

**Div 5 Weston 2nd X1 3-4 Three Rock 3^{rds}
Saturday 21 January 2012.**

Weston lost two games in a row for the first time this season with this latest defeat to Three Rock Rovers 3rds. This was the third week in a row that Weston hosted Three Rock, and the visitors arrived in Griffeen Valley park well prepared for this league tie. Weston, on the other hand, looked tired and heavy legged, as a number of the squad had played in a friendly game against Clontarf just minutes before tip off. The visitors sensed a sluggishness about the Weston approach, and raced into a 2 goal lead in the opening 15 minutes. The Weston defence, which had been watertight up to this point, were caught flatfooted, as Three Rock piled on the pressure. Things didn't get any better in the 2nd half as Three Rock scored another two goals, to seemingly put the tie to bed. However, Weston suddenly awoke from their slumber and managed to get one back through Enda Tucker, from a penalty corner rebound. Ritchie Bagnall was next on the scoresheet, and 2 minutes later Mark Benzies scored a third, to narrow the gap to one. At this point there was only going to be one winner, but try as they might, the Three Rock rearguard stood firm in a tense and exciting final 10 minutes. This was a thrilling game, and a great advert for the lower leagues in Leinster. That will be small consolation for player coach Derek Tucker, as his team fell further behind league leaders YMCA 3rds, as they secured a good win away to The Gate. The 2nds have a free weekend this Saturday, and that may not be a bad thing as Tucker tries to correct some of the defensive deficiencies that led to this latest defeat. Squad: D. Kelly, P. Kirwan, S. Beattie, P. Lawson, E. Ryan, D. Tucker, M. Benzies, D. Carey, J. Long, D. Carey, R. Bagnall, J. Lennon, E. Tucker and R. Kelly

**Leinster Intermediate Cup 2nd Round
Weston 2nd X1 2-3 Three Rock 4th X1 (AET golden goal)**

It was bound to happen, playing three tough games in 7 days finally caught up with the 2nd X1, as they were knocked out of the Intermediate cup on a 'golden goal'. This was another good cup tie, and fair dues to Three Rock, they rode their luck for large parts, but managed to score the all important winner in extra time, after the game finished 2-2. The winning goal was very unusual, as a harmless pass into the Weston circle was left by the home keeper, Declan Kelly, and rolled into the goal. However, the umpire deemed the pass to have been taken inside the circle, and a goal was given. Three Rock arrived at Griffeen with 9 players, but Weston could not take advantage in the first 5 minutes of the game, as sloppy passing and tired legs led to a subdued start from the home side. As the visitors were restored to the full complement of 11 players, Weston took the lead as Mark Benzies was the first to react to a pass driven into the Rovers circle as he deflected the ball past the keeper. The visitors response was good, and they equalised five minutes later. 1-1 at the break, Weston introduced 2nd half substitutions Enda Tucker and Daryl Carey, and began to dominate proceedings. Their persistent pressure was rewarded when a penalty corner was illegally stopped by the Rovers defence, and Peter Kirwan slotted the resulting penalty stroke. Again, the visitors struck back and a deflected shot flew past Kelly, and into the net for a second equaliser. Try as they might, Weston could not find a winning strike and the tie moved into extra time, golden goal. The home side continued to dominate, but in a rare foray into the Weston half, Rovers managed to work the ball into the circle, and that controversial goal was scored. The

2nd X1 will be kicking themselves, as the Intermediate cup represented a good chance to secure some silverware this season. However, the league remains the priority, and the 2nds will have a chance to gain some sort of revenge, as they welcome Three Rock to Griffeen for the third week running next Saturday in a Div 5 fixture.

Squad: D. Kelly, P. Kirwan, P. Lawson, G. van Jarsveld, E. Ryan, S. Beattie, D. Tucker, J. Long, M. Benzies, A. Hanna, R. Bagnall, S. O'Hare, E. Tucker and D. Carey.

Leinster League Div 5 St James' Gate 1-2 Weston Monday 9 January 2012.

Weston men's 2nd X1 came away from St James' Gate with the narrowest of wins, which moves them within a point of league leaders YMCA in Division 5. This was a very tense affair, where the home side really put it up to Reds, and the Gate captain expressed that it was their best performance of the season to date. Indeed, it was the home side who opened the scoring five minutes from the break from a penalty stroke, after Peter Kirwan was correctly pulled up for stopping a shot on the line with his body. The Gate were fortunate to go into the break 1-0 up, as Weston dominated possession, without creating many clear cut chances. Their approach play was good as Brian Scully and Enda Tucker sprayed the ball about the park, but the final ball was lacking, which left Joe Lennon and Shane O'Hare very frustrated up front. The home side were relying on counter attacks, and it was from one such attack 5 minutes from the break that they earned their first penalty corner of the game. The resulting block by Kirwan led to a stroke which was duly dispatched, giving Declan Kelly no chance. The turning point of the game came 30 seconds into the second half. The Gate tipped off and pushed the ball into their own right back area. Enda Tucker was onto it immediately, dispossessing the startled defender and squaring the ball for Lennon to notch his 11th goal of the campaign. Weston pulverised the Gate goal from then on, and it looked like a winning goal was bound to come. However, St James' Gate are nothing if not dogged, and they defended as if their lives depended on it. Their goalkeeper in particular made some stunning saves from Daryl Carey, O'Hare and Tucker. Tucker, at this point, had moved to centre mid, and was beginning to exert a greater influence on proceedings. It was the other Tucker, player coach Derek Tucker, who made an inspired substitution with 10 minutes to go. The tiring Lennon was withdrawn and Mark Benzies came on in his place. 5 minutes later and it was Benzies who scored the winner, as the ball fell to him on the edge of the circle. He had only one thing on his mind, as he drilled a ball into the bottom corner, as the home keeper was eventually beaten. That was not the end of the drama, as in the final minute, St James' Gate were awarded a penalty corner! A determined Weston defence just would not concede and charged down the shot on goal, delighted as it rolled harmlessly over the end-line. 30 seconds later the umpire blew for full time and Weston had secured one of the hardest earned 3 points of the season. Next up its the 2nd round of the Intermediate cup, at home to Three Rock Rovers 4ths on Sat 7 January at 15.30. Training as usual every Tuesday night for 2nds and 3rd squads at 18.45.

Squad: D. Kelly, P. Lawson, B. Scully, P. Kirwan, E. Ryan, A. Hanna, E. Tucker, J. Long, M. Benzies, J. Lennon, S. O'Hare, D. Tucker and D. Carey.

Intermediate Cup 1st Round: Weston 3-2 Three Rock Rovers (AET Golden Goal) Sat 7 Jan 2012

Weston men's 2nd X1 finally got their Intermediate cup campaign under way with a thrilling extra time win over Three Rock Rovers. This game was postponed twice before the Christmas break due to bad weather, but it was worth the wait, as both teams served up a cracking cup tie. The visitors will be a little disappointed, as they dominated large parts of the game, were 1-0 up and 2-1 up, before finally succumbing to a cracking winner in extra time from in form Joe Lennon. The pace of the game was hectic, as both sides tore into each other after the three week holiday break. Rovers were the first to strike, as the Weston defence failed to clear a dangerous ball into the circle, and a deflection off Paul Lawson's stick left keeper Declan Kelly flat footed for a 1-0 lead. The home sides response was good, and five minutes later Lennon secured an equaliser after some good approach work from Shane O'Hare. The pace of the game never let up and Rovers came back to score an excellent short corner, only for O'Hare to equalise two minutes later - and all of this in the first 20 minutes! At this point, the Weston midfield of Dean Maguire and Jonny Long were starting to dominate and player coach Derek Tucker was confident that his side would push on in the 2nd half, against a young Rovers side. However, it didn't turn out that way, and it was the visitors who dominated for large periods, as the Christmas break seemed to be taking its toll on the home side. It was a tight and tense 2nd half, but Weston had the best of the chances, as Daryl Carey and O'Hare both put wide, with only the keeper to beat. 2-2 at full time and into extra time and a 'golden goal' situation. Rovers were the first to strike in the opening minute, as one of their forwards pinned a reverse shot inches wide of the post. 30 seconds later, Joe Lennon found himself in space inside the Rovers circle, albeit with his back to goal on his reverse side. Unbelievably, he managed to scoop a reverse shot past the keeper and into the top corner of the net. Pandamonium on the Weston bench, with the realisation that this was the 'golden goal' that secured their passage into the 2nd round. Next up its Three Rock 4th X1 on Saturday 14 Jan at 15.30 in Griffeen Valley Park. Training as usual every Tuesday at 18.45.

Squad: D. Kelly, P. Lawson, S. Beattie, P. Lawson, P. Kirwan, E. Ryan, D. Maguire, J. Long, D. Tucker, D. Carey, J. Lennon, S. O'Hare, B. Scully and M. Benzies

Saturday 10 December 2011 Leinster League Div. 5 - North Kildare 1-6 Weston 2nd X1


Weston consolidated their second placed position in the league with this straightforward away win in Kilcock. Usually there is very little between these two teams, (a 0-0 draw earlier in the season proof of that), but the home team were short of a number of regulars, and Weston arrived at The Maws in good form, looking for their fifth win on the trot. It wasn't all one way traffic, as a sluggish Weston started poorly, due mainly to the late arrival of a couple of players. Indeed, the home team threatened the Weston goal on a number of occasions in the opening minutes, as defenders struggled to keep their footing under icy conditions. However, once The Reds got into their stride, it was all one way traffic, Ritchie Bagnall opening the scoring on ten minutes. Enda Tucker and

Jonny Long were completely dominant in midfield, and it was only a matter of time before the second goal arrived. Tucker duly obliged with a well taken penalty corner to make it two. This was followed by Joe Lennon's obligatory strike, a forward in top form, and another one from Long to make it 4-0. North Kildare briefly threatened, and scored their only goal from a penalty corner. Player coach Derek Tucker will be delighted with his side's response, as straight from the push back, Weston went down the other end and made it 5-1, through Long's second strike. Tucker made a couple of positional changes at half time, and this seemed to disrupt the rhythm of his side. However, it didn't stop Scott Beattie rampaging from left back, to fire in the goal of the game, to make it 6-1! With the points secured, Weston continued to knock the ball around, but the urgency and potency of their attack was way below their first half effort. After a shaky start to the season, coach Tucker will be quietly pleased with his sides efforts to date, as we enter the Christmas break. Its four weeks to their next game, a refix away to St James' Gate on Saturday 7 January. The 2nd's take a break from league hockey this week, as they tackle Three Rock Rovers in Griffeen on Thursday 15 December at 19.00 in the first round of the Intermediate cup. There is no training this Tuesday 13th. Squad: D. Kelly, P. Kirwan, P. Lawson, D. Tucker, B. Scully, S. Beattie, R. Bagnall, J. Long, M. Benzies, E. Tucker, J. Lennon and S. O'Hare.

Div 5 Weston 9 (nine)-1 Rathgar Chiefs

Saturday 26 November

'Revenge is a dish best served cold', and that's exactly how Rathgar Chiefs must have felt as Weston 2nds more than made up for the 4-0 mauling they received on the first day of the season. That was nine weeks ago, and this 2nd X1 is unrecognisable from the side that took to the pitch that day in High School. The score line is all the more remarkable when you consider that two players, Stephen O'Shaughnessy and Brain Scully were making their first starts of the season! Player coach Derek Tucker demanded a good start, as a win for his side would move them up to second place in Division 5. Whisper it, but this team is gathering momentum, and have been threatening to do this for a number of weeks. They played their best hockey of the season last week against Avoca, but this was even better, as the movement and pace of Scully, Eoin Ryan, Dean Maguire and O'Shaughnessy was just too good for the opposition. It was 3-1 at half time after goals from O'Hare (2) and Joe Lennon. In truth, it should have been more as the Reds created numerous chances ,which were spurned due to bad decision making or poor shooting. Tucker demanded an improvement in the 2nd half, particularly in the decision making in and around the opposition circle.

His side were obviously listening attentively to that half time talk, as the 2nds upped a gear and were ruthless in their finishing during the 2nd period. O'Hare completed his hat-trick, Lennon got his second and Ryan and O'Shaughnessy weighed in with one a piece. Rathgar tired during the closing ten minutes, but to their credit, they never gave up, and continued to play decent hockey, always looking to get players forward. As the game opened up, Weston began to exploit the gaps, and ran the visitors ragged, as they dominated possession. Maguire missed a couple of chances and Lennon will be disappointed not have notched a hat-trick himself. However, Tucker will be pleased with his sides application and their ruthlessness during that 2nd half, as they look forward to an Intermediate cup game at home to Three Rock 3rds next Sunday (15.00). Training as usual Tuesday night at 18.45 sharp.  Squad: D. Kelly, B. Scully, P. Kirwan, P. Lawson, E Ryan, D. Tucker, S. O'Shaughnessy, M. Benzies, J. Lennon, S. O'Hare, D. Maguire and S. Kirwan

Div 5 Weston 3-0 Avoca Sunday 20 Nov

For the second week running all three Weston men's teams won their respective league ties. While acknowledging the 1st and 3rd X1's excellent wins, the 2nd X1's 3-0 victory away to Avoca on Sunday was the best of the bunch! The first half performance was the best display of hockey the 2nds have played all season, as they stormed into a 3-0 lead, to virtually secure the points by half time. Joe Lennon continued his excellent scoring streak as he notched his 5th and 6th goals of the season. Player coach Derek Tucker decided to rest himself on the bench as Enda Tucker, Daryl Carey and Scott Beattie joined the squad after their victory over Rathgar the previous day. Weston started very well and won a couple of penalty corners in the opening minutes. They deservedly took the lead when good approach play from Shane O'Hare found Lennon one-on-one with the keeper in the circle. He kept his cool and calmly slotted the ball under the advancing keeper for the opening score. The second soon followed as the Weston midfield of Mark Benzies, Jonny Long and Adam Hanna were totally dominant. The continuous pressure wore off when Peter Kirwan snapped up a short corner rebound to make it 2-0. The visitors kept the best till last as an excellent team move saw Enda Tucker advance towards the opposition circle. The movement of Lennon was good and Tucker found him with a through ball. On the run, and with one touch, Lennon deflected the ball into the corner of the net for a cheeky, but well deserved goal. The second half was a scrappy affair as Avoca became frustrated with their attempts to get back into the game. Credit to the Weston defence who held solid as the home side threw everything at them in the first ten minutes of the 2nd half. Kirwan and Paul Lawson were rock solid and were well supported by Scott Beattie and Eoin Ryan. Next week the 2nds take on Rathgar, and will be looking for revenge for a 4-0 drubbing handed out on the opening day of the season. The 2nds have recovered well from that

mauling and have remained unbeaten since. Numbers at training have been poor in recent weeks, so a gentle reminder to all 2nd/3rd team players - training as usual every Tuesday at 18.45. Squad: D. Kelly, P. Kirwan, P. Lawson, E. Ryan, J. Long, A. Hanna, M. Benzies, E. Tucker, J. Lennon, S. O'Hare, D. Tucker and D. Carey.

Leinster League Div 5, Sat 12 Nov 2011

Weston 2nd X1 4-2 Pembroke 4th X1

It was a great weekend for all three Weston men's teams as they secured wins in their respective league ties. The 2nd X1 played some super hockey as they got their third win of the campaign, which puts them into the top three in Division five. Joe Lennon continued his good form, as he weighed in with two goals, both tap ins after some good approach play from his team mates. He opened the scoring after 10 minutes when a through ball from player coach Derek Tucker found Shane O'Hare on the edge of the circle. O'Hare drew the keeper and played the ball to Lennon for his first tap in. Despite dominating possession, Weston only secured their second goal on the half time whistle. Lennon won the penalty corner, which was dispatched by substitute Karl Goodwin. 2nd half substitutions Daryl Carey and Enda Tucker kept the pressure on and a third goal shortly followed, as Carey finished off an excellent individual effort. One of the features of the 2nds season so far has been a lapse of concentration midway through the 2nd half. It happened in their previous two home fixtures against Monkstown and Skerries and it happened again on Saturday. In fairness to Pembroke they gave it a go at three down and scored a good goal to bring them back into the game. However, the response from the home team was good and Lennon got his second of the game after some tidy approach work from Eoin Ryan. With the points secured, Weston took their foot of the pedal somewhat and Tucker made a couple more substitutions, as the day's efforts began to take their toll on tiring players. The Weston keeper Declan Kelly will be disappointed to concede a goal on the full time whistle, but at that point the three points were safely in the bag. Finally, a big thank you to Derek Kirwan and our new shirt sponsors 'Denobi Web Design'. The 2nd X1 have been like 'rag ball rovers' the last couple of weeks, borrowing jerseys and mix and matching for games. On Saturday they looked resplendent in their brand new kit, and it obviously rubbed

off on the team! Next up it's a double header, away to St James Gate on Saturday, and Avoca on Sunday. Training as usual Tuesday nights 18.45-20.15. Squad: D. Kelly, S. Kirwan, P. Lawson, P. Kirwan, S. Beattie, D. Tucker, J. Long, M. Benzies, E. Ryan, S. O'Hare, J. Lennon, K. Goodwin, E. Tucker and D. Car

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Leinster League Div 5 Weston 2nd X1 5-4 Skerries Saturday 22 Oct 2011

Weston 2nd X1 gained their second win of the season in a nine goal thriller against Skerries on Saturday (22 Oct). In truth, player coach Derek Tucker would have been disappointed if his side had not claimed all three points, as they led 3-0 and 4-2 at various stages of the game. However, Skerries are an experienced side, and have a couple of old heads from their Division 2 days, and they refused to lie down. They battled back to 4-4 with a couple of minutes remaining, and as the rain thundered down, Jonny Long was the hero with the all important ninth goal of the game and the eventual winner. The first half was a tight affair and gave no indication of the drama that was to unfold during the second period. Weston started the brighter and Shane O'Hare and Joe Lennon both had chances before Peter Kirwan snapped up a penalty corner rebound to open the scoring. Ten minutes later Weston got their second, a beautiful move that saw Daryl Carey feed Gerome van Jarsveld on the overlap and his precise pass found Long one-on-one with the keeper and he made no mistake from five yards. 2-0 and the home side were cruising. However a lapse of concentration just before the break led to a Skerries penalty stroke as Sean Kirwan impulsively stopped a goal-ward bound shot on the line with his arm. Declan Kelly made a great save going down to his right to leave Weston with a two goal cushion at half time. Things got even better for the home side as O'Hare deflected an excellent cross from Long to make it 3-0 five minutes into the second half. At this point Skerries had nothing to lose, and to their credit, they pushed forward and really made a game of it. First up their skipper Brian McMahon reversed passed Kelly for their opening goal and this was soon followed by a penalty corner strike to make it 3-2. O'Hare was having none of it and seemed to take the initiative by beating four Skerries players before slotting the ball into the goal for 4-2, a brilliant individual effort. Skerries response was excellent as they piled on the pressure on the home defence, who seemed to relax after the fourth goal went in. This proved to be fatal as Skerries drilled home another penalty corner and remarkably, five minutes from time they managed to secure an equaliser at 4-4! It was anyone's game now with under five minutes to go. At this point player coach Tucker was on the sideline, a first half substitute for Daryl Carey and he was able to call on the fresh legs of Eoin Ryan and the experienced Dean Maguire. It was Maguire who created the last chance of the game, as his surging run into the circle was impeded by a defender, leading to a final penalty corner. The push out by Kirwan was good, the stop on top of the circle was excellent by Long, and the strike was out of this world as it smashed against the backboard for 5-4! Weston hung on for the remaining couple of minutes for a very satisfying victory, one that lifts them up into the top half of the table, as they go into the Halloween break. Next up its a tricky tie away to Avoca 2nds on Saturday 5 November.

Training as usual this Tuesday at 18.45. Squad: D. Kelly, P. Lawson, S. Kirwan, P. Kirwan, G. van Jarsveld, D. Tucker, J. Long, M. Benzies, K. Goodwin, J. Lennon, S. O'Hare, D. Maguire, D. Carey and E. Ryan

Weston 3-3 YM 2nd X1 Saturday 15 October

This may not have been Weston's best performance of the season, but it certainly was one of the most pleasing results, as the 2nd X1 battled back from 2-0 and 3-1 down to earn an unlikely point. I say 'unlikely point' because this was a very good YM side, strengthened by the fact that their 2nd X1 had no fixture and Weston travelled with the bare 11 due to a number of late drop outs. In the corresponding fixture last season, YM dished out a 4-0 hammering, but Weston were more organised this time round and went with a conservative 4-2-3-1 formation to try and stifle the strong YM midfield. Despite this, the home side managed to secure an early goal from a soft penalty corner and this was to be the only score of a tight first half. That's not to say that Weston didn't have any chances of their own. The best of those fell to Adam Hanna, after some good inter play between himself and the lone striker, Joe Lennon, but Hanna stalled and the chance went begging. 1-0 at half time soon became 2-0 as another excellent penalty corner strike flew into the net. At this point Weston looked dead and buried, but managed to haul themselves back into the game with an opportunist strike from Lennon, who latched onto a through ball from Mark Benzies. Their joy was short lived as YM went up the other end and won another penalty corner which was duly dispatched to make it 3-1 with 10 minutes to go. With nothing to lose, the Weston midfield of Hanna, Eoin Ryan and Shane O'Hare pushed further up the pitch in the hope of creating some chances of their own. They were thrown a lifeline when O'Hare latched onto a loose ball in the opposition circle to dink it over the keeper to make it 3-2 with 5 minutes remaining - game on! At this point both teams were tiring after an end to end second period, but it was the visitors who managed to drum up one last effort through the good work of Mark Benzies. His quick thinking from a line ball saw him in space just outside the YM circle, and he drilled a great ball across the face of the goal. Eoin Ryan read his intentions and made a good run and managed to get his stick to the ball as it whizzed past the keeper for an unlikely equaliser. It's a funny old game - YM dominated the play and only managed to score from penalty corners while Weston, who were living off scraps scored all their goals from open play - sweet! That's 3 draws from the last 4 games and next up it's Skerries who travel to Griffeen next Saturday. Squad (bare 11!) - D. Kelly, P. Lawson, P. Kirwan, G. van Jarsveld, S. Beattie, M. Benzies, S. O'Hare, A. Hanna, D. Tucker, E. Ryan and J. Lennon.

Weston 2nd X1 6-3 Monkstown 4th X1 Saturday 8 October 2011

Weston 2nds gained their first league win of the season with victory over Monkstown last Saturday (8 Oct). It was a long time coming, as this was the 2nds fourth competitive outing of the season. While they struggled to score goals in their previous three games, hitting the target didn't prove a problem on Saturday and, in truth, they should have scored a couple more. Shane O'Hare led the way with a double in the first half, Jonny Long and Dean Maguire giving the home side a comfortable 4-1 lead at the break. Man-of-the-match Adam Hanna was dominant in midfield and along with Joe Lennon they proved a constant threat to the visitors defence. Lennon moved up front alongside O'Hare for the second half and their understanding and movement together as a forward unit will have pleased player coach Derek Tucker. Monkstown got the first goal of the second half to make the score 4-2, their penalty corners were proving a very useful threat whenever they got into the Weston circle. Weston were missing regulars Sean and Peter Kirwan but welcomed back Simon Mernagh after a long illness. Another player making his first appearance for the 2nds this season, Matthew Pluck, scored the fifth for Weston, a good strike from a penalty corner that took a deflection into the net. Monkstown however, refused to give up and scored again five minutes later to make it 5-3. Weston left the best till last as a lightning break after a Monkstown attack broke down led to the last, and best goal of the game. In a sweeping move, O'Hare broke from the half way line and fed Mark Benzies just outside the circle. As Benzies drew the keeper, he squared for Lennon to roll the ball into an empty net and a final score of 6-3. Next up its a tricky away tie to YMCA 3rds next Saturday. Training as usual on Tuesday night at 6.45 p.m. Squad: D. Kelly, P. Lawson, D. Tucker, D. Maguire, E. Ryan, A. Hanna, J. Long, M. Pluck, J. Lennon, S. O'Hare, M. Benzies, S. Mernagh and S. Beattie

Div 5 Three Rock 3rd X1 2-2 Weston 2nd X1 Sat 1 October 2011

On one of the wettest days of the year it was a credit to both teams that this was an entertaining game that produced four goals - all from penalty corners! Weston will be disappointed that they didn't win the game, they dominated possession and created plenty of opportunities. They were leading 2-1 with less than 10 minutes to go but an injury to Jonny Long disrupted the rhythm and Three Rock managed to secure an equaliser from a late penalty corner. Up to that point, player coach Derek Tucker will have been delighted with the effort of the team in atrocious conditions. Dean Maguire led from the back, accompanied by Paul Lawson, his first game of the season and he played as if he'd never been away. In midfield Long and Adam Hanna controlled proceedings and newcomer Joe Lennon probably put in his best shift of the season to date. The side is still struggling to score from play - player/coach Tucker the biggest culprit as he had two one-on-ones with the keeper and fluffed his lines on both occasions! However, the team is beginning to take shape and, hopefully, the players who turned up on Saturday will make up a regular 2nd X1 week in week out. That's three league games played, two draws and a defeat, but the Reds will take plenty of heart from this effort. For the record, Maguire scored Weston's first goal of the season and Sean Kirwan bagged a tap-in from a sloppy short corner. Next up its a home tie v Monkstown 4th X1 Saturday 8 Oct. Squad: D. Kelly, S. Kirwan, P.

Lawson, D. Maguire, E. Ryan, D. Tucker, J. Long, J. Lennon, A. Hanna, S. O'Hare and M. Benzies.

Div 5 Weston 2nd X1 0-0 North Kildare Saturday 24 September 2011

Weston old boys Laurence Burke and Mark Bernie will have enjoyed their return to Griffeen Valley Park as they deservedly earned a point and remain unbeaten in the league to date. As for the home side, this was a disappointing result, but a much better performance than last weeks 4-0 drubbing away to Rathgar. Weston needed an early goal to settle the nerves and despite dominating possession, that elusive first strike never arrived. Bernie was playing well at the heart of the Kildare defence as the visitors soaked up a lot of pressure. Jonny Long, Sean Kirwan and Daryl Carey were prominent in midfield, creating chances for Sahne O'Hare and Darren Sherlock up front. 0-0 at the break, Weston came out determined to open their scoring account. They thought they had a penalty stroke which was awarded by one umpire but was then changed to a penalty corner after consultation between both umpires. Mark Benzies and Joe Lennon both had a run out in the forward line, but still couldn't break down the visitors defence. In a last throw of the dice, Eoin Ryan moved from right back to centre forward, and although he brought youthful energy to the Weston attack, the game fizzled out to a disappointing 0-0 draw. The first point of the season is in the bag, now the Reds must ensure they get their first win of the season as soon as possible - next weeks game away to Three Rock Rovers would be a good place to start. Squad: D. Kelly, S. Kirwan, P. Kirwan, D. Maguire, E. Ryan, D. Tucker, J. Lennon, J. Long, M. Benzies, D. Sherlock, S. O'Hare, D. Carey and P. Ennis

Div 5 Rathgar Chiefs 4-0 Weston 2nd X1 Saturday 17 September 2011

The 2nd X1 kicked off their season with a disappointing loss away to new boys Rathgar Chiefs. A 1-0 scoreline at half time flattered Weston as the home side should have been out of sight by then. They got off to the perfect start after just a minute when a defensive error resulted in the first goal. Rathgar had a youthful side out and it was their energy and movement that Weston struggled to contain. As the game wore on Rathgar eventually got the goals their possession deserved. That's not to say that Weston didn't threaten themselves. Only Cormac McCarthy will know how he didn't score after rounding the keeper with an open goal beckoning. Early in the second half a great ball into the circle by Mark Slaughter was narrowly missed by Adam Hanna at the back post. Two minutes later Rathgar went up the other end and scored a second. It was a controversial goal as skipper Derek Tucker was clearly obstructed as he was about to make a tackle but the umpire didn't blow and the ball ended up in the Weston goal. This typified the whole day for the Lucan side - sloppy passing, missed chances and a lack of bite all around the pitch meant for an easy day for the home side. One of the most worrying aspects for Weston was the apparent lack of fitness,

something which will have to be assessed on Tuesday nights. Next up its a home tie with North Kildare. Squad: D. Kelly, S. Kirwan, P. Kirwan, D. Tucker, M. Slaughter, J. Lennon, K. Laird, S. O'Hare, C. McCarthy, D. Sherlock, E. Ryan and A. Hanna