

## **St Senans lose in Munster Junior Clubs Challenge Cup**

**Clonmel RFC 24    St Senans RFC 3**

St Senans travelled to Clonmel with a restructured team, looking to continue their preparations for the upcoming season. They soon realised that they were up against a well structured side that would prove difficult to break down.

Following five minutes of sustained pressure the home side were rewarded, when they broke through Senans defence running in a try under the visitors posts, this was easily converted giving the home side an early 7-0 lead.

Despite some very good attacking play Senans could not break through a solid Clonmel defence, on 15 mins the home side launched a counter attack winning a penalty in front of St Senans posts which was comfortably converted extending their lead to 10-0.

The half continued with both sides enjoying good possession, however it was St Senans who continued to concede penalties which the home side took full advantage of converting a further three to take their score to 19-0 at half time.

St Senans started the second half in a more positive manner and were looking the stronger of the two sides, despite this they still could not break through a resilient Clonmel defence. On 14mins St Senans were dealt a hammer blow when Declan Collins was red carded for what most believed to be a minor indiscretion.

This upset the visitors' momentum and allowed the home side to run in their second try, which was not converted, leaving them leading 24-0.

To their credit Senans regrouped and once again pressurised the home side, a good drop goal by Fran Duggan put 3 points on the board for the visitors. A good interception by Chris Sloan saw him get within yards of the home sides try line before he was caught by the Clonmel defence and forced into conceding a penalty.

For the rest of the half Senans continued to show promise but could not add any further scores, they finished the game losing 24-3.

### **St Senans Team**

Pa Ryan, Fergal Lawler, Tony O'Brien, Jack Jones, Aaron Skerritt, John Elsley, Ian Fitzgerald (C), Aidan O'Callaghan, Darren Guerin, Fran Duggan, Declan Coughlan, Declan Collins, Chris Sloan, Mark Egan, Bobby O'Connell. **Replacements:** Steven Hearne, Ed Slattery, Johnny Bridges, Diarmuid Hughes, David Dunne.

Malcolm Simpson P.R.O.

St Senans R.F.C.