



Ballyclare Comrades 2-1 Ards

Saturday 14th July 2018 – Pre-season friendly

Ballyclare Comrades team (3-5-2)

1. Kyle Rowe
5. Chris Rodgers 🏹 (64') 🟢 (79')
18. Adam Wright
23. Dean Youle
2. Curtis Woods 🏹 (55')
4. Samuel McIlveen 🏹 (15')
8. JB Dobbin
11. Gary Donnelly 🏹 (64')
9. Thomas Robinson 🏹 (55')
10. Jason Johnston
7. Joe McWilliams 🟡 (19') 🟡 (59')

Substitutes:

15. Jack Chalmers 🟢 (64')
16. Scott Gault 🟢 (55') 🏹 (75')
14. Taylor Kirk 🟢 (75')
12. Ross Clarke 🟢 (15')
17. Joel Haggan 🟢 (64')
19. Gary Brown 🟢 (55') 🏹 (79')

Comrades continued their pre-season build up with a win over Premiership side Ards at a sweltering Dixon Park.

Manager Stephen Hughes sent out a strong starting line-up, which included Jason Johnston, who had only re-joined the club the previous evening. However, the good performance was marred by a couple of injuries to players on the bone hard surface. The game was only 15 minutes old when Samuel McIlveen had to depart with an ankle injury. Then later, on 75 minutes, Scott Gault fell heavily on the surface fracturing his arm.

The match itself saw Comrades produce an encouraging display. They deservedly hit the front on 19 minutes, when livewire forward Joe McWilliams got on the end of a through pass and knocked the ball over the advancing 'keeper from 16 yards.

As the home side continued to impress, a lovely sweeping move in the 39th minute almost ended with a goal, but Curtis Woods' effort from 15 yards went just wide of the post.

Three minutes into the second half the visitors came close to an equaliser, when a shot from inside the box came back off the post.

However, the home side continued to impress and they double their lead in the 59th minute, after Gary Donnelly set up Joe McWilliams for an easy finish from close range.

Ards pulled a goal back on 65 minutes, when Noble headed powerfully into the net from 8 yards, after getting on the end of a cross from the right. Then, on 80 minutes, the score might have been level, but for a great save from Kyle Rowe to keep out a rising shot struck from the edge of the 6-yard box.

In the 86th minute substitute Taylor Kirk did well to burst past a defender on the right side of the box and cut inside to shoot from 5 yards, but his effort was blocked at the near post by the 'keeper.