

Thrilling win earns Dungannon a reprieve

DUNGANNON pulled off the most remarkable escape of the day with a thrilling 47-12 victory over Clontarf at Stevenson Park to condemn Dolphin and Old Crescent to Division Two next season and give themselves a chance with a two-legged play-off with Buccaneers.

Dungannon began the day second from the bottom of the table and in need of a remarkable series of results to even make the play-off, but as so often happens on crucial days like these, the underdogs got exactly what they were looking for.

Old Crescent's defeat by Young Munster left them in a

AIB LEAGUE ROUND-UP

perilous position, even more so when Dolphin secured a 13-13 draw against Lansdowne to overtake them on points. It was all left to Dungannon to see who could get themselves another chance, and a stirring second half performance in which they kept the fancied visitors scoreless eventually saw them through.

Clontarf had begun brightly, opening the scoring with a Mark Woods try after just four minutes, but Paul Curry replied for Dungannon and then a penalty try

awarded in their favour just before half time gave them a 22-12 lead they never looked likely to relinquish. Dungannon completely dominated the second half, with two tries from Robin Morrow and one each from Carey and Leslie, and with their pack dominant, they managed to comfortably secure the most unlikely of results.

Their opponents next weekend will be Buccaneers after Galwegians completed their season with a 100% record. They won 19-11 victory at Malone.

The real drama in Division Two came at Merrion Road where Wanderers' clash with

UPS AND DOWNS

DIVISION ONE

Play-offs:

- 1 Shannon
- 2 Carryowen
- 3 Young Munster
- 4 St Mary's

Shannon are at home to St Mary's and Carryowen are at home to Young Munster in next weekend's play-off semi-finals

Relegated:

- Dolphin
- Old Crescent
- Old Belvedere

Relegation/promotion play-off:

Dungannon v Buccaneers (two legs)

DIVISION TWO

Promoted:

- Galwegians

Relegated:

- Monksdown
- Instonians

Relegation/promotion play-off:

Malone/Wanderers
TBC v Ballinahinch (two legs)

arranged fixture will push them ahead of Malone, and give them a chance to escape relegation.

Monksdown and Instonians were already relegated before yesterday's fixtures, but victories for both Greystones and Old Wesley sucked Malone back into trouble and put each of them into safety. Bective Rangers, currently placed fourth from bottom, also face an anxious wait on the outcome of the Wanderers tie.

Greystones put up a fine display in windy conditions to defeat Skerries 20-9. They began the match brightly, and were 12-0 up after just

nine minutes, courtesy of two tries. New Zealander Tom Curtis opened the scoring with a try after six minutes, before Dave Barrett went over just three minutes later. An unconverted try from Barry McAnee after 30 minutes gave them a 20 point lead.

Old Wesley too produced a fine 34-15 win over Monksdown, despite going 8-0 behind.

Elsewhere, defending champions Shannon may have secured a home tie in next week's play-offs before yesterday's trip to Terenure, but it gave them little inspiration as they crawled home 19-

17 at Lakelands, thanks to a drop goal by Jim Galvin just seconds from the end of yesterday's tie.

Middleton qualified to play in the All Ireland Division Four League next season as a result of a rather one-sided 30-7 victory over a disappointing Sligo outfit at Portlaoise yesterday.

And Richmond will make the long journey to Belfast next week with their hopes high of promotion to the third division of the League next season. Their win at home over Collegians gave them a seven point cushion for next Saturday's encounter.