



Larne 2-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Wednesday 30th September 2020

Toals County Antrim Shield – First Round

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-2-3-1)

- 19. Jack Ferguson
- 2. Curtis Woods
- 5. Kyle Crawford
- 6. Adam McCart 📉 (17')
- 3. Lee McCune
- 26. Liam Hassin 📉 (73')
- 18. Ashton McDermott
- 12. Kyle Beggs
- 11. Ciarán Dobbin
- 21. Adam Gray
- 16. Nathan O'Neill 📉 (73')

Substitutes:

- 1. Ben McCauley
- 15. Jordan Malone 📈 (17')
- 4. Samuel McIlveen
- 8. JB Dobbin
- 7. Thomas Robinson
- 24. Gary Donnelly 📈 (73')
- 23. Jason Johnston 📈 (73')

Larne: Devlin, Watson, Robinson, Jarvis, Cosgrove, Sule, Hughes, Randall, Herron, Donnelly, McDaid. Subs: C Mitchell, Kelly, Hale, Lynch, A Mitchell, Murr, Wade-Slater.

Comrades started the Covid-19 delayed season with a defeat at Larne in the County Antrim Shield, but they were not disgraced, having made their Premiership opponents work hard for the victory.

Manager Paul Harbinson gave Jack Ferguson, Ashton McDermott and Liam Hassin their competitive debuts for the club in the starting line up, with Kyle Beggs also making his first appearance after returning from Glenavon.

As expected the home side dominated possession from the start, with Comrades finding it hard to get the ball off them. That being said, the visitors restricted Larne from having any real chances in the early stages of the game.

The hosts were rather fortunate in the 8th minute when Josh Robinson got away with a yellow card for what looked a stamp on Kyle Beggs as Comrades attacked just outside the box.

On 17 minutes the visitors were dealt a blow when Adam McCart had to leave the game with a nasty shoulder injury after being bowled over defending in the penalty area.

Three minutes later the Comrades resistance was broken when Larne took the lead. Jack Ferguson made a good initial save from a Robinson header, but the loose ball fell to Watson who fired a powerful shot into the net from 8 yards.

The hosts continued to dominate the ball, but Comrades stuck to their defensive shape and continued to restrict chances. This meant that the closest Larne came to adding to their lead before the break was a Herron effort from 25 yards which dipped just over the bar.

The pattern of play continued in much the same vein in the second half, although Comrades were getting a little more of the ball in the Larne half, without being able to trouble the 'keeper.

The home side maintained their grip on possession, but found the hard working Comrades side difficult to break down. However on 58 minutes Jarvis did have a chance, but he flashed his effort low wide of the far post from the left side of the box.

Larne were looking as if they were running out of ideas in their attempt to get a second goal, but in the 72nd minute they got a large slice of good fortune to double their lead. They won a free-kick 27 yards out and when Jarvis stepped up to strike it the ball took a massive deflection of the wall, completely wrong-footing the 'keeper and looping in under the bar.

The hosts continued to press, but were largely restricted to speculative efforts. However, on 78 minutes Jack Ferguson had to be alert to keep out a well-struck effort from Sule hit from 25 yards out.