

Young gun Towers gain their revenge

**Round Towers 2-7
St Clarets 0-6**



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LAST YEAR Round Towers and St Clarets entertained the watching public with a series of exciting and nail-biting games as they duelled with each other for the title of Intermediate Football Champions of 2004.

Throughout that saga there was little between the sides and in the end St Clarets squeezed through in the final to secure the Championships.

This year though it was Round Towers who grabbed the early advantage between these rivals and they did so quite emphatically.

Both teams were weakened somewhat with the absence of the London players. St Clarets were missing the Quinn cousins, Paddy and James, while Towers were missing the inspirational Michael Murtagh.

However, it was two former London players who really settled the show for the winners, with Gus O'Brien and Gary McGovern both proving far too hot for what was a fairly

effort from Sean Maguire.

Indeed, McCullough was to prove to be a real plus for the winners, for although his footwork may still need a bit of work, his ability to win ball and lay it off is very impressive and to that end he is a real asset to his side.

Ger Lynott finally got a point for his side after fifteen minutes but that was quickly negated by two more scores through Gary McGovern and Mickey English, before Martin Falvey struck over again for St Clarets just before the break to reduce the half time deficit to six-points.

Veteran player-manager Tony Murphy moved himself to corner forward and brought on Steven Sherry into midfield at the break to try and counter the difficulties created by those surging runs of McGovern and O'Brien.

Alas though it was to no avail as two early scores from



Round Towers: had an impressive victory against close rivals St Clarets

Donal Geraghty and blasted past Myers to secure the game for the Towers.

At present both these teams are very much trying to sort the wheat from the chaff as far as the players they have at their disposal are concerned.

Both have recent additions to last year's squads and both have also lost players and as these early season games continue, the two managers will have a better idea of what they can do with their collection of

talent.

St Clarets however have the greater problems. They have a number of players who are now the wrong side of thirty from a football point of view and indeed a growing number who are the wrong side of thirty-five. Senior football will be a test for these and it does go to show that it is possible to have too much experience.

Towers on the other hand have youth and plenty of it. It remains to be seen if that youth

has the required talent, but like the challenges that senior football will present the Clarets elder statesmen, it will also create challenges for the Towers' new kids too.

Scorers:

ROUND TOWERS: P McCullough 1-1; S Maguire 1-0; J McCarthy 0-2; G O'Brien, G McGovern; M English; C O'Hagan (all 0-1).

ST CLARETS: M Falvey 0-2; P Lynott 0-2; G Lynott 0-1; S Sherry 0-1.