Match report

Shannonside U12 Boys (Amber team) vs. Dromore, Sat 20/01/24 @ 10:00, League Div2

Our 6th league game of season and we welcomed Shanagolden legend Billy O Sullivan and his Dromore team to Shanagolden. It was a close game from the start with both side looking to play the ball out from the back and attack at every opportunity. Darragh Whelan had our 1st shot of the game, inches wide from a well worked move and on 20 minutes Darragh did have the ball in back of the net following a great 1-2 with John Hanlon, but was marginally offside. Behind him, the midfield 3 of Luke Fitzgibbon, Adam Lawlor and Michael Cribbin (captain for the day) were proving a handful for the Dromore defence, with Adam in particular having his best game of the season, flashing a pile driver just wide of the Dromore post. We weren't having it all our own way and Dromore had 2 shots in quick succession that were comfortably saved by Jack Fitzgibbon. Its credit to the starting back 4 of Tomas Greaney, Noah O Malley, Dale Fitzgibbon and John Keane that Dromore were limited to long range shots. Noah was another player having his best game, as usual his positional sense was brilliant but today winning tackles and passing the ball out of defence. As the half wore on, James Tobin and Cillian O Malley were pressing the Dromore defence at every opportunity and on 28 minutes, Darragh got the opening goal that his play deserved. Cillian pressed the Dromore defence and their clearance came to Luke, who with some neat footwork evaded the tackles and played a cheeky backheel onto the running John Hanlon, who laid it off for Darragh to slot into the bottom corner. Within minutes of the re-start, we were 2-0 up, John playing to Darragh, who showed lovely ball juggling skills and got a shot off, hitting the post and Luke was following up to tap in. Brilliant move and the same 3 players involved again.

A hand injury to Jack Fitzgibbon meant a change in goal with Luke replacing Jack and Dale moving into midfield.
Dromore were threatening in the 2nd half and Michael, John Keane and Tomas showed their strength in winning a no. of 1v1 balls and restrict the Dromore attack and start our own. John Keane, playing now as CB was finding his passing range to restart many attacks. Michael, becoming very effective, winning 3 free kicks and looking to play those customary through balls. Again, for the 2nd match in a row, Cillian was everywhere and so much of his work off the ball sets up so many of our attacks by forcing the errors. Tomas was brilliant up and down the right hand side and swung in a number of dangerous crosses that were well defended. Dale was enjoying his midfield role and was looking to play forward at every opportunity and didn't neglect his defensive role, tracking runners and making his usual tackles. Adam did have the ball in the net, reacting instinctively in the box to turn the ball home, but Mike Murphy correctly ruled it offside. Moments later, Luke was called into action as Dromore sprung the offside trap but he was off his line and just beat the Dromore player to the ball. Within 2 minutes, Luke again was on duty to make a diving save to his right and prevented a certain goal. Still 2-0 and we were living dangerously. James Tobin was almost in following some good pressing to win the ball back on the right hand side as he drove forward, but the ball just bobbled up as he hit it. Jack was now on and with 5 minutes remaining struck a powerful shot from outside the box that the keeper couldn't keep out. 1st goal of the season for our No.1 !

3-0 final score and a much improved display from the narrow victory over Rathkeale last weekend. Thanks to the parents for their continued support and to M. Murphy who again refereed a brilliant and fair game. Also huge thanks to our sponsors, Kevin & Declan O Rourke owners of the Shanid Inn for generously sponsoring the team Jerseys for the season. Next game will be on Saturday 03/02/24 away to Carrig Celtic, time TBC. Team: Jack Fitzgibbon, Tomas Greaney, Dale Fitzgibbon, Noah O Malley, John Keane, Michael Cribbin (C), Luke Fitzgibbon, Adam Lawlor, James Tobin, Cillian O Malley, John Hanlon. Scorers: Darragh Whelan, Luke Fitzgibbon, Jack Fitzgibbon.