



Knockbreds 1-2 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 19th August 2017 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-4-2)

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods 🟡 (90+2')
5. Chris Rodgers
6. Dean Youle
11. Adam Gray 🟡 (33')
22. Gary Brown 🟢🔴 (73')
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟡 (71')
8. JB Dobbin
17. Thomas Robinson 🟢🔴 (85')
10. Paul Maguire 🟡 (11') 🟢🔴 (78')
9. Mark Kelly 🟠 (54')

Substitutes:

14. Adam McCart
16. Matty Parker 🟢🔴 (73')
18. Jason Johnston 🟢🔴 (85')
19. Kyle Mackie 🟢🔴 (78')
26. Geoff McKinty

Knockbreds: Cairnduff, Culbert, Kerr, Arthur, Patterson, Lucas, McBurney, Newberry, McVeigh, Halliday, Murray. Subs: Ferguson, Pike, Irwin, Moore, Doran.

Comrades returned with all three points after a stormy encounter at Breda Park. Manager Clifford Adams kept faith with the side which had opened the season with a win a week before, with Michael O'Hanlon and Stewart Nixon still serving suspensions.

The game kicked off in unseasonable driving rain and wind and the home side were quickly on the front foot, with Murray having a chance inside two minutes, when he shot from 10 yards, his effort being saved by Paddy Flood.

In the 11th minute Comrades took the lead. A high ball played into the box caused confusion in the Knockbreds defence, with Mark Kelly getting onto it, only to be pulled back by Arthur. The referee immediately pointed to the spot and Paul Maguire stepped up to confidently convert the penalty.

Knockbreds reacted well to this setback, proceeding to dominate much of the rest of the first half. Just a minute after falling behind they almost levelled the scores, when

a shot from the edge of the box from Halliday came back out off the inside of the post.

The pressure continued to mount on the Comrades defence. In the 16th minute the ball deflected kindly into the path of Murray, who looked to be free on goal.

However, Paddy Flood was alert and came quickly out of his goal to put off the striker, whose effort flew wide of the target from 16 yards.

The home side continued to press and won a series of free-kicks, as Comrades were stretched. In the 29th minute one such free-kick lead to a chance. The ball was slipped to the side of the defensive wall to find Newberry, whose shot from an angle 12 yards out stung the palms of Paddy Flood, who was forced to turn the ball wide at the near post.

Comrades had to concentrate on defending for most of the half, but they came close to increasing their lead in the 38th minute, when Paul Maguire harried a defender, who struggled to deal with a high ball inside the box. Maguire was second favourite to get to the ball, but somehow he managed to get his foot to it to stab an effort towards goal from 11 yards which went narrowly wide.

The visitors maintained their lead at the break, but they had needed to work very hard to keep it. However, five minutes into the second half Knockbreda levelled the scores. They won a free-kick 25 yards out and Murray stepped up to strike a superb effort over the wall and inside the post.

There had been an edge to the game throughout, but things were to boil over during the second half. The first of four dismissals came in the 54th minute and seemed to have turned the tide towards the hosts. The man receiving his marching orders was striker Mark Kelly, accused of raising his hands in an altercation with an opponent. Then Knockbreda threw away their numerical advantage only eight minutes later, when McVeigh was dismissed for a rash tackle.

The game was much more even in the second half in terms of attacking possession, with Comrades giving as good as they got. However, on 67 minutes, the dangerous Murray did well to elude Curtis Woods inside the box before striking a fierce rising effort from 10 yards, that Paddy Flood did well to tip over the bar.

In the 71st minute the visitors regained the lead and the game saw another goal from a superb free-kick. This time it was Samuel McIlveen who showed his expertise, scoring from a free-kick for the second week running, by striking a great effort from 22 yards, which flew past the helpless 'keeper and just inside the post.

Three minutes later, McIlveen who was full of confidence, almost scored from another free-kick. This time however his powerfully struck effort from 25 yards was met by an excellent save from Cairnduff, who turned the top corner bound ball over the bar.

The home side were the masters of their own downfall again in the 78th minute, when the already booked McBurney received another yellow card for a foul, reducing his side to nine men.

Comrades were now were in prime position to secure the three points, but they still had to be wary as the home side certainly hadn't thrown in the towel.

The visitors created a decent chance on 88 minutes, when two substitutes linked up. Kyle Mackie's ball in from the left broke to Jason Johnston, whose stooping header from 6 yards was saved by Cairnduff.

A minute later Knockbreda were reduced to eight men as indiscipline struck again, this time with Patterson getting a straight red for a dangerous lunge. There was still time for some more controversy. Two minutes into injury-time the ball was pumped forward towards Murray in the box. Paddy Flood came out and there were strong claims from the home side that he clattered the striker before clearing. However the referee waved play on.