

20 Pages of sport

Mourne Observer Sport leaps into **2012** with all the best holiday action



Banbridge jockey Mark O'Hare takes Lord Redgirth over the last to win the INH Stallion Owners' EBF Maiden Hurdle at Down Royal on Boxing Day. It completed a first racecourse double for Mark, having earlier won on Hidden Present. See page 33. Photo: Tommy Leckey, Banbridge

Aidy Denvir, whose goal sent Killough through to the Bobby Dalzell Cup final, is tackled by Annalong's Richard Gordon in Monday's semi-final. Photo: Pat O'Hare



DALZELL FINAL UNDER LIGHTS

February date for decider

Newcastle League soccer
By Raymond Stewart

THE Bobby Dalzell Cup final is to be played under floodlights next month.

It's a first for the Ampion Newcastle League, with match secretary Bobbie Reid yesterday (Tuesday) finalising plans to take the final to Banbridge's Cheney Park on Friday, February 24, with an 8pm kick-off.

The final missed its Christmas week slot when first Newcastle Seconds and then Ballyvange were investigated for fielding ineligible players. Both were subsequently dismissed from the competition and beaten quarter-finalists Killough and Annalong Swifts reinstated in the competition.

Ballyvange's appeal against dismissal was ruled out of order before the holidays, therefore the League were able to arrange the second semi-final for Monday past with Killough beating the Mourne men 1-0 at Bear Park to set up a decider

against holders Castlewellan.

Ballyvange did not follow the correct procedure when appealing in that they failed to send simultaneously by special delivery a letter to the body or committee (the Newcastle League) whose decision was appealed against. Their £100 appeal fee was returned.

Aidy Denvir scored the only goal in Monday's semi to send Killough through to the final and leave Annalong as the first team to be beaten in both the competition's quarter-final AND semi-final!

The League were anxious to make arrangements for their big game as soon as possible and avoid a repeat of last season when both semi-finals were completed in mid December but the final was not played until Easter.

Castlewellan and Killough have contested two Harry Clarke Cup finals, with the Town winning both, but this will be their first meeting in a Dalzell decider.

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