



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
26/12/2019	H 2019/20 3 2 LISNAGARVEY	15:00	
JOSH MOFFETT (2), JOHNNY MCKEE (1)			

Banbridge Mens Firsts took on old rivals Lisnagarvey on Boxing Day in the Kirk Cup Final at Stormont. Bann were looking to retain the Kirk Cup as holders of the trophy but had lost both games versus Garvey by one goal so far this season, so it was going to be a close game.

The Bann Team was: Goal Keepers: Gareth Lennox, Luke Rolston

Edward Rowe, Luke Witherow, Alexander Tinney, Philip Brown, Drew Carlisle, Jamie Wright, Bruce McCandless, Hugh McShane, Sam Farson, Mark Cowan, Owen Magee, Peter Brown, Josh Moffett, Johnny McKee, Dane Ward, Eugene Magee (Captain).

Both teams went in search of an early goal and it was Garvey who had the first chance in the fourth minute, but the effort went narrowly past the upright.

Then at the other end, three minutes later, Peter Brown fired just over the crossbar with his reverse effort as the game continued to ebb and flow.

Bann then hit the Hillsborough team with a three-goal blast in the space of 10 minutes.

All of the goals were of high quality, the opener from Johnny McKee in the 21st minute coming after the first penalty corner of the game as the Ireland striker got on the end of a pass from Sam Farson to fire home from close range.

Eight minutes later, Josh Moffett finished off a flowing three-man that had involved Peter Brown, Eugene Magee and Jamie Wright, to double the holders' lead, again from a few yards out.

Four minutes before half-time, it was 3-0 as a brilliant through ball from Eugene Magee found Moffett and he made no mistake, giving Garvey keeper James Milliken no chance.

Half time Bann 3 Lisnagarvey 0

Garvey were pushing for a goal but some superb defence by Luke Witherow, Edward Rowe and Sam Farson helped clear the lines and Sam set up a Bann attack with a great run from defence past a number of opposition players.

Bann were down to 10 men in the 3rd quarter when a poor sliding tackle was punished correctly with a yellow card, this meant Bann had to play with one less player for 10 minutes.

Moments before the end of the third quarter, Lisnagarvey threw themselves a lifeline when, after a spell of concerted pressure, they scored a penalty corner.

The 3rd Quarter ended Bann 3 Lisnagarvey 1

In the final quarter Bann were restored to a full side and started to create some chances, Jamie Wright made a great break from midfield and his shot was well saved. So after this Peter Brown showed fantastic skills down the left to win Bann a short corner.

Gareth Lennox then came to Bann's rescue with several fine stops before he was beaten again with three minutes left



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when Garvey scored after a swift counterattack which followed a Bann penalty corner at the other end of the pitch.

With just 12 seconds left, Garvey were awarded a penalty corner, but Alexander Tinney blocked their effort as the Banbridge players began to punch the air in delight believing the game was over.

But there was more drama to come as the ball had struck Tinney's shin so another corner was the outcome but this time it was blocked legally, and the celebrations could begin in earnest after one of the best finals in recent years.

Bann Captain Eugene Magee lifted the trophy and thanked the Kirk Cup sponsors Millar, McCall and Wylie and Ulster Hockey for organising the finals. Also, Eugene thanked his players and Management Team and Garvey for a great final. That's the 23rd time Bann have won the trophy and a great result for the new (this season) Bann Coach Gordon Cracknell and his Management Team of Suzanne Evans, Scott McCandless and Colin Walker.

Banbridge Hockey Club



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