

ROSENALLIS GO

Champagne corks pop as six-goal blitz earns promotion

ROSENALLIS..... 6
 CLOMMORE UNITED..... 0

By Geoid Keegan

THE CHAMPAGNE corks were popping in Rosenallis yesterday afternoon as the village's soccer club celebrated another glorious chapter in its history.

What turned out to be a runaway win over relegated Clommore United came at the end of a very difficult run-in which saw Rosenallis pip Mullingar Athletic B for the CCFL Division One title by just two points.

After losing in Mullingar a couple of weeks ago, Rosenallis needed six points from their last two games to make sure of the championship, and the precious promotion that came with it.

And they did so in style, beating Shinrone 5-2 away and following it up with this trouncing of Clommore.

Rosenallis were two goals up at the break thanks to strikes from Niall

Doolin and John McLoughlin as the home side gave stand-in Clommore keeper Sean Wynne a torrid time.

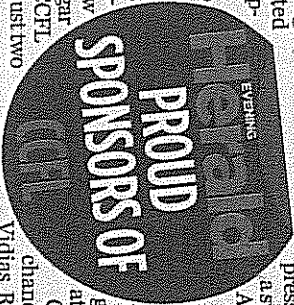
Regular netminder Ger Dunne was unavailable and Wynne was not able to hold Doolin's shot and then conceded a corner when put under pressure by McLoughlin after a superb crossfield pass from Anthony Gorman.

Gorman then floated a left-footed corner to the back post where it was nodded across by Kenny Farrell and McLoughlin gratefully tapped it home at the near upright.

Clommore had one decent chance in that first half but Vidias Rasinimus could not convert when up against opposing keeper Damien Shelley one on one.

Visiting manager Tommy Dunne opted to put David Maloney in goals on the restart and although he was more effective than Wynne, he still conceded twice as many scores.

Shortly after the resumption of play Robba Sofianvus and Andy Quinn, two of Clommore's more impressive players,



DOUBLE DELIGHT: John McLoughlin, team captain, and injured club captain, Darren McEvoy, with the CCFL First Division trophy after the six-nil demolition of Clommore United earned promotion to the Premier Division at the Grove yesterday.

linked up to release Rasinimus in the box but Willie Clear could not find the net when Shelley parried the shot.

It was mostly one-way traffic after that and Rosenallis made it three when the excellent Donal Lator's corner appeared to fly all the way to the net, perhaps with a touch from either James Jackson or a defender.

Farrrell then radded down the left in the 73rd minute and picked out Jackson for a fourth goal and the same scorer netted again six minutes later when Shelley's long punt from his own box bounced in the Clommore area and the Rosenallis man finished it to the net.

Clommore's aerial ability was no match for the strength of Rosenallis all over the pitch and the champions in waiting went in search of yet more goals.

Substitute Dean Malton was inches wide with a super half volley but got his name on the scoresheet when referee Eddie O'Riordan awarded an 89th minute penalty which the patient squad member gleefully drilled low to Maloney's right.

It was a sweet victory for Rosenallis boss Paul Priel, who like goalkeeper Shelley, Farrell, and former teammate Noel Conroy watching from the sidelines, will remember the club's other days in the sun, such as their historic Counties Cup win back in 1999.

CCFL Premier Division action awaits Rosenallis next season as they make their way back to the top after a spell rebuilding the club.

ROSENALLIS: Damien Shelley, Mark Graham, Marcus Redmond, Kenny Farrell, Steve McEvoy, Donal Lator, Anthony Gorman, Eddie Flanagan, Niall Doolin, James Jackson, John McLoughlin. **SUBS:** Tony Byrne, Dean Malton, Damien Gorman.

CLOMMORE LTD: Sean Wynne, Shane Thornton, Declan McDonald, Jamie McGuinness, Brian Farrell, Andy Quinn, Damien Brazill, Robba Sofianvus, Adrian Milncock, Vidias Rasinimus, Willie Clear. **SUBS:** David Maloney, Deragh Rigney, Paul McDonald, John Healy.

Referee: Eddie O'Riordan (Orlady Branch)