



St. Mary's Football Club

Match Report

Under 15

"Battling St.Marys held to a 1-1 draw!"

St.Marys 1-1 Newhill

On a very windy Saturday morning at Mallusk went into the game full of confidence after a run of 5 wins and were eager to pick up all 3 points against title rivals Newhill. St.Marys started with the same team from the previous week and started brighter despite playing against the gale force wind in the first half. The defence of Turner Burke O'Hare and Girvan knew they had to be on top of their game as Newhill would pin them into their own half at some stage of the game. Brendan Morgan, in nets, as alert to any ball coming over the top as Newhill tried to play the ball over the top in the first few minutes of the game.

It was Newhill who created the first chance with Morgan coming out to make a great save at the feet of the attacker. St.Marys settled and started to play their usual passing game with Birch and Le Mahieu making runs down the left and right wings. St.Marys first chance was a long range effort from McAllister which was well held by the Newhill keeper. Gareth Morgan also had a couple of half chances but the keeper was equal to them. St.Marys showed their quality towards the end of the half with Murdock and Gorman coming more involved in the game and causing problems for the Newhill defence. St.Marys deserved a goal before half time and in one of the final attacks were awarded a penalty which was coolly converted by Conor Birch. At half time St.Marys lead 1-0 with the Defence holding strong despite they were playing against the wind.

The 2nd half got under way with Newhill clearly fired up and put a lot of pressure on the St.Marys defence but it remained strong with O'Hare and Burke keeping the core of the defence solid. Turner and Girvan stopped any attacks coming down the wings and releasing the ball to Birch and Le Mahieu to launch the counter attacks. Newhill found the equaliser after the wind held the ball and was unfortunately hand balled by the St.Mary's defender and the referee gave another penalty. The equaliser woke St.Marys up and they dominated for the remainder of the half with chances falling for Morgan, McAllister, Girvan and Corr.

St.Marys just couldn't find the end product that would have put them back in front. Newhill did threaten in the 2nd half but Morgan was more than equal to anything that came his way and showed some great kicking ability. Murdock and Gorman found it very difficult to enforce themselves on the game in the 2nd half with the ball spending alot of time in the air. At full time the St.Marys players were clearly disappointed only to have gained a point from the game but also need

to remember that its a pointed gained and only for a great performance from the Newhill goalkeeper they would have won the game comfortably.

Man of the Match: Brendan Morgan