



Ballyclare Comrades 2-2 Dergview

Saturday 8th December 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Match Sponsor: Abbey Real Estate

Ball Sponsor: The Mortgage Shop, Ballyclare

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-4-2)

- 19. Ben Fry
- 22. Gary Brown 🇮🇪 (66')
- 2. Curtis Woods
- 5. Adam Wright
- 11. Adam Gray 🇮🇪 (72')
- 7. Joe McWilliams
- 10. Eoin Kane 🇮🇪 (80')
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🇮🇪 (86')
- 17. Thomas Robinson
- 9. Chris Trussell
- 16. Jamie Willighan 🇮🇪 (26') 🇮🇪 (31') 🇮🇪 (90+1')

Substitutes:

- 20. Taylor Kirk
- 8. JB Dobbin 🇮🇪 (66')
- 24. Gary Donnelly
- 14. Joe Tully

Dergview: Hegan, Crawford, Maxwell, Buchanan, Burns, Falconer, Callaghan, Smith, Sproule, Kirk, Wallace. Subs: Logue, McGlynn, G Doherty, A Doherty.

Comrades dropped vital points in their quest for a top six position at the split, when they could only draw at home to bottom of the table Dergview.

Stephen Hughes had to deal with more problems at the back, with Christopher Crane out with a shoulder injury, adding to other absentees. However, he could welcome back Adam Wright from suspension. Thomas Robinson also returned to the side.

After a quiet start to the game it was the visitors who threatened first, when in the 10th minute Falconer made space for a shot from the edge of the box, but 'keeper Ben Fry was well-placed to save.

Three minutes later Dergview were unfortunate not to take the lead, when a low ball into the box was met first-time by Sproule, whose effort from 12 yards came back off the bar.

The first goal of the game came in the 23rd minute, when Smith got to a through ball at the right edge of the box before the out-rushing Fry and finished well into the unguarded net.

Comrades, who had been rather subdued until then, reacted well to conceding. On 25 minutes, Dergview 'keeper Hegan had to make a good save to turn a 30-yard Samuel McIlveen free-kick wide of his post. From the resulting corner the ball was only cleared out to Gary Brown, who played it back into the box, where Jamie Willighan got his head to it, his effort going out of the reach of the 'keeper and into the net from 9 yards.

Comrades now looked dangerous and on the half hour Joe McWilliams saw a goal-bound effort from 13 yards cleared in front of the line by a defender, after the ball had broke to him from a corner.

A minute later the home side hit the front. A corner, played in by Samuel McIlveen, caused panic in the box and Jamie Willighan was able to bundle the ball into the net from inside the 6-yard box.

The second half started in scrappy fashion, as the weather deteriorated, and the rain blew in. There was little to trouble either 'keeper until the 69th minute when Hegan got his positioning right to save from a McIlveen free-kick, struck from just outside the angle of the box.

The visitors had gained a good portion of possession in the half and were beginning to look more threatening when they grabbed an equaliser. Comrades conceded a free-kick 20 yards from goal on 74 minutes and Smith stepped up to fire an excellent effort into the top corner of the net.

Six minutes later a quick break forward by the visitors saw them get behind the home defence and only a trip by Eoin Kane prevented Smith getting through on goal. Kane was sent-off for denying a goal scoring opportunity and Smith stepped up to hit a free-kick from just outside the box which rattled the crossbar.

The dangerous Smith almost got his name on the scoresheet again on 84 minutes, when his cross-shot from just outside the box on the left came off the top of the bar.

