



## **Ballyclare Comrades 2-0 Queen's University**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Bluefin NIFL Championship**

**Match Sponsor: Agnew Recovery Services Ltd, Doagh**

**Ball Sponsor: After Schools Club, Ballyclare**

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

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods
6. Adam McCart
15. Jordan Malone
3. Lee McCune 🏴 (51')
4. Samuel McIlveen
17. Tom Mathieson ⚽ (16') 🏴 (72')
24. Gary Donnelly
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🏴 (90+2')
21. Adam Gray
10. Joe Tully ⚽ (84')

### **Substitutes:**

23. Jonathon Doey
22. Matthew Henry 🏴 (51') 🟡 (61')
8. JB Dobbin 🏴 (90+2')
7. Thomas Robinson 🏴 (72')
9. Fra Nolan

**Queen's University:** Brown, Robinson, Young, McManus, Calvert, Mulgrew, Hughes, McKenna, Traynor, Mitchell, Magee. Subs: Gawne, O'Hare, Glackin, McIlroy, Drylie.

Comrades won and kept a clean sheet for the second successive week at Dixon Park, this time with a deserved victory over Queen's University.

Manager Paul Harbinson made only one change for this game, with Samuel McIlveen coming in for JB Dobbin. Thomas Robinson recovered from injury to take a place on the bench.

The visitors started very brightly and inside the first minute Ben McCauley had to be alert to save at his near post after Hughes had been played in inside the 6-yard box.

The hosts soon settled however and in the 7<sup>th</sup> minute they created a chance when Gary Donnelly played a good ball into the box where Joe Tully stretched to meet it, but he didn't get the right contact to really trouble 'keeper Brown.

On 16 minutes Comrades opened the scoring. Ciaran Dobbin struck a great effort from 20 yards which came back off the bar. Tom Mathieson was first to the loose ball and hit a great volleyed finish which flew past Brown from 12 yards.

Although possession was evenly balanced Comrades looked the more dangerous side. In the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute they came close when Samuel McIlveen drifted a free kick to the back-post area where Adam McCart arrived to head just wide from 5 yards.

Four minutes later Joe Tully nipped into rob an opponent 35 yards from goal and struck audacious first time attempt to lob the 'keeper, who managed to get back just in time to prevent the ball dropping under the bar.

Comrades went in at half-time with a one goal lead, but Queen's started the second half strongly. Two minutes in Mitchell produced a fine run which ended with a shot from just outside the box that went just wide of the target.

The visitors had much of the play for the early part of the second half, but despite this they failed to create anything of more of note, their final ball letting them down on numerous occasions, whilst Comrades also defended resolutely.

The last 20 minutes of the game saw the home side reassert themselves and start to make chances again. In the 72 minutes Gary Donnelly turned and shot on target from just outside the box, but Brown saved comfortably. Then, three minutes later, Jordan Malone got his head to a corner, but his effort from 10 yards went over the bar.

On 77 minutes substitute Thomas Robinson got free into the box on the right and looked to play in Joe Tully who was in space, but the ball was played behind the striker. Even then it rebounded back towards Robinson in to the 6-yard box, but his resulting effort was deflected off a defender and over the bar.

Comrades were now looking very threatening and on 80 minutes they had a great chance to double the lead when Adam Gray got into the box and played a teasing ball across which Thomas Robinson met 4 yards out, but his touch was not the right one to turn the ball into the net.

In the 82<sup>nd</sup> minute another chance was spurned when Joe Tully was played through and looked to loft the ball over the 'keeper from 15 yards, but he didn't get enough on it and Brown made the save.

Two minutes later however Tully made no mistake when he took advantage of some weak defending by Queen's to burst past a tackle, round the 'keeper and slot the ball into the empty net.

Two minutes into injury-time Gary Donnelly produced a great run down the middle and into the box before being shoved over by McKenna. The referee pointed to the spot and gave the Queen's player a second yellow card. However, from the penalty spot Joe Tully was denied by a save from Brown.