

BOYS DIVISION 5 FINAL

North Clare side edge cliffhanger

Carron/New Quay/Fanore 2-10 Toonagh NS 4-2

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IF at first you don't succeed then you try and try again.

The old proverb in life and in sport has a particular resonance for the footballers of Carron, New Quay and Fanore were Cumann na mBunscol football has been concerned over the last number of years.

They have challenged for honours time and time again in the last few years, contesting semi-finals and finals, before they finally got to climb the steps of the Cusack Park Ard Comhairle and collect county final honours in what was the opening game of the nine-match programme over two days at Clare GAA headquarters.

Beaten finalists in 2017, this was the North Clare amalgamation's first title success in five years as their brilliant captain James Costello inspired them to victory over a Toonagh NS team appearing at the county final stage for the very first time.

And what a start to the two days it was, with the contest bursting to life in the second half with a glut of scores at both ends before a mightily relieved Carron/New Quay/Fanore side emerged victorious with two points to spare over a very brave Toonagh outfit.

The Carron/New Quay/Fanore side were dominant in the first half with Costello (3) and Emily Howard (2) firing over points as they poured forward, but a breakaway goal by Barry Whelan after eight minutes ensured that the Mid-Clare side were still in the contest at the break as matters rested at 0-5 to 1-0.

Then came lift-off in the second half as the game turned into a thrilling spectacle, with Toonagh sub Daniel McInerney hitting 1-1 inside five minutes, while Costello responded with a goal from a free-kick for Carron/New Quay/Fanore as they edged ahead by 1-5 to 2-1.

A neat point by Dara Cassidy the pushed Carron/New Quay/Fanore two clear before it was followed up



by a Costello goal that gave them a commanding five-point advantage entering the last five minutes.

However, Toonagh never gave up and when they responded with a goal from James Cullinan the battle was joined once more and it re-

mained like that until the very end. The North Clare side moved four clear once more thanks to points by Costello (2), but the gap was back to minimum with two minutes remaining thanks to a second goal from Barry Whelan and a good Dara Mc-

Donogh point.

Carron/New Quay/Fanore weren't to be denied, however, with Costello bringing his tally to 2-6 with the final score of the game to spark wild celebrations among their small but vocal band of supporters.

Carron/New Quay/Fanore

Darragh O'Leary, Daniel Irwin, Oisín McNamara, Emily Howard (0-2), James Costello (2-6, 1-2f, one 45), Eoghan Burke, Dara Cassidy (0-2). **Subs** Jane Smith for Burke, Tadhg McGuane for Irwin, Euan Farrell for McGuane.

Toonagh NS

Christian Cummins, Daniel Guinnane, Jamie Ryan, James Cullinan (1-0), Dara McDonagh (0-1), Barry Whelan (2-0), Cillian McInerney. Subs Daniel McInerney (1-1) for Cillian McInerney. **Subs** Daniel McInerney for Cillian McInerney

Player of the Match
James Costello
(Carron/New Quay/Fanore)

Referee Jim Hickey (Cratloe)



Top left: The Carron/New Quay/Fanore panel;

Above: Carron/New Quay/Fanore captain lifts the shield;

Far left & left: Action from the Division 5 Final;

Below left: The Toonagh panel;

Below: The Carron/New Quay/Fanore captain collects the shield.

John O'Neill

