

H&W Welders U20 5-1 Ballyclare Comrades U20

Saturday 7th April 2018 – NIFL Development League North

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

An under-strength Ballyclare Comrades Reserves side proved to be no match for H & W Welders Reserves, who cruised to a comprehensive victory.

This Championship Development League North fixture was staged at Tillysburn Park, where the home side enhanced their title aspirations with a 5-1 win.

With no regular keeper available, Thomas Campbell volunteered to don the gloves, but had to retrieve the ball from the net after only six minutes, and shortly afterwards the Welders doubled the lead from a neatly worked move.

Approaching the interval it was 3-0 from a rebound after Campbell had blocked the initial effort, and seconds later Michael McCabe limped out of the game with a knee injury to be replaced by the only substitute on call, Sam Lilburn.

During the break manager John McAllister reshuffled the pack, with CJ McQuillan moving from left back to the pivotal central midfield position, and the result was a much improved performance.

At last strikers Reece Gilmour and Andy Smyth began to see more of the ball, and the visiting keeper was glad to see headers from Jack Chalmers and Gilmour whizz over the bar from corners, while efforts by Gilmour and Smyth were saved.

However the Welders were much more accurate at the opposite end where they added two more, before the hosts managed a consolation strike through Jonny Coulter, who blasted the ball in to the top corner of the net after having been played in by Luke McCabery.

Man of the Match: CJ McQuillan.

“The Welders have a strong side that had good runs in the two major junior football competitions – the Junior Cup and the Junior Shield – so we were always up against it with a young team,” stated manager McAllister.

“The Welders were well worth their three goal lead at the break, but we fared much better in the second half,” he added.