



## Coleraine 2-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – Bet McLean League Cup (Second Round)

### Ballyclare Comrades team (4-1-4-1)

- 19. Kyle Rowe
- 6. Michael McQuitty
- 5. Adam Wright
- 23. Dean Youle
- 11. Adam Gray
- 8. JB Dobbin
- 22. Gary Brown 🚩 (53')
- 24. Gary Donnelly 🟦 (18') 🟡 (46') 🚩 (70')
- 12. Jason Johnston 🟡 (58')
- 17. Thomas Robinson
- 16. Jamie Willighan 🚩 (80')

### Substitutes:

- 2. Curtis Woods
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🟢 (70')
- 10. Eoin Kane 🟢 (53')
- 7. Joe McWilliams
- 20. Taylor Kirk
- 9. Chris Trussell
- 14. Joe Tully 🟢 (80')

**Coleraine:** Johns, Harkin, Lyons, McCauley, Lowry, Carson, Crown, McConaghie, O'Donnell, McConaghie, O'Donnell, Traynor, McGonigle. Subs: Doherty, Mullan, Douglas, Bradley, Parkhill, Gawne.

Comrades produced a great battling performance at Coleraine, only to suffer the anguish of losing to an injury-time goal.

For this match, manager Stephen Hughes had to do without the unavailable Christopher Crane. Adam Gray came into the side at left-back for his first game after a lengthy spell out with injury. Michael McQuitty came in to start at right-back, with Curtis Woods, having picked up a slight injury in the previous game, only fit enough for a place on the bench.

Unsurprisingly, it was the home side who set the pace early on, but without unduly troubling the Comrades defence. The visitors then quickly grew in confidence and began to increasingly venture forward themselves.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> minute the home crowd were stunned as Comrades took a shock lead. A corner was played into the box and caused panic, with 'keeper Johns having to parry the ball out after a melee. Gary Donnelly was the quickest to react to the loose ball, stabbing it into the net from 5 yards.

The visitors had their tails up and were causing Coleraine problems. In the 25<sup>th</sup> minute, Jamie Willighan, with his back to goal at the edge of the box, collected a ball played in by Michael McQuitty, before turning and firing in a shot which forced a decent save from Johns.

A minute later, Thomas Robinson burst through and looked set to test the 'keeper, only to see his shot from just inside the box blocked by defender McConaghie.

Despite having a lot of attacking possession, the home side had failed to really trouble the Comrades goal, but that changed in the 28<sup>th</sup> minute, when they levelled the scores. McGonigle let fly from 25 yards and his shot eluded Kyle Rowe, who looked to have it covered.

Almost immediately from the restart Coleraine threatened again. McGonigle was set free by a good through ball, but with the 'keeper advancing to meet him he shot just wide of the target from 16 yards.

The home side continued to press for the rest of the first half, but Comrades kept them at bay reasonably comfortably.

The second half started with a period of sustained pressure from Coleraine. In the 51<sup>st</sup> minute O'Donnell got in a good downward header from a corner, which Kyle Rowe did very well to turn past the post.

Comrades had to defend very well during this time to keep the scores level and they achieved this. They then started to get into the game again in an attacking sense.

However, around this time, in the 61<sup>st</sup> minute, the home side broke quickly forward and a speculative shot from distance struck by McCauley took a large deflection and came off the post.

Comrades continued to attack with purpose when the opportunity arose. In the 68<sup>th</sup> minute they came close, when Dean Youle got on the end of a corner and saw his header from the edge of the 6-yard box cleared off the line by Carson.

Then, in the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute, substitute Samuel McIlveen saw his well struck low free-kick from 35 yards kept out by a good save from Johns.

Seconds later, at the other end, a swift break forward ended with McGonigle sending a perfect cross into the box for Bradley, but he blasted wastefully over from a great position 6 yards out.

Coleraine now began to step up the pressure again and on 74 minutes they had an opportunity, when a Carson cross found McCauley at the far post, but he headed over from 4 yards. Then, a minute later, Bradley was played through on goal, but his attempt to lob Kyle Rowe was gathered comfortably by the Comrades 'keeper.

On 77 minutes, Rowe, continuing his impressive second half performance, blocked superbly from Bradley in a one-on-one situation. He then repeated this moments later, when Lyons looked set to score in a similar situation.

As time ticked on it looked as if Comrades were going to take the game to extra-time, but they were to be hit with a very late goal. Three minutes into injury-time, Parkhill collected the ball on the edge of the box and curled a great finish past the unsuspected 'keeper, to send his team into the next round.

Despite the disappointment of conceding this very late goal, Comrades travelling supporters were delighted with the team's display and applauded them off the pitch at the end of the game.