

Bohs and Bank of Ireland advance to Cup finals

IT'S been a busy week on the local soccer scene. Bohs qualify for their second Joe Ryan Cup final in succession, as Bank of Ireland make it to the Jack Lillis Cup decider.

Mervue United B travelled to Moylough for the Division 2A Cup semi-final and qualified for a final place against Athenry. Colmanstown and Dunmore will meet in the Olympic Sports Division 2B North final as UCG 'B' got the better of Puritan Bennet in the 2B South Cup.

League action saw defending champions Hibs put two wins together as they move closer to league leaders Renmore, while UCG 'A' keep the pressure on a failing Tuam Celtic side in the First Division.

Bohemians.....2
Renmore.....1

Renmore's tale of woe in Cup competitions this season continued when they succumbed to Bohemians challenge in the Joe Ryan Cup semi-final at West Park.

A goal up after two minutes they failed to build on this advantage and then Bohs imposed their own authority on proceedings as they rattled home two second half goals by Mike Hynes.

Renmore seized the initiative early on and had three bites at the cherry before they opened their early account. First Eamon O'Shea's effort was blocked in the area, before Bohs 'keeper John Burke produced an excellent save to tip Eoin Noone's effort onto the crossbar, the rebound fell kindly for Noone and he firmly despatched it to the net.

O'Shea then got the slightest of touches to David Samuels cross but the effort faded wide. Benny Fahy, with a volley, was also wide from Paul Bruton's delivery as Renmore were enjoying early dominance.

Bohs finally began to show some urgency on the half-hour and Eoin O Ceallaigh brought a diving save from Martin Greaney, before the 'keeper denied Kevin Joyce at the near post.

Bohs resumed after the interval in a similar attacking vein and after Renmore lost 'keeper Greaney through injury, his replacement Adrian Brennan was picking the ball out of his net within minutes of his arrival.

On the hour Richie Walsh's cross was superbly taken down by Mike Hynes and with cunning subtlety he floated it over Brennan from the angle of the six yard box.

With Walsh and Joyce working hard in midfield Bohs made the pressure tell a second time. A run by left-full Leonard Power from halfway through a non-existent defence saw his effort parried up into the air by Brennan and, even as the ball looked like it was



TACKLE ... Galway United's Mark Herrick manages to stay in control despite the challenge of a Bohs defender in the Premier Division at Terryland Park on Saturday night. Photos Joe O'Shaughnessy.

heading for the net, Hynes got down low and headed it home.

A late rally by Renmore didn't produce the desired response. After 'keeper Burke twice denied Renmore with dives at the feet of O'Shea and Corcoran, O'Shea headed over their best chance when he rose unchallenged to Steve Byrnes 89th minute delivery.

Bohs: Burke, Joyce (Des), Walsh (Rob), Folan, Power, Walsh (R), Joyce (K), O Ceallaigh, Joyce (D), Hynes, Doyle.

Renmore: Greaney (M), Bruton, Walsh, Greaney (N), Samuels, Corcoran, Byrne, Noone (M), Fahy, Noone (E), O'Shea.

Reserves: Gallagher for

Bruton, Brennan for Greaney (M), Conneely for Noone (M).
Referee: Dave Daly.

Salthill Devon.....9
Hibernians.....5

Judging by their performance the Hibs roadshow is back on track and while Devon offered poor resistance, it was certainly one of Hibs most impressive displays of recent times.

Injuries have forced the hands of the management and Damien McLroy in goal for the injured Mark Philbin, 16 year-old Eddie Ward and Derek Lally have all brought a bit of fresh impetus to the side.

Devon, with wind advantage in the opening half, seldom tested McLroy and it was Hibs who got the only goal of the half when Langan headed home Tommy Ward's cross. An early goal after the interval set the tone for the second half when Barry O'Connell fired home in a goalmouth scramble.

Lally with an impressive performance in midfield tucked away the third past Cunningham after a surging run from midfield. After Robert Healy back-headed a corer at the near post Vinny Flaherty was perfectly positioned to make it 4-0.

Lally with his second from close range completed the rout and maintained the Bohemore sides challenge for the league title.

It was their second win of the week as in midweek goals from Barry O'Connell and Derek

Lally helped them defeat Mervue United 2-1 with Robert Fitzgerald getting their only goal.

Bohemians.....0
Corrib Celtic.....1

While it's the race for the title that's catching the eye the relegation battle heats up with every game. Corrib Celtic traveled to West Park knowing that only a win could help save them from going straight down to the first division.

Well a James O'Neill goal in the first minute helped them achieve their desired result, but with Old Ground defeating Crescent their fate was sealed.

Indeed Bohs dominated throughout but failed to find a way past Celtic 'keeper Declan Regan with Timmy Landers coming closest with a header off the crossbar on 54 minutes.

Corrib Celtic have now completed their league programme and will be joined in the drop by either Old Ground or Salthill/Knocknacarra who were leap-frogged over by the Shantala side who put three past P. J. Norman as they defeated Crescent United 3-1.

Pete Lynch, Kieran Daly and Colin Murphy got the important goals that might yet preserve Old Ground's Premier League status. Pdraig Keogh got Crescent's lone reply.

Meanwhile the trophy cabinet has been pretty bare for Mervue junior sides in recent times, however one of the clubs unfashionable sides might rectify that if they can defeat Athenry in the Division 2A Cup final in Terryland tonight (kick-off 7.00 p.m.).

On Sunday they made the long journey to Moylough and came away with a 3-1 win as Mike Kelly, Timmy Madden and Pdraig Kilgannon got the all-important goals.

They meet an Athenry side looking for their third win in succession in the final. Athenry with goals from Gabriel Glavin and Brian Hanley defeated Loughrea 2-0 in their semi-final.

The holders are gone in the 2B North Cup as Colmanstown were the day's most convincing winners by 5-0 over last year's winners Craughwell.

Sean Mannion (3), Andy Concannon (penalty) and Derwin Costello were the scorers and they meet Dunmore Town who were 4-2 winners over Corofin United to decide the destiny of the trophy.

After their shock defeat to Bank of Ireland in the Lillis Cup, UCG 'A' kept their promotion chances on track with a 3-2 win over OLBC. Cathal Daly and Franny Flaherty (2) got the vital goals and with Tuam Celtic drawing their last two matches, promotion alongside Moyne Villa is very much in their own hands.

Column compiled by
Mike Rafferty