



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
28/09/2019	H 2019/20 2 5 THREE ROCK ROVERS	14:45	
BRUCE MCCANDLESS (1), PHILIP BROWN (1)			

Last Saturday saw Bann entertain current EYHL Champions Three Rock Rovers from Dublin in their second EYHL fixture at Havelock Park. Both teams were hoping to pick up their 1st win and 3 points of the season with Bann drawing their opener last weekend at Monkstown and Rovers losing unexpectedly at home to newly promoted UCD.

Bann welcomed back senior players Eugene Magee, Peter Brown, and Hugh McShane to their squad following their non-availability the 1st weekend. On the flip side the experienced Drew Carlisle was missing this week. Rovers had arrived with a much changed side from last year but were still able to call upon the talents of Mitch Darling, Jody Hoskins and Ben Walker.

Bann started off in determined fashion and took the lead after only 3 minutes when Bruce McCandless opened the scoring from a smart attack set up by Eugene Magee. Almost immediately before Bann could get settled Rovers equalised through Harry Morris.

Bann then went ahead again after 15 minutes when Phillip Brown expertly converted Bann's first penalty corner only for Rovers to level it again with their next attack through a sliding finish by international Bern Walker. Both sides then sought about taking the lead but a combination of some poor approach play and good defending saw the sides approach the half time still on level terms.

However Rovers had other ideas and Walker grabbed a second just before half time to give his side the lead as Bann struggled to find any balance or pattern in their play. The heavy showers did not help their cause either as the slow pitch prevented them getting any momentum in their build-up play.

The home crowd were hoping for a 2nd half recovery from the locals but it was to be the opposite case as Bann couldn't find the spark or guile to open up the visitors defence and Rovers struck twice on the counter attack to further increase the lead and run out somewhat easy 5-2 winners. In fact it could have been more as a Ross Canning effort flew off the Bann crossbar.

Bann will be hoping to heed the lessons learned from a bad day at the office and will also be hoping that Eugene Magee's hamstring injury is only a twinge and nothing more serious. Bann have a break now before entertaining early surprise pacesetters UCD in a fortnight's time.

Banbridge Hockey Club