

LOCAL SOCCER



Back row, from left: Paul Sinnott, Ronan O'Seanan, Cathal O'Regan, Adam Lee, Alan Concannon, Conor Andrew, Rualc Greaney, Aaron Connolly, Cillian Murphy, Harry Connelly, Eoin O'Boyle, Lorcan Fox, Brian Howley, Peter Nduke, Eoin O'Donovan, and John Glennon. Front: Claran Cafferky, Stephen Doherty, Eoin Fleming, Rory Gaughan, John Finnegan, Paddy Gannon (captain) Kevin Connelly, Flo Jouffe, Cormac Clarke, Colle Ridge, Rory McNulty, and Alan O'Boyle. PHOTO: DAIRE FLANAGAN.

Renmore clinch First Division

City side make return to top flight as Athenry claim Premier Division title

MIKE RAFFERTY

HAVING spent some years in the wilderness of the lower divisions, Renmore AFC are back in the big time as an impressive campaign in the Western Hygiene Supplies First Division saw them confirmed as champions and next season they will return to Premier League action.

On Saturday evening, they completed their campaign with a 4-2 success over Kinvara United and it was fitting that outstanding skipper Paddy Gannon should notch their final goal of the season, with a cracker from outside the box.

Kinvara were playing for their First Division survival and they certainly tried to make a game of it, but were just over powered by a home side who wanted to finish in style, as goals by Eoin O'Boyle, John Finnegan, Kevin Connolly and Gannon eased them to victory.

After the game, captain Paddy Gannon was presented with the First Division trophy by Pat McCann from the Galway FA.

The defeat confirmed the relegation of Kinvara United, and they will be joined in the Second Division by St Patrick's.

The second promotion position will be decided when Maree/Oranmore and West Coast United meet in their last game. The Connemara side were 1-0 winners over West United B at the weekend, courtesy of a Noel Varley goal, and in the process kept their prospects alive.

Fourth placed East United have enjoyed a steady season and they maintained their position with a 7-3 success over NUI Galway. Leading scorer Mike Mongan notched a hat-trick, with further goals from Sean



Renmore AFC players spray the champagne after being presented with the First Division title.

Lydon (two) and Mark Dowling (two) completing their tally.

PREMIER DIVISION

Following a 4-0 success over Hibernians on Saturday afternoon, Athenry clinched the Premier Division title with ease, as they made it five titles in the last decade. The home side were three up at the break as Colm O'Donovan (two) and Gary Forde took the scoring honours, with Conor Cannon completing their tally on the resumption.

While second placed Mervue United's chance of top honours have gone, they still have large amount of games to play, having a number of games in hand on the table toppers.

In midweek, aided by the conversion of two penalties in two minutes by Stephen Larkin they drew 3-3 with Colemanstown United; while on Sunday, Simon

Walsh struck for a brace, with Andrew Dillon completing their tally, as they defeated Corrib Celtic 3-2 in Annagha down.

Salthill Devon eased their relegation worries with a 3-0 success over Corrib Celtic, as Keith Shaughnessy, Brian Gaffney and Brian Geraghty all found the net at Drom. However, despite the win, they are at the top of a group of seven teams, separated by just four points still deeply involved in the relegation issue. Below them in the table, St Bernard's, Corrib Celtic, Hibernians, Loughrea, Corrib Rangers and Colemanstown United are all vying to avoid the drop.

CONNACHT JUNIOR CUP

West United and Ballinasloe Town will contest the Connacht Junior Cup Final following exciting semi final wins over the weekend, with Eamonn Deacy

Park hosting the decider on Sunday, May 28.

St Bernard's were looking to follow up last season's silverware by making a first-ever decider, but after their contest finished scoreless after normal time, Liam Lynch struck for the extra time winner on 107 minutes, as Ballinasloe return to the decider for the second year in succession.

CONNACHT SHIELD

The Connacht Shield Final will be an all Galway affair after East United and Cois Ferraige advanced from their last four contests, with Terryland Park again hosting the contest on May 28.

In Sunday's semi final, after a scoreless opening half East United pulled away on the resumption, as they secured a 3-1 away win over Kiltimagh/Knock. They took a firm hold on pro-

ceeding's just five minutes after the restart when Andrew Rabbite put them ahead following an Emmett Shaw corner. Leading scorer Mike Mongan then took over and two goals in a seven minute spell gave them further reward, before Shane Prendergast pulled back a late consolation goal for the Mayo side.

In contrast, Cois Ferraige had to come from behind when seeing off Cam Celtic 2-1 out in Carraroe. Mikey Conroy and Cathal O'Conghaile struck in the closing stages, to give the Connemara side a place in the Provincial decider.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

GALWAY WFC	0
CORK WFC	2

Having come from three down to score five and see off Cork City in the Shield a number of weeks ago, Galway WFC probably knew that they had the ability to secure a second win of the Continental Tyres Women's National League. However, for some reason the home side put in their worst performance of the campaign to go down meekly against the visitors.

Clare Shine scored early and late goals to give them a merited win, but the form of Galway was very disappointing. It was Cork who created the majority of chances and allied to their goals, they could have added more only for the excellence of Tina Hughes in the home goal.

Manager Billy Clery hopes to have striker Sinead Taylor back from injury soon and no doubt, if she can replicate the scoring form from her first spell at the

club then the possibilities of moving up the table would be realistic. At the moment, goals are hard to come by and apart from scoring three against bottom side Kilkenny, they have found the net on only one occasion in their other four matches.

They struck the target on just a few occasions, with Lisa Casserly having a fine shot comfortably gathered by Amanda Bodden in the opening half, while central defender Alina Cheatham did trouble the goalkeeper in the second half following a set piece delivery into the box, but opportunities otherwise were hard to find in the last third of the park.

Galway WFC travel to Dublin tomorrow (Saturday) to face a Shelbourne side who have also struggled for early season form.

AIRTRICITY LEAGUE

Galway United's U-17 side came unstuck twice in the past week, when firstly falling to Longford 2-0 following extra time in the Mark Farren Cup and on Saturday, they went under by 1-0 against Cabinteely.

They return to action at 2pm tomorrow (Sat) when they host Cobh Ramblers at Castle Park.

There was no joy for the U-19 side either as they lost 4-0 against Shamrock Rovers in Tal-laght and they return to the Capital again tomorrow to face UCD in Belfield.

SCHOOLBOYS

There was no joy for the Galway League in the semi final of the SFAI U-12 Inter League when they went down 2-0 against the DDSL in Eamonn Deacy Park on Sunday.