

**NIFL
Championship**

Match Report

Dergview FC 0 v 2 Ballyclare Comrades FC

Saturday 1 October 2016

Strikes by Chris Trussell and Corey McMullan toppled overnight leaders Dergview, and hoisted Ballyclare Comrades to the Championship summit. Dergview on their own patch at Darragh Park had been billed favourites to shade the match of the day featuring the top two teams, but the 2-0 defeat dropped them to fourth spot, behind Warrenpoint Town and Larne.

The Reds were under the cosh during the opening quarter, and were fortunate to come through unscathed.

As early as the 2nd minute Paddy Flood was in action with a marvellous reflex save to thwart Campbell, who had been set up by former Northern Ireland international Ivan Sproule.

Sproule continued to pose problems for full back Mark Shannon, and when he crossed in to the danger area Campbell's header flashed inches wide with only Flood to beat.

Midway through the first half Comrades mounted their first serious attack, when Trussell got inside the box, but his finishing effort finished in the side-netting.

In the 25th minute the home goal was under threat again, when Dean Youle connected with a Shannon free, but he didn't get enough on it and the danger was cleared. Now moving in to top gear the Reds threatened again moments later, when Michael O'Hanlon rounded his marker and forced the keeper to save at the expense of a corner.

When Gary Brown retired in the 40th minute with a shoulder injury the introduction of John Dobbin caused a reshuffle, with Jason Johnston moving forward to support Trussell, and this paid dividends.

In the 43^d minute the industrious Dobbin set Trussell free down his favourite inside-right channel, and he homed in to give Mulcahy no chance.

Home fans felt that Comrades were rather fortunate to be ahead at the break, but after the interval Stephen Hughes' lads upped the tempo and never allowed the home side to regain control.

Both keepers had an easy second half, but Mulcahy had to retrieve the ball from the net a second time in the 60th minute, when another Trussell thrust ended with an inch-perfect low cross that McMullan deftly side-footed past the exposed keeper.

In the closing stages Dergview forced several corners, but Youle came closest at the opposite end when Mulcahy was glad to see his header fly wide.

"This was a super win against the top team," gushed Hughes. "We were stretched for a time at the beginning, but we defended well and Paddy Flood pulled off a couple of crucial saves, but once we settled we had the edge on them and were worthy winners. Getting six points from the Larne and Dergview clashes was fantastic, and I hope the momentum carries through to Friday evening against the Welders," he added.

Ballyclare Comrades: Flood; Woods, Youle, McQuitty, Shannon; McMullan, Johnston; Brown (Dobbin) (Taggart), O'Hanlon, Robinson (Gray); Trussell. Subs not used: Irwin, Dillon.