



## H&W Welders 0-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – NIFL Championship

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
5. Jason Johnston
23. Dean Youle
3. Adam Gray
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟢🔴 (68')
8. JB Dobbin
7. Michael O'Hanlon
10. Corey McMullan 🟢🔴 (29')
11. Thomas Robinson
9. Chris Trussell

### Substitutes:

12. Kevin Lynch 🟢🔴 (68')
14. Gary Brown
15. Owen Thompson
16. Michael Haskins
17. Johnny McClurg

**H&W Welders:** Johnston, Dickson, Armstrong, McKeown, McMurray, McMillan, Deans, Davidson, Harris, McKee, Rainey. Subs: Devine, Spence, Middleton, Bowers, Pierce.

Comrades produced a gritty display to come away with all three points from a ground they have had little joy at in recent times.

Manager Stephen Hughes had JB Dobbin and Adam Gray back, who had been unavailable for the Cup defeat against Institute. He also had new signings Kevin Lynch and Owen Thompson available and they took places on the bench.

Conditions were difficult for both sides, with the pitch soft after some heavy overnight rain and more rain falling throughout the match.

The home side started on the front foot and they came close to an opener in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute, when a cross into the box was met by a diving header from McKee, which came back off the bar.

Comrades soon began to settle into the game, after an uncomfortable opening, and play was much more evenly balanced for the rest of the half.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> minute they tested the Welders 'keeper for the first time, when a good move down the left ended with Adam Gray cutting inside past a couple of opponents and hitting a shot from just inside the box, which forced a save from the well-positioned Johnston.

Defences were however generally well on top before the breakthrough, which came in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute. Chris Trussell harried a defender on the right side of the box and won the ball

before driving towards goal and striking and effort from the angle of the 6-yard box. The 'keeper saved his effort but the ball flew out to where Corey McMullan was in the right place to pick it up 8 yards out. The young goal-scoring midfielder did not panic and coolly drilled the ball low into the bottom corner of the net to give his side the lead.

Comrades dealt with the remainder of the first half very comfortably to go in at the break with a one-goal advantage.

Welders came out strongly at the start of the second half and for the first 15 minutes they pressed for Comrades back into their own half. Having said that, the visitors defended in impressive fashion and, with Paddy Flood coming out effectively from his goal to snuff out danger as well, the home side weren't able create any chances.

Although the home side continued to have most of the attacking possession, Comrades began to get some joy going forward and they had what few chances there were to add to the score-line.

In the 64<sup>th</sup> minute Thomas Robinson did well to beat a defender on the left and then drive into the box, before shooting from an angle from 13 yards out, but Johnston saved relatively comfortably.

The best chance of the half came three minutes later, when a good move ended with Adam Gray running onto the ball in the box, before attempting to knock it over the out-rushing 'keeper from 12 yards, However, Johnston did well to get a hand to the ball and block the effort.

The remainder of the game, saw neither side able to trouble the opposition 'keeper. Comrades held on to their lead, with a very disciplined and hard-working defensive display, which frustrated the home side's efforts to salvage something from the game.