

Ruthless Gort put Lámhs to the sword

Gort Na Mona 3-09 Lámh Dhearg 0-12

Gort Na Mona sent a clear message to the rest of the league; that they are not going down without a fight after defeating a lethargic Lámh Dhearg team at Gort Na Mona on Thursday night.

Both sides went into the basement battle desperately needing the two points to make up ground on the teams above. It was the Hannahstown men who adapted better to the poor conditions on a wet and rainy night, and they took the lead two minutes in when Brendan Herron evaded his marker and fired over the bar. The Lámhs lead was soon doubled moments later when Michael Herron; making his first club appearance in eight weeks fired over the bar from range to make the score 0-00 – 0-02 after five minutes. This woke Gort Na Mona who had failed to show up thus far; the home side opened their account through a well taken score from their danger man Dessie McClean to half the deficit. McClean was proving the biggest threat for Gort, and he soon levelled the game with a point from a difficult looking angle.

The home side were gradually growing in confidence and earned themselves a free close to goal, from Dermot McCabe's resulting puck the ball somehow evaded the Lámh Dhearg quartet on the line and went into the back of the net to give Gort Na Mona a one goal lead. Gort Na Mona were proving very hard to live with and mid-way through the first half were soon four to the good, again Dessie McClean was proving hard to handle and fired over the bar to make it 1-03 – 0-02. Having started the game brightly the Lámhs were in quick need of a score, and hardworking half forward Charlie McCloskey was to grab one back to settle the shaky visitors. The Hannahstown men soon grabbed their second score in quick succession, this time Patrick Herron turned well and fired over the bar to reduce the deficit to two points. Lámh Dhearg's fight back was to be short lived though; a point from Mark Rea increased Gorts lead to three points, before Christopher McErlean superbly caught the ball and rifled home a second goal for Gort Na Mona. This was a huge test for Lámh Dhearg who were second best for a long period of the half; with five minutes of the half left Brendan Herron reduced the score to five with a well struck free. The sides then exchanged scores; Mark Rea restored the six point lead for Gort Na Mona, before Brendan Herron added another two points to the scoreboard with two frees to leave four points the margin at half time.

Half time score: Gort Na Mona 2-05 Lámh Dhearg 0-07

The second half began with Gort Na Mona intent on finding more scores to kill the game off, and within a minute of the restart Dessie McClean notched up his fourth point from play to increase Gorts lead to five points. This was temporarily cut back to four, with Brendan Herron keeping the scoreboard ticking over for the Lámhs with his fourth executed free of the game. But Gort Na Mona was proving hard to handle and added two further scores, a point from Thomas McCaffery and one from Darren Boyd made the score 2-08-0-08.

The Lámhs may have pulled a goal back mid-way through the second half, but the Gort Na Mona defence stood resolute to deny the Hannahstown men. Instead the Lámhs had to rely on two frees from Brendan Herron to keep them in touch with Gort. Both sides then exchanged scores; with a fantastic point from Padraig McHugh edging Gort Na Mona five in front, before Brendan Herron replied with a point from play for the Lámhs. With time running out for Lámh Dhearg they needed to commit bodies forward, but this would come at a cost when Gort Na Mona turned defence to attack and a brilliant ball through picked out Christopher McErlean who kept calm and composed to flick the ball over the out coming goal keeper and into the net to put seven points between the teams and wrap up the two league points. With the game over as a contest the Lámhs could only plug away at the deficit, Brendan Herron grabbed a consolation point for the visitors to leave six points between the sides at the final whistle.

Gort Na Mona will be delighted with the victory which moves them off the bottom spot in the table, and played for fantastic hurling throughout the game. Lámh Dhearg on the other hand will be frustrated at the defeat which brings them right into the relegation battle at the bottom, and the

Lámhs must regroup in time for another huge battle against Rossa on Sunday. While Gort Na Mona travel to Belfast rivals Sarsfields with confidence.

Final Score: Gort Na Mona 3-09 Lámh Dhearg 0-12

Gort Na Mona Scorers: Dessie McClean (0-04) Dermot McCabe (1-00) Christopher McErlean (2-00)
Mark Rea (0-02) Pdraig McHugh (0-01) Darren Boyd (0-01) Thomas McCaffery (0-01)

Lámh Dhearg scorers: Brendan Herron (0-09) Michael Herron (0-01) Patrick Herron (0-01) Charlie McCloskey (0-01)

By Kevin Herron