



# MATCH REPORT

## BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

### MATCH DETAILS

| DATE          | RESULT                                   | TIME  | COMPETITION |
|---------------|--|-------|-------------|
| 07/03/2020    | H 2019/20 <b>1</b> <b>5</b> COOKSTOWN 2S | 16:00 |             |
| GARY DEAN (1) |  |       |             |

Banbridge thirds, sponsored by Edina, entertained league leaders Cookstown seconds on Saturday knowing they'd be in for a tough encounter. Bann welcomed three juniors, Matthew McKee, Ben Farson and Jake Reiner, into their panel for the debut in the senior league whilst Aaron Piper took up the mantle in the Bann goal.

Bann started brightly gaining long spells of early possession with Brown, Reid and Bingham working well in the midfield. Dean was unlucky to see an early effort well saved by the Cookstown keeper after good work from McCoy. As the quarter progressed Cookstown came into the game with Bann scrambling the ball away on a couple of occasions when Cookstown were well positioned. The introduction of Best and McKee upfront made a difference in the second quarter with both probing the Cookstown defence. Bann won their first short corner and after the push out was off target Douglas Anderson controlled the ball at the top of the circle and found Dean at the back post to deflect the ball past the Cookstown keeper. Piper pulled off an excellent save to keep Bann ahead and Bennington prevented some goal scoring opportunities with a couple of last ditch tackles.

Cookstown were a different team in the second half and were unlucky not to draw level when an early shot hit the inside of the Bann post with the rebound being cleared. However, the constant pressure from Cookstown forced a short corner soon after with the drag flick finding the top of the Bann goal. Cookstown were now in full flow and they went ahead with an excellent strike after some great forward play. Bann were struggling to get the ball out of defence and find the same fluency from the first half. Cookstown capitalised on a Bann error in defence and Piper couldn't do anything from a strong strike into the bottom corner of the Bann goal. Bann eventually started to get some possession towards the end of the quarter however it was Cookstown who added to their lead with another fizzing strike. As the game entered the final quarter Cookstown lost their discipline and lost a couple of players to the sin bin. Bann made good use of the extra players and McCoy and McKee missed good opportunities to bring Bann back into the game. Towards the end of the game Cookstown scored their fifth with a low strike into the bottom corner of the Bann goal as Bann pushed forward trying to find a goal.

Save for a poor third quarter Bann were well in the game but know they'll have to improve with both sides potentially meeting in the McClements cup final should both teams win their semi finals later this month. Bann thirds now face Mossley seconds twice in four days which will have a massive influence on the relegation battle.

### Bandbridge Hockey Club