Match report

Shannonside U12 Boys (Blue team) vs. NCW Sat 02/09/23 @ 12:30

First game of the season on a sunny, dry, afternoon in Woodvale. You would expect some nerves, but not from this team as they exploded from the kick-off and it was clear, their intent was to attack at every opportunity. After 5 minutes, Sean Cribbin played a defence splitting pass over the top for Michael Mullane to race onto and calmy finish to the top corner. What a pass, what a finish. We continued to press forward and as an attack broke down, NCW broke quicky and were duly awarded a penalty after 10 minutes. A well struck penalty was driven just wide, but I am sure our captain Mark Barry had it covered regardless. This was a wake up call and with Colm (Rolls Royce) O Sullivan in fantastic form, calmly sweeping up any NCW attack, we started to press forward again. The goals duly followed and our second expertly finished by Freddie Lewis following some neat interplay down the left with Josh O Mahoney. 2-0 up and they continued to press and move into space. Will O Donnell finished off a fine attacking move, with a lung bursting run from fullback to slot calmy away. Is he the next Andy Robertson?!

Well on top now and the interplay between the players was brilliant, using the entire pitch to spread the play. Oisin Kelly was introduced after 15 minutes and played the remaining 45 minutes and was a constant menace to the NCW all day and almost rewarded when he sprinted through only to be pulled back for offside. Sam Lewis, playing off the shoulder of the last defender was duly rewarded for his constant running with 2 absolute gems of goals that his play thoroughly deserved, assisted by Josh O Mahoney and Sean Cribbin. Their assists (both with 2 each) were perfect balls for our attackers and testament to focusing on the assists for others and great decision making. In midfield, Freddie Lewis was everywhere, tackling, spreading play and work rate to match. Freddie spent some time in goal where is equally shone, making a fine save to keep the score at 3-0. Michael Mullane was just a constant menace throughout and what a finisher when through on goal. Our captain Mark was brought outfield in the 2nd half and brought renewed energy to our play, fierce tackles and constant running. A player that can play multiple positions for his team. What an asset to have.
As with any game, its based on the solid foundation of our defence and GK, where Mark Barry marshalled those in from so well, Will, Sean and Colm just stopped any attacks and Charlie Frawley provided the cover from midfield – he was everywhere and covered every blade of grass on the pitch and when introduced into goals, produced 2 fabulous saves in quick succession, not allowing NCW a route back into the game. Charlie epitomised the team with work rate, energy, great passing range and attitude.

What a game, in particular the 1st half display that was just full of attacking moves and running. Full credit to our goalkeepers and defenders that prevented so many NCW attacks and started so many of ours. The link up play and movement was tremendous and again, what was most encouraging was the work rate and attitude of all players. Thanks to our referee (P. King) today, who allowed the game to flow and helped both sets of players throughout the game and thanks to NCW for hosting us. Another very well-mannered and very clean game between 2 teams that wanted to play football. Team: Mark Barry (C), Colm O Sullivan, Sean Cribbin, Will O Donnell, Sam Lewis, Charlie Frawley, Freddie Lewis, Josh O Mahoney, Michael Mullane, Oisin Kelly. Scorers: Sam Lewis x2, Michael Mullane, Will ODonnell, Freddie Lewis