**GROUP TWO Round Two**

**Ballyvaughan 2-10 - Éire Óg 1-11**

**Venue: - Ennistymon**

THIS was Ballyvaughan’s ﬁrst ever game in the senior football championship and what a way to start. Ten points down with 22 minutes left, this story was set.

A win for Eire Óg, despite manifest defensive failings. Stage fright for Ballyvaughan.

And then, with goals from Jack Queally and Cillian Mahon, predictions went out the window, Éire Óg went into retreat and like the train that tortured Johnny Cash in Fulsom Prison Blues, Ballyvaughan just kept on rolling. They were level by the 49th minute; ahead through Setanta Moran’s point in the 55th minute and in each other’s arms at the ﬁnal whistle. Eire Óg were losing the plot with Peter Cosgrove picking up a red card in injury time after comments that clearly found no favour with referee John Brew. How did it all happen? Ballyvaughan never stopped believing and after blowing two goal chances, they did the business in the second half. James Hynes and Raymond Casey wrestled back some authority in midﬁeld. Mark O’Loughlin and

Setanta Moran gave Ballyvaughan extra gallop on the ﬂanks. Closer to goal the stylish John Martyn never faltered from dead balls and Jack Queally grew in conﬁdence as the game wore one. Eire Óg can’t argue that the goals came as bolts

from the blue. Éire Óg can’t afford any more slip-ups. Unlike for Ballyvaughan, the match programme listed no management team for Éire Óg. The Townies are in desperate need of a strong voice on the line.The alarm bells were ringing loud and clear in the ﬁrst half as goalkeeper Shane O’Connell twice came to Éire Óg’s rescue.

Large chunks of space were a constant feature in the Eire Óg halfback line. Despite doing a decent job, Dean Ryan and Donie Lyne were left brutally exposed in the second half. Still, all of this should have a matter for another day and not the basis for

a demoralizing defeat. Four Éire Óg points in the ﬁrst eight minutes of the second half left the scores 1-10 to 0-3. That should have been the end of it, from Eire Óg’s point of view. It was, of course, only the beginning as far as Ballyvaughan

were concerned. There wasn’t much between them in the opening stages. Éire Óg

posted points through Daniels, Brian Shannon and Saran Butler. Ballyvaughan stuck close behind with points from Moran and Martyn. Both sides could have had goals by then. Éire Óg had one disallowed when Fitzpatrick was penalised for pushing. Ballyvaughan, not for the ﬁrst time, powered through and empty corridor but Hynes shot was well blocked behind by Shane O’Connell.

This triggered a response from Éire Óg. Peter Cosgrove landed a high ball on top of Hickey. The full forward adjusted his footing and poked a goal in the 17th minute.

Hickey won plenty of ball off Philip Monks, even if his shooting was at times erratic. This was Éire Óg’s best spell. Points from Butler, Eoin Glynn and Fitzpatrick pulled them 1-6 to 0-2 clear at the break. Ballyvaughan went off, cursing another rmissed goal chance with Martyn the culprit this time around. Éire Óg picked up where they left of after the break. Hickey pointed inside 30 seconds before Glynn and Daniels tacked on two more. Another point from Hickey stretched Éire Óg’s lead

to ten points. But Eire Óg’s problems hadn’t gone away.

Cian Walsh chased a loose pass in the Éire Óg half with no one for company. Walsh tapped the ball onto Queally and he steadied, before hitting the net. Martyn landed a beaut of free before Mahon ripped up the middle and roofed the ball to the Eire Óg net in 41st minute. The goal shaved Eire óg’s lead to three points. Ballyvaughan seized their chance. Martyn popped over another three points. Éire Óg responded with a point from Daniels. Six minutes left. One point in it. Queally executed a slickly worked point from the right. All square. Moran, leaped, caught and pointed. Ballyvaughan led. Hynes’ point left Éire Óg requiring a goal.

The Townies had nothing. Ballyvaughan won and the landscape of Group Two takes on a different complexion. Just one game said Ballyvaughan selector PatsyCarrucan afterwards. But what a game.

**Won and Lost**:-

WHEN Cillian Mahon roofed the ball to the Éire Óg net for Ballyvaughan’s second goal in the 41st minute, you knew something special was brewing in Ennistymon. Ballyvaughan suddenly believed. Eire Óg were paralysed and were swept aside as

Ballyvaughan surged clear at the ﬁnish line. It was an Éire Óg collapse and the worst half hour of football produced by the town team since it returned to senior ranks in 1995. When Ballyvaughan smelled victory they went after it with ravenous intent. Éire Óg on this performance don’t know what the word ravenous means anymore.

**Ballyvaughan:-**

Damien McNamara (7),

Mark Walsh (7), Philip Monks (6), Sean McNamara (7),

Mark O’Loughlin (7), Kieran Casey (7), Setanta Moran (8) (0-3),

Raymond Casey (7), James Hynes (7) (0-1),

Paul McDonagh (7), Cian Walsh (7), Kevin Carrucan (7),

Jack Queally (7) (1-1), Cillian Mahon (7) (1-0), John Martyn (8) (0-5, 4f)

Subs

John Linnane (6) for Queally, Jason McDonagh (7) for Paul McDonagh

**Éire Óg :-**

Shane O’Connell (7),

Alan Malone (6), Donie Lyne (7), Dean Ryan (7),

Paul Madden (6), Marty Whelan (6), Saran Butler (6) (0-2),

Brian Frawley (6), Peter Cosgrove (6),

Brian Shanahan (7) (0-1), Shane Daniels (7) (0-3, 2f), Brian Fitzpatrick (6) (0-1), Sean O’Meara (6), Stephen Hickey (7) (1-2)(1f), Eoin Glynn (7) (0-2)

Subs

Brian Lenihan (6) for Fitzpatrick.

**Man of the Match**:-

John Martyn (Ballyvaughan)

HE may share his name with a famous Scottish folk

singer, but there was nothing laid back about John

Martyn’s performance. Quick to the ball and full of

running Martyn landed sone crucial points late on.

A thorn in Éire Óg’s side and more than likely a few others this season.

**Match Ofﬁcial**

John Brew (Kilmurry Ibrickane)