



# NEWSLETTER

## July 2009

[www.cityofderryrfc.com](http://www.cityofderryrfc.com)

**After the dam Busting heroics of last season winning the league and cups treble in an unbeaten run, its hard to believe that the New Season is just round the corner. A slight disappointment in the end when we failed to get promoted back into the AiL but this was always going to be a two year project.**

The season seems to start earlier each year with the Firsts XV playing a pre-season friendly at home to the mighty Belfast Harlequins on August 22. The league and cup double winning Seconds will also host a game against scottish visitors, Newton Stewart RFC.

**Bevan and the Big Yin (M McN)** have kept most of the first squad ticking over, staying in shape with secret training sessions on Tuesday nights at the club.

**It all begins to heat up next Thursday 16th July when Pre-Season Training starts.** Here is what Bevan has to say.

"I'm really encouraged by the large numbers of players keeping in shape over the summer months so pre-season will be a lot less painful. I am available over the entire summer to meet with club members and discuss what programme will fit your needs and time available. So please give me a bell and we will get

things rolling! Pre-season starts officially next week on Thursday 16th July at the club at 7pm sharp! These will not be beasting sessions. We will introduce skills and conditioning games which will gradually increase in intensity over the following weeks – so be in early! Touch Rugby will continue on Tuesdays as normal.

So remember guys –'the hardest thing in training is putting the running shoes on, the rest is easy!"

"See you soon" Lynchy

### **Player recruitment.**

The big news here - and its no secret having been announced at the players end of season awards dinner - is that we are welcoming back former Captain Stephen Corr who has had a two year stint at Belfast Instonians. Also, a major coup in welcoming back Richard McCarter who has decided to return after three year with top Division One side Dungannon. Stephen Ferguson also returns after a year away at Ballymena. We expect to see a few other young faces coming through from the schools and Universities so competition is going to be tight for places.

### **What's happening with the Thirds and Fourths?**

The Thirds could well be used as a development squad this season to bring through the younger players and that is

being discussed at present. The Fourths will be a representation of both youth youth and lots of experience with places in the team at a premium.

### **Membership Subscriptions.**

Liam Harkin has agreed to take over as Honorary Membership Secretary from the long serving and excellent Norman Taylor. He will be assisted by the Committee, Coaching and Selection panels in enforcing the policy of **No Pay No Play.**

The cost of running teams becomes ever more exorbitant with Insurance and Branch Affiliation levies amounting to some £3,000 per season. Add in the cost of kit replacement, laundry and travel and we have a basic fixed cost of about £4,250 for each adult team which works out at a cost of around £210 per player assuming an average team squad of 22. These costs have to be met by the membership of the club and it is only fair that the players, who derive most enjoyment from the use and access to club facilities, should pay for the associated costs of running the teams. Subscriptions have remained unchanged for over five years. Any player expecting to play this season will have to pay their subscription early if they want to be considered for selection to any team. That is club policy and will be strictly enforced.

## Members database Update.

We are currently updating the membership database and would ask members to complete the enclosed renewal form with correct address, tel.nos. and in particular email addresses so that we can communicate on a regular basis with details of matches and events at the club.

***Finance is always needed at this time of the year to help meet our ongoing costs and commitments so we urge you to please return this form with your annual subscription as soon as possible. Cheques to made payable to CDRFC and crossed a/c payee, not negotiable.***

## YOUTH RUGBY

**Monty Montgomery, double jobbing as Youth Convenor and Selection Convenor has provided details on the new Youth Age restructuring.**

This year sees a proposed change in the date of birth cut off for teams. The proposals are: -

U13 Born 1997

U15 Born 1995 or 1996

U17 Born 1993 or 1994

U19 Born 1991 or 1992

The U19 and U20 players are welcome to join in the Club pre season training starting on Thursday 16 July at 7:00 p.m.

The main Youth training and coaching programme will start on Wednesday 9 September 2009 at 7.00pm The U19 squad will also train on Tuesdays.

## Fixture Books

We are still awaiting Team Fixtures from the Branch but hope to have the fixture book available by the end of August. The fixture will also be updated on the website asap.

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# International Match Tickets

**THE INTERNATIONAL MATCH TICKET ALLOCATION COMMITTEE** will be convened by Paul Halpenny this season - Edgar Walker having decided to stand down from the job after many years of dedicated service in this post.

**International Ticket Application Forms** accompany this newsletter and can also be downloaded from the Website. [www.cityofderryrfc.com](http://www.cityofderryrfc.com)

This Seasons Fixtures are as follows:

Sun.	15 Nov '09	15:00	Ireland v Australia	Croke Park
Sat.	21 Nov. '09	17:15	Ireland v Fiji	RDS Dublin
Sat.	28 Nov. '09	14:30	Ireland v S. Africa	Croke Park
Sat.	6 Feb. '10	14:30	Ireland v Italy	Croke Park
Sat.	13 Feb. '10	17:30	France v Ireland	Stade de France
Sat.	27 Feb. '10	16:00	England v Ireland	Twickenham
Sat.	13 Mar. '10	14:30	Ireland v Wales	Croke Park
Sat.	20 Mar. '10	17:00	Ireland v Scotland	Croke Park

There should be plenty of tickets available for the Autumn Internationals (November 2009) so bring your friends. Demand should be high for Ireland v Italy, Ireland v Wales and Ireland v Scotland. The Club will receive a limited number of tickets for the away internationals in France and England.

Applications should be received by the 26 October 2009 and will only be accepted by fully paid up members of the club.

## Ladies News

The Ladies had a very successful season winning their league and will hope to sustain and progress under the Captaincy of Diane Nixon who can be contacted on 07527632726 or by email: [dianenixonni@aol.com](mailto:dianenixonni@aol.com).

Training has already started and details can be found on the website which will be regularly updated with news of fixtures etc. Feel free to give Diane a call on the above number.

## Ten Year Membership scheme

Committee have decided to make a determined effort to reduce our borrowings with the bank. The club hopes that those members who can afford to do so will make a generous offer to help us in this task by buying a Ten Year Membership at £1000. If any member would like to avail of this scheme please contact Alan McClure.

## George Tees Cup

The Dooley Cup competition has been renamed the George Tees Cup in memory of George who passed away earlier this year. George will always be remembered with the competition having organised it since its inception in 30 years ago. This years competition will take place on Sat. 29 August.

**MINI RUGBY - John McDonnell, Alan McCay, Malcolm Burns and Russell Doherty are the main men in the Mini Rugby set up** but they have a host of willing helpers and coaches. The Mini Rugby Registration Day takes place on Saturday 12 Sept and already they are expecting in excess of 100 kids to sign up for the season ahead. Sessions start at 9.30 am on Saturday mornings.

**No news from the Golden Oldies as yet** but rumours abound about the Trip to Troon. Hamburg revisited is also on the menu.