



## Dundela 2-4 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

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

1. Ben Fry
22. Gary Brown
2. Curtis Woods
5. Adam Wright 🟡 (80')
3. Christopher Crane
10. Eoin Kane 🟡 (83')
8. JB Dobbin 🟡 (72')
16. Jamie Willighan 🟡 (78')
24. Gary Donnelly 🟡 (59')
11. Adam Gray
14. Joe Tully 🟡 (72')

### Substitutes:

20. Taylor Kirk
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟢 (59') 🟡 (90+2')
7. Joe McWilliams
17. Thomas Robinson 🟢 (72')
9. Chris Trussell 🟢 (72') 🟡 (76')

**Dundela:** McBride, King, Brown, Hanley, Magee, Morrison, McMaster, Murray, McComb, Watts, Bingham. Subs: Nimick, Parker, Murdock, Browne, McClelland.

Comrades produced a scintillating late comeback to secure a much-needed win and end a poor run of results.

Manager Stephen Hughes made some changes to the starting line-up. 17-year old Ben Fry came in for the unavailable Paddy Flood in goals. JB Dobbin, Joe Tully and Christopher Crane also came in, with Thomas Robinson, Joe McWilliams and Jason Johnston dropping out.

The early stages of the game were fairly evenly balanced, but the first chance fell to the home side on 10 minutes. Watts turned neatly at the edge of the box and got in a strike, but Adam Wright got close enough to him to ensure the effort was deflected just wide of the target.

In 20<sup>th</sup> minute Adam Gray produced a good run into the box but, having got himself into a dangerous position, his resulting shot was a disappointment and failed to trouble the Dundela 'keeper.

Two minutes later, the home side struck the front. A neat one-two opened up the Comrades back line and set Bingham free. He then made no mistake, firing an accurate finish from the edge of the box wide of Fry and inside the far post. Comrades tried to react to this setback, but lacked penetration going forward. At the other end, their vulnerability was exposed on 37 minutes, when Dundela scored their second goal. A cross into the box saw McComb his get his head to the ball far too easily and he powered a good finish into the net from 9 yards.

Comrades had been guilty of overplaying when they got into decent positions, where a shot might have been a better option. This was the case in the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute, when Gary Donnelly got himself into a very good position, running with the ball in the box, but rather than shooting he attempted to round the 'keeper, allowing a defender to get back and take the ball away.

The second half started with few chances for either side. Comrades had a good percentage of the possession, as indeed they had in the first half, but were struggling to create much. However, the visitors kept plugging away and, as the half progressed, they started to look more threatening.

On 65 minutes a good surging run from Christopher Crane was brought to end by a tackle just outside the box. The loose ball broke to Eoin Kane, who got in a strike on target, but McBride was well placed to save comfortably.

Three minutes later, Adam Gray hit a strike from just outside the box which looked on target, only to be headed away in front of the goal-line by a defender.

At the other end Comrades were grateful to Ben Fry for keeping them in the game with a fine save in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute. McClelland got in a good shot from 20 yards, which looked bound for the bottom corner of the net, only for the young 'keeper to dive and turn the ball past the post at full-stretch. However, Comrades were fortunate from the resulting corner when Magee got his head to the ball and rattled the angle of bar and post with a powerful effort.

Comrades introduced substitutes Chris Trussell and Thomas Robinson, to add to the earlier introduction of Samuel McIlveen and all three were to play a major part in a superb turn around.

On 76 minutes, four minutes after coming on, Trussell and Robinson linked up to pull a goal back. Robinson got in on the right side of the box and played the ball in for Trussell, who drilled an unstoppable volley past the 'keeper from 7 yards.

Two minutes later, Comrades were on level terms. Samuel McIlveen flighted in a dangerous corner and Jamie Willighan got his head to the ball at the far post to score from close range.

The visiting supporters were delirious, and their joy was increased on 83 minutes when their team incredibly took the lead. Chris Trussell ran at the home defence and got free at the edge of the box, before playing the ball in to Eoin Kane, who beautifully finished the chance with a low finish from 13 yards.

The home side tried to react, but Comrades showed the grit to keep them at bay. Indeed, the visitors sealed a great victory two minutes into injury-time with a fourth goal. Adam Gray made a great mazy run into the box and caused panic in the Dundela defence, where a defender stumbled and handled the ball on the ground. A penalty was awarded and McIlveen stepped up to put the destination of the points beyond doubt with a cool finish.