

## Carlow Soccer 16.12.07

### Fixtures

**Sat 05 Jan 2008**

#### **Diamond Woodcraft U/17 2.15pm**

Derry Rvs v Bagenalstown G. Cosgrove

Nurney Villa v Parkville Utd J. Wynne

#### **Diamond Woodcraft U/18 2.15pm**

Moone Celtic v St. Anne's M. O'Reilly

St. Fiacc's v Stretford Utd P. Kelly

**Sun 06 Jan**

#### **Douglas Jewellers Carlow Cup Rd 1 (e.t.p.)**

Castle Rngs v Slaney Rvs 11am D. O'Connor

Killeshin v Wolfhill Ath 11am P. Moran

Nurney Villa v Hanover 'B' 11am G. O'Sullivan

#### **Dooley Motors Cup Rd 2 (e.t.p.)**

Grange F.C v Dereen Hgts 'B' 11am

Killeshin O/35 v Hacketstown 'B' 2pm C, O'Rourke

Tullow Town v Carlow Rovers 2pm M. Murphy

Wolfhill O35 v Burrin Celtic 'B' 2pm

#### **Med Bar Cup Rd 1 (e.t.p.)**

Derry Rvs v St. Joseph's 11am G. Cosgrove

Kilree Cel v Ardattin Ath 11am P. Kehoe

New Oak 'B' v Hacketstown 'A' 2pm G. O'Sullivan

Palatine Cel v Baltinglass Boys 11am P. Kelly

#### **Carlow People Premier**

Crettyard Utd OFF Bagenalstown

Parkville Utd v Hanover Hps 11am M. Salter

St. Fiacc's v Burrin Cel 11am M. O'Reilly

Stretford Utd v New Oak 11am M. Doran

#### **Nationalist Division**

Moone Cel OFF Crettyard Utd

#### **Whites Pharmacy Division**

Dereen Hgts v Old Rd Villa 2pm J. Wynne

Ridge Rngs v Stretford Utd 11am C. O'Rourke

#### **Over 35 Division**

Thomastown v Stradbally Twm 2pm M. O'Reilly

#### **Golden Boot**

**W/end 2 Dec**

#### **Carlow People Premier**

11 Byrne Dominic, Slaney Rvs

10 Kelly Alan, Burrin Celtic  
9 Holohan Anthony, Crettyard Utd  
7 Fox Brendan, Crettyard Utd

#### **Nationalist Division**

7 Doyle Thomas, Ballymurphy  
6 Purcell Niall, Crettyard Utd  
6 Fleming Val, Nurney Villa  
5 Coleman Owen, Hacketstown  
5 O'Shea Patrick, Crettyard Utd  
5 Foley Kevin, Ballymurphy

#### **Whites Pharmacy Division**

13 English Michael, Baltinglass Boys  
10 Dempsey Mark, St. Joseph's  
10 Quinlan Denis, New Oak Boys  
9 Haughney Paul, Stretford Utd

#### **Dolmen Flooring Division**

20 Byrne Niall, Grange F.C.  
8 Byrne Patrick, Grange  
6 Waters Jonathon, Hanover Hps

#### **Over 35**

5 Walker Brian, New Oak  
3 Dunne Karl, Wolfhill Ath  
3 Enright Ger, Wolfhill Ath  
3 Cooney Aidan, New Oak Boys  
3 McGrath Patrick, New Oak Boys

#### **Diamond Woodcraft U/17**

12 Nolan Paul, Derry Rovers  
9 Tobin Patrick, Parkville Utd  
6 Horan Sean, Baltinglass Boys  
6 Whelan Pádraic, St. Joseph's

#### **Diamond Woodcraft U/18**

10 Champion Colin, St. Anne's  
5 Byrne Adrian, Crettyard United  
5 Condrón Shane, St. Fiacc's  
4 Preston Stephen, Dereen Heights  
4 Reid Darren, Dereen Heights

#### **League Tables**

<b>Carlow People Premier</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
Parkville United	9	7	0	2	20	8	21
Crettyard United	9	6	2	1	36	14	20
Bagenalstown 11	6	2	3	22	15	20	
Burrin Celtic 10	5	3	2	28	20	18	
New Oak Boys	9	5	2	2	26	13	17

St. Fiacc's F.C.	11	3	3	5	16	32	12
Hanover Harps	7	2	3	2	11	9	9
Stretford United	9	2	3	4	13	19	9
Slaney Rovers 10	1	2	7	17	30	5	
Killeshin F.C. 10	0	1	9	10	39	1	

<b>Nationalist Division</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
Ballymurphy Celtic	11	7	1	3	29	16	22
Kilree Celtic. 9	5	3	1	25	13	18	
Crettyard United	10	5	3	2	21	20	18
Nurney Villa 9	4	4	1	17	11	16	
Hacketstown United	9	4	3	2	16	11	15
Palatine Celtic 11	3	0	8	14	25	9	
Wolfhill Athletic	10	2	2	6	12	17	8
Moone Celtic 8	1	3	4	10	20	6	
Castle Rangers	9	1	3	5	13	24	6

<b>Whites Pharmacy Div.</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
Stretford United.	11	8	1	2	35	19	25
Ardattin Athletic	12	6	4	2	22	16	22
New Oak Boys	9	6	3	0	23	11	21
Ridge Rangers 8	5	1	2	23	9	16	
Dereen Heights	12	5	1	6	28	30	16
St. Joseph's 10	4	3	3	32	24	15	
Baltinglass Boys	8	5	1	2	20	12	14*
Parkville United	10	3	0	7	14	28	9
Derry Rovers 11	2	1	8	25	39	7	
Old Road Villa	8	1	2	5	13	22	5
Rathanna F.C. 11	1	1	9	14	39	4	

\* 2 points deducted for bringing the game into disrepute

<b>Dolmen Flooring Div.</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
Grange F.C. 9	9	0	0	41	12	27	
Hanover Harps	9	5	1	3	23	15	16
Borris F.C. 8	5	1	2	18	10	16	
Carlow Rovers	8	4	3	1	23	17	15
Dereen Heights	9	3	2	4	17	22	11
Tullow Town 8	3	1	4	16	22	10	
Nurney Villa 8	2	1	4	14	22	7	
Hacketstown Utd	10	2	1	7	11	28	7
Burrin Celtic 9	0	2	7	12	27	2	

<b>Over 35's Division</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
Wolfhill Ath 4	3	1	0	11	4	10	
New Oak Boys	4	3	1	0	11	5	10
Thomastown Utd	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Stradbally Town	3	1	0	2	4	10	3
Killeshin F.C. 4	0	2	2	5	7	2	
Nurney Villa 4	0	1	3	3	8	1	

<b>Diamond Woodcraft U/17</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
Derry Rovers	8	7	0	1	26	12	21
South East	5	5	0	0	21	2	15
Parkville Utd	8	4	2	2	24	15	14
St. Joseph's	9	3	3	3	26	22	12
Baltinglass	9	2	2	5	15	35	8
Nurney Villa	7	2	1	4	11	12	7
Burrin Celtic	9	1	3	5	12	22	6
Bagenalstown	7	1	1	5	7	22	4

<b>Diamond Woodcraft U/18</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
St. Fiacc's	6	5	1	0	22	7	16
Dereen Hgts	8	4	2	2	23	16	14
St. Anne's	6	4	0	2	17	10	12
Crettyard Utd	6	2	2	2	15	21	8
South East	2	1	0	1	7	3	3
Moone Celtic	6	1	0	5	10	23	3
Stretford Utd	6	0	1	5	12	26	1

## Noticeboard

### Christmas Closure:

The Executive Committee of the League wish to extend a very happy Christmas and a successful, healthy and Happy New Year to all their sponsors, club secretaries, clubs, referees, players and volunteers. See you in January 2008.

The League has now closed for the Christmas period. Full fixtures programme for all on Sat/Sun 5/6 January.

### Disciplinary:

There will be no Disciplinary meeting this week The Committee will meet next on Thursday 10 January 2008

### Challenge Games:

During the Christmas close down period there will be no Friendly/Challenge or Charity games allowed.

### Registrations:

Players must be registered a clear two days before the day of the fixture. Wednesday for Saturday fixtures and Thursday for Sunday fixtures. For all Cup and Shield games including external, players must be registered a clear 14 days prior to fixture.

### Free Days:

Clubs must give a clear 10 days notice under Rule if they require a "Free Day". Notice must be in writing either by post or e-mail [secretary@carlowsoccer.com](mailto:secretary@carlowsoccer.com), the Wednesday week prior to Saturday games and Thursday week prior to Sunday games. As per Rule there will be no Free Days allowed on Cup/Shield dates.

## Results

### Sun 16 Dec

#### O'Neill's L.F.A. Junior Cup Rd 4

Kilree Celtic 1-3 Sheriff Utd (extra time)

#### Douglas Jewellers Carlow Cup Rd 1

Ballymurphy abd Bagenalstown

Borris F.C. p-p St. Fiacc's

Crettyard 'A'	4-2	Burrin Cel
Crettyard 'B'	3-0	Nurney 'B'
Derry Rvs	1-0	Dereen 'B'
Grange F.C.	2-6	Ridge Rngs
Hacketstown 'A'	3-1	Baltinglass
Hacketstown 'B'	0-6	Rathanna
Hanover 'A'	7-0	Carlow Rvs
Moone Cel	abd	New Oak 'B'
New Oak 'A'	2-1	Palatine Cel
Parkville Utd	1-0	Old Rd Villa
Stretford 'B'	2-3	Tullow Twn

### **Nationalist Division**

Castle Rngs 2-1    Wolfhill Ath

### **Over 35 Division**

Nurney Villa 3-3    Killeshin

## **REPORTS**

### **O'Neill's L.F.A. Junior Cup**

#### **Kilree Celtic 1**

#### **Sheriff Utd 3 (a.e.t.)**

Kilree exited the L.F.A. Cup on Sunday with their Dublin opponents coming out on top in extra time. There was little between the sides in the first half with the home side giving as good as they got, and they went ahead on 27 minutes when John Dowling shot home from 25 yards. Liam Walsh Celtic's 'keeper made a fine save two minutes later to preserve his sides lead. Just on half time Walsh again made an excellent stop to leave Kilree 1-0 up at the break. Sheriff again came on strong in the second half, and ten minutes in they levelled. Walsh was again Kilree's saviour on 89 minutes when at full stretch he turned a scaring drive round the post. In the first half of extra time however the Dublin side scored twice in the space of two minutes and this was enough to put them into the hat for Round 5 of the Cup. Kilree were well served by Liam Walsh, Michael Fenlon, Damien Clarke and Brian Tuite.

### **Douglas Jewellers Carlow Cup**

#### **Stretford United 'B' 2**

#### **Tullow Town 3**

Struggling to field his regular first eleven, Ger O'Shea managed to pull off the surprise of the day by defeating the fancied Division 2 leaders, Stretford United in the first round of the Douglas Carlow Cup.

The home side, United, got off to the better start and applied early pressure on the Tullow defence. It was not long before they were rewarded for the efforts when on ten minutes Brian McDaniels broke from midfield, controlled the ball well to pop it in the bottom corner of the Town net for the opening goal. Despite United having more of the possession and forcing corners, Tullow always looked dangerous on the break, using the long ball over the top to penetrate up front, creating chances for Jones Osaro, Ray Corcoran and Martin Doran all from corner kicks. This format worked well when on 20 minutes they broke through the Stretford defence with a cross from Martin Fitzgerald for Martin Doran to run through and head home for the equaliser. With the very cold wind on their backs, United again went on the attack and from a

Paul Haughney corner kick on 35 minutes Mick Long with a powerful header put the home side back in the lead which they held for the remainder of the half.

In the second half Tullow now had that wind advantage and they made good use of it. However the Division 2 leaders, Stretford, managed to create some scoring chances through Long and P. J. Connolly to widen the gap, but the Town defence was very tight. Tullow's efforts paid off on 60 minutes when from a very tight angle Ray Corcoran equalised after been put through by Paul Clancy. Stretford went in search of the lead once more with Stewart Connolly going close on two occasions before Tullow broke out of defence when Eddie Farrell on 75 minutes sent a long clearance up field over the advanced United backline for Paul Murphy to chip the Stretford 'keeper who was well off his line also. This was the first time in the game that Tullow had their noses in front and manager Ger O'Shea from the line was urging his defence to remain tight, preventing United's forwards to half chances during the remainder of the game.

Overall this was a super team performance by O'Shea's men who now advance to the second round in late January. Best players for Stretford were Brian McDaniels, Sean Maher, Mick Long and 'keeper Gavin Deering.

## **Grange F.C. 2**

### **Ridge Rangers 6**

An under strength Grange proved no match for a slick Rangers unit.

Ridge got off to a dream start when Conor McNally went on a run on the left wing, crossed the ball into the square for John Sheehan to score on five minutes. They went on to double their advantage on 12 minutes. From a long throw in the ball was headed on by William Ryan for Patrick Ryan to volley home. It unusually took until 30 minutes for Grange to record their first goal of the tie, top scorer Niall Byrne the goal scorer from close range to reduce the deficit to 2-1. Grange pushed hard for the equaliser however Ranger 'keeper, Adrian Brennan was to deny them and the scoreline remained 2-1 at the break.

Rangers started the second half in the same fashion as they did in the first period. Patrick Dunne made it 3-1 from a Sheehan corner kick on 53 minutes. Then Keith Brennan got on the score sheet for Grange scoring from a tight angle on 61 minutes. From then on Ridge was in control. Dunne with a rasper from a free kick well outside the area, put Rangers in a commanding 4-2 lead on 64 minutes. Patrick Dunne on the left wing set up William Ryan to side foot home the ball on 70 minutes and five minutes before the end a Jim Dunne through ball found John Sheehan who made a final scoreline of 6-2.

Brian Malone, Jim Dunne and John Sheehan put in top drawer performances for Ridge Rangers. From a depleted Grange side, Fergal Maher, David Cleere and Simon Nevin, were the players that stood out.

## **Crettyard United 'A' 4**

### **Burrin Celtic 2**

This game was about much more than a Cup encounter as Burrin were convincing winners in a similar encounter in the League a few weeks ago.

But the festive party season ensured that the Ballon outfit were short of a number of key players with Alan Kelly shifted from his regular midfield berth to a more forward position and raced onto a splendid pass from Marcin Bieniasz before angling a slide rule shot inside John Graham's post on eleven minutes. United's defence must have been concerned at being exposed by the Celtic master but it was to prove

a torrid day for defences especially Burrin's with Anthony Houlihan setting up Brendan Fox to nod in the equaliser on 15 minutes. The Ballon defence was exercising an offside trap which operated with only creaky efficiency and this is not the way to be when Willy Kavanagh is at his deadliest but the Crettyard wizard let the Celtic defence off the hook on 17 minutes but scored a trade mark solo goal to put Crettyard ahead a couple of minutes later. The following exchanges were evenly balanced until Chrístóir Maher found himself in possession and unmarked on the edge of the Celtic box and his delivery struck a defender before looping over the Burrin keeper and into the net on 31 minutes. Minutes before half time Brendan Fox swooped on a defensive error to add to Celtic's defensive woes shortly before half time.

At this stage of proceedings the outlook for Burrin must have appeared to be of the scrooge and humbug variety but through better defensive organisation and effort the Ballon lads began to make a better impression on the exchanges and some enterprising play was rewarded when Michael O'Leary scored after a great run on 70 minutes. Matty Dowling and Armour Mc Farland might have scored during the following exchanges but Celtic's defence slipped back into Santa Claus mode as Keith Nolan, Ray Buggy and Willy Kavanagh each missed golden scoring opportunities before the final whistle. Best for Burrin included Alan Kelly, Michael O'Leary, James Nolan and Armour Mc Farland. Most impressive for Crettyard included Anthony Houlihan, Keith Nolan, Terence Haughney and Keith Purcell.

### **Hanover Harps 'A' 7**

#### **Carlow Rovers 0**

Carlow have been making friends with the quality of their football so far this season and were expected to provide stiff opposition to the Hanover outfit, always capable of a very decent Cup run – indeed many people's favourites for this competition. The icy air did nothing to hinder the Hanover outfit with Eric Robinson trashing a shot onto the Carlow bar and with the ball arching through the air the Carlow backline was flatfooted by Sean Kavanagh's quick thinking as he made firm contact to net the rebound on seven minutes. Carlow were quick to respond with Hanover finding themselves pinned back in their box defending furiously during the following exchanges but Leo Whelan intercepted a pass and quickly dispatched a great pass to the flying James Horan who made ground before delivering perfectly for Eric Robinson to volley to the Carlow net from the edge of the six yard box on 15 minutes. Hanover were never allowed into a position where they could build on this lead thanks to the hard working efforts of Carlow's midfielders who dovetailed nicely to gain valuable possession without being able to penetrate the Hanover defence. Working tirelessly to discover a chink in the Carlow defensive armour Hanover's Phil Nealon was fouled inside the area on 41 minutes and Alan Smith converted the penalty to put Hanover into a commanding position at half time. Phil Nealon became the undertaker to Carlow's challenge when he received the ball from Eric Robinson midway between the half way line and the Carlow box and having skilfully evaded and sidestepped a number of hefty challenges fired in an unstoppable shot to put Hanover just too far ahead and Carlow knew it. As the second half progressed Sean Kavanagh was Hanover's deadliest raider notching an additional 3 scores to put a slightly flattering gloss on their festivities. Best for Hanover included Colm Whelan, Cathal Coughlan, Jason Murphy and Aaron Wynne.

### **New Oak Boys 'A' 2**

### **Palatine Celtic 1**

The strong icy wind played havoc with New Oaks creative intentions during the first quarter.

However just as they were showing signs of settling into an authoritative pattern of midfield play an electrifying run from a defensive midfield position by Palatine's Alan Hosey was brought to an abrupt end but at the expense of a penalty which Dermot Mc Donald converted to give Palatine the lead on 30 minutes. This event seemed to raise New Oak's collective blood pressure as they crept back to life thanks to some expert play by Darren Costello whose pass saw Pa Kavanagh angle a header over the Pal bar shortly before half time.

Now playing against the unhelpful wind New Oak flagged their early intentions when Brian Quigley angled a beauty of a pass into space for Seamus Farrell to clip a shot over the bar on 50 minutes. The pressure growing on the Palatine defence was translated into action when the imposing Pa Kavanagh was fouled on the edge of the Pal area and Seamie Doran once again accurately produced a free with the trajectory to beat the despairing Palatine keeper on 65 minutes. New Oaks tails were now up and Liam Murphy hooked a volley goalwards but the ball was deflected away from an empty and open goal by a colleague on 70 minutes. New Oak were cautious during the following exchanges and they needed to be against a Palatine outfit always likely to profit from any defensive error. However, when Pal failed to convincingly clear a Darren Costello free the ball fell into the path of Phil Mc Evoy whose astute pass accurately found Dale Lacy in space to deliver a great cross which invited Pa Kavanagh to apply the scoring touch which he did before commencing wild New Oak celebrations on 80 minutes. Palatine hadn't shot their bolt yet as Neil Reid went close to equalising on 88 minutes and during injury time New Oaks Dale Kearney somehow denied Julian Mauplin to ensure that New Oak advanced to the next round thanks to the earlier efforts of Darren Costello, Dale Lacy and Liam Murphy. Most impressive for Palatine included Mark Nolan, Alan Hosey and Neil Reid.

### **Crettyard Utd 'B' 3**

#### **Nurney Villa 0**

Crettyard's second team advanced to Round 2 of the Carlow Cup with victory over a game Nurney second string. Villa opened very well and Mick Dowling forced a fine save out of Utd 'keeper, Éamonn (Gooch) Geoghegan, and four minutes later Pa Dowling sent a rasping drive just over with the 'keeper beaten against the run of play, Utd went ahead when Willie Fitzpatrick seized on a poor clearance on 27 minutes to fire home. Exchanges for the remainder of the half were fairly even with play going from end to end in an entertaining tie and the half ended with Crettyard 1-0 up. The second half exchanges were again very even with both sides creating good openings. On 70 minutes, Crettyard got their vital second goal when a reckless tackle led to a penalty which Niall Purcell converted despite Eamonn Dowling getting a hand to his shot. Against a tiring Villa side, Crettyard had the better of the first quarter and a headed goal from Pa Brennan on 90 minutes gave them a somewhat flattering scoreline. Best for the winners were Eamonn Geoghegan, Willie Fitzpatrick and Niall Kealy. For Nurney Adrian Dermody, Philip Murphy and David Dowling played well.

### **Hacketstown Utd 3**

#### **Baltinglass Boys 1**

Hacketstown had to come from a goal down to book their place in Round 2 of the Carlow Cup. Baltinglass were on top in the first half but failed to put away a couple of

good chances, Kevin Redmond and Derek Nolan being guilty of bad misses. The half ended scoreless but early in the second half the visitors took a deserved lead with a Paul Redmond Header. This score however seemed to spur Hacketstown into life and ten minutes later David Mulvanney equalised from a goalmouth scramble. Another goal from Mulvanney when he converted a Wesley Tallon cross put Utd ahead on 71 minutes. James Walsh made the game safe for Hacketstown on 84 minutes when he beat the Boys 'keeper from 20 yards.

Impressive for the winners were John McGrath, Jamie Walsh and David Mulvanney. For Baltinglass, Paddy Sinnott, Mark Barrett and Paul Redmond, stood out

### **Nationalist Division**

**Castle Rangers        2**

**Wolfhill Athletic      1**

Rangers continued their move up the table with victory over Wolfhill who are going through a very hard run of results. There was little of note in the first half of this tie, as both sides cancelled each other out, and the half ended scoreless. Five minutes into the second half however, Wolfhill broke the deadlock when Barry Fleming put in Alan Walsh who chipped over Eddie O'Brien to put the Laois side ahead. Rangers however stepped up their game putting Wolfhill on the back foot, but in a rare breakaway Wolfhill nearly went two up when Alan Walsh flicked on a ball to Mark Kelly whose effort skimmed the crossbar on the way over. Rangers kept pressing and on 79 minutes equalised when Alan Butler's cross shot found the bottom corner of the Wolfhill net, Butler got the winner five minutes later when his header beat the Wolfhill 'keeper to snatch the three points.

Excellent for Rangers were, Caillin Canning, Ian Fleming and Alan Butler.

Wolfhill's best were Jimmy Brennan, Darren Kelly and Alan Walsh.

### **Over 35 Division**

**Nurney Villa        3**

**Killeshin            3**

In this pre Christmas bottom of the table clash, points were shared in a high scoring game.

Killeshin started the better and John Sheehan headed them into the lead on eleven minutes from a corner. In end to end play, Nurney equalised just before the break, Vinny Murphy the scorer.

Five minutes into the second half Fergus Nolan scored for Killeshin to retake the lead. However Villa pounced scoring two goals in a five minute period to put them into the lead, Paul Murphy and Martin Kelly the goal scorers. Killeshin worked hard up front and with ten minutes left on the clock, Nolan struck again for the equaliser and a share of the points.

Eddie Dermody, Martin Kelly, Vinny and Paul Murphy stood out as the best players for Nurney Villa.

For Killeshin, Fergus Nolan, Eugene Brennan, John Shea and Tom Smithers put in good performances.

### **Half Term Review**

We have now reached the half way stage in most divisions with the exception of a few teams and it's a good time to review how clubs are performing.

**Carlow People Premier:** Parkville have one of their best starts to a season since they were last Champions in 2003/04, thanks to the efforts of a united team under brothers

Colin and Gary Coady. They are topping the table with 21 points, seven wins and two losses, both early in September to Crettyard and St. Fiacc's. Just one point behind and having the same number of games played are the Champions, Crettyard United who have six wins, two draws – Bagenalstown and Stretford in late August and early September and one loss to Burrin Celtic in early October. Crettyard been three times successive Champions are targeting four in a row, and with the dedication of players like Ray Buggy and the determination of Martin Rice, they will be a difficult side to overcome. Bagenalstown again are having another good season with 20 points, however they have eleven games played. They are closely followed by Burrin Celtic and New Oak Boys, with the Boys performances lately much improved. Bottom of the pile and in the relegation zone are Slaney Rover and Killeshin. This has been a nightmare season for Killeshin with only one point on the table so far.

**Nationalist Division:** Ballymurphy Celtic have got off to a flying start with David Lennon at the helm for the first time, Again not since 2003/04 have Ballymurphy showed so much promise and maybe on the second attempt they might make Premier status next season. With two games in hand, Kilree Celtic are second with 18 points, four behind the leaders and at the time of going to press were the only Carlow side still in the Leinster Junior Cup. In the relegation zone are two teams one would have never expected, Moone Celtic with six points and in bottom place Castle Rangers who were relegated from the Premier last season.

**Whites Pharmacy Division:** Similar to last season this is the division of death, with up to six teams capable of taking the honours in May. Brendan Powell has turned around the fortunes of Stretford's second string, topping the table at the half way stage. Following a shaky start Ardattin Athletic are now second and in a strong position to challenge. New Oak Boys who failed at the final hurdle last season are once again poised for promotion and given the opportunity won't make the same mistake twice. Ridge Rangers have gone off the boil lately, however they have the potential to climb back to the top and force a tight finish for promotion among the top six clubs. At the bottom Rathanna have had a very disappointing season so far after finishing last season so strong, denying New Oak promotion, however they may yet turn it around to avoid the drop down.

**Dolmen Flooring:** Grange have concentrated their efforts this season on the domestic scene and it has so far paid off. They are the only team in the League with maximum points from nine games. This is in part due to top scorer Niall Byrne who past the hundred goal mark in his short career some weeks ago. Hanover Harps lead the table for a while but in the last month have lost their way. Borris turned around their terrible poor start to now share second place, Whatever John McKeever said at the time had the desired effect because at one stage they were contemplating pulling out altogether. Nurney's second string have been disappointing this season, very unusually so.