



## Dungannon Swifts 2-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Bet McClean League Cup (Quarter-Final)

### Ballyclare Comrades team

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
6. Michael McQuitty 🇮🇪 (58')
23. Dean Youle
16. Matty Parker
7. Michael O'Hanlon 🇮🇪 (83')
22. Gary Brown
8. JB Dobbin
18. Jason Johnston
24. Stewart Nixon
19. Zach Barr 🇮🇪 (69')

### Substitutes:

5. Chris Rodgers
14. Adam McCart 🇮🇪 (58') 🇮🇪 (87')
4. Samuel McIlveen 🇮🇪 (83')
11. Adam Gray
9. Mark Kelly 🇮🇪 (69')

**Dungannon Swifts:** Coleman, Wilson, Fitzpatrick, Mayse, McElroy, Teggart, Lowe, Clucas, McMenamin, Lockhart, Campbell. Subs: Addis, McMahan, Burke, Coyle, Lafferty.

After seeming to have snatched victory with a late goal, Comrades had a League Cup semi-final spot snatched from their grasp by two even later goals scored by their Premiership hosts.

Manager Clifford Adams, with Saturday's top of the table clash at Newry in mind, made a number of changes to his starting line-up. Michael McQuitty came into defence for his first start after a period of injury, with Matty Parker also selected at the back. Jason Johnston and Michael O'Hanlon came into midfield, with Zach Barr getting his first start up front.

The home side had the bulk of possession in the first half. Comrades had to work hard to close them down and did so effectively to deny any chances. That was until the 34<sup>th</sup> minute, when Campbell hit a stinging drive from the edge of the box, which Paddy Flood did well to tip over the bar.

Comrades were making Swifts work hard for any openings, but on 39 minutes Fitzpatrick made room for a shot from just outside the box, but his effort went just wide of the target.

In the 41<sup>st</sup> minute uncharacteristic complacency at the back allowed Mayse to steal possession and close in on goal, only to be denied by a good block from Paddy Flood at the edge of the 6-yard box.

A minute into first half injury-time, Swifts were unlucky not to take the lead, when a shot from 16 yards hit by Mayse came out off the inside of the post.

Swifts opened the second half with another effort from the dangerous Mayse, when three minutes in he fired just over the bar from 20 yards.

On the hour mark Paddy Flood had to make a good save, after Campbell had burst through and unleashed a shot from 15 yards.

As the half wore on Comrades began to grow in confidence as Swifts seemed to run out of ideas. The visitors had rarely troubled the Swifts goal, but on 70 minutes they had a golden opportunity to snatch a lead. Mark Kelly, just on the field as a substitute, was pushed in the box by Clucas. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Kelly himself stepped up to take the penalty. However, his effort was too close to 'keeper Coleman, who was able to save and then to block Kelly's attempt on the follow-up.

Despite this setback, Comrades began to pose more of a threat and on 77 minutes they had a chance, when Mark Kelly headed wide from 5 yards from a Stewart Nixon corner.

With the clock ticking down and extra-time looking likely, Comrades grabbed what looked like it may be the winner. In the 87<sup>th</sup> minute the three substitutes were all involved, with a Samuel McIlveen corner being met by a header at the near post from Mark Kelly, which forced a superb save from Coleman. However, Adam McCart was on hand to stab the loose ball home from inside the 6-yard box.

The delight of the travelling supporters was short-lived, as a minute later Swifts were back on level terms, when a Lafferty effort found the back of the net, with a touch off Dean Youle ensuring that Paddy Flood had no chance.

Comrades still had extra-time to look forward to, but even this was denied them.

Seconds from the end, a Mayse shot from 15 yards took a wicked deflection off Adam McCart, which saw the ball loop up and over Paddy Flood and into the net.