



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
03/10/2020	A 2020/21 2 2 GLENANNE	13:30	
EDWARD ROWE (2)			

Banbridge started their 2020/21 EY Hockey League campaign seven days after the other participants due to last weeks late postponement of their home match against Pembroke Wanderers. The away trip to Glenanne was expected to be a tough game with the Dublin side now under the leadership of player/coach Shane O'Donoghue – the well travelled Irish international now back at his home club after several years playing for the top sides in Europe.

Gordon Cracknell was hopeful for a promising start to the season as his squad were the form team back in March when the previous season was suspended. The loss of Johnny McKee to full-time hockey in Germany was always going to leave a gap in attack, and alongside former international Jamie Wright's decision to return to Portadown, there was added pressure on new faces David Finlay and Ben Wallace, signed from Kilkeel and Annadale respectively.

Bann started the game on the front foot and hit the post in the first minute as they pilled forward from the whistle. Indeed experienced keeper Iain Walker in the Glenanne goal pulled off a great save moments later to keep the scores level. However the experience of O'Donoghue shone through as he started to pick holes in the Bann midfield. Glenanne won a series of penalty corners as the quarter drew to a close and they took the lead when Stephen Brownlow drilled the ball into the bottom left corner.

The second quarter showed no improvement in the Bann midfield as they failed to get hold of the game. The visitors did win three penalty corners but they were easily dealt with by Walker. Glenanne doubled their lead when O'Donoghue fired a penalty corner past Luke Roleston's right foot as Bann felt the game getting away from them.

A few harsh words and some reorganisation from Cracknell at half time, helped improve the Bann performance after the interval. It was obvious from the off that there was more fight and determination in the Bann attitude; unfortunately this resulted in cards for Owen Magee and Bruce McCandless. Both sides cancelled each other out but the standard of play from the visitors was visibly improved.

The final quarter saw Glenanne on the back foot as the skill of Bann eventually started to dominate. Phillip Brown's power and Finlay's speed on the right flank caused havoc as they repeatedly got round the home defence. Indeed it was a cross from the right which lead to Bann's first goal. The ball broke to Edward Rowe and after seeing his shot blocked, he fired an upright reverse past Walker with only five minutes left. And two minutes later he was on the score sheet again when Sam Farson pulled the ball back for Rowe to deflect it over Walker much to the relief of all in red as they rescued a point with two minutes to go.

Banbridge face the undefeated Dublin YMCA next Saturday at Havelock Park at 2:45pm.

Banbridge squad: Luke Roleston, Edward Rowe, Luke Witherowe, Alexander Tinney, Hugh McShane, Bruce McCandless, Josh Moffett, David Finlay, Eugene Magee, Ben Wallace, Phillip Brown, Sam Farson, Mark Cowan, Drew Carlisle, Dane Ward, Owen Magee

Banbridge Hockey Club