Match report

Shannonside U11 Boys vs. NCW, Sat 04/11/23 @ 11:30

Our 4th U11 dual game of the season and we welcomed NCW to Shanagolden on a wet, cold and miserable day.

Team 1 led by Luke Fitzgibbon, started brightly. Luke, holding a central role, absolutely bossed the middle of the pitch and used his passing range to release the ever running wing back cousins of Sam and Freddie Lewis who ran the channels throughout. Tremendous energy and so dangerous when they play their 1-2 touch passing and movement and not forgetting their defensive duties either. They must have a competition every match who will run the most! Thomas Kearns led the line brilliantly and offers the strength of a No. 9 to cause the CB's numerous problems all morning. In behind, Oscar O Sullivan was playing quick balls and his pressing from the front was the start of so many of our attacks. Klopp would surely be impressed! At the back, Charlie Frawley was again immense, a fearless tackler and always gives 100%, never gives up and chases every single ball. The new Paul McGrath! Beside him, Will O Donnell put in another no-nonsense performance, not only stopping countless NCW attackers, but then broke forward with the ball to quickly start our attacks again. In goal, Mark Barry was excellent in such conditions, huge accuracy in kick outs that allowed the team to move the ball quickly from defence to attack. Shot Stopping is something that Mark can now do in his sleep!

For team 2, Dale Fitzgibbon was our captain and leader and he was just everywhere and led his team by example. His all round game is just phenomenal, determination, tackling, controlling, running, 1v1's, he has it all. In goal, Lorcan Cribbin again did brilliantly, showing remarkable composure when under pressure, brave in his shot stopping and fantastic distribution. In front of him Colm O Sullivan was world class with his distribution, what a passer of the ball and so composed, Colm doesn't do pressure! Beside him, Ben Gallinagh has such awareness of danger and when to cover / slow / tackle, just shows how intelligent a defender he is, never mind showcasing his skills at every opportunity! Sean Cribbin controlled the midfield, working box to box and was everywhere, covering every blade of grass on the pitch and looking to release the ever running Josh O Mahoney down the right, these two are developing a fantastic on field understanding. Josh is a threat both with the ball at his feet and running in behind, where is guaranteed he will always make the Gk work! Up front, Tomas Fitzgerald and Michael Mullane are just electric with quick feet, intelligent runs into space and very clever football IQ. They look to take on the defenders at every opportunity and their work rate from the front is so encouraging as they chased down every ball and made so many off the ball runs to create space for the team. Stuart Tobin is probably our most versatile player and on Saturday he played everywhere. He is actually so good, he has an influence on the game in every position he plays and exactly like his brother James playing an U12 game the previous week, Stuart just never stops. He senses danger, tracks back, makes & wins his tackle, drives forward and releases the pass. Brilliant to watch.

Excellent games, despite the weather against a NCW team who were equally brilliant to watch and fantastic attitude. These two teams are sure to have many battles throughout the years ahead.

Thanks to Trevor and Brendan for refereeing the games and help in setting up to Donie and Deccie for the encouragement and guidance on the sidelines. And of course to all the parents aka "The Shannonside Ultras"!! who braved the elements to cheer on the teams, very much appreciated.