



17 October 2010

### County Final

In the words of the old song, it wasn't the first one, it wasn't the last one, this one is the sweetest of all. After defeat last year many people predicted the end of our team. After all, what team could survive the loss of John and Tony Mac, John Donaldson & Cathal Short. Well the critics certainly got their answer, many doubted their courage and character but they took all that Dromintee could throw at them and still came back for more. We had tough games along the way with Carrickcruppen, Harps, St Pat's all putting us to the pin of our collar. We had also to contend with some curious decisions in the various committee rooms.

Conditions were very good for the game with the playing surface in great order and as with all local derbies the game could not be described as a classic with each side trying to cancel the others out. From the throw in, and playing against the breeze, it was the visitors who established the early superiority and within the space of five minutes had gone four points up with a point from play and a well finished goal. At this stage a shock appeared to be on the cards, but it takes the experienced head to steady the ship, with Oisín McConville firing over a great point from play. This was quickly followed by a similar score from David McKenna. Our defence were beginning to get a grip on their opponents with James Morgan and Paul McKeown making great interceptions while Paul Kernan was rock steady in the middle. The next fifteen minutes was really a purple patch for Cross, our half back line of Danny O'Callaghan and Aaron Kernan were giving the forwards a great supply of the ball. A free by Aaron Kernan and two points from Oisín McConville, one from a free and one from play, put us in front for the first time. Then came the best score of the game when a great fetch by Oisín was transferred to Francis Hanratty who coolly side footed it to the net. Johnny Hanratty and David McKenna were controlling the mid field and perhaps we should have been further in front but we squandered a few opportunities. Our opponents hit back with a point from play, but Aaron Cunningham responded quickly with a similar score. The half ended with a point from Dromintee to leave the score Rangers 1-6 Dromintee 1-3.

The big talking point at the interval was whether Rangers 3 point advantage would be enough, playing against a strengthening wind. Well we certainly got our answer when Francie Bellew appeared in place of Mickey McNamee. It was not as if Mickey was playing badly, the move was purely tactical as it was anticipated that Dromintee would play a more direct game this half, and so it proved to be. On the resumption it was Rangers who dominated the first ten minutes but had nothing to show for it. A great attempt resulted with Aaron Cunningham striking the crossbar and we also spurned the chance of a couple of points. Then the visitors got their moment when they scored a good point from play. Once again it was the old head of Oisín McConville who restored the status quo with a well taken point from play. The next ten minutes belonged to our opponents and three points in a row, two from frees and one from play brought the sides level at 1-7 each. By this stage Martin Aherne

had replaced Stephen Finnegan while Kyle Carragher replaced Francis Hanratty. Kyle Carragher's substitution made an instant impact when, taking a good pass from Tony Kernan, he restored our advantage with a well taken point. However our opponents were not finished and a point from play left the sides level with seven minutes left to play. At this stage Paul Hearty's kickouts were outstanding finding a man each time. This was a critical time for the boys when questions were being asked of the commitment and how did they answer them. Two great points in a row from Kyle Carragher gave us breathing space and although our opponents threw everything at us our defence held firm. We then mounted another attack and Stephen Kernan finished the game off with a fine point from play to leave the final score Rangers 1-11 Dromintee 1-8.

This was a tough exciting game of football, not really one for the purist, but to win a championship you have to be up for the game, no matter what way it is played. It was a tough, hard game of football and great credit must go to both sides for the sporting manner in which it was played. Great credit must go to team managers Gareth O'Neill and Tony McEntee, they surely got it right on the day. A special word also to our trainer Seamie McGeown, who had the boys in great shape. It certainly showed in the last five minutes. It was great to see Paddy McNamee there, Paddy got out of hospital for a couple of hours for the match.

#### Minor Championship

Congratulations to Shane O'Neill's on winning their first Minor Championship. May it be the first of many.

#### Half time draw

The winner of the half time draw for £100 was Gerard McFall from Belfast.

#### U16 Girls County Champions

The committee and members of the ladies football would like to congratulate the u16 girls and Gareth Rooney [Blackie] on winning their championship final last Sunday against Dromintee in Sliverbridge. Well done!! Your club and parents are proud of you all.

#### Scor na nOg

The club are participating in Scor na nOg. Anyone under 17 and wishing to take part or if you feel you can help out please contact Peter McMahon on 07861637755 or 30868179 or any member of the committee.

#### AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Rangers Hall on Wednesday 24th November at 7.30pm sharp. All members requested to attend. The AGM gives supporters a chance to have their voice heard. It is no use criticising the club down the town, come along and give us your advice.

#### Christmas Party Nights

The Christmas Party night has been arranged for Saturday 19th December in the

Rangers Hall, music by Caitlin & Applejack. There is always a demand for tickets so early booking is advisable. To reserve a table or book a place contact Fergal McMahon or any member of the committee.

#### Bag Pack

The club will be having a bag pack in Sainsbury's on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The club will require a lot of help to cover the day. If you feel you can be of assistance, please contact any member of the committee.

#### Club History

The GAA are asking all clubs to update their history and send it to Croke Park where it will be archived. We are looking for personal memories stories, photographs, mementos, medals, newspaper clippings of the club over the years. Copies will be taken and the originals returned to the owner. Contact club secretary Gerard Rushe at 30861895, P.R.O. Tom McKay at 30861043 or any member of the committee.

#### Lotto

The lotto jackpot was not won last week and now stands at £1,400 or €2,800. The lotto provides much needed funds for the day to day running of the club and your support is much appreciated. A large club like ours requires a huge amount of money to keep us going as insurance, transport and equipment costs have risen dramatically over the last few years. I would ask all our members to support the lotto and if you could sell five or ten tickets to your friends we will only be too happy to provide you with a book.

#### Social Entertainment

Social entertainment continues in the hall on Monday nights, the club runs this event for the benefit of the community and your support is much appreciated.

#### Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Rangers player Shane McCoy who married Selena Walsh from Newry, we wish them many years of health and happiness together.

#### Sympathy

It is with deep regret we learned of the death of Roy Albert, brother of former player Seamus and Uncle of Underage Player Conor, Liam and Shane O'Neill. To his mother, father, brother and sisters we send our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.