



# ***FIRST TIME FAN GUIDE***





# ***CONTENTS***

- 03** Welcome
- 05** A Brief History of Carrick Rangers FC
- 08** Club Information
- 10** First Team Manager - Niall Currie
- 12** Getting to Loughshore Hotel Arena (Car)
- 13** Getting to Loughshore Hotel Arena (Train)
- 14** Getting to Loughshore Hotel Arena (Bus)
- 15** Map
- 16** Local Amenities
- 18** Entering the Loughshore Hotel Arena
- 19** Match Day Admission
- 20** Season Tickets
- 21** Match Day Timetable
- 22** Food and Drink Availability
- 23** Merchandise
- 24** Taylor the Tiger
- 25** Spirit of '76 Supporters Club
- 27** FAQ's
- 29** Social Media & Contact Us



# ***WELCOME TO CARRICK RANGERS***

If this is your first time to the club then welcome along, it's good to see you!

No doubt you'll have lots of questions about the team which is why we've put this guide together to help you.

Inside you'll find details about Carrick Rangers FC, how to get to the ground, the stadium, things to do and a stadium map to help you find your way around.

If you have any other questions which we haven't covered, just get in touch with us. Our contact details can be found at the end of this document.



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# ***A BRIEF HISTORY OF CARRICK RANGERS FC***

Carrick Rangers was formed in 1939, initially playing in a local summer league. The following year entry to the Minor League was approved, and a first title earned in the 1941/42 season. The step up to the Amateur League was a natural progression, and further honours arrived – two Amateur League titles and a McKelvie Cup.

It wasn't too long before the 'B' Division beckoned, and in the 1960's Carrick became something of a cup specialist with two Steel & Sons victories to go along with two Louis Moore triumphs. A League title win was also secured in 1961/62.

Carrick's halcyon period, however, was between 1972 and 1977: three 'B' Division titles, two Intermediate Cup victories, an Irish Cup win and four matches with Europe's finest in the European Cup Winners Cup, reaching the last-16 stage before losing to Southampton.

Another 'B' Division title arrived in 1983, and at the end of that season Carrick Rangers were elected to the Senior Irish League (there was no automatic promotion back then – clubs had to apply to enter that league each year and hope the existing Senior Clubs would look favourably on the request!)

Top flight football was a perennial struggle, however, with Rangers more often than not finishing at the foot of the League table. Two Irish Cup final losses (1984 and 1995) and a County Antrim Shield win in 1993 were the only highlights before a re-organisation of the League structure saw the club demoted to a new First Division in 1995.

The drop to the second tier was a lengthy and largely uneventful one, with only a Daily Mirror Cup win achieved in 2003/04 and a losing appearance in the 2008 Steel & Sons Cup Final to show for their efforts.

Fortunes changed when former player Michael Hughes returned to the club in 2010, following a very successful professional and International career, taking ownership of the club as a majority shareholder.

His involvement provided the backing that resulted in promotion being secured to the Premier League at the end of that season, courtesy of winning the Championship 1 title, and also landing the Intermediate Cup. The long awaited return was short lived, with the club relegated at the first time of asking.

In 2014/15, Carrick Rangers embarked on a remarkable campaign which culminated in another Championship 1 title, and both the Steel & Sons Cup and Intermediate Cup to complete a historic treble. That Championship 1 success also secured promotion to the Danske Bank Premiership.

It was to be a difficult time on the field, though, as the club flirted with relegation in each of the three following seasons, narrowly avoiding the drop on two occasions.

There was a temporary respite from struggles in the Premiership as Carrick reached the League Cup Final. However, the almost inevitable relegation was confirmed the following season as Carrick lost a promotion/relegation play off with Newry City.

Life back in the Championship was expected to be a time to rebuild. Early season results suggested there would be little success heading the clubs way. However, under the stewardship of new manager Niall Currie, Carrick put in a very strong finish to the campaign which secured a play-off with Ards. The resultant wins in both legs took Rangers back to the top flight at the first time of asking.



# ***CLUB INFORMATION***

## **CARRICK RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Founded:** 1939

**Nickname:** The 'Gers

**Ground:** Loughshore Hotel Arena

**Capacity:** 2100

**All Time Appearance Holder:** Glenn Taggart

**All Time Leading Goalscorer:** Jimmy Crymble

## **PERSONNEL**

**Chairman:** Peter Clarke

**Vice Chairman:** John Hood

**Secretary:** Andrew Sloan

**Board Members:** Jim McClurg, Gary Coppin, Adrian Stewart, Gary Swann, Jonathan Crooks, Kel McDermott



**Manager:** Niall Currie

**Assistant Manager:** Clifford Adams

**Coaches:** Andrew Hunter, John McAllister

**Goalkeeping Coach:** Lee Wilson

**First Team Attendant:** Noel Dean

**Physiotherapist:** Jim Nesbitt



# ***FIRST TEAM MANAGER: NIALL CURRIE***

Niall Currie was appointed as Manager of Carrick Rangers on Thursday 24th May 2018.

Currie's management career started at Annagh United where, in the 2006-07 season, he guided Annagh to the semi-final of both the Bob Radcliffe Cup and the Intermediate Cup, as well as the final of the Mid-Ulster Cup before moving on to Loughgall where, in his first season at the club, he delivered a clean sweep of five trophies as the Villagers won the Championship along with the Carnegie League Cup, Bob Radcliffe Cup, Mid-Ulster Cup and Intermediate Cup.

The former Irish League goalkeeper's next role would see him appointed as Ards boss in October 2011, as he won two Championship titles at the North Down side before taking up the reigns at his hometown club Portadown, eventually parting ways in February 2018.

Coming on board as 'Gers gaffer following the side's relegation from the Premiership, Currie worked wonders in his first season to take a new squad of players and finish second in the Championship, going on to win three play-off games in six days to secure a return to the Premiership at the first time of asking.



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# ***GETTING TO THE LOUGHSHORE HOTEL ARENA***

## ***BY CAR...***

### **POSTCODE**

Using your SatNav to get to the Loughshore Hotel Arena? Our postcode is BT38 7HF

### **PARKING**

Car parking is available within Castle Practice which is located directly opposite the ground. Limited car parking is also available outside the ground.

### **FROM BELFAST**

Follow the A2 from Newtownabbey and Greenisland. Once in Carrickfergus continue past the castle and town centre then after half a mile take a left turn into Taylors Avenue, follow the horseshoe bridge over the railway line and the ground is directly in front of you.

### **FROM LARNE**

Follow the A2 from Larne and Whitehead towards Carrickfergus. Go through Eden Village and about half a mile before the castle in the distance on your left, turn right into Taylors Avenue. Follow the horseshoe bridge over the railway line and the ground is directly in front of you.

# ***GETTING TO THE LOUGHSHORE HOTEL ARENA BY TRAIN...***

## **STATION**

The nearest station to the stadium is Downshire Halt, which is located just over half a mile away. It is served by trains on the Belfast/Larne line.

## **TIMETABLES**

Timetables for up to date departures and arrivals from the train station are available on the Translink website. Please note Translink run a Saturday service with different schedules to those midweek.

## **DIRECTIONS**

Downshire Halt is around a ten minute walk from the stadium. As you exit the station, turn left along the Marine Highway.

Take the second right, where you will see Hazel's Newsagents on the corner, onto Taylors Avenue. Follow the road up and over the foot bridge over the railway and you will see the ground immediately over to your left.

# ***GETTING TO THE LOUGHSHORE HOTEL ARENA***

## ***BY BUS...***

### **STOPS**

The nearest bus stop to the stadium is Joymount, which is located just over half a mile away. It is served by multiple routes that pass through the Carrickfergus area.

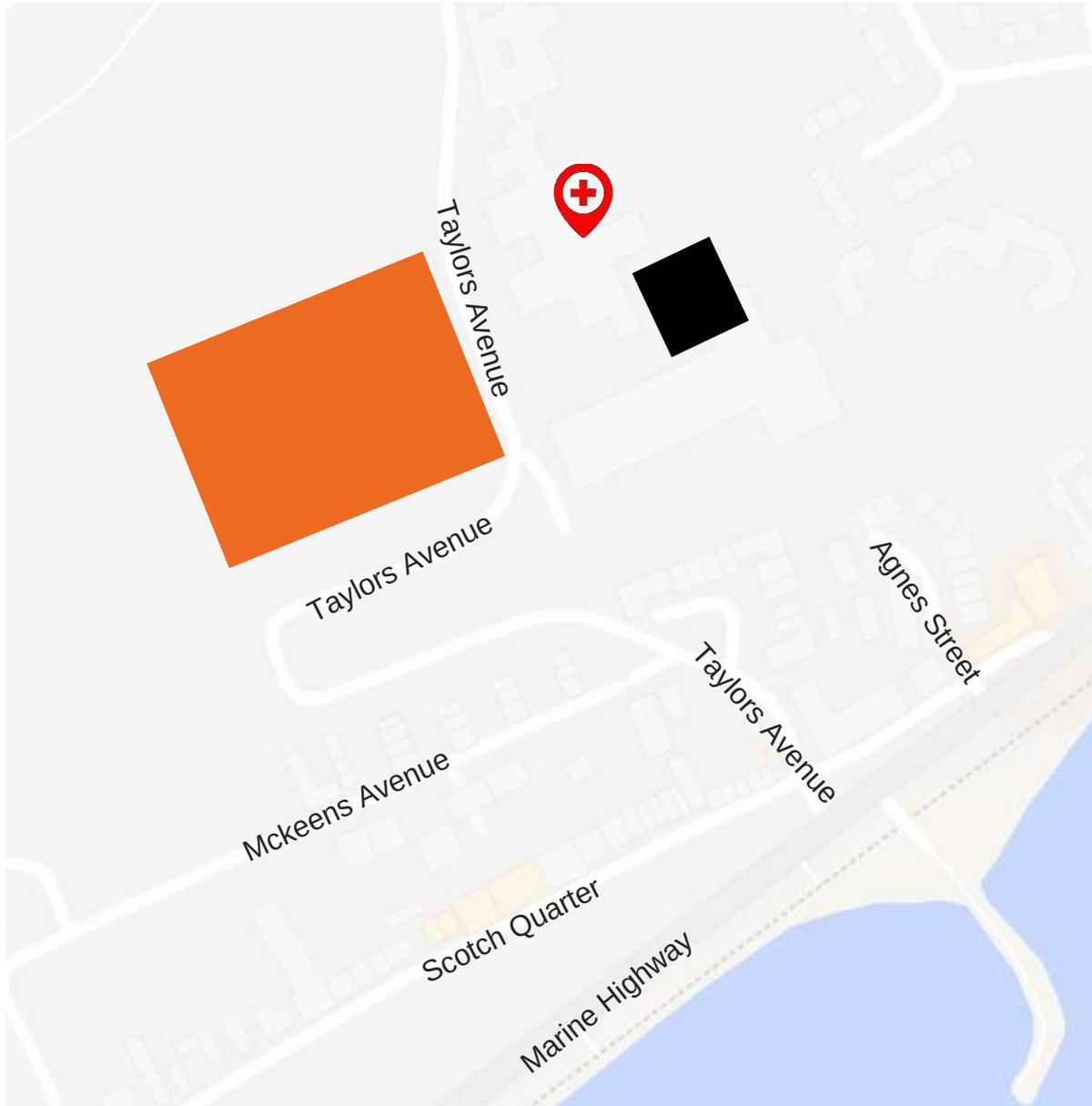
### **TIMETABLES**

Timetables for all routes that stop at Joymount are available on the Translink website. Please note Translink run a Saturday service with different schedules to those midweek.

### **DIRECTIONS**

Joymount stop is around a ten minute walk from the stadium. From Joymount stop, walk along Joymount heading away from the Town Centre. Carry on straight at the roundabout, on Scotch Quarter.

Take the first left, where you will see Hazel's Newsagents on the corner, onto Taylors Avenue. Follow the road up and over the foot bridge over the railway and you will see the ground immediately over to your left.



## ***KEY***

-  Loughshore Hotel Arena
-  Car Parking
-  Carrick Health Centre

# ***LOCAL AMENITIES***

## **ATM's & PETROL STATIONS**

Here is the nearest ATM location:

### **Ulster Bank**

37 High Street, BT38 7AN

0.7 miles from Loughshore Hotel Arena

The nearest petrol stations are at the following locations:

### **Topaz**

76 Prince Andrew Way, BT38 7XA

1.1 miles from Loughshore Hotel Arena

### **Tesco**

Minorca Place, BT38 8AU

1.2 miles from Loughshore Hotel Arena

## **HOTELS**

If you're looking to stay in Carrickfergus after the game, then there are three options available to you:

### **Loughshore Hotel**

75 Belfast Road, BT38 8PH

1.5 miles from Loughshore Hotel Arena

### **Dobbins Inn**

6-8 High Street, BT38 7AF

0.8 miles from Loughshore Hotel Arena

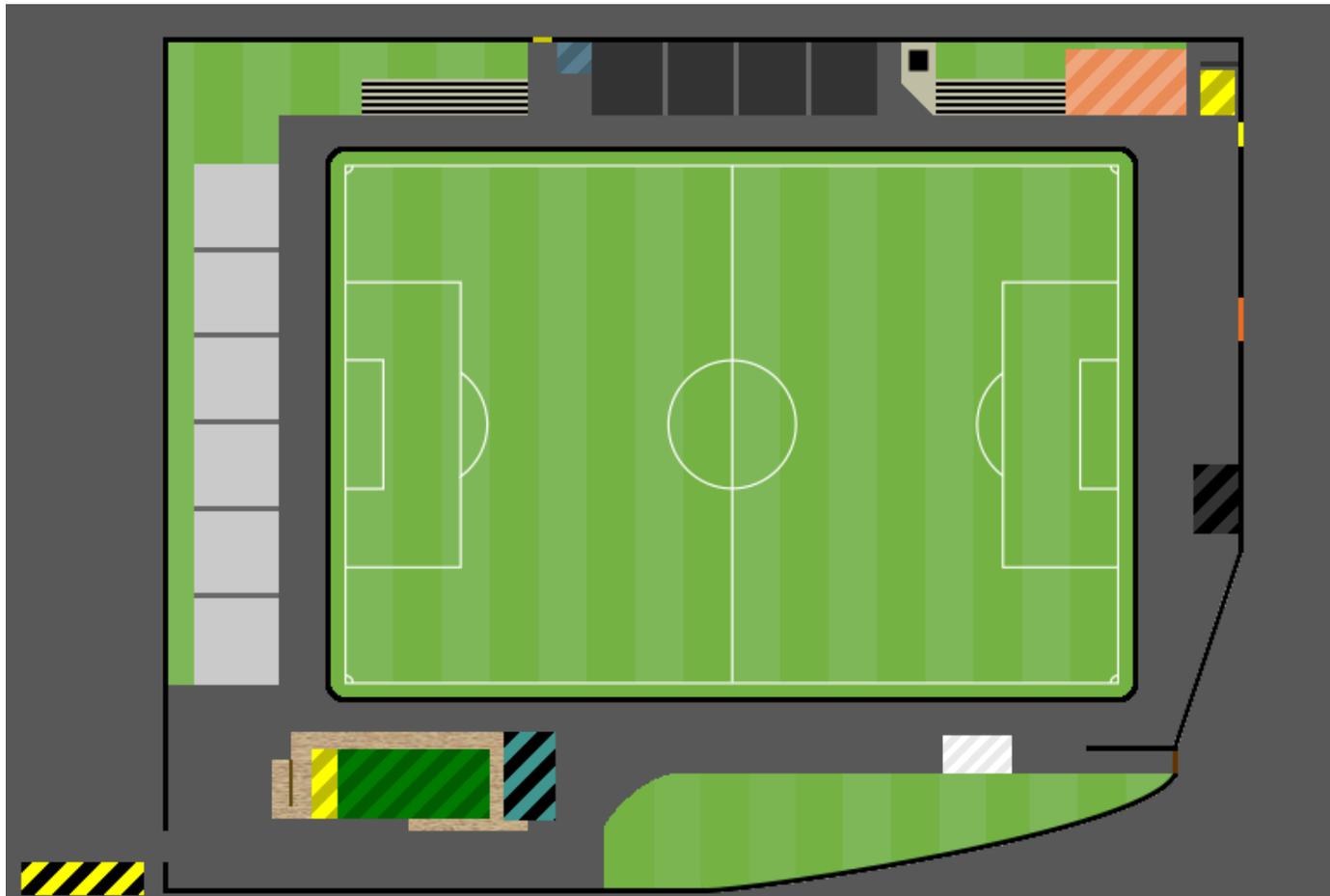
### **Premier Inn**

Alexander Pier, Rodgers Quay, BT38 8BE

0.9 miles from Loughshore Hotel Arena



# ENTERING THE LOUGHSHORE HOTEL ARENA



## KEY

-  Home Turnstiles
-  Changing Rooms
-  Covered Terracing
-  Main Seated Stand
-  Terracing
-  The Dugout
-  Toilets
-  Away Turnstiles
-  Chip Van
-  Club Shop

# ***MATCHDAY ADMISSION***

## **TICKETS**

Entrance to the Loughshore Hotel Arena is pay at the turnstiles, by cash only.

On the rare occasion that a match is deemed ALL TICKET, tickets will be available from multiple locations around the town. These locations will be frequently announced and updated on our website and social media.

## **PRICES**

Adults: £12

Concession: £8

(Prices may vary for Cup games)

## **WHEELCHAIR ACCESS**

Designated wheelchair spaces are in place in front of the main stand and also under the covered terracing at the far side of the ground. Disabled parking spaces are available at Carrickfergus Health Centre



# SEASON TICKETS

With the increased NIFL matchday prices of £12 for adult entry, our season tickets represent even greater value than ever! Season ticket holders will also be entitled to 15% off all food orders in the Loughshore Hotel, Chimney Corner and Ten Square Hotel.

Adult season tickets will cost £150, which represents a saving of £59 over the 19 home league games.

Concession (OAP/Student) tickets will cost £85, which represents a massive saving of £48.

Under 11 tickets will be a mere £20, which means that each game will cost just over £1 each.

## PRICES

### Full Season Ticket

Adults: £150

Concession: £85

Under 11's: £20



# ***MATCH DAY TIMETABLE***

Visiting the Loughshore Hotel Arena for the first time on a Saturday? Below are timings for your weekend match day. Visiting for an evening kick off? It's the times in Orange. Timings are approximate.

- 1:30pm (6:15pm)** - Players arrive at the ground.
- 2:00pm (7:00pm)** - Turnstiles are open.
- 2:00pm (7:00pm)** - Food is available from LJ's Catering
- 2:05pm (7:05pm)** - Team news is announced on social media.
- 2:10pm (7:10pm)** - Half time ballot is on sale at the entrance to the ground.
- 2:15pm (7:00pm)** - Players warm up.
- 2:45pm (7:30pm)** - Players return to the changing rooms.
- 3:00pm (7:45pm)** - Kick Off!
- 3:45pm (8:30pm)** - Half Time.
- 4:45pm (9:30pm)** - Full Time.
- 5:00pm (10:00pm)** - Domino's Man of the Match Award is presented.

# FOOD & DRINK AVAILABILITY



If you're feeling hungry during the match, food and drinks are available inside the ground courtesy of LJ's Catering and our Club Shop. Both are located at the far side of the ground on the left hand side upon entering.

Choose from a range of hot food including burgers, hot dogs, chicken goujons, chips, filled sodas and much much more.



Cold drinks, tea, coffee and snacks are also available at our Club Shop!



# ***MERCHANDISE***

Wanting to show your colours with pride? Carrick Rangers mugs, key rings, scarves and air fresheners are available for the Amber Army to buy! Ask any member of the Spirit of '76 Supporters Club for more details.

All Nike clothing, such as raincoats, tracksuit and coats are now available on the Club Sport NI website. To purchase, go to:

**[www.clubsportni.com](http://www.clubsportni.com)**

From there, select Clubs, then Carrick Rangers Supporters Club Shop to view all available merchandise. Show your support for the club! Amber Army!



# ***TAYLOR THE TIGER***

Taylor the Tiger is our friendly character mascot and our number one fan!

Make sure you keep an eye out for him dancing, signing autographs and supporting the Amber Army throughout your visit.

Give him a wave and he'll be more than happy to have a photo or selfie with you and your family.

# ***SPIRIT OF '76***

## ***SUPPORTERS CLUB***



The Spirit of '76 Supporters Club was formed in 2006 in order to provide support for the first team. Since then, the supporters club has donated a five figure sum which was generated through fundraising events such as a 'Night at the Races' and 'Sponsored Walks'.

As well as generating funds, the supporters club provides travel to all away games for all supporters, with members travelling at a discounted rate. To join and to see other benefits of becoming a member please visit the club's Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Adult:** £30 | **OAP/Student:** £20 | **U16:** £5

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# FAQ'S

## **How much is admission to the games?**

Admission for league games is £12 for adults and £8 for concessions. Prices vary for cup games.

## **Where should I watch the game from?**

Generally games are unsegregated, so fans are able to watch the game from anywhere in the ground. This may be from the seated stand, the stand behind the goal, terracing or standing behind the perimeter wall.

## **Where can the toilets in the ground be found?**

Toilets can be found at either side of the ground - on the right hand side after entering the turnstiles, and at the far of the changing rooms at the far side of the ground.

## **Is there a bar in the ground?**

There isn't a bar in the ground, however the Royal Oak bar can be found in walking distance from the ground; from the ground, turn right and walk over the footbridge. Then turn left, where you will find the Royal Oak further up the road, just before the Police Station.

# FAQ'S

## **Can merchandise be purchased at the ground?**

Some merchandise such as hats, scarves and air fresheners can be purchased at the ground at our Club Shop, however the vast majority can be purchased online via our Club Sport NI club shop.

## **Is there food and drinks available at the ground?**

Food and drink is available courtesy of LJ's Catering and our Club Shop. LJ's can be found at the left hand side of the ground upon entering and serves hot food. The Club Shop can be found at the far side of the ground which serves hot and cold drinks as well as snacks.

## **Where can I park at the ground?**

Parking is available within Carrickfergus Health Centre opposite the ground.

## **Can I pay by card?**

Unfortunately turnstiles and catering facilities are unable to facilitate card payments and are cash only.

# ***LIKE/FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA***



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## ***CONTACT US***

**Website:** [www.carrickrangers.co.uk](http://www.carrickrangers.co.uk)

**Email:** [info@carrickrangers.co.uk](mailto:info@carrickrangers.co.uk)

**Phone:** 07532676616

**Write:** Carrick Rangers FC, Loughshore Hotel Arena,  
Taylors Avenue, Carrickfergus, BT38 7HF