

Ballyclare Comrades U20 3-2 PSNI Olympic

Saturday 1st April 2017 – NIFL Development League North

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

Ballyclare Comrades U20s safely cleared the first hurdle in their post-split Championship Development League North programme with a 3-2 win against PSNI Olympic at Dixon Park.

Goals by Scott Cummings, Joel Haggan and Michael Haskins secured the points that enhanced their pole position, just ahead of Institute Reserves.

Cummings was first on to the score-sheet with a back post header from a Luke Fenton cross in the 15th minute, and boosted by this strike Kingsley Burrows' lads continued to dictate the pace.

With wingers Reece Gilmour and Kyle Robinson, prompted by Michael Haskins in the number ten slot, making incisive runs down the flanks, play was mainly in visiting territory, and eventually Haskins doubled the lead, when he rifled a free kick in to the bottom corner of the net.

The policemen pulled one back before the interval with a free header from a corner, so instead of being well ahead at the break the Wee Reds were only 2-1 up.

In the 65th minute Haggan restored his side's two goals' advantage. After being fouled in the box he opted to take the penalty, and netted the rebound after the keeper had parried his first attempt.

Five minutes later Comrades conceded a second goal from another corner, but in the remaining twenty minutes they regained control, but were unable to increase their lead, despite the policemen being effectively reduced to ten men, with one player limping and all substitutes having been deployed.

"The first half was played at a frenetic pace, but our passing was poor," stated Burrows. "After the interval we began to play possession football, and we created quite a few chances, and should have won by a wider margin," he added.

Comrades U20s: McKnight; A McCauley, K McCauley (C), Chalmers, Fenton; Haggan, Clarke; K Robinson, Haskins, Gilmour; Cummings. Subs: Gault, Lilburn, McIlwaine.