

Andy's Bhoys Longford Celtic Supporters Club



Andy's Bhoys Longford Celtic Supporters Club has been in existence now for over 13 years and is based in Kanes Bar (Murph's) on Ballymahon Street. In line with Celtic tradition the club has raised in excess of €15,000 over these years for local charities.

2011 was no different when in January we presented a cheque for €1031 to the local branch of the Irish Heart Foundation from proceeds from our Annual Christmas Draw.

In April the club held a successful Easter Draw which saw a cheque to the value of €549 being presented to St. Christopher's.

Our 2011 Annual Christmas Draw which takes place in December will also see a local charity benefit with the Longford Branch of Multiple Sclerosis benefiting from the proceeds of the draw.



Andy's Bhoys Longford Celtic Supporters Club Christmas Presentation to The Irish Heart Foundation: Back Row: Andrew Duke (Club Pro) – Susan Reid (Celtic Club) – Keith Curran (Murph's Bar) – Mick Hand (Club Treasurer) . Front Row : Gerry Reid (Club Chairman) – Mairead McMeel – Jackson (Irish Heart Foundation) – Marie Hand (Irish Heart Foundation) – Eddie Curran (Club Secretary).



Andy's Bhoys Longford Celtic Supporters Club Easter Presentation to St. Christopher's Special School. Back Row: Gerry Reid (Club Chairman) Michael Murphy (Murph's Bar), Ryan & Davina Murphy, Susan Reid (Club Merchandise Officer) Michael Hand (Club Treasurer). Front Row : Eddie Curran (Club Secretary) Cassandra & Kathleen Farrell (St Christopher's) Mick Hand (Club Treasurer)

Every Young Players Dream Can Be Achieved – in Longford RFC

Every Young Players Dream – Longford RFC is going from strength to strength each season, with our numbers increasing, due to Leinster Winning the Heineken Cup and Ireland Playing in the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand in September. Rugby is now one of most popular sports in Longford for both girls and boys at mini's level, where the age ranges from U6's to U12's. There is a great buzz around the Club house on a Sunday morning at 10 am with future stars of Longford rugby taking to the pitches as young as four years old in all weather conditions, with some preferring very muddy conditions, coming off the pitches when training is over, grinning from ear to ear at how dirty they got at training.

The Mini's have had several blitzes so far this season, with Longford RFC hosting the Midland Area Blitz in October, with over four hundred players attending, to play against other clubs in the Midland Area. Your children are the Future of Longford RFC minis and youths; the youths and mini section would not operate so well unless we had your tremendous help and support each year. Youths Players U13's, U14's, U15's U16's, U17's, U18's, U19's, train on Wednesday evenings at 7.20 pm. To facilitate players coming in from North Longford, we run a bus from that area every Wednesday night. All enquiries to mariakeelty@gmail.com for either Mini players or youth players.

Girls Youths Rugby - Youths rugby for Girls started in September, with players from U13's to U18's training with Coach Karen Lennon on a Wednesday night at 7.30pm. Such was the demand from enquiries received, with numbers increasing week on week, training is now on once a week.

Longford Ladies rugby is very strong in Longford RFC, since it started five years ago and hopefully we will have future stars in Girls Rugby. We have already had one Leinster Player Sharon McKeown, and Several Connacht players also over the last five years. This season alone we have had three Connacht Provincial players, Karen Lennon, Yvonne Dowd, and Marie Hanley. The future of women's rugby in Longford RFC is very bright indeed. All enquiries to Karen on 087 7449228.

PARENTS COMMITTEE - We are at present setting up a Parents Committee to help with the running of Longford RFC Youth/Mini's well into the future. We would like parents to come on board, with fresh Ideas, helping on match day or at Blitz days, to voice your opinions, or to become a Coach and attending coaching courses. Make yourselves known to Hilary Davis royhilarydavis@eircom.net Oliver Scott, 087 8034426 (after 6pm) Hugh Connolly, hugh@cpf.ie, 087 2410982, or any member of the Youths committee, as your children are the future of Longford RFC and hopefully the Seniors of tomorrow, or email admin@longfordrugby.com



Action from Longford 1st XV vs. Mullingar 1st XV.

Heineken Cup Champions Leinster Visit Longford RFC - August the 4th 2011 will be long remembered for many years to come, Leinster European Rugby Champions came into town and did a pre-season training in Longford RFC. The crowds had travelled from as far away as Wexford, Cavan, Monahan, Galway, Dublin, Edenderry and Tullamore, to watch the squad being put through their paces. Some of the children were very funny, "Look at them boys, they're huge" "I'll be on that squad one day" was spoken like a true pro, at six years old.

Irish and Leinster Mascots - Longford RFC are very proud of two of our Mini Players, Oran McGuinness, an U11's player, who represented our club as mascot with the Irish Squad at the first autumn international in the Aviva Stadium Ireland vs. Samoa; Oran will have very special memories of that day for years to come.

Young Seamus Hanley was the mascot for the Leinster vs. Ulster game he is one of Longford's U8's Mini's players, who is a Massive



Finbarr Mc Gowan receiving youths Player of the season award from Martin Maguire LRFC President.



Seamus Hanley, Mascot at Lenister Vs Ulster match with Leo Cullen.

Leinster supporter, he goes to all of the matches, he promotes Longford RFC where ever he goes. Seamus was the star of day, Leinster or Longford RFC could not have picked a better Mascot.

Irish Youth Selected - Finnbar McGowan played last season on the Longford U19's team, and on Leinster Youths U18's squad while in school in St. Mel's College and studying for his leaving certificate. The Leinster U18's team won the inter-provincial Cup. Finnbar went on to represent our club on the international stage as an U18's Irish Club Youths squad. He received the highest accolade given at our Youths awards night last season "Youths player of the Season".

Finnbar is now playing with UCD and the Leinster U19's squad, and hopefully Finnbar will be in the mix for selection, for the U20's Irish Squad.

Leinster Youth In Longford RFC - U17's Player Thomas Kennedy has been called up for

selection, with the U17's Leinster Development Squad. This is great honor and achievement for this young sixteen year old. He was on the Midland Team last season. Thomas has played at Mini's level since he was four years old, is currently playing with the U17's team which is being coached this season by Cecil Bennett and Oliver Scott. He is also playing rugby for his School, Moyne Community School where he is being coached by PE teachers Paul Prior and Brian Reilly. Everyone at Longford RFC wishes him continued success over the coming season in Longford RFC and with the Leinster U17's Development Squad.

MIDLANDS SQUAD - Congratulations to two young players from our U16's squad, Joe Bennett and Thomas Maguire who are playing on the Midlands Squad.

Thomas only took up Rugby less than a year ago and is an eager learner, Thomas also plays rugby for his school, St Mel's College where he is being coached by Stephen Coy Jr. Joe and Thomas are on the Current U17's team which is being coached by Cecil Bennett and Oliver Scott.

Start of Selection Process - These Youths players from Longford RFC are also competing for places on the Midland Squad against Seven other clubs in the Midlands

The comprehensive selection and coaching programme began last April when nominated players from the eight clubs took part in a skills screening.

The Strengths of Longford RFC - A very important point worth mentioning, Longford RFC is a small club in the Midlands, where players from Longford RFC are competing against other very large clubs in Leinster to secure places on the Leinster youths squad. Over the last ten or twelve years Longford RFC has had three Irish Youth Players and nine players on the Leinster Youths Squad; a fantastic achievement for Longford RFC. The standard of Coaching in Longford is of the highest standard, by which both the, Coaches, Players, Parents dedicate their time, week in week out, improving Players skills, strengths, Fitness, game play. The Longford U17's teams or previously U18's over the last four seasons, have reached the Leinster Finals, or the Leinster Semi-Finals, our U13's squad last season got to the Leinster Semi-final of the Cup in the Premier Division. Individual players can be seen training in the evenings or at the weekends, such is their commitment to training, eating correctly, doing exactly what their mentors is teaching them whether it's at Longford RFC or at Leinster Training. They just want to be like their Heroes, of Leinster and Irish Rugby that's why, It's every young Players Dream in Longford RFC, whether you are 6 years old or 17 years old.