

## Pettitt's SHC - August 2, 2014

### Ferns St Aidans 2-10, Glynn/Barntown 1-13

FERNS ST. Aidan's and Glynn-Barntown both remain unbeaten in Group B of the Pettitt's Senior hurling championship after team captain John Leacy pointed a free with the last puck of the game to give the Wexford District side a deserved draw in a rain-lashed Oylegate on Saturday last.

A game spoiled by indecisive umpiring at both ends of the field ended in plenty of excitement as last year's runners-up twice edged ahead by a point, but Glynn-Barntown showed a lot of character to peg them back on both occasions.

There was a key 20-second turnaround at the end of the third quarter when Paul Morris, surprisingly held scoreless from play, bore down on goal but saw his effort saved by county colleague Mark Fanning. The resultant Glynn-Barntown attack gave Gary Moore an opening but his effort was well stopped by Michael Walsh, only for John Leacy to bundle the rebound over the line.

It was a significant swing as, instead of stretching their lead to 3-7 to 0-11, Ferns now found themselves 1-11 to 2-7 in arrears. Christopher O'Connor brought them level and a nervy spell followed in the worsening conditions as Ferns hit two wides while their rivals had three before the next score.

It came in the 58th minute when a long Benny Jordan free found Jamie Whelan who pushed the Gorey District men into a narrow 2-9 to 1-11 lead.

Gary Moore showed good composure under pressure to equalise before John Leacy sent a scoreable free wide, but the five minutes of added time provided plenty of drama.

Benny Jordan converted a tricky free into the wind off the left touchline to edge Ferns in front once more, but a push on Barry Doyle close to goal gave Leacy another chance and he made no mistake this time with the last puck of a tight game.

Ferns now lead the way after three rounds with five points but Glynn-Barntown can feel well pleased with their efforts too as they are on four following a win over Cloughbawn and a draw with Rapparees.

With Michael O'Regan a notable absentee, they continued to place their faith in a lot of young players and made life as hard as possible for the side which beat them in last year's semi-final by utilising Kevin Crea as an extra defender against the first-half wind.

Ian Byrne and Paul Morris weren't as dominant as usual in general play which is a tribute to that back line, and their team as a whole was bolstered by a fine start which yielded points from John Leacy (two frees) and Gary Moore, with the latter effort only given by linesman John Carton after the umpires had waved it wide. It was one of four incidents, two at either end, where the men in white seemed very unsure of themselves and drew the ire of the crowd, while Ferns were also adamant that a first-half effort from John Breen had gone over when it wasn't given.

While Benny Jordan and Christopher O'Connor got the favourites off the mark, a monster pointed free by Mark Fanning from his own '45 into the elements left Glynn-Barntown ahead by 0-4 to 0-2.

However, they lost that advantage in the 13th minute when a long Michael Walsh puck-out went all the way to John Breen lurking close to the '21 and he made no mistake with the opening goal.

The red and whites went on to lead by 2-6 to 0-8 at half-time, with Christopher O'Connor getting the second major in the 27th minute when a high delivery from Tommy Dwyer broke into his path.

Glynn-Barntown had to be patient in a low-scoring third quarter with the elements now in their favour as they eventually narrowed the gap to 2-7 to 0-11 thanks to points from a John Leacy '65, the impressive Alan Cowman and Pádraic Weafer.

That Leacy goal set an eventful closing 15 minutes in motion, with both sides deserving to leave the venue with something to show for their efforts.

**Ferns St. Aidans:** Michael Walsh; Declan Byrne, Pádraig Ryan, Colm Whelan; Gavin Bailey, James Tonks, Ciarán Roberts; Benny Jordan (0-2, 1 free), Tommy Dwyer (capt., 0-3, 2 frees); Ian Byrne (0-1), Paul Morris, John Breen (1-1); Ryan Nolan, Jamie Whelan (0-1), Christopher O'Connor (1-2). **Sub:** Derek Thorpe for Nolan (37).

**Glynn-Barntown:** Mark Fanning (0-1 free); Pádraig Donnelly, Jack Fenlon, P.J. Carley; Rowan White, Brendan Doyle, Calum O'Shea; Alan Cowman (0-3), Barry Doyle; Kevin Crean, John Leacy (capt., 1-5, 0-4 frees, 0-1 '65), Michael Doyle; Pádraic Weafer (0-1), Gary Moore (0-3), Matthew Joyce. **Subs:** Ian Moran for Joyce (38), Daire Barron for Weafer (55).

**Referee:** Barry Redmond (Clonard)