

## **Ballyclare Comrades U20 0-2 Willowbank**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Toal's County Antrim Junior Shield (Quarter-Final)**

**Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times**

Aiming for a place in the semi-final of the prestigious County Antrim Junior Shield proved to be a step too far for Ballyclare Comrades U20s.

The quarter-final tie with Willowbank, a top side in the Belfast & District Premier League, was played at Antrim Forum where the city side ran out 2-0 winners.

Kingsley Burrows' young lads started confidently against adult opponents, with Scott Cummings stabbing one effort wide, while Michael Haskins was also off target from just inside the box.

However for most of the first half Willowbank were on the offensive, without really testing Ross McKnight who had to make only one save, but he was beaten in the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute from the penalty spot, to leave the city side one up at the turnaround.

The Wee Reds fared better in the second session, with play mainly in Willowbank territory especially in the latter stages, when superior fitness had the Reserves well on top.

Pressure was not translated in to goals with Cummings and Haskins denied by the keeper, while a Reece Gilmour powerful header crashed against the bar from a Kyle Robinson cross.

With the hosts pressing for an equaliser Willowbank sealed the win in the 88<sup>th</sup> minute with a second killer goal.

"We showed them too much respect in the first half, when we were mainly on the back foot," said Burrows, "but there was a vast improvement in the second half, and as Willowbank wilted in the latter stages, I am confident that we could have won in extra time. However on the day we didn't do enough to deserve a place in the semi-final," he added.

Comrades U20s: McKnight; A McCauley, Ervine, Chalmers, K McCauley; Clarke, Haggan; Robinson, Haskins, Gilmour; Cummings. Subs: Lilburn, Nesbitt, McAbery, Gault, Fenton.