Match report

Shannonside U11 Boys vs. Adare, Sat 21/10/23 @ 11:00

Our 3rd U11 dual game of the season brought us to the Manor Fields in Adare on a bright and dry Saturday morning for an 11:00 kick off. Team 1 started slowly and the very tight Astro pitch took a while to get used to. We thought it was just going to be one of those mornings when little was going our way and the lads just didn't get their passing game going. But gradually they started to play as they got used to the conditions. The performance was driven by our captain for the day Charlie Frawley, who led by example and did not put a foot wrong in the entire match. 100% tackle success and so reliable at the back. Mark Barry in goals did not have too many saves to make, but when called into action, was well positioned to deal with the Adare attack. Faultless display. Dale Fitzgibbon, Josh O Mahoney and Freddie Lewis were as industrious as ever in midfield, constantly looking to play into the spaces and pick through balls for our forward players of Tommo Kearns and Will O Donnell who were full of running throughout, never allowing Adare to settle. Tommo and Will can play multiple positions for the team and always work so hard with a never give up attitude. Both a threat with the ball at their feet and defensively rock solid. Freddie has probably the best 1st touch in the league, at 1 stage controlling a ball from the clouds with 1 touch and playing a delightful angled pass with his second! If Freddie has the best touch, Josh is the best finisher and always makes the keeper work. Josh has added huge work rate this season and his long throws are becoming weapons in our attack. Ben Gallinagh, Oscar O Sullivan and Tomas Fitzgerald (hard to believe these 3 are still U10!) brought some fabulous touches, composure and threat when they were on the pitch, what a trio of players. Most encouraging is that these 3 players are using their new skills from training in matches and using them at the right time and in the right areas of the pitch. Certainly the team was finishing the stronger, driven on by Dale who was kept the determination and energy to the last minute and he can play too! Defence, attack is no problem for him, he was everywhere. The determination and never give up attitude showed by this team was just fantastic to see and full credit to them, they never stopped right to the final whistle. 2 very even games for this team and there was nothing to separate them. Team: Mark Barry, Charlie Frawley (C), Dale Fitzgibbon, Thomas Kearns, Josh O Mahoney, Freddie Lewis, Will O Donnell, Ben Gallinagh, Oscar O Sullivan, Tomas Fitzgerald.

For team 2, a bit similar to team 1, taking time to get used to the pitch surface and size. Adare were proving how good a team they were and the game was similar to our battles against them in U10 last season, very evenly matched teams. Led by our captain Michael Mullane, the lads soon got to grips with the pitch and started to play. Michael, Luke Fitzgibbon and Sam Lewis were causing the Adare defence all sorts for problems and with Oisin Kelly and Stuart Tobin up front, they were a constant threat. Stuart is so good, he has now played in every position this season and never looks out of place. Oisin as ever, kept the Adare CB's busy, never giving them a minutes peace. Sam is unplayable at the moment with his direct running, skills and huge work rate defensively in both U11 and U12. Michael, coming back from injury, was again dancing past defenders at every opportunity, his feet are just lightning quick and Luke just ran the midfield, providing cover in defence and always driving forward in attack. His range of passing is just phenomenal and without doubt, no harder worker in the game, what an attitude. James Moroney was a game changer, bringing huge composure and football intelligence to the game. What a player he is going to be for the club in future years. As with all good performances, it is laid upon the solid foundations at the back, when Lorcan Cribbin in goal and the centre back pairing of Sean Cribbin and Colm O Sullivan not only kept the Adare attackers at bay, but started so many attacks. Lorcan in particular looked to play every pass on the ground and played out from the back which is so encouraging but also have the know how to quickly go direct when our midfield and forward line were in space. Sean and Colm have formed a formidable partnership in defence, both complimenting eachother and always an option for Lorcan to play the ball out. These two have such composure on the ball and make defending effortless. Great games played by this team and encouraging to see every player making contributions on the day. Team: Lorcan Cribbin, Colm O Sullivan, Sean Cribbin, Michael Mullane (C), Luke Fitzgibbon, Sam Lewis, Oisin Kelly, James Moroney, Stuart Tobin.

Great games against a very strong Adare team who always give us a brilliant game. Thanks to Trevor, Brendan and Donie for taking both teams and offering the encouragement on the sidelines. Also thanks to Colm and Dave and their Adare team for hosting us, a brilliant team and I am sure we will have many battles throughout the years with them. Well done to all involved and looking forward to our next U11 game against NCW at home on Saturday the 4th November, time TBC.