



Warrenpoint Town 3-3 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 15th October 2016 – NIFL Championship

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
5. Michael McQuitty
23. Dean Youle 🟡 (35') 🟡 (86')
3. Mark Shannon
4. Corey McMullan 🟡 (30') 🟡 (43') 🟡 (50')
8. JB Dobbin
7. Michael O'Hanlon
10. Gary Brown 🟡 (74')
11. Thomas Robinson 🟡 (85')
9. Jason Johnston

Substitutes:

12. Adam Gray 🟡 (74')
14. Denver Taggart
15. Kyle Dillon 🟡 (50')
16. Adam Irwin 🟡 (85')
17. Bobbie Crowe

Warrenpoint Town: Maguire, Murphy, McVeigh, Traynor, McGuigan, McMenamin, Dane, Bagnall, Moan, McKenna, Boyle. Subs: King, Mulvena, Murray, Lynch, McGovern.

Comrades took a point from an entertaining top of the table clash at leaders Warrenpoint Town, but it might have been three but for a last ditch equaliser from the home side. For their first ever meeting with Warrenpoint, Comrades had to do without striker Chris Trussell who was absent with an injury. Versatile Jason Johnston took the central striker role, whilst captain Michael McQuitty returned in the centre of defence after missing the defeat to H&W Welders.

The visitors started confidently and they had the first decent effort of the game in the 10th minute, when a good move involving Corey McMullan and Michael O'Hanlon ended with Gary Brown firing in a first-time strike from 16 yards, which fizzed just wide of the base of the post

On 22 minutes a slip by a Point defender allowed Corey McMullan to run in on goal, but he rather delayed shooting, waiting for support to arrive, and his effort, when it came, was fired over from 15 yards.

Comrades got reward for their enterprise on the half hour, when Michael O'Hanlon fed the ball through to Jason Johnston in the box and he was brought down as he got a shot away. The referee pointed to the spot and Corey McMullan stepped up to confidently give his side the lead.

Point nearly levelled the scores four minutes later when McGuigan looked to be clipped inside the box, but he stayed on his feet only to see Paddy Flood do very well to block his shot from 9 yards and his resulting effort from the rebound.

On 40 minute the home side did get back on terms. An incisive move down the left ended with the ball being lofted over outrushing 'keeper Flood and McGuigan was there to finish from 5 yards.

The visitors reacted well to this setback. Thomas Robinson was played through to run at the exposed Point defence, but his shot from 16 yards was deflected wide off a defender.

However, from the resulting corner, taken by Michael O'Hanlon, Corey McMullan headed in from 5 yards, to give his side a 43rd minute lead.

Comrades went in at half-time with a deserved lead, but the early stages of the second half saw them lose two-goal hero Corey McMullan with an injury. This led to a reshuffle with striker Kyle Dillon coming on and Jason Johnston moving to midfield.

Although the home side had much more of the game than in the first half, they were struggling to seriously threaten the Comrades goal in the early part of the second period. At the other end, Comrades were relying more on playing on the break, but in the 62 minute they were presented with a chance, when a ricochet fell kindly for Kyle Dillon inside the box, but his resulting effort from 16 yards was lashed over the bar.

Point has introduced substitute Murray around the hour mark and he was to have a big impact on the game, starting in the 65th minute, when he got his side's second equaliser. An attack down the left saw the Comrades defence exposed and a shot fired in by McGuigan was parried out by Paddy Flood, only for Murray to turn the ball in from close range.

A minute later the visitors came close, when Michael O'Hanlon ran onto a knock down to fire in a shot from 13 yards on the right side of the box, but his effort flew over the bar.

As the half progressed the home side began to asset more and more pressure. In the 83rd minute they got in down the left and McKenna fired in a shot from an angle 10 yards out, which Paddy Flood did well to block at his near post.

At this stage the home side looked the more likely to snatch the winner, but it was Comrades who looked to have sealed the points on 86 minutes, when Dean Youle headed in through a crowd from 5 yards from another Michael O'Hanlon corner.

In the 90th minute things got worse for Point when McKenna got a straight red card for a bad tackle on Michael O'Hanlon.

However, Comrades couldn't see the game out for the win and conceded with the almost the last kick of the game. A clearance rebounded kindly towards striker Murray and he made no mistake, sliding the ball home from 9 yards.