

May 9<sup>th</sup> 2010

RESULTS: Derrynane/Sneem1-9 Keel 0-11

After two consecutive losses by a single point, it was Sneem/Derrynane's turn to enjoy the feeling of winning by the narrowest of margins. It's always a good sign if you can grind out a win when not playing at your best and this is exactly what happened in Keel on a fine Saturday evening. In truth though, the home team must be scratching their heads at how they let this one slip away. With a free kick at the death, Keel had a chance to draw, but Sayers' kick went wide and it was Sneem/Derrynane who felt fortune smiling on them. However, while outplayed for large parts of the game, Sneem/Derrynane never panicked, kept plugging away and it could be argued that they were the authors of their own good fortune. As the large band of away followers headed for home, they were in happy mood, grateful for the two points and not too bothered about how they were won. The long journey home had been shortened already!

The Keel pitch was in fine condition, the weather was perfect and a fine game of football ensued. Keel took an early lead, but Sneem/Derrynane soon responded when Joe Corridan pointed a nice free. With Gary Sayers and Liam Sheehan in sparkling form the Keel attack was looking threatening and they were soon leading by two points. However, the Breen cousins Adrian and Darren, were dominating midfield, ensuring the away side were well in contention. Adrian Breen then rose high to field and fed the on-rushing Adrian O'Sullivan who pointed. Dave Drummond then came up to score and make it three each, no description needed, a trademark Drummond point! Sheehan then put the home team in front again. Back came the visitors and Corridan collected to put over a good point, but Sheehan was to score again to put Keel ahead by 0-5 to 0-4 at half-time.

On the resumption, after Corridan missed a free, Keel doubled their advantage by scoring three points to lead 0-8 to 0-4, this included two classy points from Sheehan, scored within a minute of each other and the away team was now looking very ropy. Sneem/Derrynane did manage to get one back from a Ronan Hussey free, but Keel were in control and got two more points and missed an open goal. There seemed no way back for the away side, five points down midway through the half.

But then came the moment on which the game turned. A very effective Donal Galvin, who, at full-forward, had been causing serious problems for the home defence on the rare occasions that the ball was played into him was now out at midfield and was fouled when climbing high to fetch about forty yards from goal. Adrian Breen stepped up to take the kick. In a shot he had clearly spent long hours perfecting, he lobbed the ball expertly into the Keel net and suddenly it had all opened up for the away team.

Roared on by their fans Sneem/Derrynane took the game by the scruff of the neck. A previously subdued Hussey now came to life and pointed twice from frees and John O'Shea was on as a sub and making his presence felt up front. The five point deficit had been erased. However, that man Sheehan was to score again to put Keel a point ahead, but with David Leary, Michael O'Connor and Drummond all immense in defence, the home team were finding it difficult to score.

Richard White's long-range missiles were keeping Keel on the backfoot and David Breen, enjoying his best game of the campaign for Sn/Der burst through to point and level it again. Ian Galvin then had what seemed like a good point disallowed, it was given by the umpire concerned but over-ruled by the referee. Despite this, Sn/Der refused to lie down and went ahead for the first time when Hussey, confidence restored, expertly pointed a free from a difficult angle to make it 1-9 to 0-11 and that was how it finished.

Fans man of the match: shared by David Leary and Michael O'Connor.

Sneem/Derrynane: R.White, D.Leary, D.O'Shea, Donal O'Sullivan, M.O'Connor, D.Drummond 0-1, A.O'Sullivan 0-1, A.Breen 1-0, Darren Breen, I.Galvin, David Breen 0-1, J.Corridan 0-2(1f), D.Galvin, R.Hussey 0-4(f), Denis O'Sullivan

The next day, Sneem/Derrynane, with Michael Donnelly in charge for the day, were again in action playing Templehoe in the opening of their splendid new facilities in Dromore. It resulted in another one point win in a very competitive game. It was also the Tade Morley Tournament and the winning team was presented with beautiful plaques afterwards. John O'Shea, Derek Shea and Denis O'Sullivan all had fine games. Fringe players like Shane O'Donoghue, Michael White and Shane McGillicuddy all made the most of the opportunity to show their talents. Well done to all.

FIXTURE: Next Saturday it's Waterville in their ground at 7.30pm. A mouth-watering clash in prospect. Be there!

