



St. Mary's Football Club

### **Match Report**

St Marys Under 16 team saw them with a tough game against one of the top teams in the Belfast and East Antrim League last year, who competed for the top slot, Crewe FC.

Crewe FC have always proven to be very strong both technically and physically so this match was always going to be a tough one. St Marys started the game well with a good chance by Aidan O'Reilly to go ahead ten minutes in, but it saw the Crewe keeper pull off a good save and the boys had to wait a while longer to go into the lead.

At nil each it was a very open game with both sides having good chances and even possession. This changed when Marty Murphy broke against Crewe defence and slotted the ball home to make it 1-0.

After the first goal the boys settled into the game and enjoyed a lot of possession. As St Marys created more and more chances, finding space behind the Crewe defence the second goal came from Ross Mackin from 35 yards out, with the ball bouncing past the keeper. St Marys began to dominate after this point, looking very comfortable in the lead. Just after 30 minutes Jordan Rhodes made it 3-0 directly from the corner, as the ball swung in.

Aidan O'Reilly's movement throughout threw off Crewe's defence and goalkeeper allowing the ball to travel straight into the net. Just before half time however complacency crept into the St Marys defence, as they gifted Crewe a way back into the game, making the score 3-1 at half time.

This was no threat however as St Marys came out for the second half just as sharp as they did in the first half. It wasn't long before we got a forth as Ruairi Donaghey knocked the ball in from a corner, another good set piece which set us apart from the opposition. The introduction of the substitutes made the team stronger towards the end of the match as tired legs were replaced by strong players. The introduction of Ben Mullan helped to secure the team defensively as the Crewe midfield were given very little space and time. The substitutes insured that Crewe had very little time on the ball, with the boys pushing forward for more goals. The match was wrapped up with a second goal from

Jordan Rhodes making it 5-1. This lead could have been extended further by Paddy McDiarmid, only for the Crewe keeper standing tall to prevent the shot being chipped over him.

With minutes to go Crewe scored a consolation goal making the final result 5-2. This result keeps St Marys U16 league run going as they remain unbeaten since November 2010.