

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2017**

**Moyola Park 3 v Lisburn Distillery 0**

**Lisburn Distillery fell to another defeat on the road, this time against Moyola Park at Mill Meadow in a fiery game that saw both teams reduced to 10 men. Oran McAuley, Jason Paul and Tiarnan Rafferty got the goals for the hosts who were more clinical on a day where Distillery will feel disappointed not to have stopped the rot.**

It was the visitors who got off to the better start and were close to taking a lead with only a minute of the game gone after George Douglas spotted a well-timed Paul Young run on the left. The forward did well to carry the ball forward before sending in a low cross that just evaded the boot of Jonny McCaw.

The next effort of the day also went to Distillery when a poor clearance landed at the feet of Alan McMurtry 25 yards from goal but his speculative first time effort went wide of Moyola keeper Marcin Farniok's post.

Moyola did well to rally the early Distillery storm and on the 20<sup>th</sup> minute had a very good chance of their own when Curtis Hassan's first time strike from the edge of the box was smartly saved by Jack McCrea in the visitor's goal.

From the resulting corner Distillery went on the break when the clearance allowed McCaw to put pressure on Farniok which resulted in a miskick from the keeper, but he was able to recover and clear the ball before McCaw could reach it.

Moyola then had a glorious chance to opening the scoring with 24 minutes played when Hassan crossed in from the right for Daniel McIlhatton but the midfielder couldn't direct his header on target and McCrae was untroubled.

The hard-working Young then had a chance to break the deadlock after 32 minutes when he was first to reach Douglas' low ball, via a smart touch from Andrew Simpson, but the Moyola defence did well to keep him wide and his eventual shot was held at the near post by Farniok.

Distillery were left to rue not taking their chances when, on 39 minutes, Moyola took the lead from a corner. It was Oran McAuley at the back post who rose the highest and was able to bullet a header home beyond the reach of McCrea, a disappointing goal to concede.

With the half drawing to a close, tempers flared and both Moyola's Daniel McIlhatton and Distillery's Stephen Hislop received their marching orders from the referee after an off the ball incident in the middle of the park. The half time whistle went soon after the incident which had disrupting what had been a free-flowing game of football.

The second half started with the visitors trying to find a goal and indeed they were unlucky not to win a penalty on the edge of the box when McCaw collided with the onrushing Farniok, however, the referee gave the decision the way of the home side.

Moyola doubled their lead 10 minutes into the second half when some fine football resulted in Jason Paul controlling the ball well inside the box before firing a low shot beyond the reach of McCrea.

The home side then had the wind in their sails and were close to going three goals in front when Tomas McCann got onto the end of a long ball before pulling it back for Paul but the striker saw his shot go wide of the post after good pressing from both Darren Doherty and Stephen Curley.

With another defeat on the horizon, Distillery rung the changes with Reece Croft and Jonny McCaw making way for Jody Lynch and Nick Beta. It didn't long for Lynch to try his luck when his free kick from 25 yards went just wide of the right-hand post.

Paul Young then made way for Timmy Clarke in a final roll of the dice from the Distillery management team who also made the decision to push Curley forward to put pressure on the Moyola defence. It nearly paid off when Curley saw a low effort strike the post before attempting an audacious overhead kick that went wide.

However, with Distillery desperately looking for the goal that might galvanise them, Moyola scored their third and final of the day deep into injury time after Paul managed to keep the ball in play at the by-line before pulling back for substitute Tiarnan Rafferty to slot home from close range.

The final whistle went soon after with Moyola just far more clinical on the day. The three goals were well taken, but Distillery well certainly feel disappointed to not have converted some of their own chances.

It has been a difficult spell for the club but no one can doubt the heart and desire shown by the players. Now attentions must turn to next Saturday's home game against Tobermore for Distillery to turn this around.

Match report by Lydia Campbell

Lisburn Distillery team:

McCrea, Docherty, Douglas, Croft, Curley, Hislop, McMurtry, Harris, Simpson, McCaw, Young

Subs: Galbraith, Martin, Lynch (for McCaw), Clarke (for Young), Beta (for Croft)