



Ballyclare Comrades 1-1 Newry City

Saturday 2nd September 2017 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Match Sponsor: Ballyclare Window Cleaning Services

Ball Sponsor: Samuel Irvine & Son Funeral Directors

Ballyclare Comrades team

(4-4-2)

1. Geoff McKinty
2. Curtis Woods 🟡 (42')
5. Chris Rodgers ⚽ (72')
23. Dean Youle
16. Matty Parker
24. Stewart Nixon 🟡 (83')
4. Samuel McIlveen
8. JB Dobbin
17. Thomas Robinson 🟡 (72')
19. Kyle Mackie 🟡 (66')
10. Paul Maguire

Substitutes:

6. Michael McQuitty
7. Michael O'Hanlon 🟢 (72')
14. Adam McCart
18. Jason Johnston 🟢 (66') 🟡 (85')
1. Ross Horner

Newry City: Gordon, McArdle, Cunningham, Mullen, Boyle, McMahon, S Hughes, McCann, McCabe, Carville, M Hughes. Subs: Walker, Johnston, Mackin, Patton, Havern.

Comrades dropped their first points of the season in the Championship when they were held to a draw by Newry City at Dixon Park.

For this match manager Clifford Adams was still without the suspended Mark Kelly and the injured Paddy Flood and Gary Brown. Also unavailable was Adam Gray.

Thomas Robinson and Kyle Mackie came into the starting line-up, and Chris Rodgers came back into the defence after missing the midweek cup win over Newington YC.

The opening five minutes of the game could easily have seen three goals scored.

Newry had a great chance inside the first 20 seconds, when a ball over the Comrades

defence set McCabe free. He lobbed the ball over the outrushing Geoff McKinty from 16 yards, but his effort went wide of the empty net.

In the 3rd minute the visitors had another good chance, when McCabe played the ball to Stephen Hughes at the near post, but he snatched at his shot, which went well wide from 6 yards.

Two minutes later it was the hosts turn to spurn a good chance. A high ball played into the box was not dealt with by the Newry defence and broke to Thomas Robinson in a great position inside the 6-yard box, but he dragged his effort disappointingly wide of the target.

The rest of the half didn't live up to the action packed opening and chances were few and far between, with neither side able to create much against well-drilled defences. The best effort came in the 19th minute, when a high ball played across the box fell to Paul Maguire and he hit a well-struck shot just wide of the far post from 13 yards. Comrades had a scare in the 27th minute, when Geoff McKinty completely missed the ball in attempting a clearance, but fortunately he was able to recover and get to the ball before striker McCabe.

The sides went in at half-time with the game scoreless and the second half saw the play remain evenly balanced.

In the 53rd minute Newry were glad of a good save from 'keeper Gordon, who did well to turn the ball wide from a Samuel McIlveen free-kick struck from 20 yards. Four minutes later Geoff McKinty was called into action when he made a smart save low on his line to keep out a Mark Hughes shot from 16 yards.

A good move from the home side on 59 minutes ended with Paul Maguire heading just over from 7 yards, after getting on the end of a cross from the right played in by Curtis Woods.

In the 70th minute Comrades supporters were worried when a free-kick was conceded deep inside the box, after Geoff McKinty picked up a back pass. However Newry couldn't capitalise, with McArdle blasting the ball over from 10 yards.

On 72 minutes Comrades struck the front. A corner caused panic in the Newry box and the ball fell to Chris Rodgers, who blasted it past a couple of defenders on the line from 3 yards.

The lead was however short-lived, as Newry struck an equaliser two minutes later. Stephen Hughes made room for a shot from the edge of the box, which struck the post, the ball coming out kindly into the path of McCabe, who had the easy task of slotting the ball home from close range.

The closest either team came to a winner was three minutes into injury-time, when Samuel McIlveen hit a free-kick from 22 yards which flew just over the bar.

