



## Ulster Bank League Division I A Final Clontarf V Cork Constitution

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017 2:30 PM

In a repeat of last year's decider, two heavyweights of Irish club rugby, Cork Constitution and Clontarf, go head-to-head in Sunday's All Ireland Division 1A Final at the Aviva Stadium. If Clontarf prevail Dublin's dominance of the top flight will continue with a sixth straight winner from the capital.

Clontarf are playing in an incredible 5 league finals in a row and are looking to become the first back-to-back champions since Shannon in 2004-2006.

Constitution will be hoping to avenge last year's defeat when a star performance from Joey Carberry inspired Clontarf to a 21-3 lead at half-time and despite Constitution fighting their way back into contention it ended 28-23 to Clontarf.

Both meetings between these sides this season produced home wins, with Cork Constitution defeating Clontarf 24-17 at Temple Hill in November, while the Dublin outfit ran out 22-13 winners at Castle Avenue in February.

Clontarf finished second in the table behind former champions Lansdowne and were rewarded with a home semi-final against Young Munster which they won 37-29.

Constitution despite being unfortunate to find themselves in fourth place come the end of the regular season, caused a shock in the semi-finals, travelling up to Dublin 4 and defeating Lansdowne on the Aviva back pitch, knocking the table-toppers out of the playoffs and handing Constitution yet another crack at Clontarf for the All-Ireland League Division 1A title.

Competing for a range of silverware at the business end of the year can obviously work in a team's favour and Constitution will be encouraged by last week's performance when they survived a frantic finish to edge out hosts Old Belvedere 18-13 at Anglesea Road and win their fifth Ulster Bank Bateman Cup in-a-row.

Clontarf will have the advantage of fresher legs from a week off and with some key men in a rich vein of form, the book-makers rate Wood's men favourites to claim their third league crown in four years.

League form goes out the window for Sunday's clash and from Constitution's point of view it's a cup game with it all to play for. It promises to be a very competitive contest with the players on both sides giving everything to the cause of their respective clubs.

The Club will put on a coach for those who want to travel. The coach is sponsored by Ulster Bank and will leave Temple Hill at 9.15 am. We do need to know numbers so can those intending to travel on the coach please call/text Dave Fitzgerald on 086 8554943.

## Dates for your Dairy

### 125 Years of Cork Constitution History

The 125th Anniversary Books are on sale in the Club Bar.

### Finals and Family Fun Day

Saturday 6th May 2016 9:30AM - 1:30pm

Further details on page 2

### Annual General Meeting

The club AGM will be held on **Wednesday 24th May** at 8.00 pm in the clubhouse. The 2016 minutes will be available next week on the Club website.

### Cork Con 125 Anniversary Gala Dinner

Please note the **Cork Con 125 Anniversary Gala Dinner** will be held on **Friday 12 May 2017 in the Club House**. For further details see page 2

### Summer Camp 3 July 2017 to 7 July 2017

Application Forms available in the Clubhouse and on our Website; [www.corkcon.ie](http://www.corkcon.ie)



Pictured with the Bateman Cup is Conor Kindregan and Liam O'Conner with Liam's nephew Charlie.

As this is my last Ezine for the season I wish you all a very enjoyable summer. Pat Twomey



### Juvenile Director of Rugby Letter to U 13's April 2017

Boys and Parents, This is a poignant time of the year as we prepare to say goodbye to some of our players for a few years as we 'loan' them to the rugby schools. Roughly a third of our U13 squad will continue to play rugby in Con and hopefully compete for Munster trophies at under 14, 16 and 18 level. The balance will go to CBC and PBC, on-loan for a few years. We expect to see you all back here again for U20 rugby in a short seven years time! This is YOUR club now. For life.

You have all come a long way since, as six and seven year-olds, you started playing here in Con in the 2010/2011 season. Remember the old clubhouse?

If there is one message I would like to leave you with, it is this: please, please continue to play rugby and continue to enjoy this great sport. The benefits of playing are obvious and well understood: improving physical health, strengthening of character and building of friendships for life.

So my question to you is this:

are you going to be one of the guys who re-joins his U13 teammates and together wins the Fraser McMullen All-Ireland U20 trophy with Con in the 2023/24 season?

Are you one of the guys who will go the whole way and make a career out of rugby?

Will you play senior for Con and win a Bateman Cup?

Will you play for Munster? Ireland? The Lions?

Will all the others in the group say "I played with him at under age ... And I dumped him on his ass in the final of the Fred Casey tournament!!"

The only thing I can say with complete certainty is that, as of today, nobody knows who those guys will be. NOBODY. Ask Peter O'Mahony, ask Simon Zebo, ask Doug Howlett, ask ROG, ask Fred Casey ... It's not the most talented that make it; it's the ones with the greatest perseverance. So if you are ever in a situation over the next few years where you are contemplating giving up rugby ... DON'T. Put in another week, another training session, one more season. Because you could be the guy who wears the Lions jersey on behalf of this years U-13 squad.

Enjoy your rugby ... and see you soon,

**Des Murphy**

**Director of Juvenile Rugby**

# Cork Constitution

## Family Fun Day

Saturday 6th May 2017

10:30AM - 2:30pm in Temple Hill

Come and join us celebrate the close of another great season at the club.

Street League Finals day rugby from 10.30 to 2.30pm.

Once all the Rugby is finished at 12.30pm we start our fun activities on the main pitch which all the coaches will be involved in.

Fun and games including :-

- .. Rugby Rounders
- .. Crossbar Challenge
- .. Tug of War
- .. and an opportunity to throw a wet sponge at your most / least) favourite coach!!

There will be sweets and treats and Finger Food.

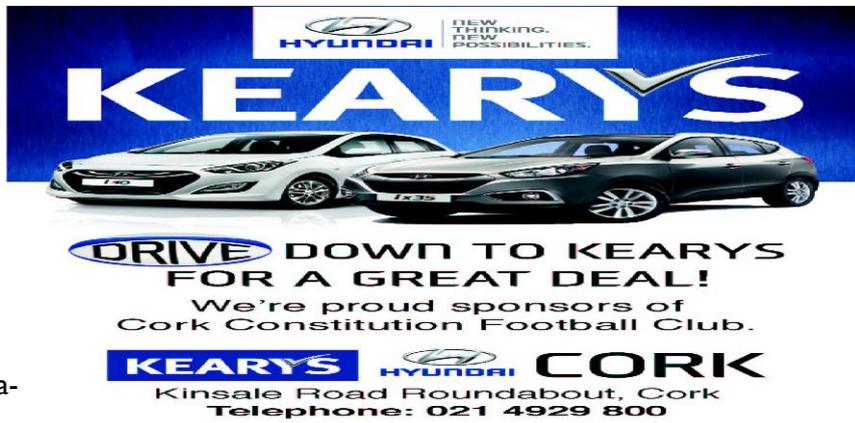
Please bring €4 per child to help toward new facilities at the CUH Children's Unit.

All donations from the Cork Constitution Family Day will go towards improving, upgrading and refurbishing the new Children's Unit at CUH. On an annual basis, over 30,000 children attend the Children's Unit at CUH. Cork University Hospital is a specialist centre for children with a range of illnesses including Cystic Fibrosis, Diabetes and Epilepsy to name a few.

CUH Charity's aim is to raise a total of €1,500,000 to refurbish In-patient facilities in the Children's Unit and upgrade facilities that were first built in the 1970s.

The Charity hopes to replace the current outdated Children's Unit with a state-of-the-art facility to meet the medical and surgical needs for the children of the Greater Munster region and incorporate Paediatric Services in one single unit. CUH Charity's goal is to transform our hospital into a single centre of excellence for Munster and give all children the services and care they truly deserve.

Cork Constitution is proud to be associated with this great cause.



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The club benefits from 3 bars and our facilities are ideal for all sorts of functions including Parties, Weddings, Funerals and Corporate team building days.

Call Fiona Burke on 021 4291960 or email: [info@corkcon.ie](mailto:info@corkcon.ie) to discuss your requirements and arrange to see the facilities.

## 125th Anniversary Gala Dinner



The Management Committee has decided to change the venue of the 125th Anniversary Gala Dinner to the clubhouse, and to change from a 'black-tie' event to a 'dinner-dance' dress code (i.e. 'jacket & tie' for the men).

Tickets are priced at €50pp. Same date and time, 7:30 for 8pm on Friday 12th May. There will be a 3 course dinner and dancing afterward with a live band (Billy Crosbie & Friends).

Existing bookings remain valid and anyone else interested in attending should contact either Ian O'Leary (087 259-0861) or Brian Humphries (087 645-8592) in the next few days as places are limited.

The evening will also see several club awards being announced including 'Player of the Year' and 'Young Player of the Year' as well as the prestigious nomination to the 'Hall of Fame'.

It promises to be a very enjoyable event and we look forward to a great night in the club as we celebrate 125 years of Cork Constitution.



**HYUNDAI** NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

# KEARYS

Best of Luck in the League Cup Final from all in Keary's Hyundai.

Proud Sponsors of Cork Constitution