



Knockbreda 2-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 20th April 2019 – Bluefin Sport Championship

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

- 19. Jack Hazard
- 15. Andy Long
- 2. Curtis Woods
- 6. Michael McQuitty ⚽ (40')
- 3. Christopher Crane 🟡 (50')
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🟡 (74') 🚩 (74')
- 24. Gary Donnelly
- 7. Tom Patchett
- 10. Eoin Kane
- 11. Adam Gray 🚩 (72')
- 16. Jamie Willighan 🚩 (74')

Substitutes:

- 18. Chris Getty
- 8. JB Dobbin 🟢 (74')
- 17. Thomas Robinson 🟢 (74')
- 14. Joe Tully 🟢 (66')

Knockbreda: Windrum, Hamill, Burns, Rice, Brennan, Culbert, Fearon, Shaw, Roohi, Dobbin, Cafolla. Subs: Smyth, Gilmour, Newberry, McNulty, McVeigh.

Comrades' penultimate Championship match of the 2018/19 season ended with defeat in a closely fought encounter away to Knockbreda.

Manager Stephen Hughes made some changes to the side beaten by Dergview the previous Saturday. Andy Long was available again and returned at right back.

Christopher Crane and Gary Donnelly were also recalled to the starting line-up and teenager Tom Patchett was given his first start. Gary Brown was unavailable, whilst Chris Getty, JB Dobbin and Thomas Robinson dropped to the bench.

The game, played in pleasant spring sunshine, started off with both sides showing good attacking intent. In the 7th minute Comrades had an opportunity, when Jamie Willighan got in behind the home defence, but in attempting to take the ball around the 'keeper he took it too wide and the chance was gone.

Knockbreda then looked the more dangerous side for a 20-minute spell. In the 12th minute Roohi struck a firm shot from the edge of the box, but Jack Hazard was well placed to save. Then, three minutes later, a good turn and shot on the right side of

the box from Ciaran Dobbin, forced a fine save from Hazard, who tipped the ball over the bar.

The home side then had a chance on 27 minutes, when the ball broke towards Hamill from a corner, but his attempt at a volley from 9 yards was thwarted by a vital block by Samuel McIlveen.

Around the half hour mark, Comrades began to come more into the game. In the 36th minute, they produced the best chance so far. Christopher Crane surged forward and into the box, where he played a one-two with Adam Gray, which put him in for a chance from just inside the 6-yard box, but his effort was well blocked by 'keeper Windrum.

The opening goal came on 39 minutes for the home side, just as it looked as if Comrades were getting on top. The ball wasn't cleared, allowing it to find Fearon, who finished low past Hazard from 16 yards.

The visitors reacted immediately and were level a minute later. With the men in red pressing forward, Curtis Woods put a dangerous low ball into the box, where it broke to Michael McQuitty, who finished from 7 yards.

The sides went in level at the break, with Comrades having finished the half the stronger, but it was the home side who started the second half on the front foot. In the 54th minute Roohi got in position to fire off a shot from 18 yards, forcing Jack Hazard to make a smart save.

However, Comrades soon began to look the more dangerous side again, with a series of threatening thrusts forward. In the 60th minute they were denied by a wonder save from Windrum. Tom Patchett met a cross from Christopher Crane at the far post and looked to be set to volley the ball into the roof of the net from 5 yards, but somehow the 'keeper managed to turn the ball over the bar.

On 62 minutes Christopher Crane, with another dynamic break forward, got into the box and struck a shot from 7 yards, which was only kept out by a block by a defender, which diverted the ball just wide of the post. From the resulting corner, Michael McQuitty got his head to the ball and sent a downward header goalward from 6 yards, but the impressive Windrum did well to save on his line.

Comrades' dominance began to wane a little later in the half and the home side came back into it. In the 75th minute Newberry played a great ball to Brennan in space on the left side of the box and his attempt to find the far corner of the net with a first-time effort went just wide of the post.

What was to prove the winning goal came on 85 minutes for Knockbreda. Roohi hit a dangerous low ball into the box, where it broke to Fearon who fired into the net from 8 yards