



Ballyclare Comrades 1-0 Loughgall

Saturday 8th April 2017 – NIFL Championship

Match sponsor: Anonymous

Ball Sponsor: Ballyclare Comrades Supporters Club

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Gary Brown
5. Curtis Woods
23. Dean Youle
3. Adam Gray
8. JB Dobbin
6. Corey McMullan
7. Michael O'Hanlon  (31')  (90')
10. Kevin Lynch  (66')
11. Thomas Robinson
9. Chris Trussell

Substitutes:

16. Samuel McIlveen  (66')
17. Joel Haggan
18. Denver Taggart
24. Owen Thompson
- Gk. Ross McKnight

Loughgall: Blair, McDonald, Rea, Elliott, Stewart, Dallas, McCullough, Ferguson, Baker, Uprichard, Hoey. Subs: Stretton, McConnell, Copeland, McMaster, Taylor.

Comrades produced a dramatic last gasp winner, to boost their play-off hopes, in a game of very few chances.

For this match manager Clifford Adams had to do without Jason Johnston, due to family reasons. This meant a reshuffle in defence, with Curtis Woods moving to centre-back and Gary Brown to right-back. With Chris Trussell and Thomas Robinson fully fit again they came back into the starting line-up.

The game kicked-off in pleasant spring sunshine, but there was little to cheer the supporters in a dull first half, in which the well organised defences were well on top. The only effort of any note came in the 14th minute, when the ball was only cleared out to Thomas Robinson from a corner and he struck a shot from 14 yards through the crowded box, but his effort was cleared from in front of the goal by a defender.

The second half continued much in the same vein as the first, with neither side able to create much threat.

Both 'keepers weren't overly busy, but in the 63rd minute the Loughgall custodian Blair had to be alert to block a Thomas Robinson effort from angle 5 yards from goal, after the ball had broken to him from a free-kick played into the box.

On 73 minutes a throw-in into the box from Gary Brown was met at the near post by a flicked header from JB Dobbin, but a defender was in the right place to clear in front of goal.

Comrades had rarely been troubled at the back, but in the 82nd minute 'keeper Paddy Flood had to come quickly and decisively out of his goal to win the ball, when Loughgall striker Baker looked as if he might be clear on goal inside the box.

The game looked to be headed for a forgettable 0-0 draw, but there was to be late drama. With only seconds of normal time remaining Thomas Robinson got into a good position just outside the box on the left and played the ball in to Chris Trussell. The big striker then did very well, with his back to goal to lay the ball off perfectly to Michael O'Hanlon, who made no mistake with a crisp well controlled shot into the back of the net from 10 yards.

The few minutes of injury-time were comfortably played out by Comrades, who will be delighted that their persistence got its reward in the end.