



Ballyclare Comrades 3-3 Dundela

Saturday 13th October 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

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

- 19. Kyle Rowe
- 6. Michael McQuitty
- 5. Adam Wright 🟦 (52')
- 23. Dean Youle
- 3. Christopher Crane
- 17. Thomas Robinson
- 4. Samuel McIlveen
- 10. Eoin Kane 🟡 (36')
- 11. Adam Gray 🟦 (32')
- 24. Gary Donnelly 🟥 (86')
- 14. Joe Tully 🟥

Substitutes:

- 21. Scott Gault
- 20. Taylor Kirk
- 7. Joe McWilliams
- 9. Chris Trussell
- 16. Jamie Willighan 🟢 (86')

Dundela: McBride, King, Parker, Hanley, Magee, Murdock, McMaster, Beggs, Hughes, Nimick, Bingham. Subs: McComb, Burns, Devine, Watts, Sergeant.

Comrades had to be content with a point from an entertaining encounter, after a late Dundela comeback at a wet Dixon Park.

For this match the home team had to do without captain JB Dobbin, adding to a growing injury list. Samuel McIlveen came in for a place in midfield.

There was an action-packed start to the game. In the 4th minute Thomas Robinson made space for a shot from 14 yards, which warmed the hands of 'keeper McBride. However, seconds later, Dundela broke upfield and the ball was played into the box to dangerous striker Hughes, who made no mistake with a cool finish from 10 yards.

A minute later Comrades had a great chance to quickly equalise. Thomas Robinson got into a great position 8 yards out, but his effort was kept out by a fine save from the advancing 'keeper.

The play settled down a bit after that, with both defences clearing their heads and play was evenly balanced.

The next goal came on 32 minutes and it was a deserved equaliser for the home side. Adam Gray produced a forceful run down the middle, breaking through a tackle before, releasing a low strike from 15 yards which found the back of the net.

Comrades ended the half perhaps looking the more dangerous side and went in at half time on the up. This continued at the start of the second half and seven minutes in they took the lead. In the 52nd minute a corner was won and played into the back-post area by Samuel McIlveen, finding the head of Adam Wright, whose downward effort from 5 yards gave the 'keeper little chance.

Two minutes later the visitors came close to restoring parity, when Bingham headed against the angle of bar and post from a corner. Then, on 61 minutes, Kyle Rowe had to pull off a good save from a Murdock header, as Dundela again posed a threat from a corner.

At the other end, Comrades were also looking potent. On 64 minutes they went 3-1 up. Thomas Robinson got free on the right side of the box, before skipping past the out-rushing keeper and then firing the ball across the goal, where defender and former Comrades man Matty Parker could only knock it into his own net in trying to prevent Joe Tully from scoring. The visitors weren't finished however and on 74 minutes Hughes reduced the deficit, finishing with ease after being picked out by a good pass into the box.

On 80 minutes Comrades came close to restoring a two-goal lead, when a free-kick struck by Joe Tully from 20 yards went inches wide.

The visitors pressed forward and they had a good chance to level the scores on 83 minutes, when Murdock couldn't find the unguarded net from 12 yards, after Kyle Rowe had spilled a high ball under pressure.

However, Dundela completed their comeback in the 86th minute. Lethal striker Hughes was again the man on the spot, heading in from 7 yards from a corner to get his hat-trick.