



Ballyclare Comrades 0-1 Newry City AFC

Saturday 2nd November 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

Match Sponsor: Paul Girvan MP

Ball Sponsor: JG Fleming Chemist, Ballyclare

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-2-3-1)

1. Ben McCauley
22. Matthew Henry 🏴 (62')
23. Jonathon Doey
15. Jordan Malone
3. Lee McCune
24. Gary Donnelly 🟡 (66') 🏴 (80')
8. JB Dobbin 🟠 (83')
7. Thomas Robinson
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🟡 (85')
9. Fra Nolan 🟡 (65') 🏴 (68')
14. Joe Tully

Substitutes:

20. Adam McCart 🟢 (62')
4. Samuel McIlveen
21. Adam Gray 🟢 (68')
10. Jake McNeill
26. Lukasz Adamczyk 🟢 (80')

Newry City AFC: Coleman, King, Motngomery, Boyle, McCabe, Foley, Hughes, Lavery, McKeown, McArdle, Moller Nielsen. Subs: Healy, McCann, Moody, Rushe, McCavitt.

Comrades recent unbeaten run ended with a narrow defeat at home to Newry in a game where they had plenty of chances but couldn't take any of them. After the previous Saturday's excellent win at Loughgall manager Paul Harbinson was able to field the same starting line-up and could also welcome back Adam Gray and Adam McCart to the matchday squad after their recovery from injury. It was the visitors who started the best as Comrades struggled early on and they made the most of their early dominance with a goal on 10 minutes. A free kick was

played into the box and flicked on to the back post where King was there to slam the ball into the roof of the net from 6 yards.

Two minutes later Newry 'keeper Coleman was forced to make a save at the second attempt from a Thomas Robinson effort when he unleashed a shot from 16 yards after a run across the box.

Newry however remained on top. In the 24th minute Ben McCauley had to make an excellent point blank save to deny McCabe's headed effort from a corner. The ball was then knocked back toward goal by Hughes and hacked clear off the line.

On 34 minutes Comrades gave the ball away cheaply at the back gifting a chance to Foley and were relived when the Newry man could only blast a shot well over the bar from the edge of the box.

The last ten minutes of the first half saw Comrades waken up and get into the game. On 37 minutes Fra Nolan darted infield and shot from the edge of the box, forcing Coleman to tip the ball wide of the post.

Three minutes later the hosts came close to an equaliser. Ciaran Dobbin did very well to get to the by-line inside the box before cutting the ball back to Joe Tully. The striker met it with a rising first-time effort from 13 yards, but it came back off the crossbar and out to safety.

In the 42nd minute Comrades had another chance when Fra Nolan got to a ball played into the box by Joe Tully, but his first-time effort from 16 yards flew well over the bar.

The home side's good finish to the first half gave their supporters hope for the second period and the men in red and white stripes continued where they left off, creating chances and having the better of the attacking play.

On 51 minutes Coleman made a fine save to deny Joe Tully's header from 6 yards from a corner. Then, four minutes later, Thomas Robinson got to a ball played into the box just before the 'keeper and looked set to score, but his touch took him a little wide and he was unable to strike his resulting effort on target, the ball going over the bar.

In the 64th minute Comrades had another golden opportunity when a good move ended with Thomas Robinson feeding the ball to Gary Donnelly who had found space inside the box, but his shot from 16 yards was fired well over.

The home side continued to press for an equaliser, but were increasingly frustrated, In the 83rd minute this frustration boiled over when the otherwise excellent JB Dobbin flew in for a challenge which was mistimed and saw him received a straight red card.

Comrades had defended well during the second half, keeping chances for Newry to a minimum, but on 86 minutes Ben McCauley had to be at to be at his best to keep out a strike from McArdle which flew through a crowded box.

On 90 minutes Comrades had a final chance to get something from the game which they would have deserved. However, it was not to be as Joe Tully, who had got on the end of a knock down from Lukasz Adamczyk, saw his shot from 8 yards go wide of the near post.