

Hibernians turn on the heat in race for Premier League

AFTER a lapse of a number of reasons it looks like the Premier League title is on its way back to Bohermore as leaders Hibernians continued on their winning ways on Sunday.

Second placed Renmore kept up their challenge, while Salthill Devon made it four games unbeaten as they picked up a point against Mervue United.

Boys Club continued on their winning ways as they held off Corofin in the First Division. Colmanstown and Mervue United B both won as they continue to lead the way in Division 2A.

Olde Ground B won the top of the table clash with Colga in Division 2B by a single goal as Kinvara continue to stay in control in Division 2C.

In the Hynes Shoes Premiership Cup semi-final Galway United caused an upset with a 1-0 win over Mervue United, while Conor Killeen registered another hat-trick as Salthill Devon won 5-1 against Ballina.

Just the Newcastle U-15 side brought success to the club in the National Cup as the U-12 and U-14 sides exited their relevant competitions, while Galway United's U-17 side went out of the Connacht Cup to Charlestown.

HIBERNIANS2
KILTULLAGH0
Hibs made it ten wins from eleven starts in the Western Hygiene Supplies Premier Division at West Park on Sunday and at the same time confirmed their status as champions elect.

Against a Kiltullagh side that had beaten them two weeks ago in the Connacht Cup, they held all the aces as two second half goals earned them the points.

As usual it was close and competitive between the sides but it was the city side who had that extra flair and parade when questions were asked.

It was scoreless at the break, despite Kiltullagh having enjoyed a strong wind advantage. However, in what was a low key performance from them, they rarely looked like making a breakthrough against a Hibs defence in which Sean Lawless and Nigel Keady excelled.

Hibs made the breakthrough when Dermot McSweeney crashed a free-kick from outside the area past Darren Murphy. They made it 2-0 when Keady made a strong run from halfway and his cross shot from the right wing, eluded all before dipping into the top corner past a stranded Murphy.

Johnny Walsh, Mark Keane and Kenny Talbot were foiled late on with just John Leahy threatening to pull one back at the other end.

MERVUE UNITED1
SALTHILL DEVON1

The point collected by Devon was a valuable one as they harbour thoughts of staying in the Premier, while



Galway United's Ollie Keogh is closely watched by Drogheda's James Impey during Friday's game at Terryland Park.

at the top of the table the loss of two points by Mervue all but finished their quest for title honours.

Salthill's recent run of two wins and two draws has seen them move from bottom of the table to joint fifth from the basement as they put a slow start to the season behind them. However with just three ties left, they could be running out of games.

Devon cracked home the only goal of the opening half as Stuart Healy, turned in possession, beat his marker before chipping the advancing Tony Cooke for the opener.

Indeed only a post denied Kevin O'Neill giving them an earlier lead as Mervue played their way back into contention. Midway through the second half Mike Cooke levelled matters after a goal-mouth scramble.

While Cooke brought a fine save from keeper Brian Fitzpatrick later, it was Devon who came closest to collecting all three points as Joe Tracey and Paul Diviney failed to find a way past Cooke.

Leeds United Supporters Club

THE Leeds United Supporters Club will meet on Wednesday (tomorrow) at Brennan's Bar, New Docks, for the Leeds v Spurs Cup replay. Kick-off 8.00 p.m. Usual prize draws. All members welcome.

Bearna GAA Club Notes

CLUB membership for 1999 is now available at £10 and only until March 17. It is worth noting that only those who are members of the club will be eligible to request tickets for this year's All-Ireland series.

The Tom Herson Tournament game against Spiddal was cancelled on Sunday morning due to adverse weather conditions and this fixture will be re-arranged when a suitable date can be found.

The intermediate team and management are still awaiting their opponents for the County League Final. The North Board winners have yet to be decided, so training for this match continues in earnest as the outcome of this final will determine whether Bearna will be competing at senior or intermediate level in the coming months.

Attendance at training has been excellent and demonstrates the determination of the players to achieve senior status. Training continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30 p.m. for intermediate, junior and u21 players.

RENMORE3
OLDE GROUND1

The defend champions had to come from behind in this one as Ollie Rafferty crashed home the only goal of the opening half as he beat keeper Martin Greaney at his near post.

Renmore's response immediately after the break was impressive as Alan Corcoran levelled matters within three minutes of the restart. They took the lead when Corcoran turned provider and Mark Kelly put them in front.

Corcoran doubled his tally when he made it 3-1 after collecting possession with his back to goal, he turned and fired home past keeper Tony Maher.

Olde Ground did little after they lost their lead and it was the home side who continued to press forward as they came close to increasing their advantage.

O.L.B.C2
COROFIN UNITED1

First Division leaders Boys Club registered their second

win of the season over Corofin as two second half goals sealed this contest.

Scoreless at the break, it was Tony Ward who set up Brian O'Halloran for the opener as he powered a 20 yard drive past Paul Wallace.

However a handball decision gave Corofin a lifeline and Brian O'Donovan duly converted the spot-kick. Efforts by Mike Nolan and Dave Quinn were thwarted as the visitors gained the upper hand for a spell.

A Tony Ward shot failed to get past Wallace before Anthony Curran headed home the winner following Martin Golden's cross three minutes from time.

With the West Coast United / NUIG game postponed Boys Club increased their at the top to three points, but the students have two games in hand.

BANK OF IRELAND3
ORANMORE4

"We just didn't press the self destruct button out there, we left our hand on it" said a frustrated banks manager Johnny Carroll after he had seen his side twice lose two goals leads, before conceding three goals in the last 20 minutes.

Goals from Noel Mullan and Fintan Ryan had given Bank of Ireland a 2-0 lead before Murt Fahy pulled one back before the break.

When Timmy Landers made it 3-1 it looked like the First Division bottom side were going to jump four places up the table, but it ended in frustration as Fahy with his second and two from Niall McBride beat Alan McNevin as Oranmore recovered to win 4-3.

OLDE GROUND B1
COLGA0

A vital win for Jody Currans side helped maintain their promotion push from the Olympic Sport Division 2B, as Colga suffered their first league defeat of the season.

opposition without five first team and still expect to win.

Such was the scenario that Galway United faced as they travelled minus Ian Rossiter (Senior Duty); Mark Rossiter (playing same day for Ireland U-15 side), Alan McNamara and Alan Murphy (over with Plymouth), and John O'Brien (injured).

In spite of this it was Galway United who took the lead in this Connacht U-17 Cup tie when Cathal McGrath scored in the opening half only for Brian O'Connell to level matters for Charlestown before the break.

Despite some impressive performances from a young Utd. side containing many U-16 players it was John Taylor who fired the matchwinner past Eoin Martin.

Driven forward by the excellent Dara Kinneavy, Utd. failed to get back into it despite Simon Walsh coming close on a number of occasions.

MIKE RAFFERTY

Cup tie tickets

TICKETS for Galway United's FAI Cup quarter-final clash with St Pat's went on sale at the weekend with over 350 of them being sold at the First Division game against Drogheda United.

It is expected that the match will have a sell-out crowd of 6,000 and supporters are urged to purchase their tickets as soon as possible. St Pat's have indicated that they will be bringing over 800 supporters to Terryland Park on Friday night week, March 5.

The club have put the tickets on sale at the minimum price allowed by the FAI, costing £5 for adults, £4 for students, OAP's and the unwaged (with cards) and £2 for U-15's.

Tickets are on sale at all Zhivago stores, Great Outdoors, the office at Terryland Park and they will also be available at this Friday's First Division clash against Home Farm Everton.

YOUTH/ SCHOOLBOY

CHARLESTOWN2
GALWAY UNITED1

No matter what size of a squad you have it is difficult for a side to face quality