

FOOTBALL > UNDER 21A CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 1

St Breckan's survive to gain revenge

St Breckan's 1-14 Cooraclare 3-7

At Hennessy Memorial Park, Miltown

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FOR St Breckan's it was a revenge mission accomplished, but only just after a never-say-die Cooraclare side brought this first round clash right to the wire in what was a pulsating hour of football.

At various intervals of this game it looked as if the North Clare side would win this eagerly anticipated game pulling up — in the first half when they ran the Milesians ragged and fired over a string of impressive points to lead by 0-9 to 0-2; in the second when a Cathal Guerin goal eased them five clear and within sight of the winning post.

But Cooraclare were nothing if not resilient, with their ability to rattle the St Breckan's net ensuring that the healthy attendance in Hennessy Memorial Park were kept on their toes right until Barry Kelly called time on proceedings after five minutes of injury time.

With Joe McGann tormenting the Cooraclare defence in the opening quarter a rampant looking St Breckan's looked as if they'd make short work of this game, no doubt being imbued with an extra motivation after the fall-out from last year's opening round meeting between the sides. Back then St Breckan's won, but after fielding illegible players lost it at county board level with Cooraclare then going on to win the title.

This time out points by McGann (2), Cathal Guerin, James Howard, Aaron O'Brien and Padraig Kelly helped them race into a 0-6 to 0-1 lead after 15 minutes — in truth they should have been further ahead after squandering a couple of goals chances, while allowed Cooraclare to slowly get back in the game.

An early point from substitute Colm Morrissey was their only point in the first 20 minutes, but a Ciaran O'Donoghue point on 21 minutes raised some cheer before they battled back from the concession of further scores to Colm O'Brien and Padraig Kelly with a 29th minute goal from Killian Roche when he fielded a Jack Morrissey delivery

and brilliantly blasted home.

It was finally game on at 0-9 to 1-2, with Cooraclare whittling their deficit in the second half with Pearse Lillis (2), Killian Roche, Ciaran O'Donoghue and Jack Morrissey points, with replies from Colm O'Brien and Padraig Kelly leaving only two between them entering the last 15 minutes.

The force was with Cooraclare, but their race looked to be run when Guerin pounced for a 50th minute goal to make it 1-12 to 1-7. However, the champions weren't about to go quietly. With three minutes remaining Pearse Lillis fisted a Killian Roche sideline to the net and it was back to two, while after two Colm O'Brien points eased St Breckan's back four ahead into injury time back came Cooraclare once more with Jack Morrissey flicking a Pearse Lillis free home.

There was only a point between them but in the end the clock beat the brave Milesians and St Breckan's survived to become the new favourites for Under 21 honours.

St Breckan's

Tristan O'Callaghan, Jack Sheedy, Evan Barrett, Cian Burke, Aaron O'Brien (0-1), Alan Sweeney, Rowan Danaher, Jonah Culligan, James Howard (0-2), Sean Fawl, Padraig Kelly (0-3, one 45), Aidan McNamara, Colm O'Brien (0-3), Cathal Guerin (1-2), Joe McGann (0-3). **Subs** Conor Shannon for Kelly.

Cooraclare

Mark Lillis, Fergal Donnellan, Niall Kelly, Keith Marrinan, Davy Martin, Sean McNamara, Ciaran Chambers, Pearse Lillis (1-2, 1f), Colin McNamara, Jack Morrissey (1-1), Rory McLoone, Eoin O'Driscoll, Cathal O'Gorman, Killian Burke, Killian Roche (1-1). **Subs** Colm Morrissey (0-1) for O'Gorman, Ciaran O'Donoghue (0-2) for Morrissey, Sean O'Neill for McLoone, Paudie Hehir for Marrinan, Colm Morrissey for Donnellan.

Man of the Match

Joe McGann (St Breckan's)

Referee

Barry Kelly (St Joseph's Miltown)

Right: St Breckan's Padraig Kelly is grabbed by Cooraclare's Niall Kelly. Natasha Barton



Ennistymon cruise into last eight with comfortable win

Ennistymon 3-17 Kilrush/Killimer 1-10

At Páirc Naomh Mhuire, Quilty

ENNISTYMON cruised into a quarter-final meeting with Shannon Gaels/Killimer after having 13 points to spare over Kilrush/Killimer in Quilty on Friday evening.

Armed with a 0-10 to 0-3 interval, it was second half goals from Ross O'Doherty and substitutes Cillian Rouine and Niall Canavan that put real daylight between the sides as the North Clare Magpies won this game pulling up.

On a night when Ennistymon had better quality players and better teamwork, there

were strong performances from John Murphy, Adam Ralph and Tiernan Hogan in defence. Liam Devitt and David McNamara battled hard at midfield while the quality up front of Rouine, O'Doherty, Shane Kearney and Cian Shannon kept the scoreboard ticking right to the finish.

Ennistymon

Darren Torpey, John Murphy, Joe Kivlehan, Michael Vaughan, James Lehane, Adam Ralph, Tiernan Hogan, David McNamara, Liam Devitt, Eoin Marrinan, Cillian Rouine, Shane Kearney, Cian Shannon, Ross

O'Doherty, Sean Rouine. **Subs** Sean Garrahy, Dara McInerney, Niall Canavan, Conor Murphy, Jack Regan, Simon Ralph.

Kilrush/Killimer Ross Phelan, James Browne, Aidan Reynolds, Sean Purtil, Luke Callinan, Cian Culligan, Kevin Hassett, Colm Pyne, Jack Callinan, Dylan Downes, Mark Shannon, Dean Neary, Evan Behan, Paul Fennell. **Sub** Patryk Rominoski

Man of the Match

Adam Ralph (Ennistymon) - left

Referee Pat Cosgrove (Corofin)