



# MATCH REPORT

## BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

### MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
22/02/2020	A 2019/20 <b>2</b> <b>2</b> THREE ROCK ROVERS	15:00	
PHILIP BROWN (1), PETER BROWN (1)			

This encounter between two of the top Irish sides from recent seasons can only be described as a tale of two halves. In fact most of the action happened either side of half time with little to excite the large Banbridge travelling support at the start or end of the match.

Banbridge made the journey to Dublin with regulars Drew Carlisle and Edward Rowe missing, and youngsters Mark Cowan and Charlie Rowe also absent after playing for Irish under-age teams midweek. However, coach Gordon Cracknell was delighted to see former Irish star Eugene Magee rejoin the ranks after missing last weeks victory over Monkstown and Sam Farson making a welcome return from injury.

The first quarter saw little to report with Three Rock Rovers having the majority of possession. They looked the more mobile side as they pulled Bann all over the pitch but goalkeeper Luke Roleston had just the one solid clearance to make. While running down Three Rock's first penalty corner, defender Alexander Tinney took the shot full on his knee which limited his movement for the rest of the game.

Midweek through the second quarter Bann failed to clear the ball fully and Three Rock took the lead with Roleston stranded. The home side took full control of the game and a second

goal followed minutes later when Bann carelessly gave the ball away in defence and the unmarked Mitch Darling slammed in. Indeed if it wasn't for a string of great saves from Roleston in the Bann goal and a goal-line clearance from skipper Eugene Magee, the half-time scoreline could have been a lot worse than 2-0.

While strong words were said at half-time, the players knew that they were yet to wake up in this game and the second half needed to be a different affair. And so it transpired as

Bann were the dominant team throughout the second half. From their first penalty corner of the match, Philip Brown continued his dead-ball expertise when he rifled the ball of the

backboards to lift the gloom of the visitors. Not to be outdone, the younger of the Brown brothers scored the equaliser five minutes later from open play. Great skill from Johnny

McKee and Josh Moffett saw Peter Brown break through and despite the best efforts of Conor Quinn in the Three Rock goal, Brown squeezed his shot inside the far post.

Bann were now rampant but the free-flowing finishing, which has saw them score nineteen goals in their last three games, was missing as they failed to score again. Four penalty

corners in the final quarter couldn't give Bann the lead as they saw three of their drag flicks charged down and a penalty corner variation go wide. The despondency of half-time was

replaced by frustration at full-time as the visitors knew that they had the chances to return home from Dublin with all three points but had to settle for a 2-2 scoreline. This leaves Banbridge third in the table.

Banbridge are back in EYHL action next Saturday when they entertain the students of University College Dublin at Havelock Park at 2:45pm.

### Banbridge Hockey Club