Kerry LGFA Minor Final Division 2

Glenflesk 2-07 MKL Gaels 1-13

Referee: Jason O’Brien

By Paul Murphy PRO Kerry LGFA

Played in glorious conditions on Wednesday evening MKL Gaels were crowned division 2 champions following a titanic battle with East Kerry side Glenflesk. Both sides made changes prior to the game. Tirna Murphy got MKL off to the perfect start with a point inside the first minute. Glenflesk responded with a free in the fourth minute through captain Eabha Rudden. The sides were evenly matched in the early exchanges with Ellie Mai Nugent raising the first green flag of the game. Captain Eabha Rudden kept Glenflesk in reach with a brace of frees. As the first half approached the midway point MKL Gaels were beginning to gain more control. Naoise O’Donoghue who was one of the late changes prior to the throw in scoring three unanswered points and Tirna Murphy scoring another saw Glenflesk trailing by five with ten minutes remaining in the half. Encoraged by their management Glenflesk kept plugging away. A converted penalty by Niamh Cantillon saw the deficit reduced to two. It was reduced to one after Aoise O’Donoghue effort sailed over. MKL would finish the half the strongest. Five unanswered points in the final six minutes of the half saw them go in at the break with a six-point advantage. Sarah Fitzgerald and Chloe McHugh with their first were amongst the scorers.

While the second half may not have produced as many scorers as the first half did it certainly produced plenty of effort, commitment and determination by both sides. Glenflesk needed to get off to the best possible start and they did just that with Niamh Cantillon pointing. It wasn’t until the 40th minute the next score came. Captain Eabha Rudden pointing with the same player two minutes later giving Glenflesk that all important goal they needed to ignite their challenge. Tirna Murphy steadied the ship for MKL Gaels. Niamh Cantillon had the deficit down to the bare minimum as it was all set up for a nerve finish for everyone present in Fitzgerald Stadium. MKL would hold their nerve despite Glenflesk giving it everything. Casey Mulry had to be alert in the MKL goal late on as Saoirse O’Donoghue & Naoise O’Donoghue popped over the assurance points to run out deserving winners. Credit to both sides for playing excellent football throughout the game in excellent conditions in Fitzgerald Stadium.

Glenflesk Scorers:

N Cantillon (1p-02), E Rudden (1-04 4f), A O’Donoghue (0-01)

MKL Gaels: N O’Donoghue (0-07 1f), T Murphy (0-03), E Mai Nugent (1-0), S Fitzgerald (0-02), C McHugh (0-01)

Glenflesk: H Heffernan, A O’Connor, A Finan, B Healy, K O’Sullivan, H Ryan, S Warren, A O’Donoghue, K Ryan, N Cantillon, A Cronin, C McCarthy, K Dennehy, E Rudden (C), M Healy

Subs: M O’Reilly for C McCarthy, N Ryan for K Dennehy, K Healy for A O’Connor, A Doherty for S Warren

MKL Gaels: C Mulry, A Kelliher, S Curran, T McGuigan, C McHugh. É O’Callaghan, R Daly, I McGrath, S Fitzgerald, G Casey, L Kimmage, N O’Donoghue, T Murphy, E Mai Nugent, K Murphy

Subs: L Clifford for L Kimmage, A O’Sullivan for L Clifford, G Tysbulkina for T McGuigan, R McCarthy for K Murphy, S Heasman for G Tysbulkina