August** – Quigley and McFaul are joined by Conor Sammon in the Ireland U-21 squad for the Euro qualifier against Portugal in Cork in September. Ian Bermingham in the Ireland U-19 squad.

**24<sup>th</sup> August** – A hammering in Belfield as, despite goals in the first and last minute, an Andy Myler hat-trick inspires Rovers to a 4-2 win.

**25<sup>th</sup> August** – A 3-0 Cup win against Athlone U-21s, with Conan, Timmy and James O'Callaghan scoring. Bray await in the quarters.

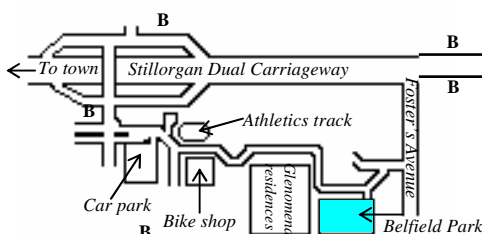
**27<sup>th</sup> August** – The Cup quarter-final draw pits UCD against Derry for the sixth time in cup competitions in the previous seven seasons. UCD are yet to win...

**28<sup>th</sup> August** – ...and that record continues with a 3-0 hammering in the League Cup semi final in Derry.

**1<sup>st</sup> September** – The U-21s don't quite repeat their earlier 8-0 over Ballinasloe, settling for a 2-1 victory. Fran Moran and Evan McMillan score.

**3<sup>rd</sup> September** – A third live game in a month, and another big performance and, in fact, our first ever live telly win – Ian Bermingham's goal seals a deserved 1-0 win away to league leaders Drogheda.

## WHERE IS BELFIELD PARK???



### Buses to Belfield:

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

**B** – Bus stop

## FUTURE PLANS

*From the Irish Mail on Sunday, 01/09/07*

Mahon has plans to make his side a more formidable outfit by then (the move to Belfield Bowl). While UCD have long been recognised as a fine production line of young talent, their manager is now planning to bring some experienced heads into the dressing room.

“Quite simply, we’re fed up with being a bottom four club. We want to be top four and to achieve that, I feel we need experience”, he explained. “The plan is to bring in perhaps four experienced players who can combine playing with coaching in the community. They would be full time footballers.

“We feel that we have the resources in place now to be able to bring that sort of experience to our squad. Ultimately we want to be able to develop relationships with local clubs where, with their permission, we can take young players here and develop them.

“The FAI has just confirmed a compensation scheme for domestic clubs so we can feel that we can offer the clubs the security of knowing we won’t be just poaching players. I’ve always operated on the basis of honesty and I think the clubs that I’ve dealt with would always appreciate that.”

Mahon’s assistant Martin Russell spent last week visiting Manchester United, Middlesbrough, West Brom and Oldham Athletic to develop links with the Belfield side. It is all working towards a changing the face of UCD as a club but Mahon acknowledges that the Students will always be associated with producing younger talent.

Three of his players – Darren Quigley, Shane McFaul and Conor Sammon – are in the Irish U-21 squad for Friday’s UEFA Championship qualifier against Portugal.

Left-back Ian Bermingham – who looks set to move to Stockport County at the end of the season – is in Seán McCaffrey’s U-19 squad for two friendlies this week.

“It’s a good sign that so many of our players are getting international recognition. Greg Bolger and Timmy Purcell were capped at U-19 level earlier this year too”, said Mahon. “We’ve had lots of clubs looking at our players but the days of players moving on for £50,000 are numbered.

“Roy O’Donovan is a very good player, but is he ten times better than Conor Sammon? I don’t think so. In a year’s time, with more football under his belt, I’m quite confident that Conor could be a very valuable asset for this club. The question will arise then as to whether it is in our interests to let talented players go or keep them here. If we want to be a top four side, we need to keep our best players.”

Mahon is planning on changing the training week for his squad with morning and afternoon sessions on the agenda, to move as close to a full time set up as possible. The departure of key backroom staff member Eddie Wallace for the youth development officer’s role at Bray Wanderers will have a temporary impact. Mahon insists that it will be all systems go on seeking out the best young players in this country for his club.

“We’ve got strong links with the schoolboy game around the country. I got Ian Bermingham through a former St Francis player of mine, Stephen O’Reilly. That will always make up part of who we are. We’ll still be going to schoolboy matches every Sunday morning but we’re also looking to develop things longer term. I don’t like the word ‘academy’, but it’s certainly in our plans to make sure we can grow the schoolboy side of things from within. That’s where the experienced guys will come in.”

## Focus On – IAN BERMINGHAM

**Name** – Ian Bermingham

**Date of birth** – 8 January 1989

**Place of birth** – Dublin

**Position** – Left back

**Joined UCD** – February 2007

**Signed from** – Lourdes Celtic

**UCD debut** – H v Waterford United, 06/04/07

**First goal** – A v Drogheda United, 03/09/07

**2007 stats** – Played 23 (18 league, 3 League Cup, 2 FAI Cup), scored one

**UCD career statistics** – Played 23 (18 league, 3 League Cup, 2 FAI Cup), scored one

**Did you know?** – An Ireland U-19 international, Bermo is already being linked with moves to Stockport and Gretna for next season. Made his debut in injury time against Waterford, and has been almost ever present since then. Scored the goal which beat Drogheda (celebrations above) recently!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**21<sup>st</sup> September** – Concluding a run of five successive away games, we travel to Derry in the FAI Cup quarter-final; just weeks after taking a hammering in the League Cup semi up there, we surely have a point to prove!

**28<sup>th</sup> September** – A first home game in five weeks, as we host struggling Waterford, with a win needed to extend the gap to the play offs.

**5<sup>th</sup> October** – The second of a vital relegation double header, as Bray Wanderers visit, six years and a day after their last league win in Belfield.

**8<sup>th</sup> October** – Home to Cork in the rearranged league game – three home games in ten days! Just like the buses... We were hammered by this lot just three weeks ago as well! Lots of revenge to get.

**12<sup>th</sup> October** – Away to Derry, hopefully not three weeks after taking a hammering. They’ll be in the League Cup Final three days previously, so hopefully will be a bit tired still.

**19<sup>th</sup> October** – Home to a resurgent Longford side, battling to avoid the drop against all odds. We should have the latest episode of the fanzine half time game here too!

*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.Focus.ie/forums> – the UCD messageboard, which includes 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 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.
- [www.UCDchatline.com](http://www.UCDchatline.com) - The Supporters’ Club/fanzine website.

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