



A spirited second half performance wasn't enough to save Moynalvey from the dreaded drop as they lost out to Skryne by four points in this Fairyhouse Steel Senior Football Championship Relegation Final played at Walterstown on Sunday morning October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Moynalvey 0-11**  
**Skryne 1-12**



Moynalvey's twelve-year stint in the senior grade came to an end against the longest serving club in the top tier of Meath football in this relegation final.

Such is the competitive cut throat nature of the Meath Senior Championship, having been quarter finalists last year and picking up three points in the group stages this year Moynalvey still found themselves in relegation trouble come the conclusion of this year's group stages.

Having been down so many personnel through emigration and injury, staying senior this year

was always going to be a tough task from the outset, yesterday that fear became a reality as a four point loss to Mick O'Dowd's Skryne side sees the men in maroon fall back to the Intermediate ranks for the first time since 2011.

Moynalvey's trait of starting slowly and giving teams a head start in this year's championship came to the fore here again, falling five points behind at half time and seven behind within six minutes of the second half, leaving them a huge mountain to climb.

It was Moynalvey who opened the scoring with a David McLoughlin point from play after thirty seconds to lead for the only time, that was as good as it got for Moynalvey in the opening period.

Three points from Conor O'Brien, John Finnerty and Oisin Keogh put the Skryne men 0-3 to 0-1 ahead with four minutes played.

Moynalvey's top scorer Cillian O'Sullivan opened his account in the 8<sup>th</sup> minute, but Skryne responded with a Conor O'Brien point who became a constant thorn for the Moynalvey defence in the first half.

Three Ian Davis frees extended Skryne's advantage out to five points, 0-7 to 0-2 with five minutes of the half remaining.

O'Sullivan and Davis traded scores to leave the Tara men five points ahead at half time, 0-8 to 0-3.

Darragh Campion and David McLoughlin traded points early in the second half, with another brace of Skryne points from Conor O'Brien and John Finnerty pushing Skryne's advantage out to seven points, 0-11 to 0-4.

But then the Moynalvey fight back commenced, dominating the game from here on and putting the Skryne men completely on the backfoot and in the process outscoring their opponents six points to no score between the 40<sup>th</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> minutes to narrow the deficit to just a point with six minutes of normal time remaining.

The half time introduction of Donal Smith to the middle third gave Moynalvey the platform to take control of the midfield battle and dominate possession in the second half.

As he has done so often in the past it was that man Cillian O'Sullivan who led the fight back on the scoring front for Moynalvey, accounting for five of his side's second half points.

# Relegation Final loss to Skryne means Moynalvey drop to Intermediate

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