



Annagh United 0-4 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 29th October 2016 – NIFL Championship

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
5. Michael McQuitty 🟢🔴 (74')
23. Dean Youle 🟡 (38')
3. Adam Gray
4. Corey McMullan ⚫ (27')
8. JB Dobbin
7. Michael O'Hanlon 🟡 (77')
10. Jason Johnston 🟢🔴 (58')
11. Thomas Robinson ⚫ (42') 🟢🔴 (68')
9. Chris Trussell ⚫ (63')

Substitutes:

12. Gary Brown
14. Denver Taggart 🟢🔴 (68')
15. Stuart McCullough 🟢🔴 (74') ⚫ (90+3')
16. Adam Irwin 🟢🔴 (58')
17. Bobbie Crowe

Comrades cruised to a comfortable victory at bottom club Annagh United, to continue their push at the top end of the Championship.

Manager Stephen Hughes made one change to his starting line-up, with Gary Brown rested and Chris Trussell coming back in.

From the start Comrades knocked the ball around well, but the home side played with energy, making it a good contest.

The first effort of note came in the 13th minute, when a high ball lofted into the box was cleverly headed down by Jason Johnston into the path of Thomas Robinson. He then fired a fiercely hit first-time shot from 17 yards, which 'keeper Hughes did well to turn over the bar. The visitors continued to force the pace, but were finding Annagh dogged in defence. In the 25th minute however Comrades had a chance when a neat move down the left ended with an effort from Jason Johnston, which flew a few feet wide from the edge of the box.

Two minutes later Comrades got the goal their control of the game merited. It started from a defensive situation, when a long throw into the box was cleared and the ball was played up to the half-way line to Chris Trussell. A delightful flick from the target-man opened up the Annagh rearguard and the sweeping move ended with Thomas Robinson feeding the ball to Corey McMullan the box. The free-scoring midfielder made no mistake knocking the ball past the 'keeper from 8 yards.

Annagh threatened sporadically during the first half, but the Comrades defence were largely in control. The next goal looked more likely to come at the other end and so it proved. In the

42nd minute a super cross from deep, played in by Michael O'Hanlon found Thomas Robinson unmarked arriving at the back post and he nodded in from 5 yards.

A minute later Comrades had another chance when a ball played low into the box found Chris Trussell, but his resulting effort from 7 yards flew wide of the target.

The second half began with Comrades still on top. Inside the first two minutes they came close, when Thomas Robinson cut inside from the left and unleashed a shot from 17 yards which went just over the bar.

On 59 minutes Chris Trussell had a decent chance, when he got free into the right side of the box, but his effort from 6 yards was blocked by 'keeper Hughes.

However, four minutes later, the Comrades striker made no mistake, when he latched onto a fine ball from Michael McQuitty and ran from just inside the Annagh half to finish calmly past the out-rushing 'keeper from 12 yards.

There was now very little doubt as to where the points were going, with the home side posing little threat to the Comrades goal. It was now largely a matter of whether the visitors could add to their goal tally.

In the 84th minute Chris Trussell ran onto a flick on and looked set to score, only to see his effort from 7 yards turned wide by the 'keeper's legs.

Deep into injury-time Comrades did get a fourth goal. Good play from Michael O'Hanlon set up Adam Irwin for shot from just inside the box, but he saw his effort pushed around the post by Hughes. Then, from the corner, Irwin again got in a shot, which was parried out by the 'keeper. This time however, the ball spun into the air and Stuart McCullough was there to head it into the back from 4 yards.