



Ballyclare Comrades 4-1 Limavady United

Saturday 9th February 2019 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Match Sponsor: Dennison Commercials Ltd, Ballyclare

Match Sponsor: Metal Technology, Steeple Road Industrial Estate, Antrim

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

- 19. Jack Hazard 🟡 (72')
- 2. Curtis Woods
- 5. Adam Wright 🟡 (57') 🔴 (68')
- 23. Dean Youle
- 3. Christopher Crane
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🟡 (90+2')
- 17. Thomas Robinson 🔴 (81')
- 24. Gary Donnelly 🟡 (62') 🔴 (84')
- 8. JB Dobbin
- 11. Adam Gray 🟡 (8')
- 16. Jamie Willighan

Substitutes:

- 18. Chris Getty
- 6. Michael McQuitty 🟢 (68')
- 15. Andy Long 🟢 (84')
- 9. Chris Trussell 🟢 (81') 🟡 (82')
- 14. Joe Tully

Limavady United: Wells, McCauley, Boyle, McClean, Harkin, McCallion, Logue, Gary McFadden, McCarron, Duffy, Doherty. Subs: Brown, Devine, McCreadie, Gareth McFadden, Pomeroy.

Comrades ended up comfortable winners over Limavady, after getting on top in the last half hour of the game.

Manager Stephen Hughes had to make a couple of changes to his starting line-up for this contest. Both Gary Brown (work commitments) and Eoin Kane (injury) were unavailable, so into the team came JB Dobbin and Thomas Robinson.

The match started badly for the home side, as Limavady hit the front inside three minutes. Comrades failed to defend a corner effectively and Sean McCarron got on the end of a knockdown, before striking the ball in from 8 yards.

The visitors' lead didn't last long and five minutes later the scores were level. Adam Gray picked the ball up in a central position and ran forward before unleashing an unstoppable shot from 22 yards past the helpless 'keeper.

In the 16th minute Comrades had a chance to take the lead, when Thomas Robinson played in JB Dobbin, who had run into the box. However, he couldn't lift the ball over the advancing 'keeper from just outside the 6-yard box.

The home side failed to keep the momentum going in the remainder of the first half and it was Limavady who looked the more likely to score. In the 37th minute, Jack Hazard had to be well-placed to save from a McCarron effort, hit from the edge of the box, and there were other occasions where the visitors got into dangerous positions, without managing to get a shot on target.

The second half started with a decent effort from Comrades, as Adam Gray fired in a shot from 20 yards, but Wells was in the right place to save.

Play was evenly balanced in the early stages of the half and on 54 minutes it was the visitors who threatened, when Gary McFadden shot from 22 yards, his effort going just wide, with Hazard scrambling across his goal.

In the 57th minute tempers flared after a foul on Adam Gray, but the referee kept his red card in his pocket and dealt with the incident with a few yellow cards handed out. Comrades appeared more fired up after this and it wasn't long before they took the lead. In the 62nd minute the ball fell to Gary Donnelly at the edge of the box and he then produced a sublime finish, lobbing over the 'keeper and under the bar.

Two minutes later Donnelly might have double the lead, when he got into a great position inside the 6-yards box, but his attempt to beat the 'keeper at the near post was blocked.

The home side were now on top and in the 72nd minute they should have stretched their lead. Some lovely foot work at the edge of the box from Gary Donnelly allowed him space to play the ball to Adam Gray in a great position 9 yards from goal, but uncharacteristically he hit his effort well over the bar with only the 'keeper to beat. Three minutes later, the home side were reminded of the precarious nature of their lead, when it took a good save from Jack Hazard to prevent McCarron from equalising, with an effort hit from 13 yards.

In the 82nd minute, Comrades were given some breathing space with a third goal. Good play from Gary Donnelly set up Samuel McIlveen for a well hit strike from the edge of the box. Wells managed to save this effort, but the ball rebounded out to recently introduced substitute Chris Trussell and he made no mistake, blasting the ball past the 'keeper and into the net from 8 yards.

Two minutes into injury-time and with virtually the last kick of the game, Comrades added to the margin of victory. A bad mistake in their own box by the Limavady defence presented a chance to Samuel McIlveen and he took it with aplomb, burying a shot into the net from 14 yards.