



Fostering and developing team skills

Longford Rugby Club has had a very successful year, with our youths and minis, where numbers are increasing every year. It just goes to show how popular the sport of rugby has become, whether its rugby or tag rugby. Our main focus is to foster and develop the team skills of every mini player and youth player. We operate a strict policy of inclusion to ensure that every player plays on match days. This has been the key to our

rapid expansion over the last number of years and one that we are proud of and keen to develop even further.

Tag rugby is being played in many local national schools in the area. Killoe Parish took part in the community games and won out in Leinster area. They also took part in the All Ireland Tag Rugby Community games finals. Killashee Parish also took part in the Community Games reaching the Lein-

ster regional competition.

We have our new Club Community Resources Official (CCRO), Stephen Coy Jr, visiting all of the schools working with players and school development teams. Both Moyne Community School and St Mels College are taking part in the development shield. St Mels won through to the final last year only to be beaten in the last minute of the game by Malahide Community School. Three new schools have come on board playing rugby, namely Cnoc Mhuire Granard, Ardscoil Phadraig Granard and Mercy Convent Ballyhanon. A lot of time goes into teaching the basic skills of rugby by Stephen Coy Jr and Steve Coy Sr, who now looks after the Midlands region and also the North-East region.

Our U6s travelled away this year the first time to a blitz in Mullingar playing Leprechaun rugby. Our U12s squad represented us on the national stage by playing at half-time during the Lein-



Students from St. Mel's College and Moyne Community School pictured here with Steve Coy Snr. and Jnr.

ster v Edinburgh match in October. Their great day was topped off by meeting Malcolm O'Kelly and Alan Quinlan. Captain Brian Hanley had his arm signed by Alan Quinlan, which brought much laughter from the large crowd, in our newly developed Sin Bin Restaurant and Event centre.

Our youths have had a fantastic season. Our U17s panel, coached by David Lulham and George McDermott, topped the Division 1 North Leinster league. The amount of dedication that these two coaches have shown has paid dividends in the results in all matches and the response they have also got from the squad, players and parents alike, has been tremendous. They played in the Leinster League Final, only narrowly losing to Wexford RFC. Nine representatives from that U17s panel took part in the inter-area Shane Horgan Cup, which was trained by Derek Maybury and Steve

Coy. They went on to be the winners of the Shane Horgan Trophy for the first time ever. Longford is going from strength to strength with the mini and youth players. Already this season, we have representatives going on for selection to the midland team, hoping to defend for Shane Horgan Trophy.

Our club was represented by one of our youths in the Leinster inter-provincial U18s Club Youths this season. It was a tremendous achievement for Finnbar McGowan. He was in the starting squad for all matches and his time and dedication could be seen by all.

With our newly developed clubhouse, we are now able to host visiting teams from the rest of the Leinster, as far away as Dundalk and Wexford. One thing that has to be mentioned is the great work done by parents within the club.

Helping out, whether its is with stewarding, making sandwiches/tea/

coffee, supporting the players, or driving them to training, it is all hugely appreciated. Our club would not be so successful without all of your help.

We also hosted our Centra Leinster Summer Camp in late August. Players from 6-12 years took part. They met three of the Irish U20s players, Martin Moran, David Doyle and Andrew Mortimer. A note worth mentioning is that Andrew was on the Leinster U18s Club Youths team along with Longford players, Derek Farrell and Robert Kennedy. Robert was selected for Irish U18s Club Youths team two seasons ago.

Andrew went on the make history by scoring a hat trick of tries in the first match played in the new Aviva stadium. It was great that all of the Mini Summer camp remembered him at their first training session a week later.

This is one young player everyone should watch closely, he may be

one of our future Irish internationals.

Anyone wanting to make enquires about Mini Rugby (U6s -U12s) or Youths Rugby (u13s -U19s, whether you are U6s or U16s. It's never too late to take up rugby as a sport.

This has been proved in the past three in Longford RFC where, a player started playing at sixteen years, had never played before, and then when on to represent Longford RFC at U18s Leinster Youths and Irish U18s Club Youths teams and played in The Fira-Aer European Championships in Treviso, Italy.

Anyone wishing to join Longford mini or youths, please contact mini & youth co-ordinator, Maria Keilty on 086 0808111. To join as a senior player or womens player, check out our club site: www.longfordrugby.com or e-mail our club secretary, Tommy Butler at admin@longfordrugby.com.



Steve Coy, Finbar McGowan and Trevor McHugh pictured after Finbar was selected for the U18 Leinster squad.

Does exactly what it says on the tin!

The Longford Town Supporters' Club does exactly what it says on the tin ... it supports Longford Town football club. The past few seasons have had more downs than ups but that doesn't even register with the hard core supporters who travel the land in support of the red and black.

Recession or depression can't lessen the passion. This last season we dropped our membership by half and more then trebled our income; our Clubhouse prices are the lowest of any club and hence we're packed at half time for our famous home made sambos and hot drinks.

Of course we like to make a profit but it's not the be all and end all of our existence. We raise our funds through our Bank Holiday Car Boot Sales which have been an outstanding success and from our now famous Christmas Hamper raffle. Thankfully, it too has been extremely well supported by the generous people of Longford.

So what do we do with the money we make? Well

this year, we were able to hand over almost € 13,000 to the Club to help pay players' wages, fund transport costs and help with some renovation and decoration work at Flancare Park. We also have weekly notes in the local paper and website, www.ltrfc.ie keeping Longfordians all over the globe up to date with footie affairs.

Apart from slogging it out with the likes of Shamrock Rovers and Derry City, we had some even more fascinating visitors this season. In May we hosted the Family Day at Flancare in aid of the Cathedral Restoration reserve fund which was a success beyond our wildest dreams. It was particularly pleasing to have CASA use our Clubhouse facilities and also to see the stand full to capacity with people who till then, had never set foot in Flancare. Bishop Colm said Mass earlier in the day on the 20 metre line which we hoped would kick start our rise up the League table. Alas, it didn't work. After the Mass the stadium rocked to the sounds



LEGENDS ALL ... Jason McAteer, Liverpool FC; Liam Healion, Longford Town FC; John Aldridge, Liverpool FC; John Donlon, Longford Town FC.

of Declan Nerney, Mick Flavin, Larry Cunningham, Dermot Hegarty and Big Tom at what was a real genuine community event. We were proud to be part of it.

Later in the year saw the likes of former Ireland international players Jason Mc Ateer and John Aldridge play for a Liverpool legends team against a local eleven. Again, a wonderful event for a huge football mad crowd.

There was a lovely and fitting finale to the season when the coveted Player of the Season award, in memory of Bernard Oates

was won by the popular local lad Michael Lee.

Why not join us next season, we'd love to have you on our team. Because,



Local lad, Michael Lee, was the popular winner of the Player of the Season award. He is pictured here receiving his trophy from Liz Oates.

as we say, Longford town without Longford Town FC is simply unimaginable.

C'MON DE TOWN!

New pitch opening in April

Longford and District Schoolboy/girl League

2010 was another successful year for the Longford and District Schoolboy/girl League. The league now has a excellent web site which is updated weekly with fixtures, results, league tables and match reports this can be viewed at www.lrssl.leaguerepublic.com Founded in 1991 the League reached new heights during the past twelve months with three girls from our league been picked to represent the Republic of Ireland at U/15 level.

We also enjoyed success at the Kennedy Cup reaching the quarter final after winning our three group games. Limerick District League beat us on penalties after the game finished 1-1. We now have 25 clubs affiliated to the league covering counties Longford, Leitrim, Cavan and Westmeath.

Every week end from September to May over 1,000 children play soccer organised by the league. We start at U/7 up to U/16. In the parish of Templemichael we have the following clubs Camlin United, Stonepark, Melview, Olympic and Gaelscoil these clubs playing a vital role in moulding their young players into the future of our Town. We continue to cater for diverse cultures and nations.

In April we hope to open our newly developed Shane Brennan memorial pitch at our Abbeycarton headquarters. This magnificent facility will be a fitting reminder of Shane who was a very promising player.