



Loughgall 3-5 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 28th April 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
6. Michael McQuitty 🏀 (27') 🏀 (55')
23. Dean Youle
16. Matty Parker
12. Chris Middleton 🏀 (35')
4. Samuel McIlveen
8. JB Dobbin 🏀 (46')
17. Thomas Robinson 🏀 (55')
22. Gary Brown 🏀 (50')
9. Mark Kelly 🏀 (4') 🏀 (54')

Substitutes:

5. Chris Rodgers 🏀 (55')
14. Adam McCart
10. Eoin Kane 🏀 (46')
7. Joe McWilliams 🏀 (55')

Loughgall: Robinson, Neill, Rea, Copeland, Montgomery, Hoey, Campbell, McMaster, Finlay, Liggett, Ferris. Subs: Stretton, McConnell, Stewart, Mullen, McDowell.

Comrades ended a run of five defeats to finish the season with a win in a high-scoring game at Loughgall.

With Clifford Adams having left the manager's position earlier in the week and his backroom team following him, senior players, JB Dobbin and Adam McCart took charge of the team for the season finale.

Comrades started in lively fashion, despite their recent poor form, and soon hit the front. In the 4th minute Mark Kelly got on the end of a ball played over the Loughgall defence by Gary Brown and knocked it past the advancing 'keeper and into the net from the edge of the box.

Three minutes later, Kelly had a chance to score again, when he deftly brought down a ball played into the box, but his resulting effort 8 yards lacked the power to trouble 'keeper Robinson.

The home side struck back with an equaliser in the 10th minute. Campbell did well to beat two Comrades men to get in on the left side of the box, before firing the ball across for Liggett to slot home from 6 yards out.

Despite this setback Comrades continue to have most of the attacking play. In the 17th minute they came close to regaining the lead, when a cross into the box saw the ball break to Dean Youle, who turned and shot from 10 yards, only to see his crisp effort strike the bar.

On 27 minutes the visitors deservedly struck the front again. An outswinging corner played into the box by Thomas Robinson found Dean Youle, who headed the ball towards the goal, where it came to Michael McQuitty. The bid defender then did very well, with his back to goal and an opponent behind him, to fashion a neat flick into the roof of the net from just in front of the goal-line.

Comrades continued to play excellent attacking football and got their reward in the 35th minute with another goal. Mark Kelly did very well to get free on the left side of the box, before playing a super ball across to Chris Middleton, who arrived to slam the ball home from 5 yards out.

Four minutes later Middleton had a golden chance to double his tally. The impressive Gary Brown produced a great run across the box, before playing the ball to Samuel McIlveen, who then teed it up for Chris Middleton in a great position 8 yards from goal. He attempted a chip over the advancing 'keeper, but he couldn't keep his effort down and it went over the bar.

Comrades went into the break with a merited 3-1 lead and they came out for the second half full of confidence. Inside the first minute, half-time substitute Eoin Kane struck the bar with a fine effort from just outside the box.

On 50 minutes the men in red got a fourth goal, when a ball from Curtis Woods set Gary Brown free one on one with the 'keeper and he made no mistake with a cool finish from 12 yards.

Things got better for Comrades in the 54th minute, when they were awarded a penalty after a Loughgall defender raised his boot high to try to get to the ball, catching Thomas Robinson's on the head. Mark Kelly stepped up and coolly converted from the spot to give his side a seemingly unassailable lead.

However, two minutes later Loughgall grabbed a goal back, when a ball played in from the right found Ferris who converted from 5 yards.

On the hour Mark Kelly was denied a hat-trick, when his 9-yard header from a Chris Middleton ball was turned around the post by a fine save from Robinson.

Comrades had perhaps lost a little focus after going 5-1 up and in the 71st minute the spectre of a Loughgall fightback was raised when they further reduced the deficit.

Again, they got in down the right and Campbell's ball played to the far post found Ferris arriving unmarked to knock the ball into the net from 4 yards.

However, the visitors managed to avoid any further serious scares and the most notable effort of the later stages of the game came on 76 minutes from Gary Brown, who received the ball from a throw-in and turned and volleyed first-time from 27 yards, seeing his effort go narrowly wide of the target.

