

Limavady United 2(0) v. Carrick Rangers 1(1)

Bluefin Sports Championship, Friday 31st August, The Showgrounds.

Limavady United came from behind to claim their first win of the season on Friday evening, with a well deserved victory against Niall Currie's Rangers side, after falling behind to a first half goal. But a bizarre equaliser and a sublime Hume strike- his first of the season- deservedly won the points.

United had an early scare, as Gage's close range header in the second minute from a corner flashed over the bar. Five minutes later Hume had a fine effort saved by Hogg, reacting smartly to block with his legs.

McMillen was next to go close with an 11th minute shot which just fizzed past Wells' post. However the visitors hit the front only three minutes later, as Nixon played Smith in, and he was allowed time and space to shoot low into the net.

United were stung, but for all their best play, it was not until the 28th minute that they fashioned an opening, as Doherty saw his long range effort beaten out by Hogg. Stewart Nixon's throw-ins were a potent threat, and on 34 minutes he found Kelly, but Wells saved his headed effort. Surgenor then saw his 41st minute free go close, before United spurned a good 44th minute chance, as McConnell met O'Kane's cross but Hogg held his header. Although they finished the half a goal down, the hosts were still well in the contest.

The second half began with United stepping up their efforts to equalise, and on 51 minutes Hume, who ran himself into the ground, saw a long range effort go close. However the visitors held firm until the 61st minute, when United got the break their play deserved, as Hogg threw the ball out, only for it to rebound off McConnell and into the net.

Carrick had a couple of half chances on 68 minutes when Smith headed Mulholland's cross wide, and on 75 minutes when Wells foiled Murray.

The momentum gradually swung to the Roesiders, with their neat passing and Hume's probing down the wing creating chances. Finally, they got their reward in the 85th minute, as Hume was played in by Scarlett, and he darted into the box before planting the ball into the net for a goal of real quality.

The visitors pressed without avail, as United survived late pressure to claim a deserved victory and the reward for playing football in a game that at times was both intense and physical. Make no mistake, Sean Friars' boys are going about their business the right way, and starting to knit as a team. They will be a challenge to many teams this season.

Limavady United: Paul Wells, Marcus O'Kane, Gareth McFadden (Odhran Scarlett 71), Stuart McMullan, Emmet Friars, Ryan Doherty, Aidan McCauley, Gary McFadden (c.), Oran McConnell (Aaron McGurk 80), Robbie Hume, Stephen Duffy.

Substitutes not used: Connor Brown, David Brewster, Marc Smallwoods .

Cautioned: McMullan (58).

Carrick Rangers: Aaron Hogg, Kyle McCauley, Matt Mulholland (Martin Murray 71), Mark Surgenor (Ashton McDermott 87), Denver Gage, Fra Brennan (Paul McDowell 87), Craig McMillan, Daniel Kelly, Stewart Nixon, Chris Rodgers, Stewart Nixon.

Substitutes not used:

Cautioned : Surgenor (4), McMillan (70).

Referee: Mr Colin Morrison.

Roesider Man of the match: Robbie Hume