



Ballyclare Comrades 0-4 Glentoran

Saturday 3rd February 2018 – Tennents Irish Cup (Sixth Round)

Ballyclare Comrades team

1. Alan Blayney
2. Curtis Woods
5. Chris Rodgers
14. Adam McCart
3. Matty Parker
22. Gary Brown
8. JB Dobbin
10. Eoin Kane 🚩 (78')
17. Thomas Robinson 🚩 (61')
20. Francis Dugan 🚩 (46')
9. Mark Kelly

Substitutes:

6. Michael McQuitty
23. Dean Youle
18. Jason Johnston 🟢 (78')
12. Chris Middleton
7. Joe McWilliams 🟢 (61')
24. Stewart Nixon 🟢 (46')

Glentoran: Morris, Garrett, Kane, Birney, McMahon, Allen, McGuigan, Davidson, Kerr, O'Hanlon, Redman. Subs: Addis, Gordon, McNicholl, Knowles, D Nelson, K Nelson, McDaid.

Comrades exited the Irish Cup in front of a big crowd at Dixon Park, as they were well beaten by an impressive Glentoran side.

Manager Clifford Adams was without 'keeper Paddy Flood for this game, with the experienced Alan Blayney coming in for his debut for the club. There were a couple of surprise omissions from the starting line-up, with Dean Youle and Stewart Nixon dropping to the bench, replaced by Adam McCart and Francis Dugan. Gary Brown returned after suspension, but Samuel McIlveen and Adam Gray were still serving bans.

The Premiership visitors took little time to assert their authority on the game and were two ahead inside 8 minutes. The first goal came on 7 minutes, when Allen scored with shot inside far post from the edge of the box. Then, a minute later, the

Glentoran striker got his second goal when his shot from 20 yards eluded 'keeper Blayney.

In the 17th minute Comrades had a good chance to reduce the deficit, when a cross from Thomas Robinson found the head of Mark Kelly 5 yards out, but he couldn't direct his effort under the bar.

The home side were making real efforts to get back into the game and in the 25th minute a good move ended with Francis Dugan curling an effort just wide of the angle of bar and post from 17 yards.

Nevertheless, the visitors still very menacing going forward and in the 33rd minute Blayney had to make a decent save to tip over a McGuigan effort hit from just outside the box.

In the 36th minute Glentoran came close again, when McMahan ended a flowing move by shooting just wide of the far post from 16 yards.

A minute later the result looked to have been settled, when Allen completed his hat-trick, making no mistake from 8 yards after the ball dropped to him inside the box.

Things might have gotten even worse for the home side before the break, as the dominant visitors threatened to score again. In the 40th minute a cross from the left was met by a header from 7 yards by McGuigan, which had to be clawed away by Blayney. Then, in the 45th minute the same player again forced a save from Blayney with a shot from just outside the box.

Glentoran started the second half in the same dynamic attacking form and soon had a fourth goal. In the 49th minute, McGuigan was brought down on the left side the box, after a challenge by Chris Rodgers and the referee pointed to the spot. The prolific Allen stepped up to take the penalty and dispatched it with confidence.

A minute later it was nearly 5-0, when the luckless McGuigan got on the end of an Allen ball into the box, only to see his first-time effort from 9 yards come back off the inside of the post.

Glentoran continued to press for more goals and came close in the 55th minute, when a fierce volley from 8 yards hit, by McMahan, flew just wide of the near post. To their credit Comrades never threw in the towel and continued to try to get some consolation from the game. In the 70th minute a cross from Matty Parker found the head of Mark Kelly 8 yards out and his effort forced 'keeper Morris to tip the ball over the bar. Then, on 84 minutes, Morris was called into action again, palming a crisp Gary Brown shot from 13 yards wide of the post.

The visitors came close to adding to their goal tally in the 86th minute. A corner wasn't cleared and the ball fell to McDaid 12 yards from goal, who then hooked an effort back toward goal, which hit the top the bar.