

## **U12 Football – Daniel Crowley Cup Final**

Last Friday evening, a huge crowd gathered in Carrigaline to see who would win the final of the U12 Football League. Carrigaline and Douglas were playing for the Daniel Crowley Cup. The Carrigaline Pipe Band led the two teams around the pitch to tumultuous applause from both sets of supporters.

The game started and Douglas were first to register a score and in fact led 1-1 after three minutes. Carrigaline responded with a free from Kevin Barry. During the next ten minutes there were some goalmouth scrambles by both teams but the defence and goalkeepers were up for it. Carrigaline scored a couple of points and then a goal by Brian Simpson while Douglas responded with three points of their own. Carrigaline kept on attacking for the rest of the half and squandered some ball while going forward while Douglas could have had a couple of goals only for the wonderful goalkeeping of Cian Corcoran. Carrig put two more points on the board but in the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> minutes Douglas rattled the back of the Carrigaline net and added one more point before half time. The half time score was Carrigaline 1-5, Douglas 3-5.

The second half started with Douglas getting another goal and a point. This put them 10 points ahead and while Carrig scored 3 points in the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> minute the task for a Carrigaline comeback seemed distant. The game went flat for the next 5 minutes and with 10 minutes left a Conor O Mahony free brought it back to 6 points. Jack Mc Grath won the ball in midfield for Carrigaline, sent in a high ball, up went Conor and fisted the ball into the net, deficit down to 3 points. Could it happen, can Carrig keep the pressure on Douglas, the answer was yes and when Shane Vaughan rattled the Douglas net the place erupted. A draw with a couple of minutes left, both sets of supporters were now at fever point, the noise deafening, the players giving their all. To Carrigaline's disappointment Douglas went on to get three more points in the last couple of minutes and ran out winners on a score of 4-9 to 3-9.

A fabulous game of football played by two courageous teams and well supported by a very large crowd. Douglas the victors, received the Daniel Crowley Cup and all teams and supporters were given food and refreshments by the club in the pavilion. Thanks to Tony and Paddy for all the work done in the kitchen, Marie Claire, Jennifer, Céline, Aileen, Mary, Michael and all involved who looked after the teams and supporters with food and the cleaning up.