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Visitors retain the Keane Cup

LAST Saturday at the Valley Park, Academy played the southern side Buccaneers in the Keane Cup.

Buccaneers play in Section three of the All Ireland League and were formed last year with the joining of two clubs, Athlone and Ballinasloe.

They are playing well at the moment and just recently took the scalp of North in a league match.

The game unfortunately kicked off over an hour late due more to the bad planning by the Buccaneers than the traffic chaos in

Belfast.

Academy punished the All Ireland League side for the long wait by immediately taking a five point lead.

They kicked off and from the resulting ruck the ball was spun first

right and then left before out half Sharkey touched down. the Conversion was missed.

There were no further scores in the first half, Buccaneers were awarded a few kickable penalties but sportingly tried to run them but the Academy defence kept them out.

The second half was very much like the first with both teams unable to breakthrough. However just as it looked as if Academy were about to claim a memorable victory.

The fitter buccaneer pack rucked their way up to the line and their scrum half went over for a try.

The conversion was missed and the referee blew for full time allowing the visitors to retain the Keane Cup that they won last year.

Result - Academy 1st XV 5, Buccaneers 5.