

Ballyclare Comrades U20 3-2 Larne Olympic

Saturday 11th February 2017 – NIFL Development League North

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves recovered from an early setback to secure the Championship Development League North points at the expense of Larne Olympic. In the first minute the Inver Reds opened the scoring at Dixon Park, but Kingsley Burrows' lads recovered to win the local derby 3-2.

Home keeper Ross McKnight had to retrieve the ball from the net almost straight from the kick-off when beaten by a rocket from the edge of the box, and for the next few minutes only stout defending prevented Larne from increasing the lead. Eventually the tide turned, and with Kyle Robinson causing all sorts of problems down the right flank Comrades began to take control, forcing several corners, but there was no end result.

In the 43rd minute Michael Haskins picked up a Scott Cummings pass and netted a deserved equaliser, and the hosts carried the momentum in to the second session. A shrewd tactical switch with Reece Gilmour now in the number ten slot proved effective, and following a period of sustained pressure Kyle McCauley nosed his side ahead with a firm header from a Haskins corner.

In a quick counter-attack Larne levelled the scores, but ten minutes from time McCauley doubled his tally and sealed victory from close range, after another Haskins corner caused panic in the goalmouth.

Commenting manager Burrows said "Overall it was an encouraging display, the one down side being inability to put away chances. However I was pleased with the lads' never-say-die attitude to recover from an early goal, and then in the closing stages do it again when Larne made it 2-2."

Comrades Reserves: McKnight; Lilburn, Ervine, K McCauley, Fenton; Haggan, Clarke; Robinson, Haskins, Gilmour; Cummings. Subs: Chalmers, A McCauley, McIlwaine, McAbery.