



Glentoran 3-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Tuesday 10th September 2019 – Toals County Antrim Shield (First Round)

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

1. Ben McCauley
8. JB Dobbin 🏴 (84')
5. Kyle Crawford
20. Adam McCart
3. Lee McCune
4. Samuel McIlveen
10. Jake McNeill
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🏴 (70') 🏴 (84')
9. Fra Nolan 🏴 (68')
7. Thomas Robinson
26. Lukasz Adamczyk

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
2. Curtis Woods 🟢 (55')
15. Jordan Malone 🟢 (84')
21. Adam Gray 🟢 (68')
22. Matthew Henry
24. Gary Donnelly
14. Joe Tully

Glentoran: Morris, Garrett, Frazer, Herron, Murray, Jallow, Stewart, Smith, Gordon, McCarthy, McGarvey. Subs: Kane, Pepper, O'Neill, Duric, Van Overbeek, Lindsay, Antolovic.

Having exited the League Cup at the Oval two week previously, Comrades suffered the same fate in the County Antrim Shield, although the margin of defeat was less this time around.

Manager Paul Harbinson made a number of changes to his starting line up, with Kyle Crawford, Lee McCune, Jake McNeill, Thomas Robinson and Lukasz Adamczyk all coming in.

The signs were not good for the visitors with Glentoran getting off to a flying start with a goal in the 7th minute; Murray finishing well with a neat cushioned lob over the keeper from inside the box.

The home side were dominating possession and it was no surprise when they increased their lead in the 21st minute; Smith stabbing the ball home from close

range after getting to the ball first from the rebound after Ben McCauley had saved a headed effort.

Whilst Glentoran were still very much on top, Comrades did have a couple of good efforts later in the half as they began to sporadically get forward.

On 31 minutes Fra Nolan was unfortunate to see a curling effort, struck from 19 yards, come back off the crossbar with the 'keeper beaten.

Then, just before the break, Jake McNeill got on the end of a Thomas Robinson cross into the box, but his header from 7 yards went narrowly wide of the target.

The second half opened with a quick goal for the home team. Inside the first minute a devastating break down the left by Frazer got in behind the visitors defence and the ball was played in to Jallow who was able to finish comfortably from 11 yards.

The visiting supporters may now have feared a rout, but it didn't materialise.

Comrades actually, although still having less of the ball, began to get forward more.

In the 53rd minute Thomas Robinson, who looked a danger on the left, cut inside to strike a shot from 16 yards which forced Morris to turn the ball low past his near post.

Glentoran still looked threatening at the other end however. On the 57th minute Ben McCauley had to turn the ball over the bar from an effort struck on the turn from the right side of the box by Frazer. Then, eight minutes later, McCauley again did well, this time coming out swiftly to block an effort from the same player inside the box after he had got in behind the Comrades defence.

On 70 minutes the visiting supporters had something to cheer with their team getting on the scoresheet. Lukasz Adamczyk broke the offside trap and ran towards the box before unselfishly laying the ball off to Ciaran Dobbin, who produced a good finish past the 'keeper from 16 yards.

In the 83rd minutes Ben McCauley had to save at the second attempt after a well struck shot was fired in from the edge of the box. Apart from that Comrades managed to negotiate the latter stages of the game without any major scares and themselves ventured forward, although without success, in the hope of a further goal.