



Annual Hon. Secretary's Report Season 2022/2023

SEASON 2022/2023

Management



Thanks to the managers for their tremendous effort and dedication throughout the season. On the 1st team, with Simon Roche stepping back, Dave Spring (assisted at times by Derek Donoghue and Peter O'Brien) took the reins and on the 2nd team, the 3 players Eoin Monaghan, Conor Callaghan and Colin Power gratefully stepped into the breach, when Alan Barry stepped down. Managers are very hard to come by at junior level and we are grateful to all who assisted and stepped up over the past season for all of their effort and, at times thankless, dedication.

It was great to see responsibility for training sessions being taken on by members, most notably by Carl O'Gorman, Joey Byrne and Pat Meghen with Simon Roche, Kev O'Hanlon and Andy Myler and a variety of others lending a hand along the way.

League

This was the first time in 8 years that we had no trophies/medals to collect at the UCFL Annual Awards. We finished a disappointing 5th in the Premier Division. A failure to put teams to the sword twinned with an ongoing battle to settle on a consistent formation / tactical approach left the team frustrated and subsequently failing to amass many points in the league for a long stretch of the season. It was a particularly bleak opening to the season and winter period for the club. Some consistency, and enjoyment, returned in the 2nd half of the season however, and resulted in a couple of excellent performances, including a 9 goal thrashing of Rialto FC and a satisfying 2-0 victory over AGP; however, it was ultimately not enough to move the team out of mid-table obscurity.



Premier Division 2022-2023	P	W	D	L	Pts
Malahide Utd.	20	13	6	2	45
Harding IF FC	21	11	6	4	39
Arthur Griffith Park	20	9	6	9	33
Shelbourne AFC	20	7	7	6	28
VEC F.C.	21	7	4	10	25
Coolock Village FC	20	7	4	9	25
Atletico Malahide	21	5	2	14	17
Rialto FC	20	5	1	14	16

In a season with only eight teams in that division, all teams had to play each other 3 times. Our bogey team was obviously Harding IF FC who were the only team to somehow beat us in our 3 league games – by a single

goal each time.



VEC 2nds had a strong squad and played in Division 2 and finished a very respectable and credible 3rd, behind the winners Fairview Celtic who were much too strong for this division winning 19 of their 20 league games and 2nd place Beech Park FC, who we beat twice in the league! We got knocked out by Strand Utd. in the Challenge Cup in November and then failed to reach the final of the Shield.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Points
Fairview Celtic	18	17	1	0	76	17	59	52
Beech Park FC	18	9	3	6	39	33	6	30
VEC FC 2nds	18	8	2	8	37	37	0	26

Cups (Half Empty)

The failure to defend either of our cup titles after winning the double last season was, unfortunately, a bitter pill to swallow for the VEC firsts.



We exited the Leinster Junior Cup 1-3 in the first round in Terenure in September to a strong Trim Celtic team, who went on to win this competition! We also sadly exited the FAI Junior Cup at the Round 2 stage against Verona FC in Terenure in October. Although leading 2-1 after 55 minutes with goals from Jay Hester and Tom Wrynn, we conceded four goals from Verona's four chances! In between these games, we lost to a strong Usher Celtic team in the Leinster Senior Cup.



In the Challenge Cup against Fairview Celtic in the Dublin Port Stadium in November, despite losing centre-back Neal Breslin for a 'last man' tackle shortly after half-time, the game went to extra-time, where Joey Byrne scored for VEC before Fairview equalised, bringing the game to the dreaded penalty shoot-out, where we missed one, and they scored their 5, knocking us out of the Cup! It was not a good day for VEC, as our 2nds were knocked out of the MMI Cup by Stedfast Utd.

In March, we exited the Richard Knight Cup away to Malahide Utd. And then we failed to reach the Shield final, after winning one but drawing two of our round-robin games.

AGM

The Club's 46th (& 47th & 48th) A.G.M. was held on Saturday 18th June 2022 from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm in Brady's Terenure.

[The 2020 & 2021 AGM's had both been cancelled due to Covid-19].

David Spring and Séamus Doherty were both elected unopposed as Chairman and Hon. Treasurer respectively for a 2-year term.

Joey Byrne and Conor Callaghan were elected unopposed as player representatives on the Committee.

The Presentation of Medals & Trophies took place immediately afterwards.

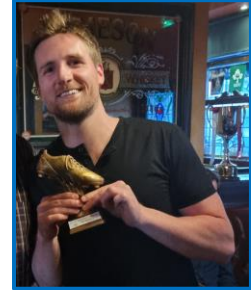




Awards

With most events cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, a function was never held to announce the **VEC Player-of-the-Year for 2019-2020**, so **Conall O'Shaughnessy** was presented belatedly with his award by VEC FC Chairman David Spring.

VEC Captain **Séamus Staunton** was voted **VEC Player-of-the-Year 2021-2022** by his team-mates. He was also joint top goalscorer for that season.



Conor Callaghan was voted **VEC 2nds Player-of-the-Year 2021-2022** by his team-mates. Also, with his award is the other **joint top goalscorer, Colm McSharry**.

Congratulations to all ... well deserved!

Golden Boot



Paddy Cook was the Club's top goal-scorer (2022-23) – 14 goals.



Congrats Paddy! Hat-tricks home to Dynamo Ridgewood in September and Lourdes Celtic in April helped of course.

Tom Wryne also scored a noteworthy hat-trick in the home match against Rialto FC in May.



The 2022-2023 players-of-the-year will be announced after the AGM.

In:

Antoine Dubigny, Gavin Jones, Evander Chatara, Luis Facundo Morales, Sean Lynch, Shane O'Connor, Chris O'Riordan, Liam Marshall, Alonso Houlihan, Andy Howell, Frank Nolan, Colm Honan (GK), Andy Nolan (GK), Eliseu Porto and Paul Smith who returned.

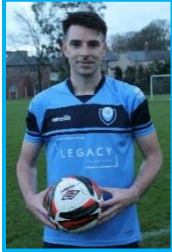
Out:

Conall O'Shaughnessy, Gav Murphy, Conor Tiernan (Spud), Jack Nolan, Jelle Brummelhuis, Alan Barry, Karl Reck, Brian O'Sullivan, Tim Gleeson (GK), and Conor O'Neill who moved to London to work for Sky News. Then, some who only managed a handful of games: Andy Smyth, Brian O'Reilly, Aidan Walsh, Richie Rye, Sean Morrin, Jack McGarry. We also said goodbye to Ronan Corbett who moved to Australia.



Achievements

200 Club



In his first start in nearly 3 months, **Aidan Hyland** returned to action for VEC in the Premier Division match against AGP FC in Terenure in April 2023 and then just 2 minutes into the 2nd half, scored VEC's first goal of the game and significantly, Aidan's 200th goal for the Club.

Everest

Congratulations to VEC's most versatile clubman, **Rob Newe**, who proved he had even more strings to his bow by hiking to Everest Base Camp at a height of 17,958 feet above sea-level.



Next Generation

Huge congratulations also go out to clubmen **Conall O'Shaugnessy, Neil Love, Simon Roche and Tom Wryne** who all welcomed new additions to their families over the course of the season! There is footballing pedigree in each child's DNA!

Celebrations

We received word of multiple weddings during the season:



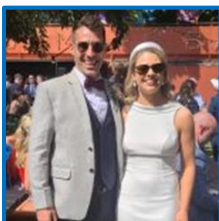
Joey Byrne with his beautiful bride Cara on their wedding day in November.

Former player **Marc Doherty**, pictured here with his lovely bride Rachel on their wedding day in February. Marc, who is a nephew of Séamus Doherty, played over 100 games for VEC between 2007 and 2014, scoring 41 goals along the way.



And former VEC player and quadruple winning manager **Kevin O'Hanlon** who married former Dublin football star Dr. Noelle Healy in a lavish summer wedding in the capital over the June bank holiday weekend. As reported on Independent.ie,

"the footballer's new husband looked suave, swapping a basic tux for a grey jacket and navy trousers".



Congratulations to all of you from all at VEC FC and to **Séamus Staunton and Tom Wryne and Dan Smyth** who also 'tied the knot'.



Annual Events

Unfortunately – again mainly due to Covid-19 – the annual VEC ‘Champions v Legends’ Match has not been held since 2019. In its place, a pre-season tournament in memory of the UCFL’s deceased president and former FAI President David Blood was held in July 2022. VEC 1sts reached the final, losing out to AGP Fc while the 2nds failed to reach the knock-out stage.



Similarly, the UCFL League Team and the Oscar Traynor inter-league competition didn’t materialise.

Our main fundraising source of income for the club Pick-a-Winner also, unfortunately, didn’t materialize but will return early in the new season.



Closing Notes

RIP

Sadly, former club member, mentor and friend Robbie Ebbs sadly passed away on 8th November 2022. He impressively managed VEC teams for five seasons in the 90s.

Thanks

Thanks again go to our **Honorary Treasurer** Séamus Doherty for his management and reconciling of the accounts (and to Noel Ryan for his management of the nets post-match on a Saturday).



Finally, as we enter our 50th anniversary year, thanks to absolutely everyone who has played a part in another season in the history of the club! Every single body that turns up to training, takes down a corner flag, minds the bibs, has a pint in Brady’s or shows up to cheer us on of a Saturday, your contribution to the club’s legacy and story is greatly appreciated.

Richie Hannify Hon. Secretary