

**JAILED:** EX-MANAGER SENT DOWN OVER €2.7M DRUG BUST**HEROIN DEALER'S CLUB HIT WITH TAX DEMAND****EXCLUSIVE**  
BY ALAN SHERRY

**A DUBLIN football club which was managed by convicted heroin dealer Andrew Noonan hasn't filed any annual returns and has been hit with a tax judgment one year after turned it from a non-profit organisation into a for-profit company.**

This time last year, former League of Ireland player and Bluebell United manager Andrew Noonan (46) was jailed for 13-and-a-half years in relation to his high-level role in a €2.7m heroin importation enterprise.

At the time of the drug seizure, Andrew Noonan was the manager of Bluebell United and the public face of the club.

*As well as being a heroin importer, Noonan was previously arrested twice by gardai in relation to the shooting of innocent postman Robert Delany in 2008, but was released without charge.*

Dad-of-two Delany was shot in the head in 2008, leaving him in a permanent vegetative state.

Mr Delany's father Terry led a public protest after Andrew Noonan was appointed manager of Bluebell United in 2011, highlighting how he was a suspect in his son's shooting, but the club refused to speak to him over the matter.

**ACCOUNTS**

The *Sunday World* revealed last year how Noonan'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.

Earlier this month, the Collector General of the Revenue Commissioners secured a court judgment against Bluebell United AFC Ltd for €6,275.

Company records also reveal that Bluebell have not filed annual returns for years. The most recent accounts which cover

**CONVICTED:**  
Andrew Noonan was sentenced to 12 years in prison**Bluebell Utd has been turned into private company by Andrew Noonan's brother**

the year to the end of 2022 said Bluebell United had net assets of €229,427 at that time.

Bizarrely, Bluebell filed the 2022 accounts in 2023, as is normal practice, but then resubmitted those same 2022 accounts in their 2024 filings with the Companies Registration Office. They filed no returns last year.

Failure to file accounts can eventually lead to the company being involuntarily struck off.

The *Sunday World* contacted Sean Noonan for comment after his takeover of the club but he did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

He previously told the *Sunday*

*World* he did not want to discuss Robert Delany's shooting.

*"What's it to do with me? I don't have anything to say," he said. He added: "We were questioned, not arrested. I was just one line of enquiry, no charges were ever brought."*

He attended his brother's sentencing hearing in May last year with other family members.

Andrew Noonan was jailed for 13-and-a-half years after being found guilty of three drugs offences in relation to the possession, sale and supply of the drugs at Rosemount Business Park, Dublin 11, on August 5, 2020.

He was also convicted of possession of a phone with an encrypted

application, Enigma, giving rise to a reasonable inference that it was to be used in connection with a drug trafficking offence.

He was acquitted of possession of a signal blocker.

Another former Bluebell United player, Keith Quinn (37), was previously jailed over the same drugs haul as Andrew Noonan after pleading guilty and has since served his sentence.

Despite the overwhelming evidence against him, Andrew Noonan continues to protest his innocence over the drugs shipment.

*Sean and Andrew's father John Noonan, an ex-IRA commander who was involved in the Concerned*

**'The Noonans pulled off a remarkable coup taking over the club'**

*Parents Against Drugs protests decades ago, was also arrested after Mr Delany's shooting but later released without charge.*

The father of two was shot in the head when he looked out the window of his apartment in Talaght, Dublin, in 2008.

The innocent postman, who had no involvement in criminality, was targeted because of a minor exchange of words outside a pub.

Terry Delany said he feels people should boycott Bluebell United due to the links to the Noonan family. He said Bluebell has been tainted by its links to Andrew Noonan.

"Justice for Robert Delany have previously picketed at matches and always queried the running of Bluebell because of (Andrew) Noonan's involvement in the club. Bluebell never engaged in the justice for Robert Delany campaign, in fact they totally ignored us, as did the FAI."

**COUP**

As well as protesting Andrew Noonan's involvement, the campaign group questioned Sean's Noonan's takeover of the club.

*"We raised the manner of how the club had been taken over. The FAI said it wasn't up to them who owned the club or who ran the club."*

"It has moved from being a well-respected community club to one that has gone into private ownership. The Noonans pulled off a remarkable coup there taking over the club."

"Even after we protested, they still supported Andrew Noonan right up. They supported him when he was out on bail for the drugs offences. He stood down himself, they never sacked him and then his brother took over the club."

After, Sean Noonan's takeover of the club last year the FAI told the *Sunday World* that it was at the discretion of Bluebell United and its former committee members if they decided to turn into a limited company.