

Dromore – 6 Enniskillen – 24

Enniskillen, having been reprieved in the Towns Cup, faced a tough task in the second round last Saturday when they travelled to Qualifying one side Dromore. The sides had already met in an pre-season friendly which ended up embarrassingly one-sided.

'Skins have been forced to re-shuffle the team in recent matches and with Mark Hurst again at outhalf they welcomed back Mattie Maguire for his first game of the season.

The home side produced the early pressure moving the ball to target runners and with 'Skins slow to start, most of the play took place in the visitors "22", where an infringement allowed Dromore to take the lead after ten minutes.

From the restart 'Skins drove into the home half and themselves enjoyed a period of pressure and whilst much of their play was to forward runners they also attempted to bring Maguire into the game and rarely moved the ball move wide to the wings.

After twenty minutes 'Skins controlled possession inside the Dromore "22" and a forward drive saw Johnny Wright claim a try, which was converted by Tiernan Daly. Daly missed a further penalty, as did Dromore, but the 'Skins forwards started getting the measure of a youthful Dromore eight and a further penalty from Daly left the half-time score 10 – 3.

In the second period the 'Skins forwards upped their level of physicality and as a result most of the play developed in the home half of the field, but when Dromore did attack the 'Skins defence was firm. 'Skins won another penalty straight in front of the posts, which should perhaps have been kicked rather than run, but shortly afterwards came the defining score of the match.

From a scrum 'Skins made several drives into the Dromore half before Hurst fed Maguire who without any space, swerved and then sidestepped his way over for a wonderful score under the posts, which Daly converted to push the lead out to 17 – 6.

'Skins then brought on Jamie Johnston, who had been out with injury since the opening match of the season, for the final quarter and he, Gavin Parke, Hazlit Brien and the "Duracell Bunny", Robbie Murray, took it in turn to run at the Dromore defence.

The last play of the match saw a ferocious forward drive from 'Skins end with Johnston claiming his try and Daly added the extras to leave the final score 24 – 6.

This was a performance of some substance with every man playing his part in a valuable win. The 'Skins pack is developing nicely into an abrasive unit which will bother most teams, whilst the backs, to a man, played well with young Tiernan Daly having a fine game.

This was also an important match for 'Skins in view of recent disappointing results and will certainly boost the morale of everyone to ensure a fighting end to the season, as well as showing players and coaches the level that the team must attain to have any ambitions for future promotion.

Finally, hopefully the result was a tonic for coach Patrick Garat who was unable to be in Dromore as he is currently in his sick-bed, and get well soon wishes go to him from everyone.