

Lodgewood Engineering IFC - April 20, 2013

Ferns St Aidans 1-10, Kilrush 1-5

A 60TH-MINUTE James Tonks goal helped Ferns St. Aidan's to secure both points at the expense of Kilrush in this disappointing Lodgewood Engineering Intermediate football championship Group A game at Páirc Uí Síocháin, Gorey, on Saturday last.

A late spurt of scoring eventually got Ferns over the line but, on the evidence of this showing, former county footballer Colm Morris in his new managerial role has a real task on his hands to build a side with an eye towards the eventual title. While they were the superior outfit, their over-elaborate passing game saw many promising movements come unstuck while their shooting even from the easiest of distances was deplorable.

Kilrush, on the other hand, will face into a battle to preserve their status. While they showed admirable battling qualities, which could have produced a result, their lack of footballing skills denied them in the end. Really they were somewhat flattered to have been only five points adrift.

It was through the opening quarter when playing into a strong breeze that Kilrush enjoyed their best passage of play. After Paul Morris and Billy Nolan exchanged points, they went on to add further points through two Conor Levingstone frees to lead by 0-3 to 0-1 at the end of the opening quarter, and this would have been greater had both Levingstone and Billy Nolan not sent kickable frees wide of the posts.

Ferns gradually played their way into the game, going on to add unanswered points through Patrick Breen, one of their better forwards, who kicked over three, with Paul Morris on target with a punched effort following a defence-splitting run. Close to the break Billy Nolan responded for the opposition, leaving just the minimum separating the sides (0-5 to 0-4).

On the resumption, Ferns opened with three quick points through Patrick Breen, Ian Byrne and Tommy Dwyer, before Conor Levingstone brought a response from the opposition with a pointed free. Eight minutes from the end 'keeper Conor Swaine spilled a Levingstone free, leaving Pádraig Byrne with a simple tap-in, and the sides were back level (0-8 to 1-5).

Ferns controlled the closing stages, adding points through Dwyer and Morris before James Tonks finished low to the net after a Dwyer effort had rebounded off the crossbar, leaving them deserving winners.

Ferns St. Aidans: *Conor Swaine; Declan Byrne, Jamie Dunbar, Colin Leacy; Seán Murphy, John Breen, Robert Vickers; Jamie Whelan, Colm Whelan, Tommy Dwyer (0-2), Brendan Jordan, Ian Byrne (0-1); Patrick Breen (0-4), James Tonks (1-0), Paul Morris (0-3). Subs. - Ciarán Roberts for J. Whelan, inj., Patrick Codd for Jordan.*

Kilrush: *John Harte; Martin Hayden, Frank Lancaster, Owen Murphy; Tom Kavanagh, James Lancaster; Raymond Lancaster; Colm Buttle, Gary Doran; Pádraig Byrne (1-0), Conor Levingstone (0-2 frees), Tom Byrne; Colin Sunderland, Billy Nolan (0-3, 1 free), Ted Kinsella.*

Referee: *Brendan Martin (Ballyhogue).*