



## Dergview 1-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

### Ballyclare Comrades team (4-4-2)

1. Paddy Flood
24. Stewart Nixon
6. Michael McQuitty 🏴 (20')
23. Dean Youle
16. Matty Parker
7. Michael O'Hanlon
22. Gary Brown
8. JB Dobbin 🏴 (75')
11. Adam Gray 🏴 (5')
18. Jason Johnston 🏴 (66')
9. Mark Kelly

### Substitutes:

4. Samuel McIlveen 🏴 (75')
10. Paul Maguire 🏴 (66')
14. Adam McCart 🏴 (20')
17. Thomas Robinson
26. Geoff McKinty

Following the long journey west to Castlederg, Ballyclare Comrades got off to a flier, when Adam Gray drilled the ball in to the net in the 5<sup>th</sup> minute, following a fine link-up with full back Matty Parker, but Dergview recovered to secure a 1-1 draw.

With regular right back Curtis Woods attending a wedding, Clifford Adams opted to hand the number two shirt to striker Stewart Nixon, who turned in an excellent performance in an unaccustomed position.

Gary Brown was paired with skipper John Dobbin at the heart of the engine room, with Jason Johnston partnering Mark Kelly up top, in the absence of striker Paul Maguire who was on the bench following injury.

Comrades boosted by that early strike dominated possession throughout the first quarter, but lacking firepower up front, home keeper Buchanan was not tested. Adams was forced to make a change after twenty minutes when Michael McQuitty limped off with a hamstring problem, but fortunately Adam McCart came off the bench in a like-for-like replacement.

After half an hour, in Dergview's first real attack Paddy Flood made a smart save to deny the impressive Campbell, but in the 38<sup>th</sup> minute the striker cut through the middle to equalise, with Flood caught out of position.

With Brown industrious as usual in midfield, Comrades were in control for most of the second half, and an early Brown effort skimmed the bar. Later Kelly and Maguire were denied when their efforts crashed against the post with Buchanan well beaten, while another Maguire shot was scrambled off the line by a defender.

Encouraged by their vocal band of fans Comrades kept pressing for the winner, and in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute Maguire had a chance to bag the points when he ran on to a long punt up-field by Flood, but his finishing effort was just too high.

Commenting manger Adams said, "We were on fire for the first half hour, and then we controlled the second half, but lacked the clinical finish, so I feel that it was two points lost rather than one gained."