

SWEET REVENGE FOR TEMPLEOGUE

TEMPLEOGUE United knocked out national cup holders St Kevin's Boys after a dramatic penalty shoot-out in Saturday's SFAI Under-14 Cup tie at Shanowen Road.

The meeting of the All-Ireland champions from the previous two seasons produced all the spice expected of such a quality encounter but it was the visitors who advanced to the last 32 of the competition.

Templeogue were denied back-to-back titles last term by the Saints, who eliminated them at the semi-final stage on the way to lifting the Norton Cup against Cherry Orchard in the final.

There was a measure of revenge, then, about the scalp taken on Saturday by United at the end of a thriller.

Clinched

Victory in the shoot-out — clinched by successive stops from Conor Kearns against Kevin's fourth and fifth spot-kicks — was all the more celebrated considering they were five minutes from exiting this season's competition.

Kearns had earlier saved a penalty in the first half too.

Trailing 2-1 in the closing stages, it took a surge of pace and dash of trickery from Templeogue's right-winger Stephen Kinsella to rescue the tie.

His low cross was tapped home at the back post by Conor Davis to send the game into extra-time.

St Kevin's Boys had their chunks of possession in the game but couldn't extend enough distance between themselves and their rivals to be comfortable.

Four minutes after Kinsella had

St Kevin's Boys 2 Templeogue Utd 2
AET Templeogue won 4-3 on pens

JOHN FALLON reports

angled a dipping free-kick off the outside of the post, the Saints soared into the lead on eight minutes after Jamie Gray cut in from the right and beat Kearns at the near post with a rising rocket.

Chances continued to be carved out at both ends and the tie was level on 21 minutes. Kinsella's delivery from the right spelled trouble for goalkeeper Luca Gratzler, and on hand to poke in from close range was Davis for the first of his brace.

The Saints could have regained the lead two minutes later when referee John Clarke awarded a penalty for handball by Adam White.

Skipper Nathan Noone-Gartland struck the attempt but Kearns got down and turned the ball away.

Cian Fox-Walsh might have had the southsiders ahead at the break down the other end, only for Jason Groves to clear the striker's effort off the line.

Fox-Walsh did have the ball in the net shortly after the break but was adjudged to have fouled Gratzler in the process.

Pendulum

And the pendulum swung the way of Kevin's six minutes following the turnaround when Michael O'Connor gleefully seized upon a defensive mix-up to roll the ball into an empty net.

Kevin's enjoyed their best spell then and chances were sent off-target by

Groves and O'Connor before Luke Doyle drew a fine save out of Kearns.

Back came Templeogue with menace, with Darragh Gibbons unable to steer Kinsella's free-kick to the net amid a crowded penalty area.

With time against them, the champions of 2010 showed their grit to mount one last attack.

It was enough to produce the equaliser — and victory was sealed in the shoot-out.

ST. KEVIN'S BOYS: Luca Gratzler; Luke Slater, Sean Whelan, Robert McCourt, Nathan Noone-Gartland, Jason Groves, Conor Crowley, Daniel Mandrolu, Michael O'Connor, Jamie Gray, Darragh Egan. Subs: Dale Rooney, Luke Doyle, Aaron Townley, Cian Dunne.

TEMPLEOGUE UNITED: Conor Kearns, Stephen Kinsella, Adam White, Rory Collins, Darragh Corcoran, Shane Hanney, Iwan Hopkins, Jake Reddy, Stephen Hanley, Sam Morrisson, Simon King, Eoin Stokes, Cian Fox-Walsh, Conor Davis, Darragh Gibbons.

REFEREE: John Clarke.



GREAT RIVALS: Templeogue United and (below) St Kevin's before the big match

