



## H&W Welders 1-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Bluefin Sport Championship

### Ballyclare Comrades team

1. Paddy Flood
5. Chris Rodgers
14. Adam McCart
23. Dean Youle
2. Curtis Woods
4. Samuel McIlveen
18. Jason Johnston
8. JB Dobbin
11. Adam Gray
24. Stewart Nixon
9. Mark Kelly 🍁 (78')

### Substitutes:

15. Jack Chalmers
16. Matty Parker
7. Jonny Coulter
20. Zach Barr 🍀 (78')
26. Ross McKnight

**H&W Welders:** Robinson, Spence, Armstrong, McMillan, McMurray, Bonnes, Deans, Malone, Graham, Arthurs, Rainey. Subs: Gwiazda, Withers, Dornan, McKeown, Craughwell.

Comrades' unhappy festive period on the pitch continued with a narrow defeat in a scrappy game at H&W Welders.

For this match, manager Clifford Adams could welcome back midfielder Samuel McIlveen from suspension, but still had to do without Gary Brown, who was still serving a suspension. Thomas Robinson and Michael McQuitty were also missing through injury. Curtis Woods came into the starting line-up.

There was a low-key start to the game, with neither side able to create much of a threat in the first quarter. However, as the first half progressed Comrades began to gain a measure of control and looked the more dangerous side, with a number of dangerous balls being played into the Welders box from corners and crosses.

The home side had to defend well to repel the threat and in the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute, only a great clearance off the line prevented Adam McCart scoring with a header from 6 yards, having got on the end of a corner.

On 40 minutes Comrades came close again from a corner, when Chris Rodgers headed just over from 8 yards.

Comrades were unable to take their encouraging performance of the latter part of the first half, into the second 45 minutes, but they still looked comfortable enough dealing with the Welders attacks.

Neither side really looked capable of unlocking the other's defence in the early stages of the half, but it was the home side who were to grab the vital goal, rather out of the blue, in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute. Paddy Flood's attempt to find Dean Youle with a throw was intercepted by Gwiazda. He then played in Spence, whose resulting first time shot from 16 yards flew into the roof of the net to give his side the lead.

Six minutes later Comrades had a great opportunity to level the scores. Welders 'keeper Robinson couldn't hold a free-kick, struck from 22 yards by Adam Gray. Mark Kelly was quick to get to the loose ball inside the 6-yards box, but his attempt to knock it past Robinson screwed just wide of the post.

With Comrades pressing forward, they were occasionally vulnerable to counter-attacks. In the 70<sup>th</sup> minute, only a super last-ditch tackle by Curtis Woods stopped Rainey getting a strike on goal, after the veteran striker had been set free to run into the box.

Comrades had a decent amount of the ball, but struggled to create much of a threat and in truth they didn't really look like levelling the scores as the second half progressed, with the Welders defence holding firm.

The visitors had a rare sight of goal on 87 minutes, when a ball played into the box broke to Jason Johnston, just outside the 6-yards box, but his effort was dragged wide of the far post.

Three minutes into injury-time, a half chance, saw Chris Rodgers fire wide from just outside the box, after he had got on the end of a clearance, after a free-kick.