

25th July 2010

RESULTS: Sneem/Derrynane 1-6 John Mitchels 0-9

This was an intense, tough game between two evenly matched sides in which battling physical qualities were much more in evidence than skilful footballing ones. Definitely not a game for the purists but one that kept the decent sized crowd interested right to the end. The home side might feel they should have won it, due to the amount of wides they kicked, but neither team could be too dissatisfied with the outcome.

Sneem/Derrynane had to slightly reshuffle their pack with Ian Galvin joining Ronan Hussey on the injured list. With Adrian O'Sullivan returning to defence from injury, Donal O'Sullivan was moved up to half-forward to replace the absent Galvin.

From the throw-in, the home side dominated the opening exchanges with Darren Breen and Denis O'Sullivan looking lively up front, but failed to make their pressure count, kicking three wides, one a free from in front of the goal, misses that were to prove costly by the finish.

Eventually, after six minutes, Adrian Breen put over a free to put the home side ahead but that was soon cancelled by the concession of a silly free at the other end. Joe Corridan then pointed another free but Mitchels came back with two points to lead on twenty minutes. Donal Galvin was winning good ball at full-forward and causing problems for the backs and just before half-time he was pulled to the ground and Corridan neatly dispatched the resulting penalty to the corner of the net to leave the half-time score 1-2 to 0-3 for the home side.

Mitchels struck quickly after the break with a free, while at the other end, a fine catch by Galvin saw him fouled and Corridan pointed. The Tralee side then produced a lovely passing movement the length of the pitch, but it ended in a wide and Sneem/Derrynane responded with a similar movement as if to say 'we can do that too' but theirs ended with Galvin putting it over from play. Enough of the football, back to battle.

Mitchels then had a period of ascendancy. The speed of right corner forward Alan O'Donoghue was causing problems and centre forward Wayne Conway was starting to influence proceedings and the away team put over four points in a row, all but one from frees, Jamie Moriarty proving very accurate from his place kicking. Sneem/Derrynane had lost full-back Tony Drummond, which led to Michael White coming on at corner forward and Donal Sullivan going back to figure well in defence and Derek Shea slotting in comfortably at full-back.

Several positional changes were also made, the most important being Donal Galvin coming out to midfield to bring some much needed stability there. With Brendan Galvin now getting more into the game and Dave Drummond making storming runs from defence, the home side began to assert themselves once again. A. Breen pointed a fine free from a very acute angle to level matters. Then, David Breen, now at full forward, fielded superbly and when fouled, Corridan tapped over the free. The home side failed to see the game out, missing another couple of chances and were to rue this when Conway levelled on 26 minutes with an excellent long-range point. There was still time for Sneem/Derrynane to seal it, but A. Breen's free drifted wide of the posts and that was it.

A score of 1-6, with one point from play, on a fine summer's evening, will leave the Sneem/Derrynane mentors with plenty to chew on.

Referee Paul O'Sullivan of Piarasigh na Dromoda had his work cut out, but managed to keep the lid on a somewhat fractious affair.

Fans' Man of the Match – opinion was again divided, but this time evenly, between Donal Galvin and David Drummond, so well done to both.

Team: R.White, D.O'Shea, T.Drummond, M.O'Connor, D.O'Leary, D.Drummond, A.O'Sullivan, B.Galvin, A.Breen 0-2(f), Denis O'Sullivan, Darren Breen, Donal O'Sullivan, J.Corridan 1(p)-3(f), D.Galvin 0-1, David Breen.

Subs used: M. White