

# BLUE REVIEW

*Official Club Magazine*

*May 2022*

**JIGSAW**



*SSE Airtricity League of Ireland Premier Division*

*UCD v*

*Dundalk*

*Friday*

*6<sup>th</sup> May 2022*

*Shamrock Rovers*

*Thursday*

*19<sup>th</sup> May 2022*

*UCD Bowl*

*7:45pm*

*Sligo Rovers*

*Friday*

*27<sup>th</sup> May 2022*



# UCD Bowl Ground

## Regulations

\* All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following ground regulations and rules and regulations of the club.

\* Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these rules and regulations.

\* Fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, laser pens, flares or any similar articles or containers including anything that could be used as a weapon are not permitted

\* Within the ground, any person in possession of such article or container may be refused entry or ejected from the ground.

\* The consumption of intoxicating liquor is not permitted.

\* The unauthorised climbing of floodlight pylons, stands or other buildings in the ground is forbidden.

\* Unnecessary noise such as that from the use of radio sets and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind, including foul or abusive language, is not permitted in the ground.

\* Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter the field of play at any time.

\* Any persons who fail to comply with the instructions from the stewards may be ejected from the ground.

\* In general the right of admission is reserved to unauthorised persons who are not the ground management.

\* Any person attempting to gain admission to or being found within a section of the ground designated for members only without the appropriate authorisation may be ejected from the ground.

\* Only persons specifically authorised in writing by club management are permitted to offer for sale or distribute any newspaper, periodical or any other article.

\* Any person found damaging or defacing the property of the club will be prosecuted.

\* Persons are admitted to this ground subject to their acceptance of these ground rules of the football association of Ireland and the Airtricity league.

\* The ground management reserves the right to refuse admission to or eject any person who refuses to be searched by an Garda Síochana.

\* Any person who remains in a gangway may be ejected from the stadium.

\* The ground management will not tolerate any form of racist abuse.

\* The ground management reserves the right for servants or agents to remove from the ground any person who does not comply with the ground regulations or whose presence in the ground could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.

\* The moving from one area of the stadium to another without permission of a steward, An Garda

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<b>S&amp;C coach</b>	Diarmuid McNally
<b>CUFL/IUFU Manager</b>	Diarmuid McNally
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<b>LOITV co-commentator</b>	Peter Branigan
<b>PA announcer</b>	Ian Headon
<b>Club Photographer</b>	Arnold Byrne Ed Scannell
<b>FAI Fans' Liaison Officer</b>	Stephen Joyce

Síochana or other authorised agent of the club is strictly forbidden.

\* In the event of a match being postponed or abandoned, any refund of the admission charge will be at the sole discretion of the club management. This is subject to a time limitation, the details of which are available from the club ticket office. Persons entering the ground are advised to retain their ticket stub, as this may be required to be produced at a later date

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# WELCOME TO THE BOWL

Welcome to the UCD Bowl

I'd like to welcome Stephen and all of the Dundalk players, staff and supporters, Stephen and all of the Shamrock Rovers players, staff and supporters, and Liam and all of the Sligo Rovers players, staff and supporters for this month's respective games.

First of all I'd like to congratulate our University team on their brilliant Collingwood Cup Final victory over Queen's Belfast. The Collingwood is massive to the club, and one that the players really look forward to playing in as part of their college careers. It also sees players from our first team squad mixing with our LSL squads and it is great to see the strength and depth we have throughout the club. It's great to have the trophy returning to Belfield for the 48<sup>th</sup> time and well done to all on the achievement!

Another congratulations must go to our freshers LSL team and to first team staff member Cormac Henry on securing promotion last weekend! Cormac has taken a leading role in their management this year, with the help of Ian and Gavin Sheridan, after a number of injuries have forced him to take a step back on the playing front and into coaching, and it was great to see a large number of our first team squad out supporting them to victory last weekend. Dealing with injuries is never easy, but it's great to see the way Cormac has stepped into coaching and management, however hopefully we will see him back on the pitch also soon!



We know it's going to be a difficult month of fixtures. Dundalk and Shamrock Rovers both look to be back to their best. Similarly Sligo have had a very good run of results since we faced them in the Showgrounds with victories over Finn Harps and Shelbourne along with a draw against Shamrock Rovers. We will keep pushing ourselves looking

for positive performances and results and these are the games we want to be in the Premier Division for. Hopefully we will get a good crowd for the games and we can have some great nights at the Bowl.

Finally, best of luck to all of our players and supporters who start their end of year exams this weekend!

Enjoy the game!

*Andy*

## UCD AFC Roll of Honour

FAI Cup 1984

First Division 1994/5, 2009, 2018

Super Cup 2000/1

Leinster Senior Cup 1980/1, 1994/5, 1995/6

First Division Shield 1991/2, 1994/5

First Division runners-up 1988/9, 2004

League Cup runners-up 2000/1, 2005

A Championship 2008, 2010

Dr Tony O'Neill U-20 League 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2016

FAI Intermediate Cup 1944/5

IFA Intermediate Cup 1914/5

Cup Winners' Cup representatives 1984/5

InterToto Cup representatives 2000/1

Europa League representatives 2015

Collingwood Cup – 48 wins

Harding Cup – 17 wins

# FOR US FOR THEM

*There's probably more players in the league who have played for UCD at some stage than for any other club. Declan Hughes talks to one player who has played for both us and our visitors tonight*

Alan O'Neill began his schoolboy career with Bonnybrook Boys as a midfielder. He is now remembered as one of the greatest goalkeepers ever to play in the League of Ireland after a career spanning more than 20 seasons where he had two spells with Shamrock Rovers and moved to UCD, Dundalk and eventually Sligo Rovers, where he retired as a player in 1997. He became a goalkeeper in the classic way – the original goalkeeper was unavailable on a particular Saturday and he went into goal and never looked back.

His father Robert played as a goalkeeper in both Gaelic football and soccer, having a brief spell at Shelbourne, and younger brother Dermot had a lengthy League of Ireland career with Bohemians and Derry City as well as a couple of seasons in Irish League.

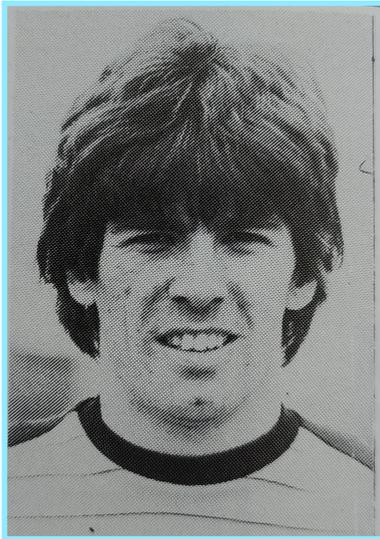
Alan signed for Shamrock Rovers' youth team – where one of his coaches was Brian Kerr – in 1973 from St Malachy's.

**Declan Hughes** – So how did your league debut against Cork Hibernians come about?

**Alan O'Neill** – The late and great Pat Dunne (ex Manchester United) was the first choice keeper at Shamrock Rovers, and he got injured in the last game before Christmas. I was told on the Thursday night after Christmas that I was going to be selected. I was only 18 and was playing in the Lol B Division on Saturdays. My usual routine consisted of going to a Saturday evening dance at the St Joseph's School for the Blind, known as "The Blinds", as I normally

didn't play on a Sunday. My father had known that I might be overly nervous so he suggested the night before the match that I do my normal routine and go to the dance but with the caveat that he'd come and collect me at 10.30 and make sure I was in bed at a reasonable hour. So I had a good night's sleep and lined out the following afternoon. Rovers were struggling in the

1975/76 season, at the wrong end of the table and had a very young team consisting of a lot of lads who had joined from Cherry Orchard. I don't remember that much about the match. Jackie Jameson (an ex-Cherry Orchard player) may well have been playing. We won 1-0 with a goal scored by another of the former Orchard lads, Ken Le Gros. I kept a clean sheet and stayed in the team for a further two games and then lost my place in the team.



**DH** – You started in the opening League Cup game the following season, kept a clean sheet and remained in the team for the League Cup, winning it without conceding a goal. But that form didn't survive long in the league. What do you think went wrong?

**AO'N** – I made my debut at 18 and got a taste for it and I wanted more. It was I think September 1976 and Ireland were playing England at Wembley. Pat Dunne went over on the ferry for it but got delayed coming back because of the weather I think. So I was selected to play the first game of the

season, a League Cup tie away to Dundalk. We won and I kept a clean sheet so I stayed in for the next game. And so it remained all the way to the final where we took on Sligo Rovers. We won 1-0; Mick Leech scored a scorcher from outside the box. I'm still the only player to win the League Cup, FAI Cup and the Lol with Rovers.

I probably made or one or two mistakes through inexperience – I was 19 and learning my trade. Goalkeeping is one of those positions where you need experience. It's a learning process; you play your games, you make your mistakes, you gain your experience and move on. Pat Dunne got back in and played most of that season and I regained my spot for the last few games late on in the season.

**DH** – Rovers won the Cup in 1978 and were second in the league in 1982, but overall Johnny Giles' full-time professional set-up never reaped the rewards he envisioned. Why do you think Rovers weren't more successful during your first spell there?

**AON** – The Cup-winning team contained Mick Gannon, John Giles, Noel Synott, Éamon Dunphy and the late and great Johnny Fullam and Ray Treacy – five very experienced players, most of whom were gone the following season. There was three or four young lads – Pierce O'Leary, Mark Meagan, myself and Larry Murray played that day. It goes back to that saying by Alan Hansen "You can't win anything with kids". Maybe there was too much emphasis on young players. John Giles lasted maybe four or five seasons as manager. The crowds in the Lol at the time weren't great and couldn't support the full time programme.

**DH** – You were out of contract at Rovers in 1983, and then out of the blue you got a phone call from Dermot Keely who had just been appointed player/manager by UCD and was looking to do something different at Belfield. Were you surprised to hear from him about a possible move?

**AON** – I was shocked; I hadn't been told by Rovers that I was available and was being let go. I knew Dermot from playing against him and also playing with him on Lol representative teams. I fell out with Jim McLoughlin over it for a while, though that was soon healed as he selected me for the Lol inter-league matches.

Dermot being Dermot sold UCD to me a project. Yes if you leave Rovers or Dundalk it's a step down, but it was a case for me to go and prove myself all over again. I had got to a stage where I had been a mainstay for Rovers for 5-6 years and played in the Lol selections and had been involved in the international set up (although not capped by the seniors). What was being presented to me at UCD with the players that were there at the time, it sounded good to me and proved a great decision in my career.

I looked upon it as a relaunching pad for my career. I had two magnificent years at UCD; we won the FAI Cup and then played in Europe. They will always be great memories for me my time at UCD.

**DH** – For the Cup final, Rovers had won the league so UCD were already qualified for Europe the following season. Did that make it easier to win the trophy?

**AON** – No. It doesn't matter if you are the underdog or the favourite; you go into a Cup final to win. It's never ok to lose a Cup final. That game that day was all about winning. There's only so many people in the 100 years or so of the FAI who have an FAI Cup winner's medals. So once you make a final you always feel under pressure to bring the trophy back to whatever club you are playing for, regardless of whether you're in Europe already or not.

**DH** – Had circumstances been different for the club financially, do you think the likes of yourself, Paddy Dunning, Robbie Gaffney, etc would have accepted another contract offer from UCD had it been there in 1985?

**AON** – It's hard to say. After we won the Cup, we felt that if we could have added

two or three quality players to the mix, we could have had a real go to win the league. But the finances weren't there. In the Lol at the time there was almost nothing coming in at the gate, so money had to be raised off field. If it had happened, I think it would have made a difference; some of us I believe would have stayed on. But it was never an option at the time. When the two years was up the Doc came to us and told us the finances weren't there; he couldn't continue to support the part time professionals' wages on the UCD budget. But because we had put UCD on the map in those two years, he wasn't going to ask for transfer fees for the players who were being released, to make it easier for us to fix up with other clubs. Now we weren't on huge money by Lol standards at the time but even still, it just wasn't a viable option. They just couldn't afford it.

**DH** – You moved to Dundalk in 1985 and the Rovers juggernaut continued unabated for a further two seasons. Dundalk had a talented squad, but how much of a difference do you believe Rovers' departure from Milltown opened the door for Dundalk's success in 1988?

**AON** – Turlough O'Connor was taking over at Dundalk, they were having changes up there. At the time Rovers were dominating the league. That four-in-a-row Rovers side was one of the best sides ever to play in the league. But Turlough had won two leagues with Athlone Town. Ironically enough a week after I signed for Dundalk, I got a phone call from Jim McLaughlin wondering if I had signed for anyone! But it shows the mark of the man; bygones were bygones. I was very flattered when I also asked by the late Joe O'Mahony to sign for Limerick but I didn't fancy the travelling and had already signed for Dundalk anyway.

Turlough had a great eye for players and when he moved to Dundalk they were in financial issues. He had to balance the books. He was building a squad of

experienced lads all around 27-28 at the time when I signed for the club. He signed Gino Lawless from Bohs. We had Martin Murray, Larry Wyse, the late great Barry Kehoe and Martin Lawlor, the great Terry Eviston – probably one of the greatest forwards to ever play in the Lol. Harry McCue, and Joey Malone and probably the best left back ever in the league, Martin Lawlor. I think we might have won the league at some stage but the disruption caused by the move to Tolka Park, the whole KRAM, Glenmalure Park closing, unsettled the club and the players moved on to other clubs. A lot of them went to Derry. We came runners up a couple of times and were beaten in a Cup final. In the 1987/88 season as it turned out we won the league and Cup double that year.

**DH** – Your second league title at Dundalk in 1991 – winning against your title rivals in their ground on the final day of the season – was probably the crowning glory during your spell there. How special was it to win a title down to the wire?

**AON** – That was an unbelievable season. It was an incredible start to the season home to Shelbourne at Oriel Park. They came up and hockeyed us 5-1; Paul Newe who had left Dundalk that summer to go back to Shelbourne scored four of them. That wasn't the start we were looking for! I remember Martin Lawlor telling me a story that after that first game a Dundalk supporter came up to him and tore up a season ticket in front of his face and told him what he thought of him.

After that we knuckled down and in the next 32 games we kept 23 clean sheets and only conceded 11 goals. I played my best football of my career at the stage with Dundalk. Then it went all down to the wire. We went down to Turner's Cross to play Cork City in front of a full house. We always believed we could score goals – we had Dessie Gorman and Peter Hanrahan was having an outstanding year in front of goals.

We were always confident we could nick one, and up popped Tom McNulty to score the winning goal and clinch us the title. We were in second place all season so the board were very happy that the only week we had to be paid a top of the table bonus was the final day of that season!

Great bunch of lads to play with.

**DH** – When you rejoined Rovers in 1993, how different a club was it from the one you left ten years earlier?

**AON** – The club I left was in transition. But Jim McLaughlin took over in 1983 and over four seasons they were largely unbeatable. When I left they then won four leagues and three cups over the next four seasons.

They left Milltown in 1987 and then played in Dalymount and Tolka Park, so they were nomads, but had been in the RDS since 1990 and were settled there. The RDS had become their home. So it was a period of relative stability. But to go back there in 1993/94 – Ray Treacy was in charge and I had always gotten on with Ray. There was a great blend of experience and youth just like 1978. But at this stage I was part of the experienced group at this stage, Paul Osam, Peter Eccles, Terry Eviston, and a bunch of younger players like Gino Brazil, John Toal, Stephen Geoghegan, Derek McGrath. It was a great blend that Ray had put together, and we had a great league-winning team that first year.

**DH** – You took over temporarily as manager during your time with Rovers. How difficult was it to be the boss having been one of the lads a few weeks earlier?

**AON** – That wasn't easy, cos you're right; suddenly you go from being one of the lads to being aloof. You are the one making decisions as to who is playing and who is out, you can't be one of the lads anymore. It worked very well on the pitch because it was myself and Terry Eviston who had taken over; he was injured and unable to play. So all the on-field decisions – who was playing and who was coming off the bench

and who wasn't – were being made by Terry, but off-field it was difficult. A different chemistry with the players. Because you were the one picking the team.

**DH** – You finished your career with Sligo Rovers. How did that move come about?

**AON** – Well I'd just been sacked as manager of Shamrock Rovers and they wanted me to stay on as a player but I thought it would be best to move on. I was 39 and Steve Cotterill, who went on to have a great career in management in England, made a phone call and I signed for Sligo Rovers. I was on the bench the first week and Steve then got a job in England so I didn't actually play a game for him. Chris Rutherford picked up the reigns – a great centre half and servant to Sligo Rovers. I started away to Derry City about three weeks later. My last game would have been the following April against Finn Harps in Ballybofey.

**DH** – I had read lots of interviews with former players who said that during their final season they knew instinctively that it was time to retire. Did you have a similar experience during your time at Sligo?

**AON** – I went down to Sligo on a Saturday night for a home game and had been getting treatment on an ankle injury and would have been about 80% fit. And before the match I did a fitness test and decided not to play. I was thinking back to the UCD days when I would have played while 80% fit. I would always have wanted to do my best, but I didn't feel right going at 80% on the day. And on the 3-hour drive back home from Sligo I decided that 1996/97, my 22<sup>nd</sup> season in the Lol, would be my last one. I was very lucky to have played when I played. I won everything in the game, had great luck with the managers I had and to play with some of the players I did.

**DH** – You returned to UCD as part of the management team with Noel King and while the team was solid defensively scoring goals was a problem all season and we stayed up via a play off. If yourself and

Noel King had been allowed remain in situ do you believe silverware, in some form or other, may have followed in 1998/99?

**AON** – Being honest, no. It was a huge challenge for UCD to remain in the Premier Division each year given the nature of the squad with the players being mainly on scholarship and UCD traditionally losing two or three of their better players. It was the same at the end of the season we finished as a management team.

Success for UCD in that scenario is always staying up. We had a good side at Belfield that season – we had Wayne Fitzell, John Martin and Jason Sherlock would have been there still too. We stayed up beating Limerick in the play off at the end of the season. There was only ever one manager at UCD – the Doc – so though I thought I was the manager for a while, I was let know in no uncertain terms that I wasn't!

Noel King, one of the best coaches in the game, was alongside me for that season. In the summer then I was listening to the radio and I heard on the sports news that UCD had parted company with myself and Noel. That was the first I heard of it. Things happen and they happen for a reason. I never bore grudges so I just moved on.

**DH** – Looking back over your European ties with Rovers, UCD and Dundalk, which was your personal highlight of those games?

**AON** – Definitely Everton. It was always going to be that one. We played them in front of a full house in Tolka Park – 10,000 – and held them to 0-0 in the first leg. Then we went over to Goodison Park and lost 1-0. We made one mistake – someone didn't step up for the offside trap; can't say who it was now. Everton went onto win the Cup Winners' Cup and the First Division that season. We were the team that held them to the closest margin over two legs. Folklore has said we had two chances to equalise in the second leg. If we had equalised we would have gone through on the old away goals rule.

To play in Goodison Park was an amazing feeling. A legendary Everton player Jimmy O'Neill came into the dressing room after the game and introduced himself. The Everton lads came into the dressing room after the game too. We were applauded off the pitch that night. There was a huge sense of relief that night. That was a wonderful time and a great occasion.

But playing against Ajax for Dundalk was great too. They had Frank Stapleton playing for them at the time. We played them over in Amsterdam after an hour it was 0-0, but they never had the ball in the air; they kept it on the deck at all times, total football. Then Stapleton came off the bench and changed everything; we collapsed and lost 4-0. It was fitness issues mainly; we were up against full time players. These ties would always be in either August or early September. Sometimes you would not have had played a league game; you might have just six weeks' pre-season training done.

I also remember playing Red Star Belgrade. I got back into the international squad, sat on the bench but never got capped. To be involved with those players was an incredible experience. The type of player you were dealing with at that level. The speed of thought and speed of the players was a great learning curve. I loved those occasions against the big teams.

Probably Dundalk's best result was a 1-1 draw away against Kispest-Honved; we were five minutes away from a win. In the home leg it was a windy night and Dundalk always had a tradition of playing down into the town end. So we played against the breeze in the first half and were 2-0 down at the break. Maybe if we had played with the wind we would have had the lead ourselves instead.

**DH** – Thanks very much Alan. It was a pleasure to be able to stand behind your goal for portions of your career and shouting some encouragement.

**AON** – They were great great days at UCD.

## Morris sacked



**WATERFORD**  
Football Club

Waterford's Ian Morris last month became the second managerial casualty of the season. Morris led Shels to the First Division title last season but wasn't kept on for 2022. In

December, he took over at Waterford in the aftermath of the Blues' relegation play-off defeat against UCD, but after just ten games Waterford were in fifth place in the First Division, leading to Morris' departure.

It's not the first time Waterford have lost faith in a managerial appointment at a very early stage – only last season, they sacked former Ireland legend Kevin Sheedy after nine games in charge.

## Freddy Hall RIP



The former Limerick goalkeeper Freddy Hall tragically died last month at the age of 37 in a car crash in his native Bermuda.

Hall joined Limerick from Telford United in summer 2015, and in 2016 was part of the Limerick team which walked to the First Division title at the first time of asking, finishing 23 points clear of Drogheda over the 28-game season, having dropped just nine points all season. He found himself behind Brendan Clarke for most of the ensuing Premier Division season before returning to Bermuda early in 2018.

He played ten games for his country, including qualifiers for both the 2014 and 2018 World Cups. His last cap – a 0-0 draw against Guatemala a month before he joined Limerick – is regarded as one of his best for his country.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.

## Kelly's debut goal



Former UCD forward Georgie Kelly made a spectacular, if delayed, debut for Rotherham United last month, scoring to seal promotion eight minutes after coming off the bench.

Having signed in Lol pre-season, Kelly – our top scorer when we won the First Division in 2018 – needed time to get match fitness back, and when he was in line for an EFL Trophy debut in February, he picked up an injury which set him back a few weeks.

But in the final game of the season away to Gillingham, he came off the bench with his side 1-0 up and needing to hold that lead to earn promotion. On 88 minutes, he hammered home a cross from Ogbene to send the Rotherham Twitter into meltdown (“|HJM|GHSJKAHDNSKLAJDLKA:DMKL:ANFLK:NAF – You could not right (*sic*) this!”). He nearly made it 3-0 in injury time, but Rotherham and Kelly will be playing Championship football next season.

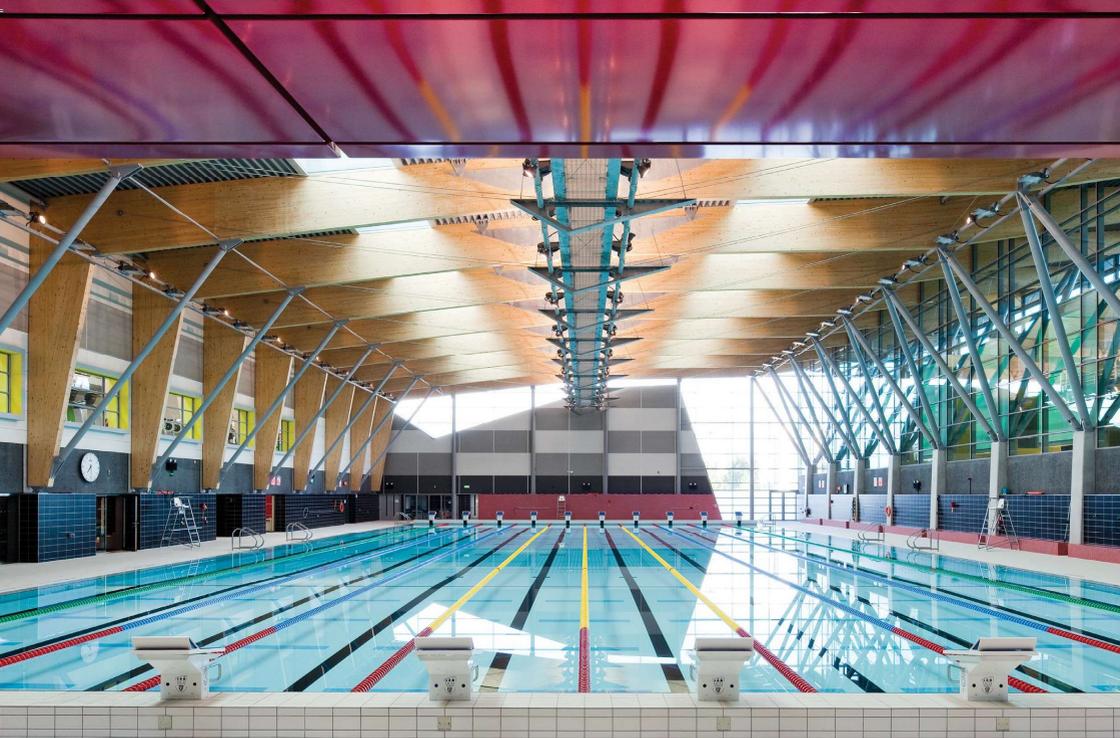
## Corcoran's ton up



Another former UCD forward, Dinnie Corcoran last month joined a select group of players to have hit 100 goals in the Lol when scoring in

Wexford's 3-0 win in Athlone.

None of those goals arrived in Corcoran's 7-game UCD stint in 2013, when Dean Clarke, Cillian Morrison and Dave McMillan largely kept him out of the team. He also drew a blank in a spell at Richmond Park, but scored for Sporting Fingal, Shels, Drogheda, Bohs and Wexford to bring up his ton.



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# AROUND THE WORLD

*The stories you might have missed from the world's less important leagues*

## Herediano knocked out but win

 We love an unusual league format at *Around the World*, and Costa Rica has one of the weirder ones going.

It has the Apertura/Clausura format so common in the Americas – the 12 teams play each other twice in the Apertura, and then start over again for the Clausura, essentially giving two champions each season.

The winners are decided by a play-off after the regular stage – the top four clubs go through to the semi-finals, with league leaders Herediano given a tie against the fourth-place side Saprissa, while second played third. Saprissa – who had finished 11 points behind Herediano after 22 games in the regular phase – knocked Herediano out, and then beat Alajuelense in the final. But as regular phase winners, Herediano have to be knocked out twice – so after the final, there was a Grand Final where Saprissa met Herediano again, and this time lost 4-2 on aggregate, giving Herediano the title. This rule also applies if the league leaders lose the final – they are again let back in to contest the Grand Final. There is no Grand Final, though, if the league leaders win the final.

## Goals galore in St Helena



St Helena – the Atlantic island where Napoleon was exiled to – must have one of

the top goals-per-game ratios of any top flight in the world. Last year, its 56 games saw 439 goals, or almost 8 goals a game. The bottom two sides – Ballez and Saints – recorded an average scoreline of 1-10 over the season, while the top two sides – Wirebirds and Rovers – had an average scoreline of 8-1. Wirebirds ended the

season with a 17-0 win over Ballez and a 19-1 win over Saints, but neither was the biggest win of the season – that was Rovers' 20-0 win over Saints. Wirebirds' Shane Stroud was the top scorer with 35 goals over the 14 games – or 2½ per game.

As St Helena is not affiliated with FIFA, its clubs do not qualify for the African Champions League games. In 2019, a national team played for the first time, competing in the Island Games and coming last after losing 6-1 to Shetland, 9-0 to Guernsey and 2-1 to the Outer Hebrides.



## Al-Sadd happy out

Al-Sadd are the champions of Qatar

for the second year in a row – and for the second year in a row, they've won the title undefeated, with 62 points from 66..

Al-Sadd supplied half the Qatar national team at the recent FIFA Arab Cup, which Qatar hosted and came third in. They lost their manager, Xavi, to Barcelona during the season, but could appoint compatriot Javi Gracia as replacement; he had recently been sacked as Valencia manager and before that led Watford to the FA Cup Final for the first time since 1984.

Around 2003/05, the Qatar Stars League became a popular retirement home for top players such as Batistuta, Guardiola, Romario, Caniggia and others, and though the league's glory days are long gone, there are some familiar names in the league this year. Santi Cazorla, who scored for Villarreal in their 4-3 defeat against UCD in the Bowl in 2011, is at Al-Sadd, as is former Swansea forward Andre Ayew, while Toby Alderweireld plays for runners-up Al-Duhail. Struggling Al-Rayyan – who sacked Laurent Blanc as manager in February – can boast Colombia's James Rodriguez and former French international Steven Nzonzi.

# BACK IN TIME

*with Kevin Burke*

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**SSE Airtricity League Premier Division**

**Dundalk 2-3 UCD**

**Oriel Park**

After a difficult start to the 2013 season – one point from nine games, and a six-goal defeat against Derry – we started to find a bit of form in May, starting with a home win against Shamrock Rovers. By the time of this game in Oriel, we were on a run of ten points from five games, but things didn't look great early on when David O'Connor misjudged a cross from the right, and the ball came through to Pat Hoban in acres of space – 1-0 Dundalk, and barely 90 seconds gone.

But we fought back – Dave McMillan smashed home a penalty after Gary Burke was fouled, and we took the lead early in the second half with one of the goals of the season. A clearance from defence found McMillan inside the centre-circle, and his one-touch backheel layoff went perfectly into Robbie Benson's path. Two touches later, and Benson returned the favour playing through to McMillan, now on the edge of the penalty area, and he drove home to cap a clinical counter.

Benson made it 3-1 when scoring from a narrow angle after being set up by McMillan. Gary Burke missed a one-on-one with ten minutes to go, before Pat Hoban pulled one back, and we had to rely on the bar to save us at the death as Kurtis Byrne was denied in injury time.

It remains our last win against the Lilywhites – and in fact, including draws in Cup competitions where we then lost on penalties, we've lost every one of our last 15 encounters. Time for a change in fortune surely?!

**Dundalk** – Cherrie; Sullivan (Mountney 62), Rossiter, Boyle, Massey; Towell, O'Donnell, Dillon, Ward (Meenan 66); Mulvenna (Byrne 79), Hoban

**UCD** – C O'Donnell; G Matthews, D O'Connor, J Kavanagh, M Langtry; R Benson, C Walsh (H Douglas 86), B McCabe (C Crowe 76), D Clarke (C Morrison 66), G Burke; D McMillan

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2007** **FAI Cup Second Round**

**Dundalk 1-2 UCD**

**Oriel Park**

This was the first time UCD and Dundalk had met in the FAI Cup. Dundalk were still in the First Division – they would win the league the following season – so we were marginal favourites going into this one. We started brightly, with Derek Doyle heading past former UCD keeper Neil Gallagher inside ten minutes. Doyle then smashed a shot off the bar and a blatant Dundalk handball was missed as we continued to dominate.

But those misses came back to haunt us when two other former UCD players combined to equalise for Dundalk – Philip Hughes' 25-yard shot was parried, and Robbie Doyle drilled home. And now it was Dundalk pressing for a quarter-final spot – but in the last minute, Derek Doyle was on hand to assist again, this time future Ireland international Conor Sammon being the one to finish off the move and see the Students through to the quarters for the fifth time in seven years.

There, we had the same draw as the previous year – Derry away – but Sammon was again the hero in a 1-0 win as we made the semi-finals for the first time since 1984. But another former UCD player, Robbie Martin, was on hand to end the dream at that stage, as Longford Town knocked us out; they went on to lose to Cork in the final in the RDS.

**Dundalk** – Gallagher, Quigley, Hand, Lynch, Crawley, R Dunne (McArdle 80), O'Connor, Marney, Doyle (Vaughan 81), Hughes, Smyth (K Dunne 71)

**UCD** – D Quigley, B Shortall, I Bermingham, C Kenna, G Bolger (P Byrne 70), B King, S Fitzgerald, S McFaul, C Sammon, R Finn (P Crowley 82), D Doyle

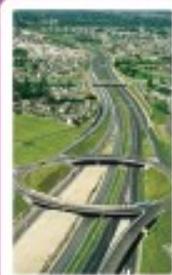


*Blast from the Past*

*Ryan Swan scores v Slovan Bratislava, 2015*



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# ON THIS DAY

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2011** – After three wins in a row, UCD travel to the Brandywell with a bit of confidence – but come home with tails firmly between legs after a 7-0 defeat, which equalled our senior record defeat set back in December 1979 at home to Limerick. James McClean was the hosts' inspiration, scoring one, setting up two and having another effort ruled out for offside. We recovered to beat Galway 3-0 in our next match.

**6<sup>th</sup> May 1950** – A rare draw against the dominant LSL side of the day, St Patrick's Athletic. Pat's were close to sealing a third LSL title in a row, but celebrations were put on ice as McGuirk, Cassidy and McGovern scored for the Students in a 3-3 draw. They did enough in their next games to win the league though – and made it four in a row the following season, and then won the Lol the year after that.

**6<sup>th</sup> May 1951** – A trip to Longford to end the 1951 season ended in one of the highest-scoring games in our history. We took the lead twice in the first half through Paddy Doris and Nigerian student Frank Obiakpani, but Town equalised both times, and missed a penalty for good measure to go in level at the break.

They went 4-2 up early in the second half before Desmond McGovern reduced the arrears, heading home a rebound after we'd hit the bar. But Town added four more in the second half to run out 8-3 winners. UCD were weakened by the absence of star forward Brian Lenihan, who was representing the LSL team the same day.

We ended the season second last of 14 teams. Longford were runners-up in the league and won the Metropolitan Cup after a replay – their season ending six weeks later



than ours, in part because the difficulty, in the days before floodlights, of them playing midweek games to catch up on fixture backlogs. Getting across Dublin for an away game at, say, 6pm was a regular occurrence, but it was quite another thing to get to Longford that

early, and get back home again after.

**19<sup>th</sup> May 1945** – Runs to the semi-final of the Metropolitan Cup and to victory in the FAI Intermediate Cup mean an extended LSL campaign for UCD, who end with a 5-1 defeat against Bradmola, Purcell getting our consolation from the spot.

Bradmola were the works team of the Bradmola nylon factory in Blackrock, and had a strong team because they could offer players employment at the factory. In their two LSL seasons, they were runners-up in 1944/45 and league winners in 1945/46, before withdrawing from the league, never to return.

**27<sup>th</sup> May 2006** – On our last ever trip to Buckley Park, goals from Alan Cawley and Pat McWalter see us safely through to the third round of

the FAI Cup. The UCD supporters' bus was involved in a crash on the way back, when the driver drove under a barrier which was marginally not high enough, causing the windows in the roof to smash in and leading to a very cold trip home!

Kilkenny continued for one more season before resigning from the Lol in January 2008.

Buckley Park was a mixed hunting ground for us – we won on only one of our first nine trips there, but then won five and drew two of our last seven games.



# BACK IN TIME

*with Kevin Burke*

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 1982**

**League Cup Section A**

**Shamrock Rovers 7-3 UCD**

**Milltown**

Tonight marks the 100<sup>th</sup> time UCD and Shamrock Rovers have met in senior football going back to 1979. In all that time, the most we've scored in a game between the two sides has been three, while Rovers have hit seven goals three times. In 1980, both sides achieved that feat, but in different games. In this League Cup match in 1982, both sides managed it at the same time.

We both had almost identical records in the competition thus far – we'd drawn 0-0 against Bohs and lost 2-0 to Pat's, while Rovers had drawn 0-0 against Pat's and lost 2-1 to Bohs.

In one of our earliest floodlit matches, Rovers were ahead inside the first minute through Jacko McDonagh. By half-time, Peter Eccles, Jerry McGowan and Denis Clarke (2) had added goals, and Clarke – whose summer transfer from Athlone was being disputed by the midlanders at the time of this game – sealed his hat-trick in the second half, and current Sligo manager Liam Buckley was also on target to make it seven. UCD's replies came through David Cassidy (2) and Joe Hanrahan.

In the other game in the group, Bohs and Pat's drew 0-0 to mean neither Rovers nor UCD could have progressed anyway – so more than 70% of all the group's goals came in this one tie.

In the Rovers line-up were Michael Giles (manager Johnny Giles' son) and John Stiles (his nephew). The full-backs on both teams would meet again much later in their careers – UCD's Paul Dempsey and Rovers' Jim Beglin were commentator and co-commentator for BT's coverage of Dundalk's 2020 Europa League group campaign.

**Shamrock Rovers** – O'Neill; Giles, Beglin, Stiles, McDonagh, Eccles, McGowan (O'Carroll 60), Campbell, Buckley, Clarke, Gaffney (Moore 75).

**UCD** – J McCabe; Thomas (N Skelly 45), P Fox, T Keane (F Perry 45), K O'Doherty; P Dempsey, D Cassidy, K Dignam, M Moran, J Hanrahan; A Reynolds

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1984**

**President's Cup**

**UCD 2-3 Shamrock Rovers**

**Tolka Park**

Our only FAI Cup success – when we beat Shamrock Rovers after a replay – led to our only President's Cup appearance against the same side, who had also won the league. It's much less talked about, even though it was arguably a more entertaining game than either final.

It had a lively opening – Noel King played Liam O'Brien through to drive home from close range on 5 minutes, but John Cullen equalised 10 minutes later. Cullen then hit the bar before Dónal Murphy headed home a Ken O'Doherty cross to give us the lead at the break.

Things were looking good for us, and they got even better in an unfortunate way when Rovers' keeper Jody Byrne was taken to hospital with a suspected broken nose – this was in the day before sub keepers were a thing, so Mick Neville came on and midfielder Neville Steedman put on the gloves. But Rovers scored next when Terry Eviston hooked home a loose ball. Frank Kennedy thought he had won the match for the Students but Steedman produced an amazing point-blank save to keep the scores level, and with extra time looming, Keith Dignam handled a pass from sub Neville, and Pat Byrne tucked home the penalty to give Rovers the trophy.

Pat Byrne was famously the only Lol player capped by Jack Charlton, while Liam O'Brien joined Manchester United in 1986 and was in Ireland's squad for Euro 88.

**UCD** – A O'Neill; P Roche, M Moran, K O'Doherty, K Lambert, R Gaffney, K Dignam, J Hanrahan, D Murphy, J Cullen, F Kennedy

**Shamrock Rovers** – J Byrne (Neville 45); Kenny, Cody, Brady, Eccles, P Byrne, Steedman, Eviston, M Byrne, King, O'Brien

# LAST TIME OUT

*Seán O'Connor of Extratime.ie reports on an agonising finish in our last home game*

St Patrick's Athletic picked up their first league victory since March on Monday evening, as Joe Redmond's injury time strike lifted the Saints to third.

St. Pat's came into the game in a poor run of form. Tim Clancy's side have not won in the league since the two sides met at Richmond Park in March.

UCD have been bottom of the league since the opening game, although they have held Shelbourne, Bohemians and Sligo Rovers to home draws in recent weeks.

St Pat's held the majority of possession in the opening 45 minutes. Jason McClelland's free kick on ten minutes failed to trouble Kian Moore, who was making his debut for the Students.

Ronan Coughlan and Darragh Burns had early half chances for the visitors. Colm Whelan had two efforts in two minutes midway through the half, as his driving shot was well blocked before the Ireland Under-21 star rolled a free kick to the left and wide.

Chances were at a premium as UCD's defence remained strong throughout the half. Tunde Owolabi's header rolled wide just before the break after Moore misjudged a catch.

UCD were extremely lucky to enter half time with eleven still on the pitch, as Seán Brennan evaded a second booking after fouling Mark Doyle on the stroke of half-time.

Brennan was replaced at the break by Ireland

Under-21 Liam Kerrigan, while Dónal Higgins came in for Adam Verdon.

Coughlan's shot was well blocked five minutes after the break, as St Pat's began to turn the screw and send cross after cross into the UCD box. The Students held firm and dealt with the onslaught, with Sam Todd and Michael Gallagher shining in particular.

It was the Students who took the lead against the run of play with 20 minutes left. Substitute Dylan Duffy's powerful effort was parried by Anang, and Whelan was first to the rebound to put the Students in front. Andy Myler's side only led for five minutes, however. Kerrigan brought Ben McCormack down inside the area and Eóin Doyle stepped up to take the penalty. Moore produced a superb stop to deny Doyle, but McCormack was first to pounce on the rebound to equalise.

Billy King's effort crashed off the crossbar, but Joe Redmond was to the hero. He got on the end of a late cross to put the Saints ahead in injury time.



# BEST SHOTS

*The best April shots from UCD club photographer Arnold Byrne and from Sportsfile*





**Previous page top to bottom** – Colm Whelan taps home the opener against Pat’s; celebrations immediately after; goal-eye view of Pat’s late winner

**This page top to bottom** – the Collingwood Cup; Andreas Djurhuus receives his marching orders; coaches Ger Barron, Tony Sheridan, Diarmuid McNally and Cormac Henry; the Cup presented to captain Lorcan Healy

Rossa McAllister opened the scoring against QUB in Oriel Park after 35 seconds, and Andreas Djurhuus made it 2-0 on 35. Lorcan McIlroy pulled one back for Queens, but UCD held on for a record 48<sup>th</sup> Collingwood Cup

**UCD** – L Healy; E Farrell (I Akinsete 70), M Gallagher, G Mulligan, M McHugh; M Scott, R McAllister (A Verdon 46); A Lennon (L Kerrigan 70), C Behan, T Jinad (C Whelan 70); A Djurhuus.



IRISH UNIVERSITIES COLLINGWOOD CUP FINAL



IRISH UNIVERSITIES COLLINGWOOD CUP FINAL





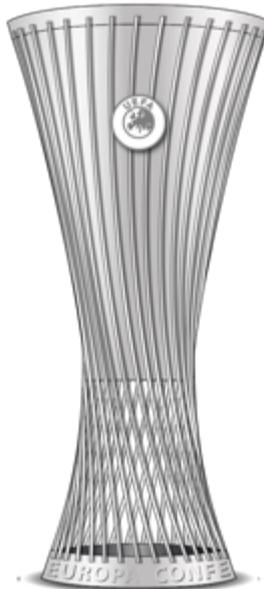
Premier Division table								Most senior goals for UCD		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
1 Derry City	13	9	3	1	28	10	30	Mick O'Byrne	1993-01	87
2 Shamrock Rovers	13	8	3	2	21	9	27	Darren O'Brien	1986-97	70
3 Dundalk	13	5	6	2	18	10	21	Robbie Griffin	1990-03	52
4 Sligo Rovers	13	5	5	3	18	13	20	<b>Colm Whelan</b>	<b>2020-</b>	<b>43</b>
5 St Patrick's Athletic	13	6	2	5	15	12	20	Robbie Martin	2000-05	43
6 Bohemians	13	4	6	3	19	15	18	Gary O'Neill	2015-19	40
7 Drogheda United	13	3	4	6	16	24	13	Dave McMillan	2008-13	40
8 Shelbourne	13	3	3	7	10	19	12	Jason Sherlock	1994-98	39
9 Finn Harps	13	2	4	7	11	21	10	Georgie Kelly	2016-18	39
10 UCD	13	0	4	9	7	30	4	Yoyo Mahdy	2017-20	37
								P Cullen (88-92), T McDonnell (93-07)		35
First Division table								Most senior appearances for UCD		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
1 Cork City	13	10	2	1	31	6	32	Ciarán Kavanagh	1990-01	383
2 Galway United	12	9	2	1	21	10	29	Tony McDonnell	1993-07	361
3 Waterford	12	6	2	4	20	13	20	Alan Mahon	1997-08	306
4 Longford Town	11	5	3	3	14	11	18	Alan McNally	1999-08	275
5 Treaty United	12	4	4	4	15	16	16	Robbie Griffin	1990-03	265
6 Wexford	13	4	3	6	17	22	15	Mick O'Byrne	1993-01	254
7 Bray Wanderers	13	2	6	5	8	18	12	Éamon McLoughlin	1994-01	249
8 Cobh Ramblers	12	2	2	8	13	25	8	Darren O'Brien	1986-97	249
9 Athlone Town	12	0	2	10	11	29	2	Mick O'Donnell	1996-05	240
								Rob McAuley	1996-04	237
								Conor Timmons	1989-97	224

This week's Premier Division fixtures	Premier Division goal charts
6th May - Derry City v Bohemians Drogheda United v St Patrick's Athletic Shamrock Rovers v Finn Harps Shelbourne v Sligo Rovers	9 - Jamie McGonigle (Derry) 6 - Will Patching (Derry)
20th May - Bohemians v Sligo Rovers Derry City v Dundalk Drogheda United v Finn Harps St Patrick's Athletic v Shelbourne	5 - Pat Hoban (Dundalk), Aidan Keena (Sligo), Andy Lyons (Rovers) 4 - Steven Bradley (Dundalk), Graham Burke (Rovers), Eóin Doyle (Pat's), Dawson Devoy, Promise Omochere (both Bohs)
27th May - Bohemians v Drogheda United Derry City v Finn Harps Dundalk v St Patrick's Athletic Shamrock Rovers v Shelbourne	3 - Ronan Boyce (Derry), Seán Boyd, Shane Farrell (both Shels), Ryan Brennan, Chris Lyons, Dean Williams (all Drogheda), Liam Burt, Junior Ogedi-Uzokwe (both Bohs), Daniel Kelly (Dundalk), Danny Mandriou (Rovers), Max Mata (Sligo)
This week's First Division fixtures	First Division goal charts
6th May - Athlone Town v Cork City Bray Wanderers v Waterford Cobh Ramblers v Galway United	7 - Phoenix Patterson (Waterford) 6 - Barry Coffey, Ruairi Keating (both Cork), Stephen Walsh (Galway)
7th May - Longford Town v Wexford	5 - Enda Curran (Treaty), Beineón O'Brien-Whitmarsh (Cobh)
20th May - Cork City v Wexford Galway United v Athlone Town Treaty United v Cobh Ramblers	4 - Darren Craven (Longford), Aaron Dobbs (Wexford), Conor Drinan (Cobh), Dean George (Treaty), Junior Quitirna, Louis Britton (both Waterford), Matt Healy, Cian Bargary (both Cork), David Hurley (Galway)
21st May - Longford Town v Waterford	3 - Kurtis Byrne (Bray), Dinny Corcoran (Wexford), Glen McAuley (Athlone), Sam Verdon (Longford), Cian Murphy, Dylan McGlade (both Cork)
27th May - Bray Wanderers v Athlone Town Cobh Ramblers v Longford Town Galway United v Cork City Waterford v Treaty United	

# HALF TIME QUIZ

Ten questions on this season's European club competitions

1. Which three clubs did Sheriff Tiraspol draw in the Champions League group stages?
2. Apart from Moldova, three other countries made their debuts in the group stages of European competition this year, all in the Conference League. Name any two.
3. Which side beat Roma 6-1 at home in the Conference League group stages, but then lost 5-2 to the same side in the quarter-finals?
4. Who knocked Barcelona out of the Europa League?
5. Which Bundesliga side did Rangers beat in the first knock-out round of the Europa League?
6. Which two of UCD's former European opponents were back in Dublin this season?
7. Which former UCD forward scored three goals in this season's Conference League to move within one goal of Robbie Keane as the highest-scoring Irish player in European competition?
8. Which English teams made the semi-finals of the Europa League and Conference League respectively?
9. Three cities have, at various times, been awarded the 2022 Champions League final. Name any two.
10. Which of the three main European club trophies is this?



1. Real Madrid, Inter Milan, and Shakhtar Donetsk.
2. Estonia, Armenia, and Gibraltar.
3. Sloval Bratislava (v Shamrock Rovers).
4. Eintracht Frankfurt.
5. Borussia Dortmund.
6. Dudelange (v Bohs) and Bodo/Glimt.
7. Dave McMillan.
8. West Ham United and Leicester City.
9. Munich, St Petersburg and Paris.
10. The Conference League trophy.

QUIZ ANSWERS

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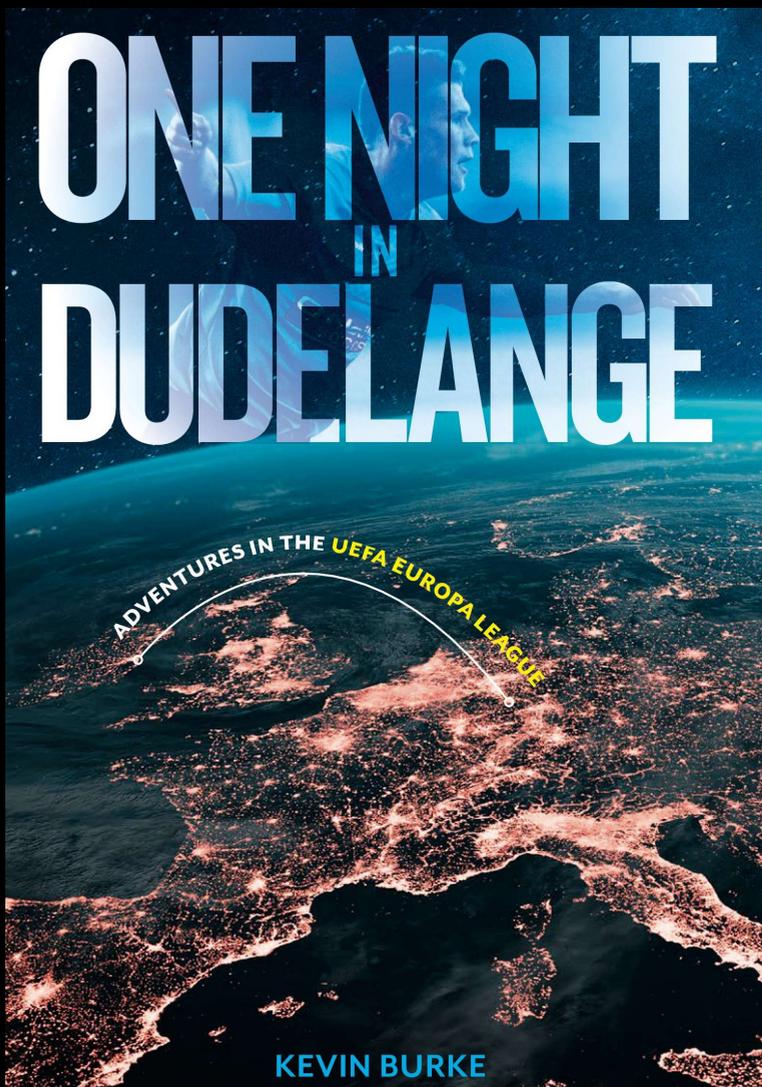
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# STUDENT TILL I GRADUATE

*A view from the far side*

Culture eats strategy for breakfast.

Apparently, a quote issued by the famous management guru, Peter Drucker, interestingly, there is a lively debate about where and when he allegedly said it. Leaving that to one side, do we think it has merit?

Dodgy territory. Is the field of strategic thinking and analysis actually a real thing? Yes, completely. But it is a field inhabited by an army of spoofers and failed “leaders” who raise one eyebrow and stare wistfully into the distance and talk about stuff they have no idea about what it truly means.

But back in the real world, this is a real thing. And we don't have to go too far to find organisations that are a mess. Equally, there are plenty of successful thriving organisations about. Both are filled with inherently good people with decent ideas and a work ethic. So why do some work and others not?

Culture? Strategy?

Execution? All of the above, we suspect, but the most difficult to harness and get right is culture.

What behaviours are tolerated? What are we rewarding? What are we punishing? If you do something good, what is everyone's reaction? If you screw up, what happens? If you try something good but it doesn't come off, what happens?

These subtle behaviours all ultimately have an impact on the organisation's success or otherwise. They are subtle, not transparent, and not really something we can understand

fully unless we are inside the room with access to lots of people.

In 2015, Chelsea were down to ten men with a couple of minutes left. Hazard was injured, and the medical team were called on by the referee, meaning that he would have to come off the pitch momentarily. To emphasise....called on by the referee.

Mourinho went mental, and essentially ostracised the doctor, and she left the club a short while later. What does this tell anyone inside that club? Should she have refused to

go on the pitch, having been called on by the referee? So, the prospect of having to defend for a few minutes, even if it costs us a point, is more important than the health of one of your star players?

You do the right thing and get punished.

Now if we look at Manchester United and the mess that has become, we always liked a couple of stories from the older years.

The first day to training, Mark Bosnich showed up late – on Keane's first day, he hired a taxi to drive from his house to the ground and he drove behind it, arriving in plenty of time. On a separate occasion, the players told Ferguson that they were uncomfortable on match days because their wives and children were lost in the stadium, so Ferguson had a crèche installed.

On the flip side, Ferguson allowed himself to get caught up in nonsense about a horse – which caused some resentment in the club. Compare that approach to the rubbish being tolerated by the club now. When the



owners behave in a particular way, when the stadium is falling apart, when the club make an ageing Ronaldo the highest paid player, when players are indulged when years they would have been moved on yonks ago....there are huge problems.

A new manager has no chance of creating a successful on-field team without getting the approach and culture right off pitch. And much of that will be outside his control.

Endeavours like global football, with the

perverse rewards being allocated to a tiny few, invariably attract spoofers and spivs and hangers-on and leeches. Every successful team will have the vultures circling for scraps, nudging to get players a move. We all work in organisations where we must compromise – the key question is what are we compromising on?

Is there greater good being sacrificed for the short term, limited, benefit of one person? Are we punishing endeavour? Are we rewarding mediocrity?

Huge problems there. And it will get worse before it gets better.

## Recent history

<b>09/04/22</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>Sligo Rovers</b>	<b>2-2 UCD</b>
<i>M Mata 23, 84</i>	<i>C Whelan 57</i>
	<i>E Caffrey 77</i>
<b>30/08/20</b>	<b>FAI Cup second round</b>
<b>UCD</b>	<b>1-3 Sligo Rovers</b>
<i>P Doyle 7</i>	<i>K Callen 16</i>
	<i>R Coughlan 66</i>
	<i>J Devers 79</i>
<b>20/09/19</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>UCD</b>	<b>0-2 Sligo Rovers</b>
	<i>C Kearns 34 (og)</i>
	<i>R Parkes 45</i>
	<i>R Murray s/o 20</i>
<b>07/09/19</b>	<b>FAI Cup quarter-final</b>
<b>Sligo Rovers</b>	<b>4-0 UCD</b>
<i>R Coughlan 8</i>	
<i>C Kearns 33 (og)</i>	
<i>R Donelon 54 (pen)</i>	
<i>N Watson 89</i>	
<b>01/07/19</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>Sligo Rovers</b>	<b>5-1 UCD</b>
<i>J Dunleavy 21</i>	<i>L Scales 9</i>
<i>R Coughlan 22, 45, 52</i>	
<i>R Parkes 50</i>	
<b>24/04/19</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>UCD</b>	<b>0-2 Sligo Rovers</b>
	<i>D Leverock 54</i>
	<i>D Cawley 80</i>

## Recent history

<b>18/02/22</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>Shamrock Rovers 3-0</b>	<b>UCD</b>
<i>S Hoare 39</i>	
<i>D Mandroiu 45</i>	
<i>G Burke 84</i>	
<b>18/10/19</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>UCD</b>	<b>0-3 Shamrock Rovers</b>
	<i>J O'Brien 14</i>
	<i>G Cummins 45</i>
	<i>B Kavanagh 64</i>
<b>21/07/19</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>Shamrock Rovers 7-0</b>	<b>UCD</b>
<i>G Cummins 13</i>	
<i>D Carr 19, 21</i>	
<i>J Byrne 23</i>	
<i>A McEneff 47</i>	
<i>A Greene 58, 76</i>	
<b>17/05/19</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>UCD</b>	<b>0-1 Shamrock Rovers</b>
	<i>D Carr 21</i>
<b>29/03/19</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>Shamrock Rovers 3-1</b>	<b>UCD</b>
<i>J Byrne 19, 83</i>	<i>Y Mahdy 38</i>
<i>A McEneff 90</i>	
<b>30/09/14</b>	<b>Premier Division</b>
<b>Shamrock Rovers 3-0</b>	<b>UCD</b>
<i>R Brennan 6</i>	
<i>S O'Connor 18</i>	
<i>G McCabe 55 (pen)</i>	

A person is shown from the back, wearing a black quilted jacket. A mesh bag is slung over their shoulder, containing several soccer balls. One ball in the foreground is orange and blue with the Umbro logo. The Umbro logo and brand name are visible on the jacket. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# OUR GAME IS ON THE BALL



## UMBRO TEAMWEAR

TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT [UMBRO.IE](http://UMBRO.IE) OR CONTACT  
RICHARD WALSH - 086 031 7672  
ALAN RIGNEY - 086 783 0808



# THE 1937/38 LEINSTER SENIOR CUP

*Remembering one of our greatest Cup runs – some things in football haven't changed since, but a lot of things have!*

UCD's 1937/38 season got underway with it being ten years since a sniff of a trophy. Since losing to Strandville in the 1927/28 FAI Intermediate Cup semi-finals, we had been resolutely lower-half of the LSL and had invariably been knocked out in the first round of our three Cup competitions, the Intermediate Cup, the Metropolitan Cup, and the Leinster Senior Cup.

An LSC tie was the traditional season-starter, and we drew Botanic in the first round. In those days the two main colleges, National (as UCD were commonly known) and Trinity had weekly social columns in the Sunday Independent, and the National column started by saying that "College life has been at a very low ebb for some weeks, but, from tomorrow, when the library opens, those students preparing for the autumn examinations will spend quite an amount of time in college." This explained what the column went on to describe as "not a strong [team]" lining up against Botanic – the "unexpectedly early" match date (a week earlier than the previous season) and holidays meant we were missing five of our best half-backs, as midfielders were called then. But we could announce the signing of a new forward, Paddy Crean, from Blackrock College rugby team; Crean had impressed at a recent 5-a-side tournament. The game ended in a 4-4 draw, and the replay was set for 7:30 the following Thursday in Ballymun; Botanic were named after Botanic Avenue. Botanic went 2-0 up, but Crean had us level by the break, and a second half hat-trick from G Doherty helped

us to a 6-2 win, our first win in the competition since 1928. Botanic – who had only joined the LSL the previous season – played four league games and then withdrew.

Next up was a tie against Jacobs, the works team of the Jacob's Biscuit Factory and a place steeped in Dublin history. Founded in 1851 in Waterford, its factory on Peter's Row in the Liberties opened in 1853. It was there in 1885 that Jacob's invented the Cream Cracker, as popular then as today; in 1893, the Prussian Prince Frederick Leopold ordered six cases. In 1913, Rosie Hackett

(of bridge fame) helped lead the Jacob's workers into the Dublin lock-out, and three years later the factory was seized by the rebels during the Easter Rising. Jacobs joined the LSL in 1933 and won the league five times until company accountants started getting more sway, axing the team in 1970. In

1977, the famous factory shut, with production moving to Tallaght. In 1991, Jacobs was bought by Danone, and in 2009 the Tallaght plant was closed and production moved to, among others, Poland and Malta for cost reasons. As Ronnie Drew would say, "Dublin keeps on changing and nothing seems the same."

We had a long playing rivalry with Jacobs down the years, but rarely had it as handy as in this game. "Easy for National" was the headline in the *Irish Press* as we romped to a 5-0 win, with Crean and Doherty scoring five between them for the second game in a row, though this time Crean got the hat-trick and Doherty settled for two. It could have been more, but after a three-



goal salvo in the first five minutes of the second half made it 5-0, UCD “rested on their oars” for the rest of the game.

That set up a huge third round tie against St James’ Gate. Gate were clear favourites, and not just because they were the holders – more than half their team held international caps, and in case there was any danger of complacency, the *Press* said they “will have profited by the lesson taught by Leinster League teams to Dundalk and Drumcondra, and hence they should pass into the semi-finals.”

But they did have selection worries. Two of their players, Joseph O’Reilly and Mattie Geoghegan, had played in a 3-2 World Cup qualifying defeat against Norway in Oslo three days earlier (Geoghegan scoring Ireland’s opening goal) and were only arriving back in Ireland the morning of this match. They would barely have time to go home and collect their club kit before setting off for Belfield for the 3:30 kick-off. Even though the game was mid-week, early kick-offs were common heading into the winter months as floodlights were rare (Belfield didn’t get them until 1994) and the game had to be finished before it was dark. In the event, Geoghegan and O’Reilly passed themselves fit to play and took their place in the line-up, but UCD put in a super display, and a brace apiece from McDonagh and Barry Hooper (father of long-time club doctor Conal) and a penalty save from keeper Dolan helped us to a 4-2 win. Less than three weeks later, we lost 3-2 to Gate’s B team in the league.

Shamrock Rovers awaited in the semi-finals, and the *Press* was less sure of its prediction this time. “What a thunderbolt it would be if UCD defeated Shamrock Rovers in the Leinster Senior Cup semi-final today!”, Socaro reported, noting how we had humbled Gate in the previous round and would be well up for the game. But the preview concluded “If the ball runs nicely for them, they may give the Rovers

something to think about, but I doubt whether they will spring another surprise by knocking out the Milltown boys.” Rovers, “if they reproduce the display given against Waterford last Sunday [when they won 6-1 in the opening match of the Free State League], should romp home to victory.”

In Socaro’s defence, we were behind Shamrock Rovers B in the LSL table and four days earlier had been knocked out of the FAI Intermediate Cup by B&I, the works team of the ferry company, while Rovers had already won the Shield and were on their way to the Free State title as well. In Jimmy Dunne and Tommy Foy, Rovers, like Gate, had two players and one scorer (Dunne) from that World Cup qualifier against Norway. Dunne was just back from a decade in England, where he set a record that may never be surpassed – the most top-flight goals in a season by an Irish player, 41 for Sheffield United in 1930/31. He scored 161 goals in all competitions across just four seasons for the Blades before joining Arsenal for £8,250 in 1933 – the British transfer record at that time was £10,890. He won the league in his first season, but the arrival of Ted Drake from Southampton saw him lose his place – there just wasn’t room, in the days before subs, to accommodate Drake, Dunne and Cliff Bastin in the same team. Drake and Bastin are still in the top five Arsenal goalscorers of all time, but Bastin was quick to praise Dunne, calling him one of the best five forwards he’d ever played with. In 1936, Dunne moved on to Southampton for a year, before returning to Rovers in September 1937. The goal in Oslo was his 11<sup>th</sup> for Ireland, a national record, and he ended his career with 13, which to this day has him eleventh on Ireland’s all-time goalscorers list, despite only playing 15 games.

The semi-finals were played at a neutral venue – Shelbourne Park in this case. Kick-off was 3pm, and tickets were priced at a

shilling, or 6d for concessions. And to really add to the occasion, it's from this game that the photo below dates – the earliest-known UCD team photo. The team, for the record, was J Dolan (keeper); M Lavelle, Ivor Hooper; J McLoughlin, J Mulligan, W Donnelly; S McGonagle, L Kirwan, Barry Hooper, M Doherty and V McLaughlin.

We were ahead in the third minute, when Barry Hooper set up McGonagle to drive home. Tommy Kinsella equalised when sweeping home a shot which had been going wide, but a glorious drive from Kirwan had us ahead at the break. Kinsella equalised again a minute into the second half, and Rovers pressed for the rest of the game. "At times the tackling was far too keen, and as a result, frees and minor injuries were very frequent."

As the second half wore on, another factor came into play – despite kick-off being 30

minutes earlier than the Gate tie, "the light in the second half became so poor that it was almost impossible to follow the flight of the ball, and if the referee had abandoned the match, no-one could have grumbled at his decision."

But the game did finish. "UCD Live Through a Bombardment" was how the *Indo* reported the match, but the final result of 2-2 was another super performance. "There was no fluke about the students' performance, though during almost the entire second half they were on the defensive", said the *Press*.

The replay the following Wednesday was 2:30. To further emphasise what UCD were up against, Rovers had signed Ireland international in Tommy Donnelly from Drumcondra since the first game, and as he hadn't played for Drums in the LSC, he was eligible for this game, though in the end he wasn't able to get off work for it. Tommy



The U.C.D. team which drew with Shamrock Rovers at Shelbourne Park in the Leinster Cup semi-final yesterday.—*Irish Independent* Photo (I.L.).

Kinsella and Jimmy Dunne had both scored hat-tricks at the weekend as Rovers won 7-4 away to reigning league champions Sligo Rovers, while we had drawn 2-2 away to fellow LSL strugglers Queen's Park.

Shelbourne Park was again the venue. A large crowd got fully behind the underdogs, and the underdogs gave them everything to cheer for in a dogged first half display. In the first minute, Hooper set McLoughlin free, but McLoughlin dallied and the chance of another early goal was gone. "The College defence was historic", the *Press* reported. "It asked for no quarter and certainly gave none. Their tackling was of the deadliest nature and their full-blooded shoulder challenges had an upsetting effect on Rovers in more ways than one." The *Evening Herald*, in the match report included in that evening's paper, agreed, noting how "the bustling National defenders knocked the Rovers' forwards completely off their usual game." Match reports aren't what they used to be!

After a "splendidly contested" half, there was no score, and the amateurs of UCD were now 135 minutes going toe-to-toe against the dominant Free State team of the day. But disaster struck just six minutes into the second half – replacement keeper Cahill had Jimmy Dunne's shot covered, but full-back Lavelle – "the warrior-bold of his team" – in trying to head clear only deflected past Cahill and into his own net; 1-0 Rovers.

UCD rallied, but the game was sealed six minutes from time when Dunne set up Foy to head home the insurance goal, and it was Rovers who progressed to the St Stephen's Day showcase against Brideville in Dalymount Park. "I doubt if they have ever found a Leinster League team so difficult to beat", said the *Press*.

Rovers beat Brideville to win the final – only the FAI Cup eluded them over the course of the season – while we lost 4-1 to the Hospital's Trust, the works team of the Irish

Sweepstakes, three days later and ended the season 15<sup>th</sup> of 18 teams. It took over 40 years for us to gain a modicum of revenge, when beating Rovers 3-2 in the 1980 LSC semi-final courtesy of a brace from Canadian forward Ralston Dunlop, signed for UCD by Shamrock Rovers manager John Giles (see our April issue). We won the competition for the first time ever that year, and have made the semis 11 times since then, winning the Cup twice more, losing two finals, and losing each of our last six semi-final appearances. But the LSC is a pale shadow of the competition it once was, and it may well be that the excitement generated by that 1937/38 campaign may never be replicated.

## Recent history

<b>01/04/22</b> <b>Dundalk</b> <i>D Kelly 16</i> <i>P Hoban 48</i>	<b>Premier Division</b> <b>2-0 UCD</b>
<b>30/08/19</b> <b>UCD</b>	<b>Premier Division</b> <b>0-5 Dundalk</b> <i>D Cleary 12, 90</i> <i>S Hoare 16</i> <i>M Duffy 69</i> <i>G Kelly 89</i>
<b>27/05/19</b> <b>Dundalk</b> <i>B Gartland 7</i> <i>J Mounthey 18</i> <i>G Kelly 90</i>	<b>League Cup Qtr Final</b> <b>3-1 UCD</b> <i>Y Mahdy 79</i>
<b>22/04/19</b> <b>UCD</b> <i>Y Mahdy 11</i>	<b>Premier Division</b> <b>1-3 Dundalk</b> <i>P Hoban 15 (pen)</i> <i>M Duffy 50</i> <i>G Kelly 90</i>
<b>25/02/19</b> <b>Dundalk</b> <i>P Hoban 53 (pen)</i> <i>M Duffy 60</i>	<b>Premier Division</b> <b>2-1 UCD</b> <i>N Farrugia 29</i>
<b>28/09/18</b> <b>Dundalk</b> <i>P McEleney 41</i>	<b>FAI Cup Semi-final</b> <b>1-0 UCD</b>

# 2 Michael Gallagher



# MOUNT MERRION UPDATE

Andrew Dempsey with all the news from Deerpark

Mount Merrion U10A had a superb weekend in Barcelona at the Barcelona Football Cup getting all the way to the final and beating "The Champions Academy" from England to win the tournament.

Wins against French, Spanish and Indian opposition along the way made for a great weekend.

Mount Merrion had eight teams across four age groups involved in the trip with excellent football played, great fun had by all the boys and memories created for a lifetime. Well done to all involved! There's some photos from the trip in the photo diary on the next page.

We would also like to congratulate both Cole and Rory on their appearance for the DDSL U13s, defeating Kilkenny 2-0 over the May Bank Holiday weekend. Meanwhile, the UCD/MMYFC U15s maintained their strong start to the U15 National League campaign, winning each of their last three games against Shelbourne, Drogheda

United and Carlow-Kilkenny respectively.

That was after a brilliant start to the year, which saw the Sky Blues record wins against Shamrock Rovers, Carlow-Kilkenny and Drogheda United, before then seeing off Bray Wanderers in Enniskerry in early April.

Of the last three wins, the most notable of which came away against Shelbourne, with a sensational Adam Brennan hat-trick helping Shane Fox's side to a massive 3-2 win at Marley Park.

Against Drogheda United, the Sky Blues ran out 4-0 winners, with Cian Nolan (x2), Sean Tully and Carl Dempsey all netting.

In the most recent game, Cian Nolan (x2), Evan Kelly, Cillian Petcher and U14 player Leon Robinson all found the back of the net in a superb 5-0 win on the road versus Carlow-Kilkenny.

Again, we have some photos from the recent U15 action on the next page.

The league tables are below; the black line indicates team qualifying for the next stage.

EA Sports U19 Lol Group A	
Team	P Pts
UCD	9 19
Galway United	9 19
Cork City	9 17
Waterford	8 16
Cobh Ramblers	9 14
St Patrick's Athletic	8 13
Bray Wanderers	9 9
Kerry	9 6
Treaty United	9 9
Wexford	9 6

EA Sports U17 Lol Group B	
Team	P Pts
UCD	7 18
St Patrick's Athletic	6 15
Athlone Town	7 8
Longford Town	6 7
Bohemians	7 5
Klub Kildare	7 4

EA Sports U15 Lol Group C	
Team	P Pts
UCD	8 22
Shamrock Rovers	7 18
Shelbourne	7 10
Bray Wanderers	7 8
Carlow-Kilkenny	7 3
Drogheda United	8 3

EA Sports U14 Lol Group A	
Team	P Pts
Derry City	4 12
Mayo	4 7
St Patrick's Athletic	4 6
Cabinteely	4 2
UCD	4 1

# MOUNT MERRION PHOTO DIARY

*A photo round-up of the month down Deerpark way*



# BACK IN TIME

with Kevin Burke

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 1932**

**Leinster Senior League Division 1**

**UCD 2-4 Sligo Rovers**

**Terenure**

Our first encounter with Sligo came, strangely enough, in the Leinster Senior League. Rovers were formed in 1928 and made a quick impression, winning the FAI Junior Cup in their first season and the Connacht Junior Cup in their second. But with no senior league in Connacht, they applied for and joined the Dublin Sunday Alliance League in 1931, which they won at their first attempt. And then on 18<sup>th</sup> August – a week before this tie – they were elected to the LSL, bypassing the second tier, to replace Trinity College, who were kicked out for non-compliance with instructions from the management committee. So Sligo, not Trinity, travelled to our old Terenure ground on the opening day of the season for what was their first match at this level.

As was traditional in our non-league days, we were under-strength this early in the season as it was still out of term. The Sligo team (plus any fans prepared to pay the 8s 6d to travel – quite a lot as a Cup semi-final ticket was typically priced at 1s) met for Mass at 8:30am before setting out for Dublin at 9am, and it must have helped as Rovers led 3-1 at the break; Callaghan scoring twice and Kilfeather once, while Donaghy replied for us. Donaghy scored again in the second half to reduce the arrears to 3-2, but Monaghan confirmed the points for Sligo late on.

Sligo “had a well-balanced team, which is particularly well served in attack, and will not be far from the top of the table when the final day of reckoning comes”, was the Herald’s view, and indeed they finished the season third of 16. The following season they won the league and both the Intermediate and Metropolitan Cups, scoring 115 goals in 31 league games in the process. They were elected to the Lol in 1934 and won it at their third attempt. We didn’t meet again until an epic 1953 FAI Cup tie – of which more another time!

**Sligo Rovers** – Blane; P Rooney, McManus, T Rooney, Westby, Mills, Callaghan, Dykes, Kilfeather, Callaghan, Monaghan

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006**

**eircom League of Ireland Premier Division**

**UCD 1-0 Sligo Rovers**

**Belfield Park**

Paddy Kavanagh’s injury-time winner from a weak Sligo back-pass gave the Students the win in this one, but it was off-field events that dominated, as Sligo manager Seán Connor – who had led the side to promotion the season before – resigned before kick-off, and quickly ended up at Bohs, despite Rovers initially refusing to accept his resignation.

This game extended our recent record against Sligo to 11 wins and a draw going back to April 1998, while it was now 25 years and 20 games since Sligo had won in Belfield. But it also marked an abrupt change of fortunes in this tie – since then, Sligo have won 9 of 13 league ties in Belfield, and we only have three wins and three draws to show from the 30 games played since this match. Each side featured a future Ireland international – 9-times capped Conor Sammon for UCD, and current national team captain Séamus Coleman for Sligo. Keith Foy scored for Ireland in the 2-1 win over Italy in the final of the European Under-16 Championships in 1998, the first time any Ireland team had won a European title.

**UCD** – D Quigley; C Kenna, A McNally, D Ryan, T McDonnell; G Dicker, D Doyle (C Byrne 85), R Finn, S Hurley, P Kavanagh, C Sammon (P Byrne 68).

**Sligo Rovers** – Brush; Coleman, McKenzie, Mulligan, Foy; Kudozovic, O’Grady, Hughes (Aisien 68), Curran, Singh, McTiernan (Mansaram 58)

# SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

UCD AFC Supporters' Club wants to thank everyone who is providing a service for others during this time.

## Collingwood Cup

Dundalk FC were proud to host the Irish University Football Union's Collingwood Cup final between QUB and UCD at Oriel Park for the first time. It was fantastic UCD to win the 101<sup>st</sup> Collingwood Final, UCD's 48<sup>th</sup> win since the first tournament in 1914. After two goals from Rossa McAllister and Andreas Djurhuus, it was a tremendous effort after Andreas was sent off early in the second half. It's another trophy for this squad of players.

## May at the UCD Bowl

After a tough April, UCD fans can reset to get behind the players for the month of May, with some famous fixtures over the next month.

UCD AFC v Dundalk. So many former UCD players have found themselves at Dundalk FC, sometimes more than once. It's become game UCD fans can look forward to with nostalgia.

UCD AFC v Shamrock Rovers. The Dodder Derby. Another game with the champions, another chance for the players to test themselves against an established, accomplished side.

UCD AFC v Sligo Rovers. There have been some great cup matches recently; both sides will look to win.

## Season Tickets and Matchday Tickets

UCD are using the Clubforce website to sell online tickets. The UCD AFC account is the place to buy future online match tickets for

the UCD Bowl. Details on the club website – [www.UCDFC.ie](http://www.UCDFC.ie)

## Upcoming Premier Division away games

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, Finn Harps v UCD AFC, Finn Park, kick-off 8pm

No matter what the division, a traditionally tough, physical game with our close neighbours in the table. Finn Harps can be proud of their continued presence in the Premier Division. They're a club that knows where to find the vulnerable spots in teams.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Shelbourne v UCD AFC, Tolka Park, kick-off 7:45pm

## Away Travel

UCD Supporters Travel are taking names for a bus to Tolka Park.

Our private bus will depart the UCD Sports Centre at approx 6:30pm and return immediately after the game, via City Centre. Fare between €8 and €12 depending on numbers. All UCD Fans who wish to travel can contact [UCDSupporters@gmail.com](mailto:UCDSupporters@gmail.com) or myself Stephen Joyce mobile 087 7606299

## Join UCD AFC Supporters' Club

Since its founding in 2010, UCD AFC Supporters' Club have increased their membership reaching over 200 signed-up Members every season. We want that to continue that success into 2021. To join email: [ucdsupporters@gmail.com](mailto:ucdsupporters@gmail.com). The Supporters' Club have a website ([www.ucdsupporters.ie](http://www.ucdsupporters.ie)), Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ucdafcsupporters](https://www.facebook.com/ucdafcsupporters) and Twitter: @UCDFANS.

*Enjoy the game*

# FANTASY FOOTBALL

*The standings from the UCD league of a new online Lol fantasy football*

LolFantasyFootball.com is into its second month, which means we have our first monthly winner in the UCD league. And it went right down to the wire, with David MacHugh pipping Sam O'Mahony by a single point, 392 to 391. Both had a lot of players in common – including Jamie McGonigle as captain, doubling his brace against Pat's – but David did have two UCD players (Sam Todd and Colm Whelan) to Sam's none, so he deserves to win the month on that basis alone!

It means our leader last issue – Conor Croghan – has dropped down to third, and the gap is now quite a large one, 35 points between second and third, while just 31 points cover the rest of the top ten. But Sam is up to 59<sup>th</sup> in the overall standings – out of more than 2,200. Our March leader was only 133<sup>rd</sup> in the overall standings. That was Conor Croghan, who has dropped down to third, while there's two new players in the UCD top ten. Cormac Henry and Shane Verdon both also have McGonagle as captain; Shane hasn't been at all swayed by family favouritism and has UCD's Adam Verdon, but firmly on the bench.

There's still plenty of time to join in if you

## Superleague crest of the month



## Finding Timo

haven't already – we'll be keeping track of all the monthly winners here, and also looking at the knock-out Cup competition when it launches later in the season. All in all, there's nothing like a little bit of fantasy football to give the season that bit of added spice!

### UCD overall table

Manager	Team name	Pts
Sam O'Mahony	Mike Hunts FC	476
David MacHugh	College Ultras	464
Conor Croghan	Colm Whelan is GOAT	429
Harvey O'Brien	Slabheads	425
Shane McCreery	Fred Dead Redemption	424
Cormac Henry	All Our Macattack	413
Shane Verdon	I Love Koch	412
Marc Hennessy	Treaty Get Battered Everywhere They Go	408
Patrick MacHugh	UCD Are Magic	403
Niall Coffey	Athy Town FC	398

# THE GRADUATE FILES

*The former UCD winger who's currently an Honest Man*

One of the better stories from our European travels in 2015 – and there were many – was about the squad player who went missing in Dublin Airport on the way

out to Dudelange when the plane was delayed. Daire O'Connor was finally located in Burger King, not a typical professional footballer haunt, getting a Whopper and chips. He wasn't in the squad at least – he had been on the bench in the home game, but was replaced by Eóin Kirwan for the away game – so the incident was laughed off.

He started making an impact after the Euro campaign though, scoring in successive sub appearances against Athlone and Shels, and then earning a regular starting spot as Euro injuries caught up towards the end of the season. 2016 saw more regular game time, and he scored a brace in an 8-1 win over Waterford towards the end of the season, but by 2018 he was a key player, and his brace in a 3-1 win in Harps was a big step on the way to the title that year, a season which saw him named in the PFAI First Division Team of the Season.

He didn't hang around for the Premier Division though; after 86 appearances and 12 goals, he joined Cork for the 2019 season and was a regular as the league runners-up started their collapse in form that ultimately saw them drop to the lower half of the First Division. He played as Cork lost to a Luxembourg side in Europe, and scored in a 3-2 win against UCD in October. But

after falling out of favour under new boss Neale Fenn, he was somewhat controversially released on a free transfer a day before Fenn himself was sacked.



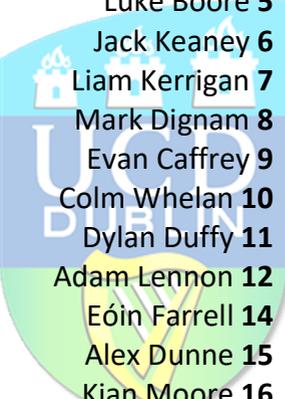
He joined Cliftonville in the Irish League, where he was largely used as a sub – 20 of his 37 league appearances were from the bench. But from there, he made another surprise move, joining Ayr United in the Scottish second tier. Ayr have been bouncing around between the second and third tiers for the past 40 years; they were last promoted in 2018 and finished last

season avoiding a relegation play-off on goal difference. He made his debut in a local derby against newly-relegated Kilmarnock – their first league game since the departure of another Graduate, Gary Dicker – and scored his first goal in a 3-0 League Cup win over Rangers B, a game in which Markus Fjørtoft, son of Norway and Swindon legend Jan Aage, also scored. The game was subsequently turned into a 3-0 defeat as The Honest Men had fielded two ineligible players, but his goal stands.

Injury took him out of the first team in September, but with Ayr struggling for form all season and having had three managers since Daire joined, the team has been chopping and changing – he's been as likely to start as to come off the bench as to be an unused sub, but he racked up 27 appearances in all competitions with no further goals to report as Ayr stayed up on the last day.

# TONIGHT'S SQUADS

## UCD

The logo for University College Dublin (UCD) is a shield-shaped crest. It is divided into four quadrants: top-left is light blue with a white building icon, top-right is light blue with the letters 'UCD' in white, bottom-left is light blue with the letters 'DUBLIN' in white, and bottom-right is light green with a yellow harp icon. The shield is surrounded by a grey border.

Lorcan Healy **1**  
Michael Gallagher **2**  
Evan Osam **3**  
Harry McEvoy **4**  
Luke Boore **5**  
Jack Keaney **6**  
Liam Kerrigan **7**  
Mark Dignam **8**  
Evan Caffrey **9**  
Colm Whelan **10**  
Dylan Duffy **11**  
Adam Lennon **12**  
Eóin Farrell **14**  
Alex Dunne **15**  
Kian Moore **16**  
Dara Keane **17**  
Dónal Higgins **18**  
Lennon Gill **19**  
Seán Brennan **21**  
Sam Todd **22**  
Adam Verdon **23**  
Harvey O'Brien **24**  
Danny Norris **25**  
John Ryan **26**  
Tommy Lonergan **27**  
Eric Yoro **29**  
Alex Nolan **30**

## Dundalk

The logo for Dundalk Football Club (Dundalk F.C.) is a shield-shaped crest. It features a red shield with a white harp in the center. The shield is surrounded by a grey border. Below the shield is a grey banner with the text 'DUNDALK F.C.' in yellow.

**1** Nathan Shepperd  
**2** Lewis Macari  
**3** Brian Gartland  
**4** Andy Boyle  
**5** Mark Connolly  
**6** Sam Bone  
**7** Daniel Kelly  
**8** Robbie Benson  
**9** Patrick Hoban  
**10** Greg Sloggett  
**11** John Martin  
**14** Peter Cherrie  
**15** Darragh Leahy  
**16** Steven Bradley  
**17** Keith Ward  
**19** Daniel Williams  
**20** Joe Adams  
**21** Paul Doyle  
**23** John Mountney  
**24** Mayowa Animasahun  
**25** Mark Hanratty  
**28** Ryan O'Kane  
**29** David McMillan

# TONIGHT'S SQUADS

## UCD



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Tommy Lonergan **27**  
Eric Yoro **29**  
Alex Nolan **30**

## Shamrock Rovers



**1** Alan Mannus  
**2** Seán Gannon  
**3** Seán Hoare  
**4** Roberto Lopes  
**5** Lee Grace  
**6** Barry Cotter  
**7** Dylan Watts  
**8** Ronan Finn  
**9** Aaron Greene  
**10** Graham Burke  
**11** Seán Kavanagh  
**14** Danny Mandriou  
**16** Gary O'Neill  
**17** Richie Towell  
**20** Rory Gaffney  
**22** Andy Lyons  
**23** Neil Farrugia  
**24** Seán Carey  
**25** Leon Pohls  
**26** Chris McCann  
**29** Jack Byrne  
**32** Conan Noonan  
**38** Aidomo Emakhu

# TONIGHT'S SQUADS

## UCD



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John Ryan **26**  
Tommy Lonergan **27**  
Eric Yoro **29**  
Alex Nolan **30**

## Sligo Rovers



**1** Edward McGinty  
**2** Lewis Banks  
**3** Colm Horgan  
**4** Shane Blaney  
**5** Robbie McCourt  
**6** Greg Bolger  
**8** Will Fitzgerald  
**9** Aidan Keena  
**10** Jordan Hamilton  
**11** Séamus Keogh  
**12** Mark Byrne  
**14** Karl O'Sullivan  
**16** Luke McNicholas  
**17** Adam McDonnell  
**19** Paddy Kirk  
**22** David Cawley  
**25** Cillian Heaney  
**26** Gerry Buckley  
**27** Max Mata  
**28** Nandi Pijnaker  
**30** Richard Brush  
**31** Conor Walsh  
**33** Peter Maguire  
**34** Kailin Barlow  
**35** Seán McAteer  
**37** Kyle McGeogan  
**38** Colin Mooney  
**39** Ultan O'Grady



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