



Ballyclare Comrades 2-1 H&W Welders

Saturday 4th January 2020 – Sadler's Peaky Blinder Irish Cup (Fifth Round)

Match Sponsor: Ballyclare Radiator Services

Ball Sponsor: Ross's Joint

Ballyclare Comrades team (3-5-2)

1. Ben McCauley
23. Jonathon Doey
15. Jordan Malone
20. Adam McCart
7. Thomas Robinson 📉 (85')
11. Ciaran Dobbin
8. JB Dobbin
24. Gary Donnelly 📉 (90+4')
3. Lee McCune 📉 (63')
14. Joe Tully
21. Adam Gray 📉 (90+3')

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
22. Matthew Henry
18. Kevin Hagan
25. Isaiah Close
12. Tom Mathieson 📈 (85')
10. Jake McNeill 📈 (90+4')
26. Lukasz Adamczyk 📈 (63') 📉 (68')

H&W Welders: Miskelly, McMurtry, Nelson, Wright, Spence, Deans, Dornan, Davidson, Arthurs, Gwiazda, Ferguson. Subs: McPhee, Smith, Nixon, Grierson, Wilson.

Comrades produced a last gasp winner to progress to the next round of the Irish Cup and a glamour home tie against Larne.

Manager Paul Harbinson made some changes for this match. He altered the formation of the side to 3-5-2, bringing in Adam McCart at the back. Joe Tully also

came into the starting line-up, with Lukasz Adamczyk dropping to the bench and Samuel McIlveen missing with an injury.

The early stages of the match were evenly balanced. The first strike on goal came in the 14th minute from the hosts when Joe Tully shot from just outside the box, but his effort went straight at 'keeper Miskelly.

Comrades had a lot of possession during the first half, but Welders looked a potent threat going forward. On 23 minutes they came close when a ball headed back across the box found Gwiazda and his headed effort from 6 yards went narrowly wide of the target.

In the 32nd minute the Welders keeper was called into action when Ciaran Dobbin got in a downward header from 7 yards after being found by a cross from Thomas Robinson. Miskelly however managed to tip the ball over the bar.

The deadlock was broken in the 38th minute. The Comrades defence failed to cut out a ball played over the top allowing Ferguson to run in on goal. The deadly striker made no mistake, slotting the ball past the advancing Ben McCauley from 16 yards.

On 44 minutes Comrades had a great chance to level the scores when Gary Donnelly skipped past two challenges inside the box and set himself up to strike from 9 yards, but 'keeper Miskelly made a good save to deny him.

A minute later Welders came close when a shot from the edge of the box hit by Arthurs flew just past the base of the post.

The hosts opened the second half strongly. Inside the first minute they created a chance when Adam Gray's cross in from the left found Joe Tully 7 yards out and his header forced a good save from Miskelly.

The visitors still looked dangerous at the other end and on 50 minutes Ferguson struck from an angle 11 yards out forcing Ben McCauley to block at the near post.

On the hour Comrades were grateful to their 'keeper for preventing the deficit from being doubled. Gwiazda was played through one on one with Ben McCauley, but the Comrades man came out on top, blocking the Welders striker's effort when he seemed set to score.

Striker Lukasz Adamczyk was introduced for Comrades on 63 minutes and five minutes later he made the desired impact. He got on the end of a ball played forward into the box and turned to strike a low effort from 13 yards which wrong footed the 'keeper and went in inside the near post.

The game was now on a knife edge. In the 78th minute the visitors came close when a cross in from the left found the head of Ferguson whose effort from 8 yards forced a good save on his line from Ben McCauley.

The game looked to be heading for extra-time, but there was to be late drama. Three minutes into injury-time Adam Gray ran at the Welders defence and fed to the ball forward to Lukasz Adamczyk in the box. Adamczyk then played the perfect ball back to Gray who had continued his run and he finished past the 'keeper from 6 yards.