

€3M STASH SEIZED

FOOTBALL DUO TO FACE COURT ON DRUGS RAP

Bluebell Utd manager and ex-pro Quinn charged over heroin seizure



ARRESTED: Keith Quinn

A FORMER League of Ireland player and club manager will appear in court today charged over the seizure of a €3m stash of heroin.

Dubliners Andrew Noonan (41), the manager of Bluebell United FC, and Keith Quinn (31), a former player for Shelbourne FC, were arrested by elite gardai at an industrial unit in Dublin on Wednesday night.

Both men were arrested at the unit where the consignment of heroin was discovered by gardai from the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau and Revenue officers in Dublin 15.

Station

They were held at Blanchardstown Garda Station Under Section 2 of the Criminal Justice (Drug Trafficking) Act. Both men have now been charged and will appear before the Criminal Courts of Justice this morning.

Mr Noonan is the current manager of Bluebell United FC and is the son of well-known ex-Provo John Noonan.

Mr Quinn is well known in Irish football circles as a former player for Shelbourne, and eventually Sheffield United in England.

He also previously played for Bluebell United, Longford Town and

■ Laura COLGAN

Cork City football clubs.

He is the brother of Republic of Ireland internationals Stephen Quinn and Alan Quinn.

The seizure of 22kg of heroin follows a lengthy investigation by gardai and the Revenue's Custom Service.

Detective Chief Superintendent Angela Willis, of the Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, said: "The outcome of cooperation between Revenue and Customs and An Garda Síochána has resulted in the seizure of a significant quantity of heroin from circulation within communities that are suffering the consequences of drug trafficking."

Significant

A spokesperson for Revenue said the "collaboration between both agencies, as well as international colleagues, was significant in the successful outcome of this operation".

The spokesperson said: "This operation was part of Revenue's ongoing joint investigations targeting the importation of illegal drugs."

"If businesses or members of the public have any information regarding drug smuggling, they can contact Revenue in confidence on Confidential Phone Number 1800 295 295."



HEARING: Andrew Noonan