

Scoil Ui Mhuiri had a lot to celebrate this week. Over the last few years there have been momentous changes to the Secondary school – now approaching it's seventieth year. There is a fabulous new building, several new subjects, a growing student cohort, a growing staff membership and a second Deputy Principal appointed. However, Wednesday 2nd October was a sweet day for those who have been associated with the school for many years: Scoil Ui Mhuiri played it's first match on home ground.

After many years of deliberation and planning, the new pitch on the grounds of the school could officially be used for an inter schools' match. It was an important day for the entire school body – but most especially to the teachers and students who have had to travel away for matches for many decades in the past. Principal, Ms Kirk – who has been teaching in the school since the early nineties – was especially delighted, as she was one of those teachers who had the arduous task of finding pitches and venues for her Gaelic teams to play on. No more!

The day was marked by the entire non exam class cohort of the school attending the match. It was a suitably beautiful day of sunshine, and the atmosphere was enthusiastic – to say the least. The throw-in was done by none other than George Reynolds - the much-loved former caretaker of the school for many years. George has a long association with GAA in the Dunleer area and with Scoil Ui Mhuiri itself. For many years George devoted his time and attention to building up many, many teams that passed through the school. It was fitting that he be given the honour of first throw-in.

And the match itself? Much like the first rugby match played in Croke park some years back – the home team won in great style. The Second-Year boys' team were undaunted by the large crowd of spectators in attendance and rose to the challenge and produced a performance befitting the occasion. Somewhat depleted due to injury from their opening round success last week (they began their season with a hard-fought win over Coláiste Clavin in the North Leinster Championship on a scoreline of 6-10 to 2-9) they put on a scintillating display of attacking football to register the 2nd win of their North Leinster campaign against Athboy Community School on a scoreline of 6-12 to 3-6. All 20 available players featured during the game with 9 contributing to the scoring tally.

The team and scorers were: Ryan Leech, Harry Martin, Fionn Glennon, Fionn Magennis, Paraic McKeever (1-0), Aaron Murphy (0-3), Nathan O'Hanrahan (1-1), Myles Downey (0-5), Mikie Farrell (0-1), Caelán Mulroy (1-1), James Matthews (2-0), Lucas Kearney (0-1), Páidí McDonnell, Elias Agaci, Jamie McCullough (1-0). Subs: Nathan Englishby, Daniel Hoey, James McEntee, Cillian Goodman, Aidan Rafferty. Unavailable panel members: Lorcan O'Connor, Elliot Kirwan, Seán Clarke, Jamie Johnson.

Congratulations to all and may there be many more victories for SUM on our new hallowed ground.