



# MATCH REPORT

## BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

### MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
11/09/2021	A 2021/22 1 1 MONKSTOWN	14:30	
PHILIP BROWN (1)			

Banbridge Hockey Club Mens' 1st XI travelled to the south side of Dublin to begin their 2021/22 EYHL campaign against a much-fancied Monkstown side. Bann were hoping to continue their impressive pre-season run with a victory on the road against a side who had stole a 3-2 victory several weeks ago in a friendly.

Bann's new coach Scott McCandless was appointed last October after the departure of Gordon Cracknell but nearly a year later this was his first competitive game in charge due to the pandemic. Several months of focused training has saw the introduction of a number of promising younger players into the squad, with Mark Cowan now clinching a starting role in midfield and the Rowe twins, Charlie and Louis, hoping to continue in the footsteps of their older brothers and take the EYHL by storm. The match saw a competitive debut for 16 year-old Ben Pollock as he got his chance to grab a permanent place in the squad with Christopher Curry missing and Luke Witherow still not match-fit after a lengthy lay-off due to a shoulder injury. With Irish international Johnny McKee returning after a year playing professionally for Crefeld in Germany, Bann posed a serious goal scoring threat. A late change to the squad, after Sam Farson's hamstring injury, saw Joel Reid also make his debut.

The game started with the more experienced Monkstown side taking control as Bann struggled to get used to a new system of play with different personnel lining up around the pitch. However ex-Ireland international, and all-time men's record caps holder, Eugene Magee quickly grew into his sweeper role as his knowhow helped settle everyone and as the quarter wore on, Bann found their footing and improved immensely. Ben Pollock's dynamic movement upfront along with David Finlay's speed caused havoc for the home defence.

Like the first quarter, Q2 saw no goals but the game livened up with a string of chances for the visitors. Josh Moffett went close at the back post and a one-touch move saw Louis Rowe's effort turned wide by David Fitzgerald. Phillip Brown saw three drag flicks saved, while Luke Roleston in goal for Bann saved two penalty corners including a superb tip round the post from Guy Sarratt's effort in the last action of the half.

Bann continued to dominate the third quarter and they took the lead from their fifth penalty corner when Alexander Tinney's effort rebounded to Phillip Brown who blasted high into the net. The visitors were comfortable at this stage and had another chance to increase their lead at the start of Q4 when Brown saw another penalty corner saved. However in the final minutes Monkstown pushed on with Roleston producing a superb triple save from Irish international Lee Cole, only to see his younger brother Geoff finish off a flowing move at the back post to snatch a share of the spoils for the home team.

Banbridge are on the road again next Saturday when they travel to Grange Road in Dublin to play Three Rock Rovers at 2:45pm.

Squad:

Luke Roleston, Alexander Tinney (captain), Eugene Magee, Phillip Brown, Bruce McCandless, Charlie Rowe, Peter Brown, Owen Magee, Mark Cowan, Hugh McShane, Johnny McKee, Josh Moffett, David Finlay, Louis Rowe, Ben Pollock, Joel Reid

**Banbridge Hockey Club**