

THE CHAIRMAN'S DIARY



Season 2009 / 2010

- ❖ First of all I would like to welcome everybody here to the Club's 36th AGM.
- ❖ Having won the Premier Division title last season, it was not going to be easy to retain it - and so it proved! Beating both Trinity Corinthians and the new champions Orchard Celtic 3-0 in Terenure, and Sportslink and Brayzil away certainly helped: however, dropping points to Schalke Rovers, Lucan Utd. and Lower Crumlin in particular - all in April when we were missing half the players due to injuries - diminished our chances of retaining the title, and Orchard pushed on losing only that league game, to top the Premier Division. We eventually finished a very credible third, just three points behind Sportslink FC. - but it could have been better!

| Comparison: | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|--|----|----|---|---|-----|
| ❖ VEC F.C. - Champions 2008-2009 | 20 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 50 |
| ❖ Orchard Celtic - Champions 2009-2010 | 22 | 15 | 6 | 1 | 51 |

- ❖ It has to be said that we missed Nicky Perry, who returned to Scotland, while Paul O'Sullivan and Marc Doherty (who only played in 10 and 7 games respectively) were crucially missed in some games. On top of that, Ross Kavanagh, Mick Keating and Peter Morrissey each missed exactly one-third of our 30 games. As a consequence, I could NEVER - as manager - select what I believed to be our strongest team in any of those 30 games.
- ❖ Unfortunately we exited the Challenge Cup in the 4th Round, when we lost 0-1 to Trinity Corinthians, when the game was switched to Santry in December. We also exited the FAI Junior Cup and the Leinster Junior Cup in the 3rd round of each to Cabinteely (on penalties) and Celbridge Town, respectively. In the space of 8 days in March, we also tamely went out of the Richard Knight Cup (aet) to Orchard and the Shield to Ardmore Rovers (1-2).
- ❖ Pat Malone and Ciarán Cunningham only missed one game each out of 24 for the seconds, who finished 4th in Division 2 and lost to Amber Celtic in the third round of the Challenge Cup, having thumped Division 1 side Balally Celtic 5-0 in the previous round in September when Sicco Lansu scored a hat-trick. The loss to Sportslink 2^{nds} in the MMI Cup was disappointing.
- ❖ It was the 3^{nds} best season for a long time, finishing 3rd in Division 3B. After beating the eventual winners Terenure 4^{ths} away and after drawing twice with runners-up Allenton Utd., they were in contention until the end of the season. It was also quite extraordinary that the 3^{nds} didn't lose an away league game in the entire season, and quite ironic that they struggled somewhat in their new home in VEC Terenure, after 18 years playing in the VEC Sportsgrounds in Whitehall. Willie McGarrigle played in all but 1 of the 26 games that the thirds played. Jacek Iwanek was the top goal-scorer with 15 from 19 played, including 4 against CMH in March. The ageless Paul Hutchinson added huge experience to the midfield, scoring 9 goals in the process.
- ❖ Of note was Stephen Van Loon's contribution to the 3 teams, playing in a total of 33 games.

- ❖ 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 Dave 'Jayo' Carroll, for his first year in management of the second team and the help he received from his predecessor John Doyle; Julien Dingle, ably supported by Fergal Farrell 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 Pat Malone 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 John Dingle who was elected players' rep. for the season. While we didn't need to have formal meetings, he was there to assist the officers and the managers in the smooth running of the Club throughout the year. Unfortunately, the other players' rep. Conor Byrne had other commitments and was not available. 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 Noel Ryan, who volunteered to do the job when nobody else was available or interested. He received great support from his predecessor Séamus Doherty who did a lot of work behind the scenes. Between them, they looked after the registration of players; represented the Club at league meetings; arranged trophies, the Willie Kissane tournament, the golf outings, international match tickets, etc. etc. Séamus also had to balance these activities with his regular work as Hon. Treasurer of the League Committee - not to mention the 'real' job!
- ❖ With regard to fundraising, particularly 'Pick-a-Winner', Neil Spring put an awful lot of work and effort in putting PAW up on line: www.pickawinner.ie which greatly helped Séamus with the administration. It not only provides a source of fun and interest for a lot of people, but provides a great (and much needed) source of income for the Club. As it is our main source of income, it is essential that ALL MEMBERS attract at least 5 friends/work colleagues into PAW. Otherwise we will have to increase membership fees and have to sell raffle tickets, as in the current financial climate, we do not expect to receive any sponsorship money next season.
- ❖ 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 Terenure (Nick in particular, Ken & Mick) for having the facilities in tip top shape.
- ❖ And finally thanks to our sponsors Brady's Pub for their yearly contribution and to Templeogue United for making their facilities available to us at various times.

*David Spring,
Chairman*

17th June 2010