



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
29/02/2020	H 2019/20 3 1 YMCA	14:45	
JOHNNY MCKEE (2), PHILIP BROWN (1)			

Banbridge entertained Dublin YM at a cold and windy Havelock Park on Saturday. With the league's top 2 Lisnagarvey and Monkstown playing each other in Dublin this was a chance for Bann to move closer to the top of the league.

The Bann defence was missing Alexander Tinney through injury and Drew Carlisle was unavailable.

The visitors started well and caught Bann out cold with a goal after 1 minute. Gordon Cracknell's team then settled into the match in horrendous conditions and began to apply pressure. The first chance fell to Johnny McKee and his effort was saved, then the next chance fell to Eugene Magee who turned on his reverse and his shot flew high over the bar.

The visitors sat deep and tried to hit Bann on the break, from one long aerial Luke Roleston was quickly off his line and made a great save, from the clearance Bann went up the over end and won the first of many short corners. Philip Brown's drag flick was saved by the YM goalkeeper. It was all Bann pressure at the end of the 1st quarter John Moffett broke down the right and fed Johnny McKee whose 'shot' was saved again. Bann won another couple of short corners but again the YM Goalkeeper saved all that came at him.

The 2nd quarter was a bit scrappy with not many clear cut chances, the Bann defence looked solid, Sam Farson was excellent marking the YM center forward and won the ball and set off up the pitch, he fed the ball to Johnny McKee, but his shot went narrowly wide. Bann won another corner near half time and switched it, but it easily read by YM defence. They quickly went on the attack and brought another good save out of Luke Rolston, then Luke Witherow and Edward Rowe cleared the danger. First half finished with Bann trailing 1 nil.

Bann started the 3rd quarter on the attack and won more short corners but these were all defended well, and the score remained 1-0 to YM. Owen Magee was creating chances from midfield and he crossed from the left and won another short corner which was sent wide. The YM goalkeeper was very busy and putting in a man of the match performance with yet another string of saves. Bann didn't get frustrated and keep to their game plan.

Bann were pressing high in the final quarter and won yet more short corners, but these were saved as well. Bruce McCandless feed a ball into the circle to Johnny McKee who shielded the ball and was fouled by the YM defence. Penalty stroke to Bann. McKee stood up and confidently converted it. 1 all with 9 minutes remaining. It was all one way traffic now and Bann quickly got a second it was Johnny McKee adding another goal. Owen Magee then showed some silky 3d skills down the left baseline and won Bann's 12th short corner which Philip Brown converted with a great drag flick. 3-1 to Bann with 5 minutes to go. The Bann team seen out the last 5 minutes with Peter Brown excellent at keeping possession.

As the Monkstown Garvey game fell foul to Storm Jorge, the win moves Bann into 2nd place in the EYHL All Ireland League on goal difference, though we have played 1 more game than 3rd placed Monkstown. With 6 games remaining this puts Bann into a strong position to secure one of the top 4 spots and achieve the goal of making the end of season EYHL all Ireland finals on the 9th and 10th of May.

Banbridge are back on the road next week with another trip to Dublin to face UCD in the EYHL.

Banbridge squad: Luke Roleston, Gareth Lennox, Edward Rowe, Luke Witherow, , Johnny McKee, Peter Brown, Hugh



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McShane, Bruce McCandless, Josh Moffett, Jamie Wright, Eugene Magee, Sam Farson, Phillip Brown, Dane Ward, Mark Cowan, Owen Magee, Charlie Rowe

Bandbridge Hockey Club