

Ronan Lynagh was on target as UCD moved further up the LSL Sunday table.



Sunday 25th Mar

UCD AFC kept pace with the chasing pack in the LSL Senior 1 Sunday Division as they look to take three points from each of their remaining seven games in order to at least grab second place. Ronan Lynagh and Mike Arnold scored the goals that secured a precious 2-1 win over Broadford Rovers on Sunday.

The sun shone from the beginning and so did the Students as they settled into their attacking rhythm from the beginning. Stiofain Sexton and Sean Buckley stung the palms of the keeper with some long range efforts early on and as the temperature rose it was clear that UCD were intent on passing their opponents to an early demise. This approach was paying dividends as the lively Sexton again broke free but could not find a breakthrough.

At the other end, Tristan Dent and Cormac O'Brolchain were proving a hard nut to crack for the

home side as they withstood everything thrown at them. Broadford's best opportunities arose down the left hand side but nothing bore fruit as UCD stood firm.

UCD were dealt a blow midway through the first half when Sexton collided with the keeper and had to leave the field. His replacement, Mike Arnold was ready and able to make an impact and make an impact he did. After a period of sustained pressure UCD won a succession of corners, one of which found Arnold at the back post and he could not miss from three yards with a simple header.

UCD upped the ante further in the second half as Ronan Lynagh and Brian McDonald came to the fore on the flanks. Their clever interchanges with their midfield set them free time and again but the final finish was letting the Students down. Even when UCD's designated wingers took a break from marauding down the flanks, Hugh Davey and Brian O'Reilly were on hand to step into the breach.

With a lack of cutting edge from set pieces holding UCD back this season it was a surprise to all when the Belfield side doubled their lead from a second corner. Broadford set themselves up to defend, concentrating on the larger members of the UCD ranks, a crucial mistake. With the ball drifting into the centre of the box, little Ronan Lynagh, stole a march on the opposition, and like a crafty burglar in the middle of the night, Lynagh escaped with the prize possession. A second goal from a tap in and almost certainly three points with it.

With their tails up, UCD looked to press home their advantage and introduced Michael Whelan and Eoin Roche. Both players drove UCD forward and had long range efforts fly just wide. Kieran Harte was looking to put his name on the scoresheet and almost scored a magical solo effort but he was denied at the last. The next goal was definitely on the cards but when it came it was from an unlikely source.

John Kelly, in the UCD goal, was untroubled for much of the game by the opposition of the elements but both conspired against him as Broadford dragged themselves back into the game. A hopeful ball into the box was lost in the sun and as Kelly scrambled to reclaim the ball it was smashed home by a reactive home striker.

UCD then faced a nervous end to a game that should have ended comfortably but in truth it was only an opportunity to show their mettle as the back four stood up to the final onslaught and UCD bagged another three points.

UCD AFC: Kelly, O'Reilly, Dent, O'Brolchain, Davey, Lynagh, Harte, Buckley, McDonald (Roche), Daly, Sexton (Arnold) (Whelan)