



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
01/02/2020	H 2019/20 6 5 SOUTH ANTRIM 3S	13:00	
NEIL WILSON (3), GARY DEAN (1), KIAN BINGHAM (1), GAVIN SHIELDS (1)			

Banbridge Fourths hosted South Antrim Thirds on Saturday 1st February in the Junior 3 League.

The Banbridge team consisted of James Finlay in goal; Mark Clydesdale, David Morrison, Nigel Allister and Kian Bingham in defence; Luke Watt, John Scott, Ryan Jones and Gavin Shields in midfield; Gary Dean in attack. The substitutes were Josh Holden, Alex Knowles, Josh McAdam and Nathan Reid. A special thanks goes to Cheryl Holden for umpiring.

From the opening exchanges it seemed that this game was going to be a counterattacking exhibition match. South Antrim won several short corners in the first quarter and forced James Finlay into making saves and the defence into goal line clearances.

The opening goal came as David Morrison intercepted the ball at the edge of the Bann circle. He drove forward and looked to set Gary Dean free to run one on one with the keeper. The South Antrim centre back stopped the ball with his feet. Gavin Shields stopped the ball and took the free quickly. The ball was threaded through to Gary Dean, who drove into the South circle and fired a fierce shot past the goalkeeper, 1-0. South Antrim scored an equaliser within minutes after the ball wasn't cleared properly in the circle, 1-1.

The second quarter started with South Antrim scoring another goal from a failed Bann clearance, 1-2. Banbridge had several opportunities themselves. Luke Watt enjoyed plenty of freedom and space down the right wing. Ryan Jones and John Scott worked well together as they sought to pressurise the South right back. Bann scored their second as Gavin Shields fed Neil Wilson the ball. He tore into the circle and hit a reverse shot into the goal, 2-2. Neil Wilson scored again as Banbridge were awarded a short corner. The ball was pulled out and Neil dragged the ball into the right of the goal, 3-2. South Antrim scored just before the half time whistle so that the second quarter finished three all.

South Antrim scored again to take the lead in the third quarter, 3-4. Josh McAdam provided some steel on the left of midfield when on the pitch. Nigel Allister showed his array of passing as he assisted the next Bann goal. Neil Wilson received the ball and shot from the top of the circle and deflected into the goal past the wrong footed keeper, 4-4.

The fourth quarter started with a South Antrim goal. The ball was hit in from the left and found an unmarked forward at the flick spot, 4-5. Was this going to be another tough day for Banbridge Fourths? Banbridge had chances. Nathan Reid was a constant threat up top and was unfortunate not to score. Mark Clydesdale was calm on the ball and sought to get the ball up the pitch, even with a baseball shot at one point. Gary and Neil had glorious chances to equalise, but it was Kian Bingham who scored the goal. He followed in on the initial shot by Gary Dean and fired past the keeper to make it 5-5. Banbridge smelled blood, but had to be careful not to concede next. Was this match going to end in a draw as the clock ran down? Well thankfully no. Cometh the hour cometh the man. Gavin Shields racing into the circle managed to get his stick on the end of a shot and deflect the ball home, 6-5.

The last few minutes were squeaky bum time. Josh Holden made several excellent tackles to stop the attacks down the right. John Scott and Nigel Allister marshalled the defence well. Alex Knowles had a stick save on the line from a South Antrim corner. Luke Watt defended well and was a superb outlet for Bann. The match finished after eleven goals scored and Banbridge gaining three vital points.

Banbridge Hockey Club