

# Heart-break for Templeogue

SACRED Heart goalkeeper James Ahern pulled off two penalty saves before converting the winner in a sudden death shootout that propelled his team into the last eight of the Tom Carroll Cup on Saturday in Killinarden.

Twice Templeogue battled back from a goal down firstly forcing extra time and then a shootout, but in the end ten-man Heart scraped through.

**SACRED HEART ..... 2**  
**TEMPLEOGUE UTD ..... 2**  
(Sacred Heart won 4-3 on penalties aet)

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The homeside were a goal up on the quarter hour mark when Peadar Knowles finished off a sweet passage of play involving full back Ger Nolan and winger Ciaran Moore, with a convincing strike from the right side of the box.

And, with the elements in their favour, they should have added to it before the break with Brian Rafferty shooting narrowly wide from 12 yards out and Gareth Higgins seeing his two fine efforts from distance forcing superb saves out of Templeogue goalkeeper Paddy Mahon.

The visitors struggled to dig out much in the way of clear openings in the first half although Jack Morrison did go close with his effort from the right side of the box before John Hannigan got his foot to the ball in the box, but his attempt lacked the power necessary to trouble Ahern.

Templeogue did manage to gain more of a foothold on the match in the second period and this was strengthened when Sacred Heart captain Robert Gallagher was

Having had calls for a penalty waved away earlier in the game, Templeogue did manage to draw level when Paddy Carroll's free kick was driven low and hard into the box and Brian Jones was nicely placed to deflect it home.

Heart might have pinched the game at this stage had Kevin Ennis managed keep his effort on target when he broke clean through.

But the match went to extra time and it was the homeside who edged back in front when Gareth Higgins unleashed a stunning 30-yard drive to the top

corner with just five minutes of the first half gone.

And just when it looked as if they might hold on for the win, Heart conceded a last-minute penalty when Barry Leech was clearly kicked in the box and then stepped up to rifle home the resulting spotkick, subsequently taking the match into a shootout.

Shane Rafferty, Ger Nolan and Gareth Higgins all converted for Heart while goalkeeper Ahern made two stops, one of which was in sudden death.

the Tallaght side with the chance to finally put this game to bed and it was Ahern who took on the responsibility and duly rattled the net.

**SACRED HEART:** J Ahern, G Nolan, A Weafer, K

Hoagn, C Moore, R

Gallagher, K Ennis, P Higgins, G Higgins, P Knowles, B Rafferty.  
**SUBS:** S Rafferty for Knowles, D Flanagan for Moore, J Flynn for Higgins.

**TEMPLEOGUE UNITED:** P Mahon, C Reddington, D Leech, P Carroll, A Corrigan, D Fay, A McGrath, C Coffey, A Kinsella, J Morrison, J Halligan.  
**SUBS:** C Murphy for Kinsella, J Cashen for Fay and B Jones for Morrison.



Templeogue's John Halligan tries to prevent Sacred Heart's Keith Hogan making a clearance. Photos by Stephen Saunders



Sacred Heart scraped through to the quarter finals



Templeogue United battled hard but exited the cup