

Tenacious Thomastown complete the big hurling and football double

THOMASTOWN
CLARA

5-6
1-4

A good first half added to a strong finish saw St Mary's, Thomastown claim the Allianz Cumann na mbunscol Corn na Tuaithe football County Cup to add to the Corn de Bhaldraithe hurling County Cup won in June.

While the final score might suggest this was a straightforward win, it was anything but!

Thomastown had to withstand a fierce Clara onslaught in the third quarter before two late goals sealed the win that sees both County Cups reside in St Mary's NS this Christmas!

On a lovely morning for football at MW Hire Park Dunmore, both sides started tentatively as they sussed each other out. It took six minutes to break the deadlock.

Colin O'Neill collected the ball 20 metres out and fed it to Oisín Farrell, who pointed for Thomastown. Clara replied immediately with a like score from David Barcoe from a free.

Thomastown were beginning to get a grip on the game. Oisín Farrell shot his

give them the lead.

Thomastown had a lot of the attacking play, but they didn't turn the pressure into scores. Clara corner-back, Tom Boyle, made a super block to deny Daniel Murray a goal before a Conor Barcoe free extended the Thomastown lead.

Barcoe was instrumental in much of the winners attacks. It was his long delivery that led to the first goal.

When the ball spilled to the ground in the square, Robbie Barron reached fastest and fired home off the ground. Within a minute Thomastown had another.

Barcoe again drove his team forward. When the ball broke free ahead of him, he unleashed an unstoppable shot from the ground. Suddenly Thomastown had opened an eight point lead.

Daniel Murray stemmed the tide when he pointed for Clara, but just before the break, Daniel Begley pointed for the blues.

Half-time score: Thomastown 2-4; Clara 0-2.

The losers started the second half in whirlwind fashion. In their first attack, Pádraig Meany fired a super

tipped over the bar with his goalie beaten.

Almost immediately, Thomastown goaled again. Conor McCaul did the job on his own as the wing back drove through a few tackles before shooting to the net.

Clara bounced back and drove on, David Barcoe and captain Hugh Kelly doing very well.

On five minutes they made the breakthrough when Jamie Walsh bundled the ball home from close range. Within a minute Patrick McDonald added a point.

Suddenly there were only two goals in it, and the momentum was with Clara.

Thomastown had to defend with all their might. Clara did all they could to break the defence, and full back Philip Carrigan was sent forward to aid the cause.

Having held firm for a solid 10 minutes, Thomastown started pushing forward again. Good link up play from midfielders Barcoe and Farrell set Conor McCaul free and he pointed.

With the game entering the final minutes, Thomastown sealed the win. A super ball in from Roman Connolly was met by the first



The Thomastown squad

Two minutes later a long dangerous ball was stopped by Sean Cooke in the Clara goal. Unfortunately for the keeper, the ball fell to Cian Walsh, who fired a left footed shot to the net.

On the stroke of full time Conor Barcoe capped a fine display with a lovely long range point.

Thomastown had plenty of stars, led by the midfielders Conor Barcoe and Oisín Farrell and including Tadhg McMahon,

O'Neill, Roman Connolly and Daniel Begley played well.

Clara had their stars too. Philip Carrigan was a rock at full-back, while David Barcoe, Hugh Kelly, Luke Lawlor and Jamie Walsh were powerful too.

Thomastown - Caleb Mullan; Warren Russell, Cian Coone, Cillian O'Neill; Cian Doherty; Tadhg McMahon (capt); Conor McCaul (1-1); Conor Barcoe (1-2, point free); Oisín Farrell (0-2); Roman Connolly; Colin O'Neill; Daniel Begley (0-1); Daniel Murray; Robbie Barron (1-0),

(1-0), Darragh Lynch, Michael Haughey, Ryan Waugh, Cormac Meegan, Orlan Murphy, Shane Fennelly.

Clara - Sean Cooke; Conor Galvin; Philip Carrigan; Tom Boyle; Daniel Ryan; David Barcoe (0-1, free); Daniel Langton; Hugh Kelly (capt); Bill Kealy; Patrick McDonald (0-1); Joe Power; Pádraig Meany (0-1); Tom Murphy (0-1); Luke Lawlor; Jamie Walsh (1-0).
Subs - Aidan O'Connell, Tomás Brennan, Peter Firbank, Orlan Rowe, David Lannen, Zac Pritzman, Euan Kehoe, Darragh Kenny, Jim