



Ballyclare Comrades 0-1 Glentoran (after extra-time)

Tuesday 20th September 2016 – Toal's County Antrim Shield (First Round)

Match Sponsor: Agnew Recovery Service, Doagh

Ball Sponsor: Richard Greer Cars, Doagh

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

1. Ross McKnight
2. Gary Brown 🟢🔴 (56')
5. Michael McQuitty
23. Dean Youle
3. Mark Shannon
4. Corey McMullan
8. JB Dobbin
7. Michael O'Hanlon
10. Jason Johnston
11. Thomas Robinson 🟢🔴 (56')
9. Chris Trussell

Substitutes:

12. Denver Taggart 🟢🔴 (56')
14. Adam Gray 🟢🔴 (56')
15. Adam Irwin
16. Kyle Dillon
17. Adam Irwin

Glentoran: Nelson, McAuley, Ferrin, Birney, Redman, Harmon, Foley, Gordon, Smith, Allen, Lavery. Subs: Morris, Caldwell, Leu, Delaney, Hamill.

Comrades exited the County Antrim Shield with their heads held high after pushing Glentoran all the way under the lights at Dixon Park.

For this match manager Stephen Hughes was forced to make one change. Goalkeeper Paddy Flood was unavailable with an injury, so young Ross McKnight stepped up from the Reserves.

The game started fairly quietly, but the visitors came close in the 9th minute, when a good run from Lavery ended with a shot which went just wide from 17 yards.

Glentoran were largely on top in the first half, but without creating many chances against a very solid Comrades defence. However, in the 19th minute Ross McKnight had to produce a good save from a Foley 22 yard free-kick and then did well to block and attempt from Allen when the ball ran loose at the corner of the 6-yard box.

At the other end, for all their endeavour Comrades struggled to make inroads against the Glentoran defence and 'keeper Nelson was most untroubled in the first period.

The second started in much the same fashion as the first, with Glentoran having most of the play, but Comrades competing well to prevent them from truly threatening, with Dean Youle and Michael McQuitty supreme at the heart of the defence.

In the 68th minute Glentoran did have a good chance, when a free-kick played in from near the corner went to the back post, where Gordon headed over from 5 yards.

As the half progressed Comrades began to grow in confidence and look threatening.

In the 76th minute a good move stretched the visitors' defence and ended with a chance for substitute Adam Gray. However, his effort from 11 yards was rather scuffed and was blocked by a defender.

On 84 minutes the home side came the closest to a goal so far in the game, when Chris Trussell made space for a shot from 10 yards in the crowded box, but he was unfortunate to see his well-struck effort come back off the upright. Even then, from the rebound, Denver Taggart might have done better when he skied the ball over the bar from 8 yards.

Normal time ended scoreless, so the game moved to extra-time of two periods of ten minutes each.

The only real effort of note in the first of these periods was nine minutes in, when Michael O'Hanlon stretched to reach a ball into the box and fashioned a lobbed effort, which went not far over the bar from 15 yards.

It looked as if the game was headed to be decided on penalties, but there was to be heartbreak for Comrades six minutes into the second period of injury-time, when Glentoran snatched the winner. A cross from Redman on the left eluded Ross McKnight and fell to Smith at back post, who headed in from 4 yards.