

Lamh Dhearg v Gort na Mona Match Report 11/4/2012

Lamh Dhearg's hurlers gained a comprehensive victory over Belfast counterparts Gort na Mona in their opening division two all-county clash at Hannahstown. Lamh Dhearg went into the game as favourites having come off the back of a successful intermediate championship win the previous season, though after a slow start to the game a 5th minute goal by Gort na Mona caught the hosts by surprise. Their response was immediate, and in no time at all two frees from Declan Lynch and a fantastic score from Aaron McAufield levelled proceedings. The hosts then began to take a stranglehold on the game as scores from Brendan Herron (0-2), Terry McCrudden and Brendan McComb stretched Lamh Dhearg's lead to four points. Both sides exchanged scores before the visitors clawed their way back into the game with a goal and a point to level the game before half time. It appeared as though both sides would remain deadlocked at the break, however Declan Lynch was yet again on hand as his well-executed free dipped below the cross-bar and into the net, this was followed by a Brendan McComb point to leave the score 1-09-2-02 at the break.

It was crucial that the visitors began the second period brightly if they were to fight back into the game, though indiscipline cost them dearly when Declan Lynch claimed the first score of the half from a free. Moments later Michael Herron's surge up field was abruptly halted, and from the resulting 21 yard free Herron dusted himself down to raffle the ball into the net and give the hosts an eight point lead. Daniel McGreevy and Lynch would further increase the lead to ten, though Gort na Mona to their credit did rally and in a ten minute spell knocked over four un-answered points. Momentum was with the visitors going into the last quarter, though when the vital goal opportunity arrived Patrick Herron in the Lamh Dhearg goal was ready and waiting to deny the visitors a route back into proceedings. Instead the hosts were awarded yet another 21 yard free which yielded the same result with Michael Herron blasting home his second of the game to end Gort na Mona's resistance. There was still time for Lynch to add yet another point to his tally but by this stage the game was put beyond all doubt as the hosts ran out 3-13-2-06 winners.

Scorers – Declan Lynch 1-06, Michael Herron 2-0, Brendan Herron 0-2, Brendan McComb 0-2, Aaron McAufield 0-1, Terry McCrudden 0-1, Daniel McGreevy 0-1.

Kevin Herron.