

Rugby Chairman's Report 2017/18

This season, the club fielded seven adult sides, alongside our youth and mini sections. This report is an overview of each team and their accomplishments this year.

1st XV

The 1st XV, once again coached by James Blaney and Conor Gildea, were captained by Robbie Smyth. Opening their AIL season against DUFC, the team laid down a marker with a bruising and uncompromising performance that saw them win 24-0 in College Park, providing the perfect launchpad for the season. Three further wins followed, propelling Nure towards the top of the table, and while there were defeats during the dark winter months, we stayed in the playoff spots, before an exhilarating brand of rugby saw the 1sts light up the AIL.

A battling win away to Buccaneers at the start of February was the ignition for a tilt at the top, and after a teak tough win at home to Clontarf and a big derby win over Mary's, a stunning second half comeback against Cork Con left us with a chance of a home semi final. DUFC were duly put away on the last day of the season, meaning Cork Con visited Lakelands for the playoff.

On the day, the Cork side were too strong, although Nure stayed the course and almost pinched it - a few more minutes may have meant a different result.

A strong Leinster Senior Cup campaign offered a chance to win some silverware, but the final proved one step too far, as a Nure side decimated by injuries and exam commitments was overrun by a second half Lansdowne surge.

Nonetheless, the achievements of this season stand proud, with James Blaney and Jake Swaine both nominated for end of season honours - Coach of the Year and Leinster AIL Player of the year respectively.

2nd XV

The 2nds again proved to be successful at providing depth for the 1st XV while also retaining a strong identity, a difficult feat made possible by the coaches and management of Barry Elliott, Shane Donovan, Gerry Walsh, Dave Lynagh, Will Moore and John Keating. A strong league campaign saw the lads in playoff spots until the last minute of the league, when a late Wesley penalty saw them narrowly miss out on the playoffs. However, consolation was to come with a superb Metropolitan Cup win, defeating DLSP in the final in Donnybrook to bring the venerable trophy back to Lakelands.

3rd XV

The 3rds were once again one of the most entertaining sides around, with nearly every match resulting in a dramatic scoreline. A 4th placed finish in the Metro Division 3 was not rewarded with a cup run, as they ran into the strongest side in the competition in the first round of the Albert O'Connell Cup. Again, we had talented young coaches, in Michael Mellotte and Tom Small.

4th XV

The 4th XV suffered a long league campaign, and will look forward to life in Division 6 next season, which will be a much more natural level for them. Huge credit must go to the coaches and players for keeping going, and they were rewarded with a superb run in the Winters Cup, where they were narrowly beaten in the semi final. The 4ths were coached by Ri Elers, with Jon Anderson, Ossie Wardick and Fini Maguire.

5th XV

The apparently ageless Les Devlin once again spearheaded the 5th XV's campaign for glory, with the Division 10 title their aim. As the season progressed, they grew stronger and more organised, and a big win away to Malahide on the last day of the season qualified them for a playoff final against the same opposition. Again, Nure were the victors, adding another cup to the collection. Despite reaching the Guilfoyle-James Cup final, they had little left in the tank, and were just unable to secure what would have been an incredible double.

6th XV

The 6th XV were entered into Division 11 this year in order to provide a match for all players. Although we were unable to field each week, this provided new and returning players with vital game time, which benefitted the sides above them as the season wore on. Coaches Ian Morgan and Eoin Kieran.

Under 20s

The 20s were - as always - a beacon of running rugby, as they provided an example of all that is good about Terenure rugby. A strong 5th place finish in the JP Fanagan league was followed by an excellent McCorry Cup run, where a dramatic replay victory over St Mary's saw them reach the final against a much vaunted UCD side. An early lead for Nure was cancelled out by the students, who had to hang on for dear life as Nure threw everything they had at the UCD defence. Unfortunately, the lads were unable to get the winning score, but the coaching team of Ian Morgan, John English and Peter O'Malley can be incredibly proud of their team's efforts this season.