

H&W Welders U20 6-0 Ballyclare Comrades U20

Saturday 8th April 2017 – NIFL Development League North

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

H&W Welders Reserves completed a Championship Development League North treble over leaders Ballyclare Comrades Reserves at Blanchflower Park, where they romped to a 6-0 win.

The previous two clashes had been closely contested, but the young Welders turned on the style in the opening half hour, when their fans were treated to an early goal-fest, with the city side scoring four times in the opening 22 minutes, before completing the half dozen in 33!

Strangely Kingsley Burrows' lads had the first chance, but Graham Ervine, up for a corner, skewed his shot wide of the target.

Moments later the hosts opened their account, and thereafter it was one-way traffic, with goalkeeper Ross McKnight making several fine saves in addition to retrieving the ball from the net six times during the next half hour.

What difference it was in the second half when the Wee Reds were given scope to play their normal passing game, but they never really looked like preventing the whitewash.

The only player to emerge with his reputation enhanced was right winger Kyle Robinson, who posed problems throughout the second session without reward.

Reflecting on the game manager Burrows said, "I have never been in such a situation - the Welders just tore through us repeatedly in that opening half hour. I fielded the strongest team I had since Christmas, and had been looking forward to getting our first win against them, but they just kept on scoring, and we couldn't get out of our own half.

"However despite this debacle we have the title in our own hands. Our chief rivals, Institute Reserves, also dropped points today, so if we win our final two games against Dundela and Institute we will be champions," he enthused.

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