



## **Ballyclare Comrades 2-0 Newington YC**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – Bet McLean League Cup**

### **Ballyclare Comrades team (4-4-2)**

1. Geoff McKinty
2. Curtis Woods
14. Adam McCart
23. Dean Youle
16. Matty Parker
24. Stewart Nixon 🟦 (83')
4. Samuel McIlveen
8. JB Dobbin
11. Adam Gray
18. Jason Johnston 🟡 (57')
10. Paul Maguire 🟡 (88')

### **Substitutes:**

6. Michael McQuitty
7. Michael O'Hanlon
17. Thomas Robinson 🟢 (57') 🟦 (90+1')
19. Kyle Mackie 🟢 (88')
1. Ross Horner

**Newington YC:** Smyth, McFall, Brennan, Begley, Gowdy, McDonnell, McArdle, Hanvey, Scollay, K O'Neill, Dempster. Subs: B O'Neill, McAuley, Finlay, Gilgunn, Archer.

Comrades had to work to advance to the next round of the League cup, with two late goals seeing off the spirited challenge of Newington YC.

The early stages of the game were relatively quiet, with little in the way of goalmouth action, although Comrades were dominant in terms of possession. The first real effort on goal of any note however came from the visitors on 18 minutes, when Dempster fired a shot from 15 yards out, which looked to be heading low inside the far post, only to be turned wide by a good save from Geoff McKinty. Comrades continued to do most of the pressing, but the spark, so evident in the trouncing of Institute four days earlier was missing and they struggled to get behind a resolute Newington defence. On 25 minutes however, the visitors were at full-stretch to prevent a goal, when Stewart Nixon got free down the right and cut inside to deliver a low ball towards the 6-yard box. Paul Maguire looked set to get on the

end of it and open the scoring, only to be denied by a well-timed saving tackle from behind by a defender.

The home side had a major let-off in the 28<sup>th</sup> minute. A ball was drilled in high from the right side of the box and eluded Geoff McKinty, falling to McArdle in a central position 7 yards from goal, but with the empty goal at his mercy he hooked a volleyed effort over the bar.

A minute later Comrades came close, when a cross from the left was met by a stooping header from Paul Maguire 6 yards from goal, the ball flying just wide of the post.

The home side had a couple of very good chances to take the lead in the latter stages of the half. Firstly, on 34 minutes, Jason Johnston did well to outmuscle a defender and cut in from to a position where he could shoot from 8 yards, but his resulting effort was too close to 'keeper Smyth, who save comfortably. Then, four minutes later, Johnston had an even better chance, as a ball played into the box looped into his path at chest height in front of goal, 4 yards out. However, he his touch towards goal was weak and straight at the 'keeper.

The first half ended goalless and there was little for much of the second half to suggest that scoreline would change. The only effort of any note before the final fifteen minutes, was a Curtis Woods glancing header from 5 yards, which flew just wide, after he got on the end of a Samuel McIlveen free-kick.

At the other end Newington had little to shout about as they increasingly concentrated on keeping their clean-sheet.

They were doing this successfully, defending in a well-organised tenacious manner, but in the last quarter of an hour Comrades began to rank up the pressure and create openings.

On 76 minutes Adam Gray made room for a good shot from 15 yards out on the left side of the box, his effort going just wide of the far post. Then, three minutes later, the home side looked set to score, when Paul Maguire played the ball low across the 6-yard box towards the arriving Stewart Nixon, whose effort was denied by a superb block by keeper Smyth.

The supporters were gearing up for the possibility of extra-time when Comrades eventually managed to get the breakthrough in the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute. Paul Maguire did very well to get free on the left side of the box and strike an effort wide of the 'keeper, which may have been inching just wide of the target, but Stewart Nixon took no chances, arriving to turn the ball in from just in front of the goal-line.

A minute into injury-time, Comrades added some gloss to the scoreline with a second goal, Thomas Robinson converting with a first-time effort from 4 yards, after getting on the end of a ball played to the far post by Stewart Nixon.