

THE CHAIRMAN'S DIARY



Season 2013 / 2014

- First of all I would like to welcome everybody here to the Club's 40th AGM, especially those who are here for the first time.
- In our 40th season, 5 years after winning the Premier Division title, we nearly did it again. It was a remarkable season by all accounts: VEC 1sts achieving runners-up spot to old rivals Clontarf Athletic and obviously staying in the premier/top UCFL Division for the 40th consecutive season - a remarkable feat in itself.

❖ Premier Division 2013-2014	P	W	D	L	Pts
❖ Clontarf Athletic	18	14	2	2	44
❖ VEC F.C.	18	10	6	2	36

- Unfortunately, after 3 seasons in Division 1, VEC 2nds were relegated. The team however received the very notable **UCFL's Merit award** for their performance on and off the field. It was a nice surprise for a VEC team to receive this trophy for the 2013-2014 season (along with a football kit) at the UCFL's annual presentation of awards, following VEC 1sts who won it last season (and VEC 3rds who won it in 2005). It is run on a points system where the team that had a good disciplinary record during the season (minimum yellow and red cards), pitches and kits in order, good referees reports, attendance at meetings, minimum fines, etc.
- For the first time in our 23 years of trying, VEC 3rds won the Sidney Bedlow Cup on a memorable in our own grounds (where the final has been played in recent years) beating Riverside Utd. 8-7 on penalties after both sides had finished 2-2 after extra time. Well done to all concerned - John Dingle in particular - and a sincere thanks to all who supported the team on the day.
- In the end, VEC 1^{sts} finished 2nd, losing only 2 league games; while VEC 2^{nds} finished 10th (from 11) in Division 1 and VEC 3^{rds} finished mid-table 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].
- Newcomer Aidan Hyland was the Club's leading goal scorer on 22 goals - the only player other than Simon Roche, Joey Byrne, Brian Ward and Sean Fox to score at least 20 goals for the Club in a season in the last 13 years, finishing the season very strongly with 7 goals in the final 5 games. The 2nds leading scorer was Ron Doyle (with 8) while Sean Fox scored 14 for the 3rds in the 16 games he played with them. [All goalscorers attached].

- Dave Carroll played in 36 games during the season, while Pat Meghen, Killian Finlay and Karl Reck played in 35 [see details for all 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! Well done to 1st team manager Paul Hutchinson in what was his first year managing the team in 11 years, Stephen Van Loon (Louie) in his 1st year in management of the second team and the help he received from Ron Doyle; and John Dingle, whom I've mentioned, in his 1st year managing the thirds, with assistance from Alan Keane.
- 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; and Dave Carroll's and Brendan Giffney's Tuesday night training sessions, although the numbers attending weren't great.
- Well done also to Brendan in his second year as Honorary Secretary.
- Congratulations to Neil on his recent wedding and I would like to wish him - on your behalf - a very successful career as he sets off to the States at the weekend.
- 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, 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 provides a great (and much needed) source of income for the Club as does the very successful first FAI draw last October. They prevented us increasing membership fees, 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.
- VEC Football Club has always strived to provide the best possible experience for the players including top class pitches, the best facilities possible and the best gear, footballs & kits. It helps create a great vibe throughout the club and makes it special. We also give the players (current & past) the best online experience with our website. While there has been a great social outlet in the club in the past, this has diminished somewhat in recent times. We only had one table quiz this season (for the injured players' fund) and it could have been better attended! As we complete our **40th year** as a Club, we need to resurrect those meetings after matches (in Brady's) and create talking points, exchange experiences and news from the VEC teams and most importantly keep everyone constantly thinking about the club and their next game. We also receive some sponsorship from Brady's in Terenure - for which we are grateful - on the basis that we visit that establishment frequently! It would be nice if players from all VEC teams would make an effort to drop in after their games on Saturdays, whenever possible - even if only for a recovery sports drink!
- On the social side, we planned - but did not execute - a special function during our **40th season**. We will be organising one in September - in the style of a B-B-Q, and everyone associated with the Club - both past and present - should be part of it.
- Finally, thanks to you the players, without whom we would not have such a successful Club.

David Spring, Chairman

26th June 2014