



## PSNI 2-6 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

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

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods
20. Adam McCart
15. Jordan Malone
3. Lee McCune
4. Samuel McIlveen 🏠 (87')
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🏠 (60')
24. Gary Donnelly 🏠 (57') 🏠 (77')
10. Jake McNeill 🏠 (84')
21. Adam Gray 🏠 (59')
14. Joe Tully 🏠 (20') 🏠 (30') 🏠 (77')

### Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
6. Michael McQuitty
8. JB Dobbin 🏠 (77')
7. Thomas Robinson 🏠 (60')
26. Lukasz Adamczyk 🏠 (77')

**PSNI:** Fleetham, MacLeod, Whittle, Harland, Turk, Hutchinson, O'Neill, Wilson, Cabraley, Cochrane, Anderson. Subs: Best, Greem, Getty, Martyn, McAlister.

Comrades got back to winning ways with a comprehensive victory over PSNI at the Dub.

Manager Paul Harbinson made a couple of changes for this game. With Lee McCune fit again he came back into the side, whilst Jake McNeill also came in. Thomas Robinson dropped to the bench and Fra Nolan was unavailable.

The visitors started strongly and soon began to make chances. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> minute Joe Tully shot narrowly wide from just outside the box. Then five minutes later Samuel McIlveen's picked up a ball cleared out of the box from a corner and sent a fiercely struck drive just wide from 20 yards.

On 10 minutes Jake McNeill tested the 'keeper when he got on the end of a ball fed into the box and hit an effort from an angle 8 yards out, but Fleetham made a good block.

The opening goal came in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute. Jake McNeill sent a great cross into the box from the left and Joe Tully arrived to head the ball in from 5 yards.

A minute later Comrades had chance to quickly double their lead when Joe Tully found Adam Gray inside the box, but he miskicked when in a great position to hit the target

In the 28<sup>th</sup> minute Joe Tully saw a shot from 11 yards well blocked by the 'keeper and then from the rebound Ciaran Dobbin saw his effort deflected wide of the post.

It wasn't long however before the visitors had a second goal. On the half hour Adam Gray played a low ball into the box towards Joe Tully, whose resulting first-time effort from 7 yards looped up off an attempted block by the 'keeper and into the net just under the bar.

During the last ten minutes of the half the hosts came well into the game. On 40 minutes they got their reward. A ball played into the box was not dealt with by the Comrades defence and broke across to O'Neill who hooked the ball into the net from 10 yards.

The strong finish to the half by PSNI gave the travelling supporters some concern going into the second 45 minutes, but their team reasserted control after the break. In the 51<sup>st</sup> minute Fleetham had to be alert to keep out a well struck effort from Joe Tully after he had did well to make space 20 yards out.

In the 56<sup>th</sup> the visitors came close to a third goal, Gary Donnelly surged forward up the middle and then played a one-two with Ciaran Dobbin before chipping an effort from just outside the box which he was unfortunate to see hit the bar.

A minute later however Donnelly wasn't to be denied when he got on the end of a ball played into the 6-yard box before applying a neat finish.

Soon Comrades' dominance was cemented when in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute good work from Joe Tully set up Adam Gray for a chance to shoot from the edge of the box and he made no mistake with a crisp finish.

Comrades continued to threaten. In the 71<sup>st</sup> minute Gary Donnelly linked up well with Joe Tully before attempting a chipped finish from 16 yards which went just over the bar.

The visitors were cruising, but on 77 minutes they gave the hosts some hope. Adam McCart mishit a backpass gifting a chance to Getty to go one on one with the 'keeper and he didn't pass up the chance, finishing with confidence.

On 81 minutes Comrades almost profitted from a poor clearance by the 'keeper which fell to Adam Gray 40 yards out, but his attempt to send the ball back towards the goal went just over.

Comrades restored their three-goal advantage in spectacular fashion on 84 minutes. Jake McNeill spotted the 'keeper off the iine having received the ball on the edge of the centre-circle and sent a superb effort sailing over Fleetham and into the net.

A good day for Paul Harbinson's men was made even better in the 87<sup>th</sup> minute.

Thomas Robinson was chopped down inside the box by Green. A penalty was awarded and Samuel McIlveen duly converted for his side's sixth goal.