

CREDIT UNION COUNTY LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Saints make it a perfect 10

STRAND ROAD 1-03
ST SENANS 3-13

BACK to school notices were pasted on the clothes shops. Smiling pictures of cherubic kids festooned the papers...and the rains swept in. The promised Indian summer gave way to a Tralee autumn.

BY JIM O'GORMAN

And Strand Road gave way, all too easily, to the likely Division 5 champions, St Senans.

The greatest credit should go to the home side's mentors. Simon McCarthy and Eamon Griffin were there long before many of their players. The management had passion-some of the players less so.

Yet there was hope. The visitors, so dominant this year, could field neither of their first choice midfielders, Brendan Whelan nor Kerry minor Damien Somers.

It mattered little. Their replacements, Jason Brown and man of the match Brendan O'Connell, ruled that particular roost without having to flap their wings particularly fiercely.

TROUBLES

The Saints, albeit playing with a very strong wind at their backs, were nine points ahead at the break. The home side had failed to score and a few had failed to register any interest in the game-that's understandable...but only just.

In their first league season there are bound to be teething troubles.

But if as good a club as Kerins O'Rahillys are to be allowed to enter a second side perhaps it might be used as a vehicle for some of its undoubted underage talent?

Otherwise what's the point? The runaway visitors looked what they are - a well-prepared tight side. Sean O'Connell rattled over frees quicker than a late night Dublin taxi's meter. Jonathon Caffrey got late

reward for his industry. Sub Micheál Whelan showed that scoring into the wind was not impossible beating keeper Gary Kissane with a top corner effort. Sean Weir was a lively, inventive sub.

Senans move on to promotion and probable championship status.

Strand Road's Jason O'Leary, Jack Nolan left with credit in the bank.

The Tralee side deserve another year before the County Board Inquisition on whether or not to allow B teams descends.

Teams and Scorers

Strand Road

Gary Kissane, Kevin McCarthy, Jack Nolan, Joey Flynn, Johnny Keane, Rob O'Shea, Jason O'Leary, Brendan O'Shea 0-11, J.C.O'Connor, Eric Boylan, John McCarthy, Anthony O'Connor, Con Barrett 1-1, Sean Walsh 0-11, Gary Sugrue. Subs: Kieran O'Mahony for A.O'Connor, Brian Hussey for J.McCarthy.

St Senans

John Somers, Sean Dowling, Philip Twomey, Brendan Quinlan, John Kennelly, James O'Donnell, David O'Donnell, Brendan O'Connell 0-2, Jason Brown 0-1, Benny Somers, Jonathon Caffrey 1-2, Ronan Kerins 1-0, Darragh Kennelly, Alan Doran 0-1, Sean O'Connell 0-7 (6f). Subs: Sean Weir for Somers, Micheál Whelan for D.Kennelly, Austin McAuliffe for B.Quinlan.

Man of the Match

Brendan O'Connell

Club: St Senan's

Position: Midfield

Comments: In the absence of leading lights Whelan and Somers, O'Connell's high fielding was a joy to behold.

Magic Moment

In a game of only four Strand Road scores, Con Barrett's spin, cut inside and roof of the net finish was out of character with his side's performance.



Strand Road full back Jack Nolan stops this outside break by St Senan's Sean Weir.

O'Gorman Observes



This extended 14 team division has crystallised. St Senan's are away and gone. Yes, theoretically, Templenoe and Cromane could claw them back. But, theoretically, Elvis is playing next year's Rose of Tralee Festival.

They will surely beat Kilgarvan at home to confirm their promotion.

Two behind are Lispole who meet the leaders at home in the last match of the season - a must watch.

But they would hope to have taken additional points from Laune Rangers B to at least ensure a play-off spot. A draw in that must watch game and they will join the Saints in Division 4.

Templeno, after a shaky start, have shot up the table and with Clounmacon at home and Strand Road away, they might well find themselves in a play-off with the Westerners.

Cromane could join them in a three-way tie if they can secure maximum points from two away trips to North Kerry, Ballydonoghue and Clounmacon respectively, plus beating Dingle at home.

My tips are Senan's for top spot and Lispole, both unbeaten this year. But don't be surprised if it's

a 3 way play-off for second.

I can see Cromane and Templeno fighting it out for that third spot which pits that team against the third from bottom in Division Four.

Cromane, who lost Donnacha Walsh and Sean O'Sullivan for most of the season, might be a handful this autumn for any challengers.

Then again I thought Kilkenny were nailed on certs...and I've tipped Cork...anyone give me a short rendition of 'The Banks'...no I thought not.

CREDIT UNION COUNTY LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE ROUND-UP

ASDEE 2-9 BALLYDONOGHUE 1-13

Ballydonoghue, inspired by outstanding Paul Kennelly, fashioned a thrilling one-point victory over Asdee in a hard-fought contest played at Walsh Park.

Kennelly, who bagged a personal tally of 1-7 which included two 45s, was involved from the off, but it was Eamon Walsh who kicked over the winner in the 29th at a time when it looked as if the County League points would be shared. The visitors got off to the better start going 3 points ahead by the 5th minute before Asdee opened their account. Midway through the half the sides were level and nothing separated the sides at the short whistle (0-6 apiece). A Paul Kennelly goal in the 19th minute put his side in the driving seat at 1-11 to 0-8. A minute later Eoin Kennedy got a similar score for Asdee and Jeremiah Tydings' penalty tied up the game. But it was Ballydonoghue who had the last say when Eamon Walsh split the uprights to give his side the League points.

VALENTIA 0-16 CROMANE 2-10

A double salvo from Cromane was insufficient to cause the fire from a rejuvenated Islanders outfit.

The visitors played Sean O'Sullivan up front and he contributed one of those goals. But Valentia's Brendan O'Sullivan nullified Cromane's other inter county star Donnacha Walsh. In fact Brenda O'Sullivan contributed five points of his total. In the mad scramble for this spot this was an entertaining game.

LISPOLE 4-16 KNOCKNAGOSHEL 2-09

This was a bit of a stroll for second placed Lispole.

Four goals, two in each half, gave them the points to keep just ahead of the hunting pack.

The goals came from Declan O'Sullivan (2), Brendan Garvey and a Mike John Fitzgerald penalty.

Their impressive full forward Tomás Kavanagh heads for Rockwell College on a rugby scholarship.

But Kerry minor manager Pat O'Driscoll should keep tabs on this elegant performer. Knock have had a tough season with a wafer-thin squad further denuded by injuries and trips to the US.

Nevertheless, Kerry minor captain James Walsh was outstanding in a well-beaten side.

DINGLE 0-09 TEMPLENOE 3-08

Make no mistake - Templeno are coming up the rails tracking Lispole.

They may have started the season indifferently but this 8 point defeat of a Dingle side just below them will make the rest of the division sit up and take notice.

Two goals from Padraig Doyle and another from Patrick Palmer allowed the visitors to coast home.

KILGARVAN 1-09 LAUNE RANGERS 3-08

A week is a long time in politics? Maybe - but not in sport.

The County Intermediate Hurling champions were brought down to earth with a bang by a three-goal salvo from Laune Rangers' second string. The Laune men have had a much better season than in recent times and might well be challenging for promotion in 2011.

CLOUNMACON V BALLYLONGFORD (Conceded by Clounmacon)

DIVISION FIVE TABLE

Team	P	W	L	D	P+	P-	P+/-	Pts
St Senans	10	10	0	0	174	73	101	20
Lispole	11	9	2	0	162	110	52	18
Templeno	11	8	3	0	160	118	42	16
Cromane	10	6	2	2	142	101	41	14
Valentia	11	6	4	1	155	139	16	13
Dingle	10	6	4	0	128	103	25	12
Ballydonoghue	10	6	4	0	115	112	3	12
Laune Rangers	11	5	5	1	151	157	-6	11
Ballylongford	11	5	5	1	126	149	-23	11
Asdee	11	4	6	1	134	143	-9	9
Strand Road	10	3	7	0	125	142	-17	6
Clounmacon	11	1	9	1	68	149	-81	3
Kilgarvan	9	0	8	1	87	130	-43	1
Knocknagoshel	10	0	10	0	89	190	-101	0