



St. Mary's Football Club

## **Match Report**

### **Under 10 Colts vs. Cliftonville Reds**

The lads extended their magnificent run of victories with a well-deserved win over a strong Cliftonville side at Ballysillan. Cliftonville looked very impressive in the opening period with some nice passing movement as St Marys were very slow to get their heads in the game. The Defence were under constant pressure but managed to keep the Reds at bay. A long range Cliftonville effort struck the post with Stuart Smyth beaten and this seemed to provide the wake-up call St Marys needed. Almost immediately they broke forward through midfield and after an exchange of passes with Odhran Kinning, CJ Fulton was unlucky with a half volley from 18yards which struck the post and rebounded to safety. St Marys grew in confidence and a period of pressure on the Reds defence paid off when a corner was blocked and fell at the feet of Sean Hagans who smashed the ball into the roof of the net from close range.

The 2nd period was a tight affair with both sides trading attacks. Kinning was through twice on goal but on both occasions the Reds keeper came out well and blocked at his feet before he could get his shot away. On the 1 occasion when Conor Small and Odhran O'Boyle were caught too far forward from their defensive duties, the low angled shot by the attacker was well saved by the feet of Smyth. Hagans was then unlucky when his direct free-kick was touched on to the cross bar by the Reds keeper who had an impressive game.

Cliftonville got themselves back into the match at the start of the final period with a well worked goal and finish. St Marys raised their game and Mowbray, who had his best game of the season playing in midfield, upfront and in defence at various stages when asked by the Manager, restored the lead. After shielding the ball from 2 strong tackles he cut in from the right wing and when 1-on-1 with the keeper he sent the keeper the wrong way by cutting the ball back with his left foot into the bottom corner. St Marys were on top for the remainder of the match and the Reds rarely threatened. The victory was sealed when a fine dribbling run from Fulton on the left wing took him past 3 defenders and as he drew the keeper out, he spotted Hagans unmarked in the centre and cut the ball back to him for a tap home into the open net which Hagans gratefully accepted for his 2nd of the Match.

Overall, not the Colts best team performance of the season but certainly the better team on the day won with some excellent individual displays that stretches the winning run to 7 straight matches.

**MAN OF THE MATCH - Conor Mowbray**