

Drumoghill ..... 2  
Lagan Harps ..... 0

BY AIDAN O'DONNELL AT THE MOSS  
PHOTOS BY DECLAN DOHERTY

SECOND-HALF goals from Chris O'Donnell and Liam O'Donnell earned Drumoghill a sweet derby victory over local rivals Lagan Harps, who suffered a league defeat for the first time this season at a rain-drenched Moss yesterday afternoon.

Drumoghill, who had suffered four defeats in their first six games, badly needed a win to get their season back on track, while stand-in goalkeeper Danny Gallagher helped the home side register their first clean-sheet since the opening day of the season.

Ciaran O'Donnell's side had to ride their luck at times as Lagan always looked likely to create an opening through the sheer persistence of Chris Toner up front. The Lagan front-man had a number of half-chances throughout and on another day would've bagged a hat-trick, while Kevin Kelly was twice unlucky with a couple of sweetly struck free-kicks.

The pitch was in no state for a match and what developed was anything but a spectacle as the incessant rain over the weekend left the surface requiring a manicure.

Lagan, with a healthy two wins and two draws from their opening four encounters, started well and almost broke the deadlock after only five minutes when Ronan Gibson, restored to the engine room of midfield, headed over the bar from a Kevin Kelly free-kick.

Drumoghill full-back Shane McIntyre, who enjoyed a fantastic game throughout, went very close to putting the home side in front with a rasping twenty-five yard piledriver that flew just past the top corner.

Lagan, though, continued to create the more chances in the first half with Kelly crashing a free-kick onto the bar before Toner drove into the side-netting from close-range.

Drumoghill, who have had little luck with their goalkeeper situation



Drumoghill 'keeper Danny Gallagher punches the ball away under pressure.

this season, were indebted to Danny Gallagher after the netminder pulled off a terrific stop from another long range drive by Kelly just before the break. Ten minutes into the second half and Drumoghill made the breakthrough when Chris O'Donnell climbed unchallenged inside the penalty area to delicately glance a Richard Tinney free-kick past a flat-footed Damien McFadden.

Lagan, having unleashed Oisín McMenamin at half-time, nearly restored parity almost immediately after going behind as Toner turned back inside his marker before firing inches past the bottom right-hand corner. McMenamin then teed up his

fellow striker who again missed the target, this time with a six-yard header.

William Gillespie had a glorious chance to put the game to bed midway through the second half as he raced onto a loose ball but after going past Damien McFadden the Drumoghill winger couldn't quite steer his shot inside the post.

However, shortly after the home side did grab a second when Gillespie made amends for that miss by releasing Liam O'Donnell on the overlap, allowing the midfielder to hammer from twelve yards.

Again, Lagan responded well and were unlucky not to have got one



Drumoghill's Chris O'Donnell gets a tackle in to stop a Lagan attack.

back in the dying stages through Toner and Kelly, who had another audacious free-kick fly just past the upright.

Table-toppers Gweedore Celtic are now the only side in the Premier League yet to taste defeat and with the Ulster Cup and the FAI Junior Cup respectively taking centre stage over the next fortnight the league will recommence in the middle of November with a real shape to it.

Lagan and Drumoghill are separated by just a point, but the Manor side have a couple of games in hand over their geographical rivals.

Drumoghill: Danny Gallagher;

Colm Watson, Richard Tinney, Jockey Wilson, Shane McIntyre; Karlos Rodgers, Chris O'Donnell, Liam O'Donnell, William Gillespie; John O'Kane, Eddie Gillespie. Sub: Kevin Higgins.

**Lagan Harps:** Damien McFadden; Mark O'Donnell, Seamy Peoples, Conor Sweeney, Declan Sweeney; Kevin Kelly, Glenn Gallagher, Ronan Gibson, Fergal Corry; Chris Toner, Brian Kelly. Subs: Mark Terry, Kieran Doherty, James Gillen, Aidan O'Donnell, Shaun Gillen, Oisín McMenamin.

Referee: Kevin Logue

