



All square in Perpetual Cup

**CU CHULLAINS, 1-5
NEWCASTLE
COA, FERMANAGH 0-8**
Northumbria University
Perpetual Cup Final

NEWCASTLE'S Cu Chullains and Coa from Fermanagh shared the Perpetual Cup at Northumbria University, rounding off an excellent weekend of drama and entertainment.

In a final which ebbed and flowed, the visiting Coa side took control in the first half and at the interval led by 0-6 to 0-1.

Cu Chullains changed shape as they came out for the second half and had much more success working the ball out of defence with a series of fast hand-passing moves to score the first two points. Again, Coa responded well and a free-in from county star Darren McQuaid meant the lead was down to four points.

Throughout the game the full-back for Coa gave an assured performance, but waves of pressure from Cu Chullains paid dividends after a foul was punished by a free kick taken by their half-forward 25 metres out on the right-hand side. Coa then

appeared to secure the tie as they countered again to make it 0-8 to 0-4.

With the game approaching the final 10 minutes, some robust defending from the local men gave Coa two great free-kick opportunities to close out the game but these opportunities were missed with both falling short of the near side posts.

Cu Chullains never gave up and attacked relentlessly, and with three minutes left got their breakthrough after a high ball was floated into the square by Jonny Scales and fisted into the net by full-forward James Tully.

This change to the momentum of the game allowed Cu Chullains the belief to hem the Coa defence in for the final few minutes and an inevitable equaliser came with just one minute on the clock. A frantic final minute saw both teams miss opportunities to win the game but, in the end, a draw seemed the fair result to end another great day in the emerging hotbed of Gaelic games in Newcastle.

The beaten semi-finalists in this year's competition were Northumbria University and Sunderland University.