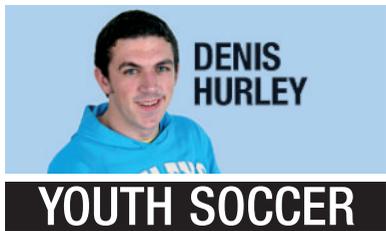


# CORK C&C YOUTH & U17 LEAGUES Proudly sponsored by

**DALY INDUSTRIAL - STIHL**

# City meet Corinthians in a Christmas cracker



## TABLES

**Daly Industrial Supplies-Stihl Youth Premier League**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilreen Celtic	9	7	2	0	22	8	23
College Corinthians	7	3	4	0	19	10	13
Carrigaline United	7	3	3	1	18	10	12
Cork City	5	3	1	1	15	6	10
Avondale United	7	3	1	3	13	18	10
Castleview	6	1	2	3	7	17	5
Glounthaune United	8	1	0	7	13	24	3
Cobh Ramblers	7	0	1	6	7	20	1

**Daly Industrial Supplies-Stihl Youth League 1**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middleton	10	8	0	2	33	9	24
Leeds	6	5	0	1	13	10	15
Mayfield United	9	4	2	3	26	23	14
Douglas Hall	7	4	0	3	13	10	12
Fermoy	9	3	1	5	16	19	10
Wilton United	9	2	0	7	19	37	6
Rockmount	8	1	1	6	11	21	4

**Daly Industrial Supplies-Stihl Youth League 1A**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lakewood Athletic	9	5	2	2	27	14	17
Ringmahon Rangers	6	4	2	0	21	5	14
Buttevant	6	4	1	1	20	10	13
Carrigaline United B	7	4	1	2	16	14	13
Everton	6	3	0	3	14	17	9
Dunbar Celtic	5	2	0	3	8	16	6
Kinsale	7	2	0	5	17	27	6
Ballincollig	8	0	0	8	6	25	0

**DUE** to Christmas Day and New Year's Day falling on Saturday, it means that the next two weekends will not see any youth soccer action locally.

Instead, regular programming recommences in two weeks' time, January 7, 8 and 9.

There are, however, four games in the third round of the FAI Umbro Youths Cup scheduled for next Monday, December 27, weather permitting, as the committee of the Cork Youth Leagues hope to clear the fixtures backlog.

Hopefully, things will have improved by Monday, allowing the games to go ahead, and if they do then anybody venturing to watch them should be in for a treat as there are some tantalising fixtures in prospect.

At Bishopstown, it promises to be a cracker when Cork City entertain College Corinthians. While City are in fourth place in the table, they have played just five games, four fewer than leaders Kilreen Celtic, and they have two games in hand on Corinthians and Carrigaline United, the other two teams above them.

Possessing a very strong attack, led by free-scoring Brendan Cullen and Eoin McGreevy, City are almost guaranteed to score goals, though they will find things hard against a still-unbeaten Corinthians.

A lot of draws early in the campaign meant that the Castletreasure side were in a 'false' position, but a good run of wins lately has catapulted them up to second place and with Mark Parkes, Darragh O'Sullivan and Jordan Philpott all available, they will pose a threat.

It would not be a surprise if extra-time and penalties were required to decide the outcome here.

Kilreen are also in cup action, at home to Castleview. Six weeks ago, the Ballyphehane side beat their northside opponents 6-1 in the league and with seven wins and two draws in the league, they have shown themselves to be a formidable team under the tutelage of manager Tim O'Sullivan.

Gordon O'Sullivan, Jason McCarthy and Jamie Rice have all had great seasons so far and going on form it would be hard to see Kilreen slipping up, but the cup competitions

have been known to cause upsets, as Kilreen themselves know, beaten by Cobh Ramblers in the league cup semi-finals.

At Knockgriffin Park in Middleton, the home side go head-to-head with Premier League side Carrigaline United, who currently sit in third place in the table.

The bulk of this Carrig side reached the final of the equivalent competition last season, the FAI Umbro U17 Cup, beating local double-winners Corinthians in the process.

Ultimately, they fell at the last hurdle, losing 8-7 on penalties to Dublin side Belvedere in the final at Turner's Cross in May, so they will be determined to right that wrong.

With Cork players Kieran Doran,

Chris O'Callaghan and David O'Callaghan in their ranks, Carrigaline will be strongly fancied to advance, but they would do well to take into account the fact that Middleton are currently top of League 1.

If the home side are to cause what would be a mild surprise, they will look to the likes of Tariq Tynan, Ronan Kennedy, Andy Howick, Brian Hartnett and the Matiki brothers, Grace and Gloire, to put in good performances.

Whatever happens, this should be a great game, with the winners travelling to face the victors of the Kilreen-Castleview game in round four, the last round before the open, nationwide draw.

City or Corinthians will host the winners of the remaining tie, Gloun-

thaune United against Avondale United.

Going on league form, with Avondale seven points ahead of their opponents with a game in hand, helped by a 5-1 win against Glounthaune recently, the Ballintemple side would be fancied to progress, but Glounthaune have had good performances in the cup up until now.

Conor English, Andy Gannon, Niall Scanlon and Conor O'Brien scored for Glounthaune as they edged past Mayfield United, 4-3 after extra-time, in the last round, and all will need to play well again.

Avondale will be looking to goalkeeper Cathal Power – the hero against Fermoy in this competition – Eoin Smith and Adam Kenneally.

# Christmas sketch leaves tipster sceptical of his skills

IT'S Christmas Eve afternoon in the *Echo* offices and it's a lonely place now that everyone else has gone home.

The only creature stirring is myself, the clicking of my mouse and my fingertips jingling the keys.

A phone rings every so often in the distance, some lunatic on the other end with the scoop of the year no doubt; I don't pick it up.

Taking my life in my hands on the ice-rink again recently, the thought occurred to me that I have always had trouble doing things that begin with the letters "sk".

Skating for example. I've been on the ice three times in my life but I've never managed to look close to graceful. I walk on the blades and am baffled how anyone does it. What's the secret? No

matter how many times you tell me, my feet cannot follow the instruction "push out and slide forwards".

After massaging my aching ankles it occurred to me that I also never learned to skip. Two years in a boxing club as a kid and I never mastered it. My coach, by the end, suspected I was pretending I couldn't do it on purpose and I think only my lack of potential punching power eased his frustration.

And I thought some more. Not one way do I know how to skin a cat.

Although I like the idea of telling people that I have jumped out of a moving plane, I have never been that eager to skydive.

Scaring people is something I have found I can do without any great diffi-



culty just by standing in their back gardens in the middle of the day, but "scare" only sounds like it begins with a, "sk".

It sounds strange, but I've always had extreme difficulty skimming stones. As a kid, while my brother's would be careering off towards the horizon, mine would only make a satisfying "plop".

I have never had enough money or nerve to ski.

I can eat a lot of Skittles, but I guess that doesn't count.

Bored in the bookies one day during the interminable wait between to horse races, I started doodling on a docket. I handed my effort in at the counter. The girl stared at me.

"What's this?"  
"Wayne Rooney to score first against Chelsea please. A fiver."

"But it's a drawing."  
"Yes," I pointed out. "There the scoreboard says 1-0. That's Wayne celebrating and that's the ball in the net behind Petr Cech. You can tell it's Cech from his headgear."

"It looks like a Stetson. And would the scoreboard read 1-0 so quickly after the goal. This looks like it might be the second goal."

So I gave up sketching.

On the first tee during a rare golfing expedition however, something happened. I teed the ball up too high and swung.

"Angel raper," said my playing partner.

"What?"  
"That's what you say when you sky the ball."

That's not a very nice description for it, I thought. And surely it should be angel rapist... and then I realised I could do it. I had skied my ball. I've always been doing it, for years.

Maybe not be something to be proud of but it's all I got.

OK, it's time for me to skedaddle.  
**Recommendation:** Have a happy Christmas.