



## Ballyclare Comrades 6-1 Institute

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – Bluefin Sport Championship

### Ballyclare Comrades team

(4-4-2)

1. Geoff McKinty
2. Curtis Woods
5. Chris Rodgers 🍁 (88')
23. Dean Youle
16. Matty Parker
24. Stewart Nixon 🍁 (66') 🍁 (85') 🍁 (90')
4. Samuel McIlveen 🍁 (27')
8. JB Dobbin
11. Adam Gray 🟡 (33') 🍁 (79')
18. Jason Johnston 🍁 (68')
10. Paul Maguire 🍁 (29')

### Substitutes:

12. Josh Corry
14. Adam McCart 🍁 (88')
17. Thomas Robinson 🍁 (68') 🍁 (80')
19. Kyle Mackie 🍁 (79')

**Institute:** Gallagher, Morrow, Seydak, Bonner, Scoltock, Harkin, S Curry, Grace, Hume, McCrudden, Wilson. Subs: Muldoon, Jarvis, Pomeroy, D Curry, Friel-Curran.

Comrades secured a superb win, as a high energy performance blew away Institute under the lights at a damp Dixon Park.

Manager Clifford Adams made some changes to the side which had won its opening two Championship games. Some of these were enforced, with Mark Kelly suspended and Gary Brown injured. Into the side came Stewart Nixon, Jason Johnston and Matty Parker. In the warm-up 'keeper Paddy Flood picked up an injury, so Geoff McKinty came in for his competitive debut.

The night didn't start well for the home side, as Institute grabbed the lead just inside the first minute. The men from the north-west went on the attack from the kick-off and immediately won a corner. Another corner followed immediately and from that Bonner was able to head the ball into the back of the net from 6 yards.

Comrades managed to clear their heads quickly and soon had a great chance to level the scores, when a penalty was awarded on 10 minutes after Adam Gray was brought down to end a mesmerising run in the box. Paul Maguire, who had scored from the spot against Knockbreda in the previous game, stepped up but his effort was saved by 'keeper Gallagher.

Institute continued to look dangerous going forward and on 17 minutes a fierce McCrudden drive from the left side of the box forced Geoff McKinty to turn the ball wide.

Comrades also looked threatening and in the 27<sup>th</sup> minute they equalised. JB Dobbin did well to keep possession from a throw-in and then played the ball through to Stewart Nixon, who had burst into the box. He then showed composure to lay the ball back to Paul Maguire, who made no mistake with a good finish wide of the 'keeper from 8 yards.

Two minutes later the home side hit the front, when another penalty was awarded; this time for a push on Paul Maguire. Samuel McIlveen took the spot-kick, converting with a powerful strike, despite the 'keeper getting a hand to the ball.

The rest of the half saw Institute do most of the pressing, but the Comrades defence held firm to secure a lead at the break.

The second half started with the visitors doing much of the attacking, without really troubling the 'keeper. However, Comrades continued to look dangerous going forward as they counter-attacked with pace.

As the half progressed, the home side began to look increasing threatening. In the 64<sup>th</sup> minute they had an opportunity, when Paul Maguire ran on to a ball headed down by Jason Johnston and struck a low shot a couple of feet wide of the far post from 11 yards out on the right side of the box.

Two minutes later Comrades consolidated their lead. A clearance from the back was latched onto by Stewart Nixon who showed good strength to beat a defender to the ball. He then ran clear on goal and coolly rounded the 'keeper to slot the ball home. The men in red were now in dominant form and giving the visitors' defence all sorts of problems. In the 64<sup>th</sup> minute Paul Maguire almost capitalised on confusion inside the box, but his effort from 8 yards was blocked, the ball falling to Adam Gray, who saw his effort deflected wide. From the resulting corner the ball was only cleared out to Adam Gray who fizzed a shot just over the bar from the edge of the box.

The last ten minutes of the game saw Comrades run riot as they put Institute to the sword. In the 80<sup>th</sup> minute, substitute Thomas Robinson got his name on the scoresheet, cushioning a delightful volley wide of the 'keeper from an angle 5 yards out, after being picked out by a ball to the far post from Stewart Nixon.

Young Nixon, making his competitive debut after joining from Wakehurst in the close-season, got his second goal of the night and his team's fifth on 85 minutes, when he finished off an incisive move with a curling finish from 15 yards.

Nixon wonderful night was topped off with a goal from the penalty spot in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute, after he himself had been tripped in the box.

The scoreline might have been added to in injury-time. First Thomas Robinson shot just over with a fine 20 yard effort and then Geoff McKinty had to make a good save when a deflected shot from just inside the box threatened to get the shell-shocked visitors a consolation goal.

