



Annual Hon. Secretary's Report Season 2024/2025

Competition	Final Position
League	2nd
Challenge Cup	1st Round
FAI Junior Cup	3rd Round
LFA Junior Cup	1st Round
Richard Knight Cup	Quarter-Final
Shield	Group Stage

Management



As always, and first and foremost, a huge thank you to the managerial team who took the reins this season. **Keith Moloney** supported by Colly Power. This season was notable for the consistency and quality of training sessions and the attendance figures of the management team across the course of the season was astounding. As we note every season managers are very hard to come by at junior level and we are grateful to all involved for their effort and commitment.

Colly Power's playing and training record this season is a feat of dedication worth mentioning. Appearing in 27 of 28 games this season (even scoring a goal!) and training nearly 50 times is a phenomenal effort.





League

Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	Pts
1	St Marys FC	18	14	4	0	46
2	VEC FC	18	12	3	3	39
3	Harding FC 2nds	18	8	6	4	30
4	Glasnaion FC	18	8	4	6	28
5	Larkview FC	18	9	1	8	28
6	Boghall Rovers	18	7	4	7	25
7	Blackforge FC 2nds	18	5	4	9	19
8	Coolock Village FC	18	6	1	11	19
9	Malahide Utd 2nds	18	4	3	11	15
10	Shelbourne SSCFC	18	1	2	15	5

With both teams from last season merging, the new era of the VEC kicked off their season at home to Shelbourne SSC, running out comfortable 4-0 victors. Colin Power's first of many clean sheets this season. A strong 6-0 showing against Blackforge 2nds (Pat Meghan the stand out with a hattrick) and a 0-0 draw to eventual league winners St. Mary's, saw VEC pick up 7 points from a possible 9.

The unbeaten run would continue with a dominant win in the AUL complex vs Coolock Village and a cagey match vs old foes Malahide Utd away. This meant VEC were unbeaten in the league in the first two months of the campaign, putting morale through the roof in the camp.

Disaster would strike in November, however, with three defeats in a row to Glasnaion, Harding and Mary's. Suspensions, injuries and availability proving difficult to deal with.

As winter approached, the dreaded texts about games being called off became increasingly popular and after a disappointing November, a small break was welcomed by the lads. A bounce back was needed, and this came in the form of Blackforge. After a disappointing first half, a motivational half time team talk inspired a 7-1 drubbing and even Paddy Cook decided to grace us with his presence on the scoresheet for the first time this season.



The new year rang in with a renewed rivalry against Larkview in Whelan Park. Chances were few and far between the two, the game being played in the air by VEC and on the ground by Larkview. Paddy opened the scoring with a scrappy goal but the hosts equalised with a well worked goal earning Larkview the point in a 1-1 affair.

It wouldn't take long before the VEC were back to winning ways however, as they scored 19 goals in their next four matches and only conceding two. Pressure to be put on Mary's who had a number of games in hand on the men from Terenure.

The final game of the season came against Larkview at home in a highly anticipated game by both players and managers alike. VEC needed to keep putting pressure on Mary's and they did that with a comprehensive 2-0 win. Domination all over the pitch with lads wanting to break their backs for the team and leave everything out on that pitch to get three points. The most complete performance of the season, with brilliant leadership from senior players on the pitch to get us over the line in what was a hard-fought victory.

A valiant second place finish for the VEC behind an unbeaten Mary's team. Any other season and the points tally of 39 would be enough to win the league.

– Keith Maloney



Cups



VEC met first round exits in the LFA Junior Cup and Challenge Cup with narrow defeats to Blanchardstown Athletic and Glasnaoin respectively and the Richard Knight Cup run was ended by Ely Woodlawn at the Quarter Final stage after penalty shootout heroics by Colly Power in the previous round - saving 3 of 9 penalties in a dramatic 6-5 VEC victory.

The highlight of the cup competitions this year came in the FAI Junior Cup, where VEC beat Glasnevin comprehensively in the first round before a hard fought victory over Dublin Hospitals set up an interesting tie away to St. Francis. This match had it all. An offside goal, a sending off and even a dugout clash between managers. St. Francis ran out 3-0 winners seeing off 10 man VEC. An exciting cup run came to an end in unfortunate circumstances.

The shield was a disappointing affair with all looking promising after the shootout win against Harding at home. A disappointing loss to rivals Larkview, where the home team could not replicate their incredible league performance and lost 4-2. In the final game of the shield, a depleted VEC of only the bare 11, played St Mary's. A valiant effort and courageous performance from those involved that day and even a stunning strike from Jefferson De Castro, wasn't enough to get us over the line as Mary's were victorious.



Although there was no trophy to show for the season, it was full of highlights. Long unbeaten runs in the league, conceding only 17 goals in 17 games in the league campaign as well as two men named Patrick sharing the golden boot for the club.

– Keith Maloney





Awards

To be announced.

Golden Boot



Paddy and Pat are the Club's joint top goal-scorers for season 24/25!



15

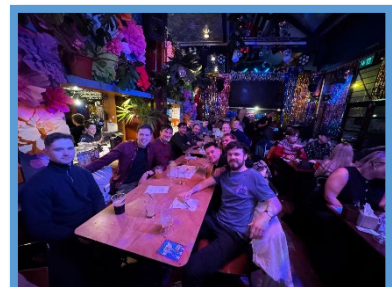
Congrats Paddy! Winning the Golden Boot for a third successive season and scoring double figures for the 4th season in a row (12,14,17,15).

Congrats Pat! Scoring multiple hattricks and passing the **100** goal mark for the club with a current running tally of 109 and this season matching his previous best goal tally of 15 back in 2013/14. Pat currently sits 9th in the club's all-time scoring ranks.

Social/Events

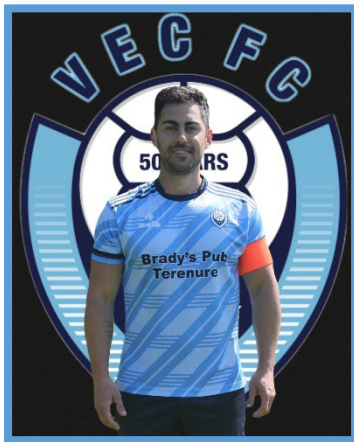


It was great to see the sense of comradery within the squad this season with a variety of nights out and a few additional bodies returning to Saturday drinks in our main sponsor Brady's Bar Terenure.





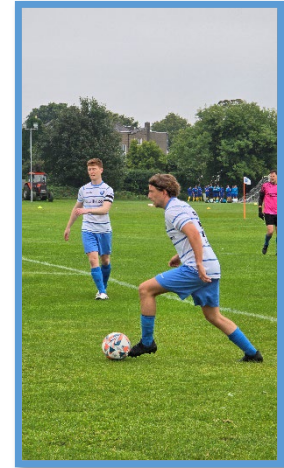
Good Byes



Squad exits for 2 flamboyant fullbacks this season with club character **Chris O’Riordan** and samba stalwart **Jefferson DeCastro (Jeff)** both leaving. These exits are bitter pills to swallow for the Club.

In 6 impressive seasons with VEC Jeff made a name for himself as the best full back in the UCFL, deservedly winning VEC POTY in 22/23 and amazing a selection of medals including winners medals in the Challenge Cup,

Richard Knight Cup and Premier Shield. Unfortunately for Jeff the League title he craved never materialised, finishing as a runner up in the Premier twice and this season in Division 1.



The club wishes both players the very best in the future.



Injuries

The ACL injury suffered by Conor Callaghan (Cally) early in the season was a huge blow to the club. Cally’s experience and leadership were greatly missed this season and we are all crossing our fingers that he will return in the coming season as good as new and ready to assert his influence once more.

Fundraisers



Our main fundraising source of income for the club, Pick-a-Winner, returned this season for two outings with former player **Peter O’Donoghue** winning **Round 1** before Christmas and former treasurers **Seamus Doherty** and **John Eager** crowned joint champs of **Round 2** at the end of May just gone.

A total of **165** entrants across the two competitions was a testament to the club members efforts and resulted in the club earning **EUR 1,604** which is a great return.

A huge thank you to Dave and Neil Spring once again for providing this excellent service to the club and for all the organisation and maintenance behind the scenes. Dave’s weekly reminder emails in particular were a god send for most participants!



FAI Club Mark

This season the FAI have introduced a 3 tiered system to makes clubs stronger and encourage best practices in governance, management and administration of clubs across the country.

All UCFL teams are required to achieve Club Mark “Entry Level” by the end of 2025.



This process is currently being worked through by the committee and going well.

In addition to existing FAI Connect diligence and club governance such as committee meetings and minute keeping, insurance etc., Club Mark requires a variety of new documents to be signed into effect and additional policies to be implemented.

These include:

- Club Bank A/C	- Parent Education Workshops
- Volunteer Recruitment Policy	- Designated Club Children’s Officer
- Publishing Goalpost Safety Guidelines	- Child Welfare Risk Assessment
- Letter of Support from the UCFL	- Child Safeguarding Statement and Policy
- Coach and Management Garda Vetting	

The committee will provide updates as necessary throughout the process.

Closing Notes

Thanks to our **Honorary Treasurer, Rob Newe**, in his first year in the role. His meticulous tracking of the club finances, his management and reconciling of the accounts and his instrumental role in arranging and communicating with the Council when securing Sean Walsh Park at such an affordable price, have all been invaluable contributions to everyone’s enjoyment of the year.

A special congratulations also to the **Chairman, Joey Byrne**, in his first year in the role. Joe’s attention to detail and drive to ensure a fair and enjoyable club is provided for all club members definitely injected new impetus into the committee this season.

Thank you also to **Dave Spring** who worked away in the background, even after his retirement, providing constant guidance to the committee, communicating with the League on our behalf when appropriate and regularly representing the club at League Meetings. His contributions, Pick-A-Winner aside, were greatly appreciated by the committee and reduced a tremendous deal of workload and admin for us.



Finally, as we reflect on our 51st season as a club, and what feels like a 1st year in many ways, I’d like to say thanks to absolutely everyone who has played a part in another season in the history of the club! The season was defined by the dedication and commitment of the management and a strong core of the squad and finishing 2nd in Division 1 is a great achievement that we can hopefully build on in 25/26!

Richie Hannify Hon. Secretary



Season 24/25 Statistics

Goals Scored - Season 2024/2025 and Total Prior to Current Season				
After 10 05 2025		Total for 2024/2025	Running Total	Total prior to this season
Meghen	Patrick	15	109	94
Cook	Paddy	15	58	43
Byrne	Joseph	7	259	252
Montsho	Tshepo	7	8	1
Lewis	Conor	5	8	3
Daubigny	Antoine	4	11	7
O'Connor	Shane	4	8	4
Nolan	Frankie	4	7	3
Newe	Rob	1	16	15
Love	Neill	1	11	10
DeCastro	Jefferson	1	11	10
Murphy	Ronan	1	10	9
Power	Colin	1	1	0
Skaar	Tarjei	1	1	0
Hanlon	Cian	1	1	0

2024-2025	Training (59)
Ciar McCormick	52
Colin Power	48
Joe Byrne	48
Sean Lynch	47
Frankie Nolan	44
Shane O'Connor	42
Tarjei Skaar	41
Pat Meghen	41
Cian Hanlon	39
Paul Langan	39
Paddy Cook	36
Paddy Legros	36
Neil Love	33
Rob Newe	32
Andy Hooke	32

	VEC 2024-2025	FULL GAME	Started & Subbed	As Sub	Not Used	Total Played In
	Score (VEC first):	X	XS	S		
1	Colin Power	26		1		27
2	Frankie Nolan	4	8	14		26
3	Seán Lynch	11	14			25
4	Joey Byrne	9	14	2		25
5	Shane O'Connor	21	3		1	24
6	Paddy Cook	20	1	2		23
7	Pat Meghen	11	11	1	1	23
8	Neill Love	20				20
9	Tshepo Montsho	7	11	2		20
10	Ronan Murphy	15	4			19
11	Rob Newe	13	5	1		19
12	Patrick Legros		3	16		19
13	Paul Langan	10	2	4	2	16
14	Antoine Daubigny	7	1	8	2	16
15	Ciar McCormick	2	2	10	9	14
16	Jeff De Castro	11		1		12
17	Tarjei Skaar	7		3	7	10
18	Conor Lewis		6	3	2	9
19	Cian Hanlon		3	6	2	9
20	James McClafferty	3	4			7
21	Emmanuel Mansuk	1		6	2	7
22	James Brennan			6	1	6
23	Jerry Clancy	2		3	1	5
24	Eoin Monaghan	2		2	6	4
25	Andy Hooke	2		1	2	3
26	Sergei O'Brien	1			3	1
27	Andy Howell			1	2	1
28	Swan Sweeney			1		1
29	Chris O'Riordan	6	1			7
30	Conor Callaghan		2	1		3
31	Richie Hannify	2			4	2