

## **St Senans battle hard to win well deserved bonus point**

**St Senans RFC 6      Skibbereen RFC 11**

St Senans started strong holding territorial advantage over the visitors for the early part of the first half, but found breaking down a well structured Skibbereen defence impossible. When Declan Collins held a high clearance kick just inside his own half, and ran at the Skibbereen defence before finding touch close to the visitors try line, it looked like a break through was possible but once again this attack failed to breach the visitors strong defence.

The long clearance by Skibbereen saw them mount their first attack of the game, this resulted in St Senans conceding a penalty in front of the posts which the visitors easily converted giving them a 3-0 lead. Skibbereen gained confidence from this break through and a few minutes later won and converted another penalty to extend their lead to 6-0.

A good passage of play followed for St Senans and this was eventually rewarded with the award of a penalty, Jake Egan making his first appearance for the first XV, made no mistake with the kick and reduced the visitors lead to 6-3. Despite some contentious penalties being awarded to the visitors in the last ten minutes of the half, the home side did not concede any further scores finishing the half trailing 6-3.

The second half saw the visitors take the upper hand with a lot of possession and territorial advantage, this pressure was rewarded after 25 minutes of the half when they ran in a wide try. The attempted conversion drifted wide of the posts but gave the visitors a 11-3 lead.

Despite this latest set back the home side found the form they had showed early in the first half and pushed the visitors back into defence, this pressure resulted in them winning a long range penalty on 36 minutes. When Jake Egan stood up to take the kick many of the home support thought it might be outside his range, to their relief he struck the ball true pulling the home side back into the game at 11-6

The last minutes of the game saw Senans pushing hard to gain a game winning score but this eluded them and they had to be content with taking a bonus point from the game.

### **St Senans Team**

Pa Ryan, Ger Hall, Tony O'Brien, Aaron Skerritt, Jack Jones, Mike O'Connell, Duane Horkin, Ian Fitzgerald (C), Darren Guerin, Noel Hoban, Declan Coughlan, Fran Duggan, Jake Egan, Brian Collins, Declan Collins. **Replacements:** Mike Lyons, David Dunne, Bobby O'Connell, Stephen Ryan, John Elsley.

Malcolm Simpson P.R.O.  
St Senans R.F.C.