

Waterford City RFC

Club Notes 14.02.2016

Senior Squad – Munster Junior League

Kinsale 9 v Waterford City 10

Tries: Ben Duggan (1), Alec Fitzmaurice (1)

MOM – Joseph Delahunty

Waterford Cities J1 team travelled to Kinsale on Sunday. Our warm up was very good and mistakes were ironed out on a very boggy pitch and therefore we started the match with a very high tempo and played well for the first twenty minutes, keeping the ball very well. If not for some errors the game could have been done and dusted for us in this time but that was not to be. With the wind at Kinsale's back and us making errors it was easy for Kinsale to peg us back to our own half with some good kicks and this led to us giving away kickable penalties to Kinsale which they took to lead 6-0. The team took this in their stride put the errors to bed and drove solidly down the pitch for Ben Duggan to power his way over the line after some slick hands down the blind side. Half time was 6-5 Kinsale and at the half time talk we knew what we had to do and although Kinsale started the second half the brighter, as it was throughout the game they never looked like scoring a try as our defence once again was superb in every position from big hits in the forward, very few missed tackles and Aaron Foskin's ability or better to say skill of being in the exact position he needed to be to field Kinsale's increasing kick rate. We are a team that doesn't stop or lie down and this was shown when with the last play of the game we marched down the pitch and the ball once again was powered over by the forwards and after four phases of play Alec Fitzmaurice crashed over to score the winning try 9-10 as we've seen on the TV this week in the Six Nations rugby isn't always the site we'd love it to be but this game was a team of twenty who travelled to Kinsale worked extremely hard for each other and the team none more so than MOM Joseph Delahunty who's work-rate and ball-carries were just fractionally more than the rest of the team well done Joe and that goes for the other nineteen players that won on the road today.

Junior 2 League

Waterford City v Dunmanway – City wins by walkover

Unfortunately, Dunmanway were unable to field a team to travel to Kilbarry on Sunday, a situation which is becoming a worrying trend for our J2 side. Next Sunday sees Shandon make the journey to Kilbarry.

Under 18's

Waterford City 10 v Kilfeacle 10

The u18's had their first game in a number of weeks against Kilfeacle, under heavy conditions and after a slow start city found themselves 5-0 down. The remainder of the first half saw City putting up a strong showing in defence to see out the half 5-0 behind. The 2nd half saw City get more of the ball in hand and started to retain possession and after some pressure made the breakthrough with David Jarmolovicious scoring city's first try of the game, unfortunately city didn't deal with the restart and a few more minutes later Kilfeacle again took the lead this sparked City into life and from.

There was some great running rugby played considering the conditions and the heavy ground and David Jarmolovicious again managed to bring city level scoring in the corner. 10-10 the final score which was a fair result on the day

First Lithuanian side “Klaipedos Kovas RC” visit Waterford City RFC

Waterford City Rugby Club had the pleasure of hosting “Klaipedos Kovas RC”, from Lithuania this weekend. Their underage squad aged between 9 and 12, took on our young guns, coached by Paul Ryan and Jack Jacob. The game took place on a mud bath in freezing conditions for forty minutes, but this did not dampen the spirits of these enthusiastic youngsters.

Kovas, is one of a number of several developing clubs in Lithuania, of which there are many throughout the country and they also have the honour of being Lithuania's third largest City based on the Baltic Coast. Kovas RC, were greeted to Kilbarry, Waterford with a standing

ovation, by our under 12's and the Lithuanian national colours were on display, alongside the Irish Tricolour and our Club colours. The visiting club were received by 15 of our City players and several members. After the game, food and beverages were provided for the children and parents and then, we were all treated to watch the Ireland V France, 6 Nations match on the big screen in the clubhouse.

On Sunday, we then travelled to Wexford Wanderers with the Kovas squad, who once again competed in a very professional manner and were received by the Wanders coach Des Dempsey, who commented on the quality of rugby by all these young players from a developing Rugby Country, currently 44th in world rankings. Thank you, also to Wexford Wanderers, for hosting Kovas at such short notice and the hospitality that we received on both our arrival and departure including a visit to one on Wexford's most prized locations, Johnstown Castle.

These 9 underage players did not only come to Ireland to play rugby for a holiday, they came to represent a country similar to Ireland in terms of land mass and population, renowned for basketball as their national sport. These guys came here as underdogs, but will go home as heroes and ambassadors for the development of rugby in Lithuania. They are the future of rugby in Eastern Europe and will by the time they get back home, have travelled over 6000 kilometres to play in a country that is ranked in the top 10 in the world and have played over 90 minutes in 48 hours. That is dedication to the sport.

The importance of this meeting between Waterford City and Wexford Wanderers will hopefully leave a lasting impression on all these kids for many years. Likewise, our own club and players, will for many years, speak of history in the making, whereby the first underage overseas Lithuanian club, not only played rugby in Ireland but also played one of the oldest Rugby Union clubs in the world. Waterford City Rugby Football Club founded 1893 and Wexford Wanderers founded in 1924.

Aciu Labai, Kovas ir Waterfordas Regbis.....

A special thank you to Austeja Mi and Arvydas, without whom this event would not have been so successful and also to Kornelija Streckiene and Vaiva Sapolaite for translation and administration / photographic duties on the day. Beach Haven Guest House, Tramore, Co Waterford for accommodating our guests on Friday night at a very late hour. Helen and Paul

Ryan and Gayle and DJ Andy McCloskey who provided accommodation, entertainment and food to our visiting nine. And, last but not least, an exceptionally, very special thank You, to one of our former ladies player, Elma Beirne (currently working as marketing executive for Leinster Rugby) for her resourcefulness in sourcing 14 tickets for our visitors, to watch Leinster RFC V Zebre in the RDS last Friday night and finally, HW Fasteners Ltd for assistance in sponsoring this tour.

