

Donaghmore Ashbourne continue winning ways.

Date: 3rd June 2015

Venue: Ashbourne

Referee: Pat Clarke

Full Time: Donaghmore Ashbourne 3-11 Skryne 0-13

Half Time: Donaghmore Ashbourne 1-05 Skryne 0-05

Donaghmore Ashbourne's senior team made it two wins inside four days to keep their outside chances of a league final appearance alive as they saw off a strong Skryne challenge in Ashbourne on Wednesday evening. In a dress rehearsal for the next round of the championship Donaghmore Ashbourne struggled to shake off the visitors challenge and a couple of late scores giving Donaghmore Ashbourne a flattering score line. There's no doubt that when the sides meet later in the year in the championship it will be a much closer and intense contest.

Donaghmore Ashbourne got off to a perfect start when a long ball into David Morgan saw him evade the full back and fire to the back of the net with only 40 seconds on the clock. Skryne's opening score of the evening came from Mark Battersby when he converted a free on 3 minutes. Ciaran Beirne took a nice point when he received a ball from Sean Curran who went down injured and subsequently had to be replaced after 7 minutes. Michael Deegan and Mattie Devine kept the score board ticking over for Donaghmore Ashbourne while the Skryne scores for the opening period all came from Battersby as the hosts led at the interval on a score line of 1-05 to 0-05.

Donaghmore Ashbourne started the second half well and extended their lead to 1-09 to 0-05 with points from Deegan (0-4) and Morgan (0-1) before Skryne had a very productive 12 minutes scoring some very good points from Alan Carty who had been introduced at half time, Brian Davis, Conor O'Brien and Ciaran Lenihan 1pt each. Heading into the final quarter there was just a goal between the sides and it was anyone's game.

Ciaran Beirne got a goal on 47 minutes followed by a point from Devine before Carty and McCabe replied with points for Skryne. Battersby converted a free on 56 minutes to leave for the 3rd time just 1 goal separating these two teams. Donaghmore Ashbourne substitute Connor Donnelly scored a late goal and this was followed by another late Beirne point which flattered the final score line on the night. John Morley finished the scoring for Skryne with a great point off his left from an acute angle before the final whistle.

Overall it was a good team performance from Donaghmore Ashbourne with the home defence working well as a unit. Goal keeper Andy Colgan produced a great save for a certain goal chance from Battersby while his opposite number Gillette in the Skryne goals also pulled off some great saves throughout the game.

There no doubt that the upcoming championship fixture will be more intense when the sides meet later in the year.

Donaghmore Ashbourne: A. Colgan; J.P. Casserly, C. McGill, T. McGovern; C. Carton, S. Melia, P. Gilligan; C. Carey, S. Curran; A. Hughes, E. Callaghan, S. Byrne; C. Beirne (1-2), D. Morgan (1-1), M. Deegan (0-5 2f).

Subs: M. Devine (0-3) for Curran (injured) (7mins), E. Riordan for Callaghan (39mins), C. Ellis for Gilligan(injured) 44mins, D. McGovern for Hughes 46mins, C. Donnelly (1-0) for Byrne.

Skryne: I. Gillette; Conor. Lenihan, Ciaran Lenihan (0-1), V. O'Reilly; R. McCabe (0-1), M. Jordan, A. O'Sullivan; A. Tuite, D. Ryan; C. O'Brien (0-1), S. O'Brien, B Davis (0-1); N. Burke, M. Battersby (0-6 5f), J. Morley (0-1f).

Subs: A. Carty (0-2)