



PSNI 0-5 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 11th November 2017 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team

1. Paddy Flood
5. Chris Rodgers
14. Adam McCart
23. Dean Youle
2. Curtis Woods
4. Samuel McIlveen 🏴 (74')
12. Gary Brown 🟡 (35') ⚽ (43') 🏴 (49')
8. JB Dobbin
7. Thomas Robinson ⚽ (75')
10. Stewart Nixon ⚽ (60') 🏴 (74')
9. Mark Kelly ⚽ (30')

Substitutes:

6. Michael McQuitty
16. Matty Parker
3. Jason Johnston 🟢 (74') ⚽ (90+1')
11. Michael O'Hanlon 🟢 (49') 🟡 (71')
15. Zach Barr 🟢 (74')

Comrades gained ample revenge for a 3-0 defeat against PSNI at Dixon Park earlier in the season, overwhelming their hosts with a superb all round display.

Clifford Adams was able to name an unchanged side for this game which, being held on Remembrance Day, was preceded by a minute's silence.

Comrades went on the attack and looked threatening from the off, giving the PSNI defence a lot to think about. In the 11th minute Mark Kelly stole the ball from a defender near the by-line inside the box and made space for an effort from 6 yards which flew just over the bar.

On 23 minutes Kelly was again in the thick of the action, playing the ball into the 6-yard box, where Gary Brown arrived, only to see his stabbed effort deflected wide off a challenging defender's boot.

In the 30th minute, Brown and Kelly combined again and this time it brought a goal. Brown did very well to charge down a defender's clearance just outside the box and gained possession of the ball before playing in Kelly, who made no mistake with a finish from 8 yards.

The visitors were now well on top. In the 37th minute they came close to a second goal, when a quickly taken throw-in from Stewart Nixon caught PSNI napping and

allowed Gary Brown to get in a shot from just outside the box, which went inches wide of the target.

At the other end Comrades' defence had been well in control, but on 38 minutes Paddy Flood had to be alert to make a smart save, after the ball deflected kindly towards Wilson who got a header on target which was kept out by the 'keeper. In the 40th minute, Mark Kelly did very well to beat a defender on the by-line and advanced to fire a shot from an angle 7 yards out, which Williamson was able to block.

Three minutes later, Comrades did get the second goal they deserved. A long clearance from Paddy Flood was headed on first by Mark Kelly and then by Thomas Robinson and Gary Brown anticipated, getting to the ball before the 'keeper, taking it round him and knocking it into the empty net from inside the 6-yard box.

The margin could very well have been three at half time, but for an excellent save from Williamson on 44 minutes, when he leapt athletically to keep out a Stewart Nixon effort from 13 yards, after some lovely close passing in the box created the chance.

Comrades continue in the second half in the same scintillating form. Two minutes in they came close, when a corner played to the near post was met by a stooping header under pressure from Adam McCart 5 yards out, but his effort went just wide. A minute later Stewart Nixon made space in the box for a shot from 8 yards, but the 'keeper was well placed to save.

The excellent Gary Brown was forced to leave the field early in the second half, feeling the effects of some heavy tackles in the first half, but his replacement Michael O'Hanlon made a big impression. In the 55th minute, he went on a great run, surging past an opponent, before playing a great ball into the path of Mark Kelly, who was arriving in the box challenged by a defender. Kelly managed to get in a bundled effort from 6 yards, but the ball went wide of the goal.

Five minutes later it was 3-0 to the visitors. Thomas Robinson did very well on the left of the box, bamboozling a defender, before advancing, and rather than shooting from a difficult angle, he had the presence of mind to raise his head and lift the ball across the box, where Stewart Nixon was perfectly placed to head to head in from 5 yards.

PSNI did have some decent spells of possession in the second half, but they only got so far, before their attacks were snuffed out by superb Comrades defending.

Meanwhile, the visitors continued to look very potent going forward and on 75 minutes they grabbed a fourth goal. Michael O'Hanlon picked the ball up and from just inside his own half and played a lovely ball, splitting the home defence, to find the run of Thomas Robinson, who had broken forward up the middle of the field. He got to the ball before the 'keeper, who had flown out of his box, and calmly finished into the unguarded net from just outside the box.

The home side now only had pride to play for and they came close to a consolation goal in the 80th minute, when a dipping shot hit by Wilson from the edge of the box had to be tipped over the bar by Paddy Flood.

Comrades continued to look for more goals. In the 86th minute, Mark Kelly did well to battle his way into the box and get in a shot from 16 yards, but Williamson was able to keep it out. However, a minute into stoppage time, there was nothing the

'keeper could do when substitute Jason Johnston got on the end of a header on from Mark Kelly to fire first time into the roof of the net from 8 yards.