

DEBTS: BROTHER OF CONVICTED HEROIN DEALER CHANGED

THE father of an innocent postman shot in a gun attack has called on South Dublin County Council to chase debts owed to it by a Dublin football club which was managed by convicted heroin dealer Andrew Noonan and taken over by his family.

Bluebell United, which since last year is owned by Noonan's brother Sean, has started running up debts, and earlier this month was hit with a third registered judgment against it in less than four months.

Bluebell United was previously managed by former League of Ireland player Andrew Noonan, who was sentenced for his role in a €2.7m heroin enterprise in 2025.

The club was turned over to a non-profit organisation into a for-profit company by Noonan's brother Sean in 2025 and has since been hit with a number of court judgments.

Their father, John Noonan, was a former Provo godfather who applied for bankruptcy 15 years ago after being hit with a multi-million euro bill from the Criminal Assets Bureau.

Andrew, Sean and John were previously questioned by gardai over the shooting of innocent postman Robert Delany in 2008 but were all later released without charge.

The innocent father-of-two, who had no involvement in crime, was believed to have been targeted because of a minor exchange of words outside a pub.

In the early hours of October 22, 2008, he heard a knock at his front door in Russell Rise in Tallaght. He looked out the kitchen window and a gunman opened fire, hitting him in the head and leaving him in a permanent vegetative state.

Robert's parents, Terry and Noeleen, his sister Sinead and his daughter Meghan have long been campaigning for justice and took part in protests after Andrew Noonan started managing Bluebell United. The family's protests were ignored by the club who refused to speak to them.

SHOOTING

Crime World revealed last year how Andrew's brother Sean, who was also quizzed by gardai over the shooting of Mr Delany and later released without charge, had taken over Bluebell United and turned it into a for-profit limited company, of which he is a director.

Until his takeover, Bluebell United was a company limited by guarantee (CLG) which is a non-profit company normally used for organisations such as sports clubs and charities which are set up for a specific purpose such as to benefit the community. There are no shareholders in CLGs.

However, last year Sean Noonan changed the club to Bluebell United AFC Ltd. He is now the sole shareholder in Bluebell United AFC Ltd and one of two directors, and since then his financial management has been called into question.

Earlier this month, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) was granted a registered judgment in the courts for €15,824 owed to it by Bluebell United AFC Ltd.

That came three months after the council secured a court judg-



TRAGIC LOSS: Robert Delany's dad Terry has long campaigned for justice

THE €10 CLUB DEAL

Bluebell Utd was reportedly handed valuable council land for nominal sum & now owes more than €27K
Gun victim Robert Delany's dad urges SDCC to

EXCLUSIVE ALAN SHERRY



ment for €11,403 against Bluebell. One month before that, the Collector General of the Revenue Commissioners secured a court judgment against Bluebell for €6,275. The debts have yet to be paid, according to the Companies Registration Office.

Terry urged SDCC to do everything it can to ensure the money is paid back.

"This is taxpayers' money. Who

is following this up on behalf of the taxpayer? If the council end up writing this off that means it's coming out of the council's budget and other services will lose out."

Crime World contacted SDCC about the debts owed to it by Bluebell. A spokesperson said: "I can confirm that the Council pursues the collection of all debt in accordance with its statutory responsibilities. However, the Council does not

comment on the details of individual customer accounts, including payment arrangements, collection activities or ongoing engagements with debtors."

Ironically, the council who are owed money by Bluebell were previously linked in reports to being instrumental in a deal which saw Bluebell being given a valuable plot of land near the Red Cow for a nominal sum of €10.

The land would be worth multimillions if rezoned, though reports at the time suggested a clause was in place which meant Bluebell United couldn't re-sell.

In 2017, it was reported in the Echo newspaper that Bluebell "struck a deal of a lifetime" when

it secured the transfer of a valuable plot of land near the Red Cow for just €10 following negotiations with SDCC, solicitors, NAMA and receivers.

The site formerly belonged to Capel Developments which went into receivership in 2012. The reports said SDCC had an agreement to buy the site from Capel but still owed €450,000 when that company went into receivership.

The National Asset Management Agency appointed a receiver and the report at the time said following an agreement between the council, NAMA and the receiver the lands were transferred to SDCC for a payment of €250,000 while an additional payment of

DUBLIN CLUB FROM A NON-PROFIT INTO A LIMITED COMPANY



'This is taxpayers' money. Who is following this up on behalf of the taxpayer?'

IN CHARGE: Sean Noonan (above left) took over from his brother Andrew (above centre and right). Right, innocent Robert Delany was shot



chase cash owed by club taken over by Sean Noonan

€200,000 to the receiver was in lieu of the council's obligation to remove a spoil heap on the site and re-mediate the land in a full and final settlement.

The report at the time named a council official who was involved in talks with Bluebell and said that in June 2016 council members voted to transfer the land, at the nomination of the receiver, from SDCC to Bluebell Utd.

The reports claimed the council transferred the land to Bluebell by way of a sub-sale for a nominal amount. However, when asked about the deal on Thursday council spokesperson told the Sunday World the following day: "Please be advised that South Dublin

County Council never transferred any lands to Bluebell United."

When our reporter contacted the council again to ask for clarity on what involvement SDCC ever had in the land or any negotiations with Bluebell, the spokesperson said: "I haven't a clue. We have loads of media queries coming in and out and they're all answered by different departments I don't know the ins and outs of the issues."

The spokesperson suggested "going through the freedom of information route" to request the information or to submit another query. The Sunday World put in a series of further questions on what involvement the council

ever had in the land or the deal but the council did not respond by time of going to print.

Terry called on the council to provide clarity on the issue. "I don't see why they don't just give the information. Why aren't the council just being more upfront?"

DEBTS

Meanwhile, Terry highlighted Sean Noonan's history as a director of firms which went bust.

"You've seen liquidation, liquidation and massive debts in previous businesses. He's now in charge of a club."

Sean Noonan set up a pub business, Naomh Padraig Taverns Ltd, in 2012. It went into liquidation in

May last year owing a substantial amount of money.

Filings by liquidators show that the company owed €571,693 to unsecured creditors and had €18,370 in assets after deducting amounts charged to secured creditors and debenture holders.

Like Bluebell United, the company also had multiple judgments registered against them it for monies owed to a council.

Fingal County Council had a judgment registered against Naomh Padraig Taverns Ltd for €12,208 in June 2024 and another for €15,425 in January last year.

Sean Noonan had also been a director and company secretary of Strand Security Services, where his

father John Noonan provided security for celebrities. Drug trafficker Andrew Noonan was also a director of the firm which provided bodyguards to stars like U2 frontman Bono, actress Cate Blanchett and actor Jonathan Rhys Meyers.

However, in 2012 the company held a creditors meeting as it was being wound up with huge debts.

The Revenue Commissioners were among those owed money and the firm went into liquidation in 2012 before eventually being dissolved in 2017.

The liquidator noted in its report to the company's creditors in 2017 that prior to his appointment the Criminal Assets Bureau had raised assessments in the sum of more than €2m inclusive of interest in respect of undeclared VAT in the period from 2007 to 2009.

While Andrew had been a director during that period, Sean Noonan only took over the firm in 2011 and claimed he had tried to save the company before it went into liquidation.

It is suspected the links to Andrew Noonan caused the company difficulty after he started managing at Bluebell Utd in 2011 and the Delany family held protests at matches.

The security firm also claimed to creditors that it had lost clients due to its association with John Noonan, who had been issued with a €2.6m bill from the Criminal Assets Bureau.

ASSESSMENTS

The Bankruptcy Court heard in 2011 how John Noonan had declared himself bankrupt in 2011 and had debts of €4.2million. In court, he had tried to avoid a tax assessment being pursued by CAB by claiming he had been operating a bank account for the IRA. Noonan had said that up until 2004, he was a senior member of the republican movement, but the tax assessments were confirmed in December 2009.

Noonan Sr, a former IRA commander who was heavily involved in the Concerned Parents Against Drugs marches on dealers decades ago, had come to the attention of CAB following an investigation into the assets of slain drug baron Martin 'Marlo' Hyland, when a direct link was discovered between the crime godfather and Noonan.

Terry said Sean Noonan's history as a director should concern those associated with Bluebell Utd and those who are owed money by the club.

Sean Noonan is also the director of another firm, Top Corner Ltd, which is described as being involved in fund management.

In April last year, the Revenue Commissioners went to court to get a registered judgment in relation to €35,223 owed to it by Top Corner Ltd. According to filings with the CRO, the judgment has yet to be satisfied. The last accounts filed by the company were for 2022 when it had net liabilities of €69,290. It did not file any accounts last year.

He is also the director of Franconia Ltd, described as Accounting, Book-Keeping and Auditing Activities; Tax Consultancy, which has not filed any accounts since the 2021 when it had capital and reserves of €18,924.

Last December the Revenue Commissioners registered a judgment in relation to €8,501 owed to it by Franconia Ltd.