



U13s - 29 January 2011 – South Munster League - Muskerry 24 Ballincollig 5

On a weekend when almost all games in Cork were called off due to frozen pitches the U13's were delighted to get their third consecutive game since the Christmas break. After the heavy defeat to the Muskerry U14 selection the previous week, the boys were keen to make amends against a Ballincollig team they comfortably defeated earlier in the season. With Ballanley frozen the game was switched to Ballincollig's Inishmore pitch which was well grassed and very playable, and made for a pleasant setting on a crisp winter's day.

Ballincollig fielded a side that was physically much bigger than the one we met earlier in the season. It was clear from the early exchanges that it was going to be a competitive encounter with both sides shaping up well without landing any killer blows. With about ten minutes gone Muskerry had settled well and were moving the ball through hands at every chance. This approach paid off when a text book back movement put John Sheehan away on the left hand side and he had too much pace for the cover and grounded in the corner. This try was converted excellently by the trusty left boot of Adam O'Connell.

As the half progressed there were some strong confrontations between the two sides and Robert O'Callaghan and Shane O'Riordan were to the fore in halting the momentum of the Ballincollig forwards while out wide Jack Harrington was ensuring his channel was a no go area for the men in black and white. With about five minutes to go Cormac Dennehy tucked a ball under his arm and scored a fine try which was unconverted.

Halftime: Muskerry 12 Ballincollig 0

In the second half Ballincollig rang some changes and began to apply some pressure on our backs but some good tackling notably by Craig Bennet, Sean Creedon and Michael Sullivan-Greene, kept the black and whites at bay. After some sustained pressure mid way through the half the home team breached the Muskerry defence for what proved to be their only score. This lapse was forgotten when Luke Horgan used his strength to power over the line for a fine score to leave the score at 17 – 5. Michael O'Connell, playing at scrum half after an injury to the ever tenacious Odhran Heelan, secured the final score in the dying minutes when he touched down under the posts and Adam O'Connell the slotted the conversion.

Final Score: Muskerry 24- Ballincollig 5

This was a good game between two very committed teams and will stand us in good stead for future challenges.

Muskerry Squad: Craig Bennet, Sean Creedon, Cormac Dennehy, Gordon Desmond, Ian Flannery, Odhran Heelan, Jack Harrington, Patrick Healy, Ryan Hegarty, Luke Horgan, Robert O'Callaghan, Michael O'Connell, Adam O'Connell, Ciarán O'Connor, Martin O'Reilly, Shane O'Riordan, Colm O'Sullivan, Michael O'Sullivan-Greene, Cian Riordan, John Sheehan, Liam Weafer.

N.B. We hope Odhran has a speedy recovery from the hand injury he received in the second half.