

## **Ballyclare Comrades U20 1-1 Dundela Reserves**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 – NIFL Development League North**

### **Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times**

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves, under new manager John McAllister, played out a draw with Dundela Reserves at Dixon Park on Saturday afternoon in a Championship Development League North fixture.

Opting for a new 4-2-3-1 formation the Wee Reds took time to gel, and the city lads grabbed the opportunity to open the scoring in the 15<sup>th</sup> minute, when a cross in to the box resulted in a close range finish that gave goalkeeper Ross McKnight – home on holiday from university – no chance.

The first half was really a box-to-box slog against a strong physical city side, with neither keeper seriously tested. Comrades had plenty of possession, but passing in the final third of the pitch lacked accuracy.

In the second half CJ McQuillan and Thomas Campbell linked effectively down the left flank, and one of their thrusts produced a free on the edge of the box, but McQuillan's drive was blocked and the ball was scrambled to safety.

On the hour McAllister's lads were back on level terms, when Michael McCabe poked the ball in to the net following a goalmouth melee.

Boosted by this equaliser the hosts were on top for a time, with headers by Andy Smyth and Jack Walsh being off target, but Dundela finished strongly forcing McKnight to make a couple of saves to secure the draw.

Comrades Reserves: McKnight, Cooper, Chalmers, Ervine, McQuillan, Coulter, Campbell, Nesbitt, McCabery, Gilmour, Smyth. Subs: Lilburn, McCabe, Walsh.

Commenting manager McAllister said, "One error cost us the lead at half time, but we improved in the second half and were well worth a draw."