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Killoe Erins Pride v Drumard O'Briens

Cornadrung, November 1889

(First match report involving a Killoe team)

Note: This report was printed in the Longford Leader 75th anniversary edition in 1972. It relates to only the 2nd game ever played by the newly formed Killoe Erins Pride team.

The Secretary of the Killoe Erins Pride club William Hughes was a great letter writer and controversialist and a very good account survives which he wrote about the Colmcille tournament held in November, 1889. The games took place and Cornadrung in a field given by Edward Fitzgerald and the tournament was certainly the biggest ever held in Longford up to that date. Comcille did not compete but the following teams took part: Drumlish Emmets, Mullinalaghta Leaguers, Arva Davitts, Cornafean Tom Moroneys, Killoe Erin's Pride, Drumard O'Briens, Mullahoran Milesians, Abbeylara Davitts and Gowna West Breffnies.

This is the full account written by William Hughes of the Killoe v. Drumard game in that tournament, and as readers will see, he describes many other things apart from the football contest.

“On Sunday last the Erin's Pride attended a tournament to which they were invited, and which was held in the parish of Columbkille, near Dunbeggan. Our club (as previously arranged) started from the crossroads promptly at 11am and consisted of a procession of five ordinary cars with the long car from Longford. The weather was beautifully fine save a slight mist which marred to some extent the otherwise beautiful scenery which the traveller can behold passing over the road leading from Ballinalee to Dunbeggan. On one side is the lonely glen of Kiltyclough (to which many repair in summer for recreation), and on the other side you can command a beautiful view of Lough Gowna, so that from a tourist point of view the journey was very pleasant.

We arrived at the field set apart for play at 2 p.m. We had some delay before entering owing to some rule which they have over there of charging two-pence each to everybody that enters the field. This we refused to pay, and would most certainly have returned without going into the field were it not for the timely and prudent counsel of the Rev. Father McGuire, to whom the Erin's Pride owe a deep debt of gratitude, and who said we should be let into the field free of charge even though he should have to pay for us himself. We repudiated entering the field except it was clearly understood that no one would have to pay for us, for let me hear remark that it is the principle and not the cost we complain of.

This being done, we entered the field, and were not long there when a match was arranged between the O'Briens of Drumard and our club. Owing to some arrangement, which they had previously made, our match came off last, although they were in the field first, and had to leave to make way for another match.

THE GAME

Time was at last called for the Erin's Pride and O'Briens. The Killoes won the toss for side, and had a slight advantage of their opponents. The Erin's Pride had for goal umpire Mr. Matthew Clarke of Main St., Longford, and their interest was well looked after by their secretary, who acted as field umpire, and who was always with his men urging them on to victory. Our club has vastly improved since they had the match with the Longford Davitts. They were admirably fielded, and showed great dexterity in rushing the ball into their opponents ground. The players having gone to the centre of the field, they clasped

hands and the ball is seen flying in the air, having been thrown in by Mr. McKeon, the referee. The Erin's Pride go in for winning and at once carry the ball into their opponents ground. The O'Briens fiercely resisted and the ball was sent back again to the centre of the field. The Erin's Pride are ordered by their field umpire to charged. They immediately respond to the order of their secretary, who was visibly delighted with the admirable pluck of his men. They this time carry the ball within range of their opponent's goal. Again the order is given in clear tones from their field umpire, "Erin's Pride, charge!" At these magic words, they rushed the ball, broke the lines of their opponents, and sent the ball safe under the goal lines amid the hearty applause of the spectators. During the remaining portion of the first half-time nothing was scored on either side.

SECOND HALF

Half time being called, the men again advanced to the centre of the field, the Erin's Pride fully determined to bring the laurels to Killoe. The ball being thrown in again, the Erin's Pride rush it, and are not long in adding a point to their score. It is now becoming dark, and the players are becoming rough. However the referee, although appealed to, will not declare the play stopped. The Erin's Pride seeing that it is impossible to kick, would fain stop, but the ball is again kicked out by the O'Briens. The Erin's Pride rush again, and the ball is sent into their opponents ground, but by a turn of luck is soon forced by on the Erin's Pride, who cannot not sufficient guard against it, as it is now dark and so the O'Briens gain a point. The field umpire of the Erin's Pride now refuses to allow his men to kick any longer, but this not being the wish of the referee, he ordered the O'Briens to kick the ball, which they did unopposed, and gained a point, which of course we didn't acknowledge.

The play being over, the referee gave his decision, which was Erin's Pride, one goal and one point; O'Briens two points, but we say that the O'Briens gained but one point from play. After returning thanks to the referee, the two teams cordially shook hands, and wished other God-speed, and so ended the best contested and nicely conducted match of the day. After the play, the Erin's Pride were kindly treated, and after giving three hearty cheers, the procession started homeward, arriving safely, well pleased with their day's sport."

Poor Dromard don't get much credit in that account and I haven't been able to get a list of their team, but the following represented Killoe:

John Duffy (captain); M. Kiernan; Hugh Gilnagh; John Brady; William Murtagh; John Murtagh; Harry Mullally; Pat Carrigy; Tom Mahon; C. Mahon; John Dooris; Pat McCann; William Byrne; John Degnan; James Duffy; Tom Quinn; John Quinn; Pat Dooris; Charley Clarke; John Doherty and John Keenan