

Premier Intermediate Hurling Championship
First Round
Sunday, 29th May 2016 in Páirc Uí Rinn
Carrigaline 1-16 Mallow 1-11

Carrigaline kicked off the 2016 hurling campaign with a hard fought win over Mallow. Mallow had been fancied by the bookies as they lead Division One in the league, but this ended up being quite an odd game, Mallow finished with only 13 men. It was also a typical Irish summers' day, the game started in glorious sunshine and ended with thunder, lightning and a monsoon. There were also rumours of hailstones at one point. The game started at a frantic pace, 6 minutes in Carrig lead 0-03 to 0-01 with points from Simon O'Brien, Wesley O'Brien & David Drake. Then after a shemozzle that ended with almost 30 players involved, Mallow had their full back sent off. At this stage Carrigaline had the much debated sweeper system implemented. A scrappy game continued with some more scuffles, and a few yellow cards for both sides followed. Mallow were now the ascendency at this stage despite being a man down. By the 16th minute Carrig still clung onto the lead at 0-06 to 0-05. The Carrig scorers were Killian McIntyre, Rob O'Shea & Simon. In the final 10 minutes of the first half Mallow began to receive the deserved reward for their efforts and in the 23rd minute they had the first goal of the game. Simon did manage to tag on another score for Carrig. Deep in first half added time the game really changed. Mallow's wing back received a second yellow card for a high tackle and Carrigaline now had a 2 man advantage. Rob scored another with the last puck of the half to leave the halftime score Carrigaline 0-08 Mallow 1-07. This is when the heavens opened and we had an odd second half. Carrigaline stuck with the sweeper system that had produced a few rewards, and the two spare men stayed around the Carrigaline defence. With the crowd expecting Carrigaline to really push on now, credit to Mallow who fought to on and started the second half much the brighter. Mallow scored two quick points to leave the score 0-08 to 1-09, but they didn't score again until the 58th minute as the Carrig defence really stifled the Mallow attack. From the 35th minute to the 55th it was like a game of chess, conditions were awful, not allowing a free flowing game and Carrig had Mallow suffocated, without taking off in front of goal ourselves. In this period Carrigs spare men started pushing up the pitch and we took scores sporadically. Both Stephen Corcoran and Peter Mullane entered the match to add to Carrigs attack and both played well. In the 55th minute the score read Carrigaline 0-15 Mallow 1-09. Carrig scorers were Rob (3), Simon, Stephen, Wesley & Killian. 3 points up Carrigaline looked like it might end up comfortable but again Mallow rallied with two quick scores and again the game was in the melting pot. Tony Murphy had an outstanding score from over his shoulder in midfield. At 2 points down, Mallow looked for a goal. They nearly had it too but for an outstanding block by Kevin Kavanagh right in front of goal. Carrig then went the length of the pitch, Tony Murphy found Killian McIntyre in space, who took the ball on and buried the sliotar into the net. That finished the game and the final score was Carrigaline 1-16 Mallow 1-11. The end justifies the means and while it was never pretty Carrigaline have avoided the back door and now have a South East derby in the Second round against Ballinhassig. All Carrigaline players in fairness played well without being outstanding. Wesley O'Brien was undoubtedly man of the match, covering every blade of Páirc Uí Rinn.

Carrigaline Team: Rob Foster, Peter Ronayne, David Griffin, Kieran Kavanagh, Cillian Mac Sweeney, Kevin O'Connell, Stephen Williamson, Wesley O'Brien, Kevin Kavanagh, Rob O'Shea (Captain), Shane Griffin, Simon O'Brien, Killian McIntyre, Tony Murphy, David Drake. Subs Used: Peter Mullane, Stephen Corcoran. Extended Panel: Brian Irwin, Bryan Lynch, Adrian Lynch, Michael O'Sullivan, Daniel O'Reilly, James Maher, Stephen Maguire, Michael Lynch, Cian Barry, Peter Murphy, Paul Campbell, Johnny Cowhig, Jamie DePuis, Nathan Coleman, Shane Barry, David Thomas, Michael Quinn, Kieran Dwane, David Stack, Mark O'Mahony.

Carrigaline Scorers: Rob O'Shea 0-05 (4 frees), Killian McIntyre 1-02, Simon O'Brien 0-04, Wesley O'Brien 0-02, David Drake 0-01, Stephen Corcoran 0-01, Tony Murphy 0-01.

Manager: John Middleton. Selectors: Geoff Dillon, James Murphy, Kevin O'Driscoll, Caimin Flannery.
Doctor: Dr. Mortimor O'Connor. Physio: Brendan O'Driscoll. Stats: Lauren Middleton.

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