

## **St Senans lose in close competitive match**

**Ballincollig RFC 23    St Senans RFC 17**

St Senans travelled to Ballincollig looking to consolidate their position in Div1 of the Munster Junior League.

The Saints started the game in a positive mood and were unfortunate to concede a penalty following a good interception by the home side; Ballincollig made no mistake with the conversion and took an early 3 point lead.

Senans pushed the home side back to deep in their own half and a number of good passages of play went unrewarded as the home sides defence held strong.

A number of difficult penalty opportunities were all Senans had to show for their dominance; unfortunately the strong cross wind prevented any conversion of these chances.

On 35 minutes Senans moved the ball well across the field and when he got the ball David Dunne weaved his way through the Ballincollig defence scoring what he believed to be the opening try for the visitors. Celebrations were short lived however as the officials indicated that Dunne had in fact put a foot over the dead ball line before grounding the ball, this decision was contentious to say the least based upon the distance the officials were away from the incident.

Senans didn't let this upset their game plan and soon took the lead when Declan Coughlan broke through to score their first try, once again the conversion slipped by the uprights but Senans had a 5-3 lead. This position was short lived as Ballincollig reacted positively catching Senans on the hop with a breakaway try on the stroke of half time, the conversion attempt was unsuccessful but the home side went into the half time break leading 8-5.

Ballincollig started the second half strongly and very quickly extended their lead to 15-5 with a drive over try close to the posts which was easily converted. The home side continued to put Senans under pressure but on 15 minutes Declan Collins, who had just come on for an injured Chris Sloan, intercepted a Ballincollig pass and ran in a try from the half way line. Unfortunately from the wide angle the ball drifted wide of the uprights but the home sides lead had been reduced to 15-10.

Despite their efforts Senans could not break down a solid Ballincollig defence, when a long clearance by the home side found touch on Senans 22metre line they managed to win the line out. With some good strong play from their forwards the home side drove over the Senans try line to score their third try, with the conversion drifting wide they now led 20-10. A converted penalty on 32 minutes extended the lead for the home side to 23-10 and it looked like Senans would come away from this match with nothing to show for their early dominance.

Showing great character Senans continued to drive into the Ballincollig defence, forcing them to concede a penalty try on 38 minutes which was easily converted reducing the home sides lead to 23-17. Despite a couple of long range penalty attempts by the home side no side looked like adding to their respective scores and the game ended with Ballincollig running out 23-17 victors. The score secured a bonus point for St Senans but they came away thinking this was a game that got away from them.

### **St Senans Team**

Pa Ryan, Fergal Lawler, Tony O'Brien, Jack Jones, Aidan O'Callaghan, Mike O'Connell, Duane Horkin, Ian Fitzgerald (C), Darren Guerin, Noel Hoban, Declan Coughlan, Fran Duggan, Chris Sloan, Brian Collins, David Dunne. **Replacements:** Ger Hall, Mike Lyons, John Elsley, Declan Collins, Bobby O'Connell.

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