



## **Ballyclare Comrades 2-0 Dergview**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Bluefin NIFL Championship**

**Match Sponsor: Montgomery Distribution**

**Ball Sponsor: Metal Technology, Antrim**

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

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods
6. Adam McCart
15. Jordan Malone
3. Lee McCune
8. JB Dobbin
17. Tom Mathieson 🏴 (68')
24. Gary Donnelly ⚽ (57') 🏴 (90+1')
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🟡 (56')
21. Adam Gray 🏴 (73')
10. Joe Tully ⚽ (59') 🟡 (77')

### **Substitutes:**

19. Tom Hegan
23. Jonathon Doey
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟢 (90+1')
22. Matthew Henry 🟢 (68')
9. Fra Nolan 🟢 (73')

**Dergview:** Alan Buchanan, Sproule, Falconer, Maxwell, M Buchanan, Burns, McNabb, Adam Buchanan, McCarron, Smith, Curry. Subs: McGlynn, McNulty, Doherty, Callaghan, McConnell.

After two draws earlier this season between these teams, two second half goals saw Comrades take the points in this encounter at Dixon Park.

The hosts started with an unchanged side from that which had drawn at Ards the previous Saturday, although Thomas Robinson was missing from the matchday squad with a hamstring injury.

The early stages of the match were evenly balanced with both sides showing good attacking intent. The first effort of note came in the 11th minute when Ciaran

Dobbin fed the ball to Joe Tully who had run into the box, but the Comrades striker dragged his shot wide from 16 yards.

On 17 minutes the visitors came close. Smith stole the ball just outside the box and hit an effort which went narrowly wide of the target.

A minute later a good link up in the box between Gary Donnelly and Joe Tully gave Tully the chance to strike from 15 yards, forcing the 'keeper to tip the ball over the bar.

In the 26th minute Donnelly and Tully again combined effectively, and this time Donnelly got in an effort from 16 yards which 'keeper Buchanan had to dive to turn low past the post.

Play continued to be evenly balanced, but Comrades had the next chance on 38 minutes when Jordan Malone headed just over from 8 yards from a corner. The teams went in at the break scoreless, but inside the first minute of the second half Dergview had a great chance to take the lead when McCarron was played through on goal, but with Ben McCauley advancing he slid the ball wide of the far post.

The hosts however soon hit their second half stride. On the 49 minutes Ciaran Dobbin got his head to the ball inside the 6-yard box from a Gary Donnelly corner, but the 'keeper did enough to touch the effort onto the top of the bar.

The breakthrough came in the 57th minute. Joe Tully played a perfect ball through the visitor's defence into the path of Gary Donnelly who had run into the box and then produced a cool dinked finish over the advancing 'keeper from 8 yards to give his side the lead.

Two minutes later Comrades' advantage was doubled. Joe Tully got onto the ball 20 yards out and sent a great shot past the helpless 'keeper from 20 yards.

On 62 minute the buoyant home side had another chance when Adam Gray strode down the middle and opened up the chance for a shot from 20 yards, but his effort went well over the bar.

Dergview were far from finished, however. In the 56th minute they came close when a well worked move ended with McNabb shooting just wide of the far post from 6 yards.

As the game reached its later stages the visitors exerted some pressure. In the 83rd Ben McCauley had to turn a stringing Smith effort wide at the neat post. From the resulting corner Burns headed wide from 7 yards.

Then in the 89th minute a fine move ended with Smith getting into a great position 8 yards from goal, only to be denied by a superb block by Ben McCauley.

Three minutes into injury time Comrades almost got a third goal. Ciaran Dobbin darted into the box and stabbed an effort towards goal, the ball coming off the sprawling 'keeper and up onto the bar.