

Report courtesy of Newtownabbey Times

Saturday 1st February 2020 – Championship/PIL Development League

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves 2-2 Newry City AFC Reserves

Following a run of defeats Ballyclare Comrades Reserves picked up a much needed point from their Championship Development League clash with Newry City Reserves at Antrim Forum grounds.

The visitors seemed to be cruising to victory when two up with only ten minutes remaining, but strikes by Jordan Campbell and Ryan Worthington ensured a division of the spoils.

With regular keeper Josh Dunn suspended, normal centre back Adam Surgeoner volunteered to don the gloves, but he had to retrieve the ball from the net when the ball was forced over the line from close range.

Comrades responded with a series of attacks, with Campbell having his header from a Jack Moore corner saved, while a Louis Wilson effort from another Moore cross was cleared off the line, but the score still remained 1-0 in Newry's favour at the break.

The frontier lads doubled their lead when the home defence was caught out by a long ball over the top, and although play was evenly contested a visiting win seemed on the cards with time running out.

The Wee Reds were thrown a lifeline in the 80th minute when Worthington was fouled in the box, and Campbell stepped up to drill home the resultant penalty.

Boosted by this score Comrades pushed players forward in an attempt to salvage a point, and they were rewarded in added time, when Worthington got on to the end of a well-placed Moore free, and gave the keeper no chance.

Man of the Match: Louis Wilson.

"This was an improved performance," stated manager Stephen Black. "The young lads moved the ball around nicely, but we were rather goal-shy in front of goal and failed to put away scoring chances. While glad to pick up a point, overall I was disappointed. We did enough to win," he fumed.

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves: Surgeoner, Ervine, Oueslati, Wilson, Jack Moore I, McKitterick, Lavery, Worthington, J Campbell, Sloan, Meneely. Subs: McAllister, C Campbell, Jack Moore II.