

# THE CHAIRMAN'S DIARY



## Season 2008 / 2009

- ❖ First of all I would like to welcome everybody here to the Club's 35<sup>th</sup> AGM.
- ❖ At last! In our 35th season, we won the Premier Division title. Having beaten UCFL 'kingpins' Trinity Corinthians in the league for the first time in Santry early in the season, it came down to the final premier game of the season, when VEC had to beat Trinity in Terenure to win the title. We won 3-1, ensuring that we pipped Trinity (who had won the title on 7 occasions in the previous 10 years) by one point to complete a remarkable season. Well done to all concerned and a sincere thanks to all who supported the team on the day.

❖ Premier Division 2008-2009	P	W	D	L	Pts
❖ VEC F.C.	20	16	2	2	50
❖ Trinity Corinthians	20	16	1	3	49

- ❖ Although Dara Doherty left in January to work in Norway, Rav's return from travels (at the start of the season) and Simon Roche's return in March added greatly to this season's squad, as did important appearances from Hygo Cesar (and his Brazilian compatriot Marco Prudencio), Stephen Van Loon and Marc Doherty at crucial stages in the season. This was a season that we had waited for - for a long time - and it was fully deserved by all involved, from Neil Spring who played in every game (34) to Joey Byrne who also returned in March after breaking his leg the previous September, to the Club's top goal-scorer Brian Ward (16), to the whole squad - the rest of whom I have to mention - Darragh McGinley, Peter Morrissey, Nicky Perry, Brian Quinn, Paul O'Sullivan, Rory O'Dwyer, Anto Dunne, Mick Keating, Sicco Lansu, Gavin O'Sullivan, and of course our captain, Ross Kavanagh. They all believed that VEC could win the league - and we did - after a terrible start losing to Glasnaoin in the first game, but then winning 16 of the next 19 league games (losing only to Orchard Celtic).
- ❖ Unfortunately, for the second year in succession, we exited the Challenge Cup at the semi-final stage, when we lost 0-3 to Terenure FC, when our minds were obviously not focused on the Cup. We also exited the FAI Junior Cup and the Leinster Junior Cup in the fourth round of each to Skerries Town and top AUL Premier side Howth Celtic, respectively. While we beat Trinity and Clontarf Ailesbury in the Shield, we lost our second semi-final of the season to Brayzil on an evening in Terenure when Justin Dutton went on a solo goal spree, scoring five goals against us.
- ❖ John Doyle only missed one game out of 24 for the seconds, and Ciaran Cunningham was their top goal-scorer (7) in a season where they finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 2 and lost on penalties to Division 1 team Sandyford Rovers in the second round of the Challenge Cup and to League winners Leixlip Town in the Shield.
- ❖ Julien Dingle and Willie McGarrigle played in all but two of the 25 games that the thirds played. Pearse Fitzpatrick and Sean Fox were joint top scorers with 7 goals a piece. At least we avoided the relegation zone at the end of the season!

- ❖ I have to thank the various managers - on behalf of the Club - for their tireless work throughout the season. It is a thankless job in many ways! They don't just pick teams on a Saturday: they also attend training, contact players, check their availability, collect subs, mind the gear - jerseys, shorts, coats, bibs, medical bag, water etc., wash the gear, mind the footballs, etc. etc. Well done to John Doyle, ably supported by Dave Carroll (in their first year at the helm) for their management of the second team; Karl McCafferty, ably supported by Julien Dingle for their management of the thirds and to Noel Ryan for assisting me with the running of the first team. I also wish to thank Brendan Giffney for the many Tuesday night training sessions that he conducted in all sorts of weather and for having the 'enthusiastic' players in top condition.
- ❖ I would like to thank Brian Ward and Eoghan Webb as the players' reps. While we didn't need to have formal meetings, they were kept in the loop through e-mails and provided valuable and wise inputs, in assisting the officers and the managers in the smooth running of the Club throughout the year. Also, thanks to the other members of the club who assisted the managers and the Club along the way. As I stated last year, we need volunteers and more people, to spread the workload.
- ❖ Our Honorary Secretary for the year was Séamus Doherty. He continued looking after the registration of players and made all those phone calls to referees and club secretaries, regarding fixtures. Away from football, he continued where he left off last season, working a lot behind the scenes: from representing the Club at league meetings to arranging trophies, the Willie Kissane tournament, the golf outings, international match tickets, etc. etc. Not forgetting the 'Pick-a-Winner' competitions, which not only provided a source of fun and interest for a lot of people, but provided a great (and much needed) source of income for the Club. The amount of work that Séamus puts into this alone is incredible. He also had to balance these activities with his regular work as an Executive member of the League Committee - not to mention the 'real' job! As many of you know, Séamus has just been elected as Hon. Treasurer of the UCFL and as such, he will be stepping down as our Hon. Secretary. We congratulate him on this achievement and wish him well in his new role. We also owe him a huge debt of thanks for all the work that he has put in the last year and over the years as Secretary of VEC FC.
- ❖ With regard to fundraising, particularly 'Pick-a-Winner', it is essential that ALL MEMBERS attract at least 5 friends/work colleagues into PAW. In the current financial climate, the Club will have to pay significant fees to the CDVEC for the use of its private grounds. Sponsorship will reduce and some players may not have regular employment. To help such players with subs, injury expenses etc., we will need to raise more money through PAW, otherwise we will have to increase membership fees and have to sell raffle tickets!!
- ❖ The reconciling of the accounts is an onerous job and our thanks go to John Eager who has managed to keep this important task up to date. He received immense assistance this year from both Séamus and Noel, who had the thankless task of collecting members' subscriptions and other monies from you lot!
- ❖ Again thanks to the groundsmen in both Terenure (Nicky in particular) and Whitehall (Anthony) for having the facilities in tip top shape.
- ❖ And finally thanks to our sponsors Brady's and Top Oil products for their yearly contribution; Templeogue United and the DIT here in Kevin Street, for making their facilities available to us at various times.

*David Spring,  
Chairman*

*18<sup>th</sup> June 2009*