

CLONDUFF MINORS GET OFF TO A WINNING START

Clonduff's Minor footballers started their new season with an emphatic 4-13 to 1-08 home win over Bryansford on Tuesday evening.

A great team display underpinned by some sweeping attacking moves and high-energy performances from every Clonduff player, meant that the home team were full value for their 2-07 to 1-03 lead at half time. Indeed, Clonduff could have been even further ahead at the halfway point had more emphasis been placed on taking relatively easy point scores rather than trying to overwork the ball into the Bryansford goal. Clonduff notched up 2-06 in the second half and a tiring Bryansford defence was overrun at times. Although Bryansford battled to the final whistle, a tighter defensive effort from the Clonduff backs saw their opposition register only 2 points from play in the second half.

While a long season remains ahead, there were many positives to be drawn from the game. Mark Bradley put in a great performance including two excellent saves while the very solid and uncompromising full back line of Declan Gribben, Caolan McEvoy and Thomas Murnin gave little away. Clonduff's half back trio of Rory McQuaid (Captain), Liam McAleavey and Brendan Britton instigated numerous attacking moves and the high-fielding midfield performances given by John Brown and Conal Brown were inspirational. Liam McGreevy's tireless running was rewarded by a fine tally of 5 points and he was well supported by David Quinn at centre half forward. Clonduff's other wing half forward Darren Harper, was a constant threat to the Bryansford defence and his early opening goal set the scene for this strong win. At full forward, Stephen McConville was the focal point for many of Clonduff's attacking moves and notable corner forward performances were given by a very speedy Jack O'Hagan and the excellent Mark Devlin.

The managers were able to introduce fresh legs in the second half. Patrick O'Hagan, returning from injury and playing his first competitive football for several months, contributed 2 goals within 12 minutes of coming on, while each of the other subs introduced: Shane Milligan, Patrick Gribben Declan Rooney and Rian Ward, also stepped up to the plate in helping maintain the team's winning momentum.

Team and scorers: Mark Bradley, Declan Gribben, Caolan McEvoy, Thomas Murnin, Rory McQuaid (Captain) (0-1), Liam McAleavey, Brendan Britton, Conal Brown, John Brown (Vice Captain) (0-1), Liam McAleavey (0-5), David Quinn (0-1), Darren Harper (1-2), Jack O'Hagan, Stephen McConville (0-1), Mark Devlin (1-1). Subs used: Patrick O'Hagan (2-0); Shane Milligan; Patrick Gribben; Declan Rooney and Rian Ward.

U-16 player Charlie Carr was a very welcome addition to the minor squad on Tuesday evening. The squad was without the services of Kevin Smith and Michael Grant (both injured) and Niall O'Hare. The players and managers were also delighted to see Jayme Gribben join his team mates for the evening and wish him well on his journey back to fitness. The Minor Management also wish to thank Karen O'Hagan (Team Nurse) and James McGreevy (Team Statistician).