

## Swords Celtic v Skerries – Under 9's

This was played on a lovely big pitch at Town Park Skerries.

The 1st half belonged to Swords Celtic who had a strong wind their favour, with 2 goals from Ryan Boulton from the left, the Ryan Giggs of the Swords team. Despite the strong wind the Swords team resisted the urge to pump long balls up the pitch and instead played some lovely passing moves from defence through midfield into attack.

Even on kick-outs, David Batten the Goalkeeper, would stroke the ball to the sweeper Ross McCabe who would play it through to the midfielders who were constantly on the move to make themselves some space.

Most of Swords Celtic's joy came down the left side of the pitch where Ryan Boulton linked well with Robert Stapleton and Daniel Flood.

Ryan Boulton's goals both came from moves involving neat passes in the midfield setting him free on the left where he found the target from just inside the box.

He may have had a hatrick by half time but for some resolute defending from the Skerries defence blocking his shot when he looked destined for glory.

Skerries were limited to only a few attempts on goal; with great tackling and pressure from Adel Ibrahimovic (the Swords man of the match) ensuring that the home teams efforts did not trouble the Swords goal.

The second half saw the game sway in favour of Skerries as the strong wind kept Swords pinned for the most part in their own half.

Skerries forced a number of corners early in the 2nd half that were well dealt with by Adel and Craig Wright. Luke Weldon replaced Robert Stapleton in midfield for Swords and sent Ben Kerrigan away with a lovely through ball, but the Skerries keeper made a fine save to keep his team in the game.

With 10 minutes left to play, Swords over-elaborated while taking the ball out of defence, and presented the Skerries striker with a chance to score, which he took with great aplomb.

The Swords team now looked a little rattled and only some good chasing back from Karl Leech ensured the latest Skerries attack resulted in only a corner.

The Skerries equaliser 5 minutes from time came from an astute free kick from 20 yards out with the keeper left unsighted by some good movement from the Skerries attackers in front of him. Skerries may have gone ahead a minute later but for some good keeping from David Batten to stop them.

Swords went all out for the winner in the last minutes of the game and saw efforts from Luke Weldon, Ryan Boulton and Ross McCabe all well blocked by their strong defenders.

The draw was a good result for both teams who played a wonderful sporting match and everyone left happy.

Swords Man of the match was Adel Ibrahimovic in defence.