



PSNI 1-4 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 11th August 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-5-1)

- 19. Kyle Rowe
- 2. Curtis Woods 🟦 (53')
- 18. Adam Wright 🟦 (89')
- 23. Dean Youle
- 3. Christopher Crane
- 22. Gary Brown
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🟡 (79')
- 24. Gary Donnelly
- 10. Eoin Kane 🟦 (11')
- 17. Thomas Robinson 🟡 (83')
- 9. Chris Trussell 🟡 (81')

Substitutes:

- 5. Chris Rodgers
- 6. Michael McQuitty
- 8. JB Dobbin 🟢 (79')
- 12. Jason Johnston 🟢 (81') 🟦 (82')
- 7. Joe McWilliams 🟢 (83')

PSNI: Williamson, Ferguson, McCune, McCrory, Simpson, Clarke, D Wilson, Hutchinson, Tumelty, Malone, Moody. Subs: Adamczyk, J Wilson, Anderson, Berry, Montgomery.

Comrades opened their Championship campaign with a convincing and deserved win at PSNI.

Stephen Hughes was able to field a very strong side, with new signing from Cliftonville, Christopher Crane, making an immediate debut at left-back.

Captain, JB Dobbin was on the bench, having just returned from a minor injury picked up in pre-season.

The visitors started very brightly, penning PSNI back into their own half with some sharp attacking play. However, very much against the run of play, it was the home side who opened the scoring in the 10th minute. A free-kick was conceded 25 yards out and Malone stepped up to hit a great strike over the wall and in off the post. Comrades' response was immediate and a minute later they were back on level terms. Thomas Robinson got to the by-line inside the box and pulled the ball back to Eoin Kane, who rifled a great first time shot high into the net from 8 yards.

The men in red continued to dominate and they almost took the lead on 14 minutes when Robinson and Kane again linked up. This time Robinson's teasing ball played across the box was met by Kane sliding in 6 yards out. However, keeper Williamson, made a great save with his leg to send the ball wide of the target.

A minute later the excellent Kane had another decent effort, when the ball broke to him from a corner and he sent a firm shot just wide from 10 yards.

The home side were floundering at times dealing with Comrades' scintillating attacking play. In the 18th minute they were again grateful for a fine save from Williamson, who managed to keep out a fierce shot from Thomas Robinson, struck from the right side of the 6-yard box, after the dangerous winger had been played in by Gary Donnelly.

Although the visitors continued to look the more likely side, there were less openings created in the latter part of the first half, although a minute into injury-time Chris Trussell saw a shot through a crowded box from 10 yards deflected just wide of the post.

Comrades supporters will have felt their side deserved to go in at half time with a lead, but they were to be delighted with a second half which saw continued dominance converted into goals.

In the 53rd minute a superb bit of overlapping full-back play from Curtis Woods saw him surge into the box from the right and fire an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net from 9 yards.

Comrades were largely comfortable at the back, with the PSNI threat almost exclusively coming from Malone's excellent free-kicks. In the 63rd minute Kyle Rowe had to be alert to keep out a powerfully driven effort from 30 yards, struck by the set-piece specialist.

The visitors continued to look more likely to score and on 65 minutes, it took a clearance from in front of the goal-line to keep out a Dean Youle header from a corner.

On 71 minutes Kyle Rowe was again impressive in making a good save from an 8-yard Tumelty header, after a corner.

In the 82nd minute Comrades deservedly opened up a two-goal advantage.

Jason Johnston, with possibly his first touch after coming on as a substitute, calmly slotted the ball home from a central position 7 yards out, after good set up play involving Curtis Woods and Gary Donnelly.

Five minutes later Johnston could have had a second goal when he ran free onto a through ball, but his attempt to knock the ball over the advancing keeper from 7 yards saw it go just over the bar.

The travelling support didn't have to wait long to celebrate again, when in the 89th minute Adam Wright got on the end of a corner, powering a downward header in from a tight angle at the far post.

The game was won, but a minute into injury-time Kyle Rowe produced a wonderful acrobatic save to tip the ball over the bar from another beautifully struck Malone free-kick.