

**Report courtesy of Newtownabbey Times**

**Portstewart Reserves 3-3 Ballyclare Comrades Reserves**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019 – Championship/PIL Development League**

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves ended a four-match losing sequence in Portstewart, where they earned a division of the Championship Development League spoils with Portstewart Reserves.

The lead changed hands from time to time, and the scores were level at the interval before Stephen Black's lads forged ahead 3-1, but the hosts salvaged a point in a 3-3 draw when they weighed in with two late strikes.

The Ports were first on to the scorecard, but Thomas McKitterick restored parity following a flowing move involving Nathan Sloss, Corey Knox, Isaiah Close, Jonny Patterson and Kurt Cooper, whose cross was turned in to the net at the back post.

With defences on top, neither keeper Josh Dunn nor his opposite number were seriously tested in a dull first half that ended all square.

Early in the second session the Wee Reds went ahead, when Cooper threaded the ball through to McKitterick who neatly tucked the ball under the advancing keeper. Later McKitterick completed his hat-trick when he out-muscled his marker and rammed the ball into the top left-hand corner of the net.

At that stage the three points seemed on their way to Ballyclare, but the locals secured a point with two late goals.

Man of the Match: Thomas McKitterick, striker.

Commenting manager Black said, "We had a sluggish start, but gradually we began to take control in midfield, and were back on level terms after half an hour or so. From that point we had the edge and going into the final quarter we seemed to be coasting with two goals to the good. However, we were undone by a couple of long balls over the top and had to settle for a point. However the draw has stopped the rot following four straight defeats" he added.

**Ballyclare Comrades Reserves:** Dunn, Cooper, Sloss, Oueslati, Surgeoner, McKitterick, Close, Patterson, Ervine, Clarke, Knox. Subs: Meneely, Hill, Hoey, Beggs.