

# Lámh Dhearg get division two campaign off to a winning start

By Kevin Herron

## Glen Rovers, Armoy 3-09 -2-13 Lámh Dhearg

Lámh Dhearg started their division two hurling league campaign with a hard fought victory over Glen Rovers in Armoy on Sunday afternoon. The home side were very much looking forward to the start of the season after promotion from Division three hurling. The Lámhs meanwhile made the journey to Armoy with a new management team of Micky McGuigan snr, Patrick McCague and Declan Napier in place, all hoping that the former Intermediate champions would start the season with a win.

In a quite frantic opening period Trevor Linton gave Glen Rovers an early through a free, before Declan Lynch levelled through a free of his own from the '65'. On six minutes Glen Rovers restored their lead; when a defensive mix-up in the Lámh Dhearg defence presented Linton with an opening, and the corner forward drove the ball home to send Rover's three points to the good 1-01-0-01. Lámh Dhearg's response was immediate and just over a minute later the sides were level for the second time; a promising Lámh Dhearg attack looked to have ended with a save from Conor Devlin in the Rover's goal, but a scramble ensued for the loose ball and Joe Doone reacted quickest to force the ball home and level the scores 1-01-1-01.

The goal gave the visitors confidence and they soon built up a four point lead, first Micky McGuigan jnr fired over the bar, before Paddy Joe Herron converted after good work from Conor McConville and Joe Doone. Lámh Dhearg increased the lead to three when a defensive clearance by Daniel McGreevey was sent over the bar by Seamus McAufield and a Declan Lynch point soon stretched the lead to four 1-01-1-05. Both sides then exchanged score's before the break. Trevor Linton temporarily reduced arrears to three points, before a free from Declan Lynch and a fine Conor McConville point put five between the teams, but the margin would be four at the break when Conor O'Kane drove the ball over the bar to leave the score 1-03-1-07 at half time.

Playing with the wind advantage in the second half Glen Rovers reduced the deficit with a bright start, Conor O'Kane pointed from a free close to the side-line before Declan Lynch restored the four point lead with a free of his own. Rovers soon halved the deficit when Trevor Linton hit two quick scores and it was game on 1-06-1-08. Lámh Dhearg quickly quelled fears of a comeback with an intricate move which seen Declan Lynch flick the ball to Shane McGarry who took the shot, though

as the ball dropped Seamus McAufield took a touch before drilling past Conor Devlin to put the visitors five points in front 1-06-2-08.

It could have been even better for the Hannahstown men minutes later, though Joe Doone's goal bound effort was blocked away and Declan Lynch had to settle for the point from a tight angle to increase the lead to six. Glen Rovers again made inroads into Lámh Dhearg's lead when half forward William McClelland found two quick scores, but the visitors increased the lead again when Declan Lynch picked up possession beat his man and drove the ball over the bar. Another two points followed when Lynch converted a free, before Aaron McAufield added a further point and lead now stood at seven 1-08-2-12.

Glen Rovers began to threaten and almost found the net, only for Eamon Herron to block the ball from heading to the net. But with seven minutes to go Martin McErlain sent the ball into the danger area where Trevor Linton was waiting to double on the Ball and send it into the back of the net to make it a tense finish 2-08-2-12. William McClelland grabbed a point shortly after as the home side pushed for a share of the spoils. With sixty minutes on a clock a late surge forward seen the ball moved to Trevor Linton in space, and the corner forward lined up the shot and blasted home past Declan Napier to give Glen Rovers an equaliser. The visitors though were determined not to leave with anything less than a win. And two minutes into injury time a foul on just beyond the '45' resulted in a Lámh Dhearg free, Declan Lynch composed himself before sending the ball over the bar to restore the Hannahstown men's lead.

Conor Devlin's puck out was the last action in the game as the referee blew the final whistle. The Lámh Dhearg players and management were clearly delighted with the win after it looked like they would have to settle for a point, Glen Rovers deserve massive credit for the never say attitude they showed and will be hoping that they can carry this into their next game.

**Glen Rovers team:** Conor Devlin, Arthur Devlin, Owen Darragh, Thomas Burns, Charles McCormack, Ciaran McErlain, Martin McErlain, John Dillon, Paul McErlain, Eamon McCaughan, William McClelland, Gerard Laverty, Lee Forsythe, Conor O'Kane, Trevor Linton. **Subs:** Joseph McFettridge, Hugh O'Kane, David McToal, Peter McErlain.

**Lámh Dhearg team:** Declan Napier, Eamon Herron, Daniel McGreevey, Gerard Finnegan, Neil Cunningham, Mark Lynch, Conor McConville, Terry McCrudden, Aaron McAufield, Micky McGuigan jnr, Declan Lynch, Shane McGarry, Paddy Joe Herron, Joe Doone, Seamus McAufield. **Subs:** Johnny Hanna, Mitch McGarry, Seamus McAllister, Kevin Herron.