

## **Lurgan Celtic Reserves 4-5 Ballyclare Comrades Reserves**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 – NIFL Championship/PIL Development League**

### **Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times**

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves won a nine goals thriller at Gordon Playing Fields in Lurgan, but they had to come from behind to collect the Championship Development League points.

After Lurgan Celtic Reserves opened the scoring Stephen Black's lads turned around 4-2 up, before finishing 5-4 winners.

Michael McCabe opened the scoring when he drilled the ball in to the bottom corner of the net, but Celtic responded with two goals, only for Tom Patchett to restore parity with a well-directed low free from just outside the box.

The Wee Reds were now forcing the pace forged ahead when Sam Lilburn finished off a flowing move by Patchett and Kurt Cooper.

Approaching the interval Ryan Worthington made it 4-2 after Nathan Sloss and Patchett had advanced down the left wing, so Comrades turned around deservedly in front.

Celtic turned the game on its head when they scored twice to make it 4-4 and set up a tense finish.

Penalty king, Cooper, who has been lethal from the spot recently, missed the opportunity to enhance his reputation when he skied his penalty over the bar, after Patchett had been tripped in the box.

Celtic were reduced to ten men when one of their players received a straight red card for a bad tackle on Patchett, and Comrades made the most of their numerical superiority when Worthington doubled his tally and sealed the points with a back-post header from a Cooper corner.

Man of the Match: Ryan Worthington, striker.

"We travelled to Lurgan with only eleven players and no regular keeper," stated manager Black. "Adam Surgeoner volunteered to don the gloves, so all things considered this was a super result," he added.