

Unlucky Renmore suffer penalty shoot-out agony

LAST weekend saw eight ties down for decision in the Guinness FAI Junior Cup. It took penalties to decide three of the games as West and Crescent hit six, while Hibs got the better of Renmore in the match of the day.

Renmore.....2
Hibs.....2
(Hibs won 5-4 on penalties)
For 65 minutes Renmore played as if they were on another planet. Their textbook second goal seemed to be the icing on the cake as a composed and skilful side were in total control. They sprayed the ball all over the park and in strikes O'Shea and O'Shaughnessy had the busiest players on the pitch. Dominating and in control they could do no wrong as Hibs were marked absent without leave. But strange as it may seem the worst thing to happen to the home side was for them to score that second goal. Immediately, Hibs were stung into action and within a minute had pulled one back before they equalised with just 9 minutes left. Hibs performance was so ordinary on Sunday its difficult to see how they won it. In goal Mark Philbin was preferred to Aidan Grealish

and he was the days hero with two saves in the shoot-out as well as many fine stops throughout the game. The back four with the exception of left-full Lawless were run ragged while in midfield only Johnny Walsh performed up to standard as they were over-run by the opposition while the front two of Langan and Dillon never got a look in. It would be difficult to pick holes in the Renmore side. Particularly in the first 20 minutes of the second half they cut through Hibs at will and had ten goal efforts in that period. In spite of the home team doing most of the attacking, both sides had a number of first half chances. Dillon should have given Hibs an early lead but he missed from close range as a pattern emerged with the home side pushing forward at will with Hibs just relying on breaks. A rare error in the home defence let Lawless set up Delargy but his effort clipped the crossbar on the way over. At the other end Philbin got his fingers to O'Sheas cross as O'Shaughnessy was waiting to pounce and in the same attack loud penalty appeals were denied as Murray seemed to bundle O'Shaughnessy over. Another decision against the home side came on 35

minutes when Samuels corner was deftly flicked home by O'Shaughnessy but referee Tom Staunton had his whistle blown even before it hit the net for an infringement. Philbin, with hands like bostik caught everything. On 44 minutes he denied O'Sea when he was through and Lawless completed the goal line clearance while a frantic moment saw Dillons long throw go through Brennans hand but Walshw as on hand to clear off the line. Two minutes after the restart Renmore made the decisive breakthrough.. Robert Healy unnecessarily bundled over O'Shaughnessy in the area and Mike Noone did the honours from the spot kick. Keane, O'Shea and O'Shaughnessy all had efforts saved as erratic shooting denied Molloy. This period of total domination came to an end when following their only corner of the half O'Shaughnessy headed home Samuels cross. Within a minute Hibs were on the comeback trail as they began to show some urgency. Ward was upended in the area by Molloy and Walsh slotted home the penalty. Ward should have equalised on 74 minutes but headed over Dillons cross. The equaliser on 81

minutes was from another set piece. An inswinging corner into a packed area that contained 17 players should have been punched by Brennan, but he attempted to catch it. With all the challenging bodies it fell on to the head of Martin Devlin for the simplest goal he will score this season. Thereafter it was a matter of containment as both sides were more afraid of losing it rather than going out to win it. In extra-time the home side continued to threaten without ever over extending Philbin. Inevitably, we had to rely on penalties to get a result. Hibs shot first and Walsh and Devlin hit the target. Keane and Conneely replied before Delargy's poor effort was saved by Brennan. Lohan put the home side in command before Noone was denied by Philbin. O'Connell and Lawless and Samuels were all on target as it finished 4-4. Sudden death and Ward was accurate for Hibs before the irony of sport saw man of the match Eamonn O'Shea denied by the diving Philbin for a victory that was achieved by a ruthesness that Renmore don't seem to have. OLBC.....2
Crescent United.....6
A less than convincing performance by Crescent

saw them lucky to advance when only a late equaliser brought the tie to extra time and they then put away four goals for a comfortable win n the end. John Corcorcan's early goalw as the only score of the first half as Crescent strutted their way around the park. The turning point was the introduction of Kieran Daly who was carrying a slight injury. Two goals from him the last quarter, the second a peach of a free kick on the area put the fancied Premier side in trouble. Straight from the restart they got a deserved equaliser when John Keoghs cross was headed home by brother Michael Two all and extra time to come. Crescent then showed their superiority as goals from John Keogh, Ollie Keogh, a John Corcoran penalty and Michael Keoghs second made proceedings simple in the end. West United.....6
Oranmore.....1
A depleted West side struggled in the early stages at South Park before a John Cooke scrambled goal settled the early nerves. A quick and unexpected equaliser following a free kick rid them of any complacency as Jonathan Regan with the best goal of the match saw West regain the initiative before the

interval. Regan added to his tally after the break as Mark Keane also got a brace with Martin O'Connor getting the last, a fitting reward for all his excursions up and down the right flank. Oranmore, although they started well were never in it after the interval and never looking like they would cause an upset. Salthill Devon.....0
Craughwell.....0
(Salthill won 4-3 on penalties)
A young and inexperienced Salthill side had to depend on penalties to get past Craughwell at the Banks Pitch. A game devoid of chances, skill and passion saw the visitors defend in numbers and seemed content to prevent the home side scoring rather than attacking themselves. Ronnie Crowe headed wide from close range as Shane Cox also missed one of the few chances that came Salthills way. It took penalties to decide the issue and Shane Cox, Ronnie Crowe, John Connaire and Michael Keating were accurate enough to see Salthill Devon advance. Column compiled by Mike Rafferty.

Manchester Utd. Supporters Club
THE Galway Branch of the Manchester United Supporters Club are holding a meeting next Monday Night, November 6 at 8 p.m. in Currans Hotel. all are welcome.

CUMANN LUTH CHLEAS GAEL



The Salthill Devon team which defeated Craughwell in the F.A.I. Junior Cup. Back row from left: Jimmy Dillon, Michael Keating, Rossa Mullins, Ronnie Crowe, Declan Sheridan, Shane Cox. Front: Brian Carpenter, Michael Mulligan, Paul Hynes, Stuart Healy, Cillian O'Murcha, Niall Cunningham.