

# THE CHAIRMAN'S DIARY



## Season 2010 / 2011

- ❖ First of all I would like to welcome everybody here to the Club's 37<sup>th</sup> AGM.
- ❖ In football, there are good times and there are bad times!

The season just finished has to go down as one of those good times!

We won back the Challenge Cup - although it took us 18 years to do so!  
The 1<sup>sts</sup> also won the Barton Shield.



The 2<sup>nds</sup> and the 3<sup>rds</sup> were promoted having finished runners-up in their respective divisions - division 2 and division 3B.

But before all that, **VEC** won the Willie Kissane Trophy for the first time in five years, when we beat **Leicester Celtic** 7-6 on penalties in August 2010, after the final had finished at 1-1. This nicely set the scene for the season!



- ❖ It was especially pleasing that in our 9<sup>th</sup> Challenge Cup Final, we beat **Stedfast Utd.** 2-0 to claim the cup for the 6<sup>th</sup> time, with the goals coming from **Joey Byrne** and **Brian Ward**. It was also pleasing as we had reached the semi-final of the Cup in 2008 and in 2009 - losing on both occasions. Three of this year's team - **Peter Morrissey**, **Neil Spring** and **Brian Ward** - played our last final 9 years ago against Trinity Corinthians - which we lost 2-0.



And to cap it all, Steve Quin followed in his father's footsteps (Pat Quin - in photo above) who picked up winners medals in 1980 and 1981. Also, I picked up my 6<sup>th</sup> winners medal - but this time solely as manager!

Five days prior to the Challenge Cup Final, we beat **Clontarf Athletic** 1-0 after extra time with a goal from **Rory O'Dwyer** to win the Premier Division's Barton Shield. It was six years since we had last won the Shield - against the same opposition!

In the Premier Division, we finished a disappointing 7<sup>th</sup> after some poor results towards the start of the season, where in our first 8 games, we drew 4 and lost 4 - mainly due to injuries to 6 of the squad, before recovering to win our next 4, ensuring that we quickly climbed the table.



Anto Dunne once again played the most games for the 1<sup>st</sup> team - missing only 1 game due to illness - which shows true dedication. Being selected for the UCFL league team (pic. left) was well deserved and he did the Club proud.

Joey Byrne regained the leading goal-scorer accolade with 22 goals. Along the way he scored 4 against Cloncastle in the cup and 3 against Clontarf Ath. in the league. Brian Ward also scored 4 in a cup game - against Phoenix Ath. while Rav Jennings scored a hat-trick in the same game. Rav also made a great attempt to break Joey's record of scoring in 9 consecutive games (2005/2006), but managed to score only in 5!

- ❖ It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams' best season for a long time. Having finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 2 last season and 5<sup>th</sup> in the previous year, **VEC 2<sup>nds</sup>** finished joint 2<sup>nd</sup> with **Seaview Celtic** on 40 points - just 2 points behind **Ashwood FC** and had to play-off to determine who would gain promotion to Division 1 next season. With a magnificent display in the AUL Complex on 1<sup>st</sup> June, **Steve Kiely's** strike on 55 minutes ensured the runners-up spot for **VEC**. **Dave Fox** (son of former **VEC** defender - also Dave) scored 11 goals in this his first season with the Club, making him the 2<sup>nd</sup> team leading scorer.



- ❖ Having finished an agonising 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 3B last season, **VEC 3<sup>rd</sup>s** also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> just 2 points behind the winners **W.FC**, ensuring promotion. Amazingly, their loss to **White Star Rovers** in January was their only away league game loss in two seasons! **Derek Lawlor** and **Seán Fox** played in 24 of the team's 27 games, while **Seán** was also the team's leading goal scorer on 20 goals – the only player other than **Joey Byrne** and **Brian Ward** to score at least 20 goals for the Club in a season in the last 10 years! Along the way, he scored 4 goals twice in a league game – against St. Mary's & St. Anne's. The ageless **Alan Scullion** added huge experience up front, scoring 11 goals in 10 games played – but also adding one for the 2<sup>nds</sup> and 3 for the 1<sup>sts</sup> along the way! The 3<sup>rd</sup>s also had a great run in the Leinster Junior Shield, eventually missing out on a quarter-final spot (in a game they should have won) to **Banagher Utd.** from Offaly.



- ❖ We tamely exited the Leinster Junior Cup and the FAI Junior Cup at the first hurdles to **Galty Celtic** and **Collinstown FC** respectively. We also went out of the Richard Knight Cup at the quarter-final stage 0-1 to the eventual winners **Trinity Corinthians**! The 2<sup>nds</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>s also tamely exited their respective cups and shields.
- ❖ Once again, Pat Malone only missed one game out of 25 for the seconds – a great achievement. I also wish to thank **Pat** – on your behalf – for the many Tuesday night training sessions that he conducted in all sorts of weather and for having the players from the three teams in top condition.

- ❖ 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 and help out at training, contact players, collect subs, mind the gear - jerseys, shorts, bibs, medical bag, water etc., wash the gear, mind the footballs, etc. etc. Well done to **Dave 'Jayo' Carroll**, for his second year in management of the second team and the help he received from **John Doyle**; **Julien Dingle**, for his management of the thirds and for the assistance I got from **Noel Ryan** and Club Captain **Simon Roche** with the running of the first team.
- ❖ Thanks to the other members of the club who assisted the managers and the Club along the way. For example, **Brian Ward's** setting up of the on-line bank account for the lodgement of monies proved to be very successful. As I stated previously, we need volunteers and more people, to spread the workload.
- ❖ Our Honorary Secretary for the year was **Noel Ryan**, who is completing the second year of his term. He looked after the registration of players and represented the Club at league meetings. His continued contribution to the Club cannot be underestimated and we owe him a debt of gratitude. He will no doubt work out the logistics of getting our new club tops! Due to family and work commitments, and to be fair to Noel, he needs to step down and now is the opportunity for someone to 'grasp the nettle' and take up the role of Honorary Secretary - even only for the 2-year term. Noel and myself and Séamus will give you FULL support.
- ❖ The management and reconciling of the accounts is an onerous job and our thanks go to our Honorary Treasurer **Séamus Doherty** who has managed to keep this important task up to date. This wasn't all that he did! He 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 his 'real' job! Between Séamus and Noel they also had the thankless task of collecting members' subscriptions and other monies from you lot!
- ❖ With regard to fundraising, particularly 'Pick-a-Winner', **Neil Spring** put an awful lot of work and effort in putting PAW up on line and maintaining the website: [www.pickawinner.ie](http://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 expect to receive very little sponsorship next season.
- ❖ Again thanks to the groundsmen in Terenure (**Nick and Ken**) for having the facilities in tip top shape: to our sponsors Brady's Pub for their support (particularly after the Cup Final) and to Templeogue United for making their facilities available to us at various times.
- ❖ And finally thanks to you the players, without whom we would not have such a successful Club. And a special mention to a player who is seeking pastures new across the Atlantic - in Ohio to be precise - where he has received a soccer scholarship for the next two years, having played 88 official games for **VEC** with 23 'shut-outs'. We know that you will make a great success of this opportunity **Darragh (McGinley)**. Best of luck and you'll always be welcome back to **VEC**.