

Lodgewood Engineering IFC - April 26, 2014

Ballyhogue 2-11, Ferns St Aidans 2-6

Not for the first time in his tumultuous club career, Robert 'Jim Bob' Levingstone inspired Ballyhogue to a shock victory, this time over Ferns St. Aidan's, in the Lodgewood Engineering Intermediate football championship Group B in Monageer on Saturday last.

The Bree boys were on course for their second loss in less than a week when the lively Ryan Nolan popped over a point with two minutes of the first-half remaining to give his side a 2-4 to 0-4 lead.

However, Levingstone collected Norman Carr's pass, bolted in behind the Ferns defence and planted his shot past Colin Redmond to spark his side to life and onto a run of 2-4 without reply either side of half-time.

Ferns gave warning of their prowess as early as the second minute when Tommy Dwyer forced Myles Roche into a save. Yet it was Ballyhogue who did all the scoring in the early stages with points from Levingstone, Shane Roche and Liam Kelly moving the underdogs 0-3 to nil clear.

Nolan grabbed the first of his brace of goals when Patrick Codd's delicate pass found the forward in space and he dispatched to the Ballyhogue net. Levingstone pointed again to make it 0-4 to 1-0 but Ferns gradually got on top and were denied several times by an in-form Roche.

However, there was nothing the shot-stopper could do to deny Nolan his second in the 24th minute when he made the most of intricate build-up play by Paul Morris and Codd to smash soccer-style to the net from ten yards out.

Then came Jim Bob's goal that sent a jolt of confidence through the Ballyhogue men. Points by Syl Byrne and Kelly left the gap at one (2-4 to 1-6) at the interval before the Enniscorthy District side took the lead early in the second-half when Levingstone's floated handpass found Shane Doyle to fist past Redmond.

From that point on there only looked one winner as Ferns completely lost the plot and their game-plan disintegrated. Points by Eddie Galavan and Roche increased the lead to four entering the final quarter and Ballyhogue were able to maintain their lead until the end to claim a deserved win.

Ferns St. Aidans: Colin Redmond; Keith Rynhart, Colm Whelan, Declan Byrne; Robert Vickers, Ian Byrne, Keith Breen; John Breen, Jamie Whelan; Tommy Dwyer (0-1), Paul Morris (0-1), Patrick Breen (0-2 frees); Ryan Nolan (2-1), Patrick Codd (0-1), Christopher O'Connor. **Subs:** Peter Nolan for Codd, inj., Pádraig Bolger for Nolan, Seán Walsh for K. Breen.

Ballyhogue: Myles Roche; Ger Cullen, Tomás Moriarty, Denis Asple; John Roche, Richard Dunne, Shane Doyle (1-0); Norman Carr, Syl Byrne (0-1); Shane Byrne, Eddie Galavan (0-1), Shane Roche (0-3); Liam Kelly (0-2), Denis Leacy (0-1 free), Jim Bob Levingstone (1-2). **Sub:** Declan Power (0-1) for Levingstone, inj.

Referee: Brian O'Leary (Crossabeg-Ballymurn)