

Lodgewood Engineering IFC - April 27, 2013

Ferns 0-10, Bannow/Ballymitty 1-5

THE PRESENCE of long-time inter-county servant Colm Morris as trainer suggests that Ferns St. Aidan's are taking a more serious approach to football than in previous years.

And his positive impact was evident in Oylegate on Saturday last when they led from pillar to post to claim top spot in Group A of the Lodgewood Engineering Intermediate football championship.

Ferns may have been hanging on at the finish but it would have been a travesty if they lost this one given that Bannow-Ballymitty were simply atrocious.

The Gorey District side had first use of the wind and were completely on top for the first twelve minutes as they moved five points clear courtesy of impressive county Under-21 Patrick Breen (three) and two Eddie Cullen frees.

Niall Harney finally opened Bannow-Ballymitty's account in the 22nd minute, but Brendan Jordan and Breen responded before a late Ben Brosnan free left five between them at the break (0-7 to 0-2).

It looked like the game would turn in favour of the south county side when a Shane Murphy delivery teed up Brosnan for the goal they needed a mere 12 seconds into the new half.

However, that wasn't the case as Ferns continued to hold their own despite losing Jordan to a head injury after a reckless tackle. A remarkable statistic to note was that it took 20 minutes for the first Bannow-Ballymitty free to arrive in a half where their discipline let them down badly.

Five players were yellow carded while Jamie Staunton received a straight red for something he said to an umpire after earning a free which Brosnan converted with seven minutes to go.

That score reduced the gap to three (0-10 to 1-4) as free-takers Eddie Cullen (two) and substitute Patrick Codd had picked off Ferns points beforehand, and just one reply was posted by Niall Harney when his shot for goal was turned over by Ferns captain Jamie Dunbar who was in the right place at the right time in the 40th minute.

While Harney added his third point with five minutes remaining, all Bannow-Ballymitty could muster were a brace of wides thereafter as victory went where it belonged.

Ferns St. Aidans: *Conor Swaine; Declan Byrne, Jamie Dunbar (capt.), Seán Murphy; Robert Vickers, Ciarán Roberts, James Tonks; Jamie Whelan, Colm Whelan; Ian Byrne, Brendan Jordan (0-1), John Breen; Patrick Breen (0-4), Eddie Cullen (0-4 frees), Tommy Dwyer. Subs. - Patrick Codd (0-1 free) for Jordan, inj. (37), Barry Breen for Cullen (54), Tony Cleere for Codd (57).*

Bannow-Ballymitty: *Jack Farragher; M.J. Doran, Art Sweetman, Art Murphy; Donal McLoughlin, Niall Murphy, Gavin Sinnott; David Currid, John Sinnott (capt.); Ben Brosnan (1-2, 0-2 frees), Shane Murphy, Michael Barry; Niall Harney (0-3), Garry Murphy, Jamie Staunton. Subs. - Gary Morton for S. Murphy (36), Robert Mageean for McLoughlin (43).*

Referee: *Aiden O'Brien (Cloughbawn).*