



## **Ballyclare Comrades 2-2 Institute**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016 – NIFL Championship**

**Match Sponsor: Agnew, Mitchell & Cairns Accountants**

**Ball Sponsor: McConnell's Bar, Doagh**

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
6. Stuart McCullough
5. Michael McQuitty ⚽ (75')
3. Dean Youle 🟢🔴 (83')
4. Corey McMullan
8. JB Dobbin 🟢🔴 (63')
7. Gary Brown ⚽ (76')
10. Michael O'Hanlon
11. Thomas Robinson 🟢🔴 (85')
9. Chris Trussell

### **Substitutes:**

12. Chris Getty
14. Mark Shannon 🟢🔴 (83')
15. Denver Taggart 🟢🔴 (63')
16. Adam Irwin 🟢🔴 (85')
17. Adam Gray

**Institute:** Gallagher, Morrow, McFadden, O'Donnell, Scoltock, A Harkin, R Doherty, C Harkin, McCarron, Grace, McCrudden. Subs: Curry, Armstrong, Dunne, Cooley, H Doherty.

Comrades dropped their first points of the Championship campaign, but a stirring second half comeback sent their supporters home in a positive mood.

Unsurprisingly there were no changes to the starting line-up which had gained a comprehensive win at Knockbreda the previous Saturday, and the home side came into the game in confident mood.

However, after an even opening spell, it was the visitors, one of the favourites for promotion this season, who had the better of the first half.

They were unlucky not to hit the front in the front in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute, when a super volley, struck from just inside the box by McCrudden, came back off the post.

On 21 minutes Institute got their reward for a dominant spell when they took the lead. A good move left the Comrades defence stretched and Grace picked out McCrudden

on the left side of the box, who finished with a crisp shot wide of the 'keeper from 12 yards out.

It might have got worse for Comrades two minutes later, when they lost the ball inside their own half and it was played into the box to McCarron, who saw his resulting shot from 8 yards kept out by a fine save from Paddy Flood.

The home supporters would have been content if their side could have gone into the break only one down, but in the 40<sup>th</sup> minute a second goal was conceded. A corner was played into the box and McCarron's header was clawed off the line by Paddy Flood, but it fell to O'Donnell, who headed it back into the net from 5 yards.

Comrades came out for the second half with a lot of work to do and they certainly set about things with more of a spark than they had managed in the first 45 minutes.

However, the visitors might have put the game beyond them in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute, when McCarron got on the end of a low ball in from the right, but his shot from 6 yards was too close to 'keeper Flood, who made the save.

The home side had struggled to make much headway against a well organised Institute defence, but they started to make one or two inroads as the second half progressed.

In the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute Michael O'Hanlon played the ball in from the right side of the box to the near post area, where he found Chris Trussell, but the big striker just couldn't strike the ball on target as he turned under pressure and his effort from 6 yards went wide.

On the hour Michael O'Hanlon again did well, cutting in from the left and playing the ball to Gary Brown, who flashed a first-time shot wide from 13 yards.

As time ticked away it looked like it wasn't to be Comrades' night, but a quick two-goal wiped out the Institute lead. In the 75<sup>th</sup> minute, Michael McQuitty headed in from 5 yards from a Michael O'Hanlon corner. Then, not much more than a minute later, a good run from O'Hanlon saw him find Corey McMullan. He then teed up Gary Brown to strike a fine shot from just outside the box, which took a deflection off a defender and left 'keeper Doherty, who had come on for the injured Gallagher earlier in the half, stranded.

The home side now had the momentum and looked the more likely side to grab all three points. In the 79<sup>th</sup> minute Corey McMullan fired a shot just wide from the edge of the box. However, the big chance came two minutes into injury-time. A ball over the top of the Institute defence set Chris Trussell clear, running into the right side of the box, but his effort from 7 yards out went just wide of the far post.