



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
01/11/2019	A 2019/20 7 5 NORTH DOWN 2S	20:00	
ROSS MCCANDLESS (2), DANE WARD (2), NEIL WILSON (1), GARY DEAN (1), JAMES BROWN (1)			

Banbridge thirds, sponsored by Edina, faced a further away trip to Comber to play North Down seconds following their opening league fixture draw with Bangor seconds. Bann had a strong squad for the Friday night fixture with Elliott Haw stepping in for the unavailable Patrick Grimes.

The game started at a ferocious pace in the horrendous conditions with both sides probing for an opening. Dean gave Bann the lead after an initial shot from Ward was well saved slotting home from close range. North Down equalised quickly after a mistake in the Bann defence gifted North Down a short corner and the drag flick gave Haw no chance from the top of the circle. North Down continued to press forward and took the lead after some excellent play with the North Down forward making no mistake from the middle of the circle. Rowe was creating problems in the North Down half and after good inter-linking play Ward was on hand to rifle the ball past the North Down keeper to regain parity at the end of the first quarter.

The goals didn't stop in the second quarter with Wilson firing the ball into the bottom corner from the top of the circle to give Bann the lead. North Down won a couple of short corners and from the second short corner the ball hit Bennington on the line and a penalty stroke was awarded. The North Down player flicked the ball high past Haw to bring matters level once again. Large and Scott McCandless were linking well in the Bann midfield and from a flowing move Bann won their first short corner. Ross McCandless flicked the ball high past the North Down keeper as conditions continued to worsen. Bann missed a couple of great chances before North Down levelled just before half time after the ball was scrambled into the Bann goal making it four all at half time.

Bann started to gain some control of the game in the third quarter with Brown and Watt causing problems down the flanks for North Down. Ward fired Bann ahead early in the quarter with a strong strike past the North Down keeper. Haw pulled off a magnificent diving save to keep Bann's lead. Ross McCandless extended Bann's lead from another short corner trade-mark drag flick which went in off the post. North Down tried to get back into the game toward the end of the quarter but Bann held firm with some excellent defensive work from Bennington, Burns and Ferguson.

As the game entered the last quarter North Down knew they had to press forward in search for goals which allowed Bann to counter on several occasions. Dean and Ward were unlucky not to add further goals with the North Down keeper pulling off a couple of strong saves. Bann defended a couple North Down short corners and North Down wasted a couple of excellent opportunities. As the game entered the final stages of the quarter North Down did manage to pull a goal back after a ball crashed into the Bann circle was deflected home at the back post. Bann weren't finished scoring and after a mix up in the North Down circle a push pass from Brown was left by the North Down keeper not knowing that the ball had been pushed within the circle and Bann took regained their two goal lead. Bann managed to see out the rest of the quarter to take their first three points of the season and move to second in junior one. Bann now face Instonians seconds on Friday night at home in their first home fixture of the season.

Banbridge Hockey Club