Match report #6

Shannonside U11 Boys vs. NCW Sat 23/03/24 @ 09:00

Our 6th U11 dual game of the season and we travelled to NCW for a 9am kick off. Heavy rain showers before and after the match, but thankfully it remained dry for the game and four brilliant games were played on the Astro between two very evenly matched teams.

Team 1, was led by our captain for the day Josh O Mahoney. Josh played midfield with Dale Fitzgibbon and Freddie Lewis with Oisin Kelly upfront. These four combined so well at times and it was fantastic to see, quick play and spreading of the play from side to side. The quick surface of the Astro really suited their technical skills and the speed of their attack and play was brilliant to watch at times. Behind them, Will O Donnell and Stuart Tobin were rock solid in their defending and Mark Barry in goal was always on hand to make brilliant saves. Great to see the development of all the players and how much more comfortable they are on the ball and having the confidence to showcase all their skills from training. Most encouraging is their behaviour and always supporting each other. We rotated players every 4 minutes and Oscar O Sullivan continued his fine form of recent U11 games and slotted in to every position (even goals) with ease. Great games and very well behaved with both teams enjoying themselves and showcasing fantastic individual skills. Team: Mark Barry, Will O Donnell, Stuart Tobin, Josh O Mahoney (C), Dale Fitzgibbon, Freddie Lewis, Oisin Kelly, Oscar O Sullivan.

Team 2, started brightly with our captain for the day, Sean Cribbin, leading from the back with Tommo Kearns beside him. There isn't too many that can get past those two, with great defending as always on display and a calmness and confidence to play from the back. All of our restarts were from our Gk Lorcan Cribbin, our youngest player, but he plays so well and always looking to play quickly and on the ground. What a player he will be in future years, either in goal or outfield. In front of them, Michael Mullane, Luke Fitzgibbon and Sam Lewis were mesmerising at times with all their skills on show and up front, James Moroney was causing the NCW defence problems with his positioning and quick thinking. These four play so well as a unit and have a mix of skill, speed, determination and a fantastic attitude. Every 5 minutes we rotated the players and Tomas Fitzgerald and Ben Gallinagh added both skill and quick play to the team. Its always a great sign that when changes are made, the team is not weakened but strengthened. Ben and Tomas will be without doubt future stars for the club. This team served up two fantastic games against NCW with nothing separating the sides and the team play in particular was outstanding. They were games that had everything from fantastic saves, strong defending, quick transitions and individual skills. Well done to all.

Team: Lorcan Cribbin, Sean Cribbin (C), Thomas Kearns, Michael Mullane, Luke Fitzgibbon, Sam Lewis, James Moroney, Tomas Fitzgerald, Ben Gallinagh.

Thanks to all the parents for their support and to Keith and his NCW team for hosting us. I am sure we will have many battles in the coming years. 2 great teams, with fantastic attitudes. Thanks also to Brendan, Trevor, Donie & Maurice for taking the teams and the encouragement and help on the sidelines. Next U11 dual game will be away to GB on Saturday 6th April, time TBC.