



St. Mary's Football Club

Match Report

U13's report

Saturday 10th February 2012

St Mary's FC 4 Shankill 0

Mallusk witnessed the St Mary's boys record their first win of the season in this bottom of the South Belfast Football League U13 Premier division clash with Shankill.

Prior to kick off St Mary's were deprived of Ryan McAleenan due to illness so Adam Carlin was called into the goalkeeper spot and soon found himself under pressure as Shankill had the better of the early exchanges forcing several corners in a row. However, the defence marshalled by Eoin Sullivan and Owen McGrath held firm and it was soon St Mary's who began to take a hold of the game. Conor Maitland, John Joe McCool and Conor Corry began to win the battle for possession and a through ball to Nathan Lavery found him in space on the edge of the area. He drew defenders to him and slipped the ball across to Gerry Girvan who drove into the penalty area and confidently placed past the opponent's goalkeeper for a 1 - 0 lead.

Shankill though were not yet beaten and a great run down the right wing and cross presented a chance which went just over. Soon after an exchange of passes suddenly let a Shankill forward free for a run in on goal. Chased by the St Mary's defenders the Shankill forward rushed into the area but Adam Carlin stood tall and blocked the point blank shot. This escape spurred the St Mary's team to get the ball forward again. Another good passage of play involving Luke Walsh, Conor Corry and Gerry Girvan allowed Niall Gilleece to break down the right wing and cross to Nathan Lavery but he was unable to hit the target. As half time came closer the game remained tight but as Shankill defenders tried to retain pressure Gerry Girvan chased them down and forced a back pass to the goalkeeper which was under hit. Gerry was able to intercept before rounding the goalkeeper and then unselfishly slipped the ball across to Nathan Lavery who gleefully placed the ball into an empty net. Great end to the half for St Mary's securing a 2 - 0 lead.

Despite the deficit Shankill refused to give in and again began to force a number of corners. The St Mary's defence held firm though again and indeed out of defence Curtis McVeigh started to find some space down the left wing to support the attacks. Great possession play between John Joe McCool, Gerry Girvan and Conor Corry provided a good chance for Nathan Lavery but the goalkeeper made an excellent save. Tiredness now saw St Mary's falling deeper into defence so a triplicate substitution saw the arrival of Fionntan Resoto, Lorcan Murray and Ciaran Magee to prove fresh legs and Lorcan very soon made an excellent run into the opponent's penalty area but his shot brushed the outside of the post. Then the resultant goal kick came straight out to Gerry Girvan who promptly picked his spot and lobbed the goalkeeper for his second of the game. At 3 - 0 the confidence was high. Matthew McCarron was brought on to add more fresh legs. It was at this stage that Fionntan Resoto won a challenge in the middle of the park and set off on a run. As he neared the Shankill area good moves by his forwards distracted defenders and continued to leave Fionntan space to drive into before he unleashed a tremendous shot from the edge of the penalty area to leave the Shankill goalkeeper without a chance. 4 - 0.

To their credit Shankill continued to try to hit St Mary's on the break but the 2 central defenders Owen McGrath and Eoin Sullivan showed excellent awareness and speed to cut off any such chances.

It's been a long season so nobody could deny the St Mary's boys the excuse to celebrate with great excitement at the end of the game as the referee's final whistle confirmed a 4 - 0 win which creates a little bit of space between the 2 teams at the bottom of the table. This result has been just waiting to happen and will hopefully now give the squad a great boost as they carry on until the end of season. Focus definitely on trying to catch some of the teams ahead in the table as well as the pending Cup competition and indeed an Easter tournament in Southport, England which St Mary's have been invited to compete in.

Well done to all the boys on a great team performance!

Team: Adam Carlin, Luke Walsh, Curtis McVeigh, Owen McGrath, Eoin Sullivan, Conor Maitland, John Joe McCool, Conor Corry, Nathan Lavery, Gerry Girvan, Niall Gilleece .
Subs: Fionntan Resoto, Lorcan Murray , Matthew McCarron ,Ciaran Magee,