



PSNI 1-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 1st April 2017 – NIFL Championship

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
5. Jason Johnston
23. Dean Youle
3. Adam Gray
6. Gary Brown 🟢🔴 (71')
8. JB Dobbin
7. Michael O'Hanlon
10. Corey McMullan
11. Denver Taggart 🟢🔴 (55')
9. Kevin Lynch

Substitutes:

16. Samuel McIlveen
17. Thomas Robinson 🟢🔴 (55')
18. Chris Trussell 🟢🔴 (71')
24. Owen Thompson
- Gk. Ross McKnight

PSNI: Williamson, McCullagh, McCrory, A Wright, Riddle, McWilliams, McDermott, Berry, J Wright, Courtney, Roohi. Subs: Adamczyk, Kirk, McCleery.

Comrades suffered a narrow defeat at PSNI after being thwarted by a super display from the home 'keeper.

Manager Clifford Adams sent out the same starting line-up as in the win over Warrenpoint. This meant that Chris Trussell and Samuel McIlveen, who were available again after illness, took places on the bench, alongside last week's match winner Thomas Robinson, who is feeling his way back towards full fitness.

Comrades started strongly and did most of the pressing in the first half hour. The first effort of note came in the 8th minute, when Corey McMullan drove towards the box, played a one-two with Kevin Lynch and then struck a shot on target from 16 yards, which the home 'keeper was well placed to save.

The visitors were getting into good positions on a regular basis, but unable to find the crucial final ball to turn their early domination into goals. They did however come close in the 24th minute when a Denver Taggart free-kick, played in from wide on the left, was met by a stooping header from Michael O'Hanlon 8 yards out, which forced Williamson to tip the ball over the bar.

As the half entered its latter stages PSNI came much more into it. On 36 minutes they tested Paddy Flood, when a low driven corner played into the box caused danger and James Wright

fired in a well struck shot from 12 yards, which the 'keeper did well to save. Flood was again up to the task from the rebound, when he blocked a shot from a similar distance from Roohi. The second half began with Comrades forcing a good save from Williamson inside the first minute. A free-kick, played in to the box and driven on by a strong breeze, found the head of Kevin Lynch, whose effort from 8 yards forced the 'keeper to palm the ball around the post. In the 50th minute the home side hit the front. Comrades looked to break forward after clearing from a PSNI attack, but the ball was lost just inside their own half, from where it was played through to Roohi, who ran completely clear on goal, He made no mistake, firing the ball past the exposed 'keeper from 9 yards.

Three minutes later the visitors tested the home 'keeper again, when Kevin Lynch beat an opponent and cut inside the box from the left before striking a shot from 16 yards, which Williamson had to parry out.

Comrades continued to press for an equaliser, but had to be wary of the threat of the home team at the other end and play was fairly evenly balanced.

As time wore on the visitors cranked up the pressure. In the 70th minute a corner played towards the back post area was headed back across the box by Adam Gray, finding Jason Johnston, whose header from 9 yards went a couple of feet over the bar.

Then, in the 73rd minute, JB Dobbin did very well to get a ball into the box from the left and Kevin Lynch ghosted in between two defenders to head the ball just over from 7 yards.

In the 79th minute Williamson in the home goal pulled off a great double save to deny Comrades an equaliser. Firstly he somehow managed to touch a 7 yard header from the luckless Kevin Lynch onto the bar. Then, from the rebound he again did brilliantly to claw out a 6 yard header from Chris Trussell.

The home 'keeper had yet another great save to make, when on 86 minutes he managed to tip the ball over the bar from a good effort struck from just inside the box by Chris Trussell.

It just wasn't to be for Comrades and on another day they would have come away from the game with at least a point.