



Ballyclare Comrades 0-2 Carrick Rangers

Tuesday 30th August 2016 – NIFL League Cup (Second Round)

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
6. Stuart McCullough 🟢🔴 (76')
5. Michael McQuitty
3. Dean Youle
4. Corey McMullan
8. JB Dobbin 🟢🔴 (66')
7. Gary Brown
10. Michael O'Hanlon 🟢🔴 (46')
11. Thomas Robinson
9. Chris Trussell

Substitutes:

12. Denver Taggart 🟢🔴 (46')
14. Mark Shannon
15. Chris Getty
16. Adam Gray 🟢🔴 (76')
17. Adam Irwin 🟢🔴 (66')

Carrick Rangers: Morrell, McKeown, Kelly, McNally, McCullough, McNicholl, Clarke, Surgenor, Lavery, Murray. Subs: Knox, Taggart, Morrow, Rice, McFall.

Comrades slid out of the League Cup against local rivals Carrick Rangers, on a night when they failed to reproduce their previous good early season form.

With a full squad available, manager Stephen Hughes was able to field his strongest side, which was unchanged from that which started against Institute four days earlier. The early signs were good for the home team, as they came close on a couple of occasions inside the opening minutes of the game. In the 2nd minute, Chris Trussell ran at the Carrick defence fired in a shot from 16 yards, but his effort was too close to 'keeper Morrell. Then, three minute later, JB Dobbin made space for a shot from the edge of the box, which fizzed just wide of the post.

After this early flourish, the game settled down to a rather scrappy affair with neither side able to produce much in the way of flowing football. However, Comrades continued to look the more dangerous side, with Carrick's main threat coming from

long throw-ins propelled into the box by McKeown, but which the home defence dealt well with.

In the 28th minute there was a major incident of controversy, when Michael McQuitty appeared to be clearly and unsubtly shoved over when about to get on the end of a ball in from a corner. To the amazement of the home players and supporters the officials took no action.

Second later, from another corner, Comrades were denied the opening goal when Michael O'Hanlon's set-piece went to the back post area, where Dean Youle met it with a header from 5 yards, which was headed out from under the bar by a man on the line.

The teams went in at half-time with Comrades supporters feeling aggrieved at the officials and also believing that their side's play merited a lead.

The second half was to be equally devoid of real quality, but the balance of play shifted. Now it was the Premiership side which had the majority of the ball, whilst Comrades struggled to put more than two or three passes together.

It was symptomatic of a sloppy second half performance from the home side that they gave the possession away cheaply in the build up to the opening goal. The ball was gifted to Carrick just inside the Comrades' half and Lavery then slid a perfect defence splitting ball through to Kelly, who ran through to calmly slot the ball past the exposed 'keeper from 6 yards.

The home supporters hoped for a positive reaction from their team, but they were unable to raise their game and the visitors held on fairly comfortably, with their 'keeper certainly not overworked in the last half hour of the game.

A poor night for Comrades was capped four minutes into injury-time and seconds before the final whistle, when Carrick scored again. Once more possession was given away, this time by a poor ball out from the back. This allowed the visitors the space for Salley to be set free into the box and he neatly lobbed 'keeper Paddy Flood from 8 yards.