



Institute 2-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 16th December 2017 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team

1. Paddy Flood 🟡 (88')
6. Michael McQuitty 🟡 (15')
14. Adam McCart 🟡 (43')
23. Dean Youle
17. Thomas Robinson 🟡 (78')
4. Samuel McIlveen
22. Gary Brown 🟡 (88')
8. JB Dobbin
11. Adam Gray 🟡 (5')
18. Jason Johnston 🟡 (32') 🟡 (66')
24. Stewart Nixon

Substitutes:

2. Curtis Woods 🟢 (78')
5. Chris Rodgers 🟢 (15')
16. Matty Parker
9. Mark Kelly 🟢 (66')
20. Zach Barr

Institute: Gallagher, R Morrow, Seydak, Bonner, Curry, Grace, Wilson, Harkin, Jarvis, McCrudden, Dunne. Subs: Scoltock, J Morrow, Brown, Moorehead, McCallion.

Comrades lost the top of the table clash with Institute in a bad-tempered match played at Limavady Showgrounds.

The starting line-up for Comrades was unchanged for the third game in a row, but Clifford Adams was able to select fit again striker for a place on the bench.

For the second week running Comrades went behind to a 4th minute goal. A free-kick, played into the box by Harkin, found the head of Grace and his effort from 7 yards went in, despite Paddy Flood getting a hand to it.

A minute later, the scores were level, when Adam Gray was first to a knock-down and advanced into the box to fire a fine finish into the bottom corner of the net from 14 yards.

In the 7th minute, Institute had a good opportunity when Wilson set Grace free in the box, but he shot wide from 12 yards.

With a quarter of an hour gone, Comrades were forced into a change at the back, when Michael McQuitty limped off to be replaced by Chris Rodgers.

The home side were on top for a good portion of the first half and created a few chances. In the 21st minute Grace got in a good effort from 15 yards, which Paddy Flood had to turn wide. Then, three minutes later, McCrudden fired just wide from 17 yards.

On 28 minutes a neat passing move ended with Wilson setting up Jarvis for an effort from 8 yards, but his effort was just off target.

Comrades had been struggling to find their own men as Institute piled on the pressure, but they did come more into the game in the latter stages of the first half, although this did not translate into chances.

The second half opened with the home side still looking the more dangerous. On 50 minutes Paddy Flood had to push a 14-yard shot from McCrudden wide of the post. Then, a minute later, the dangerous Grace saw his shot from a difficult angle 8 yards out blocked at the near post by Flood.

Comrades came close to taking the lead in the 53rd minute, when a long throw into the box was only cleared out to Gary Brown, who fired a great effort from 19 yards, through a crowd, only to be denied by a fine save by Gallagher.

The visitors had more of the play in the second half than they had in the first, but they were undone in the 71st minute. The ball was given away cheaply inside the Institute half and Grace played an incisive ball to McCrudden, who outpaced Adam McCart to finish well, wide of Paddy Flood from 10 yards.

Comrades had struggled to make chances against a well-drilled Institute defence, but in the 76th minute Thomas Robinson ran the sky-blue backline to create a chance for a shot, which flew over the bar from 13 yards.

The visitors' big chance for an equaliser came in the 83rd minute. A surging run from Gary Brown ended with him slipping the ball through to substitute Mark Kelly, who looked set to score, only to see his attempt to lift the ball over the diving 'keeper from 6 yards blocked by Gallagher.

Tempers boiled over in the 88th minute. After a robust tackle, which saw Stewart Nixon floored, Gary Brown became involved in an altercation with Ryan Morrow, which saw the Comrades man receive a rather controversial straight red card. Both benches were also involved in an angry confrontation, but when the action resumed it was the men in red who were down to nine men, with Stewart Nixon unable to return to the action.

This effectively killed off any chance of Comrades getting back on level terms and the home side secured a vital three points.