

Waterford City Club Notes

31/01/2016

Munster Junior Cup

Waterford City RFC 15 v Muskerry RFC 12

Penalties: Michael Hayes 2, Aaron Foskin 3

MOM: Tom Bowe

The Munster Junior Cup City enjoy the challenge of any cup, and after beating J1 sides Clanwilliam, Skibereen, and drawing with Galbally in the last 10 months, City entered the game with plenty to prove and nothing to fear against a Muskerry side.

A feature of City's pre game ritual this year has seen ex players and presidents speaking before the match to the match day squad. A huge thank you to Jim Madigan who skippered the side for two years and spent six years as president. Jim's speech, coupled with the pre game motivational video ensured the lads were in the right frame of mind to grind out result.

City elected to face a strong wind in the first half which Muskerry utilised well in the first fifteen minutes, also with a slight edge at scrum time. It was from a scrum that Muskerry managed to exert pressure on City's line with the back row surging through for a score that was duly converted. Huge credit has to go to City for the remainder of the half with resolute defence, some big hits coming in from Mark Hayes and James Halligan on the wings and entire forward pack ensuring Muskerry remained scoreless for the rest of the half. In fact, City enjoyed the lion's share of possession with the pack in particular dismantling Muskerry lineout through Eamonn O'Keeffe's athleticism and Simon O'Hara's intelligence. The forwards were giving City a great platform and from this, Darren Walsh made a trademark sniping break and was unlucky not to score a well deserved try. Simon O'Hara also went close as City piled on the pressure.

Jack Caffrey, starting his first game at fly half for the senior team showed his talent and exerted a calming influence on proceedings, and from a penalty advantage, Jack launched a

well worked move where Mark Hayes fed his brother Michael who showed sublime skill with a reverse pass to wing James Halligan. 'Jim bob' stepped the defender with ease before being brought down inches away for the line. Muskerry had no choice but to concede a penalty which Michael Hayes duly converted. Despite further city pressure, the half need with city in a prime position for victory with only four points between the sides and a strong breeze at their back for the second half.

The second half again saw City exert pressure on Muskerry and much to the delight to coach Peter Jones, despite the conditions. Aaron Foskin stepped off the bench to show his impressive O'Gara esque kicking skills by pinning Muskerry back in their own half. With Dave O'Connor coming off the bench to bolster the pack, City exerted some dominance at scrum time and from this were awarded a penalty which Aaron Foskin converted excellently, aiming about 20 foot left of the upright to bring the ball back superbly.

City were well on top, but Muskerry showed there abilities, particularly through there excellent centers and scored a well worked try putting them back in the lead at 12-9. Foskin led by example with an audacious restart pinning Muskerry back in there half and from this, the hugely impressive Tom Bowe, tackling like a man possessed, earnt City a penalty which Foskin converted. City had their chances, camped in the Muskerry 22, but Muskerry showed good defence with the game ended 12 all and extra time loomed.

City were confident of succeeding in the additional 20 minutes and knew they had the capabilities to win the game. The squad have displayed a calm but determined attitude in recent weeks, buoyed by the defensive effort against Tralee. City played into the wind in the first half and managed to keep Muskerry scoreless. Both sides were showing fatigue on a sticky pitch, even accounting for cramp in man of the match Tom Bowe, but as the final whistle approached, City were awarded a scrum. A penalty ensued and despite Dave 'Morgan Parra' O'Connor's efforts for a quick tap, the referee came back to the mark for a penalty on the 15 metre line with the last kick of the game. Aaron Foskin with nerves of steel brought the victory home for the squad.

Special mention must also go to Liam Hayes, a graduate of our ever improving underage system who made his first senior appearance today. And as always, a huge thank you to the supporters (particularly the 5 wives and girlfriends hogging the warmth of the video analysis room post game) and our sponsors, Done Deal and the Kingfisher club.

Karl Reade, Brian Walsh, Andrew Condron, Jason Power, Eamonn O'Keefee, Cian Foskin, Tom Bowe, Simon O'Hara, Darren Walsh, Jack Caffrey, Mark Hayes, Connor Power (captain), Aidan Power, James Halligan, Michael Hayes Dave O'Connor, Liam Hayes, Kevin Whelan, Fintan Purcell, Aaron Foskin

Under 16's – Pan Munster League

Tralee RFC 19 v Waterford City RFC 33

The under 16 squad had yet another long journey to endure this weekend as they travelled to Tralee RFC. This was a great win for the under 16 side as they have had a few narrow defeats as of late. Next Saturday they host Young Munster in Kilbarry on Saturday.