



Ballyclare Comrades 3-0 Mossley

Tuesday 9th July 2019 – Pre-season Friendly

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-5-1)

- 19. Tom Hegan 🏴 (46')
- 2. Curtis Woods 🏴 (46') 🟢 (79')
- 6. Michael McQuitty
- 20. Adam McCart
- 18. Matthew Henry 🟡 (74')
- 9. Kyle Beggs 🟡 (34') 🏴 (46')
- 15. Jordan Malone 🏴 (69')
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🏴 (79')
- 8. JB Dobbin 🏴 (46') 🟢 (69')
- 17. Tom Patchett 🏴 (46')
- 14. Joe Tully 🟡 (90')

Substitutes:

- 1. Ben McCauley 🟢 (46')
- 5. Kyle Crawford 🟢 (46')
- 12. Nathan Sloss 🟢 (46')
- 10. Jake McNeill 🟢 (46')
- 24. Gary Donnelly 🟢 (46')

Comrades continued their pre-season build-up with a hard-fought win in a very competitive friendly against Amateur League side Mossley.

The home side made most of the running from the start. In the 12th minute they had a good chance to open the scoring when Joe Tully got a firm header to a Samuel McIlveen corner, but his effort from 7 yards was turned over by the 'keeper. Kyle Beggs, with his electric pace, was proving to be a thorn in the side of the Mossley defence. On 21 minutes he made space at the edge of the box for a low shot which fizzed inches wide of the post. Then, on 27 minutes, the ball broke to him from a corner and his resulting shot from 9 yards was only kept out by a good save from the 'keeper.

The home side continued to dominate and on 31 minutes they came close, when Tom Patchett got just in front of defender at the edge of the 6-yards box, allowing him to stab an effort toward goal, but the ball went just wide of the target.

In the 34th minute the deadlock was broken. Kyle Beggs picked the ball up just outside the Comrades box after a Mossley attack has broken down. He then flew forward, leaving opponents in his wake, before blasting an unstoppable into the net from 12 yards out.

A minute later the visitors almost had an instant equaliser when a speculative shot from outside the box came back off the crossbar.

Just before the break Comrades lead might have been increased, when danger man Beggs got in between two defenders and looked set to score from inside the 6-yard box, only to be denied by a last-ditch block by another defender.

The first action of the second half saw Ben McCauley, one of five players brought on at half-time, have to make a smart save in the 51st minute when Mossley struck after the ball had been gifted to them in the Comrades half.

The home side continued to have most of the play and in the 62nd minute Mossley were grateful to their 'keeper on two occasions for ensuring that the deficit was not increased. Firstly he made a fine save to keep put a Michael McQuitty header from a corner. Then, moments later, he did very well to parry away a fiercely struck shot fired in from 10 yards by Joe Tully.

Although Comrades were dominant in terms of attacking possession, Mossley posed a threat at the other end when they got the chance and on 64 minutes they looked set to equalise, only to be denied by a great sliding block on the line from Kyle Crawford.

It wasn't until 74 minutes that the home side double the lead. Matthew Henry's run was picked out by a defence splitting pass from Gary Donnelly and he made no mistake with the finish.

A minute later the visitors were unlucky to see an effort from inside the box come back off the post, but it was Comrades who finished the scoring just before the final whistle, when Joe Tully latched onto a probing long ball played forward by Kyle Crawford and converted the chance with confidence from just inside the box.