

11th June 2010

JUNIOR LEAGUE

RESULTS: Derrynane 2-16 Skellig Rangers 2-14

What a game, what a win! Those who stayed away and didn't come out to support their local team missed one of the most exciting games in recent years. Those who were there will remember this game for a long time to come. Older supporters were left scratching their heads as to when they last saw a performance to equal the first half in which Derrynane scored one thirteen (often enough to win a game) and each score seemed to outdo the other in quality. And nobody saw it coming! After ten minutes a slick-moving Rangers were ahead by 1-3 to 0-2 and things were looking bad for the home team. Then suddenly, Derrynane dispensed with the shackles, exploded into life, and played with a wild abandon that included some beautiful passages of play that left the opposition reeling and the home support with mouths agape!

Rangers took the lead but Derrynane soon responded when John O'Shea broke to Donal Galvin who played Mark Healy in to score. Rangers then scored two points. Derrynane hit back with a neat Donal Galvin point at the end of a flowing move from defence, which involved five players. Rangers then goaled. Where now for Derrynane? Step forward David Breen, who took the game by the scruff of the neck and, in a powerhouse performance, inspired all those around him.

The Derrynane scores came thick and fast. Indeed the scores came so fast that the usually reliable scoreboard operator was to struggle to keep up with them! D.Breen fielded a fine ball and played it in fast to Morgan O'Donoghue who passed on to Galvin for a nice point. Then D.Breen pointed a fine free. Another Derrynane attack saw Damien Casey play a delightful through ball to Galvin who netted at the second time of asking, the Rangers keeper saving well the first time. D.Breen then went on a powerful run and scored and Morgan O'Donoghue put over another point. D.Breen then kicked a mighty free from 45 yards and next, on the run, put over another superb point with his left foot from the same distance. Rangers pulled one back but there was no stopping the home team. Another storming run from D.Breen ended up with Shane Mac pointing. Damien Casey put over a good point. O'Shea then broke down a D. Breen free and Cormac Breen, fastest to react, put it over. Then Galvin, who was in flying form, got a great point from play to leave it 1-13 to 1-6 at half-time.

For the second half Rangers had the wind and the home support was anxious to see if Derrynane could maintain their lead. Fears were allayed when D.Breen again pointed a free. Rangers got two points but a Derrynane attack saw Galvin field and turn to bury the ball into the net from an acute angle for a class goal. Rangers then had a goal chance, but John Galvin was quick off his line to make a crucial save and D.Breen was to put over another for the home side. Rangers stormed back and in a period of dominance scored one-five to leave a point in it. We wondered were Derrynane again to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. However, with their backs to the wall people like Declan Gleeson put in great effort to stem the tide and eventually turn it and the game was to finish, fittingly enough, with a last D.Breen point from a free to secure a two point win for Derrynane.

Space doesn't allow me to mention the efforts of all, but on the night everybody played a valuable part in a memorable Derrynane victory.

Referee: Paul O Sullivan, of Piarasigh na Dromoda, handled the game with calm authority and let the game flow, using the advantage rule well, which was great to see. Top performance.

Man of the match: David Breen. Normally, Donal Galvin's performance and contribution of 2-3 from play would be enough to secure this, but it had to go to David Breen who was simply unstoppable on the night and also scored eight points. Maybe the Cork fans that mistook him for Seamus Scanlon in Killarney last Sunday knew more than we thought! Indeed his virtuoso performance on the night was only equalled by the lead guitarist with Dark Master Harbour who was as spellbinding in the Blind Piper as Breen had been earlier in the evening on the pitch.

Team: J.Galvin, S.O'Donoghue, M.White, J.Quinlan, D.Gleeson, M.Healy 0-1, I.Casey, J.O'Shea, D.Breen 0-8(5f), M.O'Donoghue 0-1, D.Galvin 2-3, S.McGillicuddy 0-1, D.Casey 0-1, R.Gleeson, C.Breen 0-1

Subs used: C.Boland