

Waterford City RFC

Club Notes 17/01/2016

Senior Team – J1 League – Tralee 23 v Waterford City 23

Tries: Stephen Walsh, Ben Duggan, James Halligan

Conversion: Michael Hayes,

Penalties: Michael Hayes 2

MOM: Karl Reade

Dave O'Connor, Brian Walsh, Andrew Condron, Karl Reade, Ben Duggan (captain), Simon O'Hara, Sean O'Mahoney, Joe Delahunty, Darren Walsh, Michael Hayes, Damien Kennedy, Connor Power, Aidan Power, Stephen Walsh, Aaron Foskin, Kevin Whelan, James Halligan

A new year and a new start for city finally a game of rugby!!!

Munster is a fantastic province, but as City know, away days are long ... very long this year so it was up and out of bed at 730 ready for the bus journey to Tralee to take on one of last season's relegated clubs.

The match started well for City when straight from the kick off, Tralee rattled 13 phases of play for a net gain of 7 meters, pleasing coach Peter Jones after all of the training ground work in defence this week. It was from a Tralee mistake that city began to build some phases and momentum and with just over seven minutes on the clock, some powerful forward play set a platform for the backs, Aaron Foskin stood in as a second receiver and spread the ball wide to Stephen Walsh who finished superbly. Michael Hayes has his 2016 kicking boots on and converted well from between the five and fifteen metre lines.

However, this spurred the home side into life and the rest of the half saw Tralee really take the game to city with a performance full of pace, verve and offloading which belied their current league position. This was real backs to the wall stuff with Tralee creating numerous opportunities and duly led to three tries for the home side. This could have been more but some resolute defensive work repelled a number of Tralee attacks with Simon O'Hara, returning from a long layoff, Dave O'Connor and Joe Delahunty particularly impressive with some big hits. With Michael Hayes slotting two long range penalties, City were pleased to go in at half time only four points down.

The second half began well for City and they exploited quick turnover ball to punish the narrow Tralee defence. Aidan Power was having one of his best games in a city shirt defensively, but he executed an overlap superbly to put James Halligan into space to dot down under the posts. From another turnover at ruck time, City's forwards played high tempo rugby for retuning captain Ben Duggan to score to cap a fine all round performance.

City could feel a little aggrieved at a couple of penalty decisions that went against them and Tralee duly converted two kicks at goal to level the game. The final seven minutes saw city continue to defend well with one of the finest team performances in a number of years as each City player fought for each other and there club to put big hits in and turn over ball. City have been set a challenge of going unbeaten in the league for the rest of the season and will be happy with a draw against a highly talented Tralee side and go into next week's encounter with Mallow high on confidence and expecting a convincing performance that will bring a win.

As always, many thanks to all of our supporters and sponsors Done Deal and the Kingfisher club.

Under 16's – Pan Munster League

Waterford City 3 v Skibbereen 6

In difficult conditions Skibbereen played with the wind and slope in their favour in the first half. The Skibbereen half backs controlled the play by keeping the pressure and play deep in the oppositions half. To their credit City defended bravely with some huge hits and some clever counter rucking. The only chances in a close first half were two penalties for the Skibbereen number ten that went wide, and left of the posts. The second half started with City pressing for the first score, but Skibbereen's defence held strong. The game moved back into the City's half with some fine phases of play from the Skibbereen forwards and resulted in a penalty for Skibbereen. The number ten made no mistake this time, putting the away side 3-0 ahead. City came close to scoring the first try, but with an overlap outside the ball was spilled forward. City kept the pressure on which resulted in a penalty in front of the posts, but the kick by number ten Tom Carney was pulled wide and left of the posts. Ten minutes later City were awarded another penalty and from 30m out Tom Carney stepped up again and made no mistake with a great strike. 3-3 and all to play for. Skibbereen pushed on deep into the City 22 and with a minute on the clock, and a few phases later scored with a well struck drop goal. Congratulations to both teams for an entertaining and very competitive game played in great spirit and sportsmanship. A disappointing result for City, but a great performance to build on for the game next week away to Bandon.

Mini's Rugby

Trip to Thomond Park

Great day out for the WCRFC Minis on Saturday at Thomond Park where Munster scored a famous victory over Stade Francais after some disappointing results in recent times and stick from the Dublin media and assorted champagne rugby supporters.

Last weekend's first leg was disappointing in a match where, if things had gone according to plan, Munster could have won.

However today, Munster pride was at stake and of course we were not disappointed. The chequebook rugby French outfit were sent home with their tails between their legs after a decisive 26-13 Munster victory.

There, to witness the event, were the minis from three teams from the SE: Waterford City RFC, Waterpark RFC and Carrick RFC who coincidentally had an impressive victory in the half-time minis match.

Great day all around and thanks to our redoubtable driver Gary from T&T coaches for getting us there and back.

Mini's Training

On Sunday WCRFC minis had their training on the all-weather pitch at the local Kingfisher club. We had a great turnout with some possible new players turning up to try out the minis rugby experience. After Saturday's trip to Thomond Park spirits were high and the novelty of being in a new playing environment also contributed to the buzz. Watch this space!

Mini visit Thomond Park

