



## Ballyclare Comrades 1-3 PSNI

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Match Sponsor: Ballyclare Radiators Services

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

- 19. Jack Hazard
- 15. Andy Long 🏴 (67')
- 2. Curtis Woods
- 6. Michael McQuitty
- 3. Christopher Crane
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🏴 (75')
- 24. Gary Donnelly
- 7. Tom Patchett 🏴 (80')
- 10. Eoin Kane 🏴 (41')
- 11. Adam Gray
- 16. Joe Tully

### Substitutes:

- 18. Chris Getty 🏴 (67')
- 20. Taylor Kirk
- 8. JB Dobbin 🏴 (75')
- 17. Thomas Robinson
- 16. Jamie Willighan 🏴 (80')

**PSNI:** McCauley, Ferguson, Riddle, Crawford, Simpson, Moody, Wilson, O'Neill, Cochrane, Anderson, Tumelty. Subs: Stewart, Spence, Moore, Elliott.

Comrades' disappointing season ended with a Jekyll and Hyde performance and defeat to relegation threatened PSNI.

With new assistant manager Paul Harbinson and coach Gareth Moody on the touchline for the first time, manager Stephen Hughes made one change to his starting line-up, with Joe Tully replacing Jamie Willighan up front.

The first effort on goal came in the 7<sup>th</sup> minute, when the visitors got a free-kick 22 yards from goal and Anderson struck it well, forcing Jack Hazard to turn the ball over the bar.

Comrades gradually began to get a degree of control over possession, knocking the ball around well and making some dangerous thrusts forward. However, they were limited to speculative efforts from outside the box, until the 35<sup>th</sup> minute when they created the best opening of the game so far. Adam Gray, who was a constant thorn

in the side of the visitors during the first half, produced a dangerous run into the box, where he played a one-two with Joe Tully and was only denied by a good save from McCauley, who managed to divert Gray's effort from 8 yards over the bar. On 41 minutes Comrades got the goal they deserved at that stage, when Adam Gray again surged into the box and the ball broke to Eoin Kane, who fired it into the net from 7 yards.

A minute later, McCauley was called into action when Joe Tully whipped in a dangerous cross-shot from the left and the 'keeper was forced to acrobatically turn the ball over the bar.

The home supporters would have been happy with the performance of their team in the first half, but they were to be severely disappointed in the second period. PSNI, needing something from the game to avoid automatic relegation, came out on the front foot and Comrades defensive frailties, apparent throughout the season, emerged again.

The visitors got back on level term on 58 minutes. They were awarded a free-kick a couple of yards outside the box and Tumelty stepped up to fire the ball wide of the wall and low past Jack Hazard.

In the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute Comrades came close to restoring their lead, when Adam Gray again got into the penalty area and fired a dangerous ball into the 6 yards box, which was somehow deflected just over the bar off a defender's leg.

Two minutes later, there was a goal at the other end. Comrades gifted the ball to the visitors inside their own half and this allowed Anderson to get into space on the right side of the box, where he was able to play the ball wide of the 'keeper and find Moody at the far post, who was left with a simple finish.

Comrades had a chance to equalise on 66 minutes when a free-kick, played into the box by Samuel McIlveen, found the head of Michael McQuitty, but his effort from 9 yards was saved by the well-placed McCauley.

PSNI increased their lead on 73 minutes and again it was far too easy from a Comrades perspective. A corner was played into the box and Simpson was unmarked to knock the ball into the net from 6 yards.

The home side never really looked like recovering after this, although they did threaten on a couple of occasions late on in the game. On 89 minutes, Joe Tully got behind the PSNI defence, but his shot from 14 yards was deflected just wide of the target. Then, two minutes into injury-time, Jamie Willighan saw a decent strike from the edge of the box saved by McCauley.