

**Report courtesy of Newtownabbey Times**

**Saturday 15th February 2020 – Championship/PIL Development League**

**PSNI Olympic 2-3 Ballyclare Comrades Reserves**

New signing Ronan Lafferty secured the Championship Development League points for Ballyclare Comrades Reserves with a late winner against PSNI Olympic.

The pitch at The Dub was declared playable, while strangely the Ballyclare senior side's match in the same complex was postponed, but wind and rain made playing conditions difficult.

Despite playing against the elements in the first half the Wee Reds were first on to the scorecard, when Kurt Cooper netted from close range in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute after Jonny Patterson, Thomas McKitterick and Sammy Irvine had done the spadework.

Moments before the break the policemen levelled with a near post touch-in, and at that stage Comrades manager Stephen Black was feeling confident, with the elements in his side's favour in the second session.

Ten minutes after the resumption Patterson regained the lead when he toe-poked the ball over the line after the home keeper fumbled.

Around the hour mark the cops restored parity when the ball rebounded off the inside of the post and entered the net via keeper Josh Dunn's shoulder.

A division of the spoils seemed on the cards until the 85<sup>th</sup> minute, when Lafferty marked his debut, following transfer from Ballymena United Reserves, with a tap in following some pinball in the goalmouth.

Man of the match: Ronan Lafferty, midfielder.

"The weather was horrible and the pitch began to cut up, but the lads worked hard and were deserved winners. It was pleasing to have senior players Kyle Crawford and Dale McCreery getting some game time after having been side-lined for several months," stated manager Black.

Following a run of poor results, back-to back wins have enhanced the Reserves' mid table position.

**Ballyclare Comrades Reserves:** Dunn, Cooper, Blackadder, Ervine, Crawford, Jack Moore I, Sloan, Laverty, Patterson, McKitterick, McCreery. Subs: Jack Moore II, Wilson, Oueslati, Sugeoner, C Campbell.