

Pallasgreen end a 38 year wait

Pallasgreen 2-6
Ballylanders 1-5

THE conditions and the weather at Bruff last Sunday were not conducive to good football, but what this Junior A final lacked in finesse was compensated for with the whole-hearted displays of Pallasgreen and Ballylanders.

It was a tremendously exciting contest with the closeness of the scoring helping to maintain interest in every kick of the ball. The supporters of both teams had ample to cheer about, even when Pallasgreen tightened the screw in the second half.

A 2-6 to 1-5 tally gave Pallasgreen their third county title, the last coming back in 1956. Over all it was a victory which Pallasgreen fully deserved.

There was nothing between the teams in the



Colm Noonan, Ballylanders, gets the ball away during the county junior football final against Pallasgreen in Bruff. (CI)

first half. Jimmy Hourigan kicked Pallasgreen into the lead as early as the second minute. D. J. Dunne equalised for Ballylanders, and while John McCormack had Pallasgreen back in front by the ninth minute, it was Ballylanders who were

pressing.

At the end of the first quarter, the Bally boys led 0-3 to 0-2. They had some costly misses at this juncture and had the opportunities of picking off a few more points.

Jimmy Hourigan restored the lead for Pallasgreen, but Ballylanders were back in front at the break, leading 0-5 to 0-4.

The sheer courage of Pallasgreen decided the issue in the second half. Ballylanders had no answer to the attacking football of Pallasgreen, and their slow build-up out of defence made no headway against the fiery play of the opposition.

Ballylander's problems mounted once their defence allowed Jimmy Hourigan to punch home a simple goal. This coming a mere four minutes after the resumption, lifted Pallasgreen to greater heights.

They tackled fearlessly, but fairly. Their football was very short of the classi-

cal variety, but it far outweighed the timid forward play of Ballylanders, who time and again seemed frustrated when the game turned against them.

D. J. Nunan was surprisingly substituted and replaced by John Frewen, who was unable to start because of injury. This move did not help Ballylanders either. The playing of the injured Danny Murphy for the most of the hour, against the brilliant Ger Gammell, was also a waste.

Even the dismissal of Mike Deere, who had an outstanding game at centre back for Pallasgreen, twelve minutes from time, was of no advantage to Ballylanders. Indeed, it only helped Pallasgreen to lift their game still further.

The screw was finally driven home seven minutes from the end when John McCormack shot low to the net.

Ballylanders set up quite

a few attacks late in the hour, but when they did find the Pallasgreen net it was too late.

A hard fought and exciting game saw Pallasgreen powering their way to honours. The better team won.

James O'Donnell, Ger Gammell, Mike Deere, Pat Roche, Ned Gammell, Jimmy O'Connell, Ger Connell, John McCormack and Jimmy Hourigan were the Pallasgreen heroes.

It was another disappointing day for Ballylanders. Only Ger Walsh, Michael Sheehan, Mike Wallace, Ger Keane, John Kelly and Mike Meade left the game with their reputations untarnished.

Pallasgreen scorers: J. Hourigan 1-3, J. McCormack 1-2, P. Roche 0-1.

Ballylanders scorers: M. Sheehan 1-1, D. J. Nunan 0-4.

Pallasgreen: Tom Ryan, James Gammell, James O'Donnell, Jimmy McMahon, Ger Gammell, Mike Deere, Pat Roche, Ned Gammell, Jimmy O'Connell, John McCormack, Ger Connell, Brian Roche, Pat Rodahan, Mike Brennan, Jimmy Hourigan.

Ballylanders: Joe Daly, Ger Keane, Mike Wallace, John Kelly, Tom Gallahue, Mike O'Brien, Jim Moloney, Ger Walsh, Eddie English, Michael Sheehan, Mike Meade, Danny Murphy, Donal Coffey, Colm Nunan, D. J. Nunan.

Mike Brennan, the Pallasgreen captain, was presented with the winning trophy by county board chairman, Gerry Bennis.

Referee: G. Molyneux, Rathkeale.

Garryspillane beat Cappamore 4-5 to 0-12 in the 1993 J. F. (B) final at Kiltelly.



Dermot Coffey, Ballylanders, has his shot blocked during the junior county final against Pallasgreen. (CI)