



Ballymena United 3-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Tuesday 23rd October 2018 – Toals County Antrim Shield (Quarter-Final)

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-2-3-1)

- 1. Paddy Flood
- 20. Taylor Kirk 🟡 (35') 🚩 (51')
- 5. Adam Wright 🟡 (48')
- 23. Dean Youle
- 3. Christopher Crane
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🟡 (12')
- 12. Jason Johnston
- 21. Scott Gault
- 24. Gary Donnelly 🚩 (66')
- 17. Thomas Robinson 🚩 (61')
- 16. Jamie Willighan

Substitutes:

- 6. Michael McQuitty 🟢 (51')
- 8. JB Dobbin 🟢 (66')
- 22. Gary Brown
- 9. Chris Trussell
- 14. Joe Tully 🟢 (61')

Ballymena United: Ross Glendinning, Addis, Whiteside, Mayse, McCullough, Faulkner, McGrory, Balmer, Millar, Reece Glendinning, Basit. Subs: Kane, Friel, Nolan, Ervin, Lecky.

Comrades exited the Toals County Antrim Shield after being outplayed by Ballymena United at the Showgrounds.

For this match Comrades were missing a number of players and there were starts for Paddy Flood, Taylor Kirk and Scott Gault.

Inside the first minute 'keeper Flood was called into action, when he did well to tip the ball over from a free-kick struck by McGrory.

A minute later, however, there was nothing that Flood could do to prevent Mayse firing home from 8 yards, after Ballymena had played their way rather easily into the box.

The home side continued to dominate, but were helped by Comrades consistently giving the ball away with sloppy passes inside their own half.

In the 21st minute, Ballymena were awarded a penalty after Jason Johnston pushed Millar over just inside the box. Millar picked himself up and despatched the spot-kick to give his side a two-goal lead.

On 26 minutes, another ball given away inside their own half, exposed the visitors and allowed Basit to run in on goal, but his attempt to steer the ball past the advancing Paddy Flood saw it go narrowly wide of the target from 11 yards.

A minute later, Comrades got their first strikes on goal, on a night when they were to be very rare. Jamie Willighan got in a good shot from just outside the box, which Ross Glendinning parried out. The ball fell back to Willighan and again he fired it back on target, with the 'keeper again having to block.

The play continued to flow overwhelmingly towards the Comrades goal. In the 36th minute, loose play just outside the box gifted Faulkner a chance to shoot and his effort came back off the bar.

It looked as if Comrades might have gone in at half-time with a two-goal deficit, which the travelling support may have been somewhat relieved at. However, in the second minute of first-half injury-time, Ballymena struck again, with Friel lofting the ball neatly over Paddy Flood from the edge of the box.

It looked as if the second half would be long and trying for the visitors, but they managed to defend as a team much better than they had in the first half and, importantly, passed the ball a lot better. This, added to Ballymena perhaps losing some focus, meant that the score-line didn't get any worse.

Ballymena still dominated, but Comrades weren't making things as easy for them as they had in the first 45 minutes. However, the home side did come close on the hour, when a straight ball sent Friel clear of the visitor's defence, but from the edge of the box and with Flood advancing to meet him, he steered his effort inches wide of the post