

Carlow Soccer 27.01.08

Fixtures

Sat 02 Feb

Diamond Woodcraft U/17 2.30pm

Bagenalstown v	St. Joseph's	M. Salter
Burrin Cel v	Parkville Utd	G. O'Sullivan
Nurney Villa v	Derry Rvs	M. O'Reilly

Diamond Woodcraft U/18 2.30pm

Crettyard Utd v	Moone Celtic	D. O'Connor
St Fiacc's v	South East	B. O'Reilly
St. Anne's v	Dereen Hgts	J. Wynne

Sun 03 Feb

Douglass Jewellers Carlow Cup Rd 2 (e.t.p.)

Moone Celtic v	Crettyard 'B'	2pm	P. Kehoe
Nurney 'A' v	Derry Rvs	11am	J. Wynne
Stretford 'A' v	Hacketstown 'A'	11am	P. Moran

Carlow People Premier

Burrin Cel v	Parkville Utd	11am	M. Salter
Hanover Hps v	Crettyard Utd	11am	G. Cosgrove
Killeshin v	Slaney Rvs	11am	B. O'Reilly
New Oak v	St. Fiacc's	11am	M. O'Reilly

Nationalist Division

Castle Rngs v	Ballymurphy	11am	P. Kelly
Palatine Cel v	Kilree Cel	11am	D. O'Connor

Whites Pharmacy Division

Dereen Hgts v	Ardattin Ath	11am	G. O'Sullivan
Ridge Rngs v	Rathanna	11am	C. O'Rourke
St. Joseph's v	Parkville Utd	2pm	P. Kelly
Stretford Utd v	New Oak	2pm	B. O'Reilly

Dolmen Flooring Division

Dereen Hgts v	Burrin Cel	2pm	M. Doran
Grange F.C. v	Borris F.C	11am	M. Murphy
Hacketstown v	Carlow Rvs	2pm	C. O'Rourke
Nurney Villa v	Tullow Twn	2pm	T. Lawlor

Golden Boot

W/end 20 Jan

Carlow People Premier

- 11 Byrne Dominic, Slaney Rvs
- 10 Kelly Alan, Burrin Celtic
- 9 Holohan Anthony, Crettyard Utd
- 8 Doran Seamus, New Oak Boys
- 7 Fox Brendan, Crettyard Utd

Nationalist Division

7 Doyle Thomas, Ballymurphy
6 Purcell Niall, Crettyard Utd
6 Fleming Val, Nurney Villa

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 Nolan Fergus, Killeshin
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

14 Nolan Paul, Derry Rovers
9 Tobin Patrick, Parkville Utd
7 Connolly P.J., Parkville Utd
6 Whelan Pádraic, St. Joseph's
5 Byrne Kieve, South East
5 Murphy John, Burrin Celtic

Diamond Woodcraft U/18

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

League Tables

Carlow People Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Parkville United	11	8	1	2	25	10	25
New Oak Boys	11	6	3	2	32	18	21
Burrin Celtic	11	6	3	2	31	22	21
Bagenalstown	12	6	3	3	26	19	21
Crettyard United	9	6	2	1	36	14	20
Hanover Harps	9	3	4	2	16	11	13
St. Fiacc's F.C.	12	3	3	6	18	35	12
Stretford United	12	2	4	6	16	26	10

Slaney Rovers	11	1	2	8	17	33	5
Killeshin F.C.	10	0	1	9	10	39	1

Nationalist Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Ballymurphy Celtic	11	7	1	3	29	16	22
Kilree Celtic.	9	5	3	1	25	13	18
Crettyard United	11	5	3	3	22	22	18
Nurney Villa	9	4	4	1	17	11	16
Hacketstown United	10	4	4	2	19	14	16
Castle Rangers	11	3	3	5	18	26	12
Wolfhill Athletic	11	2	3	6	15	20	9
Palatine Celtic	11	3	0	8	14	25	9
Moone Celtic	9	1	3	5	11	23	6

Whites Pharmacy Div.	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Stretford United.	12	8	2	2	35	18	26
New Oak Boys	10	7	3	0	25	11	24
Ardattin Athletic	11	5	4	2	21	16	19
Ridge Rangers	8	5	2	1	19	6	17
St. Joseph's	9	4	2	3	29	21	14
Baltinglass Boys	8	5	1	2	20	12	14*
Dereen Heights	12	4	1	7	25	29	13
Derry Rovers	12	2	1	9	25	41	7
Parkville United	9	2	0	7	13	28	6
Rathanna F.C.	11	1	0	10	10	40	3

* 2 points deducted arising from Disciplinary action

Dolmen Flooring Div.	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Grange F.C.	10	10	0	0	44	13	30
Borris F.C.	8	5	1	2	18	10	16
Hanover Harps	10	5	1	4	23	18	16
Carlow Rovers	9	4	3	2	25	20	15
Dereen Heights	10	4	2	4	20	24	11*
Tullow Town	9	3	1	5	17	25	10
Hacketstown Utd	11	3	1	7	14	28	10
Nurney Villa	8	2	1	4	14	22	7
Burrin Celtic	9	0	2	7	12	27	2

* 3 points deducted arising from Disciplinary action

Over 35's Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
New Oak Boys	5	4	1	0	12	5	13
Wolfhill Ath	5	3	1	1	11	5	10
Thomastown Utd	5	1	4	0	9	8	7
Killeshin F.C.	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Stradbally Town	5	1	1	3	6	13	4
Nurney Villa	5	0	1	4	5	11	1

Diamond Woodcraft U/17	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Derry Rovers	10	9	0	1	32	15	27
Parkville Utd	9	4	2	3	24	16	14

South East	4	4	0	0	14	1	12
St. Joseph's	9	2	3	4	15	23	9
Nurney Villa	8	2	1	5	9	13	7
Burrin Celtic	7	1	2	4	9	17	5
Bagenalstown	7	1	0	6	9	27	3

Diamond Woodcraft U/18	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
St. Fiacc's	6	6	0	0	22	5	18
Dereen Hgts	8	4	2	2	21	17	14
Crettyard Utd	6	2	2	2	15	19	8
St. Anne's	6	2	0	4	11	16	6
South East	2	1	0	1	7	3	3
Moone Celtic	6	0	0	6	6	22	0

Noticeboard

Council Meeting

The January meeting of all clubs takes place on this Thursday, Jan 31 in the Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow at 8.30pm sharp.

All clubs must attend, on time and be represented by an officer of the League. Clubs who fail to attend will be fined according to Rule.

Registrations/Transfers

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.

Transfers ends on this Thursday 31 January

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, or john@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. Because of the interruption to games by the bad weather, clubs are requested to only apply out of dire necessity, in order to complete the season on time.

Automatic Suspension

Under the Automatic suspension rule, players are suspended automatically for the next game and must be served with the team they were sent off in, e.g. a player dismissed for the 'A' team must serve the suspension with that team and cannot play with the 'B' team or Youth team in the meantime. They cannot therefore play for their club or otherwise until that suspension has been served. The League under FAI and FIFA Rules reserves the right to increase the suspension further at the next or nearest Disciplinary meeting following the suspension. Any club/team that infringes that rule will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee.

Results

Sat 26

F.A.I. Umbro Youths Inter - League Cup

Kildare League 0-1 Carlow League

Diamond Woodcraft U/17

Bagenalstown 1-0 Nurney Villa

Derry R-s 3-1 Parkville Utd

Diamond Woodcraft U/18

Stretford Utd off Crettyard Utd
Dereen Hgts 4-2 Moone Cel
St. Anne's 1-3 St. Fiacc's

Sun 27

Douglas Jewellers Carlow Cup Rd 1

Borris F.C. 0-1 St. Fiacc's

Carlow Shield (e.t.p.)

Bagenalstown 2-1 Nurney -Villa
Baltinglass 2-6 New Oak
Burrin Cel 6-2 St. Joseph's
Crettyard Utd [3]0-0[1] Parkville Utd a.e.t.p.

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

Kilree Cel [5]3-3[4] Ardattin Ath a.e.t.p.

Carlow People Premier

Hanover Hps 3-0 Stretford Utd

Nationalist Division

Castle Rngs 3-1 Moone Celtic
Wolfhill Ath 3-3 Hacketstown

Whites Pharmacy Division

Ridge Rngs 1-0 Dereen Hgts
Stretford Utd 5-0 Rathanna
Derry R-s 0-2 New Oak

Dolmen Flooring Division

Dereen Hgts 3-2 Carlow Rvs
Tullow Twn 1-3 Grange F.C.

Over 35 Division

Stradbally 0-1 Killeshin
Thomastown 3-2 Nurney Villa
Wolfhill Ath 0-1 New Oak

MATCH REPORTS

F.A.I. Umbro Youths Inter-League Cup

Carlow League 1

Kildare League 0

This slender margin of victory does not reflect Carlow's dominance and in if they had their shooting boots on, they could have scored six or seven goals.

Carlow's final group game was played in Hawkins Lane last Saturday against the Kildare League in front of a good crowd. This was a must win game for both teams, but it was Carlow who showed a greater desire, with a very positive approach, they took the game to Kildare from the first whistle.

As in previous games, Carlow played a very attractive brand of football, with some excellent combination play, and Thomas Brennan in mid-field, Carlow's 'man of the match' providing his forwards with timely accurate passes which allowed the front players to seemly be able to carve open Kildare at will. Carlow played the majority of the game in the Kildare half and created chance after chance. A lot of the chances in the opening half fell to Shane Clarke, who proved much too fast and skilful for the Kildare defence as he seemed to drift in past them as if they were not there, but unlike his previous form, Clarkie was finding it difficult to get his shots on target and when he did Kildare's 'keeper, Mick Lawless, was proving his top drawer quality as a goal stopper. Kildare was always dangerous on the break, Gary Lowe breaking down the left wing causing problems for Carlow's defender Damien Byrne.

Carlow created the best move of the game on the half hour mark, excellent combination play down the right hand side between Stevie Purcell and Dean Ryan to set Aaron Kenny free, his cross was struck perfectly on the volley by Clarke from just outside the box, unfortunately for Carlow, the Kildare keeper somehow managed to get fingertips on the ball to turn it onto the crossbar and over. Minutes later Clarke was again denied, this time he beat the 'keeper, but the ball was scrambled off the goal-line by Kildare's defender Brian Murphy.

The contrasting style of Carlow's front two, Kenny and O'Shea caused constant problems for the Kildare defence, Kenny with his bravery, strength and endless running and O'Shea's excellent hold-up play and distribution which allowed the midfield and full backs to join in the attack. It was Kenny's running that almost opened the scoring just before the half time break, when he ran onto an excellent defence splitting pass from O'Shea. Kenny's first touch took him into the box, where he was clipped by the defending player, he just about managed to stay on his feet, but could not recover sufficiently to get his strike on target, had he gone down however, it would surely have been a penalty.

Kildare never really got their attacking game going and found it difficult to put any combinations together with their only real threat came from hopeful balls played in behind the Carlow defence, which were easy enough for the defenders to deal with, and on the odd occasion the Kildare strikers did get through, they forced Carlow's defence to back pedal but goalkeeper Stephen Duncan was very quick off his line to avert the danger.

It was beginning to look as if it was one of those days when the ball refused to go into the net, and I'm sure that is how Carlow felt after 55 minutes when O'Shea and Kenny combined to put Clarke in one-on-one with the Kildare keeper. Clarkie did everything right, but again 'keeper Lawless made a fantastic close range save and the Dean Ryan follow up shot was just wide of the upright. Finally Carlow broke the deadlock on the hour mark, it was a long time coming, but was certainly no more than Carlow deserved. Good build up play on the left wing between full back Damien Byrne and Clarke, found O'Shea in space, his cross was cleared to the edge of the box where 'man of the match' Tomas Brennan struck his shot on the half volley past the helpless Kildare 'keeper keeper. The pace of the game somewhat eased with Carlow introducing Kieve Byrne for Dean Ryan on 65 minutes. This allowed Kildare more into the game but a very steady and calm Adam Byrne, in central defence to clear his lines. Adam was having an excellent game and had not Brennan had such an excellent outing he would have won the match title. Kieve Byrne went close for the home side with his shot just inches over the cross bar just on the three quarter mark. Kildare's Stephen Prendergast broke through five minutes later but Carlow's goal minder Duncan came off his line forcing Prendergast to shoot wide. In the final quarter both

sides went in search of another goal with Carlow introducing Paul Prendergast for Ryan and Paddy Mulligan for Brennan. However the scoreline finished 1-0 to Carlow and they now await the outcome of the NDSL protest against the AUL on Tuesday evening to see if they progress to the open draw.

Carlow: Stephen Duncan, Stevie Purcell, Adam Byrne, Conor Byrne(C), Damien Byrne, Dean Ryan, Tomas Brennan, David O'Shea, Shane Clarke, Ian O'Shea, Aaron Kenny.

Subs: Kieve Byrne (for Kenny 65), Paul Prendergast (for Ryan 70), Paddy Mulligan (for Brennan 75), Jeff Moran, Jamie Kavanagh, Mickey Thompson, Philip Smithers.

Kildare: Mick Lawless, George Rogan, Brian Duggan, Mark Whelan, Brian Murphy, Eddie Hennessy, Gary Lowe, Adam Purcell, Kevin Delaney, Aaron O'Mara, Stephen Prendergast.

Subs: Jonathan Murphy, Robbie Maguire, Ian Byrne, Jonathan Barber

Match Officials: Jim Wynne, Davy O'Connor and Brian O'Reilly

Carlow Shield

Bagenalstown2

Nurney Villa 1

Holders Bagenalstown advanced to the semi finals of this season's competition with a hard earned victory over parish neighbours Nurney. The Premier side opened in complete control over a rusty Villa side. Trevor Nolan who had a fine game in midfield forced a good save out of Nurney 'keeper Pakie Fleming who pushed his shot out for a corner, which was delivered into the box only for David Barcoe to put a free header over on seven minutes. Two minutes later however, Town went ahead when Anthony Elliott won a ball and fed Trevor Nolan who squared for John Doyle to side foot home. Town came close to doubling their lead on 12 minutes when Trevor Nolan smashed a 35 yard shot off the crossbar. Slowly Nurney dragged them into the contest and had a chance to lead but Dinny Byrne put his shot wide when the ball broke to him off Town 'keeper Pat Coady who had bravely smothered at the feet of Sean Kinsella.

The second half saw Nurney have a good spell and were unlucky to see both substitutes David Dowling and Willie Kearney strike the Town cross bar before the levelled on 78 minutes when Sean Kinsella shot home from a narrow angle. However four minutes from the end Town struck for the winner when John Doyle put over a cross and wily veteran Pattie O'Neill out jumped Pakie Fleming and Paul Dermody to head in the winner. Excellent for the Town were Peter Doyle, Eamonn McCormack, Trevor Nolan and Pattie O'Neill.

Nurney's best were Emmet Moore, Jimmy Cullen, Val Fleming and Seamus Kinsella.

Baltinglass Town Boys 2

New Oak Boys 6

Class tells, but also grit, determination and effort with the Baltinglass outfit not prepared to allow Premier division New Oak an inch of space during the early exchanges.

However a momentary lapse resulted in New Oak's James Brady meting through the Baltinglass defensive arrangements before crossing for Pa Kavanagh to plant a firm header inside the far post on 15 minutes. One might have expected Baltinglass to capitulate to the script easily during the following exchanges but if there was a script to this encounter it was in the dustbin on 30 minutes when Paul Redmond's cross found Christopher Calpis who flicked the ball into space for Ken Redmond to shoot a

deserved equaliser. New Oak have begun to find their real rhythm in recent games and having been given a close shave by Town's Kevin Redmond and Elmer Murphy, they dominated the following exchanges with Sean Kelly racing into the Baltinglass box only to only to be felled – earning a penalty which Seamie Doran expertly converted to restore New Oaks lead on 40 minutes. Another Sean Kelly burst of speed created the space and chance for Pa Kavanagh to crack in another score shortly before half time.

Baltinglass remained dangerous on the counter attack with Christopher Calpis going close to scoring on 48 minutes but New Oak effectively put them to the sword on 50 minutes when Sean Kelly seized on a half chance to score New Oak's fourth. The industrious Darren Costello was making midfield his own, and his quick thinking allowed Dale Lacy to add to the Baltinglass woes on 60 minutes. New Oak's purple patch continued with Seamus Farrell inking with Dale Lacy before setting up Lee Murphy to score New Oak's sixth on 60 minutes. Baltinglass mustered a scoring reply when Christopher Calpis got on the end of a great pass from Chris Redmond but it was too late to alter the outcome of this interesting encounter. Best for Baltinglass included Christopher Redmond, Paddy Sinnott and Christopher Calpis. Best for New Oak included Lee Murphy, Sean Kelly and Tom Collins in goal.

Burrin Celtic 6

St. Joseph's 2

A depleted Ballon outfit proved too strong for a game St. Josephs.

Celtic went ahead on 15 minutes when the impressive Michael O'Leary was allowed to advance from midfield and coolly slotted a shot beyond the advancing keeper. St. Joes have demonstrated a liking for manufacturing early scores this season and Celtic had done their homework organising their defence to act quickly and clear decisively when danger threatened. Such action resulted in Michael O'Leary making the most of midfield lapses in concentration to add to Burrin's advantage on 24 minutes. Within another ten minutes Burrin had clinically put themselves in an unassailable position when Tomas Murphy planted a shot in the net but the Ballon lads were unable to relax completely as the first signs of real life in the Saints emerged when Celtic's Graham Whelan was flatfooted before St. Joes scored shortly before half time.

The third quarter exchanges were closely contested but when Matty Dowling expertly stroked a free from the edge of the box to the St. Joes net the game was effectively over as a contest. Nonetheless, St. Joes replied with a well taken score on 70 minutes and during the closing exchanges Matty Dowling and Armour Mc Farland swooped to score and apply a slightly flattering gloss to the final scoreline in favour of Burrin whose best payers included Matty Dowling, James Foley, Michael O'Leary and Paul Hickey.

Crettyard United 0

Parkville United 0 a.e.t

(Crettyard advance 3-0 on penalties)

To describe this encounter as 'eagerly awaited' by both sets of fans was an early understatement of the year and the outcome adds considerable spice to the imminent league clash between two of the four top teams in the League.

Tullow based Parkville might have received a modicum of encouragement when they learned of Crettyard's customary custodian John Graham's absence and tried as they did to unsettle and test his sturdy replacement Eamon Geoghegan their efforts counted for little as Terence Haughney and Raymond Buggy formed a defensive axis

which almost imprisoned United's Ray Shannon. Moreover, Mark Kelly policed Parkville's creative livewire midfielder John Kenny to a point where clear cut scoring chances were prevented from getting out of bed let alone being created.

This was the pattern established in the first half of a truly sporting encounter and was one which carried right through the second half. A notable feature of the second half was Wayne Donohue who managed to smother the efforts of Crettyard's Chrístóir Maher and found the time and occasional opportunity to crack forward in support of the introduced Jamie Farrell who tested Raymond Buggy's mettle late in the game before Wayne clipped a free narrowly wide before the completion of normal time. As the exchanges advanced towards penalties Raymond Buggy balanced the books which didn't come as a complete surprise to the Parkville speed merchant. The outcome of the game was decided with Crettyard's expertise not being matched by Parkville's. Best for Crettyard included Keith Nolan, Terence Haughney, Mark Kelly and Raymond Buggy. Best for Parkville included Wayne Donohue, David James, John Kenny and Ray Shannon.

Med Bar Cup

Kilree Celtic 3

Ardattin Athletic 3 a.e.t.

(Kilree advance 5-4 on pens)

Kilree edged out Ardattin in a penalty shoot out to advance in the Med Bar Cup. Exchanges were 50/50 in the opening period as play swung from end to end. The deadlock was broken on 26 minutes when Mick Nevin got on the end of a Christy Coady ball to put Kilree ahead. Ronan Darcy then made an excellent save in the Celtic goal to preserve their 1-0 lead at half time. Ardattin came out for the second half with all guns blazing and went into the lead with goals from Adrian Keogh and Alan Curry. Mick Salter then failed from the penalty spot and Jon Dowling had a bad miss as Kilree strove for an equaliser. It was on 90 minutes before the leveller came when Pa Dwyer put in a cross and Martin Coady scored from close in. In extra tie Ardattin went ahead again through Noel Butler only for Celtic to force a shoot out with another Martin Coady goal. The first nine kicks were put away in the shootout, but Ardattin hit the bar with their fifth kick Kilree advanced.

David Cormack Damien Clarke and Christy Coady for Kilree. Jim and John Fitzpatrick and Mi O'Brien were best for Ardattin.

Carlow People Premier

Hanover Harps 3

Stretford United 0

Jason Murphy swept the free into the box where Colin Whelan deflected the ball into the path of an unattended Aaron Wynne who agonised as his rising effort narrowly cleared the bar in the first minute

A rusty United defence was caught cold by that lightening Hanover forward push. This wasn't a sign of things to come as the following exchanges were evenly balanced especially in midfield with the occasional half chance appearing and Stretford's John Griffin managed to get on the end of a Garry Powell and Darren Farrell combination but pulled his shot wide on 15 minutes. The Hanover defence appeared to be unsettled later with United's James Reilly going close to netting an excellent cross from Damien Farrell on 25 minutes. While Hanover found themselves restricted to long range shot United almost poached the lead right on the stroke of half time when a

misdirected clearance fell invitingly for an unbalanced John Griffen who fired over from close range.

There was nothing remarkable about the third quarter until there was a blip in United's concentration and they lost track of the flight of Hanover's Jason Murphy's free which fell to Alan Byrne whose angled pass allowed an unmarked Aaron Wynne to break the deadlock on 60 minutes. There was always the possibility that Stretford would equalise but Hanover's Mark Corcoran was having an effective game in goal for Harps and United were dealt a severe blow when the introduced Mickey Corcoran poked an Alan Smith pass to the net with his first touch on 80 minutes. Now in the games driving seat Hanover attacked with confidence with Mickey Corcoran's turbo injection taking him deep into the United box only to be felled at the expense of a penalty which Alan Smith converted to secure the points and reward the efforts of Jason Murphy, Mark Corcoran, Eric Robinson and Simon O'Shea. Best for Stretford included Paul Gibbons, Ken Lacy, Garry Powell and Mark Kelly.

Nationalist Division

Castle Rangers 3

Moone Celtic 1

Castle continued their charge up league table with a well merited win at home. Rangers were on top early on and Ken Darcy had to be on the top of his game in the Moone goal to keep his side on level terms. The 'keeper however had no chance on 26 minutes when Eddie Dooley got on the end of a Jose Souza cross to shoot home. Rangers maintained their 1-0 lead until half time and straight from the kick off to start the second half they doubled their lead with a Roy Pearson goal. Moone hung on in the game and midway through the half Paul Doyle put them back in the contest with a goal, Rangers however, were not to be denied and on 75 minutes Eddie Dooley beat the Moone offside trap and ran on to put Rangers 3-1 up. Rangers maintained the tempo until the end not letting Moone make any impression up front. For Castle Eddie O'Brien, Joe Nolan and Eddie Dooley shone. Moone's best were, Ken Darcy, John Hegarty and Paul Doyle.

Wolfhill Athletic 3

Hacketstown Utd 3

Two late goals gave Wolfhill a deserved share of the points at home on Sunday. Wolfhill were the better side in the opening half putting strong pressure on the Hacketstown defence, but in a rave breakaway attack the east Carlow side forced an excellent save out of Wolfhill 'keeper Kevin Kelly. Midway through the half Wolfhill's Philip Brennan smashed a shot off the crossbar and the ball rebounded to Mark Fox whose shot was taken off line by a defender. The home side went ahead on 28 minutes with a close range header from Garry Rowan and were still 1-0 up at the break. The second half saw Hacketstown take control, and they were soon level when Alan Kelly headed in a Barry O'Connor cross. Another Alan Kelly header this time from a John McGrath cross put them ahead. When substitute Jamie Doyle put them 1-3 ahead three minutes after being introduced Utd seemed to be cruising to victory. However the home side had other ideas and Garry Rowan headed in his second goal of the game on 84 minutes, before deep in injury time, Alan Walsh went on a run and found Barry Fleming who sent a pile-driver to the net for a brilliant goal. Excellent for Wolfhill were, Jimmy Brennan, Mark Fox and Alan Walsh, for Hacketstown, Colm McGrath, Barry O'Connor, Thomas Tallon and Alan Kelly stood out.

Whites Pharmacy Division

Ridge Rangers 1

Dereen Heights 0

Dereen appear to be maturing into a tidy footballing unit as the season progresses but still require some fine tuning in relation to the demands of the game.

They almost fell behind when Jamie Brennan filtered a ball through to Ray Buggy who shot wide on the run on ten minutes. Dereen refused to play a secondary role to the busy Ridge outfit and managed to apply constant pressure to the Rangers defensive sector forcing a number of corners without reward thanks mainly to the impressive positioning of Adrian Brennan in the Ridge goal. At the other end the Dereen keeper was also outstanding making a series of great saves to prevent Damien Sheehan, Ray Buggy and Jim Dunne from scoring before half time.

During the second half Dereen seemed to rely on set pieces to expose any frailties in the Rangers defensive arrangements with Denis Nangle going closest to breaking the deadlock on 66 minutes. However as the game progressed Ridge began to get the upper hand creating gaps in the Dereen defensive cover with Ray Buggy, Enda and Pat Dunne going close. In response Dereen's Denis Nangle forced Adrian Brennan to make the save of the game on 80 minutes. With a share of the points seeming inevitable Ranger's Damien Sheehan broke through but was prevented a shot at goal at the expense of a penalty which Ray Buggy converted to effectively secure the points on 85 minutes and reward the efforts of Conor McNally, Brian Malone and William Regan. Best for Dereen included Christy Bermingham, Denis Nangle and Stephen Hennessy.

Stretford United 5

Rathanna F.C. 0

Table topping United were slow to move through their gears as they struggled to make an effective impact against an equally rusty Rathanna selection.

Early on in the game Rathanna looked like they might pose some serious difficulties for the Carlow town based United. Indeed it took a startling spurt into space from a rejuvenated Mick Long to cause panic in the Rathanna box resulting in the United player being upended. Paul Haughney converted the inevitable penalty. Rathanna's defence appeared unable to make a decision every time Eugene Keating delivered a throw into the heart of their zone and this allowed John Lowry to double the United advantage on 18 minutes. Shortly before half time another Eugene Keating delivery allowed warhorse Mick Long to create the space for Sean Maher to score however an inviting target proved too small on this occasion.

Rathanna weren't long about improving during the second half and they applied constant pressure to the United defence during the third quarter without reward. Then John Lowry's ball craft allowed him to sidestep the Rathanna defence but despite being clean through lifted his shot over the bar. Later Paul Haughney missed a similar opportunity but everything changed with the introduction of Paul Doyle into the midfield melting pot and he scored a brace within minutes to put Rathanna to the sword. Stuart Connolly's opportunist strike went some way to balancing his scoring record account this season and United celebrated a deserved set of points thanks to the efforts of Gavin Deering, Brian Coss, Billy Nolan and Eugene Keating.

Derry Rovers 0

New Oak Boys 2

The difficult underfoot conditions frustrated New Oak during the first quarter but the hard working John Gilligan earned and delivered a well placed corner which saw the imposing Dominic Mullins go close to breaking the deadlock on 30 minutes. Graham Kelly continued to work creatively on the wing and he was played in by Denis Quinlan's expertly weighted and timed pass and his cross made Jamie Cooney's task of scoring a mere formality on the stroke of half time.

Despite the odd scare from Derry's forward line which tested the alert James Ruth, New Oak failed to make any impression on the hard working Derry defence during the third quarter. John Gilligan and Tom Collins were patrolling the wings and James Coakley combined with them to set up Tom Collins to score on 68 minutes. During the following exchanges Derry defended stoutly but failed to dent New Oak's defensive solidity. Best for New Oak included Jamie Cooney, Dominic Mullins, James Coakley and James Ruth.

Dolmen Flooring Division

Tullow Town 1

Grange F.C. 3

With Grange in a commanding position going into the second half of their season, it's looking good for the club to gain champions honour and promotion this year.

Tullow were up against a team that has collected full points from the nine previous games, the only Sunday team to have such a record. However within a minute from kickoff Paul Murphy had shot Tullow into the lead. This goal shocked Grange into action with good chances created by Paddy Byrne, Peter Cleere and Gavin Lawler, Lawler's free kick hit the top of the cross bar. Then on 35 minutes the Grange pressure paid dividends a Joseph Arguetta cross was headed onto the bar by Paddy Byrne and from the rebound, Niall Byrne with a bicycle kick equalised.

The half ended 1-1.

Grange attacked with force in the second half with Keith Brennan going close early in the half. They went 2-1 up on 62 minutes, A Keith Brennan corner kick found Paddy Byrne whose header was blocked by a hand from the Tullow defence.

Top scorer Niall Byrne scored the resulting spot kick. Tullow had their chances with Andrew Bosaigh going close on 70 minutes and Martin Fitzgerald doing likewise on 80 minutes. Then on 84 minutes Grange put the game safe with Byrne securing his hat trick, Liam Pender crossed to Paddy Byrne who set up Niall to score.

For Tullow Town Ráfla Butniewkz, Junior Osaro and Paul Murphy stood out.

Top performers for Grange were, Paddy Byrne, Joseph and Christian Arguetta.

Dereen Heights 3

Carlow Rovers 2

Starting with only ten players due to injuries, Rovers lost by a goal in John Sweeney Park on Sunday.

Gary Canavan started for Rovers in the mid field position and had an excellent game. Canavan set up Tony Jones on 30 minutes to score the opening goal. Then just before the end of the half, Dereen equalised to leave it 1-1 at the break.

Dereen with the extra man took control of the game early in the second half scoring two goals. With Five minutes of time remaining, Kevin O'Neill reduced the arrears for Carlow Rovers, Kevin O'Neill, Garry Canavan and James Jones were Carlow Best players on the day.

Over 35 Division

Stradbally Town 0**Killeshin F. 1**

With Eugene O'Rourke back in defence and Pat Brennan playing along side him, Killeshin recorded their first victory of the season.

In a scoreless first half both sides had chances of scoring. Maurice Deegan, Maurice Devoy; and Sammy Kelly, went close for Stradbally, the Killeshin 'keeper Mick Byrne, tipping over Kelly's excellent shot. For Killeshin Donnacha Hyland beat the off side trap and with too much time to spare, he sent his attempt just wide. O'Rourke from a long range free kick scraped the cross bar with his attempt. Stradbally started the better in the second half, before Fergus Nolan put Killeshin ahead midway in a goal mouth scramble from a John McHugh corner kick. Stradbally applied the pressure but O'Rourke and Brennan were outstanding in defence and their 'keeper Byrne mopped up chances from Town's Deegan and Devoy. With five games remaining in the Division, Killeshin could now be a team in contention for honours. For Stradbally Town, Charles O'Brien, Martin Kelly and iall Clancy played well. Best For Killeshin were Tom Smithers, Eugene O'Rourke, man of the match and Pat Brennan.

Thomastown United 3**Nurney Villa 2**

Thomastown got off to a dream start, leading by three goals in the first twenty minutes.

The Nurney defence were sixes and sevens in the opening exchanges. From a free kick by Kevin Maher, Brendan Corry headed home from six yards to put United ahead on ten minutes. Seven minutes later they doubled their advantage with a P.J. Whelan toe poke from close range. Then on 22 minutes another Maher free kick split the Villa defence for David Power to run through and make it 3-0. Nurney reduced the arrears just before the break, Mick Kelly the scorer.

In the second half Villa applied early pressure with Vincent Murphy forcing a good save from the united 'keeper. Then Paul Murphy of Nurney was fouled in the area and from the resulting penalty, Martin Kelly reduced the arrears to 3-2. Despite a lot of Villa pressure during the remainder of the game, Thomastown held onto their narrow advantage to pick up full points.

For Thomastown United, Seamus Costello, Brendan Barcoe and Paul Doran played well. Nurney Villa's best players were Derry O'Toole at centre back, John Regan in defence, substitute, Pat Ryan and Paul Murphy up front.

Wolfhill Athletic 0**New Oak Boys 1**

Champions Wolfhill leading at the top of the table succumbed to new leaders New Oak Boys on Sunday.

While Wolfhill were shaking off the after affects of the Christmas break, the Boys pounced to score the only goal of the game on three minutes. A super through ball by Joe Redmond found Brian Walker, however Walker was fouled in the box and after dusting himself off he duly dispatched the resulting penalty to the back of the Wolfhill net. Following that shock opening goal, the Boys were under severe pressure from Wolfhill with Frank Fleming and Shay Whelan going close to equalising for the home side.

Early in the second half Damien O'Brien set up Ken Archbold with a through ball for New Oak but the Wolfhill 'keeper brought off a good save. Then Redmond and

Walker went on a one – two for the Boys, however Redmond's shot came off the top of the cross –bar. Wolfhill then took over and Ger Enright was very unlucky when his shot was cleared off the line by a Boys defender after he had seen off the 'keeper. The Boys defended well to take the points and pole position at the start of the second half of their season.

For Wolfhill Athletic, Pat Knowles, Frank Fleming and Ger Enright were their top performers. Best players for the winners, New Oak Boys, were, Damien O'Brien, Keith Jordan, Terry Payne and Joe Redmond.

Diamond Woodcraft U/17

Bagenalstown 1

Nurney Villa 0

A single goal just on half time decided this closely contested local derby. The Town started the brightest and enjoyed the majority of possession in the opening quarter, but the Nurney defence was on top of their game, and confined Bagenalstown's attack to long range shooting. Villa settled down and had a good spell midway through the half but Jack O'Connor and Jonathan Doyle could not avail of good chances. Then on 44 minutes Dan Brennan picked up a loose ball on the edge of the Villa area and beat 'keeper Brian Murphy with a low shot to open the scoring. The second half saw play swing from end to end with chances for both sides. Thomas Lynch in the Town goal had to advance swiftly to deny Shane Farrell and Stephen Fowler shot wide when well placed for Nurney, at the other end, Alan McDonald was wide with two gilt edged chances for Bagenalstown. In the end the lone goal was enough to earn the Town all three points.

Thomas Lynch, Barry Lambe, Ciaran Cunningham and Stephen Brennan shone for the winners, while, Damien O'Neill, Barry Dillon, Niall Walsh and Leon Power excelled for Nurney.

Derry Rovers 3

Parkville Utd 1

A Hat trick from leading expert shooter Paul Nolan was the highlight from this tie as Derry won all three points. Rovers opened in fine style and Nolan put them into a deserved lead on 16 minutes. Parkville responded well and started to get a grip on the game and when Neill Curran scored to level matters, they were well in the contest. Nolan however, proved his value to the league leaders when he put them back in the lead before half time. A game Parkville side battled hard to get back on level terms during the third quarter, but when Nolan put Derry 3-1 up on 74 minutes, they had a mountain to climb, and Rovers went on to a well deserved victory. Derry were well served by Darryl Roberts, Damien Farrell and Paul Nolan, while there was a good team performance from Parkville, but it was just not good enough to derail the leaders.

Diamond Woodcraft U/18

Dereen Heights 4

Moone Celtic 2

A strong 2 half performance helped Dereen to the points at Sweeney Park on Saturday. The Co. Kildare side took a 20 minute lead from the penalty spot; Cathal Dooley converted the spot kick despite the best efforts of the Dereen 'keeper. Two minutes later a breakaway attack led to Dereen equalising and four minutes later they went ahead. Moone struck back to level it at 2-2 on 32 minutes with an Aidan Murphy

goal and it remained 2-2 at half time. A stronger Dereen had the better of matters in the second half and two further goals saw them run out deserving winners. For Moone, Tom Hickey, Niall Dooley, Paddy Whelan and Aidan Murphy played well.