

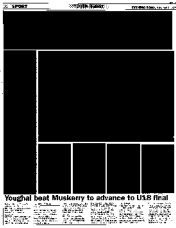
Friday, 11 April 2008

Page: 36

Circulation: 25 904

Area of Clip: 69713.00mm

Clip ID: 105927



# Bandon into final for second year

By JOHN LEONARD

Youth rugby

**Dolphin** 27  
**Bandon** 46

**HOLDERS** Bandon have qualified for a second successive South Munster U18 Development Plate decider.

They will meet Sunday's Well next Saturday at Woodleigh Park after they saw off the challenge of a gallant Dolphin side in Saturday's semi final at Musgrave Park.

In a game of contrasting styles, the west Cork side looked to play an expansive game as half-back pairing Philip Powell and Mark O'Driscoll combined on several occasions to bring their back line into play while Dolphin, with a heavier pack, opted to keep things tight as front-row forwards John Leahy and Aaron Grace presented Bandon with countless problems in the loose and Chris Smithers was very prominent around the fringes.

The scoring was opened within two minutes of the kick-off when Bandon prop Gearoid Slattery was credited with a pushover try from a driving maul following a lineout deep in the home side's 22. Kevin Brophy added the two points from a difficult angle.

Bandon continued to have the home side on the back foot and they were soon back on the scoresheet when Powell and O'Driscoll combined following a ruck to set up Brophy for their side's second try.

The west Cork side enjoyed further territorial advantage midway through the half and their third try came in the 11th minute when the ball was spread wide following a lineout on the Dolphin 22 to send full-back Sean O'Riordan over.

Dolphin began to get to grips with the game entering the second

quarter and pressure by their pack yielded a penalty outside the visitors' 10-metre line directly in front of the posts, which full-back Steve Lydon converted for 17-3.

The home side continued to have the West Cork side pinned back, but they had difficulty in breaking down a stubborn defence as O'Riordan and hooker Paudie McSweeney were putting in tackles and wayward passing on Dolphin's part was also proving to be costly.

Bandon were back on the scoresheet in the 25th minute when O'Riordan embarked on a run from inside his own 22 as far as the halfway line and from there the ball was spread wide to send right winger Liam Dempsey over in the corner to increase the lead to 22-3.

Dolphin were on the defensive for the closing minutes of the half and O'Riordan increased his side's lead to 27-3 with his second try three minutes before the interval when he ran for the line after gathering possession on the Dolphin 10-metre line from a clearance by the home side's defence.

The Musgrave Park side upped the ante after the interval and scored within three minutes of the restart when Leahy was credited with a pushover try following a penalty on the visitors' 22 which

for his side's sixth try in the 42nd minute, which he also converted.

Five minutes later, Philip Crowley increased Bandon's lead to 39-8 when he was credited with a pushover try from a driving maul following a five-metre lineout.

Dolphin refused to give up without a struggle as they had the west Cork side on the defensive for most of the final quarter.

Midway through the second half, Leahy was credited with his side's second pushover try under the posts following a five-metre scrum, which Lydon converted to leave 24 points between the sides.

The West Cork side were back on the scoresheet entering the final 10 minutes when O'Riordan intercepted a pass by Dolphin's out half Gearoid Twomey on the home side's ten-metre line and set up substitute Chris Collins for their side's eighth try, which Brophy converted to increase Bandon's lead to 46-15.

Dolphin continued to rally in the closing stages as second centre Ben Halpin and wing forward Chris Smithers each ran in a try and Lydon converted Halpin's try to leave a respectable 19 points between the sides at the finish.

**Scorers Dolphin:** Steve Lydon 2 conversions & 1 penalty; John Leahy 2 tries; Ben Halpin & Chris Smithers 1 try each.

**Bandon:** Kevin Brophy 1 try & 2 conversions; Mark O'Driscoll 1 try & 1 conversion; Sean O'Riordan 2 tries; Gearoid Slattery, Liam Dempsey, Philip Crowley & Chris Collins 1 try each.

**DOLPHIN:** Steve Lydon; Richie Stanton, Ben Halpin, Robert Twomey, Robert O'Brien; Gearoid Twomey, Aaron Daly; John Leahy, Aaron Grace, Colm Delaney; James Crowley, Chris Forde; Chris Smithers, Billy O'Callaghan, Shane Morris.

**Replacements:** Harry Harvey, Kieran Murphy, Anderson Fuangannu, Karl Hickey, Ian O'Halloran.

**BANDON:** Sean O'Riordan; Liam Dempsey, Gordon Forde, Kevin Brophy, Sean Bennett; Mark O'Driscoll, Philip Powell; Gearoid Slattery, Paudie McSweeney, Reggie Sugrue; Sean Murphy, Shane Walsh; Jamie O'Mahony, Richard Crowley, Philip Crowley.

**Replacements:** Jonathan Taaffe, Con Kelleher, Chris Collins, Rob Wilmot, Denis Twohig.

**Referee:** Enin O'Neill (IMAR)

## RESULTS

**South Munster U18 A Cup:** Muskerry 34, Ballincollig 5; Mallow 10, Highfield 18; Youghal 21, Muskerry 0.

**U18 Development Plate:** Dolphin 27, Bandon 46.

**U16 A Cup semi-final:** Youghal 12, Mallow 10.

**U14 A Cup:** Kinsale 27, Youghal 10.

they opted to run.

Bandon immediately had Dolphin on the back foot and pressure by their pack yielded a penalty deep in the home side's 22, from which they opted for a quick tap and following a ruck O'Driscoll ran for the corner and touched down behind the posts

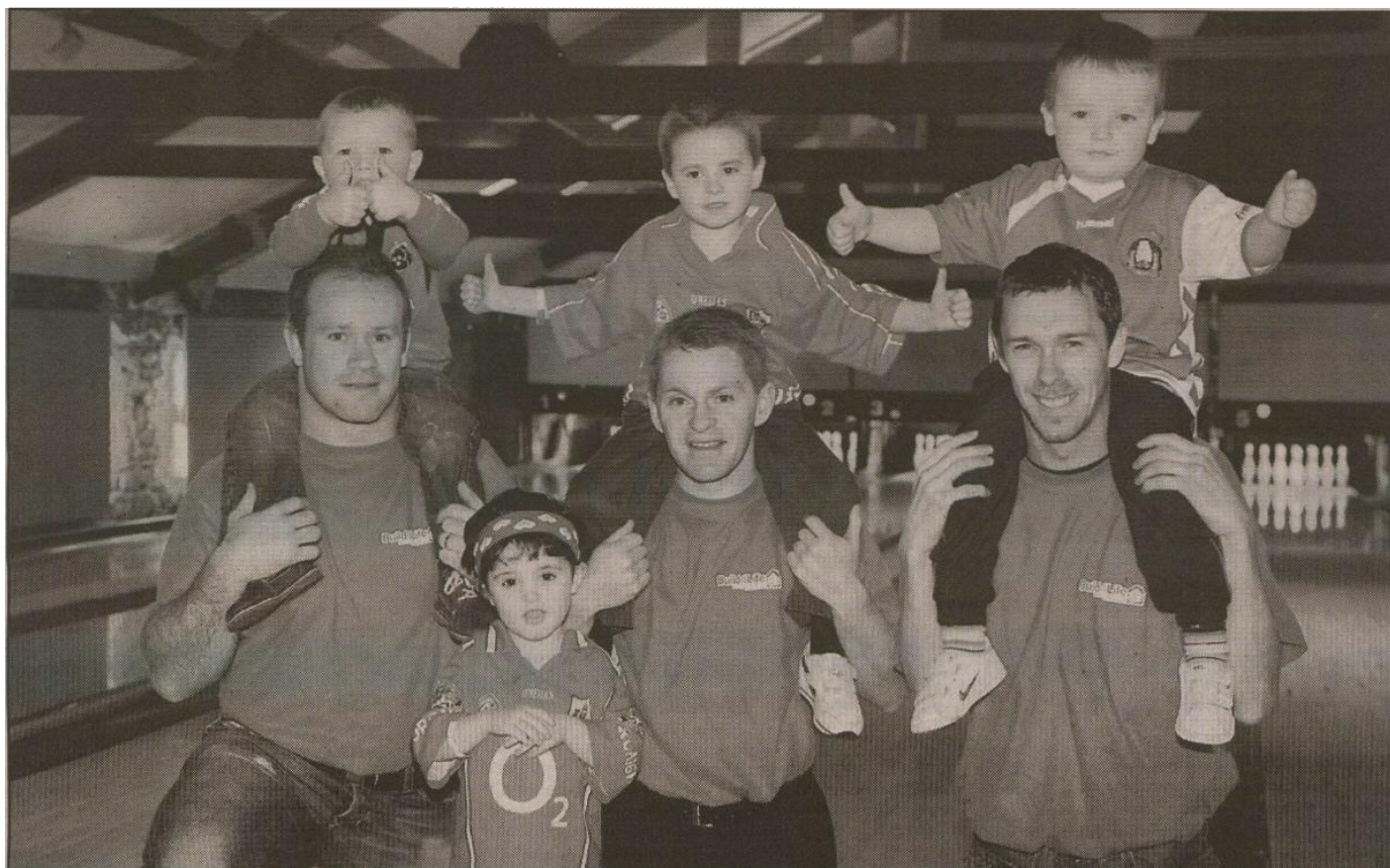
Friday, 11 April 2008

Page: 36

Circulation: 25 904

Area of Clip: 69713.00mm

Clip ID: 105927



**Promoting 'Jersey Day' for Cystic Fibrosis are Munster's Frankie Sheahan; Cork City's George O'Callaghan and Cork hurler Joe Deane with children: Jessica Rey (GAA); Sean Caughlan (soccer); James O'Shea (rugby) and Darragh Quilligan (GAA).**

Picture: Ger Bonus