

8th April 2017

Lisburn Distillery 3 v Tobermore Utd 3

After a seven game losing streak Lisburn Distillery will have been delighted to pick up a point against Tobermore United on Saturday but even more so they will have been pleased with what was a gutsy, hard working performance which saw the team leave the field with cheers ringing in their ears.

And yet after ten minutes it looked all so bleak for the Whites as they found themselves two goals down to the men from county Londonderry.

Only four minutes had gone when the home defence failed to clear their lines from a corner and Stephen Lamont was on hand to nod home from a few yards out. Worse was to follow as a real howler from Whites 'keeper Jack McCrea saw the normally reliable stopper spill a harmless cross over the goal line to give the visitors a two goal cushion.

The hosts however responded well and when Tobermore's Duffin received his marching orders on 25 minutes they really took the game by the scruff of the neck. First half chances fell to McParland, Douglas and Young but neither was enough to lift the visitors back into the game before the half time whistle was sounded.

Second half saw the Whites in total control of the game and they soon pulled a goal back when, following some great wing play from Jamie Peoples, Alan McMurtry was on hand to head home at the back post.

1-2 then and the Whites were really in the ascendency however only seconds later they were rocked back on their heels as the visitors were awarded a somewhat debateable penalty following a coming together of two players in the Distillery penalty area. Up stepped Gary Keane and he made no mistake in making it 3-1 to Tobermore.

The goal could have knocked the stuffing out of the Whites but no, if anything it inspired them even more, and they upped their game once again and were soon back to within a goal when that man Peoples was once again the provider this time teeing up substitute Nick Beta to reduce the score to a single goal.

The Whites continued to dominate but it looked like time was running against them but then with only minutes remaining the Peoples McMurtry combination struck again, great work out wide followed by an excellent cross which visiting 'keeper McGraw could only parry onto the head of McMurtry for his second and the Whites third of the game.

And as we went into injury time the Whites came oh so close to winning the game as a long throw from Douglas was narrowly missed by the outstretched foot of a Distillery attacker.

So yes it might have only been one point and there is also a lot of hard work ahead but the manner of the performance will have been of great encouragement to the home support.

Match report by Colin Hopkins @chopstix158

Lisburn Distillery team:

McCrea, Docherty, Douglas, Croft, Curley, Peoples, McMurtry, Harris, Simpson, McParland, Young

Subs: Galbraith, Beta (for McParland), Martin, Grainger (for Croft), Bell