



Ballyclare Comrades 2-4 Institute

Saturday 7th January 2017 – Tennent's Irish Cup (Fifth Round)

Match Sponsor: Golden Glen Catering

Ball Sponsor: Cottonmount Arms, Mallusk

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods 🟡 (69')
5. Jason Johnston
23. Dean Youle
3. Mark Shannon 🟡 (60') 🟢 (64')
8. Samuel McIlveen ⚫ (15')
4. Corey McMullan ⚫ (33')
7. Michael O'Hanlon
10. Gary Brown
11. Thomas Robinson
9. Chris Trussell

Substitutes:

12. Kyle McCauley
14. Joel Haggan
15. Johnny McClurg
16. Eddie Hill 🟢 (64')
- Gk. Ross McKnight

Institute: Gallagher, Roddy, McDermott, Scoltock, D Curry, Grace, O'Donnell, A Harkin, S Curry, Morrow, McCrudden. Subs: Brown, Doherty, McFadden, McIntyre, Muldoon.

Comrades suffered Irish Cup disappointment as they exited the tournament to Championship promotion rivals Institute.

Manager Stephen Hughes had to cope without the services of eight players for this game, including JB Dobbin and Adam Gray. Michael O'Hanlon came back into the starting line-up alongside Samuel McIlveen, who was playing his first game since returning to the club from Larne. The absence of so many players meant that assistant manager Eddie Hill and coach Johnny McClurg were registered as players to allow them to take places on the bench.

The game started in disastrous fashion for the home side as they went two down within the first ten minutes.

In the 3rd minute an under-hit back pass from Mark Shannon was intercepted and the ball cut back to Grace, whose resulting effort from an angle 8 yards out was blocked

by 'keeper Paddy Flood, but the ball broke out to McCrudden, who made no mistake from 12 yards, firing the ball into the net.

Six minutes later the visitors doubled their lead. They cut through the Comrades defence down the right, with Stephen Curry darting into the box before firing the ball in at the near post from 6 yards.

Comrades had looked dangerous themselves going forward in the early stages of the game, but very vulnerable at the other end. However, on 15 minutes, they were right back in the game when they reduced the deficit to one goal. A free-kick was won in a central position 27 yards from goal and Samuel McIlveen stepped up to drill an effort which took a deflection off the Institute wall and flew into the net past the wrong footed 'keeper.

The home side now had their tails up and a minute later they came close, when Chris Trussell ran onto a through ball on the left side of the box, hurdled a challenge from the out-rushing 'keeper and got in a strike from 10 yards from a difficult angle, only to see his effort blocked at the near post by a defender.

Comrades were now doing most of the pressing. Therefore, when the equalising goal came, it was deserved on the balance of play. In the 33rd minute, Gary Brown darted in behind the Institute defence and was bowled over by a push in the back by McDermott. A penalty was awarded and Corey McMullan stepped up to confidently convert it and level the scores.

Toward the end of the half it was the visitors who came closest to going in at half-time with a lead. Firstly, in the 45th minute, Morrow intercepted a stray pass across the Comrades defence played by Jason Johnston and set up Curry for a good chance just inside the box, but his effort was fired over the bar. Then, a minute into first-half injury-time, the ball broke fortunately to Curry from a challenge inside the Comrades half, but he was denied twice inside the 6-yard box, by a Paddy Flood save and then a Dean Youle block.

Comrades started the second half on the attack and got into several very good positions. However, they were either let down by a poor final ball or delaying in shooting.

They were to pay for not making the most of this spell of dominance, when on 66 minutes Curry finished with a good strike from just inside the box, after being played through by Grace.

From this point on Institute looked in control, although Comrades huffed and puffed at the other end to little effect. The closest they came to an equaliser was on 77 minutes, when Eddie Hill got his head to a cross from Michael O'Hanlon to the far post area, but his effort from 5 yards fell just wide of the post, although 'keeper Gallagher may well have had it covered in any event.

In the 84th minute the visitors more or less sealed the win when they restored a two-goal advantage. Morrow set McCrudden free and he neatly dinked the ball over the out-rushing Paddy Flood from 8 yards.

The visitors might have added to their tally three minutes into injury-time, when Doherty's close range effort was kept out by a fine save from Flood.