

# MUSKERRY RFC

Welcome to the Muskerry Rugby Club Christmas 2017 Newsletter. We would like to wish all of our players, members, supporters, friends, and sponsors, a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Muskerry RFC is a thriving club with ten under age teams from Under 7 to Under 18 and two adult teams. Additionally in January 2018 we are launching our first girl's team for U14s and U16s. This season we began playing on our new pitch developed at a cost of over €150,000. The pitch, which has a sand based surface that will be playable in all weathers and includes a spectator embankment on one side, has already been selected to host the Munster V Ulster Junior inter-provincial game in late April.

We are always looking for new members young or old irrespective of experience and if you are interested in getting playing or just getting involved in any capacity we would be delighted to see you. Please contact one of the following:

Mini rugby U6 - U12	Aedh McGinn	087 2364358
Youth rugby U13 - U18	Michael Kett	087 9757391
Girls rugby	Raymond Sheehan / Catherine Kavanagh	087 3693180 087 6590597
Adult rugby	Howard Grice Aidan O'Connor	087 4193601 086 8349105

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# The story of our new pitch

Over the years our middle pitch was becoming waterlogged each winter. In 2015 the club applied for lottery funds to construct a new sand based pitch that would be playable in all weathers. With these funds in place and the help of extensive fund raising work could commence in the summer of 2016. The ground was leveled, drains were put in, and a 75mm carpet of fine sand was laid. Then the topsoil was laid over the sand and the grass seed planted. This was left to mature until the summer of 2017 when the surrounding works were completed : paths , railings, and the all-important goal posts! We now have one of the finest club pitches in Munster. Well done to all involved!

## The pitch in figures

- Pea Gravel 800 tons
- Sand 1,400 tons
- Drainage piping 1100 metres
- Grass seed 400kg
- Limestone 500kg
- Fertiliser 300kgs



You can be a part of this success story! By a square on our new pitch for just €20 and you will be part of the club's history and be entered in a cash draw. For information please ask any club member



The old pitch



The drains are laid



The sand arrives



Ballyanly Beach!



The posts are up



Support our fundraising!



## Reeling in the years – 2002-2003

We have trawled through the archives to recall a past season. Back in 2002/2003 we had the luxury of fielding three adult teams:

### 'The Corkman' of December 8th 2002: Munster Junior League Division 2, Muskerry 9 - Douglas 7

Muskerry; Alan Brown, Andrew Dennehy, John Horgan, Martin Moriarty, Aedh McGinn, Edward Long, Tony Cremin, Shane O'Connor, Ian O'Sullivan, Dan Cahill, Alan Cremin, Matt Moorby, DJ O'Leary, Cormac O'Donoghue, JJ O'Herlihy. Subs; Harry O'Sullivan, Willie Healy. Scorer; DJ O'Leary (3 pen gls).

Meanwhile, the 'Seconds' qualified for the penultimate stage of the Kelly Cup with a 13 - 7 victory over Cobh Pirates. It was lucky thirteen also for the 3rd XV as they triumphed 13 - 8 over Carrigaline, to stay top of the J4 table. With the First team free of competitive action until the New Year, attention centres on the second and third teams on Sunday next, with a 'double header' scheduled for Ballyanly. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV face their opponents of last week, Cobh Pirates, and this time league points are at stake. Cork Transport provide the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV's opposition in the McCarthy Cup.

And later in the season on February 28th 2003 'The Corkman' reported:

### Munster Junior League Division 2, Tralee 9 - Muskerry 9

Muskerry RFC's promotion hopes to J1 Div 1, were dented, when they dropped two precious points at Tralee on Sunday last. Muskerry led 9-6 with the game in injury time and looking set to return to the top of the table. But a last gasp drop goal, salvaged a draw for the Kerry side. Two D.J. O'Leary penalties put Muskerry 6-3 ahead at the interval. D.J. completed the 'sky blues' scoring, with his third penalty in the 80th minute, before the home team grabbed the dramatic equaliser. The result, means five teams are still in with a chance, of making the top flight next season. St Marys, Douglas, Old Christians and Kanturk all join Muskerry in the scramble for two promotion spots.



Muskerry XV v Tralee



## O'Leary & O'Sullivan Developments

Tulach Rua, Courtbrack,

Blarney,

Co Cork



# The French Connection

**Muskerry Rugby club has a long touring tradition at both adult and underage level. This year two under-age teams and one adult team went on tour to different parts of France.**

**U12s take Biarritz by storm:** This year's U12 team flew out to Biarritz in south western France on April 7th. The tour party, led by coaches Niall Coughlan and Eddie O'Callaghan consisted of 27 players and 28 adults and an action packed agenda was put in place for the players that give them lifelong memories. Muskerry played in a blitz on the morning of April 8th near Biarritz against two other sides: local team Soustons, and French super-power Racing 92 from Paris. On Saturday evening they went to see a Top 14 game between Bayonne and Stade Francais and on Sunday the boys hit the beach to enjoy the world famous Biarritz surfing.

**U13s jet out to face Albi :** Just two days after their thrilling league win the U13s jetted out to Toulouse in south western France and from there made their way to the city of Albi. The touring party, lead by the coaching 'dream team' of Mick O'Connell, Jim O'Connell, and Ed Wall, consisted of 26 players along with 30 parents. Muskerry played against the local team Albi who had no doubt had heard about their league success and were bristling for the challenge. The Albi side "SAC: Sporting Club Albigeois" who are part of a professional club were big boys, but were pushed all the way by the mighty men of Muskerry. Before departing the group also took in the sights of this historic city, and enjoyed some water sports.

**Adults tackle pro team in Pau:** Not to be outdone by their younger counterparts 43 members of the adult section jetted out to Pau at the foot of the French Pyrenees on Friday 1st September. Former Munster great James Coughlan was our host and on Saturday the Muskerry men lined out against the multi-national academy team of the Pau club who play in the Top 14. Despite the sweltering heat, the hard ground, and the physically imposing opposition, Muskerry gave the professional boys a hard battle, before finally succumbing to their superior physical conditioning. The rest of the weekend was spent absorbing the local culture and indulging in the local cuisine.



**Muskerry U12's before departure for France**



**Muskerry U13s at Toulouse Airport**



**Muskerry v Pau**



## Team profile : Under 16

Our Under 16 team is coached by Stephen Griffin, Tim Sheehan, and Vivian Sheehan. The boys play in the Munster U16 competition and after a slow start having put in some fine performances in recent weeks. New players are always welcome whether experienced in rugby or not.



Action from recent Under 16 games vs Skibbereen and Kinsale

### Former Muskerry Player elected to New Zealand Parliament

In October Kieran McNulty who played with Muskerry in the 2007 / 2008 season was elected as a Labour M.P to the New Zealand parliament. For good measure Kieran gave Muskerry RFC a mention in his maiden speech to the parliament!

**You can watch the speech here:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45HWUO7TdkU>**



### Blarney Castle & Muskerry Rugby Club – a winning combination!

In 2015 Blarney Castle & Gardens became our main club sponsor. The club is delighted to carry the logo of such a famous attraction on our first team jerseys and hopes the partnership can continue for many years to come.



## Jersey presentation to Under14 team

Muskerry U14 s were presented with set of new jerseys sponsored by Denis O Sullivan & Associates (DOSA), Consulting Engineers. Brian O'Sullivan of DOSA was on hand to present the gear to the delighted team



Muskerry Rugby Club would like to thank everyone who purchased advertising for our new pitch

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