Match report

Shannonside U11 Boys vs. Adare Sat 09/03/24 @ 12:00

Our 5th U11 dual game of the season and we welcomed Adare to Shanagolden on a dry but bitterly cold afternoon. Always a brilliant game vs. Adare, with two very evenly matched squads.

Team 1, led by our captain for the day Sam Lewis, started brightly, with Michael Mullane menacing as ever from the very start, showing lightning feet to skip past numerous challenges and create opportunities. He was up front with Tomas Fitzgerald and they were linking well throughout with their midfield of Sam, Luke Fitzgibbon and James Moroney. Tomas and James are both U10 but fit right into U11's with ease. These are two very intelligent players, James with tremendous speed of thought and Tomas another with quick feet, both left and right! Luke ran the midfield and displayed his full range of tricks, passing and defensive duties and again covered every blade of grass on the pitch. Sam was dangerous on the wing, running at the Adare defence all day, getting his shots off and importantly playing heads up looking to find the midfield runners. At the back, Lorcan Cribbin in goal was well protected by his brother Sean Cribbin, Will O Donnell and Tommo Kearns. Will had two fantastic games, with the ball at his feet driving out and attacking the space at every opportunity. He never stopped. Tommo as always, takes no prisoners, made his tackles and looked to attack down the left at every opportunity, whilst always getting back to cover defensively. Sean played the sweeper roll brilliantly, covering the spaces, winning his tackles when required and looking to set up our attacks at every opportunity, with well placed passes. Calm under pressure and always an outlet to receive the ball. Lorcan, when called into action made smart saves and always looked to play the ball on the ground from the re-start. Brilliant goalkeeper for such a young age. We didn't have it all our own way and Adare were a constant threat with not too much between the teams in both matches. Great games and very well behaved with both teams respecting the referee and players. Team: Lorcan Cribbin, Sean Cribbin, Thomas Kearns, Will O Donnell, Michael Mullane, Luke Fitzgibbon, Sam Lewis (c), James Moroney, Tomas Fitzgerald.

Team 2, started brightly with captain for the day, Freddie Lewis in fine form throughout both matches. No matter where Freddie plays on the pitch, his contribution to the team is immense and he has all the skills to match. Beside him in midfield, Josh O Mahoney was playing his best game of the season, supporting the attack and not forgetting his defensive duties and bring added physicality to his game. As always, Dale Fitzgibbon was immense in the middle of the pitch. Never losing a tackle and always supporting the player with the ball and available to receive under pressure, fantastic quality to have. Hard to believe that Oscar O Sullivan is still an U10 player. What a display across the 2 games as he looked to pass and switch play at every opportunity and brought tremendous work rate to him game & best display all season. Beside him was our fox in the box Oisin Kelly, another who was having his best game of the season. Most pleasing was Oisin's link up play to bring others into the game. At the back Mark Barry was called into action to make a number of diving saves from long range shots and played brilliantly. What is more remarkable is that Mark was ill all week from school but made himself available to play on Saturday! In front of him, Charlie Frawley, Colm O Sullivan and the outstanding Ben Gallinagh were rock solid. We know what to expect from Colm and Charlie every week, tough tackling, good positionally and always looking to play forward, but Ben, again one of our U10 players was just so composed on the ball and all his ball mastery skills were on display and so consistent throughout both games. Again, similar to Team 1, they played brilliantly throughout and the link up play and passing combinations was impressive from the 1st whistle. Team: Mark Barry, Charlie Frawley, Colm O Sullivan Ben Gallinagh, Josh O Mahoney, Dale Fitzgibbon, Freddie Lewis (c), Oscar O Sullivan, Oisin Kelly.

Thanks to all the parents for their support and to Colm and his Adare team for travelling. I am sure we will have many battles in the coming years. 2 great teams, with fantastic attitudes. Thanks also to Brendan and Trevor for Refereeing and to Deccie & Donie for the encouragement and help on the sidelines. Next U11 dual game will be away to NCW on Saturday 23rd March, time TBC.