

**25<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Lisburn Distillery 4 v Newington 0**

**Whites end season at New Grosvenor in style**

After confirming their safety from relegation with a 3-1 win over Bangor at New Grosvenor on Saturday, the Whites were keen to end their season at home with another victory, and they did just that with a with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Newington thanks to braces from both Paul Young and Jonny McCaw.

There was a different feeling around New Grosvenor on Tuesday night with the relegation fears gone and a new optimism arising around the ground. The home side came out of the traps a lot faster than their opponents and Jonny McCaw was awarded a penalty when he was brought down by Newington keeper Dean Smyth after just 1 minute. After scoring a vital penalty on Saturday, McCaw was once again composed enough to slot the spot kick into the back of the net to get the Whites off to the perfect start.

Newington responded well, and on 3minutes, forced Jack McCrea into a save after John Donnelly had swivelled between George Douglas and Stephen Curley in the box to shot.

Distillery then had another glimpse on goal with a deep McCaw cross that was cushioned down by Curley for Douglas to hit on the half volley, but his effort went over the bar.

Distillery did double their lead, however, with just 10 minutes on the clock when Paul Young beat the offside trap with a perfectly timed run and arrowed a shot around Smyth from outside the box that went in via the post.

And things nearly got even better for Distillery when an inch perfect cross from Timmy Clarke to the back post found Nick Beta but he could only plant his header into the arms of Smyth with the keeper routed to the spot.

Newington did work their way back into the game and they nearly pulled one back after Gerard Dempsey evaded McCrea after the home keeper had come off his line, but the Newington man's effort on goal from a distance was headed clear by Curley.

With the first half drawing to a close, the game became slightly bad tempered with a couple of late challenges flying in, with the most robust being on Douglas by Gary Rafferty that earned the Newington player a yellow card. Douglas also found himself in the book for his reaction to the tackle. The referee blew for half time shortly after.

The Whites got the second half off to another perfect start with Young getting his second of the evening after another perfectly time run allowing him to beat the offside trap. This time the striker continued his run before bringing the ball around Smyth and slotting into the back of the net to put the home side 3-0 in the lead.

Newington did start to cause more problems for the Distillery defence but Darren Docherty and Pdraig McParland both did well to protect McCrea. Stephen Brennan then shot over after being found in the box from a free kick from Donnelly.

The Distillery management team rung the changes and brought on the steel of Phil Gordon and the versatile Reece Croft for midfield duo Andrew Simpson and Aaron Harris, who had both put in shifts of endless running.

The Whites pulled another goal further in the lead when Young this time found McCaw with an inch perfect ball for the midfielder to poke under the body of the onrushing Smyth for his second, and his team's fourth of the day.

McCaw took a knock and was replaced by Jamie Peoples in the aftermath of the goal but the final whistle went shortly after to bring an end to another impressive performance from the home side.

Once again the Distillery players came off the pitch to applause from the fans, who a little over a week ago were fearing that the club would lose in their bid to beat the drop. It has been an impressive recovery from Lisburn Distillery and Colin McIlwaine and George O'Boyle can be proud of what they have achieved in their first year at the helm.

The Whites can now look forward to their final game of the 2016/17 season with a trip to the DUB to take on Queens on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, kicking off at 3:00pm.

**Lisburn Distillery-** McCrea, McParland, Curley, Docherty, Douglas, Clarke, Harris (Gordon), Simpson (Croft), McCaw (Peoples), Young, Beta

**Subs not used-** Galbraith, McMurtry