



Ballyclare Comrades 1-3 Knockbreda

Saturday 5th November 2016 – NIFL Championship

Match Sponsor: Danny Kinahan MP

Ball Sponsor: Councillor David Arthurs

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods 🟡 (12')
5. Michael McQuitty
23. Dean Youle 🟡 (42')
3. Adam Gray
8. JB Dobbin
10. Gary Brown 🟢🔴 (61')
7. Michael O'Hanlon
4. Corey McMullan ⚫ (2') 🟡 (79')
11. Thomas Robinson 🟢🔴 (61')
9. Jason Johnston 🟡 (32')

Substitutes:

12. Denver Taggart 🟢🔴 (61')
14. Adam Irwin 🟢🔴 (61')
15. Stuart McCullough
16. Bobbie Crowe
17. Joel Haggan

Knockbreda: McBride, King, Cockcroft, Ferguson, Wray, McBurney, Wilson, Cooling, McNeill, Hanna, McMaster. Subs: McCain, Johnston, Lynch, Beggs, Woods.

Comrades blew the chance to go top of the table, when they fell to a disappointing defeat to a rejuvenated Knockbreda side at Dixon Park.

For this game manager Stephen Hughes had to do without striker Chris Trussell who was unavailable. Jason Johnston moved forward to play up front, whilst Gary Brown returned to the starting line-up.

The game started with a bang for the home side when they took the lead inside two minutes. Corey McMullan gambled to run into the box to get on the end of a high ball and he did well to take the ball down and coolly finish past 'keeper McBride from 10 yards.

Comrades dominated the first 15 minutes and looked capable of adding to their lead, but once the visitors settled into the game things were much less comfortable for the men in red.

Knockbreda grew in confidence as the minutes passed, clearing their heads of their early setback. However, there were no significant chances at either end until the 31st minute when the scores were levelled. JB Dobbin was adjudged to have fouled Wilson just inside the box and Cooling stepped up to convert from the penalty spot. The rest of the first half was rather scrappy and the sides went in at the break level and with all to play for in the second period.

The second 45 minutes were to be a big disappointment for the home supporters as their side huffed and puffed without creating much in front of goal. The visitors, on the other hand, were much more incisive and on 51 minutes they hit the front, when a shot from the left side of the box from McNeill was kept out by Paddy Flood, but the ball ran loose to Wilson, who had the easy task of slotting home from close range. Comrades had a fair bit of the ball in the opposition half, but the creative spark, which has been there for most of the season so far, was missing and the Knockbreda 'keeper was not overly troubled.

In the 71st minute the home side did have a chance, when they kept up the pressure after a free-kick had been cleared from the box. Michael McQuitty got the chance to strike the ball from the edge of the box, but his effort flew a couple of feet over the bar.

Two minutes later, the visitors added to their lead. Comrades were guilty of overplaying inside their own half and were dispossessed, allowing the ball to be fed to Lynch inside the box and he made no mistake with a crisp finish from 10 yards. There was still time for Comrades to rescue something from the game, but it never really looked likely. Indeed Knockbreda could well have added to their tally before the final whistle.

In the 86th minute, Ferguson might have done better with a header from 5 yards out, after he got on the end of a corner. Then, a minute into injury-time, Paddy Flood did very well to keep out a McMaster effort from 8 yards.