



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
22/09/2018	H 2018/19 4 3 THREE ROCK ROVERS	18:00	
EUGENE MAGEE (1), JOSH MOFFETT (1), FRASER MILLS (1), JOHNNY MCKEE (1)			

Saturday past saw the first match in this seasons EY Hockey League when Bann entertained current holders Three Rock Rovers to Havelock. If all the remaining matches turn out to be as good as this one then we are in for a great season. A pulsating match kept the big crowd entertained until the final minute.

The first quarter was what would be expected from arguably the best two teams in the country with most of the play being confined to the midfield area with no real clear cut openings created early on. Luke Roleston had to be alert to clear his lines once but otherwise was untroubled. One facet of play that was uncharacteristic of the teams was the number of times possession was given away.

Bann took the lead in the 14th minute when Peter Brown brilliantly created space for Johnny McKee whose shot across the keeper found the bottom right hand corner of the goal.

Early in the second quarter Three Rock Rovers started to control the pace of the game and had the majority of the possession but found it difficult to breach the Bann defence in which Bruce McCandless was outstanding.

In the twenty fourth minute some superb skill from Eugene Magee put Fraser Mills through on goal and the big striker made no mistake from mid circle to double the home sides advantage.

Late on in the quarter Three Rock Rovers forced a couple of penalty corners and from the second one these Luke Roleston made an outstanding save low down to his right.

Half Time Banbridge 2 Three Rock Rovers 0

Straight from the halftime restart Josh Moffett won possession mid pitch and simply outpaced four of the visitors defence before sliding the ball past the visiting keeper to give Bann a three goal lead.

At this stage Bann seemed to take their collective foot off the pedal which allowed Three Rock straight back into the game when Mark English reduced the deficit. Panic seemed to set in when the same player scored a minute later to open up the possibility of an unlikely comeback. Bann managed to get to the end of quarter three with their lead intact thanks mainly to some superb goalkeeping by Luke Roleston who made several outstanding interventions.

The final quarter was played at a frenetic pace with Three Rock forcing the game as they searched for an equaliser. With three minutes remaining and just as it looked that Bann would hold out for victory John Mullins seized on a defensive error by Bann to score Three Rock Rovers third. With Bann now down to ten players even the most diehard fans would have accepted a point but in one last twist Bann forced a penalty corner in the last minute. With Three Rock also now down to 10 players Eugene Magee stepped up to flick the corner high into the visitors goal to give Bann a hard-fought victory to start this seasons campaign.

The game was a superb example of what the EYHL can provide. Two highly skilful and committed teams and a game officiated in a very professional manner.

Full Time Banbridge 4 Three Rock Rovers 3



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