

GAA LIMERICK INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Pallasgreen get over the



Steven Miller
In Bruff

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Pallasgreen | 0-15 |
| Claughaun | 1-11 |

PALLASGREEN are the Limerick intermediate football champions and will play senior football again in 2013.

Just a year after being relegated from the top tier, the East Limerick club have made an immediate return.

On Saturday last, on a glorious day in Bruff, they finally got the better of Claughaun. It was the third time the clubs had met this season. They drew in the final two weeks ago and drew in the group stages of this championship earlier in the year. This time it took extra time to finally settle the contest. At the end of it, it was Pallasgreen that were still standing.

Few can begrudge them. The winner came a couple of minutes from the end of extra time when Aidan Shanahan swung a free over into the dressing room end of the Bruff ground and while they endured a nervous few minutes before Shane Hourigan blew the final whistle, the calm manner in which Pallasgreen closed out the game was hugely admirable.

It was a thrilling game, decorated with some high quality football and like all protracted battles it swung both ways and was never predictable.

Just like in the drawn game, it was a free from the cultured Tim Byrnes that saved Claughaun in 60 minutes. The free that saved them was of the softish variety but Byrnes is a beautiful kicker of a ball and he coolly slotted over the equaliser.

Both sides had reason to be relieved; and both had reason to feel they'd left it behind them. When it went to extra time, you wondered who would stay going for long enough to get over that line at last.

With tiredness settling in, understandably things slowed considerably.

Another Byrnes free put Claughaun back into the lead but a brilliant point from the diminutive Owen Roche levelled things up and Shanahan pointed another free to leave Pallas ahead by one as the sides changed ends for the last time. Again Byrnes got Claughaun level but that was to be their last score. Shanahan edged Pallas back in front and they hung on to the finish.

It was completely hectic at the start and began as it would continue - with the lead and the momentum changing hands regularly.

The impressive Jamie McGarry got the game's opening point after just two minutes and Byrnes got the first of his seven soon afterwards.

But then Pallasgreen hit a purple



Winners alright: Pallasgreen celebrate their Limerick IFC final win over Claughaun in Bruff last Saturday
Pictures: Keith Wiseman

patch, hitting six points on the trot. Shay Mulcahy got them off the mark and two frees from Chris McMahon put them into the lead. Kevin Barry then added another free before full-forward Robert O'Donnell got two in quick succession had them 0-6 to 0-2 up after 20 minutes.

Totally dominant at midfield where Jonathan Deere and Tony McMahon were dominant, Pallasgreen looked to be well in control. But Claughaun were well able to move the ball swiftly up the field and up front, they had the weaponry to cause problems.

Byrnes (free) and Jamie Richardson pointed to get them motoring again before Jamie McGarry fired an unstoppable shot past Denis O'Connor for the game's only goal. There aren't such awards but it was an effort worthy of any goal of the season honour.

Claughaun followed it up with another point from Richardson and although Chris McMahon hit back with a free, a Byrnes free just before the break left Claughaun 1-6 to 0-7 up as the sides heading for the dressing rooms.

Byrnes extended Claughaun's lead straight after the restart but the city club then missed three glorious goal chances to put the game beyond reach. Jamie Richardson first pulled an effort wide, then Cian Byrnes forced a great save out of O'Connor and a minute later, O'Connor again denied Richardson from close range.

Five minutes into the second half, it could have been Claughaun 4-7 Pallasgreen 0-7. That would have been game over and lights out.

Instead Pallasgreen were still

IN BRIEF

MAIN MAN - ROBERT O'DONNELL (PALLASGREEN)

There were contenders on both teams with Tim Byrnes and Jamie Richardson outstanding for Claughaun and Denis O'Connor, Tony McMahon and Eddie Mulcahy all very good for Pallasgreen. But Robert O'Donnell showed his class again, scoring four points from play and always having the ability to do the right thing with the ball in hand. His two second-half points were crucial in Pallasgreen's comeback.

TURNING POINT

Claughaun missed three great goal chances early in the second half and had they converted even one of them it would have been hard for

Pallasgreen to come back. But they were only three points down, had a supply of possession from a quality midfield partnership and the game was always likely to swing back in their favour. Once they survived that early second-half onslaught, they always had a chance.

WHAT NOW?

Just a year after getting relegated, Pallasgreen go straight back up but they've a Munster campaign to look forward to first and they play Waterford champions Ballinacorney next Sunday in Waterford. Win that and they'll have a home tie with the Kerry champions - either Spa or Paul Galvin's Finuge.

For Claughaun, who were relegated from senior in 2010, they must face into a third year in intermediate football and next year they'll have St Senan's for company.

hanging on - and they were always going to get enough chances to stay in it.

It looked doubtful for a while whether they could take those chances though. In total they kicked seven second-half wides and dropped a few more short.

But once they regathered momentum, they were well on top again. Kevin Barry and Jamie Richardson swapped scores but three points in four minutes - two from Robert O'Donnell and one from sub Trevor Cosgrave - had the sides level in the 54th minute.

Pallas then managed to waste a couple more chances, including a Cosgrave free, but Cosgrave got another chance with three minutes remaining and he jinked his way

inside the defensive cover before popping over with his right foot.

That score brought loud cheers of approval from the large Pallasgreen supporters but their joy was short lived. Claughaun got a scoreable free moments later and Tim Byrnes held his nerve.

So, extra time was needed.

Here Pallasgreen finally got the job done, Aidan Shanahan's late free eventually settling a wonderful contest.

To the winners go the spoils.

SCORERS - Pallasgreen: Robert O'Donnell 0-4, Chris McMahon 0-3 (all frees), Kevin Barry (one free), Aidan Shanahan (two frees) and Trevor Cosgrave 0-2 each, Seamus Mulcahy and Owen Roche 0-1 each; Claughaun: Tim Byrnes 0-7 (four frees), Jamie McGarry 1-1, Jamie Richardson 0-3
PALLASGREEN - Denis O'Connor; Diarmuid Hayes, Wayne

McCarthy, Kevin Dillon; Seamus Hayes, Lorcan O'Dwyer, Eddie Mulcahy; Tony McMahon, Jonathan Deere; Aidan Shanahan, Seamus Mulcahy, Chris McMahon; Kevin Barry, Robert O'Donnell, Alan Wallace. Subs: Trevor Cosgrave for C McMahon (37 mins), Pa Hennessy for Barry (49 mins), Owen Roche for Wallace (49 mins), Willie O'Dwyer for S Hayes (50 mins), Liam McMahon for D Hayes (59 mins), Chris McMahon for S Mulcahy (extra time)

CLAUGHAUN - Tony McCarthy; Sam Mullins, Garrett Kennedy, Robbie Hannon; Pat McGarry, Jack Molyneux, Philip Judge; Cian Byrnes, Thomas O'Grady; Jamie McGarry, Adrian Healy, Mark O'Halloran; Gary Bateman, Tim Byrnes, Jamie Richardson. Subs: Emmet Harty for Molyneux (25 mins), Jeffrey Judge for Bateman (half time), Gary O'Connor for O'Halloran (half time), Mark O'Halloran for Mullins (extra time), Dan Roche for Healy (extra time), Lee O'Meara for C Byrnes (extra time)

REFEREE - Shane Hourigan (St Mary's-Sean Finns)



SIDELINE VIEW

Martin Kiely looks back on the senior football final

SEE Page 24

GAA LIMERICK INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

line at last

LIMERICK MFC 'B' FINAL



Glencurrane players celebrate their Limerick MFC 'B' final win over Pallasgreen last Sunday; bottom - Jonathan Dennehy holds onto possession

Minor success for Glenacurrane combo

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Glenacurrane | 1-7 |
| Pallasgreen | 1-6 |

Harry Greensmyth

THERE was minor B football success for Glenacurrane - a combination of Ballylanders and Blackrock - on Sunday morning last in Hospital when they got the better of Pallasgreen in a thrilling county final.

Many of the fans who attended were not aware that the timing of the start had been changed from 12 noon to 11.30am, thus arriving well after the throw in.

Pallasgreen fans were hoping for a repeat of the intermediate win of the previous day and how they came so near doing so. This was a ding dong match with the scoring even and victory could have gone either way.

Ryan Deere was a real livewire at full forward for Pallasgreen and his goal in the tenth minute gave his team a confidence boost. However it did not prevent Glenacurrane from coming back to lead 1-4 to 1-3 at half time. Ciaran Kelly netted to settle down the combination side who showed real class as they continued to improve as the match progressed.

While Ryan Deere was lively in the Pallasgreen attack the same applied to David McCarthy at centre forward for Glenacurrane. He sent over their

opener and always played a major part in all the attacks set up by the eventual winners.

Others to shine for Glenacurrane were Aidan O' Brien, Christopher Slattery, John O' Neill, Brian O' Connell, Robert Aherne, Ciaran Kelly, Thomas O' Dwyer and Pat McGrath. Indeed the whole winning 15 worked hard for victory. Colin Ryan made some nice saves in goal for Pallasgreen as did Joseph Keogh, Brian Fanning, Patrick O' Dwyer, Darren Cosgrove, Patrick Roche and of course Ryan Deere.

Glenacurrane were the most dangerous side in most of the second half but found it difficult to get scores. They were three points ahead with five minutes remaining and lucky for them they had this lead as Pallasgreen fought back with two points to narrow the lead to one point.

SCORERS - Glenacurrane: Ciaran Kelly 1-2, David McCarthy 0-3, Robert Aherne and Pat McGrath 0-1 each; **Pallasgreen:** Ryan Deere 1-4, Eddie Gammell and Patrick Roche 0-1 each

GLENACURRANE - Aidan O'Brien; Denis Casey, Christopher Slattery, James Kelly; Jonathan Dennehy, John O' Neill, John McGrath; Brian O'Connell, Robert Aherne; Pat McGrath, David McCarthy, Adrian Cooke; Ciaran Kelly, Thomas O'Dwyer, Darren McCarthy. Subs: Stephen Jennings, Daniel O'Callaghan, Dylan Noonan, Patrick Hennessy, Ryan Sheehan, Alan Gubbins, James Armstrong.

PALLASGREEN - Colin Ryan; Dion Wallace, Joseph Keogh, Kevin McMahon; Shane Murphy, Brian Fanning, Mark Fitzgerald; Padraig O'Dwyer, Darren Cosgrove; Alan Cosgrove, Patrick Roche, Adam Ryan; Darren Roche, Ryan Deere, Eddie Gammell.

REFEREE - Mike Mann (Ballybrown)



Celebration time: Lorcan O'Dwyer (above), Pallasgreen captain, lifts the trophy after the game; below left - Pallasgreen's Aidan Shanahan takes on Emmet Harty; below right - Pallasgreen's Jonathan Deere is challenged by Robbie Hannon

Pictures: Keith Wiseman

