



Limavady United 0-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 6th April 2019 – Bluefin Sport Championship

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

- 19. Jack Hazard
- 15. Andy Long
- 2. Curtis Woods
- 6. Michael McQuitty
- 11. Adam Gray
- 4. Samuel McIlveen
- 8. JB Dobbin 🚩 (58')
- 22. Gary Brown 🚩 (72')
- 10. Eoin Kane
- 17. Thomas Robinson 🚩 (88')
- 14. Joe Tully 🚩 (78')

Substitutes:

- 18. Chris Getty
- 3. Christopher Crane
- 21. Isiah Close 🟢 (78')
- 7. Tom Patchett 🟢 (72')
- 16. Jamie Willighan 🟢 (58')

Limavady United: Wells, Harkin, Gareth McFadden, Carlin, Friars, Devine, Logue, McCauley, Gary McFadden, Doherty, Pomeroy. Subs: Brown, Duffy, Boyle, Baldrick, McCreadie.

Comrades secured a narrow victory with a late goal at Limavady in an evenly contested game.

Manager Stephen Hughes made some changes to the team after a disappointing performance in the last match. Gary Brown was fit again and came back into the side. Michael McQuitty, Samuel McIlveen and Joe Tully also started, with Adam Wright, Christopher Crane, Gary Donnelly and Jamie Willighan dropping out.

There was a lot of enterprise by both sides, but little in the way of chances in the first quarter of the game. The first serious threat on goal came in the 25th minute, when Joe Tully's well-struck free-kick from 20 yards was turned away by 'keeper Wells. The first half continue to ebb and flow with little action in the goalmouth. However, near the end the home side came close twice in quick succession.

In the 42nd a corner played to the far post saw the ball headed against the bar by Friars. Then, a minute later, another corner saw Pomeroy's header from 6 yards headed off the line by Andy Long.

A minute into first-half injury-time Thomas Robinson's persistence in the box set up a decent chance for Joe Tully, but he snatched his effort and it flew well over the bar from 7 yards.

The second half continued the evenly balanced pattern of the first with neither side able to sustain a significant period in the ascendancy.

The first chance of the half was a very good one and it fell to Comrades. On 54 minutes a long ball played over Limavady defence set Gary Brown free to run into the box, but he steered his resulting effort wide of the near post from 12 yards.

Three minutes later the home side threatened, when Logue got in a low strike from 16 yards out on the right side of the box, which Jack Hazard did well to save.

Defences remained largely on top, but on 78 minutes Wells in the Limavady goal was forced to tip a well-struck shot from Thomas Robinson over the bar, after the winger had run across the box and made space for an effort from 15 yards.

Comrades had introduced two teenage debutants in Tom Patchett and Isiah Close during the second half and the two youngsters gave a good account of themselves.

However, it was a more established name who made the vital difference in the game. On 88 minutes, Thomas Robinson cut in from the left and fired a great low finish with pinpoint accuracy into the far bottom corner of the net from 14 yards out.

A minute into injury-time it took a fine save from Jack Hazard to preserve Comrades' lead, when he managed to turn the ball wide after a well hit McCauley free-kick was fired in from 30 yards out.