



Donegal Celtic 1-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 22nd July 2017 – Pre-Season Friendly

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-4-2)

1. Geoff McKinty
2. Ryan Young 🏴 (46')
5. Chris Rodgers
23. Dean Youle
3. Adam Gray
11. Gary Brown 🏴 (66')
8. JB Dobbin 🏴 (46')
4. Jason Johnston 🏴 (46')
7. Michael O'Hanlon 🏴 (46') 🟢 (75')
9. Kevin Lynch 🏴 (46') 🟢 (77')
10. Mark Kelly 🏴 (77')

Substitutes:

12. Adam McCart 🟢 (66')
14. Zach Barr 🟢 (46')
15. Stewart Nixon 🟢 (46')
16. Paul Maguire 🟢 (46')
17. Samuel McIlveen 🟢 (46') 🏴 (75')
18. Kyle Mackie 🟢 (46')
- Gk. Paddy Flood

Comrades fell to a single goal defeat in a very competitive pre-season game at Donegal Celtic.

The home side started the better and were on top for most of the first half. They closed down Comrades players tigerishly when not on the ball and also looked dangerous when in possession.

The Comrades goal was threatened on a number of occasions, when the home side might have finished off their good approach play. It took a good save on 32 minutes from Geoff McKinty to block a Monaghan effort from 6 yards.

The visitors only started really getting into the game in the last ten minutes of the first half, when they had a couple of good chances.

In the 40th minute, a good build up involving Adam Gray and Kevin Lynch set up an opportunity for Michael O'Hanlon, but he dragged his effort from 5 yards into the side netting. Then, four minutes later, a ball played into the box by Kevin Lynch found the head of Mark Kelly, arriving 5 yards from goal, but his effort went narrowly over the bar.

A number of changes were made at half-time and Comrades came out on the front foot. In the 52nd minute Kyle Mackie played a ball into Paul Maguire, whose rasping effort from 8 yards was tipped over by the 'keeper.

Five minutes later Mark Kelly burst down the left and played a low ball in to Maguire who was free in the middle of the box. He seemed set to open the scoring, only to be denied by a superb block at the edge of the 6-yard box from the alert out-rushing 'keeper.

At the other end Celtic remained a threat and on 67 minutes Dean Youle had to head off the line following a corner.

Comrades continued to test the Celtic 'keeper Harbinson, who continued to show he was up to the task. In the 69th minute he turned a fine 30 yards effort from Samuel McIlveen round the post. Then, on 79 minutes, he somehow kept out a goalbound Dean Youle header with a magnificent save.

The home side grabbed what was to be the winning goal in the 81st minute, when McVarnock nipped in to get on the end of a short header back from Chris Rodgers and slot the ball past Geoff McKinty.

Comrades were unlucky not to equalise in the 85th minute, when a fine 25 yards strike from Stewart Nixon came back off the post. Then, second later, Harbinson again produced heroics to keep out a Kyle Mackie effort.