



## **Ballyclare Comrades 2-4 Institute**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship**

**Match & Ball Sponsor: Cllr Paul Hamill Macedon DEA, Mayor, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council**

### **Ballyclare Comrades team**

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
6. Michael McQuitty
23. Dean Youle
16. Matty Parker
12. Chris Middleton
4. Samuel McIlveen
14. Adam McCart
8. JB Dobbin
10. Eoin Kane
9. Mark Kelly 🏠 (78')

### **Substitutes:**

3. CJ McQuillan
5. Thomas Campbell
11. Adam Gray
24. Jonny Coulter
22. Reece Gilmore

**Institute:** Gallagher, R Morrow, Seydak, Scoltock, D Curry, Grace, S Curry, Harkin, Jarvis, McCrudden, Dunne. Subs: Boyle, J Morrow, Wilson, Brown, McCarron.

Comrades poor run of results continued with a defeat to league leaders Institute at Dixon Park.

For this match manager Clifford Adams had a depleted pool of players to pick from, with Thomas Robinson, Gary Brown, Chris Rodgers, Stewart Nixon, Alan Blayney and Joe McWilliams all unavailable. Curtis Woods, Eoin Kane, Adam McCart and Chris Middleton returned to the starting line-up.

The first chance of the game fell to the visitors, when Stephen Curry got free, but his attempt to lob the 'keeper from the edge of the box went just over the bar.

On 12 minutes Comrades had their first decent effort, with Eoin Kane shooting over from 20 yards after getting on the end of a knock down from Mark Kelly.

Institute opened the scoring in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute. Harkin picked up the ball 22 yards out and smashed a great effort which gave the 'keeper no chance.

Five minutes later the visitors' lead was doubled, when McCrudden danced past a couple of challenges and fired a shot into the roof of the net from the edge of the box.

Institute were now looking very comfortable, but Comrades were unfortunate in the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute, when Eoin Kane saw his effort from 14 yards deflected just wide of a defender.

The second half started, as it was to continue, with heavy rain. However, this did not deter Comrades from producing an improved performance from the off.

They soon had a goal back, when a free-kick, played into the box by Samuel McIlveen, saw the ball come off the head of Institute defender Dean Curry and loop into the net.

Seconds later, from the restart, the home side were nearly level, when Eoin Kane hit the post with a shot from an angle 5 yards out.

Comrades' resurgence was dampened in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute, when Institute restored their two-goal advantage. Stephen Curry this time executing a perfect lobbed finish from 16 yards over Paddy Flood.

Despite this setback Comrades continued to press to get back into the game. In the 61<sup>st</sup> minute they came close, when a good move ended with Chris Middleton crossing from the right towards Mark Kelly, who volleyed just over from 9 yards.

On 67 minutes the home side had a golden opportunity to get on the scoresheet again, when a penalty was awarded for a foul on Mark Kelly. Comrades' record with penalties has been very poor this season and a new man stepped up in the shape of Matty Parker, but he saw his spot-kick saved by Gallagher.

Comrades weren't downcast by this wasted opportunity and got their reward for the endeavour in the 78<sup>th</sup> minute. Mark Kelly stuck out his foot, 6 yards from goal, to deflect a Samuel McIlveen shot past the 'keeper and into the net. Despite the assistant raising his flag, the referee awarded a goal.

The home supporters now fancied the chances of their team getting something from the game, but once again the clinical Institute side were able to quickly reassert control. Two minutes after conceding, they scored again themselves, when McCrudden beat the offside trap and finished from 13 yards.

This effectively sealed the points for the visitors, but Comrades supporters could at least take some comfort from a spirited second half display, which saw them press right to the final whistle.

