

Pettitt's SHC - May 18, 2014

Ferns St Aidans 1-14, Buffers Alley 1-7

A third quarter destruction paved the way for Ferns St. Aidans to maintain their winning ways with a comfortable seven-point win over Buffers Alley in Group B of the Pettitt's Senior hurling championship in Farmleigh on Sunday last.

Last year's runners-up held a double scores 0-8 to 0-4 lead at the interval in this free-ridden encounter, and they upped the stakes on the re-start considerably as they hit 1-5 with just one point in reply over the next twelve minutes.

A shaky-looking Alley full-back line was ripped apart in that period as inside attackers Paul Morris (two) and Ryan Nolan picked off points after Ian Byrne split the posts just 16 seconds into the new half. Willie Doran provided the sole response from the Intermediate title holders, with Tommy Dwyer on target from a free before he rattled the net after playing a one-two with Morris to leave Ferns out of sight by the 42nd minute (1-13 to 0-5).

They won't be happy with their failure to score again from play, as another Dwyer pointed free in the 54th minute was all they could muster. However, a defence well marshalled by Pádraig Ryan and Colm Whelan dealt capably with most of what the Alley had to offer, although the leaders did concede a goal early in the last quarter when Andrew Kenny's shot went in off the hurl of netminder Michael Walsh (1-13 to 1-6).

This game never flowed, with 33 frees awarded (17 to Ferns) in the slippery underfoot conditions. Neither side created a goal chance of note in the first-half and it remained close throughout the first 20 minutes before three late points from Tommy Dwyer frees left the red and whites with that double scores interval lead.

Once they upped the tempo on the re-start there was only ever going to be one winner as the beaten finalists of 2013 did more than enough to claim outright leadership of the group after two rounds.

Ferns St Aidans: Michael Walsh; Declan Byrne, Pádraig Ryan, Colm Whelan; Gavin Bailey, James Tonks, Ciarán Roberts; Brendan Jordan (0-1), Tommy Dwyer (capt., 1-5, 0-5 frees); Ian Byrne (0-1), John Breen, Derek Thorpe (0-1); Christopher O'Connor (0-1), Paul Morris (0-3), Ryan Nolan (0-2). **Subs:** Jamie Whelan for Thorpe (58), Colin Leacy for D. Byrne (58), Thorpe for Nolan, inj. (61).

Buffers Alley: Darren O'Brien; Paudie Reidy, Bobby Kenny, Barry Kenny; Robert O'Leary, Ciarán Kenny, Kevin Roche; Shane Grannell (0-1), Seán Og Whelan; Cormac Foley, Andrew Kenny (1-2), Willie Doran (0-1); Pat Kenny (0-1), Keith Burke (0-2 frees), Tomás O'Leary (capt.). **Sub:** Paul O'Leary for Foley (29).

Referee: Joe Kelly (Naomh Eanna).