

1887:

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FOOTBALL

Towerhill v. Cornfield

On Sunday, 23rd inst., the above teams met in a field in the Towerhill demesne. The ground was very tastefully marked out. The green above the red. The Towerhill motto waving gracefully all round, the same badge worn by the guards, with strong wire enclosing the whole area. Shortly after two o'clock the Cornfield men wearing caps of red and white, marshalled by their Capt. J. Ruttledge, arrived and received a hearty cheer from the Towerhill men. Cornfield looked its best; full of high hope and ardent expectation that their defeat of last season on the same ground would now be returned with "blood for blood". But false was the hope and vain the expectation, for at the expiration of the play after taking in three first men they scored nil, while their opponents, under the colour they love best, and which their eyes are hot to see realize the position they gave it that day, secured two goals. That the match looked the greatest enthusiasm was fully attested by the fact that at least 2,000 persons were present, among whom were many of the elite of this and the surrounding parishes. The play started at half past two sharp, Ruttledge having won the toss elected to play with the wind when Blake (Captain) kicked off. The leather was quickly arrested by Ruttledge who with Fitzpatrick and Keane, soon sent into Towerhill territory. Scrummaging followed till the leather, notwithstanding the aptitude of Garvey (Cornfield goalkeeper) the ball was sent through by Fitzgerald amidst thundering applause. Ruttledge now kicked off, and some vigorous efforts were made by his men to retrieve their fallen fortune, amongst those showing hard being Fitzpatrick, Keane M. Mannion and Forde; but their efforts were unavailing as the ball thenceforth was almost invariably kept in Cornfield territory and as 'half time up' was being shouted the ball hit the bar and thus saved Cornfield the humiliation of losing another goal in so short a time. The leather being again shot off by Ruttledge, the play for much of the time that followed, fell considerably from its former vigour, and it took all the energy and adroitness of the Cornfield goalkeepers to prevent several repetitions of the late defeat. At length, but long before the time was expired, came Prendergast, kicked the ball through amidst ringing cheers. Thus terminated the play, but not the whole fun, for the Towerhill Captain with his usual hospitality invited both teams to refreshments, and there with Guinness & Co., Unlimited and joy unconfined, both parties, with many other friends, spent a few pleasant hours and parted best friends with hearty and alternate cheers for their respective Captains.

Number on each side, 23, Umpires - Towerhill, J. McEvilly, Cornfield, M. Fitzpatrick - Correspondent.

FOOTBALL

The Castlebar Team have scored another famous victory. On St. Patrick's Day, at Athlone, they won the Connaught Cup against the young men of the Queen's College, Galway- no ignoble competitors, by any means. A report of the match will appear in our next.

C.T. Feb. 12. 1887

FOOTBALL

BALLA V TOWERHILL

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An amusing and well contested game was played between the above teams on Sunday, 6th inst, in a nice field, kindly given by Mr. Joyce at Laggaturn. The ground was prettily laid out-flags and posts of various colours surrounding it, together with a vast multitude of spectators, who watched with lively interest and utmost good order the spirited and vigorous play that was being carried on in the small area within. Where all forty (20 on each side with an independent outsider, and not the least powerful) acted their respective parts with the utmost judgement and manliness, it would be invidious to particularize parties yet I cannot forbear making special mention of the two captains who displayed more than an ordinary amount of activity and dexterity throughout the whole play. In reference to the independent outsider (Master Ventosus). I must say in justice to him that he alternately assisted.

both sides; and so uniform and powerful was his aid that, through the goal which the defended, not a ball was sent during the whole time. Balla, however, came off victorious, having scored one goal and two points, while their opponents scored but a goal and one point, thus losing an equal victory by one point only. Play over- both teams, with a few other friends, were invited to a sumptuous repast by Mr. Valkenburgh in his hospitable hotel, where, until a pretty late hour, they enjoyed themselves with the good things of Balla, including brandy, wine and whiskey, with "XX" galore.

Quite unexpectedly on leaving the hotel when just about preceeding home the Towerhill captain was hoisted on the shoulders of his late opponnents and carried amidst repeated cheers through the town. Thus ended the day's amusement which will not soon be forgotten by either party.

Teams:- Balla- Nally and Murphy backs; J.T. McEllin, T. Stenson, and Murphy, half backs, Forwards- Valkenburgh (Capt.) Kelly, P. Stenson, Reilly, McEllin, Armstrong, McGreevy, Golden, Ryan, Ansbro, Rooney, Donnellon, Walsh, Summers, and J. Walsh,

Towerhill:- Quinn and Prendergest backs; Toole, Fitzgerald. Kenny,  $\frac{1}{4}$  backs; Forwards-Blake (Capt.) J. Walsh, Tuohy, McHugh, Carroll, Walsh Malley, Phaden, Nally, Gallagher, Lawless. Donnelly, Brennan, Gavin and J. Quinn. Umpires- Balla. Mr. T. Conway. Towerhill Mr. J. McEvilly. Referee Mr. Ed. Cannon.

BALLA V BALLINROBE:

The return match of the above teams came off on Sunday last, the 10th inst., convenient to Balla on the same trying place as that of the Balla v Towerhill teams and which was kindly given by PR Joyce, Esq, Logaturn House. As the day was very fine, and the event duly announced for some time previous, a very large and most respectable meeting assembled to witness the play. More than ordinary interest attached to the day's performance, on account of a letter in the local Press from the honorary secretary of the Ballinrobe F.C. denying the claim of the Balla team to a goal at the match played in Ballinrobe on the 6th ult, and expressing a "hope that ere long the same teams will meet again to finally decide with which shall victory, without dispute or cavil, remain." In Ballinrobe it was agreed to change sides each half hour, and to use foot only for each alternate half hour, and hand and foot for the other half. During the interval for hand and foot the Balla men boxed the ball between the Ballinrobe posts, and claimed a goal for so doing. This was disputed on the grounds that it was distinctly understood beforecommencing play, as stated in the secretary's letter, that

under no circumstances could a ball driven between the posts by the hand be claimed as a goal. Your correspondent was not aware of this condition, and though it so unreasonable that the hand should be withdrawn at the most critical moment, that he communicated with "Sport" on the matter, and on the result of that communication made the last report without acquainting the Captain or club. As to the Balla team refusing play when the Ballinrobe men were "warming up." it would seem the warming up process was no improvement, as it was just then the ball went between their posts. And as the time agreed for operations was two hours, and that the interval of two hours and ten minutes had elapsed between start and finish, I can't see room to complain about a fourth half hour.

On Sunday last, it was agreed to kick under association rules for two hours, with a change of goals at half time. The toss being won by N Ballinrobe, the Balla Captain, after a few words of advice to both teams, to work with spirit and good feeling, kicked off at 3.25pm. The ball was soon sent back within the Balla precincts, where it remained for some minutes, until a good shot from Higgins transferred operations close to the Ballinrobe posts, where some exciting play followed, every shot from the Balla men heading for goal, which was ably defended by Messrs Bourke, Daly, and O'Donnell, until half time was called, when the Balla men had scored one point to their credit.

After this the visitors pushed vigorously for the Balla ground, which was too ably defended to admit entrance. During this time there were some violent collisions and good falls from which the prostrate arose, rather invigorated to push on with renewed energy. The home team having placed another point to their credit, from this forward occupied the Ballinrobe territory, from which the visitors failed to evict them until finally the leather was forced beyond the Ballinrobe lines and under the tape. The judges or referee not being up at the moment could not then decide, and lest the home team might be again accused of short time, their Captain, Mr Valkenburgh, offered to defer the decision of the goal until evening, and to continue play for the twenty-five minutes, which now remained unexpired. Some of the visitors objected to continue unless the home team gave up all claim to the goal. The Balla Capt refused this, but offered the following concessions, viz, to play for half an hour longer to give the visitors choice of goals and a free kick; this also being refused, both teams left the field amidst loud cheers for Ballinrobe.

The visitors and their friends returned to town, and were entertained in the schoolroom at luncheon. The captains, umpires, and referee, next retired to Valkenburgh's Hotel, where they examined some independent witnesses about the disputed goal. After duly considering the evidence on both sides the referee (Mr Hearne) with his usual impartiality and sense of honor, decided in favour of Balla results then scored one goal and two points for the home team to nil. Teams - Balla goal-keeper R. Nally; half backs, Higgins and Toomey; quarter backs, Reilly, Murphy, Connelly; forwards, Valkenburgh (Captain), McEllin, Kelly, McGreevy, Daly, Connelly, Connelly, Ansborow, Murphy, Walsh, Costelloe, Walsh, Nolan, Reilly. Ballinrobe goal-keeper, H. Bourke; half backs Daly and O Donnell; quarter backs, Hamilton, Jennings, Brett; forwards Jennings, Browne, Jennings, Hyland, Tunbridge, Bourke Kelly, McCormack, Thornton, Caulfield, Rattigan, Byer, Fenaghty, Donnelly, Umpires - Balla, Mr. T. Conway, Ballinrobe - Mr J. Kelly.

Mr George Hearne was unanimously elected as referee.

Correspondent.

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SONGS OF THE CAELIC ATHLETES

15<sup>th</sup> OCT. 1887

(From the "Gael.")

We, the numerous men of Eire.  
Born beneath her pleasant skies,  
To our gatherings on our mountains,  
In our thousands we arise.  
See the weapons on our shoulders,  
Neither gun nor pike we bear,  
But should Ireland call upon us,  
Ireland soon should find them there.

All for Ireland, thinking, working,  
Marching on our own green sod.  
Nothing shunning, nothing shirking,  
Fearing nothing but our God.

Different from the creeping Saxon,  
We are men of other minds,  
Glorying in our own green valleys,  
Glorying in our mountain winds,  
Glorying in our Gaelic manhood,  
In our might as men we stand,  
We the blue blood of the Gaeldom,  
Irish heart and open hand.

All for Ireland, thinking, working,  
Marching on our own green sod,  
Nothing shunning, nothing shirking,  
Fearing nothing save our God.

Heirs of many a grand tradition  
That can never fade nor fail,  
While we've life and strength we'll hold them-  
True to Ireland is each Gael.  
Mindful of our great instructors,  
Sarsfield, Emmett, Davis, Tone,  
On our own right hand relying.  
In ourselves we trust alone.

All for Ireland, thinking, working,  
Marching on our own green sod,  
Nothing shunning, nothing shirking,  
Fearing nothing save our God.

AN CHRAOIBHIN AOIBHINN.