



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
26/03/2022	A 2021/22 3 2 UCD	00:00	
DAVID FINLAY (1), LUKE WITHEROW (1), JOHNNY MCKEE (1)			

Banbridge won their final away game of the season with a comfortable 3-2 away result at UCD. As has been the problem for a number of weeks, Bann failed to convert many good scoring opportunities. Head Coach Scott McCandless brought Christopher Curry back into the forward line, with Phillip Brown and Josh Moffett also returning.

Bann took the lead in the seventh minute when a switched penalty corner routine saw Irish international Johnny McKee score with a low flick. But minutes later, UCD equalised from their first penalty corner despite what looked like an obvious back stick foul on the edge of the circle. Johnny McKee was a constant threat for Bann and they regained the lead when schoolboy Matthew McKee showed maturity beyond his years to pick out his namesake with a lovely pass, which led to Luke Witherow sweeping the ball home. Again UCD fought back to bring the scores level when a lucky deflection found an unmarked forward to slot past the stranded Luke Roleston in the Bann goal.

In the second half, David Finlay found himself through on goal only for a great defensive tackle to prevent him scoring and Johnny McKee fired over the bar with just the keeper to beat. The visitors took the lead again after great work by Matthew McKee on the right flank to set up Witherow. His shot was saved by the UCD keeper but Finlay fired in the rebound. In the dying moments of the game after UCD had removed their goalkeeper, Bann looked certain to increase their lead as Johnny McKee pressed down on an empty goal but a superb challenge from fellow international Kevin O'Dea saw the ball go wide.

With only the top two teams automatically qualifying for the end of season EY Champions Trophy, Ulster Carpets sponsored Banbridge seem destined to enter the play-offs to try and gain one of the other two available places. They complete the regular league season next Saturday against local rival Lisnagarvey at Havelock Park.

Squad:

Luke Roleston, Alexander Tinney (captain), Phillip Brown, Eugene Magee, Sam Farson, Peter Brown, Luke Witherow, Owen Magee, Mark Cowan, Hugh McShane, Tommy Dobson, Matthew McKee, David Finlay, Johnny McKee, Josh Moffett, Christopher Curry.

Banbridge Hockey Club