



Dergview 1-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 15th April 2017 – NIFL Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-4-2)

1. Paddy Flood
24. Gary Brown
5. Curtis Woods
23. Dean Youle
3. Adam Gray
7. Michael O'Hanlon
8. JB Dobbin
4. Corey McMullan 🟢🔴 (64')
11. Thomas Robinson
9. Chris Trussell
10. Kevin Lynch 🟢🔴 (76')

Substitutes:

12. Samuel McIlveen 🟢🔴 (64')
14. Denver Taggart 🟢🔴 (76')
15. Kyle McCauley
16. Joel Haggan
- Gk. Ross McKnight

Comrades came home from the long trip to Castlederg with nothing after a narrow defeat against Dergview.

Manager Clifford Adams stuck with the same team which had started in the win against Loughgall in Comrades' previous match. Jason Johnston was still unavailable for selection due to his young son's illness.

The early stages of the match saw Comrades on the front foot, doing most of the attacking. In the 11th minute they created a chance, when a good thrust forward by Gary Brown ended with him playing the ball into the box, where Kevin Lynch headed it down towards strike partner Chris Trussell 11 yards out. However he didn't really connect properly with a strike on goal and McCusker was able to make a comfortable save.

In the 16th minute the Dergview 'keeper was called to make a save at full stretch, when Corey McMullan struck a low shot from just outside the box, which was turned just wide of the post.

Comrades had been on top, with Thomas Robinson in particular causing problems for the Dergview defence. However, around the 25 minute mark, the visitors' early promise began to fade and the home side came more into the game.

In the 33rd minute Dergview hit the front. A corner was only cleared to Falconer 13 yards from goal and he struck a fine volleyed finish, which gave Paddy Flood in the Comrades goal no chance.

The rest of the first half saw little in the way of goalmouth action and the home side went in at the break with a narrow lead.

Comrades started the second half strongly, pressing forward at every opportunity. In the 48th minute Corey McMullan won the ball inside the Dergview half and moved forward, before setting up Chris Trussell for an effort from 16 yards, but McCusker was well placed to make the save.

Despite the visitors having a lot of attacking possession they were constantly frustrated by an inability to find an incisive final ball and by a very well-drilled Dergview defence.

Consequently the home 'keeper was not tested enough for the liking of the vociferous travelling support.

At the other end Dergview didn't really look like adding to their lead, but a strong defensive performance kept them ahead.

Comrades had only a couple of efforts of note as the second half progressed Firstly, on 73 minutes, Samuel McIlveen struck a decent effort on goal from a 20-yard free-kick, but the 'keeper saw it early enough to make a comfortable save. Then, two minutes later, Michael O'Hanlon saw his volley from 16 yards sail a couple of feet over the bar.

Despite lots of effort from Comrades in the final stages, there was nothing to show for it and they were frustrated as the home side held on for the victory.