



Carrick Rangers 2-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 22nd September 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-4-2)

- 19. Kyle Rowe
- 2. Curtis Woods 🇮🇪 (46')
- 5. Adam Wright
- 23. Dean Youle 🇮🇪 (90+5')
- 3. Christopher Crane
- 17. Thomas Robinson 🇮🇪 (72')
- 10. Eoin Kane
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🇮🇪 (54')
- 11. Adam Gray
- 12. Jason Johnston
- 16. Jamie Willighan

Substitutes:

- 20. Taylor Kirk
- 6. Michael McQuitty 🇮🇪 (46')
- 21. Scott Gault
- 7. Joe McWilliams 🇮🇪 (72')
- 14. Joe Tully 🇮🇪 (54') 🇮🇪 (78')

Carrick Rangers: Hogg, Chapman, Neale, Surgenor, Rodgers, Loughran, McMillen, McDermott, Anderson, Nixon, Smith. Subs: McDowell, Brennan, Murray, Gage, Warwick.

Comrades fell to a disappointing defeat to at Carrick Rangers, in a game where they never really got going.

For this match Comrades were missing influential captain JB Dobbin, who picked up an injury the previous weekend. This added to other injury absentees, Gary Brown and Gary Donnelly.

The home side started strongly and play was largely towards the Comrades goal in the early stages. However, the visitors defence, although stretched at times, were able to keep Carrick largely at bay. However, in the 19th minute, Smith might have done better with a first-time effort from 15 yards, after being picked out by a low ball across the box, but his effort flew over the bar.

Seconds later, at the other end, Comrades threatened for the first time, Jason Johnston firing in a shot from just outside the right side of the box, which was deflected just wide. From the resulting corner the ball was played out to Samuel

McIlveen, who fired the ball back towards goal. It broke to Dean Youle whose shot from 12 yards was well saved by Hogg.

Play at was now fairly evenly balanced, with Comrades more in the game. In the 33rd minute Hogg again had to be alert, when a free-kick played into the box by Christopher Crane the ball broke towards Jason Johnston, who got his foot to the ball just before the 'keeper but was denied by a good block.

The latter stages of the half saw Carrick reassert their early dominance. In the 39th minute, Smith ran from the halfway line, surging past the Comrades defence, but having got himself into a great position his resulting effort was weakly hit at Kyle Rowe from 7 yards.

A minute into first half injury-time the home side grabbed a deserved lead. Loughran chipped the ball into the box, where ex-Comrades man Nixon was there to get his foot to it and send it wide of Kyle Rowe from 8 yards.

Carrick emerged for the second half, buoyed by taking the lead just before the break. They continued to look much the more threatening side. In the 50th minute Nixon might have doubled his tally, when he was played through, but his fierce shot from 12 yards hit the side netting.

Comrades were struggling to create anything. On 56 minutes Jamie Willighan latched on to a header from Joe Tully and ran forward to get in a shot from just outside the box, which Hogg was able to grab low inside his post. Apart from that there was very little to worry the Carrick 'keeper for much of the second half.

The home side continued to win most of the 50/50 challenges and looked much more powerful than the listless visitors. In the 66th minute Adam Gray had to clear the ball off the line, after Smith got in a header at the back post from a corner.

On 70 minutes Carrick doubled their lead. Neale ran onto a through ball to fire in a shot from 16 yards, which Kyle Rowe blocked, but Neale was able to fire the loose ball in at the second attempt.

In the 79th minute dominant Carrick nearly got a third, when Smith once again powered past the visitors' defence, only to see his effort from the angle of the 6-yard box blocked by Rowe.

Comrades never looked capable of making a comeback and ended the game a well-beaten team.