



Cork Constitution F.C.

Matchzine



Ulster Bank League Division 1A Cork Constitution V Old Belvedere Saturday 1st March 2014 14.30 PM Temple Hill

Old Belvedere are the welcome visitors to Temple Hill next Saturday for their return Ulster Bank League game with **Cork Constitution**. We are pleased to welcome **Old Belvedere** President, **David Martin** together with his committee members, team and supporters to Temple Hill

The first game at Anglesea Road on 26th October ended in a rare 3-3 draw. Last season we won our home fixture 37-32, but lost heavily 13-44 at their venue. After which **Old Belvedere** went on to win the League. Overall in ten AIL meetings between the clubs, **Constitution** have won seven, while **Old Belvedere** have won twice, with one match drawn.

Thus far this season, **Constitution** have won six UBL games, but have lost five, the most recent at home by 6-9 to **Dolphin**, and now lie third in the table on 31 points after twelve games.

Meanwhile **Old Belvedere** share top billing with **Clontarf** on 40 points, though Clontarf have a big advantage on points difference: 107 to 44. With four of the six remaining matches down for decision this month, the outcome of these will be key to destination of the this season's Ulster Bank League title, since there is no Top Four play-off.

Other Rugby News

The domestic season in Munster is also now coming down to the knock-out stages. Constitution J1's had a good opening victory over Cobh Pirates in the Munster Junior Cup last weekend, and now have a home tie against Tralee on 23rd March.

While in the Munster Seconds League they will complete their programme with games against Sundays Well on Sunday in Musgrave Park K.O. 2.30 PM, and Highfield a week later, and then hopefully, can look forward to the play-offs.

This weekend the U20 XV face Highfield in South-Western Conference K.O. **2.00 PM** in Templehill. While Buccaneers lead the way, Constitution are third, and can reach the play-off stages if they can overcome Highfield and then UL Bohemians in their final game.

Match Day Parking

There is limited parking in Temple Hill on match days. We request that match patrons respect our neighbours by not parking on the double yellow lines outside local housing estates as this causes a traffic hazard.

Alain Rolland's last game in Temple Hill

One of only a handful of international rugby players to have made the transition to international refereeing, **Alain Rolland** is set to retire at the end of this season and this Saturday will referee his last game in Templehill.



The 47-year-old Dubliner is one of the most respected referees in world rugby and is a past pupil of Blackrock College, Dublin. Alain was an excellent scrum half who won the first of three Irish caps against Argentina in 1990 and who played more than 40 times for Leinster over seven years. He ended his playing career with a season in England with the Moseley Club in 1997 and returned to Dublin where he began refereeing.

A rapid rise to the top echelons saw Alain appointed to his first international, between Wales and Romania, in September 2001, and six months later he refereed his first Six Nations game, between Scotland and France at Murray Field.

He has been in charge of almost 70 major internationals as well as more than 70 Heineken Cup matches, including two finals. He officiated at the 2003, 2007 and 2011 World Cup Finals, and in 2007 became the first Irishman to referee the Final. He was an assistant referee for the 2011 Final. Ironically, his final test came in the 2014 Six Nations when was again in charge of Wales in Cardiff.

Cheltenham Festival Day

14th March 2014

We are delighted to let you know that we are again holding what has become a major annual event when we gather to share all the fun and atmosphere of Cheltenham Festival in the splendid comfort of the **Rochestown Park Hotel** on the 14th of March

This event has been very successful for the last number of years, and a great time was had by all. The atmosphere is as near as it gets to being at the race course, with a racing personality as MC, adding to the atmosphere.

We hope to see all our members & friends while always delighted to welcome new ones. This year we are holding the event on Friday as St Patrick's Day falls on the Monday giving people a day to relax & enjoy their good fortunes before the long week-end.

With the help and support of **Rochestown Park Hotel** we have been able to maintain the € 70 per head & €700 per table of ten. It would help us greatly with planning if you were able to contact one of the organising committee listed on the advertisement on page 2 to book your seat or table.

Hurley leads Ireland Club Team To Historic Win

Captained by Cork Constitution's Gerry Hurley, the Ireland Club team secured their first ever away win over England Counties as David Joyce's injury-time penalty saw them finish the right side of a 23-22 score-line. A good-sized crowd of 4,826 turned up at the Northern Echo Arena, the home ground of Darlington Mowden Park RFC to watch the countries' seventh meeting at this level.



And initially it looked like England Counties would take the verdict, having shot into a 12-6 half-time thanks to a penalty try and winger Jim Wigglesworth's late effort in the corner.

Counties, who had the greater share of possession in the opening half, went on to outscore the visitors by three tries to one.

Their first came after Scottish referee Graeme Wells adjudged that Ireland had kicked the ball out of a five-metre scrum.

Wigglesworth, who had previously been ruled offside from a Chris Johnson cross-field kick, got the try he had been threatening just before the break.

But Clontarf out-half David Joyce made sure to bring his kicking boots with him to bitterly cold Darlington - his third successful penalty made it a three-point game in the 49th minute.

Even better followed as Lansdowne's Mark Roche brilliantly tore through the home defence to round off a fine counter attack. Joyce was unable to convert the centre's try, but Tom Tierney's men had nipped ahead at 14-12.

Centre Jack Adams' converted try under the posts saw the lead change hands again, as he followed up on a break by replacement Gavin Jones.

But two penalties in a three-minute period from the reliable right boot of Joyce - the second a superb kick from upwards of 50 metres - edged the visitors in front again.

The Irish number 10 then dropped a long range penalty short with 10 minutes remaining, as this closely-fought game went right down to the wire.

Luke Myring swung it back in Counties' favour at 22-20 with three minutes to go and just when it looked like the Irish challenge was over, their persistence and sheer will to win paid off with a last-gasp penalty.

The industrious Irish pack forced a turnover and England's discipline let them down when it mattered most, with referee Wells continually picking up on penalties at the breakdown.

Joyce coolly stepped up to slot the match-winning kick from 30 metres out, completing a very successful two-match series for the Ulster Bank League's leading lights. Joyce's Clontarf club-mate Michael McGrath also deserves credit for his strong running throughout, particularly during the closing stages as the powerful winger clawed back some crucial territory.

It was a bitterly disappointing finish for the Counties players who gave their all in what was a cracking contest. Unfortunately for them, they were left to reflect on a second successive one-point defeat - they were also pipped by a France Federale team last month.

The Ireland Club side had beaten England Counties three times before at home, but this was the first time to taste victory on English soil.

It was something that Tierney's talented squad had targeted this season, especially after they swept past Scotland (28-3) so convincingly in Cork.

Ireland Team

Daniel Riordan (Old Belvedere RFC); Michael McGrath (Clontarf FC), Stuart Morrow (Ballynahinch RFC), Mark Roche (Lansdowne FC), Cian Aherne (Lansdowne FC); David Joyce (Clontarf FC), Gerry Hurley (Cork Constitution FC) (capt); Colm McMahon (St. Mary's College RFC), Tyrone Moran (Lansdowne FC), Declan Lavery (Old Belvedere RFC), Dean Moore (Old Belvedere RFC), Fergal Walsh (Terenure College RFC), Willie Earle (Lansdowne FC), Charlie Butterworth (Lansdowne FC), William Ryan (Cork Constitution FC).

Replacements: Ian Hirst (Clontarf FC) for McMahon, Andrew O'Driscoll (Cork Constitution FC) for Moran (both 51 mins), Barry Daly (UCD RFC) for Morrow, Sean Walsh (Cashel RFC) for Moore (both 62), Neil Cronin (Garryowen FC) for Hurley (78). Hugh McGrath (Young Munster RFC), James Ryan (Cork Constitution FC), Ritchie McMaster (Queen's University RFC).

Referee: Graeme Wells (Scotland)

Congratulations to Constitution's **Gerry Hurley**, **Andrew O'Driscoll**, **Willie Ryan** and **James Ryan** who took part in both games

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If you have any news item , event details or article you would like published The Cork Constitution or Matchzine please forward to Pat Twomey at

corkconnews@gmail.com

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Pat Twomey

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