



Loughgall 2-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 28th October 2017 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team

1. Paddy Flood 🟡 (63')
5. Chris Rodgers
14. Adam McCart
23. Dean Youle
17. Thomas Robinson 🇮🇪 (68')
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟡 (39')
22. Gary Brown
8. JB Dobbin 🇮🇪 (84')
16. Matty Parker
24. Stewart Nixon 🟡 (60') 🇮🇪 (68')
9. Mark Kelly

Substitutes:

2. Curtis Woods 🟡 (73')
18. Jason Johnston
7. Michael O'Hanlon 🇮🇪 (84')
10. Paul Maguire 🇮🇪 (68') 🟡 (79')
26. Geoff McKinty

Loughgall: Buchanan, Montgomery, Rea, Copeland, Finlay, Ferguson, Dallas, Taylor, Campbell, Douglas, Hoey. Subs: Stretton, Crooks, McConnell, Stewart, Mullen.

Comrades again came away with nothing from their trip to bogey ground Lakeview Park, in a game where the home side made the better of the windy conditions. For this match manager Clifford Adams had to do without the unavailable Adam Gray. Into the side came fit again Matty Parker. Loughgall had the strong wind at their backs in the first half and in the 10th minute they made the most of it when a superb effort from 22 yards, hit by Hoey, flew like a rocket into the top corner of the net, giving Paddy Flood no chance. The home side were pressing Comrades back and were generally first to the ball. In the 20th minute they grabbed a second goal, when Taylor got free on the right and cut into the box, before firing the ball across the goal, where the unfortunate Chris Rodgers turned the ball into his own net under pressure from Douglas. Comrades struggled to get a foothold in the game in the first half, finding the conditions difficult to cope with. In the 28th minute they were grateful to Paddy Flood for preventing another goal from being conceded. A ball in from the right

found Douglas in space and his resulting effort from 11 yards was only kept out by a fine reaction save from the Comrades 'keeper.

The visitors had a good chance to reduce the deficit before half-time. In the 44th minute, Thomas Robinson' chipped ball across the box and it was only cleared out to Samuel McIlveen in a central position 7 yards from goal. However the Comrades midfielder couldn't keep his volley down, the ball flying well over the bar.

Comrades needed to make as good use of the conditions in the second half as the home side had done in the first. However, despite having a lot of the ball, they failed to create the levels of danger that their opponents.

It was a frustrating watch for the visiting supporters, as their side got into good positions without being able to find the right final ball against a well drilled Loughall defence.

However in 68th minute the comeback looked to be on when a goal was pulled back. Gary Brown got a ball in from the right side of the box and this was met at the far post area by a super volley from Stewart Nixon. 'Keeper Buchanan kept it out with a great save, but Nixon was able to follow up to hit the loose ball into the net from 5 yards.

Comrades now looked to press for an equaliser, but they couldn't find a way through and became increasingly frustrated by the timewasting tactics of the home side, to the extent that Curtis Woods, warming up as a substitute on the side-lines, was booked for a tussle with someone on the home bench, after they were slow to get the ball back onto the pitch after it had gone out of play.

In the end Comrades weren't able to test the home 'keeper enough in the second half and fell to only their second league defeat of the season.