



Ballyclare Comrades 0-2 H&W Welders

Saturday 24th November 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Match Sponsor: Terry Coulter Cars

Ball Sponsor: Fleming Chemist

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
5. Adam Wright
12. Jason Johnston
11. Adam Gray
10. Eoin Kane
24. Gary Donnelly
7. Joe McWilliams 📌 (86')
22. Gary Brown
17. Thomas Robinson 📌 (65')
16. Jamie Willighan

Substitutes:

3. Christopher Crane
20. Taylor Kirk
4. Samuel McIlveen
9. Chris Trussell 📌 (86')
14. Joe Tully 📌 (65')

H&W Welders: Brown, McMillan, Armstrong, Harris, Spence, Dornan, Davidson, Morrow, Graham, Arthurs, Deans. Subs: Gwiazda, O'Mahony, McIlmail, Rainey, Whittle.

Comrades' poor run of form continued with a dispiriting defeat at home to H&W Welders.

There were a number of changes made to the home line-up for this game, with Paddy Flood, Adam Wright, Gary Donnelly, Joe McWilliams and Jamie Willighan coming in. JB Dobbin missed out with injury.

The early stages of the match were rather subdued, with both sides probing, but unable to create any chances.

The first opportunity came in the 21st minute and it was a golden one for the visitors. A dangerous ball was played in low across the 6-yards box, where Deans arrived with

the seemingly simple task of tapping into the empty net, but somehow he managed to side foot the ball into the arms of 'keeper Paddy Flood.

Welders had the next notable attempt on goal in the 35th minute. A good cross in from Davidson found the head of Arthurs 8 yards from goal, but his effort was kept out by Flood who tipped the ball over the bar.

Comrades had shown some neat build up play, but with little end result, meaning Brown in the visitors' goal was untested.

The home side did step it up a little towards the end of the half. In the 39th minute, Gary Donnelly made space for a shot from just inside the box, but his effort was blocked by a defender. Then, a minute later, Joe McWilliams had a shot from the edge of the area, which flew a couple of yards wide of the target.

Comrades came out fast at the start of the second half and inside the first minute Jamie Willighan got into a great position in the box before firing in a shot from 8 yards, which Brown did well to parry out. The loose ball found its way to Eoin Kane, who made space for an effort from 10 yards, which he couldn't get on target.

It wasn't long however, before Welders threatened again. In the 50th minute a cross to the far post was taken down well by Davidson, but Paddy Flood was quick to react to block his effort from inside the 6-yard box.

A minute later the visitors opened the scoring. A ball played through over the Comrades defence set Davidson clear and he lobbed the ball over the advancing 'keeper and into the net from the edge of the box.

Following this, the game fell into a spell with not a lot happening around the box. The home side certainly didn't create much to get them back on level terms until late in the game. On 80 minutes a Joe McWilliams corner was met by an Adam Wright header from 5 yards, but the ball was bundled off the line by a defender. Then, two minutes later, Gary Donnelly fired a good effort in from 12 yards from the right side of the box, but the ball took a deflection off a defender's leg and went wide of the far post.

Three minutes into injury-time any doubts as to the destination of the points were put to bed, when an under-hit back-pass from Jason Johnston let Gwiazda in and he made no mistake, firing the ball wide of Paddy Flood from 9 yards.