



St. Mary's Football Club

### **Match Report**

Saturday 17th February 2012

**St Mary's FC 2      Shankill 0**

For the second week in a row St Mary's faced Shankill at Mallusk. Having won the initial game many might have thought this would be a straightforward repeat win for St Mary's but it was far from being so.

First half St Mary's played against the strong wind and initially kept the game pressed well into the Shankill half but early chances from Gerry Girvan and Matthew McCarron didn't trouble the goalkeeper. As the first half progressed though Shankill began to push forward more and Adam Carlin was forced into a good save whilst Fionntan Resoto playing in centre of defence had to react quickly on several occasions to race back and clear away before the opponent forwards could get a shot on goal. From a goal kick out St Mary's were slow to challenge and an exchange of passes allowed a Shankill forward to drive into the penalty area where he was fouled just before he could shoot. The referee immediately pointed to the spot to award the penalty. Drama was then to unfold as first the Shankill penalty kicker placed his shot wide of the post only for the referee to order a retake due to St Mary's players having encroached the area too quickly. On the retake the same penalty kicker hit the target but Adam Carlin pulled off a great save! Undoubtedly a let off for St Mary's! Half time reached 0 - 0.

Second half began with the wind in St Mary's favour and a determined squad of players set out to ensure there would be no slip ups. Ryan McAleenan came on which allowed Conor Corry a little more freedom further forward from his midfield duties and Conor duly began to create some openings. One great pass released John Joe McCool in behind the Shankill defence who couldn't catch him as he raced goal ward and calmly placed the ball past the keeper for 1 - 0. Soon after another good passage of play saw John Joe McCool pass to Conor Corry on the left who beat the defender and made a great run down the wing before crossing to the far post where Nathan Lavery tapped in for 2 - 0. On the arrival of Eoin Sullivan, Fionntan Resoto moved into midfield where his high energy alongside John Joe McCool and Conor Corry ensured St Mary's kept the pressure on. Soon after Gerry Girvan struck a marvellous shot only to be denied by a super save by the Shankill goalkeeper. In defence Owen McGrath remained calm and assured to ensure there would be no comeback by the opponents and the match ended 2 - 0.

Great performances across the team but that of goalkeeper Adam Carlin in particular mustn't be overlooked as his first half saves certainly provided the platform for this win.

Team: Adam Carlin, Luke Walsh, Curtis McVeigh, Owen McGrath, Fionntan Resoto, Conor Maitland, John Joe McCool, Conor Corry, Nathan Lavery, Gerry Girvan, Matthew McCarron.

Subs: Ryan McAleenan, Martin Morgan, Ciaran Magee, Eoin Sullivan, Caolan Conn, Daniel Kelly.