

**Carlow Soccer 31.01.10****Fixtures****Sat 06 Feb****O'Neill's LFA Youths Cup (e.t.p.)**

Bagenalstown v Wexford Yths 2pm M. Salter

**Diamond Woodcraft Youths Division**

Baltinglass v St. Fiacc's 2pm G. Cosgrove  
Derry Rvs v Parkville Utd 2pm M. Doran  
Killeshin FC v Palatine Cel 2pm Mick. Murphy  
FC Carlow v New Oak 2pm J. Wynne

**Sun 07 Feb****F.A.I. Umbro Junior Cup (e.t.p.)**

Crettyard Utd v Portmarnock 12 noon J.Wynne

**Evening Herald Carlow Shield (e.t.p.)**

Bagenalstown v Parkville Utd 11am M. Salter  
Hanover Hps v Ridge Rngs 11am P. Moran  
New Oak v Nurney Villa 11am G. Cosgrove  
St. Joseph's v Baltinglass 2pm M. O'Reilly

**Carlow People Premier**

Kilree Cel v Stretford Utd 11am M. Doran  
Wolfhill Ath v Burrin Cel 11am G. O'Sullivan

**Nationalist Division**

Ballymurphy v Crettyard Utd 2pm B. O'Reilly  
Grange FC v Castle Rngs 11am P. Hurley  
Slaney Rvs v Killeshin FC 11am C. O'Rourke  
St. Fiacc's v St. Anne's 11am E. Cummins

**Whites Pharmacy Division**

Borris FC v Parkville Utd 11am J. Bowes  
Hacketstown v Palatine Cel 11am D. Hickey  
New Oak v Rathanna FC 2pm M. Monaghan

**Evening Herald Division**

Grange FC v Carlow Rvs 2pm Mn. Murphy  
Nurney Villa v Derry Rvs 2pm D. Lyons  
Shamrocks v Burrin Cel 2pm C. Haughney  
St. Fiacc's v Tullow Twn 2pm D. Lyons

**Seniors Division**

Nurney Villa v Thomastown 2.30 S. Doyle  
Wolfhill Ath v Killeshin FC 2pm Mick Murphy

**Golden Boot*****Week-ending 24 Jan*****Carlow People Premier**

8 Buggy Ray, Ridge Rangers

7 Doyle John, Kilree Celtic

6 Fox Brendan, Crettyard United

5 Farrell Jamie, Parkville United

5 Kavanagh Willie, Crettyard United

5 Broderick Paul, New Oak Boys

5 Byrne Ronan, Parkville United

5 Dunne Liam, Ridge Rngs

**Nationalist Division**

8 Pearson Brian, Castle Rangers

7 Pearson Roy, Castle Rangers

6 Doogue Mark, St. Fiacc's F.C.

5 Doyle Ian, Nurney Villa

5 Byrne Patrick, Grange F.C.

5 Byrne Niall, Grange F.C.

5 Foley Kevin, Ballymurphy Celtic

5 Whelan Michael, Ballymurphy Celtic

5 Doyle Ian, Nurney Villa

5 Kearney William, Nurney Villa

**Whites Pharmacy Division**

11 Nolan Colin, New Oak Boys

10 Reid John, Palatine Celtic

7 Scully Ian, St. Joseph's F.C.

6 Kelly Graham, New Oak Boys

6 Foley Jesse, Borris F.C.

5 Farrell Gavin, Palatine Celtic

5 Hennessey Stephen, New Oak Boys

**Evening Herald Division**

11 Nolan Paul, Derry Rovers

10 Salter Lee, St. Fiacc's

6 Lea Joe, Shamrocks F.C

6 Power Matthew, St. Fiacc's.

5 Heavin Saul, Shamrocks F.C.

**Seniors Division**

7 Walker Brian, New Oak Boys

5 Owens Christy, Wolfhill Athletic

5 Walsh Gary, New Oak Boys

3 Whelan P.J. Thomastown United  
 3 Nolan Fergus, Killeshin F.C.

**Diamond Woodcraft Youths Division.**

11 Nolan Paul, Derry Rovers  
 8 Kenny Adam, Derry Rovers  
 8 Kane Jason, Palatine Celtic  
 8 Byrne Dale, St. Fiacc's  
 7 Lowry Shane, Killeshin FC  
 6 Byrne Conor, St. Fiacc's

**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>
Crettyard United	8	7	1	0	31	4	22	
Hanover Harps	10	7	1	2	32	16	22	
Stretford United	11	7	1	3	22	14	22	
New Oak Boys	10	7	1	2	24	22	22	
Parkville United	11	5	4	2	26	18	19	
Ridge Rangers 14	4	3	7	23	25	15		
Kilree Celtic. 12	4	3	5	20	28	15		
Wolfhill Athletic	10	2	2	6	17	26	8	
Bagenalstown F.C.	11	1	3	7	15	27	6	
Burrin Celtic 11	0	1	10	7	37	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>
Nurney Villa 9	6	1	2	23	10	19		
Castle Rangers	9	6	0	3	32	23	18	
St. Anne's F.C.	8	5	2	1	18	11	17	
St. Fiacc's F.C.	10	5	1	4	22	18	16	
Ballymurphy Celtic	10	5	1	4	21	20	16	
Slaney Rovers 8	4	2	2	15	12	14		
Killeshin F.C. 9	2	1	6	11	18	7		
Grange F.C. 10	2	0	8	17	32	6		
Crettyard United	9	2	0	7	9	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>
New Oak Boys	10	9	1	0	38	7	28	
Hacketstown United	11	7	0	4	28	20	21	
Palatine Celtic 9	6	2	1	31	13	20		
Hanover Harps	12	6	1	5	19	20	19	
St. Joseph's 8	4	1	3	27	16	13		
Borris F.C. 11	2	4	5	16	22	10		
Parkville United	11	2	2	7	14	39	8	
Baltinglass Boys	9	1	4	4	16	20	7	
Rathanna F.C. 9	0	1	8	9	41	1		

<b>Evening Herald Div. P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts.</b>	
Derry Rovers 10	9	0	1	36	8	27	
Shamrocks F.C.	10	9	0	1	36	10	27
St. Fiacc's F.C.	8	5	0	3	25	14	15
Tullow Town 8	3	1	4	14	16	10	
Nurney Villa 9	2	3	4	16	21	9	
St. Anne's F.C.	8	2	2	4	14	22	8
Carlow Rovers	9	2	2	5	13	26	8
Burrin Celtic 6	0	2	4	9	21	2	
Grange F.C. 8	0	2	6	13	38	2	

### **Seniors Division**

Wolfhill Athletic	5	5	0	0	12	0	15
Killeshin F.C. 7	5	0	2	11	6	15	
New Oak Boys	6	4	0	2	16	7	12
Thomastown United	7	3	1	3	14	12	10
Nurney Villa 7	2	2	3	7	14	8	
Stradbally Town	7	1	2	4	9	19	5
St. Fiacc's F.C.	7	0	1	6	4	15	1*

\*Fiacc's removed from O35 Cup for failure to fulfil fixture Per Rule 37.4

### **Diamond Woodcraft Youth Division**

Derry Rovers 9	5	3	1	26	15	18	
St. Fiacc's	9	5	4	0	32	16	15*
Killeshin F.C. 9	3	3	3	19	14	14*	
Bagenalstown 8	3	2	3	18	16	13*	
Parkville Utd 6	3	2	1	14	10	11	
Palatine Cel 6	2	2	2	15	12	8	
Baltinglass 9	2	0	7	13	35	6	
New Oak Boys	9	1	1	7	11	30	3*
F.C. Carlow 1	0	1	0	2	2	1	

\* New Oak deducted points for illegal player v Bagenalstown

\* St. Fiacc's deducted points for illegal player v Killeshin F.C.

## **Noticeboard**

### **Transfers**

The Transfer of Players second window is now closed

### **FAI RULE 83. TEAM MISCONDUCT**

1. The following constitute misconduct by a team and are sanctioned by a fine:

- when at least five players are cautioned or sent from the field of play during one match;
- when at least three players are sent off during one match;
- when several players together make threats or show force against a match official.

### **Free Days**

Free Saturday/Sunday – Under 10 Day Rule, request for a Free Saturday/Sunday must be made 10 clear working days before the date of the fixture. Again under the new Rule

Definitions adopted at the A.G.M. and F.A.I. Rules “days” do not include Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays. Therefore to comply with the Rule written requests only must be made two weeks in advance of the required day.

### **Player Registration**

Registration Forms must be with the League a clear two days before league games and a clear fourteen days before any cup fixture whether Domestic or National. For normal weekend league games Registrations must be delivered by Wednesday nights and must include the Player registration Fee of €5 per player. Under the new Rule Definitions adopted at the A.G.M. and F.A.I. Rules, “days” do not include Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays.

### **Discipline**

The Disciplinary Committee will meet on Monday nights in the Seven Oaks Hotel at 8.30pm. Players sent off on the week-end prior to the immediate week-end before the meeting will be dealt with and must attend or be represented, clubs and players will not be notified. The first meeting of the new season will take place on Monday September 07 to deal with red cards from matches on 28 to 30 August only and every Monday thereafter.

### **Suspensions**

Players red carded must serve an automatic suspension with the same team in the next competitive game except for F.A.I., L.F.A. Cups/Shields and Oscar Traynor Trophy. If in doubt please contact League Secretary.

### **Match Reporting**

Match Reporting: Premier and Whites Pharmacy Divisions, all reports to Dan McDonnell, Sunday 5-6pm only, 0863324536 or 0599141704 or e-mails before 4.30pm to: [buzzno7@eircom.net](mailto:buzzno7@eircom.net). Nationalist Division to Seanie Murphy, Sunday 5-6pm only 0599146416. Division 3 and Seniors Division (formally Over 35's) to John Coughlan, Sunday 5-6pm only 0599140746 or e-mails before 5pm to: [secretary@carlowsoccer.ie](mailto:secretary@carlowsoccer.ie). Diamond Woodcraft Youths to Seanie Murphy, Saturdays only 5-6pm 0599146416.

### **Results**

#### **Sat 30 Jan**

#### **FAI Umbro Youths Interleague Cup**

Kildare 5-2 Carlow

#### **O'Neill's LFA Junior Cup Rd 4**

Dundrum 2-3 Hanover Hps a.e.t.

#### **Diamond Woodcraft Youths Division**

Bagenalstown off Crettyard Utd

Baltinglass 0-4 Killeslin FC

Palatine Cel 3-3 St. Fiacc's

Parkville Utd 2-0 New Oak

**Sun 31 Jan**

**O'Neill's LFA Junior Cup Rd 4**

Crettyard Utd 5-0 Wicklow Twn

**Carlow people Premier**

Bagenalstown 0-0 Kilree Cel  
Burrin Cel 1-4 Stretford Utd  
Parkville Utd 2-2 Ridge Rngs  
Wolfhill Ath 0-2 New Oak

**Nationalist Division**

Castle Rngs 4-3 Ballymurphy  
Grange FC 1-3 St. Anne's  
Killeshin FC 2-0 St. Fiacc's  
Slaney Rvs 3-1 Crettyard Utd

**Whites Pharmacy Division**

Baltinglass 2-1 St. Joseph's  
Hacketstown 4-2 Rathanna  
Hanover Hps 1-0 Borris FC  
Palatine Cel 3-1 Parkville Utd

**Evening Herald Division**

Grange FC 0-1 Tullow Twn  
Nurney Villa 1-1 Carlow Rvs  
St. Anne's 1-7 Shamrocks  
St. Fiacc's 1-3 Derry Rvs

**Seniors Division**

Killeshin FC 4-2 St. Fiacc's  
New Oak 0-1 Nurney Villa  
Thomastown 3-1 Stradbally

**REPORTS**

**O'Neill's LFA Junior Cup**

**Dundrum FC 2**

**Hanover Harps 3 a.e.t.**

Dundrum's casual approach to the early exchanges suited Hanover who quickly demonstrated an ability to crack the Dundrum offside tactic through the intelligent running of Mark Carpenter and the skill of Declan Hayden.

The visitors might have taken the lead on eleven minutes when P J Brennan zipped into space after intercepting a misplaced Dundrum pass but fired over an inviting target. The Dublin units defence gradually got to grips with Hanover's well timed attacks while the visitors defence had little trouble coping with the opposition defence apparently short of

attacking ideas. The deadlock was finally broken when PJ Brennan delivered a corner with deadly accuracy into the heart of the Dundrum defensive zone with a scrambled clearance escaping to the edge of the area where Cathal Coughlan arrived on queue to lash an unstoppable shot high into the net to give Hanover the lead on 30 minutes. This event shook Dundrum from their complacency and a tenacious Hanover defended tooth and nail during the following exchanges. It seemed to have taken the best that the home team could engineer against them until a hotly disputed decision to award a free on the edge of their area resulted in a craftily engineered score drawing the sides' level shortly before the break.

If the Dundrum lads expected to have their own way on the resumption, they were very quickly brought back to reality by a Hanover unit whose midfield sector dovetailed perfectly with its back four where Leo Whelan and PJ Brennan reigned supreme as the temperature of the exchanges went up a degree or two. Scoring chances at this end of the pitch weren't a rarity – they just weren't happening for an increasingly frustrated Dundrum who fell behind on 70 minutes. Derek Hayden once again made a well timed interception before turning on the gas as he raced through a number of tackles and calmly beating the advancing Dundrum keeper to restore the Hanover lead. The prospect of representing Carlow in the last 32 of the competition was put on ice as the Hanover lads sought to draw their defensive iron curtain as the game entered the final exchanges. A rare defensive blip allowed Dundrum to engineer a well taken score to equalise on 88 minutes and ensure that the game went into extra time.

Almost direct from the kick off Hanover gave the home unit the fright of their lives when Derek Hayden skilfully evaded a number of tackles as he jinked his way deep into the Dundrum box before being dispossessed by a last ditch tackle but the ball fell into the path of Paul Dowling who made no mistake from close range. The Dundrum ads found the Hanover defence in determined form during the following exchanges and the Carlow town based lads relied cleverly on the break to relieve the growing pressure. From one such break Hanover's Mark Carpenter won a penalty which Paul Dowling drove too close to the home keeper but it was too late for the Dundrum unit by this stage. Best for Hanover included Leo Whelan, PJ Brennan, Derek Hayden and Mark Carpenter.

**Crettyard United     5**

**Wicklow Town        0**

Quickly taking the game by the scruff of the neck the Wicklow unit imposed their intentions and plan on the Crettyard lads who were busily and calmly taking stock of the situation.

While a couple of half chances were created they resulted in wayward rushed shots at goal where John Graham was enjoying another influential game shielded by a defence in which Raymond Buggy and Terence Haughney began to impose their authority as the growing demands of the exchanges required. As the steam evaporated out of Wicklow's attacking options Crettyard began unmistakably to turn the screw in midfield and the visitors defence became increasingly uncomfortable every time Chrístóir Maher's passing lifted their lid delivering passes from midfield into unprotected spaces for Lee Quays and Brendan Fox to chase with characteristic energy and determination. Perhaps thanks to lady luck and a degree of misfiring in the Crettyard front line the Wicklow defence remained solid until a great run by Willy Fitzpatrick was brought to a premature halt on

the edge of the Wicklow box. The defensive wall was lined up but everyone other than the visitors knew what was coming as Chrístóir Maher stroked the free unerringly beyond a fixed Wicklow keeper on 31 minutes. Crettyard knew what to expect during the following exchanges and were well prepared for the response which was handled in thoroughly efficient fashion to half time.

Once the early second half exchanges were processed, Crettyard settled into a familiar pattern of play but in a spate of five minutes, they effectively wrapped up this tie ensuring that they join Hanover in the last 32 of the competition. The second goal was created by Chrístóir Maher whose deft release allowed Mark Kelly to rifle a thunderous shot to the Wicklow net on 47 minutes. The visitors may have been contemplating on how to muster an effective response at this stage but whatever their ambitions might have been, they counted for little after a mazy run by the tricky Willy Fitzpatrick created chaos deep in the Wicklow defensive zone. This allowed Brendan Fox to swoop and score to put Crettyard into a commanding position on 49 minutes. The following exchanges were evenly balanced but Chrístóir Maher pounced yet again to add to the visitors woes before Lee Quay darted through to lob a disorientated Wicklow keeper to wrap up the tie as early as 66 minutes. Best for Crettyard included Raymond Buggy, Terence Haughney, Mark Kelly and Keith Purcell.

### **Carlow People Premier**

**Bagenalstown 0**

**Kilree Celtic 0**

The overnight frost did nothing to dampen early spirits in this keenly awaited Bagenalstown local derby encounter.

However, dour defences managed to keep real scoring chances to the minimum during the first quarter with Blaine Dwyer arching a free from the edge of the box a whisker over the Town bar the nearest event to a score. Within minutes Bagenalstown's David Devine angled a pass from Josh Doyle into the path of Trevor Nolan whose powerful strike was deflected for an unproductive corner by the in form Pa Cody. The exchanges were compacted into the middle third of the pitch and another Bagenalstown corner delivery by Danny Darcy extracted a meaty header from Julian Mauplin but the effort flew well over an inviting target on 27 minutes. Almost immediately, a Kilree attack earned a free which saw a stretching Martin Cody touch John Manahan's defence splitting pass wide of an open goal. This proved to be the pattern of the first half exchanges with Trevor Nolan going closest to breaking the deadlock for Bagenalstown. Clearly, intent on getting the upper hand Kilree almost corralled the Town defence into its own half on the resumption with Tony O'Byrne's free bringing a brilliant reaction save from the home keeper who could do little as the deflected ball was cleared for a corner with Johnny Dowling loitering with intent. Kilree were now enjoying their football and Blaine Dwyer released to John Monahan who forced another good save from the Town custodian on 58 minutes. Gradually Bagenalstown began to re-establish themselves in midfield and on 70 minutes Trevor Nolan's low cross was met perfectly by Josh Doyle who brought the save of the game from Pa Cody in the Kilree goal. Within minutes Julian Mauplin fed a pass through to Trevor Nolan who released to an unmarked Paul Breslin whose shot had a goal written all over it but the ball was deflected wide. The Kilree defence was enduring a torrid spell with David Devine making a run before cutting

inside and lashing a shot goal wards only to see the Celtic keeper make another fine save on 77 minutes. However, Kilree remained focused on the main chance and it came when Blaine Dwyer raced through midfield frustrating the home offside trap but blazed his shot across goal and wide of the far post on 84 minutes. As the game drew to a close Bagenalstown's Danny Darcy delivered an inviting cross which Andrew Townsend flashed wide. A defensive nightmare almost presented Kilree's Barry Bamberick with a last gasp gift wrapped scoring opportunity but the occasion proved too much with a share of the points deserved by the on field exploits of Town's Danny Darcy, Julian Mauplin and Andrew Townsend. Most impressive for Kilree included Martin Foley, Micko Salter, Niall Walsh and John Monahan.

### **Burrin Celtic 1 Stretford United 4**

It has always been difficult to predict the likely outcome in encounters between these two well matched sides and Stretford seemed uncharacteristically nervous at the back against a busy Celtic forward line.

That line up in which Michael O'Leary looked capable of exploiting even half chances. Burrin were particularly dangerous from dead ball situations with Matty Dowling and Alan O'Donovan having goal bound efforts cleared off the line by United's alert defender Jamie Kavanagh by the end of the first quarter.

Gradually Stretford improved but found James Foley in the Burrin goal in superb form. Some enterprising attacking play saw United's James Ryan through on goal and when his shot came back off the foot of the post John 'Hajji' Doyle slotted home in the 30th minute. With the following exchanges evenly balanced, United preserved their lead to half time.

Having lost the initiative Burrin quickly set about seizing the moment but they were thwarted by the excellent defending of United's P.J. Connolly, Eugene Keating and debutant goalie Jason Carter. This provided the foundation for a darting attack which resulted in United going two up on 60 minutes. Gary Powell threaded a pass into the path of John Doyle who beat the advancing keeper to score. Burrin remained a threat and deservedly reduced the arrears when Matty Dowling climbed highest to knock Michael O'Leary's corner to the net on 66 minutes and this was quickly followed by a sliding Alan O'Donovan touching a ball wide of goal on 70 minutes. Celtic's Denis O'Regan then forced a good save from Jason Carter. However, disaster struck for Celtic when a John Doyle corner kick was angled towards goal by Gary Powell who celebrated when Paul Hickey got himself into a terrible tangle as he hooked the ball into his own net on 80 minutes. The game was settled on 86 minutes when opportunist John Doyle scored his hat trick after a speculative effort by Gary Powell was deflected into his path to score from close range and reward the earlier efforts of Jamie Kavanagh, P.J. Connolly, Conor Dooley and James Ryan. Best for an improving Burrin were Mark McCann, Denis O'Regan, Mark Hutton and Paul Hickey.

### **Parkville United 2 Ridge Rangers 2**

A strangely disjointed Ridge defence almost handed Parkville the lead on five minutes. They allowed an unattended Jamie Farrell to get to the by-line before pulling the ball back for the ever dangerous Ebby Quigley to blast over a yawning goal. This fright drew the desired response from a Ridge defence in which keeper Adrian Brennan proceeded to enjoy an influential game forcing the home team into shots from long range with Jonathon Smithers effort going closest to breaking the deadlock on 17 minutes. Ridge proved that their arsenal was in tip-top shape when Liam Dunne and Damien Sheehan combined to set up Ray Buggy to force a great reaction save from the United keeper on 19 minutes. This proved to be a warning with Ridge going ahead on 25 minutes with the speedy Damien Sheehan setting up Ray Buggy to volley to the United net on 26 minutes. During the course of the following exchanges the Ridge defence proved impenetrable while the United defence was less convincing allowing Jim Dunne the space to connect with a Damien Sheehan cross but the United keeper made an excellent stop just on the half time whistle.

On the resumption, Parkville ran the show but still found Conor McNally and keeper Adrian Brennan in commanding form making a number of timely interventions and brave saves to deny Jamie Farrell, Ronan Byrne and Ebby Quigley. It began to look like there was no way through until a bit of midfield magic by JJ Connolly who dispossessed Jim Dunne before setting up Ebby Quigley to crack a rising shot across goal to equalise on 68 minutes. Doubt appeared to creep into Ridge's defending during the following exchanges with Cian Madden having a header cleared off the Rangers line. However, the visitors weathered the storm and then stormed into the lead on the break when Damien Sheehan calmly retained midfield possession and ran through a static United defence before picking his spot to restore Rangers lead on 80 minutes. It was looking like the points were destined for the visitor's pockets until their occasional frailty at dead ball situations spelt disaster when JJ Connolly equalised following a scramble deep in the Ridge box. Almost on the final whistle, another Ridge break saw Gary Dunne skilfully evade a number of tackles before racing towards goal but the home keeper got a vital touch which ensured a share of the points and a reward for the efforts of Jamie Farrell, Ebby Quigley and David Earle. Best for Ridge included Sean Dunne, Bobby Daly and Ray Buggy.

**Wolfhill Athletic      0**  
**New Oak Boys         2**

The early exchanges were evenly balanced with New Oak fielding a much changed selection drawing encouragement from the performances of some of their younger charges in particular keeper Darren McGill.

While caution dominated the first quarter the game became more adventurous with New Oak's Paul Broderick crashing a free towards goal forcing a good save from Kevin Kelly in the Wolves goal. Wolfhill's best chance was created by Philip Brennan whose well timed release allowed PJ Rowan to race forward before releasing a shot which clipped the post on 27 minutes. New Oak took the lead on 35 minutes when a lengthy clearance by Darren Mc Gill shifted in the air and a wrong footing the usually reliable Jimmy Brennan whose misplaced header allowed Jimmy White to dart forward before releasing to Brian Carbery who beat the advancing Kevin Kelly to give New Oak the lead on 30 minutes. Almost directly, on the resumption, the impressive Alan Walsh saw an

opportunity from distance but his effort flew narrowly wide. With defences on top and the New Oak midfield sector of Willard Kinsella and Brian Carbery working hard during the following exchanges scoring chances were at a premium with New Oak leading at half time.

Playing against the elements New Oak found themselves under early pressure as Wolves sought an early equalizer with good quality chances being wasted by PJ Rowan and Liam Kelly. These proved to be very costly as New Oak occasionally surgical precision was in evidence as Willard Kinsella combined with Brian Carbery whose daisy cutter deep into the heart of Wolfhill's defensive zone allowed Jimmy White to score with ease on 66 minutes. The home side visibly wilted at this setback and New Oak became more dangerous during the following exchanges and could even afford the luxury of Brian Carbery fluffing a penalty on 70 minutes. Wolfhill's best chance of getting back into the game materialized on 85 minutes when Alan Walsh arched a free kick into the New Oak box and with the visitors defence for once hesitating Mark Fox steered his header narrowly wide. Best for Wolfhill were Alan Walsh, Brian Fleming and the impressive Kevin Kelly while most impressive for a hard working New Oak included David O'Shea, Willard Kinsella, Paul Broderick and James White.

### **Nationalist Division**

**Grange FC 1**

**St. Anne's 3**

The three points gained following this difficult victory, see St. Anne's move into third from top of the Nationalist Division.

A game Grange side worked hard in the contest and it was only a late penalty which put a gloss on the scoreboard for the Saints. The home side took an early lead when Niall Byrne availed of a slip by an Anne's defender to score on six minutes. The Saints levelled from the penalty spot after 20 minutes, Grange 'keeper Charlie Timmons was deemed to have brought down Colin Campion and Campion put away the resulting spot kick. The side retired at half time with the scores tied at 1-1.

Johnny Kavanagh squandered a good chance for Grange early in the second half, shooting over from close range following good work by Paddy Byrne. The Ballylinan side went ahead midway through the half when Campion ran onto a ball, evaded a couple of Grange defenders and tucked the ball beyond Timmons. Grange struck back strongly and put severe pressure on the Saints defence and the visitors 'keeper had to make an excellent save from Paddy Byrne. Andrew Leonard had also to make a goal line clearance as Grange threw everything into attack. However, on the break, Anne's were awarded a second penalty and again Campion converted to complete his hat trick and secure maximum for his team.

Starring for St. Anne's were Andrew Leonard, Enda Butler and Pdraigh Brandon. For Grange FC, Paul Clancy, Christian Arguetta and Paddy Byrne Shone.

**Castle Rangers 4**

**Ballymurphy Celtic 3**

Victory here by the odd goal in seven saw Rangers move into second place in a very competitive Nationalist Division.

Rangers opened well and took a ten minute lead when Roy Pearson sent a speculative shot over the Celtic 'keeper, Jack Kavanagh. Twelve minutes later they increased their advantage when Paddy O'Brien done all the spadework for Pearson to score again. Five minutes from half time and two goals down Ballymurphy rallied and Kevin Foley put Shem Dwyer through to score. Celtic then levelled before the break, a David Lennon free was headed home by Thomas Doyle to leave it 2-2 at the interval.

Cailin Canning regained the lead for Rangers midway into the second half however, Celtic hit back again to level on 79 minutes, Kevin Foley got the final touch in a goalmouth scramble. Rangers then laid siege on the Celtic goal, forcing a number of corners. From one such set piece, Brian Coogan headed in to win the points with two minutes left on the clock.

For Castle Rangers Paddy O'Brien, Cailin Canning and Roy Pearson impressed. Tops for Ballymurphy Celtic were John Whelan, Thomas Doyle and Chris Kavanagh.

### **Killeshin FC 2**

### **St. Fiacc's 0**

Bottom of the table Killeshin caused a bit of an upset with victory over their near neighbours from Graiguecullen.

The home side were full value for their victory as they were always on top against lack lustre Fiacc's. Killeshin opened really well but were denied by Denis Nolan who was in excellent for in the visitor's goal. Fiacc's had their best spell in the second quarter and created a couple of good chances but efforts from Mark Doogue and Barry Murphy came to nothing as the half ended scoreless.

The second half saw Killeshin look the most likely to make the breakthrough and so it was to be when Ian Brennan scored on 70 minutes. Seven minutes later Michael McCartney doubled their advantage. Try as they may there was no way back for the Saints as Killeshin won the points which are vital as the fight to get out of the relegation zone.

For Killeshin FC there were fine performances from Eddie Brady, Glen Ryan and Dermot Whelan. For St. Fiacc's Denis Nolan, Patrick Scully and Nicky Brannigan were best.

### **Slaney Rovers 3**

### **Crettyard United 1**

Rovers completed a comfortable enough victory at home on Sunday.

The Rathvilly side were ahead with a Dominic Byrne goal following a quarter hours play. Despite having the lions share of the possession in the remainder of the half, Rovers came up against a stubborn United defence who denied any more goal scoring opportunities during the remainder of the half.

Again, in the second half Rovers had a mountain of possession but could make no inroads as the Crettyard defence and were set back on their heels when the Laois side on a rare attack levelled on 69 minutes. Slaney were then relieved when Michael Foley scored for them to regain the lead on 80 minutes. Five minutes later Dominic Byrne with his second goal insured Rovers with the points.

For Slaney Rovers Stephen Darcy, Michael Foley and Dominic Byrne shone.

### **Whites Pharmacy Division**

**Baltinglass Town Boys      2****St. Joseph's FC      1**

It's been a while coming but Baltinglass recorded their first win against a good St. Joseph's selection.

The foundation of this result was perhaps laid when Paddy Cronin made a great partial penalty save with Liam Nolan rushing to clear the loose ball as a posse of St Joes forwards swooped in a vain attempt to score. Baltinglass found themselves caught on defensive duty throughout the first half but on a rare attack David Rodgers agonised as his effort flew over the bar from close range.

The second half was just as eventful with some missed attempts by a number of the Baltinglass players until a direct free take by Kris Caplice clipped the inside of the St Joes post before finding the net on 70 minutes. With St. Joes very busy in their efforts to snaffle an equaliser Kris Caplice won possession in midfield before racing through to double the Baltinglass lead. As St. Joes sought to resuscitate their challenge Boy's Kevin Redmond almost scored with an opportunist effort. In the end, the Baltinglass lads held out thanks to the efforts of Paddy Cronin, Liam Nolan and Kris Caplice.

**Hacketstown United 4****Rathanna FC 2**

With Carlow town based New Oak's second string almost Champions elect in the division, the race for promotion gains momentum with Hacketstown looking like they are in with a challenge as they improve.

Their Jamie Walsh took advantage of a defensive error to score on 40 minutes. The visiting Rathanna lads were not prepared to give up the ghost easily and after some great attacking lay deservedly equalised on 55 minutes.

The following exchanges were evenly balanced until a spell of home pressure resulted in a penalty which Jamie Walsh converted to restore their lead on 76 minutes. Again, the Rathanna lads made a game of it and having gone close to equalising on a few occasions they equalised with a well taken score on 88 minutes. A share of the points seemed inevitable until Jamie Doyle's rising shot found the Rathanna net on 90 minutes and the same layer struck again after great approach play by David Byrne and Con Murphy. Best for Hacketstown were Mark Joyce, Jamie Walsh and James Doyle.

**Hanover Harps      1****Borris FC      0**

Playing at a high level in recent games Borris were quickly into their stride in this encounter.

Patrick Coleman and Jesse Foley went close to opening the scoring. The Hanover defence was marked absent as Anthony Jordan won possession in style and set up Jesse Foley for a shot at goal which beat the Harps keeper but rebounded to safety off the foot of the post on 17 minutes. Gradually Hanover came more into the game and their improving play was rewarded when Anthony McGrath broke through the excellent Borris rearguard only to be denied a certain score by John McKeever in goal for Borris on 25 minutes. Both defences but up the hatches during the following exchanges but a long ball from Patrick Coleman allowed Jesse Foley to get in on goal only to be denied a great score by a good save by the Hanover keeper.

Borris enjoyed much the better of the third quarter exchanges thanks to the efforts of Anthony Stafford and Anthony Jordan and these combined to set up Pat Coleman for a score but he shot wide on 55 minutes. Within minutes the same layer climbed highest to meet a well taken Chris Coleman free but the ball clattered the bar before being cleared by a relieved Hanover defence. It was all Borris but they failed to break down the well marshalled Hanover defence which celebrated when Aaron Wynne beat the Borris offside trap to score the winner in a smash and grab raid on 88 minutes. Best for Hanover included Johnny Watters, Brian O'Hara, John Barcoe and Martin Phelan. Best for Borris included Ger Foley, Anthony Stafford, Jesse Foley and Patrick Coleman.

**Palatine Celtic**        **3**  
**Parkville United**     **1**

The first quarter exchanges were evenly matched.

Palatine went ahead when Gavin Farrell pounced on an error in the Parkville defence to score. The United lads worked tirelessly to break down a well organised Pal defence but they held on to retain their lead at half time.

With the visitors attacking, Gavin Farrell scored again on the break on 55 minutes to put Celtic in the games driving seat, and he completed his hat trick on 70 minutes with a fine strike following good work from David and John Reid. Palatine spurned a number of chances to extend their lead and Parkville grabbed a late consolation goal three minutes from time. Best for Palatine were Chris Ó' Brien, Niall Reid and Gavin Farrell.

### **Evening Herald Division**

**St. Fiacc's**        **1**  
**Derry Rovers** **3**

Derry Rovers remain joint leaders following there hard fought encounter with St. Fiacc's in Oak Park.

In a six pointer game Fiacc's failure to be more alert and focused made Rovers life easy and just five minutes into the game Derry were in front when a corner taken by Paul Nolan was allowed to go straight in. Rovers were control for most of the first half with ease looked to add another goal, only to find the Saints 'keeper in good form having saves from Richie Sinnott, Adam Kenny and a brilliant save from a Paul Nolan free kick. Credit to Fiacc's, they knuckled down and got their game going, creating a few chances, which they should have capitalised on. Then Derry produced the move of the match, a long ball was won by Darren Coleman who flicked it to the impressive Adam Kenny who killed it for Paul Nolan to drill a 20 yard volley in off the post. 2-0 to Derry at the break. In the second half Fiacc's came out fighting, really playing allot better. They again failed to take their chances their only goal coming from a Lee Salter penalty on 80 minutes. Chances were hard to come by for Rovers but Adam and Cillian McCabe missed easy chances before Paul Nolan was brought down inside the box and he made no mistake in completing his hat trick.

Best for Derry Rovers were Paul Nolan Richie Sinnott and Adam Kenny. For St. Fiacc's David Scully, Kevin Barry Walsh and Darren Murnane put in good performances.

**St. Anne's**        **1**  
**Shamrocks FC**     **7**

With eight consecutive league wins under their belt, Shamrocks set out to consolidate their position at the top of the table and had much the better of the early exchanges. John Kenny opened the scoring on seven minutes and just a minute later Colin Price made it 2-0 for the visitors. On twelve minutes, a good delivery from Danny Pereira found Price who made no mistake in putting the ball past the Anne's 'keeper for his second. Two minutes later Shamrocks went further ahead with a fine goal from the hardworking Gary Murphy. The Saints battled well and were rewarded for their efforts with a well taken Ross Cardiff goal on 22 minutes. However only for some fine defending and superb goalkeeping from Anthony Core for Shamrocks, the Saints could have been much closer at half time with excellent chances from Ross Cardiff who had two and John Griffin.

The second half saw both sides squander a number of opportunities, Adrian Casey and Willie Murphy for Anne's before Shamrocks substitute James Williamson curled the ball to the net from a well taken free kick on 75 minutes. Further goals from Joe Lea on 79 minutes and Timmy Curry on 82 minutes ended the challenge of the home side, which had no answer to a well organised Shamrock team.

Shamrock side were A. Core, K. Coakley, M. Lyons, J. Cooney, D. Doyle, J. Owens, D. Pereira, J. Kenny, G. Murphy, C. Price, J. Lea. Substitutes: J. Williamson for J. Owens, G. Walker for J. Kenny, T. Curry for C. Price. Best players for St. Anne's were Ross Cardiff and Adrian Casey.

### **Nurney Villa 1 Carlow Rovers 1**

In a very tight game from start to finish that was played in difficult freezing conditions the points were shared in Nurney on Sunday afternoon.

In a scoreless first half Rovers dominated most of the exchanges with the cold wind behind them and had lots of chances to score however Nurney defended doggedly. Rovers best chances came by way of Gary Canavan who went one on one with the Villa 'keeper but he dragged his shot wide, Jamie Hanley's effort from 18 yards was well saved.

In the second half Nurney now with the elements in their favour they began to take control of the game. They got their goal on 61 minutes, a great volley by Thomas Murphy. Villa had a good opportunity of doubling their advantage when Paddy Deevy forced the Rovers 'keeper to push the ball off the crossbar and wide. Rovers were still creating chances but very poor finishing was costing them goals. Best chances were a Jonathan Kenny's shot that hit the crossbar and a Kevin O'Neill effort dragged wide. With the game in injury time they finally got our equalizer, a ball played out wide to the left was crossed back into the box by Jonathan Kenny and Wesley Shirley rose the highest to head the ball into the bottom corner. A draw was a fair result to both teams on a difficult day.

For Nurney Villa, Eamonn Dowling, Adrian Dermody, Pa Dowling and Alan Quinn put in good performances. Best players for Carlow Rovers were Dermot Ingram, Noel Purcell and Wesley Shirley.

### **Grange FC 0 Tullow Town 1**

These two teams that are struggling to find their form met in a derby tie with Tullow shading the outcome to advance to the top half of the table.

Grange started well and five minutes in from a free kick just outside the box, David Moran hit the crossbar and on 25 minutes, John Doyle put Kieran Pender through only for Pender to shoot wide. The half ended scoreless.

Tullow had a better second half display however Grange still managed to create chances with John Doyle forcing a good save from the Town 'keeper on 55 minutes and again on 60 minutes. The Tullow experience began to click in against a stubborn young Grange side and on 78 minutes, they made the breakthrough when Eddie Farrell scored. Late in the game, Stephen Doyle made a great run for Grange from midfield to the edge of the box but he shot straight at the Town 'keeper. Despite all of pressure Tullow defended well and held out for the three valuable points.

Best players for Tullow Town were Padraig Corcoran, Damien O'Brien and Eddie Farrell. For Grange FC Jimmy Murphy, Kieran Pender and Paddy O'Keefe put in good performances.

### **Seniors Division**

**New Oak Boys        0**

**Nurney Villa    1**

Having lost their opening game of the season to New Oak, a much more confident Nurney turned the table in the return fixture.

Having taken three points from a strong Killeshin just before Christmas, Villa are growing with confidence. However, the Boys started brightly and a cross from Brian Walker found Kieran Shields at the back post only to find his header hit the crossbar and go to safety. Fifteen minutes in a great one two between Brian Walker and Tony O'Reilly only to find his shot hit the post. Ten minutes later a great run and shot by Joe Redmond was well saved by Nurney 'keeper to leave it scoreless at half time.

With New Oak well on top, you got the feeling it was going to be their day. A number of chances fell to the Boys in the second half best of which was a shot from Tony O'Reilly which hit post and crossbar and bounce to safety and from a corner by Gary Walsh Ivor Bowes header hit the crossbar. It may look as if it was all one way traffic in the second half but Nurney had upped their performance in the second right from the off. With Denis Bermingham creating chances for them but having then just off target. Then on 64 minutes from a bad Boys mistake, Mark Lowry shot one past the Boys 'keeper to break the deadlock and take a very valuable lead. Despite New Oak's best efforts, Villa came away with all the points and enhances their chances in the second half of the season.

Derry O'Toole, Vinnie Murphy, Sean Farrell and Richard stood out for a gallant Nurney Villa. Best on the day for New Oak Boys were Ivor Bowe, Tony O'Reilly and P J Duffy.

**Killeshin FC    4**

**St. Fiacc's       2**

Killeshin's recent improvement sees them in joint top place however with two games extra played.

Fiacc's went into this game suffering from the loss of some of their regulars to injury however, they went ahead after only five minutes when Mick Lawlor struck a very well taken free kick past the Killeshin 'keeper with the slightest deflection. With difficult

pitch conditions, but both sides made the most of it. Killeshin equalised with a long throw by Eugene O'Rourke that caught the Saints lads flatfooted and Eugene Brennan finished to the back of the Fiacc's net. The home side piled on the pressure which paid off when they took the lead, a cross from John McHugh found Fergus Nolan who finished beautifully. Not giving up Fiacc's stepped up a gear and from the edge of the box Mick Lawlor fired home his second of the game to bring things level. With five minutes remaining before half time Killeshin took the lead again when the Killeshin player Jimmy Fitzpatrick found him self centre of goal and with a long hard low shot he fired past a helpless Saints 'keeper Séamus Farrell .

During the break saw Fiacc's make a couple of substitutions when they lost there two centre half's with injury, Keith Kinsella and Fergal Hurley who went between the sticks and carried on. J. J. Hurley Aidan Power and Eugene Mulholland all gave good displays for Fiacc's and whatever chance they had of getting back into the game were lost when Brendan Kearns was sent off for his second yellow card. Killeshin sensed victory and scored one more goal with ten minutes left, Colm Fitzgerald the scorer. On the day Killeshin deserved the win with there strength in depth of a squad, whose best performers were Richard Seery, Eugene Brennan and John McHugh.

### **Thomastown United 3 Stradbally Town 1**

In an evenly contested fixture, defences dominated, however Thomastown came through clear winners to take mid table position.

On 15 minutes Maurice Devoy for Stradbally had a shot tipped over for a corner and ten minutes later Stradbally's Niall McCarthy put Paddy Whelan through to beat the off side trap but the United 'keeper made a good save.

Thomastown upped their performances in the second half and opened the scoring through Sean Lonergan from the penalty spot. Maurice Devoy was still the driving force for Town and in a one two movement with Nicholas Egan he was unfortunate with his finish when he clipped the crossbar. Thomas doubled their advantage with a well executed move which saw Adrian O'Connor score. Then Sean Lonergan scored his second of the day to see them leading 3-0. Stradbally never gave up the chase with Paddy Whelan having a half chance before late in the game the got a goal back for their hard worked efforts.

Sean Lonergan and Kevin Maher had top drawer performances for Thomastown United while the best players for Stradbally Town were Maurice Devoy, Gerry Maher and Paul Colton.

### **Diamond Woodcraft Youths Division Palatine Celtic 3 St. Fiacc's 3**

A rip-roaring tie featuring two hat tricks from Jason Kane and Dale Byrne in the Diamond Woodcraft Youths Division ended all square in Askea on Saturday.

Fiacc's opened in a whirlwind and put sever pressure on the Celtic defence, however the Celtic 'keeper, Craig Kearney was in superb form between the posts, denying the visitors with a string of fine saves. Then against the run of play Palatine took the lead when they were awarded an indirect free kick in the Saints penalty area, the ball was tapped to Jason

Kane and he lashed home from close range. Fiacc's recovered their composure and got a richly deserved equaliser on 41 minutes when Dale Byrne converted a penalty to see the sides go into the break at 1-1.

Celtic really stepped up their performance after a stinging pep talk at half time and following that, David Cleary shaved the Saints woodwork twice for the home side. They regained the lead when Kane headed home a probing David Kenny cross. With their tails up, Celtic should have been further ahead but a sequence of bad misses let Fiacc's off the hook. The Saints were back on level terms on 65 minutes when Byrne headed home. The Saints now took the initiative and with twelve minutes remaining on the clock, they took the lead for the first time when Byrne completed his hat trick. With time running out Palatine pushed on and four minutes from the end Kane got the final touch in a goalmouth scramble to see the sides level.

For Palatine Celtic, 'keeper Craig Kearney was superb along with Jason Kane and Darren Foley. Top performers for St. Fiacc's were Dale Byrne, Padraigh Murphy and Liam Kearney.,

### **Parkville United 2**

#### **New Oak Boys 0**

Two first half goals gave Parkville victory in Hawkins Lane.

Following an evenly contested first quarter the Tullow side went ahead when Adam Lawler chipped the New Oak 'keeper for a neat goal on 23 minutes. Lawler was then guilty of missing an open goal as United took a grip of proceedings. Darren McGrath emphasised the home side's superiority when he ran onto a Willie Doran pass to put Parkville 2-0 up on 39 minutes, and looking comfortable.

In the second half, however New Oak improved their performance a lot, putting United under severe pressure. However, the Parkville defence with Adam O'Neill in outstanding form between the posts, they held firm and went onto record a good victory.

For Parkville United, Adam O'Neill, Michael Murray, Willie Rooney and J. J. Connolly stood out. New Oak Boys best performers were Stephen Preston, Sean Horan, Patrick O'Brien and Graham Dempsey.

### **Baltinglass Town Boys 0**

#### **Killeshin FC 4**

Killeshin proved much too strong for Baltinglass at Parkmore on Saturday.

The Boys started the game sprightly and had a couple of chances to break the deadlock. Paddy Kelly's volley was wide and Michael Mangan headed off target when well placed. Killeshin took the lead when they broke forward on 18 minutes and this dispirited turn of events saw Baltinglass concede a second goal on the half hour as Killeshin to a strangle hold on the tie.

The half time whistle came with the visitors holding a two goal advantage and shortly into the new half, they increased their lead from the penalty spot. Baltinglass kept plugging away and Kevin Wall headed just over as the home side strove hard for a score. A superior Killeshin however were not to be outdone and they had the final say with goal number four ten minutes from the end to wrap up a comfortable win.

For Baltinglass Town Boys, James Keane, Mark Brennan and Tom Keane tried hard.