



Ballyclare Comrades 0-1 Dundela

Saturday 7th December 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

Match Sponsor: Abbey Real Estate

Ball Sponsor: The Mortgage Shop, Ballyclare

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

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods
20. Adam McCart 🟡 (58')
15. Jordan Malone 🟡 (19')
21. Adam Gray
4. Samuel McIlveen
7. Thomas Robinson 🟡 (83')
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🟡 (78')
24. Gary Donnelly
9. Fra Nolan
14. Joe Tully

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
6. Michael McQuitty
3. Lee McCune 🟢 (83')
8. JB Dobbin
10. Jake McNeill 🟢 (78')

Dundela: McBride, Kerr, Brown, McCawl, Morrison, Magee, McMaster, Beggs, McNicholl, Devine, Holden. Subs: Burns, Bingham, King, McComb, Watts.

Comrades' poor run of home form continued with a narrow defeat to Dundela. Manager Paul Harbinson welcome back Gary Donnelly and Joe Tully to the starting line-up for this match but had to do without Jonathon Doey due to injury. Into centre-back came Adam McCart.

The visitors had the better of the opening exchanges and on 8 minutes Ben McCauley had to make a good save to tip a free kick, struck by Magee from 20 yards, over the bar.

Play soon began to become rather scrappy with a number of free kicks conceded by both sides. Comrades began to pose more of a threat as the half went on, but only to a certain extent, as they failed to trouble the Dundela 'keeper.

A minute into first half injury-time Dundela forced Ben McCauley into another good save when he managed to keep out a shot hooked in through a crowded box by Beggs.

The hosts started the second half in more encouraging fashion and in the 48th minute had a great chance to take the lead, when Joe Tully broke through a couple of challenges and the ball broke to Gary Donnelly in a good position 12 yards out, but he couldn't beat 'keeper McBride who kept the ball out with a good save.

Soon enough the game went back into a rather untidy spell with neither side able to create much. It wasn't until the 71st minute that either 'keeper was troubled. It was Ben McCauley who had to make a good block to keep out a fiercely struck McComb effort at his near post.

A minute later the Comrades 'keeper had to make a great save as Holden ghosted into the 6-yard box to get his head to the ball. His effort looked set to give his side the lead, but somehow McCauley managed to make a point-blank save.

On 75 minutes Comrades created a chance when Thomas Robinson did very well to get to the by-line inside the box before playing the ball back in to Joe Tully, but the striker's first-time effort went well over the bar from 7 yards.

Two minutes later Dundela struck what was to be the winning goal. A ball played into the box from the left found Watts in space in the box and he teed up McNicholl to strike the ball home from 15 yards.

Comrades got a strike on target in the 79th minute when Joe Tully hit an effort from an angle 14 yards out, but McBride kept it out with a good block.

In the latter stages of the game the home side huffed and puffed, but with little to show for it. Indeed, the visitors came closest to adding to the scoring in the 90th minutes, when Beggs hit a good effort narrowly over the bar from the edge of the box.