

SENTINEL SPORT



Junior Cup special ...

Hibs' Houdini Act in Junior Cup decider

Hibernians3
 Renmore 2
 (after extra time)

by Conor Pope

THE Hibernians junior side compensated for the defeat of their senior counterparts when they stole victory from the gaping jaws of defeat at a windswept Terryland Park last Sunday after an equalising goal in the dying seconds earned them 20 minutes of extra time which was enough to see of the challenge of a brave Renmore side.

But while it was Hibs who finished the stronger and ultimately ran out deserving winners, it was the Renmore team, appearing in their first ever Connacht Junior Cup final, who made all the running in a drab and easily forgettable first half.

The Bohermore side, going for a unique 'double double' started nervously and the first real chance of the game fell to the pretenders to their title of Kingpins of Connacht junior soccer, when after a good ball from Pat Lohan, Renmore's Alan O'Shaughnessy looked certain put his side in front with only nine minutes on the clock. It was only a perfectly timed sliding tackle from Sean Lawless which kept the sides level.

Renmore continued playing with the bit between their teeth and they kept pushing forward playing fine, flowing football but their excellent approach play went unrewarded.

One of the main reasons

for their failure to capitalise on Hibs early struggles was man of the match Sean Lawless who was rock solid in defence and equally committed when running at the more inexperienced Renmore back four.

It wasn't until the Renmore striker Alan O'Shaughnessy received a knock and had to be replaced by Benny Fahy after 57 minutes that the game really changed pace. Seven minutes after the substitution, Renmore's Mike Noone floated an optimistic free kick directly into the arms of Hibs' keeper Aidan Grealish who was unfortunate enough to fumble it, allowing Steven Byrne a half chance to stab the ball home.

But just a minute later it was all square when Tommy Ward's cross from the left went behind the Renmore back four allowing Hibs number three, David Samuels, to nip in and steer the ball to the net with his right foot.



WINNERS ... the Hibernians Junior team which captured the Connacht Cup title at Terryland Park. Back row, left to right, Tom Hanley, ass-manager, Frank Doherty, coach, Pat Foley, Robert Healy, Sean Lawless, Aidan Grealish, Vinny Flaherty, Paul Langan, Joe Mulry, Bart Barrett, Anthony Flaherty, physio, Tony Samuels, manager. Front row, David Samuels, Tommy Ward, Johnny Walsh, Martin Devlin, Dermot McSweeney, Colin Conneely, Derek O' Loughlin.

Coming against the run of play as it did Renmore seemed to struggle for some minutes and were lucky not to go a goal down when Hibs captain Martin Devlin had a header pulled off the goal line by Martin Greaney.

Ten minutes later and it all seemed to be flowing Renmore's way again with Lawless once more having to be on top of his game to deny Eoin Keane a clear goal scoring chance. And then after 81 minutes the team from the eastern suburb regained the lead after Eoin Noone broke free in the Hibs box and

punished some slack defending by coolly sliding the ball past the flailing Grealish.

With just three minutes remaining in normal time Devlin was booked after a tackle borne out of frustration rather than any malicious intent and it looked certain that with time running out Hibs had blown the chance of their unique 'Double double'.

But as the game moved into injury time Vincent Flaherty knocked a last ditch ball into the Renmore 18 yard box where Robert Healy was waiting to head home

and throw a lifeline to the sinking Hibs who clutched it gratefully.

The goal fired up the Bohermore side who finished the stronger and came close to scoring deep into injury time. The sight of their rising star must have broken Renmore hearts after they thought they had done just enough to bring home the trophy for the first time and they visibly began to wilt.

Three minutes into the first period of extra time Hibs were in front, after a wonderfully flighted Bartley Barret corner was met by Flaherty's replacement, Joe Mulroy formerly of Westport United, who rose above the towering Renmore defence to find the net.

In the second period of extra time Renmore came within inches of levelling the

contest after a ball was cleared off the line but in reality it was clear that it was not going to be their day. Tommy Lawless ran his heart out for Hibs in the closing minutes and his tireless wing work saw the Bohermore team nearly increase their lead, but anything more than a one goal margin would have been unfair to Renmore who came oh so close to toppling their arch rivals.

Hibernians: Grealish; Lawless, Samuels, Healy, Flaherty; Walsh, Devlin, Ward, McSweeney; Langan, Barrett. Sub: Mulroy for Flaherty (90 mins)

Renmore: Martin Greaney; McCaffrey, Mike Noone, Walsh, Noel Greaney; Lohan, Eoin Noone, Byrne, Keane; O'Shaughnessy, Conneely. Subs: Fahy for O'Shaughnessy (58 mins) Coll for Lohan (100 mins)

Referee Martin Hynes



DEFEATED ... the Renmore team who were beaten in the Connacht Junior Cup last Sunday at Terryland Park. Front row, left to right: Noel Greaney, Eoin Keane, John Walsh (Capt) Steven Byrne, Ciaran Conneely. Back Row: Alan O'Shaughnessy, Martin Noone, Donagh McCaffrey, Martin Greaney, Pat Lohan, Benny Fahy Eoin Noone.

THE SALTHILL LOTTO

May 29 result:

3- 10	JACKPOT NOT WON
13 - 15	8 match-three winners share £120 (£15 each): Siobhan Geoghegan, Lettermore; Mary Carter, Camus;

Pat O'Connell, Seacrest; Tony Noone, Northern Telecom; The Twins, Cruachan Park; Brian Higgins, Premier Banking; Joseph Coyne, Truskey West; David Gallagher, Woodquay.

This week's Jackpot £1,800

Spin the Wheel Contestants for May
 Carmel Hubbard, Glenina, Colette Whelan, Carragh Hill, Nora Faherty, Ballinahown, Bernard Molloy, Corofin, Eileen Cashen, Minna.
 May Spin the Wheel takes place this Sunday, 9.20 p.m.
 Proceeds go to Salthill Devon Pitch Development Fund
 Next Draw Tuesday, 6th June in the Big Arc.