



Larne 7-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 27th July 2019 – Pre-season Friendly

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-5-1)

1. Ben McCauley 🏴 (64')
2. Curtis Woods 🟡 (31') 🏴 (46')
5. Kyle Crawford
20. Adam McCart 🏴 (72')
18. Matthew Henry
21. Kyle Beggs 🏴 (52')
15. Jordan Malone 🏴 (69')
24. Gary Donnelly 🏴 (46')
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🏴 (72')
9. Fra Nolan
14. Joe Tully

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan 🟢 (64')
6. Michael McQuitty 🟢 (72')
23. Jonathon Doey 🟢 (46')
12. Trialist 🟢 (69')
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟢 (46')
8. JB Dobbin 🟢 (52')
17. Tom Patchett 🟢 (72')

Larne: Devlin, Cosgrove, Kelly, McEleney, Watson, Tilney, Sule, Randall, Hughes, McMurray, McDaid. Subs: Mitchell, Stewart, Donnelly, Lynch, Hassin, Graham, Gilmour, Trialist.

Comrades endured a gruelling 90 minutes at Inver Park in their final pre-season game, as they were run ragged by a very impressive Larne side.

The game started brightly enough for the visitors and Joe Tully came close in the 4th minute, when he saw the 'keeper off his line and hit an effort over him from 40 yards out which sailed just over the bar.

Soon however Larne had the lead. In the 6th minute McDaid finished from close range after being set up by Randall.

Comrades still looked lively going forward at this stage and on 11 minutes a good break forward ended with Joe Tully getting in a shot from just inside the box, which forced a smart save from Devlin.

The home side stepped up the pace and started to torture the Comrades defence. In the 19th minute the lead was increased when a ball played across the box by Cosgrove wasn't cut out and Hughes was there to tap in from three yards out. Four minutes later it was 3-0. Tilney's teasing cross into the box was met by McDaid, whose initial effort was saved by Ben McCauley, but the Larne striker converted from the rebounds.

Larne were now in total control and a fourth goal came as no surprise. On the half hour Tilney scored a great individual goal, advancing into the box and firing an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net.

Larne came close to increasing their lead in the 38th minute, when Randall's free kick looked to be heading inside the post, only to be turned wide by a super save from Ben McCauley.

The second half gave no respite for the beleaguered visitors with Larne pressing them back constantly. In the 48th minute McMurray came close when he saw his dipping effort from just outside the box strike the top of the crossbar.

On 54 minutes McMurray did get his name on the scoresheet, when his shot from inside the box took a couple of deflections and hit the roof of the net.

It was 6-0 in the 67th minute, when McDaid completed his hat-trick, finishing from six yards after getting on the end of a Randall ball into the box.

Three minutes later, Randall himself almost got on the scoresheet with an effort from inside his own half, which went just over the bar, with Tom Hegan off his line.

The endless pressure continued on the Comrades defence and on 85 minutes Tom Hegan did well to block an effort from Stewart who looked set to score, However, two minutes later, the 'keeper had to pick the ball out of the back of the net, when Gilmour was there to convert from the rebound after Hegan had initially parried out a fiercely struck shot.