

Larne Olympic 1-4 Ballyclare Comrades Reserves

Saturday 16th March 2019 – NIFL Championship/PIL Development League

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves proved to be East Antrim top dogs at Development League level, after back-to-back wins against Carrick Rangers Reserves and Larne Olympic.

Last week's 1-0 result in Carrick was followed by a more convincing 4-1 win at Inver Park on Saturday afternoon.

Sam Lilburn set up the opening goal for Michael McCabe, who drilled the ball in to the bottom corner in the 11th minute, and midway through the first half Ryan Murdoch doubled the lead after latching on to a Nathan Sloss pass.

When Adam McClelland threaded the ball through to McCabe, the winger seemed all set to score until taken out by the keeper, with Curt Cooper converting the resultant penalty.

Comrades turned around three up, but Larne came more in to the game during the third quarter, and on the hour deservedly reduced the deficit following a neat left wing approach.

Jack Walshe restored the visitors' three goal advantage when he applied the finishing touch, following a flowing move involving Tom Patchett, McClelland and Thomas Campbell.

Man of the Match: Isaiah Close, central midfielder.

"The boys certainly enjoyed playing on the new Inver Park pitch, and the general verdict was that it is the best 3G surface they had ever experienced," stated manager Stephen Black.