## **CARRICKFERGUS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

FOUNDED 1865 AFFILIATED TO THE IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION – ULSTER BRANCH

s: Subscriptions Treasurer:

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## **LETTER FROM CLUB COACHES 2017/18**

After our late appointment last year, we were on a very fast learning curve to get to know both our playing squad and how the club was run. It became clear very quickly that, even though the squad was depleted from the title winning side of the previous year, there was enough talent in the group to take on the challenges of Qualifying One rugby.

Pre-season fitness training was ably lead by John McDowell. The great commitment and effort put in by the large numbers turning up to train, resulted in very productive live practice sessions in the early part of the season which benefited both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV's. Who knows what we could have achieved if this had continued for the entire season.

After securing our position in the league we are now looking to strive for more success and if we can get the same commitment as the start of last season throughout all of the 2017/18 season then an All-Ireland Cup place is a realistic goal. When you are in those top four positions anything is possible!

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Andy McKeen not only for his re-appointment as Club Captain for the incoming season, but also on being selected and playing a full part in the successful Junior Ulster side.

We would like to thank all parties who have been working tirelessly on the recruitment of players over the closed season. This has been with no little success as we have managed to bring in a good mix of experience and youth to strengthen our playing squad. This is an ongoing process so if you know of any players interested please do not hesitate to send us their details.

## Pre-season training starts on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm. The weekly schedule is Tuesday, Thursday at 7pm and Saturday at 10am.

Under the watchful eye of Billy McKeown the youth section continued to flourish and we would like to thank and congratulate his team of coaches lead by Paul Greenaway and "Bubbles" for all of their continued great work. We hope that Warren and you have a very enjoyable and successful season ahead.

As coaches, we would like to thank the Grounds Committee for the ongoing maintenance of the club grounds. We understand how difficult this is and would like to congratulate you on the job that you do for the club.

We are looking forward to the challenges that the new season will bring and we hope to see you all at pre-season training.

Kind Regards Davy and Micky