

11th September 2010

South Kerry Special League

RESULTS: Bally/Foilmore 4-14 Derrynane 3-7

This report will probably read like all the other ones regarding Derrynane this year.

That is: a fine start in which Derrynane display plenty of skill and good football, then a tiredness creeping in that leads to a lack of concentration which in turn leads to sloppy balls and bad decision making, all ruthlessly punished by the opposition, which finally leaves a scoreline that doesn't do justice to the overall efforts of the Derrynane lads on the night.

Played Friday evening on an unmarked Ballinskelligs pitch, causing the odd controversy on lineballs, the first half produced some cracking football from the two eleven-a-sides. It also produced a goal-of-the-year contender from young Morgan O'Donoghue. Bally/Foilmore scored first with a goal and Derrynane responded with their own one, and what a goal it was! A flowing move the length of the field, ended with John O'Shea feeding O'Donoghue who took it on before unleashing an unstoppable shot into the top left-hand corner of the net. Bally/Foilmore came back with another goal and a point, before O'Donoghue again rattled the net after good work by Donal Galvin. Four goals in the first ten minutes, barely time to draw breath! Derrynane were moving smoothly with Adrian Breen fielding some lovely ball at midfield and Shane McGillicuddy and O'Shea making fine supporting runs to the forwards where O'Donoghue and Galvin were causing all sorts of trouble and Cian Boland was foraging well. O'Shea tapped over another point. Substitute Anthony Casey had a point effort well blocked down for a '45, which Breen put over. Galvin also worked his way through on goal but slipped at the crucial moment. O'Donoghue put over another two fine points. The home team had been answering all scores and went ahead by one, leaving it 2-5 to 2-4 for the home side at half-time. Derrynane had lost the experienced Adrian O'Sullivan to injury after two minutes, a big loss to an already depleted side.

Joe Corridan had bust a gut to get down from Dublin for the game, and replaced Casey for the second half in which, early on, Adrian Breen missed a twice-taken '45, following which Galvin placed Corridan nicely for the equaliser. Bally/Foilmore got a succession of points, a couple of them fine saves being tipped over by John Galvin in goal, before Boland pounced for a goal at the other end. Some very poor concession of ball led to more points and a killer goal for the home team. Corridan added two more, the latter a beauty, but Derrynane were outplayed in the finish. Defenders Shane O'Donoghue, David McGillicuddy and Michael White did their best to stem the constant attacks, but were overwhelmed in the end, Breen and O'Shea having lost their previous iron grip on midfield.

Referee: Eddie O'Donoghue handled the game with efficient authority.

Man of the Match: on a night when many performed well, Morgan O'Donoghue's performance was the most eye-catching, so well done to him.

QUESTION: why are these games(scheduled for Wednesdays!!) being played at this time of year when it's getting dark early. Why couldn't they have been played on those long summer nights when players are hanging around kicking their heels with no games for weeks at a time?

Team: John Galvin, Shane O'Donoghue, David McGillicuddy, Adrian O'Sullivan, Shane McGillicuddy, Adrian Breen(0-1'45), John O'Shea(0-1), Morgan O'Donoghue(2-2), Cian Boland(1-0), Michael White, Donal Galvin.

Subs used: Anthony Casey, Joe Corridan(0-3)

With Ian Galvin in action, South Kerry got a measure of revenge for the minors' defeat to Kilcummin, by easily dispensing with the same opposition in the senior championship and now advance to the semi-final. Tyrone still have it over us, even in the ladies, beating the gallant Kerry girls by a point in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Kerry U21 hurlers won the All-Ireland B with a fine win over Meath in Thurles. Who would have thought that the only All-Ireland coming Kerry's way in September would be a hurling one!

FIXTURE: Derrynane take on Renard in the South Kerry Special League, provisionally fixed for Saturday at 6.30. Check posters for confirmation.