

Pettitt's SHC - May 10, 2014

Ferns St Aidans 0-14, Faythe Harriers 1-6

Ferns St Aidans struck a staggering 15 wides in the second-half alone but still came good in the end, hitting five points without reply in the last five minutes plus added time to see off Faythe Harriers in a disappointing Pettitt's Senior hurling championship Group B clash in Bellefield on Saturday last.

A lot was expected from this meeting of the last two beaten finalists, but neither got to grips with the swirling wind blowing into the right corner at the town end which completely dictated proceedings.

Faythe Harriers availed of it first, but they looked vulnerable at half-time when they only led by 0-5 to 0-4, with none of the forwards apart from Rhys Clarke making any worthwhile impression on a Ferns defence notable for the return of Pádraig Ryan to full-back.

It was poor fare throughout that opening half as the Wexford town team struck seven wides, although Paul Morris did produce some memorable moments as he knocked over three fine points into the wind with effortless ease.

Ferns also fashioned the only decent goal chance in the 21st minute, but veteran 'Archie' Scallan saved from Ian Byrne and John Breen's follow-up rebounded back into play off the goalkeeper before Breen settled for a point.

Faythe Harriers were thrown a lifeline five minutes into the new half when the sliothar was picked off the ground by a defender and Rhys Clarke drove the resultant free to the net (1-5 to 0-4). They were destined to add just one more point though - from substitute Kevin Gore in the 54th minute to make it 1-6 to 0-9 - but a defence spearheaded by David Mooney and Richie Kehoe did try manfully to keep out wave after wave of Ferns attacks before eventually succumbing.

Some of the wides from the red and whites were horrendous, and they must have been thanking their lucky stars afterwards that they weren't punished for them.

Midfielder Brendan Jordan had landed one monster free from just outside his own 'D' in the highlight of the third quarter, and their pressure eventually told as Ian Byrne, Jordan (two more frees), Christopher O'Connor and Tommy Dwyer split the posts in the closing stages to seal an unimpressive win.

Ferns St Aidans: Michael Walsh; Declan Byrne, Pádraig Ryan, Colm Whelan; Gavin Bailey, James Tonks, Ciarán Roberts; Brendan Jordan (0-4, 3 frees), Tommy Dwyer (capt., 0-3, 2 frees); Ian Byrne (0-1), John Breen (0-1), Derek Thorpe; Christopher O'Connor (0-1), Paul Morris (0-3), Ryan Nolan (0-1).

Faythe Harriers: Ian Scallan; Colm Heffernan, David Mooney (capt.), Brendan Mulligan; Lee Chin, Richie Kehoe, Alex Lynch; Alan Lynch, Nicky Lambert; Pádraigh Farrell, Barry Goff (0-1), Rhys Clarke (1-4, 1-2 frees); Paul Lambert, Jim Berry, John Bridges. **Subs:** Kevin Gore (0-1) for Alan Lynch (41), Wayne Mallon for Farrell (45).

Referee: Justin Heffernan (Blackwater).