



The Men in Black team at Ballea Park for the recent charity match.

Pictures: Jim Coughlan



Tadhg Goggin, Men in Black captain, Pat Kelly, referee, and Edwin McNally, Whistleblowers.

Here come the Men in Black

Men in Black	2
Whistleblowers	2
(Men in Black win 5-4 on penalties)	

THE MEN in Black just edged the Whistleblowers on penalties in an entertaining contest at Ballea Park. Cork referee Tadhg Goggin came up with an excellent idea when he gathered nearly 30 Cork referees to play a charity match for Marymount Hospice.

There was a superb effort by both teams as they got the opportunity to display their talents. The Men in Black were led by skipper Goggin who dominated in midfield along with Rob O'Leary, while Tom McCarthy gave a masterclass at centre-half and Keith Callanan caused the Whistleblowers defence problems throughout with his pace.

The Whistleblowers put in a tremendous performance and had some superb displays from Dusty



Soccer

Barbara O'Connell

Dowling at centre back while Alan Kelly and Pat Hayes combined brilliantly in midfield and Darren O'Sullivan was class up front.

Men in Black had a great chance to take the lead when referee Pat Kelly awarded a penalty in the box but Mark O'Connell's powerful spot-kick was somehow tipped over the bar by keeper PJ Aherne.

In the 17th minute Alan Kelly was put through on goal by Eddie McNally and hit an absolute screamer to give his side a 1-0 lead.

The Men in Black were back on level terms when Rob O'Leary whipped in a great ball to Keith Cal-

lanan, who thundered a superb header to the roof of the net.

Men in Black took the lead in the 67th minute when McNally hacked down a forward in the box and Goggin converted from the spot, 2-1.

With time running out, referee Pat Kelly somehow spotted a foul in the box and up stepped John Sweeney to toepoke the penalty kick to the back of the net to send this match into penalties.

Both sides missed one each in the shootout so it came down to sudden death and with John Sweeney almost hitting the corner flag with his effort, it was Mark O'Connell who scored an absolute beauty to give the Men in Black victory.

Almost €1,000 was raised for such a great cause in Marymount Hospice and if anyone would like to donate please contact any referee in the Cork Branch. The Cork branch would like to thank Tadhg Goggin for all his effort in organising this superb event for a superb cause.



Keith Callanan, Men in Black, jostles with Whistleblowers' PJ Aherne, Brendan Dowling, and Kevin O'Sullivan during a corner kick.



The Whistleblowers side who were defeated in the Irish Soccer Referees Society Cork Branch charity match.



Mark O'Connell, Men in Black, scored the crucial penalty against the Whistleblowers.