

SENTINEL SPORT



Langan header lands the Senior Cup for Renmore

RENMORE 1
SALTHILL DEVON 0

AT half-time the body language of the managers told it all. Renmore's Dermot Coll with head held high marched sergeant-major like to the dressing room, while Joe Reilly with his hands in his pockets and his chin down on this chest looked a disconsolate figure as he made a similar journey.

By that stage Renmore had secured what turned out to be the match-winner in this AIB Connacht Senior Cup final replay. In doing so they became the fifth junior side to win the trophy following the footsteps of Dynamo Blues, Hibernians, West United and Calry Bohemians.

Salthill, who under-achieved in the drawn tie, were expected to improve dramatically and while the first half saw an upsurge of form, the second half was spent throwing passes all over the park as poor penetration was to deny them.

Their cause wasn't helped by an outstanding Renmore defence in which central defenders John Walsh and Noel Greaney, in particular, excellent. Their positional play and tackling was almost telepathic as they repelled attack after attack.

The first half was open and balanced as both sides had opportunities to get off the mark. An early effort by the busy Paul Langan flashed wide before a drive by David

Silke, Salthill's best performer, came crashing off the crossbar on 22 minutes.

On a night which saw some strange decisions by the match officials, the first occurred on 29 minutes. Alan Corcoran knocked Benny Fahy's cross into the path of Dave Samuels and just as the midfield was about to round Mark Cobey the 'keeper took him down in the area only for referee Blake to wave play only.

Justice was done just five minutes later. Fahy released Eoin Keane on the right and his pin-point delivery was confidently knocked home by a Langan header from 10 yards. Moments later another Langan effort was tipped over by the retreating Cobey.

It was then the turn of Devon to become frustrated as Pat Kent was fouled in the area. An indirect free-kick was the reward from which Kevin Cassidy finally headed at Aidan Grealish.

On 48 minutes Renmore seemed to have a perfectly good goal disallowed when Langan's header from Mike Noone's free kick ended up in the net but the long whistle adjudged Langan the aggressor against Cobey.

Thereafter Renmore's play was dominated by the counter-attack as Salthill took control and dictated matters. With Ronan Silke and Joe Reilly getting a regular supply of quality ball from the flanks, there were plenty of opportunities to create something.

However, they didn't have a player like Langan who won possession in the air and led the line well. They needed a little bravery in the area as Greaney and Walsh won all the important challenges and it was something of a surprise that Kevin Cassidy was pushed into a forward role.

From as early as the 51 minute when Shane Cox side-footed wide they had the chances. However, Aidan Grealish never had to display the heroics of the first night as he easily dealt with the bread and butter stuff that came his way.

Cox, Cassidy, Grant and McDonald all hit drives straight at Grealish while Grant was also off target on 61 minutes. In spite of McDonald joining Cox and Gavin in attack the chances continued to go abegging and when Gavin miss-hit their best opportunity on 81 minutes from Silke's cross it just summed up their evening.

Renmore easily soaked up the pressure as Ciaran Conneely, Dave Samuels and Fahy

regularly broke — to cause problems at the other end.

Following their disappointing league form, this success will, at least, bring some satisfaction for a Renmore squad, fourteen of whom started at the club at under-10 level with Bernard Shapiro. With the Michael Byrne and Joe Ryan Cup still to be decided, Renmore could still have an even more rewarding end of the season ahead of them.

Renmore: Grealish, Noone, Gallagher, Greaney, Walsh, Keane, Corcoran, Samuels, Conneely, Langan, Fahy. Reserves: Carr for Keane (87 mins), O'Mahony for Fahy (92 mins.).

Salthill Devon: Cobey, Silke (R), Reilly, Nolan, Cassidy, Silke (D), Grant, McDonald, Moraghan, Kent, Gavin. Reserves: Cox for Moraghan (42 mins.), O'Connell for Kent (79 mins.).

Referee: Jimmy Blake (Mayo).



Norman Healy, AIB Bank presenting the AIB Connacht Senior Cup to John Walsh, captain of the Renmore team. Also included is Brendan McNally, Chairman Connacht Senior League.

Golf Notes

Bearna Golf and Country Club

Results of weekend 18 hole stableford:
1. Kieran Kavanagh (17) 35; 2. Pat Ward (17) 35; Gross: Kieran Bowden (8) 23; 3. Aidan McNamara (10) 33; 4. Gerry O'Brien (21) 33; 5. Mark McCarthy (10) 33; 6. Paul Sheridan (18) 33. Beginners: Michael O'Clinneide (18) 28. Womens: 1. Peg Sexton (16) 31; 2. Elizabeth Neville (17) 30. Beginners: Kathleen Kelly.

9 hole mixed blitz: 1. Geraldine McGettigan, Ann Bowden, Peter Leonard; 2. Mark Quill, Kathleen Kelly, Kieran Bowden.

Fixtures: Friday — 9 hole mixed blitz, draw at 6 p.m. Sat/Sun — Woods Jewellers 3 ball betterball stableford. Presentation of prizes for March/April in Spinnaker House Hotel this Friday at 10 p.m.

Buccaneers 13 University College Galway . 18 IN WILD, wet conditions at

Crowley Park, Galway UCG retained their Connacht u-20 crown by virtue of a hard earned victory over Buccaneers in a final that never reached its expected heights.

Referee Mick Roche was at the centre of much controversy from Buccaneers' supporters who questioned two crucial decisions by the Corinthians official.

The first moment of debate occurred after 54 minutes when Buccaneers were battling to register their first second-half score. A great drive close to the UCG posts broke into two sections with Sean Glennon touching down from one half. However, the referee seemed to adjudicate on the other section, thus denying what appeared a legitimate score!

Then six minutes from the end, with Buccaneers now trailing 13-8, Tom Stuart-Trainor, although high tackled twice, still looked like getting through for a levelling try in the left corner. Both tackles were wild without being malicious and were definitely penalty offences, but the referee might have applied advantage.

While these two incidents were contentious for the losers, Buccaneers have really only themselves to blame because their tactics were questionable while they were at fault for both UCG tries.

The outstanding Conor Kilroy and Stuart-Trainor exchanged penalties in the opening quarter before the students got their first break. A fine crossfield passing movement yielded them a 33rd minute penalty on the left. Buccaneers, after defending so well against the considerable elements, dropped their guard and UCG

quickly tapped the penalty to their impressive No. 8 Pat Lynch who ghosted in for a try.

With Kilroy's conversion rebounding wide off an upright, the damage was not as bad as it could have been but Buccaneers conceded another penalty right on halftime and the fullback duly struck it over for a 11-3 interval lead.

College secured their grip on the cup after 59 minutes with a score against the run of play. Gareth Johnston, with the wind to his back and time to kick, elected to run a ball inside his own '22' despite three UCG players closing in on him. His grave error was fully capitalised on by College who snatched possession, enabling their lively out-half John Morrison to dart in for a smashing try under the posts.

Kilroy's conversion made it 18-3 in favour of UCG, giving Buccaneers too much to do.

They battled bravely, however, and showed their potential with a fine drive by the pack that earned a Joe McVeigh try, converted from the right by Stuart-Trainor on 63 minutes.

Four minutes later, another Stuart-Trainor penalty narrowed the arrears to 13-18 and, although they did better following the introduction of Michael Martin, they could not get on terms.

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Promoter's Prize: Sean O'Toole, Barr a' Chaladh

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NO JACKPOT WINNER THIS WEEK

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Draw for 5 x £100 - Week 10: Tom Meehan Jnr, c/o Trappers Inn; Des Smyth.

Sellers Prize £25: John O'Keane, c/o C.G.S.H.

THIS WEEKS JACKPOT £2,200

Next Draw takes place on Sunday, 11th May in Fibber McGee's, Eyre Square.

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