

Ballyclare Comrades 1-0 Institute

Tuesday 3rd October 2017 – Bet McLean League Cup (Third Round)

Ballyclare Comrades team (3-5-2)

1. Paddy Flood
5. Chris Rodgers
14. Adam McCart
23. Dean Youle
17. Thomas Robinson 🇮🇪 (77')
4. Samuel McIlveen
18. Jason Johnston 🇮🇪 (75')
8. JB Dobbin
11. Adam Gray
24. Stewart Nixon
9. Mark Kelly

Substitutes:

7. Michael O'Hanlon
10. Paul Maguire 🇮🇪 (77')
20. Zach Barr
22. Gary Brown 🇮🇪 (75') 🇮🇪 (82')
26. Geoff McKinty

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

Comrades advanced to the quarter-finals of the Bet McLean League cup with a hard fought, but ultimately merited win over Institute under the lights at Dixon Park. For this match manager Clifford Adams made one change from the side that had beaten Lurgan Celtic three days earlier, with Chris Rodgers coming back into the side and Gary Brown dropping to the bench. Rodgers return meant the versatile Jason Johnston moving to his more accustomed midfield role.

The early exchanges were fairly evenly balanced, but it was Comrades who were first to threaten. In the 10th minute a ball into the Institute box was only cleared out to Samuel McIlveen on the 18-yard line and he volleyed it back towards goal, but was unlucky to see his fine effort come off the top of the crossbar.

Play remained fairly even, with defences largely on top, although Comrades were perhaps causing the more threat of the two teams.

In the 30th minute the luckless Samuel McIlveen again saw a great effort come back off the frame of the goal. This time a strike from 25 yards cannoned off the post.

The latter saw Comrades having the edge in terms of the balance of play. However in the 35th minute Paddy Flood had to make a smart save to turn the ball wide, after a good run by Wilson had given him the opportunity to shoot from 16 yards.

The second half started with neither side able to gain the upper hand and chances remaining at a premium.

The first effort of note after the break came in the 57th minute from the visitors, when a quick counter attack ended with Jake Morrow having an effort from 12 yards blocked by Flood, who was alert in coming off his line.

The final quarter of the game saw Comrades have more and more of the attacking play, but they were finding a solid Institute backline hard to penetrate and chances were limited, although Adam Gray did come close on 72 minutes, fizzing a low shot inches wide of the post from 20 yards after a surging run.

The only goal of the game came on 83 minutes, just as thought turned to the possibility of extra-time. Stewart Nixon whipped in a dangerous cross from the right and Institute defender Bonner headed into his own net from close range under pressure from Mark Kelly.