



## Dergview 1-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

### Ballyclare Comrades team (4-3-3)

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods
6. Michael McQuitty
23. Jonathon Doey
22. Matthew Henry
24. Gary Donnelly
4. Samuel McIlveen ⚽ (20')
10. Jake McNeill 🏴 (80')
21. Kyle Beggs
16. Jamie Willighan 🏴 (63')
9. Fra Nolan

### Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
3. Lee McCune
8. JB Dobbin
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🟢 (80')
14. Joe Tully 🟢 (63')

**Dergview:** McElroy, M Buchanan, Falconer, Maxwell, McNulty, Burns, A Sproule, Young, A Buchanan, Smith, Wallace. Subs: McConnell, Doherty, McGeehan, Callaghan, I Sproule.

Comrades had to be content with a hard fought point from their trip to Castlederg. Stephen Hughes side came into this game in rich goal scoring form and unsurprisingly there were no changes to the line-up which had stuck eight goals past H&W Welders in midweek.

The match kicked off in blustery conditions and the home side made the better start, having most of the possession in the first 15 minutes. However, Comrades began to grow into the game and in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute they grabbed the lead. A free-kick was won a couple of yards outside the angle of the penalty area. Samuel McIlveen stepped up to strike it, with the ball heading towards the near top corner of the net

before 'keeper McElroy grabbed it. Unfortunately for him however, as he fell his momentum took the ball just over the line whilst still in his hands.

The rest of the first half saw nothing in the way of chances, with defences generally on top.

Early in the second half Comrades came close to adding to their lead. In the 38<sup>th</sup> minute Jamie Willighan knocked the ball on to Fra Nolan inside the box and he sent a well-struck half-volley on target from 14 yards, forcing McElroy to turn the effort over with a good save.

As the half progressed Dergview began to pile on pressure and have most of the ball. In the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute the visitors were thankful to their 'keeper, when Ben McCauley did very well to tip the ball over the bar after Andrew Sproule sent in a fine effort from just outside the box. From the corner the home side threatened again when Smith fired in a shot from 16 yards which looked to be goalbound, but was kept out by a fine block from Curtis Woods.

For much of the second half Comrades were limited to occasional breaks forward. From one of these, in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute, Jake McNeill produced a fine forceful run which ended with a shot from the edge of the box, but McElroy saved fairly comfortably.

The home side continued to press, winning a number of corners and forcing Comrades to show their defensive mettle. It looked as if the visitors would manage to hold out for a win, but in the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute Dergview got what was a deserved equaliser. Young got space on the right to whip a dangerous low ball into the box and McConnell arrived to fire it first time into the net from 7 yards out.

In the 86<sup>th</sup> minute Comrades had a good shout for a penalty, when substitute Joe Tully went over in the box as he looked to break through on goal between two defenders. The referee however wasn't convinced there was a foul and the visitors' claims were waved away.

Despite the efforts of both sides there were to be no further goals and the points were shared.