

## The Jack Murphy Cup

30<sup>th</sup> November 2010

RESULTS: Skellig Rangers 0-12 Sneem/Derrynane 1-5

They say all politics is local, then surely even more so football. Yes, it's hard to beat a Sunday, late in September, when you are in the capital supporting Kerry, lording it all over all the others, yet again. A late October/early November day, when South Kerry win the county, with one or two of your club players on the team, is also a nice feeling. But when all is said and done, if you are from South Kerry, there is only one trophy that really matters, and that's the Jack Murphy Cup. The large crowd that gathered in Portmagee, which included many neutrals, showed just how much this competition means locally. Sadly, it's another year gone, that Sneem/Derrynane won't lay their hands on that trophy.

Sneem/Derrynane had travelled in hope and in numbers to Portmagee, but it wasn't to be, as their hopes were dashed by a good, experienced Skellig Rangers team who proved too strong for the visitors. Sneem/Derrynane weren't helped by all their failings of this year coming back to haunt them on the one day. An inability to win clean ball at midfield, an inability to pick up breaking ball around the middle, and an inability to take scores, were all there and proved costly for the visitors.

Sean Courtney, who was to be a continual thorn in the visitor's side, got the home team off to a good start, pointing from a fine move that led from a Sneem/Derrynane mistake. The visitors then missed a free and a '45 and a Donal Galvin break to Ian Galvin could have resulted in a goal, but the pace of the ball took it from him. While Sneem/Derrynane were to have other chances, it was the home team who dominated and wracked up another seven points with Courtney from play and Keating from placed balls doing most of the damage. Rangers also missed a couple of good goal opportunities. It was 23 minutes before the visitors registered a score with David Breen soloing through the defence and finishing to the top corner of the net. Sneem/Derrynane tried to capitalise on this, but failed, leaving the score at half-time 0-8 to 1-0 for the home team.

Sneem/Derrynane badly needed to get off to a good start for the second half, but it was the home team who scored first, through Brendan O'Sullivan. Nice combination play from D.Galvin,I.Galvin and Ronan Hussey saw Denis O'Sullivan put over and offer hope for the visitors, but Rangers came back with another point from Ciaran Keating. When Gary O'Driscoll was sent off after 10 minutes of the second half, for a second yellow card, then it seemed that it was all there for the taking for Sneem/Derrynane, and when David Breen put over a fine point after good work by Darren Breen, a buzz of expectation passed through the travelling support. However it was Keating and Stephen O'Sullivan who were to get the next scores for the home side. Then a fine run from Michael O'Connor resulted in a Hussey point and next Darren Breen pointed with a scorcher that could have been in the roof of the net, but went over via the crossbar. Another Hussey free meant there was just 4 points in it and at the death, Denis O'Sullivan was just wide with a goal effort and that was the last real chance of the match.

Well done to Skellig Rangers who staged the occasion in fine fashion and we wish them well in the forthcoming rounds.

Best for the visitors: Mark Drummond did well in goal. Both Killian Burns and David O'Leary had their hands full with 'Dashie' and Keating, but both acquitted themselves very well and Burns did his best to inspire his teammates both on and off the field. Further up the field, Michael O'Connor was again outstanding, while in attack, David Breen was the main man, and Darren Breen performed well too. Adrian O'Sullivan made an impact when introduced late on.

So that's it for another year. Many thanks to all the players, trainers and selectors who put in so much effort throughout the year and to everybody involved, including our fine supporters, who keep the club on the road. And a special thanks to Chris Humphreys who ensures these reports appear so promptly on the web page, which he maintains so well.

Team: Mark Drummond, Derek O'Shea, Killian Burns, David O'Leary, Michael O'Connor, David Drummond, Donal O'Sullivan, Brendan Galvin, Adrian Breen, Denis O'Sullivan 0-1, Ronan Hussey 0-2(1f), David Breen 1-1, Ian Galvin, Donal Galvin, Darren Breen 0-1.

Subs used: Raymond White, Adrian O'Sullivan

Subs not used: Richard and Michael White, Shane and David McGillicuddy, Tony Drummond, Brendan Hussey and Morgan O'Donoghue.

Joe Corridan was injured and unable to line out.

These will be my last notes for this year and I would like to thank the many people who gave me such positive feedback, both local and abroad, and say a farewell to readers in Limerick, Westmeath, Dublin, Edinburgh, London and New York and anywhere else this may be read – it's great to know ye still care about the club. Doire Fhionáin go deo!

So who will lift the Jack Murphy Cup this year? Unless they find it fast – then nobody! Sorry, I couldn't resist that one! Slán go léir.

It was good weekend of craic in the Piper, with a fine session of music on the Friday night, with Robin Turner, fresh from his marathon endeavours in Dublin, in fine voice and Wally Desmond, superb as ever on the pipes, and Vinnie Hyland on guitar and vocals. The large group of French tourists certainly enjoyed it. Then Saturday was Fancy Dress night and a farewell to Emer Corridan who is soon to head for Canada for a year. Many fine costumes to be seen, with quite a few Chilean miners making an appearance! We believe the young folk partied on 'til dawn (not in the Piper, we hasten to add!). It seemed the whole of Caherdaniel made it to Portmagee on Sunday, only to leave disappointed. Most adjourned back to the Piper to drown their sorrows, after the defeat to Rangers. Much lively debate ensued about the game and as usual everybody had an opinion as to where it all went wrong and who was Man of the Match, with Killian Burns, Michael O'Connor and David Breen receiving about equal support. Later on Sunday night, both Freddie's and the Piper were eerily empty, unusual for a South Kerry Championship day, but a sign of the times, as those who are out early go home and don't venture out again.

Could Sneem/Derrynane have won the match? Possibly, if they had taken a few of the chances in the first half. Would they have deserved to win? Not really.

Monday, is a black, dark, dreary day of rain and fog and that seems fitting the day after we exit the South Kerry Championship! Slán.