



Glentoran 5-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Tuesday 27th August 2019 – BetMcCleane League Cup (Second Round)

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-5-1)

1. Tom Hegan
22. Matthew Henry
23. Jonathon Doey
6. Michael McQuitty
3. Lee McCune 🟡 (52') 🔴 (84')
8. JB Dobbin
15. Jordan Malone
4. Samuel McIlveen 🔴 (63')
24. Gary Donnelly 🔴 (74')
7. Thomas Robinson
14. Joe Tully ⚪ (58') 🟡 (88')

Substitutes:

12. Nathan Sloss
18. Kevin Hagan 🟢 (63')
10. Jake McNeill 🟢 (74')
17. Tom Patchett 🟢 (84')
16. Jamie Willighan

Glentoran: Morris, Smith, Pepper, Birney, McCarthy, Gallagher, Gordon, Byrne, Frazer, Van Overbeek, O'Neill. Subs: Plum, Cushnie, Garrett, McDaid, Stewart, Crowe, Antolovic.

Comrades were blown away by a four goal first half blast from Glentoran at the Oval to exit the BetMcCleane League Cup. In the end there was relief from the travelling supporters that the deficit remained the same at the final whistle.

There were number of absentees for this game, including the injured Ben McCauley, suspended Curtis Woods and unavailable Fra Nolan and Ciaran Dobbin. Into the starting line-up came JB Dobbin and Jordan Malone.

The first chance of the game fell to the home side in the 6th minute when O'Neill received the ball in acres of space at the edge of the box, but his resulting effort rose well over the bar.

At the other end Comrades had a sniff of a chance on 10 minutes when, from a corner, the ball was headed back towards Michael McQuitty who got his foot to it inside the 6-yard box, but the effort was deflected off a defender and wide.

Any optimism amongst the travelling supporters was soon wiped out with a quick two-goal salvo from Glentoran in the 11th and 12th minutes. The scoring was opened when a rapid break forward by Frazer ended with him firing in a shot from just inside the box, which eluded Tom Hegan and hit the back of the net. Shortly after the restart it was 2-0. Van Overbeek got on the end of a ball played over the Comrades defence and coolly lobbed the advancing 'keeper from 16 yards.

The hosts were now rampant and on 17 minutes Tom Hegan had to make a fine save to turn the ball round the post from a well-struck Gallagher shot through a crowded box.

It wasn't long however before Glentoran had their third goal. On 21 minutes a high ball was knocked down to Frazer in the box and he made no mistake with a calm finish past the exposed 'keeper.

Three minutes later Frazer completed his hat-trick. Pepper sent a high ball into the box from deep and the winger was there to meet it with a looping header which sailed over Hegan and into the net.

At this stage it looked like the home side may be heading for double figures, but despite being stretched by the movement of their opponents, Comrades managed to avoid any further damage before the interval. The best chance for Glentoran came just before the break, when Van Overbeek laid the ball perfectly into the path of Gallagher, but he blasted the chance over from 9 yards.

The second half continued with the hosts dominating play, although without the intensity of earlier in the game. Comrades began to be able to get forward on occasion and in the 58th minute they grabbed a consolation goal. Joe Tully ran on to Samuel McIlveen's clipped pass played over the Glentoran backline and brought the ball down well to give him a good opportunity to finish from 6 yards, which he took comfortably.

Two minutes later the visitors came close to a second goal, when after good build up play from Matthew Henry, Thomas Robnson got in a shot from 16 yards which went narrowly wide of the base of the post.

Comrades had shown more defensive grit in the second half, although Glentoran were still getting chances. From one of these they restored their four-goal cushion in the 66th minute when, following a corner and scramble in the box, the ball broke to Gordon who applied the finish.

Two minutes later Comrades were grateful to a fine save from Tom Hegan, who blocked at his near post to keep out a rasping drive struck by O'Neill.

In the 88th minute Comrades supporters were calling for penalty, when Joe Tully went over after a challenge in the box, but the referee had other ideas, booking the striker for simulation.

The visitors, although well beaten, gamely kept seeking another consolation goal right to the end. Seconds before the final whistle a fine run from Matthew Henry ended with him getting in a shot from 20 yards which forced a save from Morris.

