

Under 13 Premier 1 Football Final

Carrigaline 5-12

Douglas 2-6

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, this young Carrigaline Team took to the field against a powerful and skilful Douglas team. Indeed, up until this match, Douglas had been unbeaten in any game, in the previous three years.

The match started well for the Carrigaline team with some excellent football being played. The game burst into life in the 3rd minute when the Carrigaline Corner Forward Brian Simpson, broke through the Douglas defence to smash the ball into the net. Carrigaline followed this up with a point from Shane Vaughan, to lead by 1-1 to no score after five minutes.

You don't go three years unbeaten without having strength in depth though and Douglas came roaring back to score 1-2 in quick succession. Carrigaline were not going to be undone and Patrick McBarron, who was a colossus in midfield, throughout the match, drove the ball into the Douglas net to put Carrigaline two points up. Almost immediately, that man, Brian Simpson was on hand again to score Carrigaline's third goal.

This seemed to settle the Carrigaline team, who at his point were winning most of the battles all over the pitch. Playing some fantastic passing football, combined with ferocious tackling and dogged defence, Carrigaline upped the pace and began moving the ball all over the pitch. Another three points followed from (Patrick McBarron, Shane Vaughan and Jack McGrath), to leave Carrigaline 3-5 to 1-2 ahead. There were a few tense moments before the break, when Douglas rallied. Only a stunning, full stretch fingertip save from Goalkeeper Cillian Drinan, denied Douglas the goal they craved.

The second half started at a frantic pace, with both these superb teams going head to head to get the upper hand. We didn't have to wait long for the opening score, when the man of the moment, Brian Simpson, burst through the Douglas defence and smashed home his third and Carrigaline's fourth goal. Moments later, full forward, Shane Vaughan got in on the act, breaking Douglas hearts with a fifth Carrigaline goal.

By this time it was all Carrigaline and they pressed on their dominance scoring point after point with relative ease. The Carrigaline half forward line of Jack Kennefick, Jack McGrath and Eoghan Landers were running riot at this point and their movement, inter passing and maturity on and off the ball, belied their young age.

Despite being so far behind, Douglas never gave up the chase and the game was a nervous affair right to the end. Goalkeeper Cillian Drinan made another two fabulous point blank saves, denying Douglas any possibility of getting closing the gap.

Centre Half Back, Kevin Barry played a captains role, scoring a superb five points, to settle his team at crucial points in the second half. Jack Kennefick added three more points, in an outstanding display. After playing 4 minutes of injury time, referee, Stephan Murphy brought the game to an end. The large Carrigaline support swarmed onto the pitch to celebrate with their delighted team. There followed great scenes of jubilation, when a delighted and very emotional County board delegate and Carrigaline Chairman, Bernie O Mahony presented the cup to Carrigaline Captain (and his nephew) Kevin Barry. With the Douglas stranglehold broken, a very proud Carrigaline carried the cup back to a heroes welcome.

Such was the display of the team, it would be impossible to single out one Carrigaline player as man of the match. It was a match that will live long in the memories of the 24 young heroes that so proudly represented their club on this day.

Carrigaline Team and Scorers ; Cillian Drinan, Patrick Mellett, Joseph O'Brien, Danny O Flynn, Chris O Herlihy, Kevin Barry (Captain) (0-5), Callum Barrett, Patrick McBarron (1-1), Ryan O'Neill, Eoghan

Landers, Jack McGrath (0-1), Jack Kennefick (0-3), Conor O Mahony, Shane Vaughan (1-2), Brian Simpson (3-0)

Subs ; Cian Corcoran (for Cillian Drinan), Kevin O Neill (for Chris O Herlihy), Sean Murphy (for Patrick Mellett), Sean Dressler (for Ryan O Neill), Joey Foley (for Conor O Mahony), Anton Brennan, Ayomitide Alade, Colm Walsh, Scott Coleman.

