



Ballyclare Comrades 3-2 PSNI

Saturday 19th November 2016 – NIFL Championship

Match Sponsor: Ian Fleck Signs and Graphics

Ball Sponsor: The Sportsman's Inn

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
5. Michael McQuitty
23. Dean Youle
3. Adam Gray
10. Jason Johnston 🟦 (33') 🟥 (60')
8. JB Dobbin
7. Michael O'Hanlon 🟥 (84')
4. Corey McMullan
11. Thomas Robinson 🟥 (69')
9. Chris Trussell 🟦 (10') 🟦 (53')

Substitutes:

12. Gary Brown 🟥 (60') 🟡 (89') 🟡 (90+2')
14. Denver Taggart 🟥 (69')
15. Stuart McCullough
16. Mark Shannon 🟥 (84')
17. Scott Cummings

PSNI: Williamson, Blackledge, Kirk, McCullagh, A Wright, Berry, Anderson, Hutchinson, Adamczyk, McDowell, McWilliams. Subs: Roohi, McDermott, J Wright, Moody, McCrory.

Comrades deservedly took the points in a game where the final margin of victory didn't fully reflect their dominance.

Manager Stephen Hughes could select from a full squad, hoping to get his side back on winning track, after losing their last league game.

The team certainly started in determined fashion and immediately put PSNI on the back foot. In the 8th minute they came close, when a corner was not cleared and the ball was played back into the box by Michael O'Hanlon, finding the head of Chris Trussell, who got to it before the 'keeper could punch clear. However, his effort from 8 yards looped just over the bar.

It wasn't long however before the home supporters were cheering the first goal. In the 10th minute a forceful surge down the middle ended with Chris Trussell firing the ball into the back of the net from 14 yards.

Comrades continued to dominate and the chances kept coming. On 18 minutes a ball played into the box from a free-kick broke to Corey McMullan, whose effort from 8 yards was deflected wide off a defender. Then, ten minutes later, McMullan again came close, when he stooped to head just wide from 5 yards after getting on the end of a ball in from a Michael O'Hanlon free-kick.

In the 30th minute, it was Jason Johnston's turn to have an effort, when his snap shot from the edge of the box forced a save from 'keeper Williamson.

A minute later, a Thomas Robinson cross to the back-post area found Michael O'Hanlon, who saw a goal-bound effort from 6 yards deflected wide off a defender.

The home side finally got the second goal their play deserved in the 33rd minute.

Williamson came out to try to punch the ball clear from a free-kick played into the box, but he didn't make a good connection and the ball broke to Jason Johnston, who fired home low through a crowd from 13 yards.

The visitors had been very much second best during the first half, but they managed to test 'keeper Paddy Flood in the 39th minute, when Adamczyk's header from 7 yards was kept out by a good save.

Comrades had chance to increase their lead three minutes before the break, when a good move ended with Corey McMullan being played through on goal. He decided to take his shot early, but the accuracy wasn't there and he ball flew wide of the target from 16 yards.

The second half began with Comrades again very much on top. Three minutes in and they had a great chance to increase the lead, when Thomas Robinson was played through to run into the box. He looked set to score, but saw his effort blocked by the advancing 'keeper at the edge of the 6-yard box.

Five minutes later Robinson was instrumental in Comrades third goal. He ran onto a ball played down the left and did very well to get to the by-line inside the box, before calmly laying the ball back to Chris Trussell, who finished easily from 6 yards.

The play continued to be mostly towards the visitor's goal. In the 64th minute, substitute Gary Brown got in a header from 7 yards from a Michael O'Hanlon cross, forcing a smart save from Williamson. Then, four minutes later, Brown again came close, when he stuck out his leg to get a touch to a ball fired across the box by Michael O'Hanlon, and the effort flew narrowly over the bar from 9 yards.

Rather out of the blue PSNI got a goal back in the 71st minute. A ball was played across the box from the right and Adamczyk produced a neat first-time finish from 7 yards.

The visitors now saw a glimmer of a chance to get something from the game. In the 78th minute they tested Paddy Flood when a free-kick into the box saw the ball break to McCullagh, whose resulting effort from the edge of the 6-yard box was blocked at the near post by the 'keeper.

Comrades were now having less of the play than before, but they came close to effectively sealing the points in the 82nd minute, when Chris Trussell picked up the ball just inside the PSNI half and drove forward down the right before cutting inside and firing a shot just wide of the far post from 16 yards out.

The home supporters were forced to endure a nervous close to the game, when PSNI pulled another goal back on 88 minutes. This time a cross played into the box found Moody, who headed in from 6 yards.

Two minutes into injury-time Gary Brown picked up a second yellow card and was sent-off, but Comrades managed to see the game to a close with ten men, to secure the three points.