

# THE CRUSADER CHRONICLE



ISSUE NO.1

DECEMBER 2025

€10 PER MONTH

## CRUSADERS UNVEIL NEW SIGNING DEERE

“A STATEMENT OF INTENT” - McGRATH

Whitfield Park was a buzz of activity this week writes **Owen Goal** as Crusaders AFC celebrated the capture of long-time target John Deere amidst huge fanfare and press interest. Joining on a 5-year contract initially, the club hopes this marquee signing can be a catalyst for continued development and progress in the near future.

Coping like a pro with the glare of a thousand camera flashes, Deere spoke to the media alongside Chairperson Michael McGrath and Club Secretary Frank “The Tank” Frampton. “I’ve been a fan of the blue and red for as long as I can remember, and it’s truly a dream come true to finally be here” said Deere, before being handed a club scarf and being asked to strut his stuff in the centre of the pitch for the gathered supporters and photo-hungry press.



“We’ve been after this signing for quite some time, so it’s hugely encouraging to finally see it all come together” said McGrath. “We expect JD to spend some time with Head of Grass Trevor Power, before he’s put to work doing what he does best, covering every inch of the field and making life easier for his team mates. Make no mistake, this is a major statement of intent from Crusaders”.

When pushed for a statement on what’s next on the agenda for the now legendary “Sunday Club” going forward, McGrath claimed his hearing-aid batteries had died, muttered something about a chainsaw and then shuffled out of the press room into a waiting car to be whisked away. (This reporter can confirm he was later seen in B&Q, Morris’s, Screwfix and the middle aisle in Aldi). Frampton then cleared the room with an acapella version of Richie Kavanagh’s “Ride on a tractor”.

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP NOW OPEN

You can now join Crusaders AFC as a non-playing member, and help the club in several ways to continue the recent improvements and progress. Entry is straightforward, costing €10 per month or €100 per year. Members get a season ticket to all games at Whitfield Park and a personalised-yet-automated receipt from Stripe. However, the real benefit is the excitement of knowing you’re helping to grow the club as we work towards major development of the grounds, the introduction of new facilities, teams, ages, grades and much more!

Join today via [www.crusadersafc.ie/club-shop/](http://www.crusadersafc.ie/club-shop/)

## Munster Junior Shield

### The Munster odyssey continues...

Murphy & Hayes’ 2B charges take a well-earned break over Christmas but enter the New Year with purpose in preparation for the visit of Cork’s Bandon AFC to Ozier Park, 17<sup>th</sup> January @ 2pm.



### Inside this edition:

Page 4: Christmas Knitting with Willie Power  
Pages 7-11: At Home with Duckie & Leanne  
Page 15: History of “The Ban” - David Cheasty  
Page 25: Sing-a-long with Jordan Wall  
Bonus: Life-size A4 John Rockett poster

