

McAndrew goal paves way to glory

CROSSMOLINA 1-8

BELLAGHY 0-7

CONNACHT champions Crossmolina made it through to their first All-Ireland Club championship decider when they scored a deserved success at Brewster Park, Enniskillen yesterday.

Patrick McAndrew's goal seven minutes before half-time was a crucial score, leaving Bellaghy chasing the game thereafter.

All through the hour Crossmolina shaped up as the better side though they had to work hard for their success and Bellaghy with a surging rally managed to clip the lead to two points with just over ten minutes left.

The second half saw the exchanges heat up considerably but Crossmolina held their nerve to eventually finish with a flourish after riding out Bellaghy's fightback.

Michael Moyles was powerful for Crossmolina in midfield while up front Enda Lavelle and targetman full-forward Liam Moffatt were most impressive.

For Bellaghy corner back Peter Diamond and centre half-back Ciaran McNally worked well in the defence and Garreth Doherty was always involved further up front.

Bellaghy's Gavin Diamond finished with six points but was also guilty of some wayward shooting.

The fact that he contributed all but one of his side's total is indicative of the lack of Bellaghy's scoring punch.

Bellaghy were first off the mark with a fifth minute Gavin Diamond point but the Mayo team stepped up their performance and scores from Joe Keane, James Nallen and Johnny Leonard put them ahead.

Leonard should in fact have hit the net as he raced straight through but with the goal at his mercy his rising shot cleared the crossbar.

Bellaghy were further in trouble when they conceded a goal, indifferent defending saw them fail to clear a situation close to the goal and the ball finally broke to half-back McAndrew who volleyed home.

Four points separated the sides at the interval, 1-5 to 0-4. It was 12 minutes before the next score arrived, Gavin Diamond pointing a free and six minutes later he angled over an excellent score from play.

Crossmolina were looking a shade insecure but they managed to arrest their slump and gained fresh belief with a Liam Moffatt point after 54 minutes.

Kieran McDonald came off the bench to loop over another to assure victory.

SCORERS - Crossmolina: P McAndrew 1-0, K McDonald 0-2, J Nallen, M Moyles, J Keane, P Gardiner, J Leonard, L Moffatt 0-1 each. Bellaghy: G Diamond 0-6, F Glacken 0-1.

CROSSMOLINA B Heffernan; S Rochford, T Nallen, C Reilly; P McAndrew, D Mulligan, F Costello; J Nallen, M Moyles; P McGuinness, J Keane, P Gardiner; J Leonard, L Moffatt, E Lavelle. Subs: K McDonald for Leonard, G O'Malley for Gardiner.

BELLAGHY C Donnelly; P Downey, D O'Neill, P Diamond; K Doherty, C McNally, C Diamond; F Doherty, J Mulholland; G Doherty, K Diamond, J Cassidy; G Diamond, C Scullion, F Glacken. Subs: P Diamond for D O'Neill, E Cassidy for Scullion, B Quinn for Mulholland, J Donnelly for J Cassidy.

REF A Mangan (Kerry).