

25th March 2017

Donegal Celtic 2 v Lisburn Distillery 0

Premier Intermediate League

Lisburn Distillery produced a considerably improved team performance but ultimately gained no points to show for their efforts as the Whites tumbled to a sixth consecutive defeat with the result plunging them into the danger zone of relegation.

A bright start saw the Whites settle well although Donegal Celtic had chances and Distillery custodian Jack McCrea had to be on his toes to prevent the hosts taking the lead on more than one occasion.

The Whites however also had chances with a McCaw free kick being well saved and McMurtry really should have done better from a potential free header after 21 minutes.

The deadlock was eventually broken on 32 minutes when a great ball over the top found former Distillery player Kevin Hughes in space and from there he was able to dink the ball back into the danger area and Celtics leading marksman Decky Monaghan was on hand to head home from six yards out.

A well worked goal for the hosts and one which was soon to become two when another former Distillery player Stephen Doyle narrowly beat the offside trap and calmly slotted home past McCrea.

It really was an uphill task from there on in for the Whites and although they battled hard, and indeed had the lion's share of the play, clear cut openings were at a premium.

Second half saw Whites striker Beta having a great chance well saved by home 'keeper Sean McIlhone early in the second half, skipper Stephen Curley saw his effort blocked and then hard working young debutant Thomas McCoubrey floated the ball over the bar from just inside the home penalty box. Half chances yes but nothing too major to trouble the home side and it's the lack of a killer instinct that will need to be corrected as a matter of urgency.

No points then once again for Lisburn Distillery for the sixth consecutive game and a situation which now sees the club needing points urgently to ease relegation fears. As assistant manager George O'Boyle stated after the final whistle "There are seven cup finals between now and the end of the season", the Whites are under the cosh and it's now that they need to deliver.

Match report by Colin Hopkins

Lisburn Distillery Team: McCrea, McMurtry, Clarke, Croft, Curley, Simpson, Doherty, Harris, Young, McCaw, Beta

Subs: Galbraith, Martin (for Clarke), McCoubrey (for Beta), Lynch (for Young), Douglas