

NIVEA TARGET FOR MEN NO.1 FOR JUNIOR SOCCER

THE OFFICIAL SKINCARE SPONSOR TO THE IRISH SOCCER TEAM www.NIVEAFORMEN.ie



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Clubs must attend

UCFL round-up

THE Annual Meeting takes place tonight in the Dublin Central Mission Hall...

All registered players in the League are eligible to attend and teams not sending a representative will be fined.

Front

John Costello had the Kildare side in front at the break and when Sean Geoghegan, Brian Holmwood and Ronan Frophy netted in the second half...

A hat-trick from Vianey Slevin was the cornerstone of Adamstown's 7-2 defeat of second-placed Huddleboard...

Paul White, Noel Cogan, Jay Ryan and Jonathan Dillon completed the tally for the Division 3B champions.

RATHNEW TRIUMPH

Wicklow round-up RATHNEW A.F.C. overcame St Peter's Boys in the Aughrim Motor Skoda Wicklow Cup Final at Bray's Carlisle Grounds on Sunday.

Break

Omar Taha levelled it for the Bray outfit 12 minutes after the break, but Rathnew's Nicky Monaghan won it with a marvellous overhead kick on 74 minutes.

Elsewhere Wolfe Tone Youth Club are runners up in Division 1 with a 4-0 win over Aughrim Rangers in the play-off on Saturday.

VEC GET JUVE REWARD



VEC 3 TRINITY COR 1

By STEPHEN WRIGHT

SUPER sub Brian Ward created a thrilling end to the season on Saturday, with two goals to give VEC their first ever UCFL Premier Division title.

All the blood, sweat and tears scooped during the last nine months brought both sides to this point - and the mathematics were simply. Table-toppers Trinity Corinthians only needed a draw to secure the championship...

Revelation

But VEC have been a revelation this season, hanging to Trinity's coat tails throughout and ready any slip-ups that may occur. They may have thought the game was up in mid week, however, when Trinity led 3-0 at Orchard Celtic...

Both sides showed their intentions in the early stages and both had decent chances to take an early lead. David Holt made an important interception when Alan Taylor tried to play Nick Perry in for VEC on ten minutes, before Sean Keegan comfortably gathered a weak header by Simon Roche a couple of minutes later.

Down at the other end Dave Battigan had a great chance for Trinity when Andy Cullen drove in a super corner from the right - but the former Junior International could only direct his header wide.

It was Battigan's mistake which gave VEC their first real opportunity on 16 minutes when his loose pass was pounced upon by Michael Keating, but the right-back screwed his shot wide. Roche and Anthony Dunne combined well for VEC after 21 minutes down the left, and the lat-

CLASS ACT: VEC's Brian Ward (blue) celebrates a goal and (above) VEC's Simon Roche controls the ball under pressure from Gareth Dardis



TITCHING TO GET OUT THERE: VEC and (below) Trinity Corinthians before the game



BATTLE: VEC's Michael Keating and Stuart Woods

Terenure side pip Trinity to title

ter came agonisingly close with a shot which fizzed across Keegan's goal, before Roche himself fired over moments later. But the visitors had begun to take control at that stage. Cullen was proving an expert with some fantastic crosses from the right, and from one such slice on the half hour, Kenny Hills headed a header inches over the top.

Hills and his strike partner Stewart Woods began to combine as the half drew to a close, and it was Woods' neat flick which put Hills clear on 34 minutes - but Darragh McGinley raced out of his goal to block his attempted lob.

Touched

The VEC stopper then touched a shot by Hills onto the post, and Keating cleared off the line from Woods, before the referee's half time whistle allowed a much-relieved VEC to regroup. The second half was just five minutes old when Trinity made the breakthrough, however, when a flick-on by Hills fell to Ronan O'Connor on the edge of the box and he coolly fired low to the left of McGinley.

But Roche was not to be denied on 46 minutes when he rose high into the head home a great cross by Perry, much to the delight of his teammates.

Control

Woods and Cormac O'Connor then came close for Trinity before VEC took control of their own destiny when Peter Morrissey threw in from the right, Roche helped it on, and Ward was on hand at the far post to bundle the ball home. Trinity desperately poured forward in an effort to force the equaliser, and both Hills and Diarmuid Fitzpatrick had shots off target - before Ward clinched the title for VEC.

Trinity were exposed and caught short at the back as Ward raced clear from the half way line, before rounding Keegan and shooting low into the net from an acute angle on the left.

VEC: Darragh McGinley, Brian Quinn, Michael Keating, Peter Morrissey, Ross Kevaneagh, Neil Smith, Paul O'Sullivan, Alan Taylor, Simon Roche, Nick Perry, Anthony Dunne, Subs: Rory Clowry for Keeganagh (20 mins), Seán Lenehan for Smith (26 mins), Brian Ward for Perry (75 mins). Subs not used: Brian Lenehan, Ronan Cullen. TRINITY CORINTHIANS: Sean Keegan, Dave Battigan, Andy Doyle, Sarah Cunniff, David Murphy, Barry Galvin, Andy Cullen, Ronan O'Connor, Rory Clowry for Keeganagh (20 mins), Seán Lenehan for Smith (26 mins), Cormac O'Connor for Galvin (65 mins), Subs: Cormac O'Connor for Galvin (65 mins), Subs: Cormac O'Connor for Galvin (65 mins), Subs: Cormac O'Connor for Galvin (65 mins). REFEREE: Joe O'Hanlon. Assists: Chris O'Neill, Graham Cahill.

UCFL RESULTS AND TABLES

Table with columns for Division, P, W, D, L, Pts. Lists results for various divisions including Premier, Division 1, 2, 3, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, 3I, 3J, 3K, 3L, 3M, 3N, 3O, 3P, 3Q, 3R, 3S, 3T, 3U, 3V, 3W, 3X, 3Y, 3Z.

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