



Ballyclare Comrades 1-1 Ards

Saturday 19th October 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

Match Sponsor: Brackenwood Property & Estate Management

Ball Sponsor: Riverside Auto Wash, Ballyclare

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-5-1)

1. Ben McCauley
22. Matthew Henry
23. Jonathon Doey
15. Jordan Malone
3. Lee McCune
7. Thomas Robinson
24. Gary Donnelly 🏀 (13') 🟡 (75') 🔴 (87')
8. JB Dobbin
11. Ciaran Dobbin
21. Adam Gray 🔴 (75')
14. Joe Tully

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
25. Ryan Weatherhead
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟢 (87')
10. Jake McNeill
9. Fra Nolan 🟢 (75')

Ards: Neeson, McMillan, McGovern, Taylor, Murray, McMillen, Nelson. McLellan, E McAllister, Harris, Calderwood. Subs: Armstrong, D McAllister, McConnell, McClean, Cushnie.

Comrades increased their unbeaten run to three games but had to be content with a point in a scrappy game against Ards at Dixon Park.

For this match manager Paul Harbinson had to do without striker Lukasz Adamczyk who was absent due to work commitments but welcomed back Joe Tully from suspension. At the back, with three centre halves injured, Jordan Malone stepped into an unfamiliar position.

The visitors were the first to be threatened when on 4 minutes a McMillen corner found Harris, but his strike from 8 yards was off target.

In the 13th minute Comrades struck the front. A great move also involving Thomas Robinson, Joe Tully ended with Ciaran Dobbin setting up Gary Donnelly for a chance from 12 yards and he calmly stepped inside a defender and slotted the ball wide of 'keeper Neeson.

Comrades had another opening on 20 minutes when Joe Tully did well to make space for a shot from just inside the box, but his effort flew just wide into the side-netting. Ards levelled the scores on 32 minutes from the penalty spot after McMillen was adjudged to be fouled inside the box. McLellan stepped up to stroke home the spot-kick.

Two minutes into the second half Ben McCauley was forced into a fine save when he denied a close-range effort from McLellan.

The second half was a rather low-key disjointed affair, but it flared up on the hour when McMillen, on his way off the field after being substituted, received a second yellow card, having over-reacted to comments made to him by a spectator. The change having already been made however, Ards continued with 11 men.

Late in the game Ards piled on some pressure, forcing a series of corners, but the resolute home defence held firm.

At the other end, on 85 minutes, Thomas Robinson forced a good save from Neeson with a strike from the edge of the box.

Comrades were grateful for a fine save from Ben McCauley two minutes into injury-time when he kept out a fierce effort fired in by Cushnie from 19 yards.