

Carrigaline GAA News

Minor Hurling Championship: Carrigaline 0-24 Shandrum 3-13

Carrigaline met a much fancied Shandrum team on a dry evening in Ballincollig on Wednesday 6th in round three of the Minor Hurling Championship. Following on from their recent narrow loss to St. Finbarr's in the previous outing this was a knock out fixture for the Carrig lads.

Carrigaline started well with a brace of early points from Brian Kelleher and Chris Murray. However, Shandrum responded strongly with five points in succession. Carrigaline regrouped with points from Jack McCarthy and two from Brian Kelleher to level affairs before Chris Murray again put Carrigaline in front at 0-06 to 0-05. Shane Barry and Dan Green were showing well in the defence for Carrigaline as the teams exchanged a couple of well taken points with Jack Kelly and Brian Kelleher adding to the Carrig total. Shandrum had their best spell of the match scoring two goals without reply to change the complexion of the match. To their credit Carrigaline rallied with a late point from the very busy Brian Kelleher to reduce the half time deficit to four points 0-09 to 2-07. Carrigaline had hurled very well during this free flowing and competitive first half with the accurate free taking of Brian Kelleher and the overall work rate of the whole team ensuring that Carrigaline would remain a force to the end of the game.

It was clear from the start of the second half that Carrig were increasing the intensity of the match with determined runs and crunching tackles the order of the day. Shandrum registered the first two points of the second half to increase their advantage to 6 points. However, Nathan Coleman and David Stack began dominating possession in midfield and Eanna Desmond and Dylan Cooney were getting the better of their opponents in the half back line the tide was turning. David Stack got two monstrous points from the middle of the park with further impressive scoring from Nathan Coleman and three from Brian Kelleher to get Carrigaline back on even terms at 0-15 to 2-09. The constant running and excellent work rate of James Maher, Jack Cronin and Jack McCarthy in the forwards and the tenacious defending of Shane Barry, Chris Vaughan and Sean Fouhy at the rear was turning the tide for Carrig. With each one of Niall Fitzgerald's puck outs finding their intended target Carrigaline started to edge their way in front. A shuffle of players with James Maher coming into midfield with David Stack moving to centre forward added to the growing impetus. Further points from Nathan Coleman, Jack McCarthy, David Stack and a brace from the ever accurate Brian Kelleher helped Carrig to a five point lead. The sides exchanged four points each during the following ten minutes of high quality hurling with the Carrigaline scores coming from Jack McCarthy, David Stack and a brace from Brian Kelleher. Shandrum scored a well taken goal to close to gap to two points with a few minutes left to play. The introduction of Ian O'Donoghue, Mark Healy and Anthony Sheehan helped Carrig to maintain their composure and work rate in the final few frantic minutes to ensure a rare victory over Shandrum and secure Carrigaline a place in the County semi-final.

This was a tremendous result for a panel that was short of six players due to holidays and if the attitude and application can be reproduced then there is a bright future for this group of players.

Carrigaline Team: Niall Fitzgerald, Shane Barry, Chris Vaughan, Sean Fouhy, Eanna Desmond, Dylan Cooney, Dan Green, David Stack, Nathan Coleman, Brian Kelleher, Chris Murray, James Maher, Jack Kelly, Jack Cronin, Jack McCarthy. Subs: Tomas O'Donoghue, Ian O'Donoghue, Olin Barry, Mark Healy, Jack O'Mahony, Anthony Sheehan.

Scorers: Brian Kelleher 0-12 (0-7 f), David Stack (0-4), Jack McCarthy (0-3), Nathan Coleman (0-2), Chris Murray (0-2), Jack Kelly (0-1)