



**UCD Rugby Football Club**

# **19/20 YEARBOOK**

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# Welcome Message

Dear Member

On behalf of UCD RFC, I would like to welcome you to the UCD Bowl. We hope that 'Collidge' supporters, visiting teams and their supporters leave Belfield having enjoyed a positive experience in terms of the quality of rugby and the standard of hospitality. UCD Rugby Football Club is a very special place. It provides students with a myriad of different levels to play the game at and broadens their experience whilst in college. We are lucky that in addition to the excellent players within the Club we have a large group of loyal alumni who support the Club in many ways. I wish our Captain Jonny Guy and all of the players every success in the forthcoming season and I look forward to seeing you at the various matches and events throughout the season. In addition I would like to wish Director of Rugby, Bobby Byrne, Head Coach, Kevin Croke and various coaching teams within the Club all the very best for the coming season.

I extend to the Club's main sponsors Crowe, one of Ireland's leading audit, tax and advisory firms, our appreciation for their support and commitment and

also a special thanks to all of our event sponsors and supporters. While the success of the First XV is a significant priority for the Club, equally important is encouraging the participation throughout the U20 structure and Junior teams and in this regard it is crucial that rugby-playing students attending UCD are encouraged to play for UCD RFC.

The Club welcomes all, and I can guarantee you, to have played rugby in UCD is an honour which will stand for life and it is an opportunity that should not be missed.

There is a bar on campus upstairs in the Student Bar which is our Club House Bar. Everyone is welcome to the lunch before the AIL games or for a drink after the match and look forward to welcoming you all to the Clubhouse Bar during the season and thank you for your continuing support.

**David Carrigy**  
**Senior Vice President, UCD RFC**



## Tour Chairman Message

Dear Member

On behalf of UCD RFC and the Canada Tour Committee, I would like to echo the words of the President and welcome you to the UCD Bowl. I wish Club Captain Jonny Guy and all the players a successful season, building and consolidating on the significant progress that the Club has made over recent years under Director of Rugby, Bobby Byrne's stewardship. I would also like to wish the new Head Coach Kevin Croke and his assistant coaches Mark McGroarty and Brett Igoe the very best for the coming season.

I would like to thank all of those sponsors who have given generously so that this Yearbook could be produced and without whose support the Tour to Canada could not have happened. I would also like to acknowledge those participants from previous Collidge tours for their private contributions. The Tour was a fantastic success and the squad returned to Ireland unbeaten and enthusiastic for the challenges ahead.

I would like to thank the players, coaches and management for ensuring Collidge was represented with distinction in Canada. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the trojan work done by the Tour Manager, Shane Geraghty. The memories and friendships will last a lifetime for the 2019 Canadian touring squad.

I look forward to meeting you all in the Clubhouse during the season and reminiscing on a fantastic tour!

**Kevin Molony**  
**Chairman – Tour Committee**



## Message from Nicky Comyn – President of the Irish Rugby Football Union

On my own behalf and on behalf of the IRFU, I extend my best wishes to UCD RFC for the 2019-20 season and hope it is a successful one.

The start of this season heralds the staging of the Rugby World Cup in Japan and I know you join with me in wishing every success to coach, Joe Schmidt, and his management team, together with the Ireland playing squad.

This Rugby World Cup year creates a very busy season, taking account of Ireland's women 15s team; the under 20s; men's and women's sectors; the fortunes of our provincial clubs in the Guinness Pro14 and Heineken Champions Cup and also the myriad club, women's, third level and schools competitions through the grass roots landscapes.

While by its nature the professional game takes precedence on the International stage, the welfare of the domestic amateur game is of paramount importance to me and to the IRFU.

Having been chairman of the AIL and Third Level, I am acutely aware of the position of clubs and I take this opportunity to acknowledge the committed and critical role being played by our huge number of volunteers, who make it all happen.

I greatly welcome the IRFU's signing of a five year partnership with Energia, which sees the electricity and gas supply company become the official energy partner to Irish rugby and also title sponsor of both the men's and women's All Ireland League competitions.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the AIL and the support being demonstrated by Energia is timely. It will hopefully give a lift to all clubs in the AIL, both men and women.

I appreciate the struggles of some clubs at all levels and hope this season 2019-20 will be a special one. I wish your club, its members, volunteers, players and supporters every success and enjoyment for the rugby year.

**Nicky Comyn – President IRFU**

Nicky Comyn elected 131st President of the Irish Rugby Football Union

Nicholas (Nicky) Comyn was enrolled as the 131st President of the Irish Rugby Football Union at the annual Council Meeting in the Aviva Stadium today, July 19th, 2019.

He has been elected to fill the highest office in Irish rugby after a long and distinguished contribution to the game as a player, referee and administrator.

Synonymous with Sunday's Well RFC, he has created a piece of club history by becoming the first member since the club's foundation in 1906 to be elected President of the IRFU.

A measure of his contribution to Sunday's Well is that he held the office of club President on three occasions, most notably in the club's Centenary Year of 2006.

Born in Mallow where he attended the local National school and played Gaelic football and hurling before moving on to Clongowes Wood College where he was introduced to rugby, he played rugby with his native Mallow, UCD, Palmerston and Cork Constitution, and was capped frequently by Munster as a junior inter provincial centre/wing between 1966 and 1970.

Following his playing days he was a member of the Munster Association of Referees between 1979 and 1984.

A delegate on the Munster Branch from 2006 to 2017, he was elected President in the 2008 – 2009 season which coincided with the opening of the re-built Thomond Park Stadium.

A solicitor by profession, he has held a variety of key roles on the IRFU having been elected to the Committee in 2011, including as Chairman of the All Ireland League sub Committee, the Third Level Game Committee, the Junior Working Party and of the Women's Advisory Group.

Married to Laura, he has four children: Keith, Amanda, Nicole and Horace.



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## Message from Naoise Cosgrove

**Crowe, Club Sponsors of UCD RFC**



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## **Proud to be supporting the development of extraordinary talent.**

Crowe is delighted to be celebrating its seventh season as official club sponsor of UCD RFC and we remain extremely proud of our long-standing association with Collidge.

Just as UCD RFC strives to develop extraordinary talent within their club, we too are focussed on the training and development of our staff to help them build extraordinary careers with Crowe. For over 75 years we have developed a successful accountancy and business advisory practice by finding, nurturing and promoting talented people.

We recognise the extraordinary achievement and enviable reputation the club has held over the years in fostering and nurturing emerging players. The club values of commitment and integrity are

demonstrated time and time again on and off the field. It is this dedication to achievement which inspires our staff and closely aligns with our own firm ethos.

Each season, players, coaches and volunteers dedicate their time and efforts to ensure that rugby thrives across all levels. Our staff continue to be impressed and motivated by the passion we see.

Crowe wishes you all every success for the 2019/20 season.

**Naoise Cosgrove**  
Managing Partner, Crowe



## A Message from our Sponsor

**enErgia**



**IRFU Official Energy Partner**

We at Energia are extremely proud to have further strengthened our commitment to Irish rugby by becoming the Official Energy Partner to the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) and title sponsor of the Energia All-Ireland Leagues (AIL). Through our five-year partnership, we are committed to supporting rugby at all levels through the teams, clubs and competitions the breadth of the nation.

Energia understands the value of the AIL and the importance of fostering and nurturing Irish rugby clubs so that collectively we can continue to build world-class international teams. We look forward to working closely with the IRFU over the coming years to help facilitate the future development of rugby in communities up and down the country through our new campaign #PositiveEnergy.

Through the #PositiveEnergy campaign, we will be offering tools and supports to help Irish rugby clubs reach their sustainability goals. For so many players

and fans, the journey and passion begins at their local club and Energia wants to ensure the future of these clubs. If we can help them to become sustainable, the clubs can re-invest in grassroots, ultimately developing the next generation of players, coaches and volunteers.

This is an exciting time for Energia. We are passionate about investing positive energy in rugby, from grassroots level with the Energia All-Ireland Leagues, to provincial level as the Official Energy Partner of Leinster Rugby and our stadium at Energia Park, all the way to the highest level of the Irish Men's and Women's teams.

On behalf of Energia, I would like to wish all club and international teams the very best of luck for the upcoming season.

**Gary Ryan**  
**Managing Director**  
**Energia Customer Solutions**

# UCD RFC First XV Fixtures 2019/2020

## Energia All Ireland League

(all times 2:30pm unless otherwise indicated)

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**Saturday 5 October, 2019** - Lansdowne FC – Aviva Stadium

---

**Saturday 12 October, 2019** - DUFC (Trinity) – Belfield Bowl

---

**Saturday 19 October, 2019** - Ballynahinch RFC - Ballymacarn Park

---

**Saturday 2 November, 2019** - Young Munster RFC – Belfield Bowl

---

**Saturday 9 November, 2019** - Clontarf FC – Castle Avenue

---

**Friday 15 November, 2019 (7:30pm)** - Terenure College RFC – Belfield Bowl

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**Saturday 30 November, 2019** - UCC RFC – The Mardyk

---

**Saturday 7 December, 2019** - Cork Constitution RFC – Temple Hill

---

**Saturday 14 December, 2019** - Garryowen FC – Belfield Bowl

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**Saturday 11 January, 2020** - Garryowen FC – Dooradoyle

---

**Saturday 25 January, 2020** - Cork Constitution RFC – Belfield Bowl

---

**Saturday 15 February, 2020** - UCC RFC – Belfield Bowl

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**Friday 21 February, 2020 (7:30pm)** - Terenure College RFC - Lakelands

---

**Saturday 29 February, 2020** - Clontarf FC – Belfield Bowl

---

**Saturday 14 March, 2020** - Young Munster RFC – Tom Clifford Park

---

**Saturday 21 March, 2020** - Ballynahinch RFC – Belfield Bowl

---

**Thursday 26 March, 2020 (7:30pm)** – DUFC (Trinity) – College Park

---

**Saturday 18 April, 2020** - Lansdowne FC – Belfield Bowl (Sutherland Cup)

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**Trustees** Prof Peter Clarke Adrian Burke

**President** David Carrigy (from 01/01/2020)

**Vice President** TBC

**Immediate Past President** Ambrose O'Sullivan

**Director of Rugby** Bobby Byrne

**Club Captain** Jonny Guy

**Honorary Secretary** Eunan Hession

**Honorary Treasurer** Kenny Forde

**Junior Treasurer** Jodie Gardiner

**Freshman Secretary** Jack Coolican

**Partners' Admin** JP Donnelly

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**Website/Social Media** TBC

**Rep to Leinster Branch** Billy Murphy

**Reps to UCD AUC** David Carrigy,

Eunan Hession

**Club Administrator** John Hammond



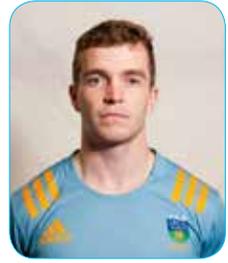
Alec Byrne



Alex O'Grady



Alex Penny



Andrew Boland



Bobby Sheehan



Chris Egan



Clan Reilly



Colm Mulcahy



David Heavey



David Moran



David Ryan



Emmet Burns



Jack O'Donnell



Jack Ringrose



James Tarrant



Jonnie Fairley



Andy Marks



Ben Horgan



Ben Murray



Bobby Leahy



Conor O'Flynn



Dan Coughlan



Dan O'Donovan



Darragh Coyle



Eoin Barr



Evin Coyle



Faolan Crowe



Jack Gardiner



Jonny Guy (Captain)



Kyle Cahir



Lorcan Feighery



Mark Fleming



Mark Smith



Matt Gilsean



Nick Peters



Richie Bergin



Ronan Foley



Rory Mulvihill



Sam Corrigan



Sam Griffin



Sean McNulty



Stephen McVeigh



Steven Kilgallen



Tim Carroll



Tim Costigan



Tom Foley



Tom Treacy



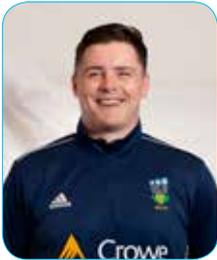
Cillian Duff - Under  
20B Head Coach



Ian Wyse - Under  
20A Head Coach



Jake Sullivan -  
Under 20 Analyst



Ken Murray - Under  
20A Team Manager



Kieran Moloney -  
Under 20A Forwards  
Coach



Robin Reidy - Under  
20 S&C Coach



Sean Townsend -  
Under 20B Coach



**Bobby Byrne -  
Director of Rugby**



**Clive Kennington -  
First XV Video  
Analyst**



**Daragh Geraghty -  
J1 Coach**



**Kevin Croke - Head  
Coach First XV**



**Mark McGroarty -  
Forwards Coach  
First XV**



**Niall McNelis - First  
XV Physio**



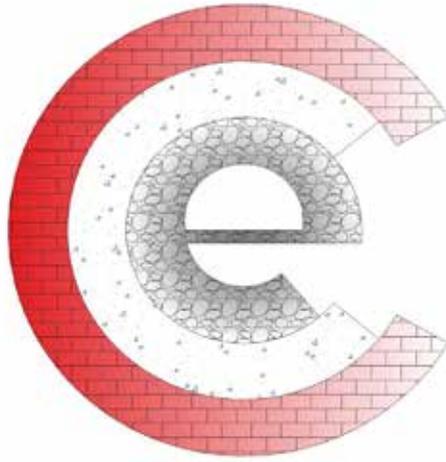
**Pete Herangi -  
J1 Coach**



**Daibhi O'Leary - First  
XV Team Manager**



**Shane Geraghty  
- First XV Team  
Manager**



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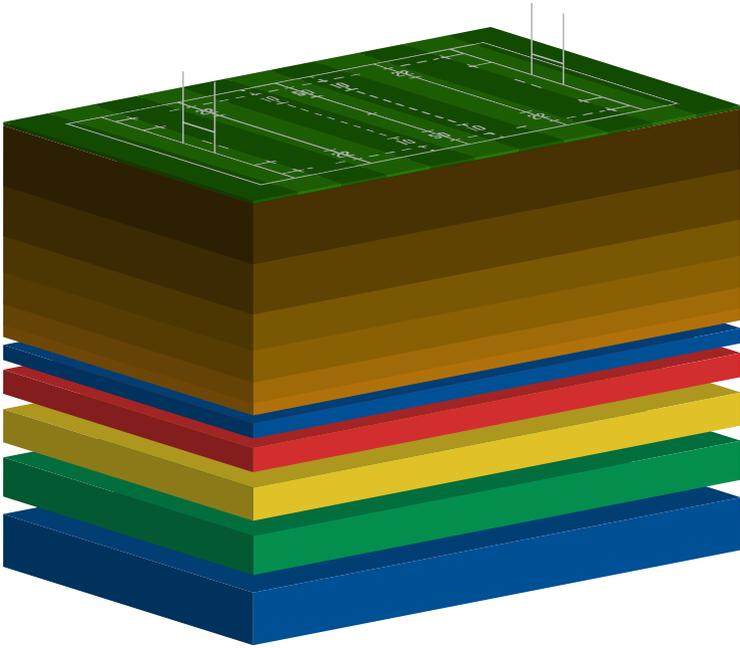
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# 'If we get a good performance, then we'll tolerate the outcome'

## Head coach Kevin Croke speaks to Ruaidhri O'Connor ahead of his first season in charge.

KEVIN CROKE may be UCD's new first team head coach, but he is a familiar figure to most match-goers at the Bowl.

The Kildare native first arrived on campus in 2001, starring for a talented U-20s side before making the step up to the top team and captaining the club, while representing Ireland at Sevens and club international level.

After a season at St Mary's, he hung up his boots and spent time working as a strength and conditioning performance coach for a number of intercounty GAA teams, including Jim Gavin's Dublin, before returning to the St Patrick's blue and saffron in 2015 to coach the forwards.

It soon became clear to him that his playing days would only get him so far when recent graduate of the U-20s innocently asked 'did you play yourself?'

Croke laughs as he recalls the moment his cache disappeared before his own eyes, but having lived the experience most of his players are going through right now he does have a useful insight into the trials and tribulations of playing for UCD.

"It comes back to when you get to know the players and chat to the players and they realise that you're not somebody

just coming in to do a job, it's somebody who has been through the route they're on, the process," he says with a smile.

"When you get to recognise and reward some of the lads who have been there for a while, sometimes it opens up a conversation about how long you were there.

"Some guys think it's great, some don't care and I suppose it's a bit mixed."

When Andy Skehan moved on at the end of last season, Croke was the obvious candidate to step up and take the reins.

He's been on the sidelines for four seasons of Energia All Ireland League Division 1A action and, while the playing personnel has evolved as it does for any Collidge team, he is aware of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the team this season.

"The last couple of years we've had really good numbers out, we've had a very enthusiastic coaching group, really clear ideas about how we play the game," he says.

"The couple of things we might change is not so much around the detail, but the intent.

"UCD is about running rugby, we want to try and move the ball.

"There are challenges with that, but the intent would be to try and move the ball and get into a bit more space.



*Head Coach, Kevin Croke plating for Collidge against Dungannon*

"We were really good at controlling and keeping the ball over the last few years, but sometimes that can walk you into the defensive strong-suits and so for a team of young players that can sometimes be a challenge.

"We'll be trying to push the ball around a bit more, we definitely have a structure that we want to play to with a lot of licence to bounce out of that and play what's in front of you."

While he's ambitious, Croke believes it would be futile to get too hung up on league finishing positions.

"I think we also had a big push on setting goals that were really ambitious to get into the top four and that's probably the easy answer as a goal," he explains.

"Every team wants to win it, to get into

the top four. From a coaching side, we're trying to get them to have actions, behaviours and intent that will lead us there if we do well.

"From a players' side, it's about believing in what you're good at, doing the things you do well and play with good intent and if we do that often enough and get a little bit of luck we'll pick up the wins that should get us to that top four.

"It's much more about our process and performance than about the outcome."

As a former UCD player who has coached within the club for a couple of years, he knows the challenges that his charges face on a daily basis.

"The first thing is that most of the players have significant academic challenges that we have to be conscious of. If you're at

another club, the lads might have exams but the club doesn't really have to care about it," he says.

"For what some clubs put into their playing members, there's an expectation that that has to be returned in terms of playing availability, performance, etc.

"We are very aware of the academic demands on the players, we need to be sensitive to it and understand it.

"I think the other good thing is we've a lot of ambitious players, a lot of players who come into UCD and end up in the professional set-up; whether it's the sub-academy, academy or the professional ranks and managing that is difficult.

"You've players coming in and out. At times you've fellahs who might be a bit disappointed with their progress and that's a good issue to have, to have players who are that ambitious is a great thing, but managing it is difficult.

"We tend to have a turnover of players. Because we have a lot of players attending college, a lot of those guys have professional careers to pursue, some guys will go abroad and relocate because of work so that turnover of key players is part of the fun and excitement of what makes UCD different.

"It also creates a lot of opportunity for fellahs to push through."

With a strong squad and a new, ambitious coaching ticket of Croke, Mark McGroarty and Brett Igoe, there is excitement about what Collidge can achieve in 2019/20.

And the head coach is hoping he can make the UCD Bowl an entertaining place to come and watch rugby this season and, even if things won't be perfect all of the time, he's hoping the supporters will get behind his young team.

"We're going to try and play some ambitious rugby, it will be a learning curve to try and get where we want to be,"

It won't be an immediate fix, but when they see the ambitious rugby shout and roar, let the lads know that it was some good stuff. To be patient with it and to know that what we're looking for is performance.

"If we get a good performance, then we'll tolerate the outcome.

"Obviously, you want to change those outcomes and there will be little moments in a game that can define the outcome - you can miss a kick or a tackle - but if the performance in general was OK then we'll handle those little moments and try and improve them.

"We're not going to get hung up on the outcome dictating the performance."

# UCD Golf Day





## **Best wishes to UCD RFC for the 2019/2020 season**

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## The trip of a lifetime



### Episode One

On 5 August, 2019, players from the UCD RFC Senior Squad assembled in Terminal One of Dublin Airport ready for the trip of a lifetime.

Thirty-seven players and nine coaches and management travelled to Toronto where we were to be joined by three more players, our team physio and doctor. After some logistical and visa issues were resolved, the squad passed through security without much interruption and the keepers of the tour mascots were appointed. JJ Landers and Rory Corr performing their roles admirably throughout.

The University of Toronto, St. Michael's College was to become our home for the next five days. The accommodation was top class.. We were met in St. Mike's by Paul Connolly of Ontario Rugby who kindly provided us with rugby balls and hit shields and showed us around the vast campus. On the first evening, the squad assembled for a light training session to run the tiredness from the legs. The surroundings for our initial training session on tour were stunning.

It was decided that it was necessary to blow off some of the cobwebs and, so, we headed for Niagara Falls. 90 minutes later, we boarded the Niagara Jetboat - a large, very powerful, very fast boat which goes up and down the Niagara Gorge through its rapids and standing waves and in the process, manages to give passengers an involuntary bath!



The coaches announced the team for the forthcoming games the following day in Fletcher's Field against Toronto Barbarians and Ontario Under 23s.

The clash with the Barbarians was a lively affair played in very good spirit but Collidge ran out comfortable winners (60-0) with big performances from Luke Moloney, Steve McVeigh, Chris Egan Tim Costigan, JJ Landers and Darragh Coyle to mention but a few.

We were all welcomed into the clubhouse for food and a few drinks. The lads were on form with pegs and tour cards in widespread circulation. Unfortunately, the squad were defeated in the boat race in the nearby watering hole, the only defeat of the tour.

The squad reconvened in Mullin's Bar on Bay Street for post-match analysis and compulsory Mass.



with seventeen roller coasters... just the type of thing a large group of rugby players need after a Choir Session in Mullin's Bar.

After an afternoon of riding roller coasters and racing down waterslides, it was back to St. Mike's for dinner and an evening training session. With tired bodies all around and training scheduled for Friday morning, the rest of the evening was left over to relaxing and mending sore bodies from the day before.

On Friday, training was moved to a new common area in the middle of the University of Toronto with magnificent buildings and views of the CN Tower. We were carrying a few knocks from the games on Wednesday but thankfully noting serious. After training, we departed for a tour of CN Tower, before it was time for lunch and then back to St. Mike's in preparation for the evening's group activity.



## Episode Two

Thursday morning came around far too quickly for many and after breakfast everyone assembled in preparation for the journey to Canada's Wonderland, a 134-hectare (330-acre) theme park and

After dinner and before departing for Rogers Centre to watch the Toronto Blue Jays play the New York Yankees, we were delighted to welcome veteran tourist, World Rugby legend and Senior Vice-President David Carrigy. The player's Social Committee had mandated that the



mandatory dress code for the evening would be 'double denim' aka. They entered Rogers Centre to cheers of "Lets' Go Blue Jays". Unfortunately there were some light and frothy showers during the game but thankfully it didn't in any dampen the enthusiasm or enjoyment of the evening.

After leaving Rogers Centre, the squad were treated to some incredible percussion playing outside by a local musician which resulted in a poor unsuspecting passer-by enjoying bumps while the squad gave a rendition of the Yerawaddi...it was a hugely enjoyable evening.

Saturday was our last day in Toronto and after a later than usual start, we travelled by boat to Centre Island which a large island in Lake Ontario where the team could swim, have lunch and get fantastic photos of the Toronto skyline.

On Sunday we travelled to Kingston, Ontario for our next set of games. Queen's University is one of Canada's oldest universities and was founded in 1841. Nixon Field is the home of rugby in Queens and is a very picturesque all-weather pitch in the heart of the campus.

The first game against Toronto started in





a lively fashion with both teams looking to play positive rugby, Collidge got on the scoresheet first and managed to put a stranglehold on the game. Captain fantastic Eoin Daly led the troops and dominated the line out. Scrums were solid and gave the backs a strong platform to play off. Chris Hennessy, Rob Byrne, Lorcan Feighrey and Chris Egan all bagged two tries and Jack O'Donnell showed a positive return with the goal kicking. Eventually Collidge ran out comfortable winners.

Game two against Ontario Under 23s saw both sides push hard in the opening exchanges but through strong performances at the ruck and set-piece, The pack performed strongly, with Emmet Burns and Steve McVeigh making their presence felt. In the back division, James Tarrant and David Moran pulled the strings with Tim Costigan providing additional support. Player of the day was

however Steve Kilgallen who managed to pocket three tries. Rob Keenan (PKs son) and skipper Jonny Guy scored as Collidge ran out 66-5 winners.

We headed for The Pilot House Bar for the post-match reception. We were welcomed there by Mike Gallagher (former Collidge player), Bill Webb (Toronto Arrows owner) and Paul Connolly from Ontario rugby. The hospitality shown was fantastic and the squad enjoyed plenty of food and songs and the occasional beer.

### **Episode 3**

Monday morning, the squad assembled after breakfast and we left Kingston around midday bound for St. Anne de Bellevue – a small hamlet at the southern end of the Island of Montreal.

The squad were being billeted to players and families of St. Anne's rugby club and, thankfully, the mastermind of the



billeting arrangements was local St. Anne legend Marty Silverstone. I am sure Marty is now considered a legend among the tour squad for his incredible hospitality.

Training completed, the squad returned to their billets before meeting in "Cousies", the unofficial clubhouse for St. Anne rugby where he had arranged for the squad to go on a Poutine Tour of some of the hot spots of St. Anne.

Tuesday was largely a day to take it easy in preparation for the evening's match against St. Anne and Marty had very generously arranged for the squad to have the use of a nearby watersports centre where they could paddleboard and swim in the St. Lawrence River, before he hosted a barbeque.

Playtime over, it was time to get organised for the game against St. Anne. Before the warm -up, some of the coaches and players enjoyed a game of

touch rugby between the women's and men's teams in St. Anne.

Then, the real business started and it immediately became clear that Collidge were not going to have things all their own way against a very well drilled and determined St. Anne's side who were using the fixture as a test for their forthcoming finals week.

The opening exchanges were full blooded, but after 10 minutes, Collidge finally got onto the score-sheet and Alex O'Grady used his pace to get over the line with Luke Maloney adding the extras. Collidge started to dominate after some strong carries by Mark Fleming, Richie Bergin and the ever present in open space Rob Byrne. The lineout was operating well with Bobby Leahy and Jack Gardiner doing damage in the first half and Eoin Daly and Rory Corr in the second. Further tries by Alex O'Grady, Tim Costigan and Luke Maloney put the game beyond doubt. The game also served as an opportunity for U-20 Coach Cillian Duff to once again pull on the St. Patrick's Blue after a long sabbatical and he even managed to get a conversion on his return!

Afterwards, it was back to Cousies for the post-match reception where once again, Marty and the St. Anne club had organised a huge spread of food for the squad. It was again an incredible display of hospitality and one which we look forward to reciprocating sometime in the future.

Wednesday was moving day again and brought us to our last stop on Tour;



McGill University where we played our final game against Montreal Irish.

The pitch was a little rustic, but as the evening sun was shining on our last full day in Canada, we enjoyed the moment. The result of the game was in doubt right up until the final minute and thankfully



Collidge managed to pull off a win in a very disjointed and somewhat frantic match. In the fading light, the squad gathered for photos with the team from Montreal and enjoyed a few beers which had been generously provided by our hosts. All that remained was for us to board the bus back to McGill and let the squad to prepare for the mandatory court session, scheduled for 8.30pm that evening.

Unfortunately, owing the requirements of the UCD RFC Official Secrets Act, the proceedings of the court session were held in camera. Once the court session was adjourned, the squad had the opportunity to go and see the sights and sounds of Montreal while members of the management team decided that it was time to stop pretending we were 23 years of age and try and get some sleep!



Thursday was time for the last adventure on tour. The players jumped in taxis bound for the port of Montreal, before boarding a jetboat to take on us on a tour of the St. Lawrence River. This time, getting wet wasn't an option and despite the significant attempts at upselling by the owner, it was decided that it was a dry tour or none at all!

Organising a rugby tour is not an easy undertaking and requires a huge amount of work in the background to make it happen but when the day comes that the tour happens, while the preparations are vital to ensure the smooth running, it is the players who make the tour special. The 2019 UCD RFC Tour to Canada was the largest tour by number of personnel the Club has ever undertaken and the schedule of matches, training and activities was relentless but when the tiredness faded, one could only think back to how exciting and enjoyable it was.

Ultimately, tours are about the players and the coaches and management ensure that the players get the most from it whilst at the same time providing a well organised environment for them to do this. It was an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to work with this squad of players and to have their wholehearted buy-in into the tour and their support in making it happen. From their involvement pre-tour in paying deposits to organising ads in yearbooks, they were fantastic. On tour, the players, led by Jonny Guy represented the club with distinction and pride and the club can be safe in the knowledge that many of those who toured with UCD in 2019 will become in time, the next generation of leaders of this great club.

All that remains is to wish the Players, the Coaches and the Management all the very best for the coming season. I hope the foundations established in Canada translate into positive returns and look forward to a very successful season for Collidge both on and off the pitch.

*Wishing Captain Jonny Guy and all  
involved in UCD RFC all the very best  
for the upcoming season*

*Colm Condon S.C.  
Colm@colmcondonsc.com*

*Ad Astra*

# First XV – Season in review

The First XV had a disappointing start to the season in September 2018 with early losses in the Leinster League to Terenure and St. Mary's before clawing a win back against Naas and then suffering a further loss against Clontarf. Not the ideal start when the first game of the All Ireland League would be a Dudley Cup match against UCC. Thankfully, the opening ALL match against the university rivals from Cork went in Collidge's favour (39-208) in a thrilling game and Club Captain Alex Penny lifting some early season silverware. Next up was an away fixture in College Park against Trinity. Never an easy fixture and so it proved. The result ended in a draw 23-23 and Collidge were unhappy to draw a game we could have won. The games don't get any easier in the ALL and Lansdowne arrived in Belfield looking for a win after losing their first two games of the season. Unfortunately, the result didn't go our way and Lansdowne ended up winning 20-6. A trip to Dooradoyle beckoned next for Alex Penny and the team to play Garryowen who were in reasonable form having won two of three games. Against the odds, Collidge travelled to Limerick and came home with a bonus point win (31-19) in the bag. Collidge then made the journey to Castle Avenue to play Clontarf and as always the fixture was hugely contested but Collidge ended up on the wrong side of the score sheet (17-6). Back in Dublin again on the run into Christmas and Cork Con arrived in healthy shape and they played well in difficult conditions in Belfield and ran out comprehensive winners (31-3). 1 December and we

are back in Limerick, this time to play Young Munster. The game was hugely entertaining and once again, it seemed that every time Collidge scored, the Cookies scored straight back. The game ended up in a high scoring draw (34-34) with both sides getting try bonus points as well. Collidge got back to winning ways in the pre-Christmas window with a 31-3 win over Terenure in the Bowl but suffered a setback with a loss the following week to Shannon in a very wet and very windy Thomond Park. Collidge finished the first part of the season with 3 wins, 2 draws and 5 losses.

2019 began with the return fixture against Shannon in Belfield and unfortunately, the result didn't go our way (20-24). Terenure compounded the post-Christmas blues with a comprehensive win in Lakelands (49-21) and it's fair to say this was not the ideal start to 2019. Things got back on track with a win against the Cookies in Belfield (33-31) with bonus points against being the order of the day and the game proving another great advertisement for ALL rugby. Following on from the win against Young Munster, Collidge travelled to Temple Hill to play Cork Con. Against all odds, Collidge pulled off a spectacular win 27-22 against a strong 'Con side which gave everyone a huge lift going into the spring. Unfortunately the next four games resulted in losses to Clontarf (17-26), Garryowen (24-14), Lansdowne (57-31) and Trinity in the Colours Match (18-12). All this meant that possible relegation games were on the cards for the last day of the season and Collidge

looking down the barrel of the trip to UCC. The game in the Mardyke was a tense affair as both sides had a lot to play for. With the last kick of the game, Collidge earned a draw which resulted in Collidge being safe and unknown to the UCC team, UCC managed also to stay up thanks to results going favourably elsewhere. A reasonable (6th in the AIL) if not stellar season complete, it was time for a break and the preparations for the forthcoming Tour to Canada.

Thanks to all those involved in the First XV in 2018/2019 and in particular thanks to coaches Andy Skehan and John Coffey for their contribution over the last three years. We wish them all the very best in their next challenge and look forward to welcoming them back to Belfield soon. Thanks to Alex Penny for his leadership throughout the season and best of luck to Jonny Guy for the coming season.

---

## J1 Report

The J1s fortunes tending to run in tandem with the First XV with six wins and seven losses and finished 4th after good run towards the end of the season. A home and away double win over both Trinity and Clontarf were particular

highlights. Thanks to all involved with the J1s last season and in particular the coaches Pete Herangi and Jules Moroney and Manager Cormac Kavanagh for their commitment week-in week-out.





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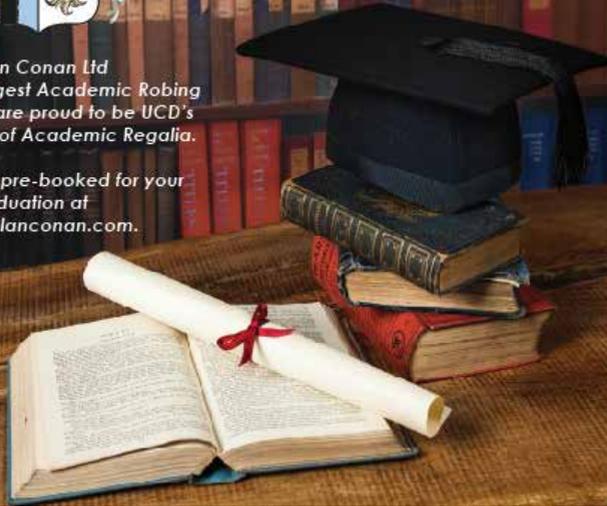
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# Junior Rugby review

## J2s

The J2s had a very tough season which was made harder by player availability issues. The League campaign saw wins against eventual league winners Malahide, St. Mary's and back to back wins against Rathdrum and Collidge J2s ended the season in 5th place in the league. The Cup campaign saw Collidge make the semi-final of the Moran Cup where they were unfortunately beaten in a very close game against league winners Malahide. The J2s were well coached by UCD stalwart Eoin Daly and the squad have got the league campaign off to a flyer with a recent win against Rathdrum. The season will pose challenges with some of the Dad's Army brigade moving off the parade ground but no doubt those players coming up to the Junior Club from the Under 20s will easily bolster the squad for the coming season.

## J4s

The J4s also had a season of tough fixtures and near wins, Having gone up a division last season, the challenge was always going to be a difficult one. Seapoint and Tallaght proved to be the strongest teams in Division 7 of the Metro League and at the end of the season it was simply points difference that separated them. The league campaign was not what the squad had hoped but expectations are high for the coming season. The squad took part in the Irish Universities Maughan-Scally Competition and were unfortunately beaten by Coleraine in the final. The ambition being to bring the Cup home next season. The season will pose challenges but again with new players coming up to the Junior Club from the Under 20s will help build the squad for the coming season.

## Junior Rugby Dates for the Diary

**Friday 18th October, 2019** – Pick Night (J2s v Welsey in Thornfield at 8pm)

**Saturday 9th November, 2019** – Hawaiian Shirt Day (UCD First XV v Clontarf)

# Short U-20: Room to improve, but Colours regained

U-20s review with Ian Wyse

Although we regained the U20 Colours trophy the 2018/2019 U20 season was a disappointing one for the College U20's.

A slow start to the league campaign meant we were never able to launch a sustained challenge for the JP Fanagan League, but after turning our form around after the Christmas break with dominant league wins against Trinity & Lansdowne and a tense victory over league champions Clontarf we had hoped to challenge for the two cup competitions.

The league win over Trinity allowed us to regain the U20 colours trophy as we

overturned the deficit of the first match where Trinity ran out worthy winners in College Park. Third position in the league secured our place in the Fraser McMullen competition & automatic qualification for the JP Fanagan premier division for this coming season.

Unfortunately the inconsistent performances resurfaced when it mattered most and we bowed out to Lansdowne in the McCorry Cup & UCC in Fraser McMullen Cup.

Lessons were learned from the 2018/2019 season and as we enter the 2019/2020 season we hope to have a far more successful season.

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# Womens Rugby Review

On 10th September 2018, 100 women, including new players and old, joined David Dunne, Alice O'Callaghan, Ultan McAdam and Jack O'Dea on the R1 pitch to start the new season. From the start there was a sense of something special to come. Club Captain, Sarah Glynn, lead from the start, eagerly supported by Alice "Beans" O'Dowd, Alix Cunneen and several others the standard was set for the season and expectations were made.

The Senior team came together quickly and produced a number of brilliant performances to finish second in the SSI League which was their best finish to date. A tough loss against DCU was what split the two teams at the top of the league table. The Junior team participated in the IRFU X7s Tournament where they walked away as champions for the second year in a row.

After Christmas, and eager to improve on the strong league performance, we competed in the Kay Bowen Intersvarsity's where the team suffered a close loss in the final to DCU. The team travelled to UL in the semi-final of the SSI Cup to

face a team out for revenge following their loss at home to UCD in the league. In tough conditions UL took advantage of some early pressure to open an early lead. Although we fought valiantly, we could not close the early gap.

Next up was the Colours with the sun shining down on the Bowl (before the heavens opened), the women took to the pitch to face Trinity's Leinster Division 3 team. In a tough contest with some brilliant rugby played by both teams, UCD edged Trinity to retain the Colours trophy again.

A special thanks to all the players involved with club and to Alice, Ultan, Jack, Kevin Croke, Bobby Byrne and everyone else involved in UCD Womens Rugby for another succesful season. Its great to see the club going from strenght to strenght. Special shout out to two stalwarts of the Club, Ali Coleman and Christine Coffey, who represented their provinces in the Women's Interpros. Ali was apart of the winning Leinster side and Christine represented Munster.







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## From Russia with love

**Former Collingdale winger and World Cup star Vasily Artemyev has fond memories of his time with UCD**

*'I had my best season in my final year in UCD. I found a little more freedom, I enjoyed it more'*

Vasily Artemyev is a folk hero in two separate parishes. The Russian teenager was on course to play international rugby for Ireland until rules and regulations over residency were enforced. In an interview with the Irish Times' Gavin Cummiskey at the World Cup, the former UCD flyer reflects on his career

**Gavin Cummiskey:** You played with and against my cousin?

**Vasily Artemyev:** Andy Cummiskey, I know yeah. We roomed together on a Leinster schools tour and we played together for UCD. You look like him.

**GC:** An older version. He told me a rumour about when you first arrived on the scene, your childhood as a ballerina in Russia was why you were such an athletic and balanced runner?

**VA:** I did a couple of months of ballet. My granddad's younger sister was a renowned ballerina, Maria Bylova. She was a star in the Bolshoi Theatre. Herself and her husband are ballet directors now. I tried it at six-years-old.

**GC:** Where did you go after leaving UCD in 2009?

**VA:** I joined up with the VVA outside Moscow. They were professional by Russian standards. My friends were already in the national squad. I liked the idea of playing at the 2011 World Cup.

**GC:** What are your memories of the try against Ireland in 2011?

**VA:** It was so fast. I nearly lost my footing when I skipped past Rob, but I wasn't going to pass.

**GC:** Rob Kearney was this huge figure in your teenage life?

**VA:** Everyone talked about him. Myself and Luke [Fitzgerald] were just out of the junior cup year when we played against him in a final. In the quarter-finals we beat Johnny Sexton's St Mary's.

**GC:** How good was Sexton back then?

**VA:** Everyone used to talk about him too. He has hardly changed. I remember St Mary's that year had a frontrow pack that was heavier than the Ireland front-row.

Luke came off the bench and worked his magic.

**GC:** After the 2011 World Cup you were signed by the Northampton Saints?

**VA:** I decided to go back to Russia halfway through my third season.

**GC:** Why?

**VA:** In the November Test window I went to play for Russia. To be honest when I came back the guys who came in did so well that I was on standby until the end of the season.

**GC:** That happens to a lot of 'Tier 2' players?

**VA:** I can see why players – more so from the Pacific Islands – choose not to play for their country at World Cups.

**GC:** Because they have to look after their families.

**VA:** True, true.





**GC:** People talk about untapped markets in Japan and the US, but Russia and rugby has equal potential?

**VA:** The seeds have been planted. Russian rugby union is moving in the right direction. I can see it is in good hands. I'd like to have an input.

**GC:** Can you see The Bears becoming a tier one nation in your lifetime.

**VA:** Hopefully. I'd like to live long enough to see that.

**GC:** At 15-years-old you came to Blackrock. Was it tough leaving home? What was the reason?

**VA:** It was my parents' idea. Just to learn English. A chance to study abroad for a year, that turned into seven years! I had a few conditions. I wanted to continue playing rugby. My parents picked

Ireland because it was a lot cheaper than England and a lot closer than New Zealand.

**GC:** How did a Moscow teenager settle into a private Dublin boarding school?

**VA:** My English was very poor. Once the rugby started I adapted. It was fascinating though that, of almost 200 guys in the year, over 100 played rugby.

**GC:** Luke Fitzgerald's class of 2006 was good even by Blackrock standards?

**VA:** Many of them went on to play professional rugby.

**GC:** Do you remember the last Leinster schools final at the old Lansdowne Road in 2006?

**VA:** I had to go off injured with about 20 to go. I remember how intense it was, the finish, that penalty.

**GC:** Noel Reid, now with Leicester, had a long range effort to win it for St Michael's.

**VA:** It is an amazing thing how schools rugby is positioned in Ireland. I learned all about the tradition and history behind it. Being part of it is something I will remember forever.

**GC:** What about your career in Ireland, explain what happened with the under-19 world cup in Dubai; you were selected but unable to go because boarding school didn't count as residency?

**VA:** Yeah. You don't 'live' in Ireland so my residency only started when I went to UCD. It was a big disappointment at the time because I was in the training camp when I found out.

**GC:** You were on track – Leinster under-18s, Ireland schools, UCD rugby scholarship, Leinster Academy – to becoming an Irish international?

**VA:** But I was still a foreigner.

**GC:** Did that change your perspective about playing in Ireland?

**VA:** The reason I didn't give myself the best chance of making it at Leinster was I had to maintain my academics. I couldn't fully focus on rugby when studying law in UCD. But I have no regrets.

**GC:** Who were you up against?

**VA:** Leinster Academy went to play in the Bristol's 10s and afterwards I got called up to train with the senior squad. So did Fergus McFadden.

**GC:** You always had the pace and developed the skills, so what happened?

**VA:** Maybe I lost some belief in myself about whether I could make it into the full Leinster team. Belief is huge. After two years in the Academy I was let go but I was still playing for UCD. I was relieved to be honest. I had my best season in my final year in UCD. Maybe because I was relieved of that pressure. I found a little more freedom, I enjoyed it more.

**GC:** Getting selected for Russia signalled the end of life in Dublin?

**VA:** Ireland is my second home. I lived there seven years. I miss so many parts of my life in there but I never had any family in Dublin. Many friends. But never family.

*The full version of this interview appears on [Irishtimes.com](http://Irishtimes.com)*



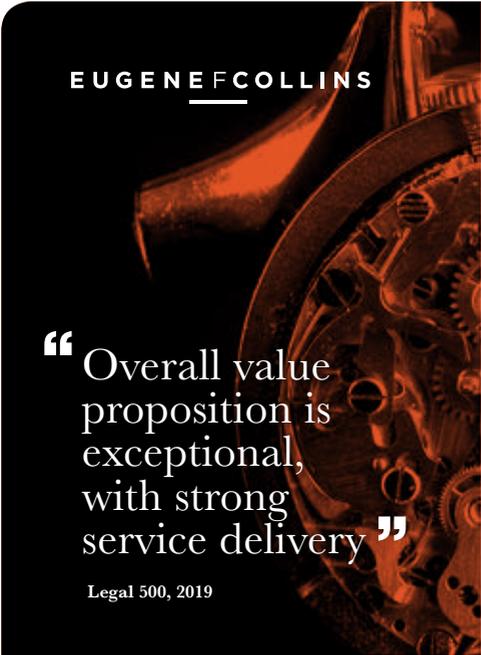
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# UCD RFC Business Lunch 2018

The UCD RFC Business Lunch, generously sponsored by Dillon Eustace and Navy Blue Consulting took place on Friday 16th of November, 2018 in the sumptuous surroundings of The Shelbourne Hotel with over 320 guests attending. We were delighted to be able to welcome our two guest speakers, Pat Byrne CEO and Chairman of Cityjet and All Black legend, Sean Fitzpatrick. Pat provided a unique and interesting insight into the experience of the genesis of Cityjet and its growth plans into the future. It was a fascinating Irish success story and we wish Pat every success with the continued growth of the business.

After lunch, the audience heard from All Black legend and former captain Sean Fitzpatrick who was interviewed by former Irish international and all round nice guy Niall Woods. Fitz provided great insight into his time as an All Black and the stories of his time as a player and those he played with were hugely interesting and entertaining. We were delighted to have two speakers of such high calibre. Our thanks to our sponsors Dillon Eustace and Navy Blue Consulting and we look forward to this season's event which is once again taking place in The Shelbourne Hotel on Friday 15th of November, 2019.







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# UCD tag rugby more popular than ever

UCD RFC's tag rugby programme is proving as popular as ever, with students signing up to a waiting list due to the demand for places for those looking to get involved.

Managed by Amy Bermingham, a lecturer in Event Management in the Sports and Exercise Management degree course and her students, there are currently 32 teams involved in the autumn series, with 10 teams competing in the spring semester.

Like any sport, tag needs a man or woman in the middle and there are 15 referees provided by the club, with matches taking place between 5pm and 7pm on Mondays.

The silverware is handed out on the last Monday of each semester, but this one is all about taking part.

At a cost of €22 per player per semester, tag offers an opportunity to introduce new faces to the game of rugby while providing a social outlet for students.







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**Supporters of UCD R.F.C.**

**every success**

**for the coming season**



# Dinner With Joe Schmidt

In April 2019, UCD RFC held its annual dinner in O'Reilly Hall and was honoured to welcome Irish Rugby Head Coach Joe Schmidt as guest speaker. More than 500 guests attended including representatives from all the teams within the club, alumni, Leinster Club Presidents, corporate supporters and friends.

Long-standing UCD Rugby clubman David Carrigy of World Rugby assumed the master of ceremonies role and introduced UCD Rugby President Ambrose O'Sullivan, who praised the commitment of club members who play a vital role in managing the various teams across the Men's, Women's and Tag Rugby sections of the club. Guests included members of the recent Irish Rugby U20 Grand Slam-winning

team, with Michael Milne and Charlie Ryan given a standing ovation as they displayed the Six Nations trophy on stage. A special award was made to Brian Cawley for his twelve-year career with the senior squad where he played in more than 200 games.

The highlight of the night involved clubman Billy Murphy conducting a captivating "In conversation ..." with Joe Schmidt, covering his time in Irish Rugby, his vision for the Rugby World Cup, and his return home to New Zealand next year. Thanks to the committee and many volunteers, it was an enormously successful annual dinner. The Club would like to thank all its members for the support it receives.



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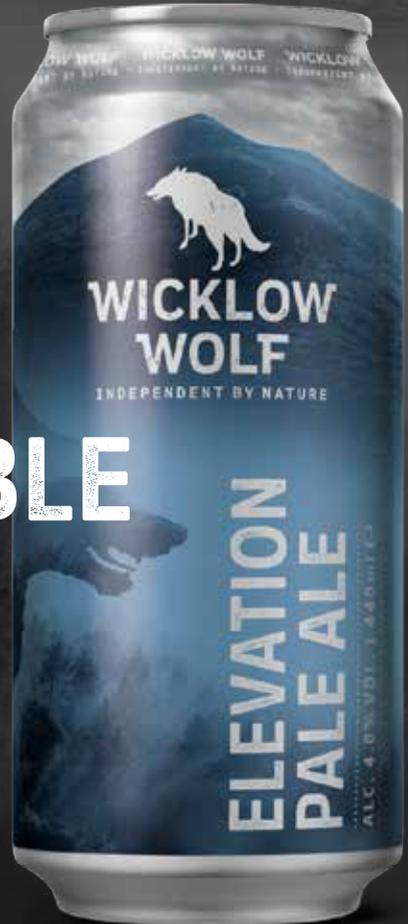
Best wishes to all the UCD teams for the 2019/20 season



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# Abuse of Match Officials

## CODE OF CONDUCT

This document has been produced by the Leinster Branch of the IRFU in response to serious concern expressed by the ARLB (Association of Referees Leinster Branch) across Leinster about the growing incidence of Abuse of Match Officials. It describes the part to be played by clubs in helping to deal with the problem. The term 'clubs' also includes youths, schools, colleges and universities.

Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their members, players, coaches and supporters towards Match Officials, and are expected to take steps to protect Officials from any form of Abuse. Abuse of Match Officials is defined as:

*'Individual perception of personal degradation be it mental or physical, before, during and after the game including (but not limited to):*

- verbal or physical assault
- intimidatory conduct
- racial or sexual harassment'

### **The World Rugby Code of Conduct Regulation states that a person:**

- shall not abuse, threaten or intimidate a referee, touch judge, or other Match Official, whether on or off the field of play (Regulation 20.Appendix 1 - 1.11)

- shall not use crude or abusive language or gesture towards referees, touch judges or other Match Officials or spectators (Regulation 20.Appendix 1 - 1.12)
- shall not do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any other Person on the ground of their religion, race, sex, sexual orientation, colour or national or ethnic origin (Regulation 20.Appendix 1 - 1.13);

Failure to comply can result in the player (if during the match) or the Club (if members, coaches, players off the field or supporters) being brought before the Branch Disciplinary Committee. Sanctions include suspensions, loss of league points, fines or loss of International Tickets. All the above sanctions

HAVE been handed out to different players and Clubs in the recent past. All members and regular supporters of clubs should be made aware of the provisions of this Code, and might need to be reminded that abusive behaviour is also harmful to the reputation of the club. Clubs are expected to adhere to the Code. In so doing, clubs will commit themselves to take all reasonable steps to ensure that Match Officials are protected from Abuse.





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