

## Waterford City Rugby Football Club

### Club Notes 11/10/2015

WCRFC Senior – Thurles 32 V WCRFC 27

Tries: Simon O Hara, Michael Hayes, Cian Foskin, Aidan Power

Conversion: Michael Hayes x3

Penalties: Michael Hayes

Man of the Match – Kevin Whelan

Dave O'Connor, Brian Walsh, Alex Fitzmaurice, Simon O'Hara, Eamonn O'Keeffe, Kevin Whelan, Cian Foskin, Joe Delahunty, Michael Hayes, Aaron Foskin, Damien Kennedy, Connor Power (captain), Aidan Power, James Halligan Mark Hayes

Andrew Condron, Stephen O'Rourke, Connor White, Darren Walsh, Jack Caffrey

On Sunday 11th October Waterford City travelled to Thurles to test themselves against one of the favourites for promotion in the league and a team City had two tight battles with last seasons with both games ending with only a score between the teams. As the rest of the country, the squad were waiting for the tremendous Ireland France game to start, and by all accounts seemed to leave there rugby heads in the changing room.

City, with a number of players being given a chance to impress began poorly and were 13-3 down after 15 minutes as Thurles had the upper hand at scrum time, something City will look to fix in the future. Too often city were held up in contact and, surprisingly, missed tackles against their Tipperary counterparts.

It wasn't until the 65th minute that city began to play, and as such, after being 32-15 down clawed themselves back to 32-27 with 5 minutes left to play. City had chances to win the game, but fell short in a cup they would have fancied wining after last season's successes.

The dressing room post-match drew a reaction from the squad, who after two consecutive league victories, are focused solely on putting this right in training over the next two weeks ready for league action against table toppers Cobh.

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

### **J2 – WCRFC 19 V Clonmel 21**

A much improved City squad hosted Clonmel RFC at home in Kilbarry on Saturday night. Clonmel were first on the scoreboard with a penalty and then a try. 20 minutes into the game, saw a set piece move from a City scrum passed to Arron Whelan who got over the gain line and delivered the ball to veteran full back Eoghan Hartery who crashed over the line from 15 meters out. The try was

unconverted leaving the sides at 8-5 to Clonmel. City and Clonmel were by now both very much into this game with powerful displays of set piece moves and open field play. Our scrums held on all accounts and we were winning our lineout ball. However repeated infringements by City gave Clonmel another advantage with a converted penalty but the deficit was quickly narrowed by a superb try from Liam McCarthy to put us in front on a score of 12 points to 11.

More infringements and sloppy play by City allowed Irish International Dennis Leamy's, Clonmel side another shot at goal for a further 3 points. City regained their composure and were firing on all guns passing the ball from left to right and back, gaining hard yards up the pitch. City got a scrum in the middle of the pitch 40 yards out and worked the ball over 7 phases with some fine rucking by the pack to ensure we got the ball back. Our lads brought the ball into contact and drew their forwards in, Liam McCarthy flashed the ball to Jack Caffrey, who in turn skipped our inside centre to Peter Jones at 13. Jones drew in two players and with a one handed pass found Arron Whelan back inside who sprinted for the line to ground the ball in impressive style. Caffrey converted and City went ahead again -19 -14. A case of bad luck and bad decision making, gave Clonmel their winning try inside the last 10 minutes. The final 5 minutes of the game was marred by a Clonmel player getting sent off for hitting one of our guys on the ground. However, this yellow card although to our advantage was just not enough and we could not muster the clinical finish that was required to win. A penalty kick from the halfway line by Man of the Match Jack Caffrey fell just short of the sticks and Clonmel won on a score line of 21-19. This was a very disappointing defeat but on the positive side, we nearly got the scalp of a team who were the best junior team in Munster last year. Well done to Cian McCarthy (making his first start for the Club), David Healy, Liam Hayes, Elliot O Mahoney (Vice Captain), Conor White for solid performances and also to some great leadership from captain Liam McCarthy, Tom Bowes and Aaron Whelan.