

Adult Section

Premier 1 Minor Football Championship

Final

Monday 29th September 2014

At Pairc Ui Rinn

Carrigaline 0-9 St Finbarrs 0-7

Carrigaline Minor Footballers made history when they won the Carrigaline Court sponsored Premier 1 Minor Football Championship for the first time in the club's history. It may not have been a classic but after losing the finals of 1995, 1996 and 2008 (after a replay) the win is a major boost for the club.

At the start of the year, we would not have been on the short list of possible winners but Tony Barry and his selectors (Martin O'Reilly, Dave Murphy, Tony Goulding and Sean Ryle) ably assisted by coaches Sean Mellet and Daniel Bagnell (not forgetting logistics man Paddy Finn) developed the team over the year culminating in last Monday night's heart stopping victory.

The Barrs looked lively in the early stages and opened the scoring in the 4th minute. With Brian Coakley and Barry Ryan getting a grip at midfield, Carrig began to take over. A Brian Coakley free in the 6th minute opened our account. Brian added another in the 8th minute and in a two minute slot between the 12th and 13th minute Barry Ryan added two points and Brian Coakley added another. When Caleb O'Connell pointed a free in the 15th minute to leave Carrig leading by 6 points to 1 after 15 minutes it looked like we were in for a good night. However St. Finbarrs who have been the dominant team at minor level over the last 5 or 6 years, were not going to go down without a fight.

With Carrig starting to struggle to get the ball beyond half way the Barrs had points in the 20th and 23rd minute (a free). In fact it would have been worse had the Barrs taken all their scoring chances. Just before half time, Keelan Daly made a fine save to ensure that Carrig went in at half time leading by 6 points to 3.

The Barrs continued to dominate after half time and the margin was reduced to the minimum within three minutes of the restart. Caleb O'Connell steadied the nerves with a pointed free in the fifth minute, but Carrig were dealt a major blow when tallysman Brian Coakley was black carded for a fairly innocuous challenge in his own half in the 7th minute.

This was a big blow but the whole team really stepped up to the plate and started to gain possession again with Brian's replacement Adam Coholan showing prominently. The Barrs converted a free in the 10th minute but then they received a major set back when one of their players was red carded, again a harsh enough decision.

Another Barrs free again reduced the margin to a single point with 10 minutes to go. However with the Carrig half back line of Daniel O'Reilly, David Griffin and Kieran Kavanagh taking control around the middle, Carrig started to get a grip. On the 26th minute the hard working Billy Pope pointed and man of the match Barry Ryan put two between the teams in the 28th minute.

This was never going to be easy and the playing of nearly four minutes of injury time did nothing for the nerves. However the Barrs could not break through the Carrig full back line of Eoin O'Connor, Niall Quirke and David Kirk who were outstanding throughout the game.

The final whistle brought great scenes of joy and relief to the team and supporters with the cup being presented to Carrig captain Eoin O'Connor by Diarmuid O'Donovan after the game.

Scorers: Barry Ryan 0-3, Brian Coakley 0-3 (1F), Caleb O'Connell 0-2 and Billy Pope 0-1.

Team: Keelan Daly, Eoin O'Connor, Niall Quirke, David Kirk, Eli Harrington, David Griffin, Kieran Kavanagh, Brian Coakley, Barry Ryan, Stephen Williamson, Daniel O'Reilly, Caleb O'Connell, Matthew O'Reilly and Billy Pope. Subs used Adam Coholan and Colin Maguire