



In The Beginning

Established in 1969 by a group of young men who had moved into the new flats complex built in the late 60s in Ballymun. Their first meeting was held in Freddie Fleming's apartment on Sillogue Avenue, Ballymun, present on that occasion were the following: Tommy Ronan, Freddie Fleming, Eddie Marshall and John Hamilton. Tommy Ronan was elected the first club Secretary and from there it began, the name Ballymun United FC was agreed and the club colours would be Amber and Black. The club played their first home games on farmers land up in the Poppintree area, moving to the Balcurris area in the 70's to a pitch that became known as the "San Siro" because of the surrounding block of newly built flats. This was to be a fortress for the club for many a year, it was common to have over 1,000 persons watching the "Mun" at this venue.

Some of the early clubmen were Bobby Doyle, Frank Turner, Sean Martin, Brendan McKenna (RIP), Junior Mulligan, Jim Casey, Mick Comiskey, Paddy Ormsby, John Ryan, Jody Carrick (RIP), Jackie Kenny, Joe Bennett, John Ennis, Joe Kenny, Jimmy Dunne, George Chalkley and Noel Godfrey (RIP). These were strong characters who lived for the game. J Kenny, J Bennett and J Ennis left and formed Rivermount Boys in nearby Finglas, the late Brendan McKenna became one of the founders of Neilstown Rangers, E Marshall joined Inchicore Ath, Bobby Doyle became a well respected referee, or Match Official as there now known. The late Jackie Doran and Bobby Bates served in the club in the early years and were the first to begin schoolboy/girl teams in the area, they would have a big role to play in our success over the years, with many a young player coming through from Ballymun Boys to our Senior teams. The club became indebted to the staff of the local Towers and Penthouse Pubs, for not only allowing us to fundraise but also helped out with sponsorship, one of the early sponsored shirts is by Guinness. The Towers assisted the club from the start with league fees and insurance, two men in particular who helped a great deal were George Lonergan and Paddy Belton, George became our first Honorary President. The Towers to this day is still an integral part of the clubs fundraising efforts. The Mun has had its fair share of notable characters down through the years as well as some top class footballers, one of these characters was the late Mr Brendan Place who had the pleasure of "marking" the great Pele.

During the 70s the club had some notable success in the AUL, a couple of divisions below the top division, the team was quite capable of competing with the best, they reached the Semi-Final of the FAI Junior Cup and were beaten by Letterkenny up in Donegal or as the story goes they were "robbed". They had many a great battle with the likes of Cherry Orchard, Tolka Rovers, Kilmore, Glenmore and Belgrove in those days.

In the mid 80s the club almost went out of existence, struggling to field teams every week the club were down to one Senior Team, but it was kept alive by the ongoing efforts by strong clubmen, in the late 90s saw the emergence of a very talented squad of players, managed by Sean Martin and Frank Turner this squad went on to compete in the latter stages of every competition they entered, losing Quarter and Semi Finals it was heart breaking stuff, in the league they were left with the task of winning 13 games on the bounce to get a play off for the title with Portlaoise, they had finished their campaign four weeks previous, this young Mun side won all 13 games and got to the play off which was took place three days after our last league game, the Mun lost the play off to a fresh and talented Portlaoise side.

The club won their first major cup trophy in season 94/95, managed by Philip Rooney and David King and with the goals flying from the boots of Theo Dempsey and Gerard Sweeney, The Senior Saturday Cup sat proudly in the basement of Balcurris Flats, Patsy Fannin and Terry Moore were stalwarts in defence and the excellent Noel Brennan and Andrew "Rocky" Smith marshalled midfield that season.

From 1997 to 2000 was probable the most successful period for the club at division 3 level, Managers Alan George and Marc Rooney made the Div 3 title, the Frank Roe and Untidare Cups their own, outstanding success over 3 years, this side was largely made up from the side that missed out against Portlaoise in '94.

In 96/97 under a side managed by John Godfrey, Reggie George and Coach Noel King we won our first major Premier Trophy the Heineken Cup was won after the Mun defeated Portlaoise by the odd goal, scored by Noely Ankers. Noely Ankers and Paul Staunton were on fire throughout the season and Gary McCormack and Dave Conroy solid in defence. They reached the Final of the FAI Junior that year, Gary McCormack scoring an equaliser in the last minutes of the game to bring it to a replay.



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The replay in Birr Co Offaly was a very tough competitive encounter, David Conroy broke his ankle in a challenge in the first half and had to be replaced, Christy McElligott got in goal and was then cruelly sent off, he was replaced by Mark Kelly who also got sent off, was the Ref from Limerick I hear you ask ?, even with nine men we held Fairview Rgrs to 1-1 until the last few minutes of the game when Fairview scored the " winner", Barry Flynn handled the ball before slotting it away to give Fairview the trophy, Paul Staunton got sent off with a few minutes remaining. This was a period in Irish amateur football when Fairview Rangers were dominating the National scene. 1999 /2000 will always be remembered for this Final and also the way we lost the league that year, it was the year when we went into arbitration with Portmarnock FC.

Season 2000/2001 started with a vengeance, the Mun were determined to get back to the FAI Junior Cup Final and win the League, a target was set, a manager was appointed - Noel Synnott. John Godfrey and Jimmy O'Neill stood in while Noel was away on holidays they took the team to a 6 game unbeaten run in the league, signed some excellent players and the stage was set for Noel's return, this was an exceptional squad of players, conceding only 13 goals in all competitions that season they went on to win not only the FAI Junior Cup against local rivals St Kevins Boys but they won the League, the League Challenge Cup (Heineken), the Leinster Junior Cup, no other amateur club in the history of football has achieved this feat. The FAI Junior Cup Final saw a crowd of over 4,000 watch a spectacular start to the game David Kane scoring after only 10 seconds, he went to complete his hat-trick in the first half.

In season 2008/2009 again saw the club reach every major cup final, a first in our domestic league, Managed by Casey McQuillan (a member of the 2001 winning squad) and his assistant Pat Daly, the side were without equal in amateur cup competition in Ireland, what was more remarkable about this side was the average age was only 22, almost five years younger then the side that won the four major trophies in 2001. The quality of their football was a joy to watch, as history had shown us if your successful in cup competition then the league campaign suffers, and so it was, in the end playing too many games to try and catch, the deserved winners, Sheriff YC. The side won the FAI Junior Cup against St Peters of Athlone having played every game away from home with the one exception, Crumlin United in the 2nd Round.

Our youth section really started to come on strong, winning league titles at Under 14 and Under 15 in the Dublin District Schoolboy League and the Under 12 team winning the DDSL League Cup. The setting up of the academy in 2011 is the way forward and we look to the future with great expectation



From the outset the club used the basement of the flats, area's that were designed for storage or the old pram sheds as they were known, next door to lift shafts these, although adequate, were prone to flooding and rat infestation. Players having to move swiftly in and out for fear of getting hit with an old Washing machine or Television coming of the 6th Floor above. The club has come along way from those early years and now in the wonderful surrounds of our new complex on St Margaret' Road, close to the old Framers land where we played our first game, the club can look forward to a bright and successful future