



V.E.C. Football Club

Hon. Secretary's Report for the Season 2015 - 2016

- 1 This is my 1st annual report as VEC FC Secretary but unfortunately it will also be my last as I have relocated away from Dublin.
- 2 Thanks to the Managers for their tremendous effort and dedication throughout the season. For the 1st team, David Spring and Kevin O'Hanlon and for the 2nd team, Fergal 'Stumpy' Nolan with assistance from Conor MacArtain. Managers were very hard to come by at the start of the season and we are grateful to them for stepping into the breach.
- 3 For the second time in 7 years, we won the Premier Division title to complete a remarkable season. In a season with only eight teams in the Premier Division, we were informed in April that all teams had to play each other 3 times, notwithstanding the following proposal from VEC FC in February:

*"The unexpected composition of only 8 teams in the Premier Division would normally result in each team playing a total of 14 league games. As this is a relatively small number of games in a full season, the suggestion of each team playing each other 3 times resulting in 21 league games is considered too many, particularly in the current season where the fixture programme has already been badly disrupted due to the adverse weather. **Proposal:** At a pre-determined date during the season (e.g. 1st March 2016) the 4 teams who have dropped the least number of points shall play in a further three league games in that season, once against each of the other three teams and in at least one of such three league games, each team shall be the home club. The other 4 teams will also play in a further three league games in that season, once against each of the other three teams and in at least one of such three league games, each team shall be the home club. This will result in every Premier Division team playing a total of 17 league games in the current season, with either 8 or 9 of those games being home games".*

As this proposal required the agreement of the 8 teams, it was defeated as Chapelizod FC opposed it. We then effectively won the league when we beat Orchard Celtic 1-0 in Cherry Orchard Park on 7th June 2016, as Glasnaion FC could not field a team two days later and Chapelizod FC saw no point in fulfilling their last fixture, resulting in the League Committee awarding VEC FC the three points - leaving the final table:

Premier Division 2015-2016	P	W	D	L	Pts
VEC F.C.	21	16	3	2	51
Orchard Celtic	21	14	5	2	47
Chapelizod F.C.	21	14	0	7	42
Glasnsion F.C.	21	9	2	10	29
F.C. Sportslink Ailesbury	21	8	4	9	28
Arthur Griffith Park	21	6	2	13	20
Clontarf Ath.	21	3	3	15	12
EID F.C.	21	2	5	14	11

Interestingly, our record in 2009 when we pipped Trinity Corinthians was: 20 16 2 2 50

- 4 Reaching the 5th Round of the FAI Junior Cup where we met one of the favourites (and losing finalists) Pike Rovers in Limerick was a great achievement, but although we gave a good account of ourselves, we eventually succumbed to a 2-0 loss with dreadful conditions underfoot not helping our cause. We exited the Leinster Junior Cup to a strong Crumlin Utd. team in the third round. Having won the Premier Division (Barton) Shield on the May Bank-holiday Monday by beating AGP FC 4-3 on penalties, we then added the UCFL Challenge Cup by beating South William Street Celtic 4-1 on Saturday 21st May in Home Farm and then the Richard Knight Cup by beating FC Sportslink Ailesbury 5-1 On 31st May meaning a clean sweep of UCFL trophies for the 1st team - a remarkable first for the club (*and only ever achieved twice before: by Stedfast Utd. 19 years ago and by Clontarf Athletic 21 years ago*). This was also managed with a glut of matches in the final 10 weeks of the season - a tremendous squad effort.
- 5 VEC 2nds played in Division 2A and finished 7th from 11 teams. 20 7 4 8 25
Having had a good start and end to the season it's clear that winning trophies is a real possibility for the team. Unfortunately a mid-season slump put paid to any hopes of promotion this time out.
- 6 Aidan Hyland was again the Club's top goal-scorer (2015-16) - with 33 goals improving on the 30 goals he scored in the previous season.
- 7 Willie Kissane Tournament 2015: We entered one team: We reached the final again where we lost on penalties for the second consecutive year - this time 7-6 to Leicester Celtic FC.
- 8 New players (with games played): Conall O'Shaughnessy (31), Mick Kinsella (26), Niall Flynn (22), Cathal Dunphy (20), Aidan O'Sullivan (19), Stephen Sheridan (18), Michael Stobbs (15), Gavin Walsh (14), Conor O'Neill (10), Pat Carolan (10), Dan Clarke (6), Ciaran Houghton (5), Aran Meaney (5), Sean McGuinness (3).
- 9 Players who left/retired: Benny Magennis, Shane Moran, Paul Burke, Jonathan Croucher, Dave 'Jayo' Carroll, John Doyle, Gavin O'Sullivan, Stephen Van Loon, Ronan Cotter, Sicco Lansu, Robbie McGrane, Gavin O'Donovan, Niall Byrne, and of course Kevin O'Hanlon and Paul Hutchinson.
- 10 Table Quiz towards Injured Players' Fund in Templeogue Utd's Clubhouse on Saturday, 2nd April 2016. The attendance was abysmal. Dave Spring came up with the questions once more - thanks to those who sponsored prizes especially Noel Ryan, Kev O'Hanlon and Paul Hutchinson.
- 11 Pick-a-Winner still generates the main source of income for the club. Neil (from the U.S.), Dave and Séamus keep this going with hard work.
- 12 Again Séamus has done a tremendous amount of work for the club this year. And this is in addition to his role as UCFL Treasurer!
- 13 It was great to see responsibility for training sessions being taken on by members, most notably Seán O'Shea and Andy Myler with Joey Byrne and Pat Meghen also helping out. We want more club members to "step up to the plate" and help with the weekly running of the club, for too long the same few are left to do most of the work!
- 14 Finally, on behalf of the Club, I'd like to thank our groundsman, Nicky Fanning, for looking after us so well and having the pitches in VEC always in immaculate condition. We wish him good health and happiness in his retirement.

THANK YOU

Paul O'Sullivan, Hon. Secretary.