



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
23/11/2019	A 2019/20 2 1 LISNAGARVEY 3S	16:00	
ROSS MCCANDLESS (1), NEIL WILSON (1)			

Banbridge thirds, sponsored by Endina, continued their impressive start to their league campaign with an away win against Lisnagarvey thirds on Saturday. Ross McCandless and Neil Wilson struck in the first half for the locals before they had to withstand a late Garvey fightback to come away with the three points.

Garvey had started the game brightly seeing a lot of the ball and causing the Bann defence all sorts of problems. Ross McCandless, who was superb throughout, made a number of timely tackles to thwart dangerous Garvey attacks. Whilst Paddy Grimes made a fine double save midway through the first quarter to keep the scores level. However it was Bann who took the lead near the end of the first quarter. McCandless dispatching Bann's second penalty corner into the bottom corner. The goal seemed to settle the Bann side who dominated the rest of the first half. The direct running of Luke Watt and Louis Rowe in particular caused a number of problems for the Garvey defence. Gary Dean, Mark McCoy and Neil Wilson all saw efforts saved by the Garvey Keeper during a dominant second quarter. Bann doubled their lead in mightily impressive fashion towards the end of the second quarter. Wilson robbed the Garvey right back before driving into the circle and rifling an unstoppable reverse stick shot into the top corner of the net. Surely a goal of the season contender!

Bann continued to dominate as the game continued into the third quarter building a number of impressive phases of play with Scott McCandless and Dickson orchestrating matters from central midfield, and an impressive array of passing from Ross McCandless out of defence. However the third goal never arrived. The best chance fell to McCoy, but the Garvey keeper made a great save to deny him. Into the final quarter the game started to become a little more stretched and frantic as Garvey started to throw caution to the wind in the hope of salvaging something from the game. They're pressure paid off when, with eight minutes left, they were awarded a penalty stroke after Peter Bennington saw the ball hit his body with on the line after he had done extremely well to keep the initial effort out. This led to a pivotal moment in the game. As the umpire debated the rules with Grimes in the Bann goal prior to the stroke being taken, the Garvey forward pushed the ball into the net and the umpire awarded the goal. This led to a long break in play as the Bann team, led by a clearly irate Grimes, challenged the umpire over his decision. Whilst this led to the penalty stroke having to be retaken, it also led to the temporary sin-binning of the Bann goalkeeper. Ross McCandless went into goal for the ensuing stroke and watched as the Garvey forward then proceeded to send his effort against the upright. Garvey finally got on the scoresheet with the last play of the match. A long sweeping ball into the circle found a Garvey forward who played the ball to the back post for an unmarked player to tap into the net. But it was too little too late for the Hillsborough side.

The win leaves the thirds still unbeaten in the league and sitting in second place. Next up is a top of the table clash against the Banbridge seconds at Havelock Park in a couple of weeks.

Banbridge Hockey Club