

Premier Intermediate County Final

Carrigaline 0-12 St Michaels 0-11

The day has finally arrived and Carrigaline are a Senior Football team. As the programme notes would have told you, this has been a long journey since the initial break through for football in the club in the early nineties but in Pairc Ui Rinn on Sunday 18th October Senior status was achieved.

In a tight game which for most of the way looked like ending in a draw, it was Carrigs greater experience that was the telling factor.

Carrig had the better start and were two points up after ten minutes thanks to points from Brian Coakley and David Drake (a free). St. Michaels were moving the ball very well out of defence and had levelled matters mid way through the half. In the first half scores were hard to come by but Carrig could have had a goal when a strong run by the impressive Kevin Kavanagh just skimmed over the cross bar. Another Coakley point and a good effort from Billy Pope left the half time score Carrigaline 0-5, St Michaels 0-5.

Carrig selectors made a big call at half time calling ashore Peter Murphy, who was on a yellow card, and replacing him with Shane Griffin. However this was not to be the end of Peters contribution.

Carrig got off to a great start to the second half when Dave Drake found Nicholas Murphy with a quick cross field pass and Nicholas scored a fine point within the first minute of the half.

It was St Michaels who came back hard at Carrig and went a point ahead before a fine effort from David Drake from outside the 45 meter line. The other feature of the second half was the contribution of the Carrig bench. Simon O'Brien, who was injured in the first game against Eire Og, came off the bench and scored a superb point from out on the wing. Carrig could not pull away and it was Michaels who were back in front with half way through the second half.

A great run by Kevin Kavanagh from well inside his own half saw him shake off a number of tackles before passing to Barry O'Keeffe who pointed the equaliser to leave the scores at 9 points each. Michaels had the next score but this was cancelled out by half time substitute Shane Griffin who found himself up field and finished very confidently. In all eight Carrig players scored in what was a real all round team effort. 10 points each. Carrig went a point ahead entering the last 5 minutes when David Drake converted a close in free.

The major turning point came when St Michaels broke through and when a gaol looked inevitable the ball stroke the post and fell into the greatfull hands of the "Chief", Killian Forbes. From the subsequent move Carrig were awarded a free which was expertly converted by Brian Coakley and we had a two point lead entering the last couple of minutes. St Michaels converted another free but at this stage Carrig had reintroduced the old warrior Peter Murphy to the forward line and he made a telling contribution, winning possession and holding it up in the two minutes of injury time.

The game ended with Peter gaining possession and heading to the corner flag before being grounded. The ref blew the final whistle and Carrig had finally made it.

Scorers: D Drake 0-3 (2F), B Coakley 0-3 (2F), N Murphy, K Kavanagh, B O'Keeffe, B Pope, S Griffin, S O'Brien (all 0-1).

Team: Sean Mellet, Killian Forbes, Peter Murphy, Peter Roynane, Cillian McSweeney, Cian Barry, Eoin O'Connor, Nicholas Murphy, Kevin Kavanagh, Evan Ryle, Barry O'Keeffe, Eoin Kavanagh, David Drake, Brian Coakley, Billy Pope. Subs Used: Shane Griffin, Simon O'Brien, David Griffin, Matthew O'Reilly.

Extended Panel: James O'Reilly, Kieran Kavanagh, David Kirk, Wesley Roynane, Stephen Maguire, Denis Moran, Jamie De Puis, Stephen Dwane, Daniel O'Reilly, Shane Collins, Killian McIntyre, Danny Twomey.

Team Management: Mick Meaney, Alan O'Mahony, Alan O'Keeffe, Eamonn Kearney, Ken O'Keeffe, Kelvin O'Sullivan