Match report #5

Shannonside U12 Boys (Blue team) vs. Glantine Sat 25/11/23 @ 14:30, League Cup game

A dry, mild day on Saturday as we welcomed Glantine for the preliminary round of the league cup. This was a very close game and nothing like the league game in September as Glantine welcomed back a number of their starting players. For 25 minutes this was a real cup match, with both teams evenly matched.

Mark Barry was in fine form today and his distribution from the back was tremendous with excellent decision making of when to go short or long with his restarts which really benefitted the team. In front of him, Charlie Frawley and Colm O Sullivan resumed their usual rock solid partnership, with Charlie again not giving the Glantine attackers any chances and Colm sweeping up any long balls played in behind. Running the channels were Josh O Mahoney and our captain for the day, Freddie Lewis. In recent weeks, we have asked both Josh and Freddie to add more defensive work to their impressive attacking abilities and what a performance from both. Both can receive the ball from Mark, turn and bring the ball out, play 1-2's and are now as impressive in transition to attack as they are in transition to defend. Not surprising that both players scored our 1st and 2nd goals of the game. For the 1st, Freddie took a superb corner landing on the edge of the box and a lovely strike and finish from Josh to make it 1-0. In the 2nd half, a quick short corner between Freddie and Michael Mullane allowed Freddie just enough room to find the gap and what a sweet strike and finish.

In Midfield, Sean Cribbin held the centre impressively, calmly switching play at ease and looking to play both our attacking midfielders of Michael Mullane and Sam Lewis at every opportunity. Sean is bringing a composure to his play to create the space for himself to play a variety of passes, long, short, forward, backwards and is growing into the playmaker role in midfield. Either side of him, Michael and Sam are just an unbelievable threat with the ball at their feet. Michael at one stage taking on 3 Glantine Players and still managed to create a chance for himself and Sam, playing off the shoulder, is there a better wide player.

Up front, Tommo Kearns led the line and kept all 4 Glantine defenders occupied, a real traditional No.9 who can use his strength to hold up play and his left foot to strike fear into any GK! Tommo is a great asset to the team as he can play both in attack and defence. Another player who plays multiple positions for us is Will O Donnell. Initially as Centre Forward, then Central Midfield and ending the game at left Centre Back! It's a big ask for any player to play those positions, but such is Will's adaptability, he can play anywhere and always makes a difference and drives the team forward. Our 3rd goal of the game was the best of the lot with our fox in the box Oisin Kelly deservedly finishing a square ball from Sam past the Glantine keeper. No one was denying him and it was a great strike to the corner. What a goal and fully deserved for all of Oisin's work up front and tireless running off the ball for the team. It finished 3-1, in a typical cup game.

The 1st 25 minutes was a tight match, but the lads grew into it and played some exceptional football at times, moving from defence to attack at ease.

Thanks also to Shannonside Ultra supporters group for their continued support and to M. Murphy who again refereed an excellent game continuing to explain his decisions to the players on the pitch and helping them throughout.

Team: Mark Barry, Colm O Sullivan, Charlie Frawley, Josh O Mahoney, Freddie Lewis (C), Sean Cribbin, Sam Lewis, Michael Mullane, Thomas Kearns, Sean Cribbin, Will O Donnell, Oisin Kelly.

Scorers: Josh O Mahoney, Freddie Lewis, Oisin Kelly.