



Institute 1-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 24th February 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team

1. Alan Blayney
2. Curtis Woods
5. Chris Rodgers
23. Dean Youle
16. Matty Parker
12. Chris Middleton 🚩 (89')
8. JB Dobbin
10. Eoin Kane 🚩 (80')
17. Thomas Robinson
22. Gary Brown 🚩 (73')
9. Mark Kelly

Substitutes:

18. Jason Johnston
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟢 (80')
7. Joe McWilliams 🟢 (89')
20. Francis Dugan 🟢 (73')
6. Michael McQuitty

Institute: Gallagher, R Morrow, Seydak, Scoltock, D Curry, Grace, Wilson, Jarvis, J Morrow, McCrudden, Brown. Subs: Mullen, McCallion, McCarron, S Curry, Moorehead.

Comrades slipped to a defeat to a disputed penalty against league leaders Institute at the Limavady Showgrounds.

Manager Clifford Adams unsurprisingly stuck with the team which had won against Portadown the previous week, with the only change on the bench were Joe McWilliams came in for Stewart Nixon.

In very cold conditions the teams game started brightly with both sides looking dangerous. The first glimpse of a chance fell to Comrades in the 12th minute, when Gary Brown did very well on the left, before getting in a cross to the back post, where Mark Kelly managed to get in a header, however his effort from 5 yards went just wide of the target.

On 16 minutes a dangerous move from Institute ended with a well struck effort from 14 yards by Gareth Brown forcing a smart save from Alan Blayney.

Two minutes later the visitors came close, when a ball into the box was only cleared out to JB Dobbin, who shot from 19 yards, but saw his effort go just wide.

Comrades were having marginally the better of the first half and on 22 minutes they created a golden opportunity, when JB Dobbin slipped the ball through to Thomas Robinson in space in the box. However, his attempt to place the ball past Gallagher from 7 yards was blocked by the 'keeper.

The visitors continued to impress and in the 26th minute a good cross played in from the right by Chris Middleton was met by a glancing header from 5 yards by Mark Kelly, which went just wide of the far post.

The latter part of the first half saw defences gain a measure of control and the sides went in at half-time with the score-line blank.

Institute opened the second half strongly and inside the first minute Gareth Brown hit a good effort from 35 yards, which went just wide and had Alan Blayney scrambling across his goal.

The decisive moment of the game came in the 53rd minute. A dangerous break from the home side ended with Chris Rodgers being adjudged to have brought down Gareth Brown in the box. There were claims for offside and that Rodgers had won the ball, but the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty, which McCrudden dispatched confidently.

Having got their noses in front, the home side managed the game very well.

Comrades huffed and puffed without any real end result as the Institute defence dominated. At the other end Institute looked more of a threat, in what was a frankly very scrappy second half.

The home side might have added to their lead late in the game with two efforts. The first, a minute into injury-time, saw Alan Blayney have to push a 25 yard effort from McCrudden wide of the post. Then, three minutes later and seconds before the final whistle, Mullen was played into space and blasted a fierce shot just over from 17 yards.