



Dundela 0-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 5th October 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-5-1)

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods 🟡 (4')
5. Kyle Crawford
23. Jonathon Doey
3. Lee McCune 🟡 (84')
7. Thomas Robinson
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🟡 (55')
8. JB Dobbin
24. Gary Donnelly
21. Adam Gray 🟡 (81')
14. Joe Tully 🟡 (74') 🟠 (77')

Substitutes:

4. Samuel McIlveen
10. Jake McNeill
15. Jordan Malone
9. Fra Nolan
26. Lukasz Adamczyk 🟢 (81')

Dundela: Sergeant, Kerr, Brown, Tommons, Morrison, Magee, McMaster, Kane, McNicholl, Swann, Burns. Subs: Bingham, Devine, Holden, McCawl, Watts.

Comrades halted a run of bad away results with a plucky draw at Dundela. Manager Paul Harbinson made a number of changes after the previous Saturday's heavy defeat at Newry. Kyle Crawford was fit to return to central defence, with Jonathon Doey recalled to partner him. Gary Donnelly and JB Dobbin also came into start in midfield.

The visitors opened on the front foot, but were almost caught out at the other end in the 8th minute when an underpowered header back allowed McNicholl to get to the ball before 'keeper Ben McCauley, but Kyle Crawford had anticipated the danger and was there to make a timely clearance.

On 16 minutes Comrades had a good chance to take the lead when a corner played in by Gary Donnelly was met by a powerful header from Jonathon Doey from 6 yards out, but his effort went a couple of feet over the bar.

Comrades continued to look dangerous going forward and on 24 minutes they came close when Thomas Robinson cut inside and made space for a shot from 13 yards, which Sergreant kept out with a superb save.

The visitors continued to press and look the more likely side to score. In the 29th minute a JB Dobbin strike from 19 yards took a deflection which saw it go just wide of the target.

The sides went in at half-time on level terms, but Comrades looked the better side during the first 45 minutes.

The second half saw a shift in the balance of play as the hosts began to get more of the ball and have more of the attacking play. However Comrades, who have struggled for much of the season so far with defending, were resolute at the back and gave little in the way of a sight at goal to their opponent.

On 77 minutes Dundela were gifted an advantage when Joe Tully, who had given the home defence a hard time up to then, was sent off for a second yellow card.

However the visitors stuck to their task and there was little sign of them having a man less. Indeed on 80 minutes they had a chance to snatch the lead when the 'keeper couldn't hold on to Adam Gray's strike from outside the box and the ball bounced out to Ciaran Dobbin, but his resulting effort from 10 yards went wide of the far post.

Despite being a man down Comrades managed to largely deny chances for their opponents, but a minute into injury-time Ben McCauley was forced to make a vital save when a ball crossed into the box was knocked won to Bingham whose shot from 13 yards looked goalbound until McCauley got a hand to it to turn it wide.