

## Waterford bow out without a whimper



Waterford League 1 South Tipperary 2

Matt Keane

Having lost their opening fixture away to the Wexford League the Waterford League knew that nothing less than a victory against Tipperary would suffice to keep their interest alive in this seasons Oscar Traynor Cup competition alive, but sadly they could not step up to the plate against the visitors in Ozier Park last week.

This game was originally scheduled for mid December but torrential rain put paid to that fixture and as a result the game was switched to Cooke Park in Tipperary. December 22nd was the date fixed for the rescheduled tie but once again the weather intervened and the Waterford League regained home advantage for the match, but it certainly was not a case of third time lucky for the local league.

The team showed a number of changes from the one which had lost in Wexford.

Ace goal poacher Paul Quilty was ruled out with a neck injury and was replaced by St Saviour's striker Gary Keane.

Three players who played for Wexford Youths in 2012, Brian and Shane Nolan and Thomas Croke were named in the squad although they had not played for their club Bohemians to date this season.

An interesting member of the South Tipperary team was Kevin Waters, the player who played for Waterford United for many seasons.

Affectionately known as “Muddy Waters” he captained the visitors from his left full back position and performed superbly all through the contest.

Paul O’Brien, the Blues manager, was present but was keeping tight lipped about what players he was watching.

Waterford opened up brightly enough and Eoin Burke made the Tipperary goalkeeper Evan Comerford work with a snap shot after five minutes of play.

Waterford took the lead after 18 minutes. Brian Nolan sent over a good cross from the left with his right leg and Gary Keane rose high to power a header to the roof of the net from 12 yards range.

The hosts continued to dominate proceedings and Phil Drohan on two occasions and Danny Walsh both went close with long range efforts. The second half proved to be a completely different story.

Tipperary took over proceedings and got back on level terms on 48 minutes.

On the hour mark Emmett Johnson slipped the ball past a hesitant Waterford defence and Evan Maguire had no difficulty beating the stranded Adrian Walsh from deep inside the penalty area.

David Slattery got around Brian Nolan before picking out Evan Maguire and the tricky No 10 gleefully back-heeled the ball into the Waterford net, once again from inside the 18 yards box. Waterford had plenty of time to get back into the match, but they lacked the wherewithal to break down a strong Tipperary defence who were all marshalled by the evergreen Kevin Waters and central defender John Shanahan.

Overall this was an extremely disappointing display by a Waterford team who should have been capable of much better.

**Waterford League:** Adrian Walsh (Carrick Utd) Gavin Roche (Tramore) Brian Nolan (Bohs) Francis Rockett (Tramore) Anthony O’Donnell (Carrick Utd) Michael Caulfield (Tramore) Eoin Burke (Carrick Utd) Stephen Grant (Tramore) Danny Walsh (Villa) Gary Keane (St Saviour’s) Philip Drohan (Tramore)

**Subs:** Shane Nolan (Bohs) for Walsh (69 mins) Lee Grace (Carrick Utd) for Drohan (77 mins) David Baxter (Hibs) for Grant (86 mins)

**Rest of squad:** Thomas Croke (Bohs) Kevin Kelly (Villa) Niall O’Sullivan, Robert Bresnan (Villa)

**Tipperary League:** Evan Comerford, Paul Tobin, Kevin Waters, Craig Condon, John Shanahan, Trevor Cosgrove, Jimmy Carr, Thomas Fahy, Emmett Johnson, Evan Maguire, David Slattery.

**Subs:** Mark Lowery for Comerford (H-T) Alan Hayes for Maguire (75 mins) Shane Flynn for Cosgrove (81 mins)

**Referee:** Anthony Walsh