**Munster Junior League Division 2**

Youghal 27

Waterford City 17

By a long margin this was the most disappointing performance by our Seniors this season. With the wind heavily against us in the 1st half and playing up the hill City made life very difficult for themselves with a number of silly penalties to give Youghal an attacking platform deep into the City half. City were caught napping in their own 22 and the Youghal openside spotted a gap to score on the far right and put them 5-0. City fired back immediately and some good work by the forwards brought play deep into the Youghal half, City attacked the blind side and Damien Kennedy sucked in 2 defenders and off loaded to Aaron Foskin to score in the corner and make it 5-5. Penalties continued to cost City and give Youghal territory with the strong wind at their backs and they found themselves yet again 5 yards from the City line from a penalty, from a lineout their No 8 barged over to make it 10-5 in their favour.City were spending most of this half defending and were dealt a hammerblow when captain Dave O Connor had to leave the field with a suspected concussion. On the last play of the half the Youghal centre hit a gap from what looked to be an obvious forward pass and he scored under the posts to make it 17-5. City fired back at the start of the 2nd half with No 8 Simon O Hara breaking 4 tackles and putting the supporting Cian Foskin through the gap to score under the posts and make the score 17-12. Almost immediately City were right back down but a knockon allowed Youghal to relieve the pressure. The wind had now completely died down and this allowed Youghal to continue their good kicking game . A bad decision in the City defence saw Youghal go in for their 4th try on 20mins to put them 22-12. Disaster struck on 65mins when a City attack in the Youghal 22 saw the ball spilled and kicked deep into the City half, the bounce was favourable for them and they scored to make it 27-12. City came straight back up the field and some quick hands by our backs put Darren Walsh free to score in the corner to make it 27-17. With 12 mins remaining another try would have given City the 4 try bonus point and put them within a chance to win the game. After consistent offsides all day the ref had no option but to send the Youghal winger to the sin bin. Aaron Foskin made his way through the Youghal defence only to be held up over the tryline but shockingly the ref gave Youghal the scrum which allowed them to clear the ball. Darren Walsh carved up the opposition defence with 2 mins remaining but just inches from the line Youghal were awarded a penalty again to everyones confusion .On the last play City turned over the lineout and forced the penalty but the kick at the posts was missed and City were left with noting. Each and every player knows the standard has slipped the past month and it is up to them to change it and prevent ourselves from slipping from mid table towards the bottom half. Massive league game at home to Killorglin in mid January.

U18s defeat Thurles

On a murky Sunday morning we played Thurles in our last game of the year.The game started with both teams giving away a lot of penalties in the middle of the park,which lead to some very fierce play and both teams were reduced to 14.Our only try of the first half came from a great run from Ryan Phillips.He spotted and hit the gap at the half way line and from then on it was under the posts. Thurles then hit back with a try and a penalty to send us in at half time down a point but playing well.In the second half we had the hill and the wind at our backs and after a great team effort we were 5 meters from their line in one corner and in a blink and 5 quick passes Ryan was in at the other side.We were playing the better rugby but one stray pass lead to Thurles retaking the lead with an intercept try under the posts.12-15.This just seemed to spur us on and in fairness Thurles only made our 22 once more in the game and that was an ambitious kick from us which went straight out.Our dominance showed and we scored 3 penalties all slotted well by Conor Brennan.Although we should have had two more tries a kick though by Ryan a super chase and all he had to show for it was a sore head and then a super run by Jake Phillips from our 10 meter line breaking tackles sprinting past players side steps only to be stopped with a trip by their 15.This didn't matter as Adian Power picked up really well and raced in in the corner after a dropped Thurles ball was kicked on by Conor Brennan.The game ended 26 to 15 a good win but the best thing was the performance of the whole team a nice way to finish the year.Players to mention are Craig Tyrell, Patrick Walsh and Alan Woods but man of the match went to Conor Brennan for his kicking and over all play well done.The final word has to be well done today a great team effort.

Well done to all involved in our mini’s Christmas party, we hope all the kids had a great time !!