



Queen's University 1-2 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 23rd November 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

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

1. Ben McCauley 🟡 (90')
22. Matthew Henry 🔴 (21')
23. Jonathon Doey 🟡 (90+3')
15. Jordan Malone
3. Lee McCune 🔴 (65')
4. Samuel McIlveen
24. Gary Donnelly ⚫ (59') 🔴 (75')
7. Thomas Robinson
11. Ciaran Dobbin
21. Adam Gray ⚫ (10')
14. Joe Tully

Substitutes:

2. Curtis Woods 🟢 (21')
20. Adam McCart
10. Jake McNeill 🟢 (75')
9. Fra Nolan 🟢 (65')
26. Lukasz Adamczyk

Queen's University: Lally, Corry, Young, McManus, Calvert, Bonnes, Hughes, McKenna, O'Hare, Mitchell, Magee. Subs: McIlroy, Mulgrew, Torrens, Middleton.

Comrades gained three points from a trip to The Dub after a closely fought encounter against Queen's University.

Paul Harbinson kept faith with the starting line-up from Comrades last game, a narrow defeat to league leaders Portadown. However, he was able to welcome back defender Curtis Woods from injury and he took a place on the bench.

The visitors started strongly and got an early reward on 10 minutes when Adam Gray picked up on a mistake by the hosts midway inside their own half and advanced to place a low shot into the net from 20 yards.

Queen's reacted well to this setback and started to look dangerous going forward. On 17 minutes they came close when a shot from the edge of the box struck by Mitchell flew just wide of the target.

Three minutes later the scores were levelled. Queen's broke forward, with a swift devastating passing move ending with Young scoring from a shot from just inside the box which took a deflection on its way into the net.

The game then flowed from end to end for the rest of the first half, with both sides having chances to add to their tally.

In the 28th minute Gary Donnelly saw a curling shot from 22 yards go just over the bar. Then, a minute later at the other end, Ben McCauley had to make good save, blocking a Hughes shot which flew through a crowded box. The ball was then hacked clear off the line.

The hosts had another chance on 32 minutes when the ball fell to McKenna in the clear just outside the box, but his first-time effort went just wide of the post.

In the 36th minute it was Comrades turn to come close when Samuel McIlveen's well struck effort from 30 yards was deflected just over the bar.

Two minutes later Comrades had a good chance. Ciaran Dobbin got free on the right and played the ball across the box to Joe Tully in space. The striker's first touch took him a little wide, but he was still able to fire a dangerous ball into the 6-yard box where Gary Donnelly looked set to finish, only to be denied by a great last ditch tackle from a defender.

Comrades started the second half well. In the 53rd minute a good run across the field from Ciaran Dobbin ended with him striking a crisp shot from the edge of the box which tested 'keeper Lally. Then, four minutes later, Gary Donnelly had space to shoot from the edge of the box, but his effort was too close to the 'keeper.

On 58 minutes the home side had a good chance when a ball into the box broke to McKenna, but his snap-shot from 14 yards was off-target.

A minute later the visitors regained the lead. Joe Tully did well cutting in from wide and into the box before laying the ball off to Gary Donnelly who calmly passed it into the net from 12 yards.

On 70 minutes the dynamic Curtis Woods, who had come on early in the game for the injured Matthew Henry, got forward onto the end of a good move down the right involving Thomas Robinson and Ciaran Dobbin and saw his shot from 10 yards kept out by a good save from by Lally.

Comrades came close to a third goal in the 76th minute. Joe Tully picked the ball up 27 yards out and struck a dipping shot which he was unlucky to set come back out off the inside of the post.

In the 80th minute the visitors had another good effort, when substitute Jake McNeill turned a defender and fired in a shot from just inside the box which Lally did well to keep out.

The closing stages of the match saw the hosts press for an equaliser. In the 82nd minute they had a great chance when a free-kick played into the box was met by the head of Torrens, who had ghosted in behind the Comrades defensive line. However, to the relief of the visiting supporters, his effort from 6 yards went just wide of the far post.