

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves 8-0 Armagh City Reserves

Saturday 26th January 2019 – NIFL Championship/PIL Development League

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves recorded their biggest win of the season when they thrashed Armagh City Reserves 8-0 at Antrim Forum grounds.

Four up at half time, Stephen Black's lads replicated the performance in the second session, with influential midfielder Tom Patchett notching a hat-trick.

Michael McCabe opened the scoring when he headed home from a Nathan Sloss corner, and Patchett doubled the lead when he rocketed one in to the top corner after having been put in by Jack Walshe.

Patchett then was provider for Walshe to tap in number three, and just before the break the same pair carved open the defence, with Walshe dinking the ball over the advancing keeper to leave Comrades four up at the turnaround.

McCabe doubled his tally early in the second session when he netted the rebound after Sam Lilburn's initial effort had been blocked on the line, and then Thomas Campbell got his name on the scorecard when he tucked the ball under the keeper following good work by Kyle Apsley.

Ryan Murdock added number seven after Campbell had threaded the ball through the middle, but Patchett had the final say when he completed his treble with a drive from the edge of the box.

Man of the Match: Ben Fry, goalkeeper.

Explaining the decision to give top billing to the young goalkeeper in favour of hat-trick hero Patchett, manager Black said, "Young Ben pulled off four outstanding saves; tops was an acrobatic dive from an overhead kick, and the other three were fingertip saves at the base of the posts, and he fully deserved his clean sheet."

The win promoted the Wee Reds to joint second spot in the table alongside Ballinamallard United Reserves, and within touching distance of leaders Newington Reserves.