



Ballyclare Comrades 3-1 Annagh United

Saturday 13th August 2016 – NIFL Championship

Match Sponsor: Paul Girvan MLA

Ball Sponsor: Clare Farm Supplies

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-2-3-1)

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
6. Stuart McCullough
5. Michael McQuitty
3. Dean Youle
8. JB Dobbin
4. Corey McMullan
7. Gary Brown 🟢🔴 (33')
10. Michael O'Hanlon 🟦 (40') 🟡 (77')
11. Adam Irwin 🟢🔴 (84')
9. Chris Trussell 🟦 (81')

Substitutes:

12. Chris Getty
14. Simon McGowan
15. Denver Taggart 🟢🔴 (84')
16. Bobbie Crowe
17. Thomas Robinson 🟢🔴 (33') 🟦 (54')

Annagh United: Fox, Campbell, Hume, Wilson, Allen, Taylor, Parks, Corrigan, Doyle, McCordick, McIlroy. Subs: Riddle, Conn, Gardiner, Webb, Kells.

Comrades opened their Championship campaign with deserved win over Annagh United at Dixon Park.

The home side could easily have scored inside the first minute. A Michael O'Hanlon corner was flicked on to Michael McQuitty whose effort from 4 yards, was saved by 'keeper Fox. However, the ball fell back to the big defender, but his follow up effort was fired over the bar.

An all action start saw Annagh have a chance at the other end a minute later.

McCordick got on the end of a ball into the box and created space for a shot from 7 yards, which was only kept out by a great save from Paddy Flood.

Four minutes in and Comrades had a very good shout for a penalty turned down, when Michael O'Hanlon appeared to be felled in the box, but the officials waved play on.

Comrades were generally on top during the first half, looking lively going forward. In the 27th minute they had a chance, when Michael McQuitty headed the ball back across the box from a corner and it fell to Adam Irwin, who turned and shot just wide from 6 yards.

In the 33rd minute manager Stephen Hughes was forced to make a change when Gary Brown came off with an ankle injury to be replaced by new signing from Larne, Thomas Robinson.

The latter part of the half saw Comrades pile on the pressure and they got their reward on 40 minutes. A surging run into the box by Adam Irwin ended with him feeding the ball to Thomas Robinson, who was scythed down by an opponent. The referee pointed to the spot and Michael O'Hanlon stepped up to convert coolly.

The home side might have gone in at half-time with a bigger lead. On 43 minutes another good run into the box from Adam Irwin saw him fire in a shot from a difficult angle 8 yards out, which Fox had to save at his near post. Then, a minute later, a well struck shot from Chris Trussell from 10 yards was well saved by Fox, but the ball fell to Michael O'Hanlon, who looked set to score from a central position inside the 6-yard box, only to be denied by a fine block from the busy 'keeper.

Comrades continued their dominance into the second half and had a great chance to increase their lead two minutes in, when Chris Trussell rolled his marker, but uncharacteristically dragged the ball wide of the far post from 8 yards.

Then, two minutes later, Dean Youle headed a good chance over from 5 yards, after getting on the end of a corner.

In the 54th minute Comrades got the second goal they merited, when Thomas Robinson marked his debut by drilling the ball wide of the 'keeper's dive and inside the far post from 11 yards, having been picked out by JB Dobbin.

The home side were well on top, but out of the blue Annagh grabbed a lifeline. On the hour a long throw into the box caused havoc and the ball fell to Parks, who fired it into the net from 5 yards.

This raised the spirits of the visitors and they began to pose more threat than they had previously. However, they could have been back to two behind in the 69th minute, but Fox again came to their rescue, this time saving a Michael O'Hanlon penalty, awarded after Michael McQuitty was fouled going for a high ball inside the box.

The game became increasingly feisty and boiled over in the 77th minute, with Corrigan shown a red card for the visitors, after an incident when Adam Irwin was chopped down as he broke forward on the halfway line.

Two minutes later, the impressive 'keeper Fox again produced a great save, this time tipping a fine free-kick effort, struck by Thomas Robinson from 20 yards, over the bar.

However, the home side sealed the points in the 81st minute, when a Michael O'Hanlon corner, whipped into the box, was headed on by Stuart McCullough and the ball fell to Chris Trussell who knocked it in first time from 5 yards out.

The margin possibly should have been increased on 89 minutes, when Michael O'Hanlon ran free onto a good header on from Chris Trussell, but fired over from 12 yards.

Two minutes into injury-time the visitors might have pulled a goal back, when Doyle produced a good run into the box, but his resulting effort from 9 yards was kept out by a fine save from Paddy Flood.