

St Senans lose in Thurles

Thurles RFC 27 St Senans RFC 20

St Senans kicked off the new year against Thurles RFC, a team also struggling for survival in division one.

It was Senans who started the most promising, when on 8 mins Declan Collins converted an early penalty, this gave the visitors confidence to run at the home side. Senans put Thurles under pressure immediately from the restart and after some good interactive play between Sloan, Sonneman and Declan Collins they won a penalty just 10 metres from the Thurles try line. Captain for the day Aaron Skerritt chose to kick for touch, Senans won the lineout and the ensuing maul proved too strong for the home side and Ger Hall was driven over for the first try of the game. Declan Collins failed to add extra points, when his conversion attempt drifted just wide, leaving Senans leading 0-8 after just 12 minutes.

Following this early setback the home side rallied, and on 15 minutes were awarded a long range penalty, the kick hit the inside of the upright before going over to give them their first 3 points of the game. This piece of good fortune lifted the home side and for the rest of the half they dominated the game as they ran in three tries, two of which were converted, to give them a half time lead of 22-8.

The start of the second half saw both teams entrenched in the middle of the field unable to produce any effective breaks to threaten the scoreline, it was the home side that eventually broke through to score their fourth try and extend their lead to 27-8.

Following this latest setback Senans started to play with some real purpose and forced Thurles deep on a number of occasions. 16 minutes into the half this pressure paid off when they were awarded a penalty try, which Declan Collins converted reducing the points deficit to 27-15. Sensing that they could still take something from this game, Senans continued pushing Thurles backwards and were rewarded with a good try by Darren Guerin. Unfortunately the wide angle for the conversion kick proved too difficult and they could not add the extra points leaving the score at 27-20.

Despite some spirited play in the closing minutes Senans found it impossible to break through a dogged Thurles defence and the game ended leaving Senans beaten 27-20.

St Senans Team

Pa Ryan, Ger Hall, Tony O'Brien, Mike Lyons, Aaron Skerritt (C), Aidan O'Callaghan, Duane Horkin, Mick O'Connell, Darren Guerin, Declan Collins, Brian Collins, Fran Duggan, Dylan Sonneman, Chris Sloan, David Dunne.

Replacements: Jack Jones, Stephen Hearne, Gary Crowe, Daragh McCoy, Jake Egan.

Social Note:

The club will hold their annual "Night at the Dogs" in Limerick race track on Sat 13th Feb. Tickets are available from any committee member and cost just €12, this price covers entry to the dogs, return bus from Shannon Knights and entry into a draw to win TWO tickets for the Ireland v Wales match in Croke Park on March 13th PLUS €500 cash.

The club looks forward to your support of this event.

Malcolm Simpson

P.R.O.

St Senans R.F.C.