

# INTERVIEW - PAT FENLON

After a bit of to-ing and froing, we eventually nailed down Pat Fenlon for an interview. RED INC met Nutsy in the small but well appointed gymnasium in the New Stand on the day after the FAI Cup Final was put in doubt. Commenting on the weather Nutsy likened it to Dessie Baker's hair...Atrocious!! Couldn't have put it better myself. As we sat down in the manager's office, I switched the tape on and asked...

RI: Are we turning the corner form wise?

PF: *Slowly, although we have a few new players who took a while to gel, we're getting there. The only performance I wasn't happy with was away to Cork. Since then we've played well I think rather than turning the corner they've gotten used to me and the way I want them to play.*

RI: Are Jim Gannon and Barry Prenderville first choice?

PF: *Tony McCarthy has been around and he's established. Barry had to fill in there and he's done well since he's come in. Gannon has done well but there's no definite starters. I don't want anyone getting comfortable in their job.*

RI: Shero's future?

PF: *Shero asked me for a chance to get fit. He took the chance and He's done well since he came back in. Since he got injured he hasn't put on a pound. He knows his own downfall and he knows he has a place. It's frustrating for a manager because you know he has no limitations, he can do anything. His only problem was his attitude but to be fair, that's changed. Shero and the rest know they can't step out of line because it won't be tolerated.*

RI: How long can we hold onto the Weso for?

PF: *We don't want to stand in his way, if we get an offer that's suitable to the club and Wesley we won't be able to keep him. The club needs finance, if we can keep him till the end of the season that will give me time to sort out a replacement, but you can't replace him, we have to make sure the move is right for Wesley. We would love to tie him down but we won't stand in his way. But there is two years left on his contract, he won't be going for peanuts.*

RI: What did you say to Alan Kelly after he robbed us in Inchicore?

PF: *I told him I thought he robbed us and 20 minutes later when I calmed down I told him the same. Having said that I want to start a clean slate with the refs and now the situation is fine.*

RI: What's your read on the registration fiasco?

PF: *We were badly affected as were Pats. A lot of hard work was done getting players ready and to end up like that was a disaster. What I will say though is, maybe they could have come out sooner and held their hands up. We were top of the league all season playing under pressure, Pats didn't have the pressure. At the end of the day, myself and the lads have a League medal at home.*

RI: In the last few seasons, we've had Richie Baker, Richie Foran and Wes Holiham come through. Any more?

PF: *Alan Murphy has had a very good chance, he's been on the bench a bit this season; Graham Rowe has a good chance. Our U-21's are all 18-19 year olds who are going to have time to develop and to prove themselves. We should get two or three players from it.*

RI: Was signing Molloy a mistake?

PF: *I wouldn't say it was a mistake. I signed him on a two year deal and any money we spent on Trevor Molloy we got back from Carlisle. I wouldn't jump into that situation though.*

RI: What do you remember about the row in Dalryer last season?

PF: *I understood where the fans are coming from after getting beaten by one of our bitter rivals but I do think that it shows that we care that we do care, that we reacted that way.*

RI: It's been noticed that after almost every game this season the player's applaud the support this season.

PF: *That's something I try to encourage. There does seem to be a gap between the players and the support and little things like clapping the support after a match might help change that. It's easy in a place like Drogheda or Inchicore where on the most part, you're all together in one lump. It's different here because everyone has their own place.*

RI: Finally, back to the playing situation, are you happy?

PF: *We're conceding too many goals but a settled back four will help. Dave Crawley has improved after a ropey start, Owen Heary is steady, the midfield is settled. Dessie and his tragic hair will be back soon, Nesovic is just fit so we'll be ok and we'll push both as far as we can.*