

THE CHAIRMAN'S DIARY



Season 2012 / 2013

- First of all I would like to welcome everybody here to the Club's 39th AGM, especially those who are here for the first time.
- For the second year in a row, unfortunately none of the three teams collected any honours. Closest was the 1st team losing to Glasnaion FC in the semi-final of the Richard Knight Cup and the 3rd team's great effort in almost reaching the Shield final. In the end, VEC 1^{sts} finished 6th staying in the premier/top UCFL Division for the 39th consecutive season - a remarkable feat in itself, while VEC 2^{nds} finished joint-5th in Division 1 and VEC 3^{rds} finished 4th in Division 3. [Tables attached].
- There were valid reasons for our not-so-successful season: having lost Darragh McGinley, Ross Kavanagh, Rav Jennings, Pete Morrissey, Ian O'Neill and Rory O'Dwyer from the 2011 cup final team, we did not have Brian Ward, Tom Delaney and Paul O'Sullivan for the 1sts. The 2nds also struggled throughout the season but achieved two notable results, knocking Stedfast Utd. 1sts out of the Richard Knight Cup and drawing 2-2 away to a strong Sandyford Utd. team. They lost Desar Hysa while the 3rds lost John Burke, Brian Quinn (again), Simon Bull, Cormac Cafolla and Derek Lawlor. The 3^{rds}, however, were more consistent in the league throughout with John Dingle playing in every one of their 28 games. This shows true dedication. Two notable results came in the Shield - drawing with a strong Chapelizod FC team and beating old adversaries W.FC 3-0. [Games played by all attached].
- Simon Roche was the Club's leading goal scorer on 22 goals - the only player other than Joey Byrne, Brian Ward and Sean Fox to score at least 20 goals for the Club in a season in the last 11 years! Along the way, he scored 3 hat-tricks - against Greystones Utd., San Marino FC and St. Anne's Utd. Joey Byrne also scored a hat-trick against Ardmore Rovers, while Ciaran Heffron scored his hat-trick against St. Mary's Boys. Paul Burke scored 4 goals against Fortunestown FC. [All goalscorers attached].
- We were somewhat unlucky to exit both the FAI Junior Cup and the Leinster Junior Cup to Butterkrust Fc and Donnycarney Fc (aet) respectively, while not being able to field the 3rds team against Spartak Dynamo in the Leinster Junior Shield (3^{rds}) was unprecedented and disheartening, to say the least. [3 teams' results attached].
- 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, wash the gear, mind the footballs, etc. etc. Well done to 1st team manager Michael Keating in what was his first year in Management, Dave 'Jayo' Carroll, for his 4th year in management of the second team and the help he received from John Doyle; and Julien Dingle, for his management of the thirds.

- Thanks to the other members of the club who assisted the managers and the Club along the way. For example, Neil Spring's hard work with Pick-a-Winner: Pat Malone's and Brendan Giffney's Tuesday training sessions: and Club captain Simon Roche's coaching sessions in Nutgrove.
- Well done also to Simon in his second year as Honorary Secretary.
- Congratulations to Phillip McHugh and Ronan Cotter on their recent weddings and I wish Michael Keating best wishes in his forthcoming marriage.
- On your behalf I would like to wish Stephen Van Loon a speedy recovery after his knee operation.
- Our thanks go to our Honorary Treasurer Séamus Doherty for his management and reconciling of the accounts. This wasn't all that he did! He arranged trophies, the Willie Kissane tournament, the golf outings, 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!
- With regard to fundraising, www.pickawinner.ie 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 and to Templeogue United for making their facilities available to us at various times. Not forgetting our best supporter Noel Ryan.
- And finally thanks to you the players, without whom we would not have such a successful Club. Finally may next week.

David Spring, Chairman

13th June 2013