

Junior Hurling Championship - August 2, 2014

Ferns St Aidans 2-9, Taghmon/Camross 1-8

THEY SAY that a rising tide lifts all boats, and the Ferns St. Aidan's second string provided evidence to back up that theory with a four-point victory over Taghmon-Camross in this clash of Junior hurling championship Group B high-flyers in Oylegate on Saturday last.

The general bounce in the club following the Seniors' county final appearance last October has clearly filtered down, as the outcome means that both of these contenders now lie on six points and are safely through with one round left to play.

Taghmon-Camross had forged three fine wins in advance and their scoring returns were impressive, so this was an unexpected setback in many respects.

Perhaps their young charges had one eye on this evening's Under-21 final against Forth and Bargo Gaels, but they still only have themselves to blame for squandering that one hundred per cent record as they amassed no fewer than 19 wides, including a staggering 13 in the second-half.

Ferns were never headed after a very positive start, with points from Paddy O'Leary and an Eddie Cullen '65 followed by a fifth-minute goal when O'Leary latched on to a long clearance and made no mistake.

It was 1-4 to 0-2 at the end of the first quarter, but Taghmon-Camross pulled back a goal in the 25th minute when Stephen O'Gorman finished off a Barry O'Gorman delivery from the right.

Trailing by 1-7 to 1-3 at half-time, the New Ross District side were rocked in the 35th minute when teenager Ben Cowman rattled the net with a first-time pull.

Ferns didn't register their two insurance second-half points until added time courtesy of Donnacha Kinsella and Ben Bernie, but the scoring attempts of Taghmon-Camross were quite pathetic in between.

Barry O'Gorman, Pierce Doyle (free and '65) plus Stephen Stafford were the only ones to hit the target, while David Bridges had a penalty knocked out for a '65 in the 40th minute.

Some fine tuning of their shooting will be required in round five against Tara Rocks ahead of the quarter-finals.

Ferns St. Aidans: Anthony Dwyer; Teo Leacy, Niall Maguire, Brian O'Neill; Pádraig Walsh, Seán Walsh, John O'Leary; Tomás Hawkins, Keith Rynhart (0-1); Andy Cash (0-1), Eddie Cullen (capt., 0-2, 1 '65, 1 free), Donnacha Kinsella (0-1); Paddy O'Leary (1-1), Ben Bernie (0-3), Ben Cowman (1-0). **Sub:** Peter Codd for Cash (55)

Taghmon-Camross: Seán O'Gorman; Darren Colfer, Alan Nolan, Robert Nolan; Mark O'Gorman, Jack Murphy, Johnny Waters; Ian Carty, Pat Nolan; David Bridges, Barry O'Gorman (0-3), Stephen Stafford (0-1); Pierce Doyle (0-3, 2 frees, 1 '65), Stephen O'Gorman (1-1), Richard Comerford (capt.). **Subs:** Páuric O'Gorman for Comerford (36), Tomás Whelan for M. O'Gorman (57). **Referee:** Pádraig Byrne (Ballyfad).