



Ballyclare Comrades 1-0 Dergview

Saturday 4th November 2017 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Match Sponsor: Agnew Michell & Cairns Accountants

Ball Sponsor: John G Fleming Chemist

Ballyclare Comrades team

1. Paddy Flood
5. Chris Rodgers
14. Adam McCart
23. Dean Youle
2. Curtis Woods 🟡 (62') 🔴 (71')
4. Samuel McIlveen
22. Gary Brown 🟡 (82') 🔴 (88')
8. JB Dobbin
17. Thomas Robinson
24. Stewart Nixon 🟦 (41')
9. Mark Kelly

Substitutes:

7. Michael O'Hanlon 🟢 (88')
16. Matty Parker
18. Jason Johnston
19. Kyle Mackie
20. Zach Barr 🟢 (71')

Dergview: Alan Buchanan, Wray, McNulty, Taylor, Falconer, M Buchanan, Adam Buchanan, Callaghan, Lynch, Campbell, Arkinson. Subs: Maxwell, Browne, McManus.

Comrades maintained their top spot in the Championship with a marrow but deserved victory over Dergview at Dixon Park.

For this match manager Clifford Adams made one change from the side beaten at Loughgall a week before, with Curtis Woods coming into the starting line-up and Matty Parker dropping to the bench. Adam Gray was still unavailable.

The visitors were first out of the traps, but Comrades weathered their early flurry of attacking and soon exerted some pressure themselves. A number of corners were forced. In the 10th minute Wray, defending a corner, was relieved to see his misdirected header come back off the post.

On 18 minutes another corner saw the ball only cleared out to Stewart Nixon 12 yards from goal and he was able to get in an effort which went just wide of the target through a crowded box.

At the other end, on 25 minutes, Paddy Flood had to make a smart save when the ball broke from a corner to Lynch at the far post area and he got in a crisp shot from 9 yards.

Comrades got the breakthrough in the 41st minute. Stewart Nixon did well to get on the end of a high ball played into the box and in trying to make space for a shot was taken down by Taylor. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Nixon himself stepped up to convert confidently.

Ten minutes into the second half Comrades almost doubled their lead. A ball played through by Samuel McIlveen allowed Stewart Nixon to run through, outstripping the visitors' defence, to get in an effort from 14 yards, which was only kept out by a fine save from 'keeper Alan Buchanan, who blocked with his legs.

In the 53rd minute Nixon again got in an effort, swivelling to shoot from 13 yards, but his effort was too close to the well-placed 'keeper.

Comrades continued to look the more dangerous side, whilst at the other end they coped well with anything Dergview threw at them.

On 64 minutes the livewire Stewart Nixon made another chance for himself, getting on the end of a ball played into the box, beating a defender and getting in a shot from 8 yards, but again he was denied by a fine save by Buchanan.

Two minutes later the home side came close again, when Thomas Robinson hit a good effort from the edge of the box, which the 'keeper did well to save low just inside the post.

The home side kept looking for a second goal to make their lead more comfortable. In the 74th minute Thomas Robinson did well to pick out Stewart Nixon arriving on the right side of the box, but his resulting effort from 10 yards was saved comfortably by Buchanan.

On 86 minutes, with the visitors defence stretched, Gary Brown ran onto a loose ball in the box and hit a first-time shot from 13 yards, which was deflected off a defender and wide of the goal.

The final few minutes of the game saw Dergview putting on some pressure, but the Comrades defence held firm to secure a well merited victory.