

Bassetlaw SFA 1 – Leeds B SFA 0

Having left a fog bound Leeds a clear sky welcomed the Leeds B team on their last friendly outing for some time. Time had appeared to stand still with tea and coffee dished out at 1980's prices into real mugs. Bassetlaw had put a shed load past Gainsboro recently so Leeds were expecting a tough encounter.

Bassetlaw looked organised from the outset and their game plan looked to catch the Leeds back four off guard. Leeds' 4 – 5 – 1 formation had Aaron Kane ploughing a lonely furrow up front. Finlay Auty looked solid at centre half and having picked up the ball in defence layed the ball off to Oscar Jackson on the right. Jackson threaded the ball through to Kane, who shot just wide. Joe Fitzpatrick and Dylan were linking up to good effect down the left hand side and soon forced a save from the Bassetlaw keeper from a Fitzpatrick strike midway through the first half.

Leeds were far from having it their own way though. Although the midfield was packed with Leeds players, Bassetlaw were winning this particular battle. With 10 minutes to go before the break, the Bassetlaw midfield sent the ball into space beyond the back four. Harry Resendez had his own personal battle with the striker as they raced toward the goal. The striker managed to win the battle and got a shot off which was well saved by Luke Dellar in goal for the first half. The ball fell kindly to Bassetlaw who followed up the save with a solid strike from the rebound to make it 1-0.

The second half saw Jacob Murray, Josh Crossland and Callum Eddlestone come on for Dellar, Kane and Ben Harley. Mr MacAliden's team talk had the desired effect. The Leeds midfield, which had been largely anonymous in the first half started to dominate proceedings and suddenly Bassetlaw were on the back foot. Resendez and Jackson were winning their challenges and the midfield duo of Max Ross and Liam Swift were seeing more of the ball and consistently finding their colleagues with sharp passing.

The pressure was mounting and Leeds should have levelled after Fitzpatrick crossed from the left only to see the ball defy Jacksons outstretched boot and then fall to the feet of Dylan. Mortgages were put on the goal going in but Dylans' side footed shot was parried away by the keeper scrambling back across his goal mouth. Kane returned to the fray to make the advantage count and Leeds looked sharper for having two up front. As the ball came free on the edge of the area following a succession of Leeds attacks, Crossland struck the ball from the edge of the area and showered the keeper with rust from the reverberating crossbar. Late on, Leeds were denied a couple of blatant free kicks around the Bassetlaw box and time eventually ran out for the visitors. The team put in a great performance and the manager was left pondering if he would see a side dominate a half more convincingly without getting their just rewards.