

Ballyclare Comrades U20 2-1 Brantwood Reserves

Saturday 22nd October – Toal's Junior Shield (Second Round)

Strikes by Reece Gilmour and Joel Haggan against Brantwood Reserves, ensured that Ballyclare Comrades Reserves advanced to the second round of the IFA Junior Cup. The first round tie was played at Antrim Forum where extra time was required to clinch the 2-1 win.

Brants were mainly on the defensive during the first half, with Luke Fenton, Ryan McIlwaine and Gilmour testing their keeper, while at the opposite end Ross McKnight had to make only one save, so the teams turned round with the scorecard blank.

In the 62nd minute Gilmour ran on to a ball over the top and blasted in to the net, but ten minutes later the city side levelled with a header from a corner to take the tie in to extra time.

Joel Haggan proved to be Comrades' hero when he bagged the winner from a defence-splitting pass by Jonny Coulter.

“Midfielder Ross Clarke turned in a man of the match performance, covering every blade of grass on the pitch,” stated manager Kingsley Burrows. “We had the majority of possession, but found it difficult to break down a team sitting back in defence. Our leading scorer, Scott Cummings, sat this one out with a minor injury, but I expect him to be fit for Saturday's away league fixture against Larne Olympic,” he added.