



## **PSNI 2-2 Ballyclare Comrades**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Bluefin Sport Championship**

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

- 19. Jack Hazard
- 2. Curtis Woods
- 18. Chris Getty
- 5. Adam Wright
- 11. Adam Gray
- 15. Andy Long  (73')
- 8. JB Dobbin  (52')
- 10. Eoin Kane
- 24. Gary Donnelly  (48')
- 17. Thomas Robinson
- 14. Joe Tully

### **Substitutes:**

- 6. Michael McQuitty
- 20. Taylor Kirk
- 7. Tom Patchett
- 16. Jamie Willighan

**PSNI:** McCauley, Ferguson, Riddle, Crawford, Simpson, Hutchinson, D Wilson, J Wilson, Tumelty, O'Neill, Anderson. Subs: McCrory, Moore, Stewart, Spence, Elliott.

Comrades had to settle for a point in an evenly contested affair at Newforge against PSNI.

There were a few absentees for this match, with Dean Youle, Gary Brown, Samuel McIlveen, Christopher Crane and Chris Trussell all unavailable for various reasons. However, Jack Hazard and Eoin Kane were able to return after injury, whilst Adam Wright, Chris Getty, Thomas Robinson and Joe Tully also came into the starting line-up.

The early stages of the match saw both teams show attacking intent. It was the home side who had the first chance, when on 7 minutes O'Neill headed wide of the far post from 6 yards after he got on the end of a free-kick played into the box. Two minutes later, Adam Gray surged into the box before shooting low wide of the far post. Then, on 12 minutes, Joe Tully was very unlucky to see his shot from the edge of the box hit the angle of bar and post. The ball rebounded out towards Eoin Kane, but he couldn't convert from 6 yards.

PSNI had a great chance to take the lead in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute, when a great diagonal ball set Tumelty free to run in on goal, but he was denied when Jack Hazard came out to make an excellent block inside the box.

On 21 minutes the home side had an even better chance to open the scoring when Dylan Wilson went down in the box after a challenge and a penalty was awarded. Tumelty stepped up to take the spot-kick but steered his effort wide of the target. The play continued to flow from end to end, with both sides doing well to overcome the windy conditions. In the 24<sup>th</sup> minute PSNI 'keeper was tested when Adam Gray took on defenders in the box and got in a rasping shot from an angle 13 yards out, which McCauley had to parry away.

On 28 minutes there was a chance at the other end when a cross to the back post found Tumelty arriving with a first-time effort, but Jack Hazard was well placed to save.

The first goal of the game came in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute. A dangerous ball played into the 6-yard box was almost turned in by Tumelty, but then the ball was only cleared out to Anderson at the just outside the box, who fired a dipping effort which flew in just under the bar.

Two minutes later, Comrades had a great chance to equalise, when Joe Tully played in a great ball from the right, finding Eoin Kane arriving in the 6-yard box, but his resulting effort was kept out by a great block by McCauley.

Comrades came close again on 42 minutes, when Thomas Robinson got into the penalty area and fired in a shot from 16 yards, which the McCauley couldn't hold.

The ball then fell to Gary Donnelly at the edge of the box, who rifled it back in towards goal through a crowd, only to be denied by a fine save by the 'keeper.

The visitors started the second half strongly and were soon back on level terms.

Three minutes in Thomas Robinson's cross to the back-post area was brought down well by Gary Donnelly who then fired a shot into the roof of the net from 8 yards.

Comrades tails were now up and on 50 minutes they threatened again when a slick move ended with Eoin Kane shooting just wide from 17 yards.

It wasn't long however before the men in red had the lead. On 52 minutes Thomas Robinson's ball in from the left found Eoin Kane who slid the ball through to the run of JB Dobbin and he knocked it past the advancing 'keeper from 9 yards.

The home side reacted to this quick double blow and pressed to get back on terms.

In the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute they came close, when O'Neill headed wide of the far post from a corner, which he got on the end of inside the 6-yard box. Then, on 71 minutes, a great long ball from Simpson set Hutchinson free inside the box, but Jack Hazard was able to divert his effort wide with a vital save.

PSNI continued to press forward and on 80 minutes a good break forward ended with Hutchinson shooting from the edge of the box, his being effort deflected just over the bar.

In the 86<sup>th</sup> minute the home side got the equaliser. Jack Hazard was penalised for a challenge inside the box and Anderson stepped up to dispatch the resulting penalty. Despite both sides going for a winner in the final minutes, there were to be no more goal and the game ended in an entertaining draw.