

Ballyclare Comrades 1-2 Ards

Tuesday 25th July 2017 – Pre-season friendly

Ballyclare Comrades team

(4-4-2)

1. Paddy Flood
2. Gary Brown 🟢🔴 (69')
5. Chris Rodgers 🟢🔴 (83')
23. Dean Youle
3. CJ McQuillan
7. Stewart Nixon
4. Jason Johnston
8. JB Dobbin
11. Adam Gray 🟢🔴 (72')
10. Paul Maguire 🟣 (35') 🟢🔴 (78')
9. Kyle Mackie 🟢🔴 (81')

Substitutes:

12. Adam McCart 🟢🔴 (83')
 14. Kevin Lynch 🟢🔴 (78')
 15. Zach Barr 🟢🔴 (81')
 16. Josh Corry 🟢🔴 (69')
 17. Thomas Robinson 🟢🔴 (72')
- Gk. Geoff McKinty

Ards: Hogg, Hall, Byers, Taylor, Hanley, McMillen, Cherry, Davidson, McAllister, Keke, McLennan. Subs: Johnston, Torrens, Kelly, Frazer, McComb, Sanussi, Tommons.

Comrades produced a decent performance, despite a narrow defeat in a friendly against Premiership side Ards.

The home side started in lively fashion. In the 10th minute Kyle Mackie chased a lost cause and managed to win the ball off a defender inside the box, before laying it back to Paul Maguire, who resulting effort from 18 yards flew inches wide of the post. At the other end Ards themselves looked threatening. In the 20th minute they were unlucky, when McMillen's shot from 20 yards hit the post, with the 'keeper well beaten.

The opening goal came on 35 minutes, when Paul Maguire gave Comrades the lead. Adam Gray surged in from the left, committing a number of opponents, before finding Maguire a couple of yards outside the box. The experienced striker made the most of the position, firing a fine finish out of the reach of the 'keeper.

The second half continued in the entertaining style of the first, with chances at both ends.

In the 51st minute the Ards 'keeper Johnston had to make a smart save from a Chris Rodgers header, after the big defender had got on the end of a corner.

The visitors equalised on the hour, when a good cross into the box from Keke found Frazer who headed in from 5 yards.

There was a controversial refereeing decision on 64 minutes, when the nippy Kyle Mackie got on the end of a short back-pass, only to appear to be clipped by the

'keeper, leading to a tumble in the box. However, after consulting with his assistant, the referee waved play on much to the annoyance of the home supporters. The winning goal for Ards came in the 78th minute, with McComb getting on the end of a through ball from Frazer to finish from inside the box.