**J2 League**

Waterford City 2nds 12

Clonmel 2nds 35

This game was played in perfect conditions last Friday night in Clonmel and it was Waterford who struck first with a try from hooker Stephen O Rourke off a rolling maul. This game was to be played at a fast pace throughout and Clonmel showed their intentions when they launched 2 attacks into the City half and only for stout defence Clonmel would have crossed for their opening score. On 25mins Clonmel did find their way through and a converted try by their winger put them 7-5 ahead. Twice more in this half the Clonmel backs found gaps in City’s defence and they crossed the line to bring the score to 21-5 at half time. At the restart City fired back and good work by the forward’s saw Stephen O Rourke cross for his 2nd try of them game which was converted to bring the score to 21-12.Outhalf Sean Stafford made a super break 5mins later but was tackled just a few meters short of the line and the chance was lost after a knock on 2 phases later. Whereas the larger City forwards were on top of their opposition ,the impressive young Clonmel backline kept finding holes and missed tackles from City cost them dearly as Clonmel added 2 more converted tries to leave the final score 35-12 to Clonmel. Tough on City as the workrate couldn’t be faulted by each player, in particular Davey Whelan who covered every blade of grass but this was a harsh lesson on how to be clinical and the importance of a strong defence.

